



EASTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN



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PRESBYTERIAN

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

GATHERING TOGETHER



REACHING OUT



EASTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Table of Contents

The Year in Review with our Senior Pastor.....	4
Eastminster Staff.....	5
Year-End Membership Report.....	6
New Members.....	7
Member Births, Baptisms, & Weddings.....	8
In Memoriam.....	9
Church Officers.....	9
2024 Benevolences.....	10-11
Financial Information.....	12-13
Worship & Music.....	14-15
Ecumenical & Church Relations.....	16-17
Eastminster Day School.....	18-19
Safety.....	20
Property.....	21
Stewardship.....	22
Story Highlight: Eastminster Partners with INJOY.....	23-24
The Eastminster Endowment.....	25-26
Story Highlight: Inspirational Giving Initiative.....	27-28
Membership & Outreach.....	29-30
Nurture, Education & Discipleship.....	31-36
Finance.....	37
Missions, Service & Benevolence.....	38-40
Personnel.....	41
Communications.....	42
Congregational Care.....	43-44
Christian Life Center.....	45-46
Story Highlight: Eastminster Responds.....	47

A YEAR IN REVIEW

A Letter from Your Pastor

Dear Eastminster Family,

"O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast and our eternal home."



In the two-thousand years since Jesus walked the earth, the 507 years since Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses to the door of the Wittenberg Church, and the 71 years since Eastminster was chartered, the world has seen mind-boggling change. And yet two realities have been constant. The first is humanity's need for a Savior; our need for hope. The second reality is God's unrelenting desire to show us the more excellent way of love, grace and justice experienced most profoundly in Jesus Christ.

As you read the pages that follow, I pray you will see every story, every person named, every person pictured, every data point listed, every ministry and mission described, and even all the members of this church not named, as seeds. Seeds packed with life. Seeds bursting open with new life. Seeds bearing the fruit of beauty and bounty. Seeds producing faith, hope and love. Seeds illustrating the inbreaking of the Kingdom of God.

Even as you see the seeds, I pray you will celebrate the breadth and depth of Christ's work in our midst. Thank you to each and every one of you for responding to God's gracious initiative toward us by worshiping, serving and following our living Lord, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, right here and right now! I am honored to be your pastor.

Gratefully,

Rev. Dr. Brad Smith, Senior Pastor

"Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame, From everlasting you are God, To endless years the same."

EASTMINSTER STAFF

Pastors & Program Staff

Dr. Bradley D. Smith, Senior Pastor & Head of Staff
Dr. Douglass D. Key, Sr. Associate Pastor of NED & Administration
Rev. Emily Mooneyhan, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care
Rev. Croskeys Royall, Associate Pastor for Children and Their Families
Dr. Ben Sloan, Parish Associate for Membership and Outreach & MSB
Dr. Carol Byrd, Parish Associate for Congregational Care
Rev. Rob Schoonover, Associate Pastor for High School Youth and Younger Adults
Blythe Lewis, Sr. Officer of Communications
James Cassidy, Director of AV
Ryan Holcombe, Communications Specialist
Caroline Bennett, Director of Small Groups & Librarian
Emily Higgins, Director of Middle School Youth
Stanley Holland, Director of CHAMPS (Part-Time)
Andrea Ferree, Director of ACCESS Ministries (Part-Time)
Kristy Stoneburner & Stefanie Hammond, Membership & Outreach (Part-Time)

Support Staff

Julie McDaniel, Executive Assistant to Senior Pastor
Kelsey Smith, Digital Content Creator
Sound Technicians (Part-Time): Nicholas Beitz, Walker Bell, Jay Lesesne,
Anna Claire McCain & Sophie Verzyl
Janice Blair, Administrative Assistant for NED & Administration
Kelly McGrady, Administrative Assistant for Congregational Care & MSB
Vacant, Drop-In Nursery Coordinator (Part-Time)
Lauren Halter, Congregational Childcare Coordinator (Part-Time)

Worship & Music

Fredna Lee, Director of Music (Part-Time)
Dr. Augie Gil, Director of Worship & Arts
Louis Shirer, Organist and Worship & Arts Administrator
Vacant, Jubilee Worship Leader
Chelse Lawson, Director of Handbells (Part-Time)
Stefanie Hammond, Director of Children's Music Ministry (Part-Time)

Administration

Alisha Hudson, Executive Director of Finance & Administrative Services
Kelly Fernet, Administrative Assistant for Finance & Administrative Services
Christy Rippy, Treasurer
Leslie Swain, Financial Assistant
Regina Jeffcoat, Director of Food Services (Part-Time)
Chris Dixon, Hannah McLamb, Maryann Santiago & 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
Vicki Wilson, PM Sexton Supervisor
Levi Burch, Sammy Cullen, Sonya McIntosh, Lamar O'Neil, Linda Walker, Ben Wharley &
Thomas Wingard, Maintenance Technicians (Part-Time)

Christian Life Center (CLC)

Emmet Hough, Director
Meredith Dreibelbis, Tony Dukes, Susan Faulk, Ryan Marshall & Robert Tighe (Part-Time)

Eastminster Day School (EDS)

Katie Herndon, Director
Rachael Wright Everett & Lane Flowers, Assistant Directors

YEAR-END MEMBERSHIP REPORT

January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023: 1,938

Gains:	Letter of Transfer	26
	Reaffirmation of Faith	34
	Profession of Faith	1
	Confirmation	40

Losses:	Letter of Transfer	22
	"Moved" to "Other Participants"	14
	Removed Per Request	0
	Death	24

