

2023
ANNUAL REPORT



GATHERING TOGETHER

_____ ____

REACHING OUT

EASTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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A YEAR IN REVIEW

A Letter from Your Pastor

ear Eastminster Family,

"What is your only comfort in life and in death? That I am not my own, but belong- body and soul, in life and in death- to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ."



This first question and answer from the Heidelberg Catechism speaks to us as much today as when first written in 1563. It also speaks to us today as it did it 1948 when, less than three years after the end of World War 2, Eastminster was chartered as a church.

Celebrating Eastminster's 75th Anniversary in 2023 prompted rich reflection and deep gratitude. As the 75 years from 1948 to 2023 led to amazing technological advances and increased freedom in many parts of the world, so the Holy Spirit also guided Eastminster to welcome others, to embrace the gifts and leadership of women, and to joyfully encounter Jesus Christ through people groups around the world, all so that we would more fully glorify God.

Gratefully recalling God's past provision, and trusting Christ alone our sure foundation, let us celebrate God's work in our midst in 2023 even as we lean forward in ministry and mission in 2024 and beyond. With authoritarianism on the rise in the world around us, and with the underpinnings of democracy being challenged in this country, it is essential that we turn to, and lean on, God above all earthly powers.

Toward that end, enjoy reading how you, the Body of Christ at Eastminster, are encouraging, equipping, inspiring, and enabling people of all ages and stations of life to grow and serve as disciples of Jesus Christ. May all that we do as a church family be about joining in the inbreaking of the Kingdom of God, both now and forever. Amen.

To God be the glory,

Rev. Dr. Brad Smith, Senior Pastor

EASTMINSTER STAFF

Pastors & Program Staff

Dr. Bradley D. Smith, Senior Pastor

Dr. Douglass D. Kev. Sr. Associate Pastor of NED & Administration

Rev. Emily Mooneyhan, Associate Pastor of Congregational Care

Rev. Croskeys Royall, Associate Pastor of Children's (and their families) Ministries

Dr. Ben Sloan, Parish Associate for Membership and Outreach & MSB

Dr. Carol Byrd, Parish Associate for Congregational Care

Open Position, Associate Pastor for High School/College Youth and Younger Adults

Anna Mills Cox. Sr. Officer of Communications

Blythe Lewis, Director of Communications

James Cassidy, Director of AV

Caroline Bennett, Director of Small Groups & Librarian

Laura Long, Director of Membership & Outreach (Part-Time)

Lib Foster, Membership & Outreach (Part-Time)

Emily Higgins, Director of Middle School Youth

Rebekah Gaston, Director of CHAMPS (Part-Time)

Andrea Ferree, Special Needs & Inclusion Coordinator (Part-Time)

Support Staff

Julie McDaniel, Executive Assistant to Senior Pastor

Sound Technicians (Part-Time)

Sarah Beasley, Nicholas Beitz, Chardae Bell, Walker Bell, Ilker Isikyakar, & Jay Lesesne

Janice Blair, Administrative Assistant for NED & Administration

Kelly McGrady, Member Involvement Coordinator,

Administrative Assistant for Congregational Care & MSB

Angel Jeffcoat, Drop-In Nursery Coordinator (Part-Time)

Lauren Halter, Congregational Childcare Coordinator (Part-Time)

Worship & Music

Fredna Lee, Director of Music

Louis Shirer, Organist

Augie Gil, Jubilee Worship Leader (Part-Time)

Chelse Lawson, Director of Handbells (Part-Time)

Stefanie Hammond, Director of Children's Music Ministry (Part-Time)

Administration

Bill Collins, Business Manager

Kelly Fernet, Administrative Assistant for the Business Office

Christy Rippy, Treasurer

Anna Bower, Financial Assistant

Regina Jeffcoat, Director of Food Services (Part-Time)

Hannah McLamb & Damiah Tobias, Kitchen Assistants (Part-Time)

Sally McWilliams, Betty Gilbert, & Alison McGowan, Wedding Directors (Part-Time)

Facilities

Alex Rogers, Director of Plant Operations

Tony Taylor, Senior Maintenance Technician

Ronald McCollough, Maintenance Technician

Greg Bouknight, Levi Burch, Lamar O'Neil, Tolliver Perry, Ben Wharley,

Sidney Williams, & Vicki Wilson, Maintenance Technicians (Part-Time)

Christian Life Center (CLC)

Emmet Hough, Director

Meredith Dreibelbis, Elizabeth Cote', Susan Faulk, Ryan Marshall, Bill Rose, & Robert Tighe (Part-Time)

Eastminster Day School (EDS)

Katie Herndon, Director

Rachael Wright Everett & Lane Flowers, Assistant Directors

YEAR-END MEMBERSHIP REPORT

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

| REGULAR MEMBERSHIP AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022: | | 2,090 |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------|
| Gains: | Letter of Transfer | 21 |
| | Reaffirmation of Faith | 26 |
| | Profession of Faith | 7 |
| | Confirmation | 26 |
| Losses: | Letter of Transfer | 19 |
| | "Moved" to "Other Participants" | 181 |
| | Removed Per Request | 0 |
| | Death | 21 |
| | Active Members as of December 31, 2023 | 1,938 |
| | Affiliate Members as of December 31, 2023 | 11 |
| TOTAL RI | EGULAR AND AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP | |
| AS OF DE | CEMBER 31, 2023: | 1,949 |
| | | |
| Baptisms | | 44 |
| Member 1 | 11 | |

NEW MEMBERS IN 2023

Dalton Addy

Nour Al Baldawi

Henry Anders

Carter Atkins

Jane Babcock

Rory Beard

Thomas Beard

Kip Beckwith

Laura Boggs

Brown Bradford

Holli Bradford

Catherine Clyburn

Hollis Craven

Nicholson Deese

Sark Derderian

Vicky Derderian

Kirstin DiMarco

Patrick DiMarco

Summer Elliott

Shawn Elliott

Max Elliott

John Florence, III

Anna Grace Getz

Fden Hall

Stephanie Hooker

Cate Horger

Dan Humphries

Ann Humphries

Hannah Jones

Matt Jones

Bryan Kay

Lisa Kay

John Kiphart

Jean Kiphart

Mac Kitchens

Mia Kosciusko

Wyatt Kosciusko

Baye Lewis

Tinnin Lewis

Emma Lumpkin

Spencer Mac Adams

Anna Claire McCain

Ran Minter

Olivia Minter

Henry Morris

Lydia Morton

Robert Murrell

Kellee Murrell

Jay Nelson

Ann Niland

Anne Porter

Lauren Ragsdale

Jav Ratterree

Alex Richards

Laura Richards

Emily Sitton

Kay Sloan

John Sloan, Jr.

Parker Snell

Kaitlin Springs

Jack Springs, III

Marjorie Stuart

Charles Stuart. III

Zach Swan

Sue Thomas

Kyle Towles

Hannah Towles

Isabel Van Horn

Vicki Vance

Meredith Varn

Jackson Waite

Robert Walden

Krvstle Walden

Newton Walker

Jayne Walker

Kasey Winkles

Blake Winkles

Bailey Wolfe

Tracy Wright

Bradley Young

Hannah Young

Candice Zegilla

MEMBER MILESTONES 2023

BIRTHS IN 2023

Dawson Andrew Buckner Warren "Lee" Cope Russell Burnett Daniel Thatcher Demuynck Joseph "Joey" Dickey, III Mildred Louise "Millie" Dukes **Collins Montgomery Elliott** Sophia Elaine Fairey Elizabeth Brunson "Birdy" Ford Henry Williams Gandy Shaffer Anne Grantz Bridget Leigh "Birdie" Hegler Adelaide Ruth Herring Anna Katherine Jameson **Everett Taylor Jones** James McPhail Kennemur John Scott "Jack" Kiphart Adelaide Stewart Laffitte Charles Sullivan Lowe James Spencer Verner McCants, Jr. Lydia Hayes Mims Josephine Kelly "Posey" Minter **Duncan Wilbanks Moffat** Chandler Richards Holden Lewis Salter Charles Hampton "Charlie" Scott Margaret Richardson Seabrook **Cooper Graves Shockley Emily Jane Shuler Bennett Todd Snell** John Calvin Thorne, V Linnwood Cecil "Woody" Trail Charles Bellinger "Charlie" Varn Sloane Mabel Whalen Dorothy Strom "Dottie" Williams Collins Carolyn Young Clifford "Ford" Young

BAPTISMS IN 2023

Harrison Thomas Bowman Sutton Elizabeth Stoddard James Lawrence Ellzev Douglass Scott Schultz, III Sarah Lyndon Schultz Claire Margaret Cobb **Clifford Ramsey Carter** Joshua Woods Livingston, Jr. Sarah Fielding Ames William Clarke Walker, Jr. Elizabeth Rhae Strasburger Warren Lee Cope **Charlotte McLeod Coble** James Spencer Verner McCants, Jr. Collins Lane DiMarco Wade Edward DiMarco Lucas Andrews Huffstetler Charles Bellinger Varn Payson Charles Hardin Virginia McIntyre Hartner Fitzhugh Julius Weathers Augustus Wynn Hartley Jennings Rice Livingston Robert Barry Richardson Elizabeth Brunson Ford Victor Breeden John. V Elizabeth McLeod John **Charles Hampton Scott Collins Montgomery Elliott** Lydia Hayes Mims **Charles Sullivan Lowe** Henry Williams Gandy Bridget Leigh Hegler Linnwood Cecil Trail Bennett Todd Snell John Scott Kiphart Mildred Louise Dukes Sophia Elaine Fairev Dawson Andrew Buckner Margaret Richardson Seabrook Lydia March McCutchen **Shaffer Anne Grantz**

