

THE WITNESS



The purpose of Eastminster Presbyterian Church is to
share the Good News of Jesus Christ with all.

EPC Mission Statement ~ Adopted by Session 2011

January 9, 2013

2013

We are now officially in the Year 2013 and as most of us look forward to this New Year we probably are peering through lenses of caution. How else should we be looking? Given the state of our economy and the character of our government's leadership, it would be foolish to look through any other lens. But there are some who have stepped into the year and declared it something special regardless of the reasonable expectations of a change for the better. But it seems these declarations change depending on where you might be.

For instance if you are from China this is the **Year of Water Snake**, and it is to be a year where all things will be possible. Saving money and being thrifty should be top priorities but delusion and deception are common in the year of Water Snake. To gain the greatest benefits from this year, I understand one must control spending and use talents wisely. If planning to get married or beginning a business partnership, one must be sure to thoroughly investigate the other person's finances and background before you legalize the alliance. If you are in Hong Kong you know it has been declared the **Year of the Phablet**. This phablet is the cross between the cell phone and the tablet. It is suppose to take the world by storm.

But, if you are from Canada you have heard that 2013 has been declared the **Year of the Korean War Veteran**. Canadians believe these war heroes should be finally recognized. If you live in Brazil you know that their soybean production is expected to surpass that of the US so it has been declared the **Year of the Soybean**. But it is not all good. Those in South Africa see that there is no indication of improvement in the areas of poverty, unemployment, or inequity, so 2013 is being called the **Year of Mediocrity**. I for one have declared it the **Year of Plan "B"**, because so many good plans for so many people have become just a dream and it has become necessary to go to Plan B. 2013 will be no different.

The good news is that no matter how you might feel about the leaders of government or your prospects of a better year in 2013, we can all take comfort in the fact that above all else, 2013 is and will continue to be a year held in the providential hands of a loving God. It is a familiar saying but it is true: we may not know what the year holds, but we do know Who it is that holds the year. The year for sure will bring things unexpected and new, but the God who never changes promises us that he will never leave us or forsake us.

On a sad note we know that Eastminster will be saying goodbye to a favorite son. Robert Thomson has decided to pursue a call into the parish ministry and he will be exploring for just the church God is calling him to serve in the future. Our prayers will be with him and we will continue to offer our love and blessings as we eagerly await his call. Just know that we will have opportunities to offer Robert our expressions of love in the coming weeks. May 2013 be a Year of Promise for Robert and his ministry.

Blessings,

Caleb

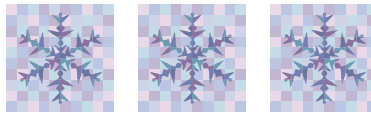
Save the Date - Sunday, March 10

It has been a few years since our Church has participated, but Eastminster will be participating in the Hunger Walk/Run benefiting the Atlanta Community Food Bank. Help make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate in our community and challenge yourself to improve your health by walking. (Sounds like a terrific New Year's Resolution.) Rick Adle will have charts to track your miles and pledges, and promises terrific prizes for most miles, money raised, youngest walker and most senior participant.



This event is sponsored by the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, Lutheran Services of Georgia, Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Please visit www.hungerwalkrun.org for more information.



Thanks!

I want to thank my wonderful Eastminster family for all their generosity, and I am grateful and blessed that I have been accepted with open arms and hearts into your family.

Susie

Notice:

The Church Office will be closed on
January 21 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



February Birthdays

1	Matt Conaway	8	Alex Aycok	15	Carl Heckman	20	David Deal
	Soon-Ok Oh		Kinley Gall	16	Deborah Abraham		Joe Evans
	Madison Peters	9	William Fleck		Chris Smethers		Pat Sully
4	Ron Hickes		Brian Swinkola		Andrea Vincent	21	Kevin Carmichael
	Lynn Maxwell	10	Caroline Alff	17	Rose Marie Wells	22	Christy Howard
5	Leon Collins		Nicholas Frank	18	Shellie Bunce	24	Ruth Sullivan
6	Mary Acosta	12	Robert Agocs		Chip Carpenter	25	Callie Adams
	Sammy Meers		Carson Nix		Leah McCulloh	28	Cathy McCoy
7	Emily Bunce	13	Holly Eaton		Mallory Quillian		

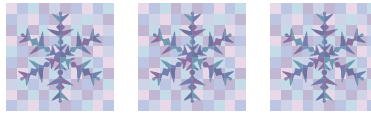
New year, save the date

Mark your calendar for Saturday, February 2. Presbyterian Women at EPC will be hosting another annual winter retreat featuring Dana Hughes as our keynote speaker. Her topic will be "Spirituality and Gardening". Her message will revolve around the book "Like a Garden" by Sara Covin Juengst. We will begin at 9 A.M. with coffee and continental breakfast and conclude following a pot luck salad lunch at approximately 2 P.M. Invite your neighbors and friends for this memorable occasion.

Contact Mardee to purchase a book and the church office or your Circle Moderator to RSVP.