Active Members as of December 31, 2023 1,979

Affiliate Members as of December 31, 2023 9

TOTAL REGULAR AND AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024: 1,988

Baptisms: 30

Member Marriages: 9

NEW MEMBERS IN 2024

Jenni Asman	Roy Dunlap, Jr	Blake Loggins	Lauren Schultz
Ted Autterson	Donald Fawcett	Logan Loggins	Rachel Scott
Marcia Autterson	Colin Fitzgerald	Harrison Long	Lauren Sharpe
Cliff Ballew	Ella Foley	Stephen Longaker	David Sharpe
Elizabeth Ballew	Patrick Frentz	Lee Longaker	Leah Shumpert
Julian Barber	Tyler Garvin	Alex Magargle	Austin Shumpert
Sydney Bell	Laura Garvin	Virginia Mann	Wilkes Smith
Molly Blackwelder	Lyla George	Kathy Marsha	Lucy Stallworth
McClellan Boykin	Madden George	Price McCaskill	Dalton Stursberg
Marcus Bradley, III	Quinn Hall	Brittany McCaskill	Dani Sullivan
Parker Branham	Davis Herndon	Ben McDougald	Patrick Sullivan
Boyd Brown	Liv Homewood	Kinley McDougald	John Thompson
Lee Brown	Chad Howard	Patrick McLean	Charli Tillery
Sawyer Cannon	Dupre Hungerpillar	Mac McWilliams, IV	Jake Tillery
Ainsley Carrington	Virginia Hungerpillar	Nate Moise	Lillie Turner
Caroline Chester	Buddy Jennings	Charlotte Mood	Mary Cameron Turner
Barbara Covington	Janet Jennings	Elle Pooser	Courtney Ulmer
Jo Crosby	Wilkins Johnson	Brooks Rhame	Emily Walker
Johnny Crosby	Catherine Jowers	Jack Robertson	Jeff Walker
Virginia Cruea	Nicole Kittrell	Madison Robertson	Jake Wehman, Jr
Brian Cunningham	Ben Kittrell, Jr.	Lauren Robinson	Jean Weingarth
McCall Daves	Parker Kloskey	Jackson Ross	Jack Wilson, V
Reid Denemark	John Kososki	Michael Rothenberg	Reese Wingo
Andrew Dennis	Carol Kososki	Dinah Rutland	Justin Workman
Judy Doty	Emily Lansche	Bill Salisbury	Miranda Workman
David Doty	Alden Livingston	Ellison Sansbury	
Carolyn Dunlap	Sarah Livingston	James Schultz	

MEMBER MILESTONES 2024

BIRTHS IN 2024

Eleanor Kate Al Baldawi
Merrill Louise Beard
William Mark Bowman
Virginia Campbell Byars
Sterling Carson Carter
Mark Dale "Tripp" Chappell, III
Emma Louise Green
Fordham "Ford" Wardlaw Hammond
Charles Oliver "Charlie" Hines
Elizabeth Lucas "Lucy" Huffstetler
Grady Hutchinson Kay
Cordes Baxter Kennedy
Dorothy Susan "Dottie" Kilpatrick
Everett Ford Lea Law
Theodore Lawrence "Teddy" Mac Adams
Luke Harden McCants
Margaret Helen "Mae" McLean
Sloane Sweet Mothena
Clayton Timothy Murrell
Graves Kenneth Potter
Stanley Andy Richards
John Wilson Schultz
Jack Leonard "Leo" Springs, IV
Barrett Riley Strasburger
Ann Stratton Townsend
Allen Nathaniel "AJ" Wilkerson Jr.
Caulder Alexander Winkles
Sadie Grace Winterhalter
Emma Adelaide Wise
Jack William Wolfe

BAPTISMS IN 2024

Duncan Wilbanks Moffat
Merrill Taite Moffat
Russell Burnett Daniel
Sloane Mabel Whalen
Annslee Katherine Murrell
Charlotte Julia Richards
Chandler Frances Richards
Clifford Prescott Young
Collins Carolyn Young
Eleanor Kate Al Baldawi
Adelaide Stewart Laffitte
Adelaide Ruth Herring
James McPhail Kennemur
Blair Rose Workman
Holden Lewis Salter
Everett Taylor Jones
Dorothy Susan Kilpatrick
Henry Boyd Brown
Theodore Lawrence Mac Adams
John Wilson Schultz
Allen Nathaniel Wilkerson, Jr.
William Mark Bowman
Merrill Louise Beard
Jack William Wolfe
Fordham Wardlaw Hammond
Luke Harden McCants
Charles Oliver Hines
Emma Louise Green
Sloan Sweet Mothena
Jack Leonard Springs, IV

WEDDINGS IN 2024

Landon Sawyer
Edwin Propst
January 20, 2024

*Arden Lee
John Riley
April 6, 2024

Margaret Anne Tighe
*Chad Howard
May 18, 2024

Cassidy Green
*Andrew Boyle
June 8, 2024

Alex Williams
Fred Hanna, Jr.
June 22, 2024

Lou Schraibman
*Billy Way
July 20, 2024

Mills Eaddy
*William Woods
October 19, 2024

Catherine Clyburn
Kip Beckwith, Jr.
November 15, 2024

Caroline Schraibman
Don Fawcett
November 23, 2024

*denotes non-member

IN MEMORIAM

MEMBERS WHO JOINED THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT IN 2024:

Pierrine Johnson 1/2/2024

Ginger Foster 1/25/2024

Jack Hupp 1/30/2024

Kathy Marsha 2/8/2024

Richard Odiorne, Jr. 2/12/2024

Tammy Baldwin 2/23/2024

Butch Jones, Jr. 3/26/2024

Bartow Gilbert 4/7/2024

Ann St. John 5/27/2024

Sara Lovingood 5/29/2024

Brian Bates, Sr. 6/15/2024

Joy Padgett 6/18/2024

Susan Hendricks 7/2/2024

Margaret Brown 8/1/2024

Marilyn Hupp 8/4/2024

Faye Jeffcoat 8/25/2024

Mary Benton 8/30/2024

Jerry Fuller 9/18/2024

Alec Chaplin, Sr. 10/9/2024

George Shissias 10/14/2024

Ethel Lowder 10/25/2024

George Jenkins, Jr. 11/11/2024

Harold Lane 12/2/2024

Peter Getz 12/15/2024

Wendle Snapp 12/20/2024

ELECTED ELDERS:

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

CLASS OF 2027

John Arnold

Elizabeth Barber

Amy Cain

Ryan Causey

Sark Derderian

Katie Evatt

Susanne Hicklin

Harriet Kneece

Marion Moses

Laura Twitty

ELECTED DEACONS:

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

*Robert Simmons

Richard Slater

Sandy Spann

CLASS OF 2027

Chad Abramson

David Ellison

Nate Henderson

Mary Frances Jowers

Austin Rhodes

Matt Riddle

Lucy Scoville

Clay Sharpe

Kris Whiteside

Sharon Williams

2024 BENEVOLENCES

DISBURSEMENTS:

Benevolences Expenditure.....	\$2,315.87
Bethel Evangelical Secondary School in Ethiopia.....	\$2,100.00
Bradley Programs.....	\$14,610.43
Camp Cole.....	\$14,073.27
Campus Ministries.....	\$5,500.00
Capernaum Young Life Program.....	\$10,000.00
CHAMPS Program.....	\$12,660.01
Cooperative Ministry.....	\$25,096.80
Daybreak Pregnancy Crisis Center.....	\$5,000.00
Disaster Relief.....	\$33,270.13
Epworth Children's Home.....	\$5,000.00
Family Promise of The Midlands.....	\$20,591.00
Family Shelter.....	\$10,000.00
Flora Football Devotional Meals.....	\$1,500.00
Footcare Ministry.....	\$6,693.61
Free Medical Clinic.....	\$10,000.00
Gideons International.....	\$2,000.00
Habitat for Humanity.....	\$42,737.29
Haiti - Hospital St. Croix.....	\$5,000.00
Harvest Hope Food Bank.....	\$30,070.00
Heifer International Fund.....	\$1,514.74
Homeless No More.....	\$3,820.00
Homeworks of America.....	\$6,000.00
Imck Good Shepherd Mission Hospital - Congo.....	\$2,500.00
Joy Gift Offering.....	\$5,195.75
Jubilee Academy.....	\$10,000.00
Jumpstart SC Prison Ministries.....	\$10,000.00
Laurens County Cluster/Hanson's Circle.....	\$1,000.00
Law Enforcement Chaplaincy.....	\$3,000.00
Lighthouse for Life.....	\$5,000.00
Live Oak Counseling Center.....	\$5,000.00
MeadowFeed.....	\$3,000.00
Medical Benevolence Foundation.....	\$15,000.00
Medical Missions.....	\$46,000.00
Midlands Fatherhood Coalition.....	\$5,000.00
Midlands Sexual Trauma Service.....	\$1,500.00
Migrant Ministry.....	\$3,479.87
Mission Trips.....	\$134,446.63

2024 BENEVOLENCES

DISBURSEMENTS:

Missionary Support.....	\$49,500.00
Montreat Conference Center.....	\$1,000.00
Nile Seminary Student Scholarship.....	\$3,000.00
Nile Theological Seminary.....	\$5,000.00
Nurturing Center.....	\$2,000.00
One Great Hour of Sharing.....	\$4,209.00
Operation Christmas Child.....	\$214.92
Presbyterian Community Charitable Care.....	\$11,286.00
Presbyterian Women Missions and Benevolences.....	\$2,492.00
Queens Chapel New Church Development.....	\$2,500.00
Reconciliation Ministries Addiction Treatment.....	\$10,000.00
Refugee Ministry.....	\$15,366.00
Rise Against Hunger.....	\$15,200.00
Salvation Army.....	\$18,473.52
SC Inn at Montreat.....	\$1,000.00
Scholarships for CHAMPS Graduates.....	\$52,137.57
Scout Troops.....	\$2,000.00
Servant Leadership Awards.....	\$5,285.08
Shepherd's Center.....	\$500.00
SisterCare.....	\$5,000.00
Sozo Children's Home.....	\$2,000.00
Sudan - South Sudan Presbytery.....	\$2,500.00
Taiwanese Pastor Exchange.....	\$10,000.00
Theological Training for Prisoners.....	\$5,000.00
Thornwell Home for Children.....	\$9,020.50
Transitions Homeless Shelter.....	\$101,035.21
Turning Pages SC Adult Reading Program.....	\$2,000.00
Trinity Presbytery, Synod & General Assembly.....	\$165,488.40
Washington Street UMC Soup Cellar.....	\$10,000.00
Women's Shelter.....	\$8,638.96