John Calvin Thorne, V Josephine Kelly Minter

WEDDINGS IN 2023

Mary Anne Kleitches *James Randall Mason, III March 25, 2023

Julia Evers Thordahl *Andrew William Montgomery May 6, 2023

Katherine Quinn Newman *Robert Cornelius Hudson June 3, 2023

Harriet Nelson Kneece *Albert Armistead June 15, 2023

*Meryl Elaine McCants John Hampton Hudgens, IV June 17, 2023

Elizabeth Price Long *John Steven Stoughton June 24, 2023

Paige Bishop Bryant Cordes Baxter Kennedy September 16, 2023

Amanda Elizabeth Dye Dalton Graham Addy September 30, 2023

Lucille Jane Wardlaw *Jonathan Chandler Tolson October 7, 2023

Breland Alexis Green *David Alexander Long November 4, 2023

*Katherine Hall Krapfel *Joseph Ray Frierson December 30, 2023

*denotes non-member

HIGHLIGHT: CELEBRATING NEW LIFE



Dawson Buckner



Lee Cope



Russell Daniel



Thatcher Demuynck



Joseph "Joey" Dickey, III



Millie Dukes



Collins Elliott



Sophia Fairey



Elizabeth "Birdy" Ford



Henry Gandy



Shaffer Grantz



Bridgett "Birdie" Hegler



Adelaide Herring



Anna Jameson

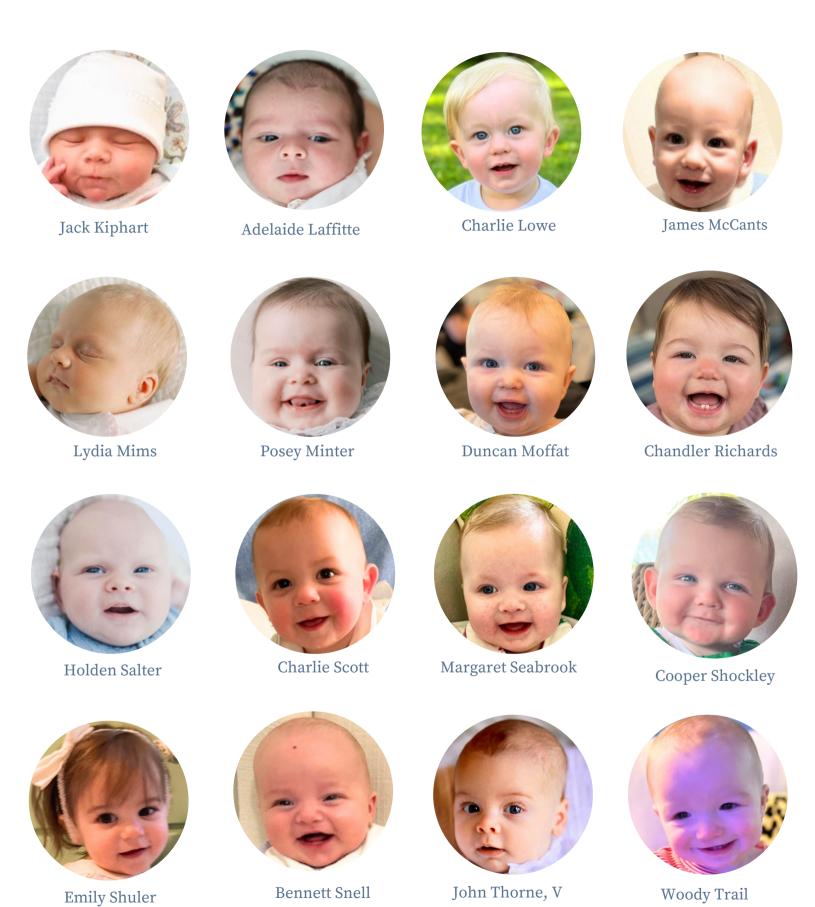


Everett Jones



James Kennemur

HIGHLIGHT: CELEBRATING NEW LIFE



HIGHLIGHT: CELEBRATING NEW LIFE



Charlie Varn



Sloane Whalen



Dorothy "Dottie" Williams



Collins Young



Ford Young



IN MEMORIAM

MEMBERS WHO JOINED THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT IN 2023:

Mark Joel Seals 1/9/2023
Meredith York McKee 2/9/2023
Mildred Johnson McConkey 2/26/2023
David Wesley Wild 3/11/2023
Dorothy Beadles Halligan 4/2/2023
Susan Stoll Herin 5/5/2023
Lloyd Inman Hendricks 5/11/2023
Tenne Ann Eleazer Petty 5/19/2023
Edwina White Carns 5/30/2023
Esther Davis Pearman 6/10/2023
Harold Woodliff Sanford, Jr. 7/13/2023

Susanne Shedd Porter 7/17/2023
William Douglas King 7/18/2023
Jeffrey John Kososki 8/19/2023
Andrew Matthew Tuite, Jr. 9/25/2023
Jan Williams McKellar 10/3/2023
Marilyn McCormac Stradtman 10/15/2023
Margaret White Dillard 10/16/2023
Helen Janette Childers 11/12/2023
Jerry Eugene Goad 11/16/2023
James Raymond Petty, Jr. 11/26/2023
Robert Ferguson Fuller 12/18/2023

ELECTED ELDERS:

CLASS OF 2023

Liz Agee
Jeff Casto
Randy Cottrell
Alex Dillard
Jane Francis
Linda Long
Beth Oliver
Alison McGowan
Bruce Moseley
Susi McWilliams

CLASS OF 2024

Jason Burbage
Madison Dye
Lucie Eggleston
*Jane Francis
Robin Gorman
Hank Mabry
Berry Mattox
Anne Seabrook
Carey Shackelford
Frank Shuler

CLASS OF 2025

Tiffany Beitz
Connie Derrick
Lib Foster
Bick Halligan
Judy Holmes
Kevin O'Connell
Nancy Scott
Bob Staton
Jeff Thordahl
Paul Trippe

CLASS OF 2026

Sam Agee
Becky Airheart
Eleanor Boyd
Will Brownlee
Emma Bryson
Andy Cameron
John Hart
Julie Hudson
George Kennedy
George McCutchen

*completing an unexpired term

ELECTED DEACONS:

CLASS OF 2023

Carmen Atkins
Ryan Barnes
Ann Cameron
Warren Darby, Jr.
Shannon McCutchen
Charlie Mimms
Thomas Rhodes
Teresa Shelton
Amy Teas

Drew Walker

CLASS OF 2024

Kim Andrews
Will Brearley
Peyton Bryant
Miriam Covar
Dolores Long
Leigh Pound
Stephen Sansbury
John Shuford
Carolyn Stoddard
Kathy Winterhalter

CLASS OF 2025

Parks Bunch
Chesley Good
Adam Hegler
Karen Hudgens
Jay Hudson
Zack Hudson
George Hutton
Mary McCants
Simmons Purdy
Susan Ratteree

CLASS OF 2026

Sallie Jameson
Darren Knight
Josh Livingston
Kathleen Muthig
Lisa Newman
Geoff Reabold
Joni Richardson
Ann St. John
Richard Slater
Sandy Spann

2023 BENEVOLENCES

DISBURSEMENTS:

| Benevolences Expenditure | \$3 281 12 |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Bethel Evangelical Secondary School in Ethiopia | |
| Boy's Farm | • |
| Bradley Programs | · |
| Camp Cole | |
| Campus Outreach | |
| CHAMPS Program | • • |
| College Ministry - USC | • |
| Cooperative Ministry | · · |
| Daybreak Ministries | |
| Disaster Relief | |
| EMS Closet | 1 ' |
| Epworth Children's Home | 1 / |
| Family Promise of The Midlands | |
| Family Shelter | |
| Footcare Ministry | • |
| Free Medical Clinic | |
| Friends of Fisher House | \$500.00 |
| Gideons International | · · |
| Habitat for Humanity | \$44,922.06 |
| Haiti - Hospital St. Croix | \$5,000.00 |
| Harvest Hope | \$26,243.33 |
| Heifer International Fund | \$496.61 |
| Homeworks of America | \$6,000.00 |
| Imck Good Shepherd Mission Hospital - Congo | \$2,500.00 |
| Joy Gift Offering | \$8,108.65 |
| Jubilee Academy | |
| Law Enforcement Chaplaincy | \$4,326.00 |
| Lighthouse for Life | \$18,000.00 |
| Live Oak Counseling Center | \$5,000.00 |
| MeadowFeed | \$3,000.00 |
| Meals on Wheels | · |
| Medical Benevolence Foundation | \$20,000.00 |
| Medical Missions | \$14,067.26 |
| Midlands Capernaum | |
| Midlands Fatherhood Coalition | |
| Midlands Sexual Trauma Service | |
| Migrant Ministry | |
| Mission School in Ethiopia | \$1,500.00 |