Note:

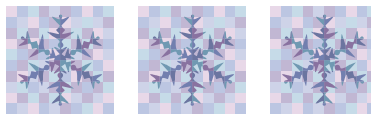
If your college student graduated or has a new address, please contact the Church Office.



CaringTree 2012 - 25th anniversary - success!

What a memorable Sunday in EPC's history! It was heartwarming to observe so many volunteers in our gym sorting, checking, wrapping, filling bags, serving lunch, etc. There were gifts delivered to 20 nursing home residents, 20 families, and 23 Burmese children. Kudos to everyone planning, organizing, and executing this year's project. Our Preschool, After-School, Girl Scout Troop #1245, and Boy Scout Troop #876 also assisted with our efforts this year. It's always a blessing that so many wish to share the spirit of Christmas with others in our community.

Outreach Committee



Cupid's aim: college students and beyond

Eastminster wishes to demonstrate how deeply we care for our college students and others associated with our church. We remember them monthly with seasonal cards and on Valentine's Day with shoe boxes filled with surprises. Donations of candy, granola bars, microwave popcorn, cocoa mix, signed cards, etc. should be brought to the church by February 3 (containers are located in the narthex, church office, and preschool entrance). We hope you will come assist us as we pack 43 shoe boxes on February 6 at 9:30 a.m.



Come and join us in January!

Monday, January 14, Out to lunch bunch

El Torero on Rockbridge Road

Thursday, January 24, 10:30-12:30 Adult Center

"From the Manger to the Mountaintop"

Brunch and Bible study

We will explore three events of significance on the liturgical calendar for January/February:

Epiphany, Baptism of the Lord and Transfiguration.

Bring a brunch item to share.

Monday, January 28, 9:30-1:00

Tour the Historic Fox Theater

Have you ever wondered how the Fox Theatre got its nickname the "Fabulous Fox?" Join The Atlanta Preservation Center for a 90-minute tour of the interior of this fabulous structure. Learn about the Middle Eastern and Egyptian designs that create a dreamlike spectacle of grandeur. Experience the beauty and ambiance of one of the best preserved 1920s movie palaces in existence which began its life as a Masonic Temple.

And in February!

Sunday February 10, 4 pm -7 pm, Service of Evensong

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

OASIS is personally invited to a 5 o'clock Service of Evensong at St. Luke's Episcopal Church

(we enjoyed the stained glass tour in May). The sanctuary will be adorned with candlelight, led by the St. Luke's choir, and a restive reception following. Please make a reservation with the church office.

Monday, February 11, Out to lunch bunch

Matthews Cafeteria in Tucker

Thursday, February 21, 10:30-12:30 Adult Center

"Biblical Relics and Treasures"

Brunch and program

Michael C. Morgan, Columbia Seminary organist and Central Pres organist maintains an extensive collection of manuscripts, Bibles, Psalters and music from the Middle Ages forward. Michael will share a substantial part of his collection with us, and share his wealth of information.

Bring a brunch item to share.

Wednesday Night Programs

January 16 “Weeping and Dry Bones”

Jeremiah & Ezekiel were two of God’s prophets who foretold the destruction of Jerusalem. How is their message relevant for us today? Is there any good news?

January 23 “Faith in Exile”

Daniel and his friends remain true to their faith in God. What does it mean to hear these words from God while still in exile: “For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future...”

January 30 “Temple Building”

The people return to Jerusalem and begin to rebuild the temple. Haggai and Zechariah shared this message: the temple is important but it’s a sign and symbol of something greater coming. Are we called to be temple dwellers or something else?

February 6 “The Feast of Purim”

Esther and Mordecai are honored and celebrated in this annual Jewish Festival (which this year occurs sunset Feb. 23- to sunset Feb. 24). What do we as Christians have to learn and celebrate in this honored story?

February 13 Ash Wednesday Worship Service



Found:

Lady’s sunglasses

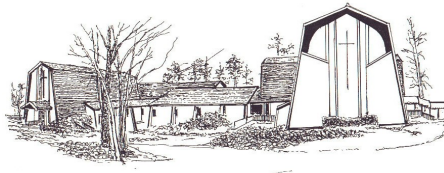
Blood drive

The next blood drive will be Sunday,
February 17 from 8:30-1:00 in the
blood mobile van (church parking lot).

THE WITNESS IS
A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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PHONE NUMBERS

Church Office: 770-469-4881
Fax: 770-879-9590
Preschool: 770-469-4880
School Age Program: 770-469-9489

DEADLINES

Newsletter ~ 5 p.m. **Thursday, January 31**
Sunday Bulletin ~ Wednesdays at 4 p.m.

Church Staff

Pastor ~ Rev. J. Caleb Clarke III
Director of Family Ministries ~ Mark Sauls
Director of Christian Education ~ Mardee Rightmyer
Director of School Age Program ~ Celeste Sears
Director of Preschool ~ Sarah Baldwin
Secretary ~ Paula McGill
Financial Coordinator ~ Jan Zabarc