TOTAL: \$1,041,522.56

FINANCE 2024 & 2023 COMPARISON

	2024:		2023:	
<u>INCOME</u>	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Undesignated Pledges and Offerings	\$4,564,007.62	\$4,535,410.00	\$4,344,611.85	\$4,488,800.00
Program Revenue	\$227,492.37	\$241,200.00	\$226,015.23	\$216,400.00
Administration & Property Revenue	<u>\$112,514.33</u>	<u>\$110,150.00</u>	<u>\$119,727.72</u>	<u>\$100,050.00</u>
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>\$4,904,014.32</u>	<u>\$4,886,760.00</u>	<u>\$4,690,354.80</u>	<u>\$4,805,250.00</u>
<u>EXPENSES</u>				
Worship & Music	\$94,894.00	\$90,850.00	\$95,773.44	\$91,950.00
Membership & Outreach	\$62,819.19	\$42,200.00	\$50,775.80	\$28,200.00
Nurture, Education & Discipleship	\$232,541.80	\$265,475.00	\$272,802.53	\$284,185.00
Congregational Care	\$10,444.55	\$19,850.00	\$6,605.73	\$19,850.00
* Mission, Service & Benevolence	\$591,006.02	\$602,508.40	\$562,264.62	\$569,000.00
Administration	\$113,838.82	\$117,197.50	\$71,547.88	\$83,555.49
Communications & Computers	\$116,019.28	\$135,250.00	\$119,546.94	\$135,250.00
Property	\$509,690.85	\$555,500.00	\$493,312.91	\$562,000.00
Kitchen	\$81,640.75	\$69,800.00	\$72,937.94	\$69,000.00
Personnel	\$2,775,350.36	\$2,915,929.10	\$2,579,621.55	\$2,894,159.51
Christian Life Center	\$69,723.90	\$52,200.00	\$51,172.34	\$48,100.00
Reserve Funding	<u>\$20,000.00</u>	<u>\$20,000.00</u>	<u>\$20,000.00</u>	<u>\$20,000.00</u>
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	<u>\$4,677,969.52</u>	<u>\$4,886,760.00</u>	<u>\$4,396,361.68</u>	<u>\$4,805,250.00</u>
<u>TOTAL NET INCOME</u>	<u>\$226,044.80</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$293,993.12</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>

* CHAMPS included

**The Session allocates any income beyond expenses for purposes such as Missions, Facilities Maintenance, and establishing a Reserve Fund

FINANCE 2024 & 2025 BUDGET SUMMARY

Revenue:	2024 Annual Budget:	2025 Annual Budget:	%Change:
Pledge Income	3,876,160.00	4,118,222.00	6.24%
Non-pledge Income	600,000.00	625,000.00	4.17%
Pledge Payments (Prior Year)	35,000.00	35,000.00	0.00%
Sunday School & Loose Plate	24,250.00	24,250.00	0.00%
Program Revenue	241,200.00	267,450.00	10.88%
Administrative Income	110,150.00	109,250.00	-0.82%
Total Budgeted Income	\$4,886,760.00	\$5,179,172.00	5.98%

Expenses:

Worship & Music	90,850.00	96,450.00	6.16%
Membership & Outreach	42,200.00	51,500.00	22.04%
Nurture, Education & Discipleship	265,475.00	279,600.00	5.32%
Ecumenical & Church Relations	0.00	18,000.00	100.00%
Congregational Care	19,850.00	20,450.00	3.02%
*Missions, Service & Benevolence	602,508.40	610,127.56	1.26%
Administration	117,197.50	119,950.00	2.35%
Communications & Computers	135,250.00	139,700.00	3.29%
Property	555,500.00	573,000.00	3.15%
Kitchen	69,800.00	73,550.00	5.37%
Personnel	2,915,929.10	3,142,844.44	7.78%
Christian Life Center	52,200.00	54,000.00	3.45%
Reserve	20,000.00	0.00	-100.00%

Total Budgeted Expenses:	\$4,886,760.00	\$5,179,172.00	5.98%
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*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:
Jeff Thordahl (2025)
thordahl03@msn.com

Eastminster Staff Support:

Dr. Brad Smith, Fredna Lee,
Dr. Augie Gil & Julie McDaniel



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024:

- Welcomed back Louis Shirer as our full time organist.
- Teams of active and inactive elders served home communion to all shut-ins who requested it.
- Provided for members residing at Still Hopes to have a communion service on Sundays when communion is held at EPC.
- In conjunction with NED, supported ECAMP for children on Sunday evenings.
- Established a subcommittee of members, officers and staff to evaluate all aspects of the Jubilee service.
- Continued to train new officers to prepare them for their duties in worship services and communion responsibilities.
- Implemented new Sunday food policy for the Parlor.

GOALS FOR 2025:

- Remove the \$200 organist fee for all funerals.
- Host a Contemporary Christian Band Concert on the field to benefit a charity and invite the community on Friday, April 11, 2025 at 7:00 PM.
- Hold one worship service on the field on Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025 at 10:15 AM.
- Add more Jubilee attendees to the Jubilee subcommittee to continue evaluating the Jubilee Service and implement the recommendations of this committee.

WORSHIP & MUSIC CANDIDS



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:
Paul Trippe (2025)
pgtrippe@gmail.com

Eastminster Staff Support:

Dr. Douglass Key & Rev. Croskeys Royall



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024:

- Attended the four stated meetings of Trinity Presbytery.
- Provided a subscription to Presbyterian Outlook for every active elder and deacon.
- Increased awareness of Eastminster's participation in denominational offerings and encouraged further support in the congregation (as in Thornwell and the turkey banks).
- Offered continuing education to officers with a presentation by Dr. Douglass Key on how an overture gets to the floor of the General Assembly.
- Monitored the status of the Olympia Overture.
- Endorsed a gift to Stillman College for dorm renovation.
- Enrolled James Blackwelder, student at Austin Presbyterian Seminary, as an Inquirer under the care of the Session.
- Endorsed Eastminster's hosting of the February 15, 2025 meeting of Trinity Presbytery.