2023 BENEVOLENCES

DISBURSEMENTS:

| Mission Tring | ¢10/.117.60 |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Mission TripsMissionary Support | |
| Montreat Conference Center | - |
| | · |
| Nile Seminary Student Scholarship | |
| Nile Theological Seminary | |
| Nurturing Center | • |
| Oliver Gospel Mission | · |
| One Great Hour of Sharing | |
| Operation Christmas Child | - |
| Presbyterian Communities of SC | • |
| Presbyterian Women Missions and Benevolences | _ |
| Queens Chapel | |
| Reconciliation Ministries | • |
| Refugee Assistance | • |
| Salvation Army | · |
| SC Inn at Montreat | 1 7 |
| Scholarships | \$40,000.00 |
| Scout Troops | |
| Servant Leadership Awards | \$10,205.74 |
| Shepherd's Center | \$500.00 |
| SisterCare | \$5,000.00 |
| Sozo Children's Home | \$2,000.00 |
| St. Lawrence Place - Homeless No More | \$2,583.33 |
| Sudan - South Sudan Presbytery | \$2,000.00 |
| Taiwanese Pastor Exchange | \$10,050.00 |
| Theological Training for Prisoners | \$5,000.00 |
| Thornwell Home & School for Children | \$8,544.00 |
| Transitions Center | \$43,694.78 |
| Turning Pages/Literacy Council | \$2,000.00 |
| Unified Benevolences and Per Capita | |
| Washington Street UMC Soup Cellar | |
| Women's Shelter | |
| | |

TOTAL: \$927,706.75

FINANCE 2023 & 2022 COMPARISON

| | 2023: | | 2022: | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| INCOME | Actual | Budget | Actual | Budget |
| Undesignated Pledges and Offerings | \$4,344,611.85 | \$4,488,800.00 | \$4,508,738.93 | \$4,348,500.00 |
| Program Revenue | \$226,015.23 | \$216,400.00 | \$180,046.12 | \$233,175.00 |
| Administration & Property Revenue | <u>\$119,727.72</u> | <u>\$100,050.00</u> | <u>\$65,963.64</u> | <u>\$55,550.00</u> |
| <u>TOTAL INCOME</u> | \$4,690,354.80 | \$4,805,250.00 | \$4,496,748.69 | \$4,627,225.00 |
| | | | | |
| <u>EXPENSES</u> | | | | |
| Worship & Music | \$95,773.44 | \$91,950.00 | \$89,820.08 | \$89,000.00 |
| Membership & Outreach | \$50,775.80 | \$28,200.00 | \$36,528.31 | \$31,400.00 |
| Nurture, Education & Discipleship | \$272,802.53 | \$284,185.00 | \$154,201.64 | \$187,805.00 |
| Congregational Care | \$6,605.73 | \$19,850.00 | \$11,322.46 | \$19,850.00 |
| * Mission, Service & Benevolence | \$562,264.62 | \$569,000.00 | \$628.870.00 | \$648,000.00 |
| Administration | \$71,547.88 | \$83,555.49 | \$69,476.35 | \$82,576.07 |
| Communications & Computers | \$119,546.94 | \$135,250.00 | \$129,001.67 | \$136,000.00 |
| Property | \$493,312.91 | \$562,000.00 | \$541,668.81 | \$546,500.00 |
| Kitchen | \$72,937.94 | \$69,000.00 | \$70,470.48 | \$68,000.00 |
| Personnel | \$2,579,621.55 | \$2,894,159.51 | \$2,589,037.11 | \$2,771,193.93 |
| Christian Life Center | \$51,172.34 | \$48,100.00 | \$39,333.10 | \$36,900.00 |
| Reserve Funding | <u>\$20,000.00</u> | \$20,000.00 | \$0.00 | <u>\$10,000.00</u> |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$4,396,361.68 | \$4,805,250.00 | \$4,359,730.01 | \$4,627,225.00 |
| | | | | |
| TOTAL NET INCOME | \$293,993.12 | \$0.00 | \$137,018.68 | \$0.00 |

^{*} CHAMPS included

FINANCE 2023 & 2024 BUDGET SUMMARY

| Revenue: | 2023 Annual Budget: | 2024 Annual Budget: | %Change: |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Pledge Income | 3,898,550.00 | 3,876,160.00 | - 0.57% |
| Non-pledge Income | 550,000.00 | 600,000.00 | 9.09% |
| Pledge Payments (Prior \ | /ear) 20,000.00 | 35,000.00 | 75.00% |
| Sunday School & Loose P | late 20,250.00 | 24,250.00 | 19.75% |
| Program Revenue | 216,400.00 | 241,200.00 | 11.46% |
| Administrative Income | 100,050.00 | 110,150.00 | 10.09% |
| Total Budgeted Income | \$4,805,250.00 | \$4,805,250.00 | 1.70% |
| | | | |
| Expenses: | | | |
| Worship & Music | 91,950.00 | 91,950.00 | 3.31% |
| Membership & Outreach | 28,200.00 | 28,200.00 | -10.19% |
| Nurture, Education & Dis | scipleship 284,185.00 | 265,475.00 | -6.58% |
| Congregational Care | 19,850.00 | 19,850.00 | 0.00% |
| *Missions, Service & Ben | evolence 569,000.00 | 602,508.00 | 5.89% |
| Administration | 83,555.49 | 117,197.50 | 40.26% |
| Communications & Com | puters 135,250.00 | 135,250.00 | 0.00% |
| Property | 562,000.00 | 555,500.00 | -1.16% |
| Kitchen | 69,000.00 | 69,800.00 | 1.16% |
| Personnel | 2,894,159.51 | 2,915,929.10 | 0.75% |
| Christian Life Center | 48,100.00 | 52,200.00 | 8.52% |
| Reserve | 20,000.00 | 20,000.00 | 0.00% |
| | | | |
| Total Budgeted Expense | s: \$4,805,250.00 | \$4,886,760.00 | 3.85% |

^{*}CHAMPS included

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Mission:

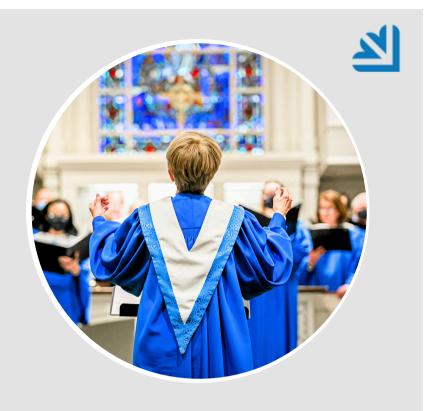
To work with the clergy,
Session, and choir director in
creating meaningful worship
opportunities including Sunday
morning and Jubilee worship
services as well as weddings,
services in witness to the
resurrection, and other worship
occasions.

Leadership:

Worship and Music Chair: Nancy Scott (2025) nmscott4365@sc.rr.com

Eastminster Staff Support:

Dr. Brad Smith, Fredna Lee, Augie Gill, Stefanie Hammond, & Julie McDaniel



ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023:

- Met monthly (except July) to address matters before the Committee
- Continued to provide musicians for Vacation Bible School and Peace Services
- Served Communion as scheduled by all elders in assigned teams, including as scheduled Communion Sundays, Home Communion, and Peace Services
- Continued to identify and develop additional worship opportunities, including guest preachers, Summer interns, and for Youth Sunday
- Continued to study, with Communications, ways to improve the sound system in the sanctuary and to improve hearing of speakers without diminishing songs and solos by the choir
- Continued to work with ushers and deacons for safe, efficient seating in sanctuary and for other opportunities for worship or programs
- Decorated church for Easter and Christmas
- Sponsored two Crismon workshops during which over 100 Crismon ornaments were made
- Maintained calendar for flowers in Sanctuary (Carol Anderson)
- Promoted and maintained the Christmas Memory tree with recruited volunteers, led by Carolyn Stoddard for 2023
- Continued to train new officers to prepare them for their duties in worship services and communion directions

WORSHIP & MUSIC

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023:

- Highlighted and displayed the new Kneeling Bench refinished by Mike DaVega and needlepointed by four Eastminster ladies
- Supported She Sings, Sandlapper Singers, and Carols & Keyboards Concerts by approving use of Eastminster for rehearsal and performances
- In conjunction with NED, supported ECAMP on Sunday evenings for children
- Supported Music Camp for 1st-5th grades in July
- Supported Choir Retreat
- Formed a Search Committee for engaging new full-time organist

- · Meet monthly to address matters before the Committee
- Provide communion to all shut-ins who request it, using former Elders to serve
- Continue to provide musicians for Vacation Bible School and Peace Services
- Serve communion as scheduled by all elders in assigned teams, including as scheduled Communion Sundays. Home Communion, and Peace Services
- Continue to identify and develop additional worship opportunities, including guest preachers, Summer Interns, and Youth Sunday
- Work with Personnel Committee to identify and engage new organist on fulltime basis
- Work with Communications and the Pastoral staff to educate members on the need to leave all food and drink outside the sanctuary services (9:15 and 11:00 AM)
- Continue to identify and execute sanctuary upgrades to improve hearing of speakers without diminishing songs and solos by the choir
- Continue to work with ushers and deacons for safe, efficient seating in sanctuary and for other opportunities for worship or programs
- Decorate church for Easter and Christmas
- Continue to maintain calendar for flowers in sanctuary (Carol Anderson)

WORSHIP & MUSIC

- Organize and support Seder Meal during Holy Week and Kirkin' of the Tartans in October
- Promote and maintain the Christmas Memory tree with recruited volunteers (Carolyn Stoddard)
- Continue to train new officers to prepare them for their duties in worship services and communion directions
- Continue oversight of the Memorial Garden
- Support She Sings, Sandlapper Singers, and Carols & Keyboards Concerts by approving use of Eastminster for rehearsal and for performances
- In conjunction with NED, supported ECAMP on Sunday evenings for children
- Continue support Music Camp for 1st-5th grades in July
- Continue to supply musicians for Vacation Bible School and Peace Services
- Continue support the Choir Retreat



WORSHIP & MUSIC CANDIDS



















CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF MINISTRY



What an energizing evening on Saturday, January 28, 2023, as close to 500 of Eastminster's members and friends gathered for the 75th Anniversary Gala to celebrate Eastminster's 75 years in ministry and mission. Held at Central Energy- also known as Downtown Church, which is an Eastminster Presbyterian church plant-those in attendance dined on a sumptuous feast, listened to music played by The Jackson Sisters String Quartet, watched a commemorative video, and heard remarks from 75th Anniversary Committee Chair, John McArthur, and Senior Pastor, Brad Smith. The Gala allowed for a wonderful time of fellowship between members and friends, and it was meaningful visiting with past pastors and individuals who supported Eastminster in ministry, like Amos Disasa, Lynn Grandsire, Mark Durrett, Eric and Ellen Skidmore, and Craig Holladay, just to name a few.

McArthur said, "In our first meeting, one of the Anniversary Committee members said, 'We need to throw a big party where Eastminster's members can enjoy celebrating together.' We would never have guessed that close to 500 people would attend and have so much fun. We also wanted to have a unique Sunday worship service and include some of our prior pastors. Amos, Mark, and Lynn together with our current pastors, choir, musicians, and staff, put together a wonderful time of worship."

On Sunday, January 29, 2023, over 1,200 of Eastminster's members and friends gathered for a rich day of worship and celebration. At the traditional worship service, bagpipes, brass instruments, and voices of the choir and congregation filled the Sanctuary as songs and hymns, like "God of Grace" and "Rejoice, the Lord is King," were played and sung. In the contemporary worship service, songs of praise, like "House of the Lord" and "Goodness of God," were lifted to Heaven in thanksgiving and celebration. At the Birthday Celebration in the Christian Life Center, the sounds

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF MINISTRY

of chatter, of children singing "Happy Birthday," and of pastors sharing some of their fondest Eastminster memories echoed throughout the gymnasium.

Smith said, "What a wonderful 75th Anniversary Gala, and what a rich and meaningful time of worship and sharing on Sunday! Thank you to the Revs. Amos Disasa, Mark Durrett, and Lynn Grandsire for coming back to lead worship, to John McArthur and team for planning and executing a joy-filled celebration, and thank you to all who attended." - Anna Mills Cox







Excerpt from Eastminster Today, Spring 2023

ECUMENICAL & CHURCH RELATIONS

Mission:

To increase our community involvement with other churches, as well as Trinity Presbytery. Represent EPC at Presbytery meetings, serve on various ministries of Presbytery, and keep the Session informed of opportunities and challenges of the denomination.

Leadership:

Ecumenical & Church Relations Chair: Lucie Eggleston (2024) lucie.eggleston@yahoo.com

Eastminster Staff Support:

Dr. Douglass Key, Rev. Emily Mooneyhan, & Rev. Croskeys Royall



ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023:

- Met consistently to explore meaningful involvement in our community
- Met to prepare for each quarterly meeting of the Trinity Presbytery
- Commissioners attended all stated and called meetings of the Trinity Presbytery on February 18, May 20, August 26, and November 13
- Prepared and presented committee reports about the Trinity Presbytery meetings keeping the session updated of opportunities and challenges facing the denomination
- Invited and encouraged active Elders to attend Trinity Presbytery Meetings
- Many members, clergy, and staff of EPC served on committees and boards within the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly
- Church Staff and Members served on Trinity Presbytery: Dr. Douglass Key,
 Administrative Commission; Rev. Emily Mooneyhan, Committee on Preparation for Ministry; Rev. Croskeys Royall, Commissioner to the Synod of South Atlantic;
 Dr. Brad Smith, Nominating

- Find new ways for the church to contribute to and benefit from the life of the larger church through greater involvement with the mission and ministry of Trinity Presbytery and the Synod of the South Atlantic
- Explore and promote opportunities for partnership in fellowship, worship, mission, and service with other congregations in Columbia

GOALS FOR 2024:

- Meet monthly to explore opportunities for our congregation to join other communities in faith, love, hope, witness, and service
- Encourage meaningful involvement in Trinity Presbytery, the Synod of South Atlantic, and the General Assembly
- Keep the Session updated on the opportunities and challenges facing the denomination
- Expand our relationships in the local community, nationally, and internationally with other churches
- Training elders serving on this committee on the workings of Trinity Presbytery and Synod
- Attend stated Trinity Presbytery meetings on February 17, May 18, August 24, and November 19
- Meet to prepare for stated meetings of the Trinity Presbytery
- Continue to encourage and support clergy, staff, and EPC members to participant in the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly
- Invite and encourage all active and inactive elders to attend stated Trinity
 Presbytery meetings
- Find meaningful work for our committee to participate in the community

TRINITY PRESBYTERY LEADERSHIP:



DANNY C. MURPHY, SR.

General Presbyter dmurphy@trinity-presbytery.org



LISA MALLORY

Administrative Assistant (General Presbyter & Stated Clerk) mallory@trinity-presbytery.org



JIM ROWELL

Interim Stated Clerk jrowellx2@bellsouth.net

EASTMINSTER DAY SCHOOL (EDS)

Mission: To live out our baptismal vows by providing high quality Christian-based education, development, and care for young children of Eastminster Presbyterian Church and the community.

Leadership:

EDS Chair: Jason Burbage (2024) jburbage@homebrands.pro

Eastminster Staff Support: Dr. Douglass Key

Dr. Douglass Key Katie Herndon



ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023:

- · Installed new big kid playground
- Revised EDS Covenant Family Program
- Revised EDS Scholarship policy
- Worked with Safety Committee to enhance safety procedures for EDS
- Revised and updated EDS Policy Manual
- Set up online tuition payment for EDS
- Continued implementation of digital BrightWheel Program to enhance parent communication

- Long range plans for EDS growth, size, facility improvements
- Evaluate Mission Statement for EDS
- Evaluate EDS curriculum on a regular basis
- Create calendar for safety plan rehearsals for EDS
- Increase implementation of Bright Wheel for parent communication.
- Annual review of Covenant Family Program

EASTMINSTER DAY SCHOOL CANDIDS



















SAFETY

Mission: To maintain and provide safety and security for all individuals who worship, serve, and attend all events hosted by Eastminster Presbyterian Church.

Leadership:

Safety Chair: Jay Hudson (2025) jayhudson201@gmail.com

Eastminster Staff Support:

Dr. Brad Smith, Rev. Croskeys Royall, & Bill Collins



ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023:

- Conducted a church-wide fire drill on Sunday, September 17, 2023
- Evaluated the placement of cameras on campus and systematically added cameras where needed- added six (6) new cameras to enhance safety for Christian Life Center
- Moved Christian Life Center receptionist desk to the front door as part of the enhancement of safety
- Implemented a policy for intruder safety and fire safety for the church campus

- Conduct a Church Safety Training Meeting for officers and ushers during 2024
- Schedule a fire drill during the Sunday School hour
- Make the scheduled fire drill during the Sunday School hour an annual occurrence
- Continue to evaluate camera placement on campus and add appropriately

PROPERTY

Mission: To maintain and develop Eastminster's facilities and property as an important part of our vibrant ministry.

Leadership: Property Chair: Parks Bunch (2025) parksbunch@gmail.com

Eastminster Staff Support: Alex Rogers & Bill Collins



ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023:

- Reviewed Property, Auto, Workers Compensation, and Directors & Officers' insurance received from Brotherhood Mutual and recommended to the Session to remain with Brotherhood Mutual for coverage
- Installed new chiller for the Christian Education Building
- Rebuilt the Administration Building circulating pump
- Installation of handicap (ADA) doors around campus
- · Replaced the glass doors in the old stage area of Thompson Hall and hallway
- Updated the front sign with the new minister who was installed during 2023
- Refurbished the Parlor with new furniture
- Installed a rail for the Sanctuary balcony for safety purposes
- Re-mortared the brick pavers in front of the Sanctuary
- Cleaned the slate roof of the Christian Life Center.
- Repaired the leaks in the Sanctuary ceiling
- Buffed and recoated the Christian Life Center gym floor

PROPERTY

- Receive quotes for Property, Auto, Workers Compensation, and Directors & Officers' insurance, which is done every three years, and present recommendation to the Diaconate for approval
- Continue to monitor the cracks in the Christian Life Center and make any repairs necessary
- Research and possibly develop a master plan for the grounds of the campus
- Replace carpet as needed on campus
- · Install wells on campus as needed for irrigation
- Review backup system and overall system for lighting in the Sanctuary
- Review the possibility of dividing a big room in the Sanctuary basement into two offices
- Begin developing a plan for the replacement of second half of the windows and doors in the Administration Building
- Correct the HVAC issues with the Multipurpose Room in the Christian Life
 Center



STEWARDSHIP

Mission: To educate, encourage, and inspire our members about the privilege, responsibility, and "joy of giving"- recognizing that all we are and all we have are gifts from God entrusted to us so that we may be good "stewards" for God's glory. The Stewardship Ministry has the responsibility of encouraging faithful stewardship of our time, talents, and treasures.