GOALS FOR 2025:

- Attend all stated meetings of Trinity Presbytery (4 meetings).
- Assist in hosting the February 15, 2025 Stated Meeting of Trinity Presbytery at Eastminster.
- Provide an annual subscription to Presbyterian Outlook for all active elders and deacons.

ECUMENICAL & CHURCH RELATIONS

GOALS FOR 2025:

- Promote congregational awareness for the approved denominational offerings (Thornwell, Mother's Day and Presbyterian Communities, etc.).
- Continue to monitor and report to the Session updates about the Olympia Overture, and address questions as they arise.
- Offer at least one educational presentation at a joint meeting of the Session and Diaconate (similar to Douglass' presentation this year on how an overture gets to the floor of the General Assembly).
- Have at least one ministry meeting that is not tied into the Presbytery calendar to brainstorm and consider other ways this ministry can be a positive bridge between the denomination and the officers.



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:

Connie Derrick (2025)

connied7087@gmail.com

Eastminster Staff Support:

Dr. Douglass Key

Katie Herndon



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024:

- An on-line shared folder was created to store all pertinent EDS information.
- A safety tint was applied to the hallway window facing the prayer garden.
- New windows with safety tint on the courtyard side of the building were installed.
- Scholarship guidelines, procedures and parental application were updated.
- Scholarships for five children in three families were awarded.
- Financing for installation of fencing along Longleaf to improve safety was approved.

GOALS FOR 2025:

- Review Covenant Family requirements and make any needed revisions.
- Explore options to improve employee retention.
- Increase EDS Committee members' participation.
- Assist with the development of written procedures for all safety drills, including active shooter.
- Educate committee members of current enrollment procedures.
- Encourage increased teacher usage of Bright Wheel to ensure consistency across the building.
- Increase hourly wage for part-time employees.
- **More long-term:** Develop a timeline for possible EDS expansion to meet the increasing number of infants through four-year-old enrollment applications.

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 Co-Chairs:

Chesley Good (2025)

chesleygood@gmail.com

Darren Knight (2026)

darrenknight45@hotmail.com

Eastminster Staff Support:

Rev. Croskeys Royall,
& Alisha Hudson



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024:

- Installed safety film around Day School and Drop-In Nursery; new windows around first floor of existing school purchased with protective film.
- Met with head usher to discuss security protections and procedures as well as usher safety training.
- Met with Cola PD and increased police presence at Sunday and special services from 1 to 2 officers.
- Scheduled and conducted active shooter training for officers and staff, August 2014.
- Developed and currently implementing security fencing, gates, fobs, and cameras to secure the Longleaf and Courtyard entrances.
- Along with Homeland Security, conducted a security assessment walkthrough and developed action items to make the campus more secure.
- Conducted a fire drill in September 2024.
- Started developing a safety policy to include active shooter procedure.

GOALS FOR 2025:

- Develop a Civilian Response to Active Shooter Procedure.
- Continue to resolve deficiencies identified in the 2024 security self-assessment.
- Conduct active shooter training.
- Conduct a Sunday morning fire drill.
- Study the potential to apply for a SLED/Homeland Security grant for a security upgrade.
- Upgrade safety/security at the Jubilee service as needed.

PROPERTY

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

Leadership:

Property Co-Chairs:

Zack Hudson (2025)

zack@cclogix.com

Parks Bunch (2025)

parksbunch@gmail.com

Eastminster Staff Support:

Alex Rogers & Alisha Hudson



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024:

- Received approval of plan for courtyard renovation.
- Began developing a master plan for the grounds of the campus.
- Installed wells on campus as needed for irrigation.
- Reviewed backup system and overall system for lighting in the Sanctuary.
- Reviewed dividing a big room in the Sanctuary basement into two offices.
- Started replacement of windows and doors in the Administration Building.
- Replaced stained glass window in the Sanctuary.

GOALS FOR 2025:

- Oversee the courtyard renovation through successful completion.
- Repair mortar in front of Sanctuary and courtyard.
- Investigate/resolve Sanctuary basement water intrusion (storm drains, moisture barrier).
- Upgrade LED light fixture for EDS older hall and classrooms.
- Repair/replace doors around campus, clean slate roof, restripe parking lots.
- Upgrade courtyard landscape & necessary equipment to maintain landscape (artificial turf cleaning).
- Repaint Thompson Hall/kitchen hallway and maintenance hallway.

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:

Adam Hegler (2025)
ajhegler@gmail.com

Eastminster Staff Support:
Dr. Brad Smith, Blythe Lewis & Kelly Fernet



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024:

- Engaged stewardship consultant and worked with a Small Group Sub-committee to advance and sustain our stewardship process.
- Maintained stewardship budget for the further growth of the ministry.
- Created job description for new P/T employee to assist with stewardship/giving logistics and execute strategies.
- Number of pledges increased- as well as financial support increased by approximately \$300,000 over the prior year.

GOALS FOR 2025:

- Develop an independent campaign dedicated to time and talent.
- Coordinate volunteer dedication Sunday / service "fair" / spiritual gifts assessment with tagged opportunities.
- Work with M&O to bridge gap between First Step and active member discipleship.
- Create a formal playbook for stewardship based upon recommendations from INJOY Consulting.
- Begin implementation of INJOY stewardship recommendations.
- Continue to work with Personnel Committee to hire a P/T dedicated employee for stewardship.
- Continue to tell stories about ministry partners to educate congregation of financial impact.

STEWARDSHIP 2025

Mission to Glorify, A Story of Faithfulness
Peyton Bryant - Stewardship Chair



I have a confession to make. I absolutely love financial stewardship at Eastminster; I even *enthusiastically* volunteered to join this committee. We are so blessed as a church, and many may wonder, "Why would we need to do more?"

What's wrong with what we have and where we are?"

Why? Because...

Eastminster is uniquely positioned to make a profound impact on our community and beyond...to influence a world with God's love that so desperately needs it. We, as a church, are in a position to truly glorify God in the way that we commit to and continue to be a blessing, a blessing for the expansion of God's Kingdom.

That's why we're excited to announce that Pledge Season is here, culminating in Dedication Sunday on October 27th. This is an opportunity for us to collectively consider how we can use our treasures to further God's Kingdom.

We're also thrilled to share that we've partnered with INJOY Stewardship Solutions to enhance our stewardship process. Their expertise will help us build a

"...AND I WILL BLESS YOU; I WILL MAKE YOUR NAME GREAT, AND YOU WILL BE A BLESSING...
AND ALL THE PEOPLES ON EARTH WILL BE BLESSED THROUGH YOU."

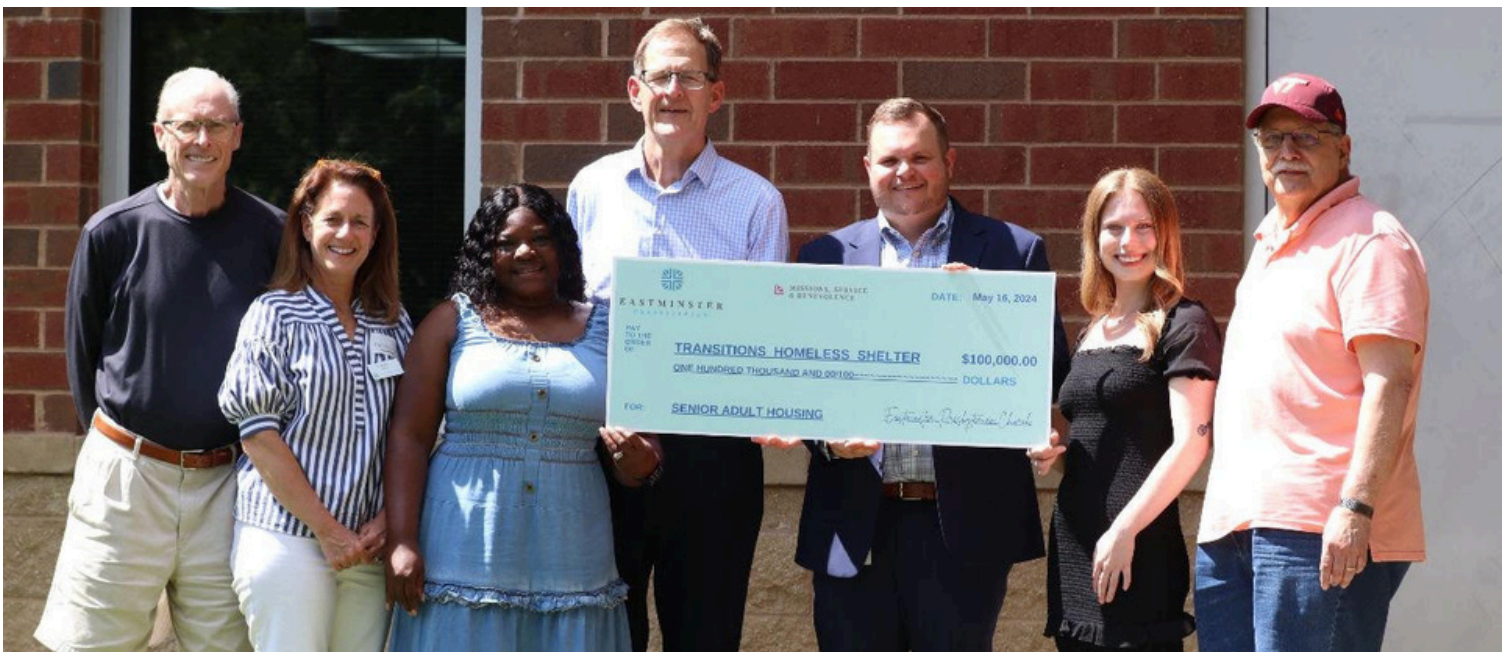
GENESIS 12:2

solid foundation for the future. Together, we'll create a sustainable system that honors God and strengthens our congregation.

We've seen God's faithfulness time and again. But to continue this incredible journey, we need your partnership. It really begins right here with you, me and our entire church. The sum of our collective giving is impactful. It takes all of us to make the profound impact we are capable of as a church family.

Our mission to glorify God and enjoy him forever is at the heart of everything we do. Over the next few weeks, take time to reflect on the unique gifts and resources you've been entrusted with and consider how you can use them to build God's Kingdom.

I really think God's message to Abraham in Genesis 12 applies so aptly right now to Eastminster: "And I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing...and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you."