Leadership: Stewardship Chair:

Peyton Bryant (2024) peyton.bryant@gmail.com

Eastminster Staff Support: Dr. Brad Smith, Anna Mills Cox, & Kelly Fernet



ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023:

- Organized an active and passionate group of Deacons and volunteers to serve on committee
- Committee steered that passion into significant personal pledges to God's work through EPC
- Pledges used as encouragement and motivation to other smaller groups and individuals amongst the church before and during pledge season
- Marketing efforts increased to include videos of church's impact in the community
- Number of pledges increased- as well as financial support increased- by approximately \$300,000 over prior year
- Began vetting potential consultants to assist Stewardship in 2024 and beyond

STEWARDSHIP

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023:

- Wrote and encouraged others to write Daily Devotionals related to financial giving
- Recruited writers and speakers from the Diaconate and prior Stewardship committee members
- Executed a thorough communication strategy to reach members to encourage pledging from Pledge Sunday through the end of the year

- Engage stewardship consultant and work with that group weekly to advance and sustain our stewardship process
- Regularly engage and thank members who give and serve
- Maintain stewardship budget yearly for the further growth of the ministry
- Potential new F/T or P/T employee to assist with stewardship/giving logistics and execute strategies
- Time and Talents ensure that each ministry is accountable for contacting every person who has volunteered for the ministry and for placing them in an appropriate volunteer position
- Continue to recruit members and prior stewardship committee members to write devotionals

THE EASTMINSTER ENDOWMENT

Mission: Established to offer members and friends the opportunity to leave a legacy of faith for future generations by providing the opportunity to give to a variety of missions and ministries in perpetuity. The gifts will be distributed and allow the church to expand its reach locally, nationally, and globally. Currently, the over \$4.2 million endowment teaches Truth to Eastminster members and the surrounding community, enables seminary students to pursue their call to a life of ministry, provides scholarships, enhances our property, and provides support and nurturing to families.

Leadership:

Endowment Chair: Billy Newsome Billy@newsomelaw.us Also serving: Bert Brannon, Sharon Bryant, Bill Francis, Russ Purdy, Joni Richardson, Anne Seabrook, & Paul Trippe

Staff Support: Bill Collins and Dr. Brad Smith



ENDOWMENT FUNDS:

• Eastminster In Action: (Previously Eastminster Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund) Established to encourage members to support Christ's work in perpetuity. 2023-\$51.939.29: \$10.000.00 Mexico Church Plant. \$15.969.65 Habitat Build. \$25,969.64 Sanctuary Sound System

BALANCE 12/31/23: \$1.285.720.13

• Frank and Betty Harden "Reaching out with Love": Established in memory of Frank and Betty Harden to support Christ's work in perpetuity. 2023-\$2,982.75: \$1,491.38 Habitat Build, \$1,491.37 Sanctuary Sound System

BALANCE 12/31/23: \$69.706.46

• Dr. Joe Bryan Donaho Teaching Church: Established in thanksgiving to God for Dr. Donaho's encouragement and emphasis for Eastminster to equip and enable men and women to claim, develop, and use their God-given gifts in service to Eastminster and to the Church universal, 2023-\$22.140.55: \$3.550.00 EPW Vine Conference Ctr. deposit & speaker honorarium, \$1,926.36 Men's Retreat speaker honorarium & travel, \$16.664.19 E2 interns' salaries

BALANCE 12/31/23: \$1.321.472.56

• Robert B. Ariail & Patricia B. Ariail Marriage Enrichment and Support: Established by the Ariails for the creation, support, or administration of programs or activities that enrich and support marriage.

BALANCE 12/31/23: \$235.129.85

• Ariail Property: Established by the Session in honor and memory of the Ariails for the purpose of maintaining the physical plant of Eastminster in perpetuity.

BALANCE 12/31/23: \$361,396.92

ENDOWMENT FUNDS CONTINUED:

- Ebersole Special Needs: Established by the Session in honor and memory of Dr. Jim and Lou Ebersole for the purpose of providing support for the Special Needs program of Eastminster Presbyterian Church in perpetuity

 BALANCE 12/31/23: \$96.468.67
- Judy and Alec Chaplin Building Lives: Established by Judy and Alec Chaplin for the purpose of assisting at-risk children, youth, and young adults in developing their God-given potentials in perpetuity
 BALANCE 12/31/23: \$300.289.56

• Youth Mission Scholarship: Established to provide scholarships for Eastminster members as follows: youth ages 14-20, their parents, and chaperones of the church to participate in church sponsored overnight mission trips

BALANCE 12/31/23: \$100,590.09

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS:

- Youth: Established by the church to provide scholarship assistance for youth to attend retreats and mission trips
 BALANCE 12/31/23: \$71,185.50
- International: Established by the church to provide support for worthy international students
 BALANCE 12/31/23: \$78.972.45
- Missy Boyd Eastminster Day School: Established by Austin and Barbara Boyd in memory of their daughter, Melissa "Missy" Blair, to assist EDS families facing unexpected financial hardships
 BALANCE 12/31/23: \$122,347.45
- Stradtman Memorial Seminary: Established in memory of Mr. Earl W. Stradtman to provide scholarships for EPC members attending approved PC-USA seminaries BALANCE 12/31/23: \$24.472.06
- Wood Seminary: Established by Gettis and Mary Vin Wood to provide scholarships for EPC members who are attending seminary
 BALANCE 12/31/23: \$28,316.68

ACCELERATED MISSION FUND:

• Carolyn Holderman Family Nurture: Created by Nancy and Dr. Brad Smith in memory of Nancy's mother, Carolyn M. Holderman, to provide family nurture opportunities or help women with children facing difficulties

BALANCE 12/31/23: \$138,108.62

Grants awarded during 2023 totaled \$77,062.59 (all-time high) from endowed funds of Eastminster.

MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH (M&O)

Mission: To welcome one another into the Body of Christ at Eastminster Presbyterian and provide intentional fellowship opportunities to share the Gospel of Jesus.

Leadership: M&O Chair:

M&O Chair: Tiffany Beitz (2025) tiffanybeitz@hotmail.com

Eastminster Staff Support:

Dr. Ben Sloan, Laura Long, Caroline Bennett, Lib Foster, & Kelly McGrady



ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023:

- Celebrated a wonderful 75th anniversary year (thanks to the 75th Anniversary
 Committee for the Gala and books and special speakers)
- Accounted for 41 infant baptisms and 21 deaths; 108 new members joined the church from two First Step classes (814 was our average attendance including online participants)
- Hosted a record number (191) at the Advent Retreat, with Ed Black speaking
- Led 40 participants in our Alpha outreach class
- Hosted a large CORE retreat in 2023 with 124 in attendance
- Strengthened the Seniors Ministry met for fellowship monthly
- Added an EPW Christmas social with 80 in attendance, and raised awareness that all women of EPC are included in EPW
- Hosted our first Men's Retreat in many years with guest speaker,
 Rev. Dr. Ed McLeod

MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH (M&O)

- Continue to provide greeters, follow up with visitors, do at least two First Step classes (next one is 2/25), and get volunteers for WE@EPC meals
- Plan a Men's Oyster Roast
- Host the EPW Women's "VINE" Retreat, which reached maximum capacity under the leadership of Mary Hanna and Sandy Spann
- Start an EPW Prayer Breakfast with the first on 2/13
- Organize monthly gatherings for the Seniors' Ministry, adding an occasional trip (e.g., fieldtrip to the Billy Graham Library 1/26)
- Begin plan are beginning for an Educational/Fellowship Reformation
 Expedition, 7/8-20 (Holy Land trip was canceled for 2023)
- Add a "Discover Eastminster" gathering to fill in the gaps between First
 Step classes for those interested in joining the church
- Look at ways to be proactive in inviting outsiders to take part in the ministry and worship of Eastminster



MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH CANDIDS



















Mission: To offer a biblically-based education program so that children, youth, and adults may grow in their understanding of and commitment to Jesus Christ. To develop, administer, and oversee the education program in fulfillment of the Great Commission of our Lord.

Leadership:

NED Chair: Anne Seabrook (2024) aseabrook1@mac.com

Eastminster Staff Support: Dr. Douglass Key, Rev. Croskeys Royall, Caroline Bennett. & Janice Blair



ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023:

Small Groups, Daily Devotionals, Library, and Special Events Ministries:

- Continued to strengthen and grow the Small Groups Ministry by providing support to leaders; working with Membership Outreach on connecting new members; soliciting and training new SG leaders; connecting groups with service opportunities, church activities, and EPW events; and continuing to reach out to EDS teachers/parents and CLC users to invite them into the SGs Ministry
- Worked with pastors on "Journey Through the Bible" church-wide study in Winter/Spring '23 and "Knowing Our Faith" in Fall '23
- Planned and hosted the Small Group Facilitators Workshop in August and SGs Kickoff Dinner in September, both with featured speaker Lisa Allen of Proverbs31 Ministries
- Helped eight new SGs start in Fall '23
- Worked with Membership/Outreach on filling all Kitchen Ministry Meal server/volunteer positions for WE@EPC and more
- Continued to promote and sell the 75th Anniversary archive book

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023:

Small Groups, Daily Devotionals, Library, and Special Events Ministries:

- Worked with all ministries to host the Core Retreat on March 3-5 weekend in the CLC; worked with CLC Committee on hosting the Fitness Open House in August; worked with CLC Committee, NED, M/O, and the Medical Team on launching newly revised quarterly Core Retreat events for 2024
- Worked with Croskeys and Advent Retreat Team to coordinate the December Advent Retreat in new location, Assembly Inn in Montreat, and expanded registrants from 105 adults/children in '22 to 190 adults/children in '23
- Added new Daily Devotional writers and subscribers
- In CLC, held books giveaway with hundreds of donated resources unusable by the Library or SGs

Children's Ministry:

- Supported Christian Education moments with the EDS including 3K and 4K
 Wednesday morning chapel, Wednesday afternoon devotional with 5K-4th
 grade aftercare, and Tues morning devotional during Ms Tina's 2K circle time;
 and invited EDS families to the Fall Festival, the Thanksgiving Throwdown, the
 Living Nativity, and the St Patrick's Day party
- Finished our 22-23 Sunday School year in the Winter/Spring continuing to use
 a Narrative Lectionary-based CE curriculum on Sunday mornings for 3K-5th
 grade; in Fall of 2023, tracked with the Christian belief and practice theme
 that the adult and youth classes are using for 23-24 school year; switched to
 the "Following Me" curriculum, which teaches foundational Christian
 practices in 4-week modules (This included recruiting 55+ Sunday School
 teachers to lead over the course of the school year; some check-in times for
 teachers were offered in Oct and Nov '23)
- In a joint effort with Music Ministry, redesigned ECAMP for children on Sunday evenings to include both music and faith formation for about 70 children 4K-4th grade. (Once a month on Sunday nights, elementary-age children are separated for their SWAG program (Saved with Amazing Grace), which has fellowship, service, worship, and study. Our August pool party drew 65 children, and our September Bible study hour drew 55 children.)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023:

Children's Ministry:

- Began meeting with other area mainline church children's workers once every 2 months to compare notes about what was going on in their congregations (Croskeys also meets with the Trinity Presbytery educators monthly meeting as time allows)
- Supported childcare functions on Sunday mornings and evenings, Wednesday nights, and for special events such as the Officer Retreat and CORE
- Hosted VBS 2023 in June with 250+ children in attendance and a curriculum from Cokesbury, Food Truck Roundup, and \$1637 raised for the Oliver Gospel Mission (Leadership team include Katie Smith, Mollye Hudson, Molly Slater, and Anne Scott)
- Received security enhancements for the EPC Drop-in at the CLC, which is in the process of rebuilding its client base as well as stabilizing its staff
- Built a new nativity set for the Living Nativity 2023
- Contracted and began assembing a new sensory room for neuro-atypical members

Middle School, High School, and College Age Members:

- Hosted the Youth Ski Trip in January, which was a great success with over 60 youth joining us for a weekend of fun and adventure at Winterplace Ski Resort in West Virginia
- Hired Emily Higgins as the new MS Youth Director in June of 2023 (she has hit the ground running since the beginning- program numbers have been up for MS programming since the addition)
- Organized Confirmation with 30 Confirmands confirmed as members of EPC
- Hosted both middle school and high school lock-outs (with over 30 youth in attendance at each)
- Hosted a full schedule of Senior High Youth Summer trips for the first time since COVID, with mission trips to Memphis and the Bahamas and to the Montreat Youth conference

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023:

Middle School, High School, and College Age Members:

- Implemented weekly middle school youth lunch gatherings over the summer, averaging 10 participants/week
- Implemented weekly middle school "Bible and Basketball" open gym time over the Summer, averaging 15 participants/week
- Organized 32 middle school students for pre-teen VBS during the month of June
- Implemented monthly "Donuts and Devo" prayer breakfasts for middle school youth
- Planned weekly programming for middle school and high school youth including Sunday School, Youth Groups, and Bible Studies
- Supported around 100 individual middle school students by attending various events and programs at area schools and in the community
- Increased the number of middle school leaders (three Bible Study leaders, four Youth Group leaders, and four-six Sunday School teachers each week)
- Organized three middle school volunteer opportunities at Harvest Hope (Fall)
- Organized a middle school youth opportunity at EMS Closet (Fall)
- Organized volunteer opportunities for middle school youth, who made 150 blessing bags for various homeless ministries
- Organized volunteer opportunities for middle school youth, who managed the Arts & Crafts table at the Fall Festival
- Organized volunteer opportunities for middle school youth, who performed in the Living Nativity as angels and shepherds or helped serve hot chocolate to the attendees
- Organized volunteer opportunities for middle and high school youth at the Operation Christmas Child (OCC) tables on Sunday mornings
- Held a joint Sunday School class for middle school parents and youth to organize the EDS Collections for OCC for the SWAG packing party
- Continued to grow the College Program (weekly Bible Study is currently averaging between 15-25 college students from USC)
- Encouraged College classes to join churchwide studies ("Knowing our Faith")
- Implemented use of Trip Evaluation Form and developed protocol for mission trips and retreats

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023:

Adults:

- Continued the "Journey Through the Bible" through the Spring with Sunday school classes and mid-week Small Groups and Bible Studies for all ages
- Produced 39 video supplements during the Spring for teachers, Small Groups, and classes to use which accumulated a total of 1,893 views on Vimeo, in addition to the DVDs provided by the church for groups and classes
- Led our Summer Adult Sunday School class, which read and studied the book
 of Revelation (the class met on Sunday morning and was repeated on
 Wednesday evenings during the Summer for those who could not attend on
 Sundays; we also recorded the Sunday session and posted the video online for
 those who were traveling or otherwise prevented from joining in person)
- Launched the Fall church-wide study Justo Gonzalez' book <u>Knowing Our Faith</u>, a tour of core Christian Doctrine that has been widely adopted (sold over 200 copies of the book; many Small Groups and several Sunday School Classes joined the study; the video supplements for each chapter averaged around 130 views per week)
- Oversaw several other Sunday school classes studying Ted Foote and Alex Thornburg's <u>Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt</u>
- Led the Adult Bible Study on Wednesday nights in the Fall- "Embracing the Wisdom of Israel a reading of Proverbs"
- Membership & Outreach sponsored an Alpha class on Wednesday nights (Fall)
- Offered Financial Peace University (Fall)
- With a big assist from Membership & Outreach, the two new Young Adult Classes met throughout the Spring semester before consolidating into one viable class in the Fall to join the church-wide study, <u>Knowing Our Faith</u>
- Launched a new Sunday School Class for parents of Middle School youth (in partnership with Membership & Outreach)
- Prepared to send a cohort of over 25 pilgrims to Israel and Palestine in
 October and November of 2023 (however, the trip had to be canceled due

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023:

Adults:

to the dangerous situation in the area; instead a short course of the Theology of the Land was offered in August for those who would be traveling or were interested in exploring the relationship between God's covenant with Abraham to current events in the Middle East)

- Approved and funded a NED scouting trip to Chiapas, Mexico, in order to consider the location for future adult mission trips
- Approved and funded a NED adult mission trip to the Bahamas in November
- Funded a NED Men's Retreat in Rincon, Georgia
- Created inviting Sunday School Class signage

Learning Differences:

- Planned, executed, and grew monthly young adult events aimed at building a social network for our transitioning youth and including others in the community with the goal of growing our membership (20 - 25 attend regularly)
- Planned and executed 10-week Small Group programming for Special Needs that provided weekly programming for young adults who no longer fit neatly into the high school youth programming (10-12 joined this group)
- Created and executed training for volunteers and staff who plan to work with and alongside special needs youth and adults (training focused on the importance of compassion and understanding first; then understanding the why, the how, the mechanics of what brings our families and children to us; eight volunteers attended this training)
- Recruited six new volunteers via Time and Talent survey, word of mouth, and relationship building
- Planned, executed, and attended Moms Night Out group social for those with special needs children (these events aided in connecting many different families and allowed a group of women to gather in support of one another, share experiences and support)
- Separately planned Dads Night Out with six attendees who expressed having found meaningful connection over a shared meal

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023:

Learning Differences:

- Attended regular weekly Sunday programming, connecting parents and facilitating relationships (floating between Sunday programming allows for one-to-one support for any special needs children requiring additional support to attend traditional programming)
- Supported staff and volunteers for the entirety of VBS (this allowed church members the freedom to volunteer and have all of their children attend the same VBS programming with confidence)
- Converted the conference room in Thompson Hall into a sensory room where children and youth with learning differences can be nurtured and cared for in a calming environment (sensory room funding provided by endowment funds specifically designated for this purpose)
- Increased participation in Inclusion Ministry programming

GOALS FOR 2024:

General:

 Recruit more at-large members to NED who have children in the toddler/elementary, middle school, and high school youth programs to enhance meeting the NED needs of children and adults in these age groups

Small Groups, Daily Devotionals, Library, and Special Events Ministries:

- Grow and strengthen the Small Groups Ministry by continuing to build relationships with SG leaders, equipping them well with tools necessary to succeed, helping them overcome challenges, and assisting in leader replacements if shifts occur
- Weekly, update SG facilitators to keep them abreast of service opportunities, fellowship offerings, worship/class and other churchwide events, study tools and resources, and Small Group tips
- With pastors, plan SG resources for recommended studies
- Continue to work with Membership/Outreach, CLC, and EDS on crossmarketing and integrating spiritual strengthening opportunities, such as Wed/Sun night classes, Small Groups, and daily devotionals

GOALS FOR 2024:

Small Groups, Daily Devotionals, Library, and Special Events Ministries:

- Continue to grow the Daily Devotionals Ministry's pool of writers and subscribers, stretching out more to CLC users and EDS families
- Perform a library inventory in Summer '24 to cull unused resources and make space for new

Children's Ministry:

- Teacher training was intentionally brought back in 2023 as we are now back with full programing; these opportunities are to be expanded in 2024
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the new Sunday School curriculum, "Follow Me,"
 with children by getting feedback from teachers
- Expand our CLC Drop-In numbers, ideally averaging 7 babies, 8-10 toddlers and 12-14 2K/3K
- Spring CROSS mission trip to Charlotte with 4th-7th graders and their parents

Middle School, High School, and College Age Members:

- Get Middle School back on the Mission field (July- St. Simons Island)
- Plan Summer mission trips for High School youth (Dallas, Bahamas), and fellowship opportunities (Montreat Conference)
- Recruit and train new leaders to add a larger breadth of wisdom and voices for our youth
- Sustain excellence in Senior High/College ministry through the Pastoral transition
- Find ways of interaction with college students who are not in the local area

Adults:

- Provide adult classes that explore holistic health and wellness for adults in all stages of life including Marriage Enrichment call in the Spring
- Identify and coordinate church-wide study emphasis that are intergenerational and interdisciplinary
- Develop 3-year rotation plan for Christian Living classes (marriage enrichment, financial peace, parenting)

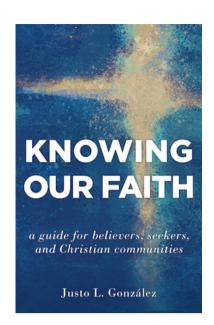
GOALS FOR 2024:

Learning Differences:

- Continue to expand monthly social gatherings, support staff and volunteers during weekly programming as well as any special event programming
- Continue 10-week Small Group fall programming utilizing specialized curriculum for intellectually and physically disabled adults
- Continue to recruit volunteers and maintain relationships with the current volunteer pool
- Families can feel confident that every effort has been made to ensure a safe and loving environment for both their children and young adults with unique needs
- Provide training for EPC staff, including education on sensory room utilization
- Oversee sensory room install and communicate its importance and purpose to staff, volunteers, and congregation



KNOWING OUR FAITH, A CHURCH-WIDE STUDY



Sometimes it feels like it is easier to state the differences we have with other Christians than those things we share in common. We know what makes our church, our tradition, our denomination distinctive. We can have long, animated conversations about the validity of infant Baptism or the full participation of women and men in the ministry of the church. Often times, those are the things we like the best about who we are and what we believe. Those distinctive practices and doctrines are what we most want Confirmands to know and our new officers to affirm. It's not enough to be a Christian Elder or Deacon; you need to be a Reformed Presbyterian Elder or Deacon in order to serve this congregation.

That is not wrong. Every Christian fellowship makes its own contribution to the ecumenical conversation. But in our zeal to preserve our distinctive identity, we risk losing sight of the core Christian profession that binds all followers of Jesus to the one Body of Christ. How does God make himself known to us? What does the Trinity, God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, teach us about God's being and character? Who are we as creatures of this God who bear the divine image? And so on.

Our companion on this journey will be Knowing Our Faith: A Guide for Believers, Seekers, and Christian Communities by Justo Gonzalez. Dr. Gonzalez taught Church History and Historical Theology at Columbia Theological Seminary for many years. The book is the result of a collaboration with the ecumenical Christian community in Puerto Rico whose leaders were concerned that Christian witness was being compromised by the attention devoted to conflicts and differences between various Christian communities. The result is a contemporary articulation of the faith of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic church – rendered in winsome and accessible terms. We will draw from Scripture and our confessions, the Heidelberg and Westminster Catechisms in particular, to show how our particular corner of the Christian faith has understood each doctrine and how that understanding has been put into practice.

By taking time to renew our familiarity with and commitment to the core commitments of Christian discipleship, we will be better able to discern how God's claim on our lives impacts the way we work, the way we parent, the way we care for ourselves and our spouses, the way we spend, and the way we relate to our neighbors. It starts with our knowledge and understanding of the God we know in Jesus Christ, the God to whom Scripture bears witness, and the God whose redemptive love calls us to surrender ourselves to his sovereign rule. - Dr. Douglass Key

Excerpt from Eastminster Today Magazine, Aug/Sept 2023

NED CHILDREN'S CANDIDS



















NED MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH CANDIDS



















NED HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH CANDIDS



















NED LEARNING DIFFERENCES CANDIDS



















NED ADULTS CANDIDS



















FINANCE

Mission: To be good stewards of the gifts that God has graciously provided to Eastminster.

Leadership:

Finance Co-Chairs: Madison Dye (2024) madison.dye@mailsouth.net Robin Gorman (2024) robin.l.gorman@gmail.com

Eastminster Staff Support: Bill Collins, Christy Rippy, & Anna Bower



ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023:

- Conducted 2022 Audit with our audit firm, Capin Crouse
- Coordinated the development of 2024 church budget
- Renewed Eastminster's line of credit
- Closely monitored monthly financials
- Provided guidance on the utilization of the 2021 and 2022 surpluses
- Guidance was provided by Endowment Committee to other committees
 responsible for using endowed funds in regards to spending rate for 2023
- Began investing the reserves for the church and the Day School in laddered
 Treasury bills during 2023

FINANCE

GOALS FOR 2024:

- Conduct 2023 Audit
- Coordinate the development of 2025 church budget
- Monitor the reserve funds for opportunities to increase investment income while optimizing safety
- Continue to closely monitor monthly financials
- Review banking relationships
- Work closely with the Endowment Committee in their endeavors
- Select an auditor to do the audit work for the years of 2024, 2025, and 2026













MISSIONS, SERVICE & BENEVOLENCE (MSB)

Mission: To encourage members to respond to the good news of the Gospel by moving beyond themselves in service to others. From serving children here in the Midlands, to US mission trips and beyond, the MSB Ministry offers many opportunities for Eastminster's congregation to serve others.

Leadership:

MSB Chair: Stephen Sansbury (2024) Stephen.sansbury@hillrom.com

Eastminster Staff Support:
Dr. Ben Sloan, Laura Long, Lib Foster,
& Kelly McGrady



ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023:

- Re-established Mission Trips post-COVID
- Hosted Youth Mission Trip to Abaco, Bahamas
- Hosted Adult Mission Trip to Abaco, Bahamas
- Hosted Adult Exploratory trip to Mexico
- Began the Clemson-USC Food Drive, collecting over 3,500 lbs for Harvest Hope
 (Note: Average collected for same time period in 2022 = 350 lbs)
- Began March Out Missions Day with intergenerational participation (350+)
 serving 25 organizations
- Distributed major grants to Family Promise, Reconciliation Ministries,
 EMS Closet, Cooperative Ministries, Lighthouse for Life, Habitat, and
 Transitions

MISSIONS, SERVICE & BENEVOLENCE (MSB)

GOALS FOR 2024:

- Host a follow-up Youth Mission trip to the Bahamas
- Host a Middle School Mission trip to Dallas
- Host an Adult Mission trip to Chiapas, Mexico (6/15-22)
- Visit two of our missionaries we support in Nkhoma, Malawi, 2/2-9 (Elder John Hart and Dr. Ben Sloan will make this visit)
- Lead other faith communities in having a Habitat for Humanity build in the
 Spring and Summer, and pledge the first major gift
- Help Transitions do a major build for older homeless veterans (Dutch Plaza Phase 1 should finish in the Spring of 2024)
- Implement a Rise Against Hunger project (CLC Gym) during March Out
 Missions Day inviting many to help package food for the hungry



HIGHLIGHT: RETURN TO THE GLOBAL MISSION FIELD

Over the years, Eastminster has had a rich tradition of serving our siblings in Christ both in our backyard and around the world. Throughout our church's history, we have traveled to countries such as Uganda, Haiti, Costa Rica, Mexico, and more. During the pandemic, though, our service to foreign countries came to an abrupt halt. We were no longer able to serve at the local soup kitchens, let alone travel around the world, and it remained that way for several years.

Finally, this past Summer, we have been able to reenter the global mission field and did so by beginning a partnership with the Kirk of the Pines Church in Marsh Harbour, Bahamas. It is our hope that they can be a long-standing mission partner, and one with which we make lasting relationships.

Over the Summer, 21 youth and four adults from our church traveled to the Bahamas to help in the continued efforts of rebuilding homes in Marsh Harbour, following the devastating destruction of Hurricane Dorian in 2019, as well as to build relationships with the church community there.

Pastor Ben Sloan said, "We are expecting about 15 adults to go with us to the Bahamas this November. Brad Smith will be leading this group. The plan is for the youth to break in the mission this Summer, and we will continue their work and relationships there this Fall.

The word "missions" comes from the Greek "missio" (to be sent). Jesus said, "As the Father has sent me, so send I you." We go out of love for Christ and respect for his command. But going also enriches the travelers. We learn a different culture, appreciate God's blessings, share with our brothers and sisters, and reach out in love to those who may not attend church or believe. - Rev. Nick Demuynck



Excerpt from Eastminster Today Magazine, Aug/Sept 2023

HIGHLIGHT: RETURN TO THE GLOBAL MISSION FIELD

This November, EPC adults follow in our youth's footsteps and head to continue the work our youth started. If you are interested in joining us on the trip, please make sure to connect with one of the pastors on staff so they can give you more details. Regardless, I hope you will join me in prayer to thank God for this new partnership in ministry as we look towards the future of global missions at Eastminster.

Early last month, Eastminster sent my son, John, and I to Chiapas, Mexico, near the Guatemalan border to check out where we will build a new church. We attended with 11 others, some from First Scots PC in Charleston and other friends and family. I think we would all agree, though, that the experience was joyful and impactful.

Sometimes the best mission trips are where we can make a huge difference for a small investment. This is what is happening in Chiapas. I was there in 2016 when Salvador and Irma De La Torre were opening up their mission compound. Now, the compound has hot water, air conditioning, great food, horseback riding, swimming, and is totally safe. Chiapas is a beautiful area with blue waterfalls and some of the best Mayan ruins in the world. But the people make the area more beautiful.

Per request, MSB allocated \$10,000 to start a new church, and we found the right spot- Agua Azul, where one building will host five groups that currently worship in houses.