STEWARDSHIP 2025

INJOY Stewardship Solutions

Michael Beaumont - Consultant



After serving as a pastor for 30 years, I can tell you that I don't know a single pastor who loves talking about money at church. After being a church-goer for over 50 years, I can tell you I've never met a church-goer who loves hearing about money at church! But I know MANY pastors and Christians who love the idea and impact of generosity. At INJOY, we don't love talking about money, but we do love talking about how God changes lives through the generosity of his people.

It doesn't happen very often that I step into a church that already has a generosity culture. It's even more rare that I step into a generous church who wants to be even *more* generous. And yet that's what I've found in my time with Eastminster Presbyterian Church- getting to know Dr. Smith and several of the key financial leaders in the church.

Eastminster Presbyterian Church is uniquely positioned to make an impact through generosity. This position comes from a place of already being generous ... but what would it look like if EPC was "rich in helping others"? What does extravagant generosity look like?

In his letters to Corinth, Paul talks about generosity- specifically, that famous verse that we all know that says, that "the Lord loves a cheerful giver." But in that same passage, Paul says that God will generously provide all that you need, and

"YOU WILL BE ENRICHED IN EVERY WAY
FOR YOUR GREAT GENEROSITY,
WHICH WILL PRODUCE THANKSGIVING
TO GOD THROUGH US...."

II CORINTHIANS 9:11

then, you will always have everything and plenty left over so that you can give to others. This scripture is the perfect example of purpose and impact- the purpose and impact of generosity. In God's economy, generosity isn't measured by dollars given; it is measured by lives impacted- and not just the impact on those who receive but also on those who give.

Paul says that we'll be enriched in every way because we've been generous. And when those gifts of our generosity are taken to those who are in need, two things happen. Their needs are met. And as a result of their needs being met, they give joyful praise to God.

I love purpose and impact, and I love that Eastminster Presbyterian Church knows the purpose and the impact of generosity. I also love that you want to get even better at it. I'm excited about our partnership. I am proud to walk beside you, and I can't wait to see what happens next.

As we work together toward extravagant generosity, I pray that the Eastminster church family will continue to change the lives of those who receive ... and be changed by the richness that comes through helping others.



INJOY
Stewardship Solutions™



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: Alisha Hudson 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. **2024-\$36,698.35:** \$26,698.35 Sanctuary Sound System Project, \$10,000.00 Lutheran Services Carolina New Americans Program **BALANCE 12/31/24: \$1,458,734.16**
- **Frank and Betty Harden "Reaching out with Love":** Established in memory of Frank and Betty Harden to support Christ's work in perpetuity. **2024-\$1,488.03:** Sanctuary Sound System Project **BALANCE 12/31/24: \$74,562.35**
- **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. **2024-\$49,406.99:** \$3,480.55 CORE Speaker fees & travel expenses, \$15,862.06 E2 interns' salaries, \$1,000.00 Meals for Adult VBS, \$2,524.18 Adult VBS Speaker honorarium/mileage/meal, \$500.00 Small Group Kick-off Dinner Speaker, \$1,040.20 Men's Retreat speaker honorarium & travel, \$25,000.00 2024 Advent Retreat at Lake Junaluska **BALANCE 12/31/24: \$1,394,690.22**
- **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. **2024-\$2,400.00:** Spring 2024 Marriage Enrichment Class **BALANCE 12/31/24: \$284,461.11**
- **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. **2024- \$13,044.20:** Chancel stained glass window repair **BALANCE 12/31/24: \$426,376.83**

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 12/31/24: \$105,447.64
- **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 12/31/24: \$336,211.58**
- **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 **2024 \$2,000.00: Summer Mission Trips/Conferences BALANCE 12/31/23: \$107,816.45**

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS:

- **Youth:** Established by the church to provide scholarship assistance for youth to attend retreats and mission trips
BALANCE 12/31/24: \$77,734.63
- **International:** Established by the church to provide support for worthy international students, **2024- \$37,966.00: \$25,000.00 Nursing Residence at Malawi Seminary, \$12,966.00 Seminary Tuition at local Presbyterian Seminary**
BALANCE 12/31/24: \$45,086.96
- **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 **2024 \$6,117.37: Student Scholarships**
BALANCE 12/31/24: \$127,794.04
- **Stradtman Memorial Seminary:** Established in memory of Mr. Earl W. Stradtman to provide scholarships for EPC members attending approved PC-USA seminaries **2024- \$3,054.20: Tuition and Travel Expenses to Austin Theological Seminary**
BALANCE 12/31/24: \$23,610.34
- **Wood Seminary:** Established by Gettis and Mary Vin Wood to provide scholarships for EPC members who are attending seminary
BALANCE 12/31/24: \$30,921.87

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 12/31/24: \$150,839.77

INSPIRATIONAL GIVING INITIATIVE

Above and Beyond for the Glory of God

Rev. Dr. Brad Smith



So that Eastminster might not only continue, but also grow in ministry and mission, fourteen church families graciously are modeling generosity by giving above and beyond their gifts to the operating budget. Those additional financial gifts, received from the end of 2023 until today, are enabling enhancements in three primary areas: facilities, programs, and missions.

While the fruit of this initiative will become even more evident in 2025, multiple visible, and not so visible, improvements came to pass in 2024. Improvements to both the sanctuary sound system, and the sanctuary lighting are enabling members to engage in worship more meaningfully. Discreetly placed sound baffles designed to limit “bouncing sound waves” and a new sound system help worshipers hear more clearly. Similarly, replacing faulty sections of lights literally brightens worship for everyone.