During our time in Chiapas, we visited nine churches and met with their leaders, worked on four construction projects, and held seven Vacation Bible Schools-reading Spanish Bible stories and singing Spanish songs with 20-60 children per church. One church had only one member in attendance. The other 30 were visitors! Perhaps best of all, we shared the love of Christ. Our next trip to Chiapas is scheduled for June 2024. - Rev. Dr. Ben Sloan





Excerpt from Eastminster Today Magazine, Aug/Sept 2023

MISSIONS, SERVICE & BENEVOLENCE CANDIDS



Thank you, Eastminster Family, for your service, benevolence and dedication to loving your neighbors- locally, domestically and globally- through amazing outreach efforts in 2023!

PERSONNEL

Mission: To be a resource for the senior pastor and the various areas of ministry involved in the management, care, and supervision of church employees.

Leadership:

Personel Chair: Bob Staton (2024) bstaton0711@gmail.com

Eastminster Staff Support:

Dr. Brad Smith, Dr. Douglass Key, & Bill Collins



ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023:

- Hired Rev. Emily Mooneyhan as Associate Pastor for Congregational Care
- Hired Emily Higgins as Director of Middle School Youth
- Renewed Parish Associate agreements for Dr. Ben Sloan and Dr. Carol Byrd
- Approved new 8-week maternity and 4-week paternity paid leave benefit for ordained staff
- Implemented a new gift card policy

GOALS FOR 2024:

- Gain approval from Session for medical leave policy for ordained staff
- Hire our new organist
- Fill vacant PT position related to Missions ministry
- Maintain competitive wages for hourly staff
- Determine the details for creating a two-year pastoral residency
- Implement Staff Development & Team Building programs

COMMUNICATIONS

Mission: To develop and implement strategies to inform, educate, and inspire members about opportunities to grow in faith and service, while also raising awareness of Eastminster and its activities in the community.

Leadership:

Communications Chair: Dolores Long (2024) dlong29206@gmail.com

Eastminster Staff Support: Anna Mills Cox, Blythe Lewis, James Cassidy, & Chardae Bell



ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023:

- Created playground signage (partnered with EDS)
- Created operation of hours and drop off/deliveries signage (partnered with CLC)
- Created video surveillance and elevator signage (partnered with Property)
- Developed a one-pager for EPC guests (partnered with M&O)
- Made progress in the Sanctuary sound system audit (partnered with W&M)
- Implemented ShelbyNext and took steps for communication facets
- Implemented and tested text messaging for HS Summer trips (partnered with NED Youth Ministry)
- Created and trained on Shelby forms
- Created and implemented the Digital Connect Form (partnered with M&O)
- Promoted Advent Retreat (partnered with M&O)
- Promoted EPW Fall Gathering (partnered with M&O)
- Promoted Cookies for First Responders (partnered with M&O)
- Promoted Alpha Course (partnered with M&O)
- Promoted Men's Retreat (partnered with M&O)
- Promoted First Step Classes (partnered with M&O)
- Promoted CLC Fitness Open House (partnered with CLC Committee)
- Promoted "Beloved Children of the Holocaust" event (partnered with Seniors Ministry)
- Installed YODECK digital signage for "real-time" updates to flat screen graphics
- Implemented "Embrace" theme: logo, interior signage, exterior boulevard banners on campus lamp posts
- Produced "Journey through the Bible" video series for NED
- Recorded "Theology of the Land" and made available online

COMMUNICATIONS

GOALS FOR 2024:

- Continue partnering with Worship & Music Committee, Brad, and vendor-BMG- to complete the sound system audit which would include implementation of: acoustical treatments on the front of the balcony and back walls of the balcony, installation of a Midas board, and placement of speakers
- Determine if an electronic sign is needed, and if so, begin the process of bidding and implementing (will partner with M&O)
- Determine if a pictorial directory should be printed or online through ShelbyNext (will partner with M&O)
- Determine, design, and produce effective promotional items & swag (t-shirts, magnets, etc.) with consistent EPC branding to identify members of the EPC community (will partner with M&O and CLC)
- Study efficient method for scanning and storage or disposal of photos/scrapbooks in the vault
- Use images from 75th Anniversary Celebration for EPC history spots for digital signs
- Explore creation of an EPC history space/wall with photographs along a timeline



CONGREGATIONAL CARE & CONCERN

Mission: To serve, in the Name of Christ, because of his love for us and his church, and to show God's love and concern for members of the church by providing visitation, encouragement, and support.

Leadership:

Congregational Care and Concern Co-Chairs: Leigh Pound (2024) leigh.pound@att.net Kathy Winterhalter (2024) kcwntrhltr26@gmail.com

Eastminster Staff Support:

Rev. Emily Mooneyhan, Dr. Ben Sloan, Dr. Carol Byrd, & Kelly McGrady



ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023:

- Welcomed Rev. Emily Mooneyhan as Associate Pastor of Congregational Care
- Provided ongoing care for our congregation through prayer, handwritten notes, and meals
- Recruited (ongoing) new church members to serve on Congregational Care ministries
- Worked towards making Stephen Ministries more visible, e.g., a Stephen
 Ministries "commercial" was played in the sanctuary before services in late
 Spring

GOALS FOR 2024:

- Continue to seek creative ways to demonstrate love and care to our congregation
- Promote the ministries offered through Congregational Care, both as ways to serve and receive care
- Work alongside the Worship & Music Committee to make home communion more accessible

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (CLC)

Mission: The purpose of the CLC is to be the center of activity where the love of Jesus Christ is shown through Christian fellowship in a safe, engaging, and holy environment, where the community can come together and participate in recreational programs and utilize our facilities so that we may uplift one another spiritually, physically, mentally, and emotionally. To glorify God by reaching out to those around us to help encourage, develop, and nurture relationships with and faith in Jesus Christ.

Leadership:

CLC Chair: Kim Andrews (2024) kgandrews9@gmail.com

Eastminster Staff Support:

Dr. Douglass Key, Emmet Hough, Anna Mills Cox. & Caroline Bennett



ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023:

- Maintained the \$60 annual membership fee for non-EPC members; we also continued to incorporate a \$15 key fob fee for church members and a \$25 key fob fee for non-EPC members- see next bullet for more info
- As a result of new security protocols being implemented across the EPC campus, the CLC began locking its main exterior doors in early December; anyone entering the CLC now needs a key fob to gain access through our main doors; we have implemented a new \$25 fee for key fobs for non-EPC members, while EPC members are asked to pay \$15; in August, we began requesting that all persons purchase a key fob if they plan to enter the CLC to play basketball or pickleball, participate in fitness classes, participate in small groups, etc, and/or drop off kids at our drop-off nursery; this is an ongoing process and will continue for the future
- Offered 15 weekly fitness classes (up from the 14 classes we had in 2022) and continued offering a \$35 "Monthly Class Pass" that allows members to participate in an unlimited number of classes for 30 days
- Implemented a new fitness equipment maintenance program where we now contract a private company to clean and perform needed maintenance on our equipment on a quarterly basis

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (CLC)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023:

- Added three new volunteers Susie Hines, Phyllis Beighley, and Tony Dukes to our CLC Front Desk Volunteer program (hired EPC member Robert Tighe to work on Saturdays)
- Competed again in the Christian Youth Basketball League (CYBL) that began mid-October 2022 and ended late February 2023 (approximately 300 boys and girls participated on 30 different teams from 2nd through 12th grades)
- Purchased several dozen new youth and adult basketball jerseys for use in the CYBL and Steve Bates Basketball League (second year in a row)
- Ran the Steve Bates Basketball League (56 adult men playing on six different teams- Saints, Disciples, Witnesses, Deacons, Preachers, and Shepherds- from mid-March through mid-May)
- Held pickleball on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:15 to 8:00pm (35-40 participants fellowshipped during pickleball evenings)
- Moved pickleball to Monday mornings from 8:30 to 11:00am (due to youth basketball), but due to increased demand, we extended our pickleball hours on Mondays from 7:15 to 11:00am and also began playing pickleball on Thursday mornings from 7:15 until 11:00am
- Hosted a series of three "Pickleball Clinics" during the early Summer
- Began a "Ladies Lunchtime Pickleball" program on Fridays from 11:30am until
 2:00pm
- In our ongoing efforts to improve the decor and overall condition of the Game Room, we discussed installing new laminate flooring on the far side of the Game Room
- Painted the walls of the CLC main entry area a lighter color to improve the lighting and look of that area of the CLC
- Hosted a Red Cross blood drive where we collected approximately 20 units of blood at each one; we had an additional blood drive set up in the Fall, but we canceled due to the Red Cross not being about fulfill their obligations
- Continued for a second consecutive year our "Friday Morning Men's Basketball Small Group" that meets at 6:30am on Friday mornings (includes prayer and devotional time)

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (CLC)

GOALS FOR 2024:

- Continue to provide a basketball league for 2nd 12th graders
- Continue \$60 membership fee and scholarship options for guests of the CLC who are not members of EPC
- Re-implement our personal trainer program
- Continue to offer and improve pickleball by adding convenient times of play to the schedule
- Provide pickleball lessons as a service to those who do not know how but would like to learn to play the sport
- Replace at least one piece of equipment as part of an ongoing improvement process
- Have fitness equipment serviced and cleaned quarterly by Commercial Fitness
- Host at least two blood drives
- Continue to develop the Game Room as an improved gathering space for groups and individuals
- Improve the lobby to be more inviting and engaging
- Provide new and continued opportunities for spiritual, physical, and social development
- Update and maintain the CLC area of EPC's new website



Thank you, Jimmy Long, for 30 years of dedication and service as a coach in EPC's Youth Basketball League.

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (CLC) CANDIDS



















THANK YOU, NICK, FOR YOUR FAITHFUL, DEDICATED SERVICE AT EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN AND BEYOND.



REV. NICK DEMUYNCK
ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH & YOUNGER ADULTS
2020 - 2023