With the landscape design and initial grading taking place in the Courtyard, work on one of the more visible Inspirational Giving enhancements began this year. By Easter of 2025, the church family will enjoy a totally redesigned Courtyard. Once completed, the courtyard will be a sanctuary of multi-purpose green space nestled in the heart of our campus.

Campus improvements can also be seen in the Administration building where forty-two windows original to the 1961 building were replaced with double-pane weather proof windows. So that we can be better stewards of water, and save money in the long run, a well has been installed to provide irrigation water for the campus. And where sound intrusion from the Education Building stairwell has long disrupted events in the Adult Reception Hall, sound baffles and quieter door closers are now helping mitigate that that challenges.

In the planning process and on the drawing board for 2025 are significant programmatic and missions initiatives. Programmatic ideas include: exploring the launching of an Eastminster Arts Academy to enhance music appreciation among all ages of the church family; bringing in special speakers on topics of interest, and further enhancing the offerings of the Christian Life Center.

In the missions realm, ideas being considered and/ or being developed include additional funding to encourage 100 adults to participate in mission trips over the next two years; and evaluating needs, community resources, and opportunities related to supporting people facing particular challenges. Among these are caring for people experiencing grief, coming alongside people & families who live with significant mental health challenges, and walking with people who are differently abled.

God is at work and exciting and meaningful ways at Eastminster Presbyterian Church! Thank you to those who helped make the inspirational giving initiative possible. And thank you, too, to so many members of the church family who have responded to God’s grace by becoming more generous in your giving to support Christ’s ministry and mission through our operating budget.

Inspired Giving for Inspired Living:

Through the Inspirational Giving Initiative, the generosity of our donors ensures that Eastminster Church continues to be a vibrant center of faith, service, and outreach:

- **Improve our facilities (*Already Underway*):** The new sound system in the Sanctuary is the fruit of this effort. Replacing the 60-year-old windows in the Administration Building, and enhancing the Courtyard, installing a new well so that our grounds stay lush, evaluating our Sanctuary lighting system for updates or possible replacement, adding sound baffles in highly trafficked areas near meeting or designated worship areas to preserve quiet and reverence as appropriate.
- **Invest in the next generation of leaders:** Contributions will allow us to call a recent seminary or college graduate to serve for one to two years, providing them with valuable ministry experience and enriching our church family.
- **Expand our reach and deepen our impact (*Already Underway*):** Additional classes and studies will be established, fostering spiritual growth and welcoming an even larger community to connect with Eastminster. The Eastminster Arts Academy for music and visual arts for children and adults is being launched (Summer of 2025).
- **Enhance a center of life and outreach:** The Christian Life Center, already a strength, will offer expanded classes and opportunities to reach all age groups, with increased emphasis on whole and healthy living, including both spiritual and physical components (at least 22% of funds given for the above three bullet points pertaining to ministry and program emphasis).
- **Enable increased missions involvement (*Already Underway*):** Additional funds are being set aside to further subsidize multi-day mission experiences, including for adults, with the goal of 100 adults participating each year, making a tangible difference in the world (at least 22% of funds given).
- **Solidify Eastminster's financial future:** Funds will be allocated for ensuring the church's ability to continue its vital work for generations to come (no more than 10% of funds given).

The Inspirational Giving Initiative is a testament to the power of faith and generosity, which is evident through Eastminster's legacy. As we move forward and think about Eastminster's next 100 years and beyond, this initiative offers a beautiful opportunity to plant seeds for the future of Eastminster. Whether you simply hold this endeavor in your prayers, or feel called to contribute financially, your support fuels our journey. Let's continue to illuminate the path together, ensuring Christ's light shines brightly within our walls and extends outward to the wider community.



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:
Lib Foster (2025)
libfoster@aol.com

Eastminster Staff Support:
Dr. Ben Sloan, Kristy Stoneburner,
Stefanie Hammond &
Kelly McGrady



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024:

- Provided greeters, follow-up with visitors, two First Step classes and volunteers for WE@EPC meals.
- Held a Men's Oyster Roast.
- Started EPW Prayer Breakfasts.
- Organized monthly gatherings for Seniors' Ministry with occasional trips.
- Offered Reformation Heritage Expedition.
- Added a "Discover Eastminster" gathering for gap between First Step classes.
- Held Bring-A-Friend Sunday event.
- Facilitated an Alpha Class at Transitions.

GOALS FOR 2025:

- Provide quarterly activity for Men's Ministry.
- Offer electronic/digital payment options for meals/activities.
- Explore opportunities to collaborate with other local churches.
- Explore hospitality/fellowship options.
- Provide Next Steps class and support to integrate new members into the life of the church.
- Increase community building through social media with ambassador flags.

MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH CANDIDS



NURTURE, EDUCATION & DISCIPLESHIP (NED)



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:
Bick Halligan (2025)
bickhalligan@att.net

Eastminster Staff Support:

Dr. Douglass Key, Rev. Croskeys Royall,
Andrea Ferree, Emily Higgins,
Caroline Bennett, & Janice Blair



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024:

- The Middle School Youth Ministry is sound and fulfilling its purpose with high rates of participation, parent satisfaction, and many opportunities for education, local service and mission trips, leading to lives of faith and discipleship.
- The Learning Differences Young Adult group continued to grow and hosted a Day Camp at Camp Cole in November.
- After Rev. Nick Demuynck's departure, Youth Sunday, Confirmation, Montreat Youth Conference, and two mission trips were successfully executed; the 2024-25 Confirmation class was organized, Youth fellowship continued on Sunday evenings, and Mid-week Bible study continued to be held while the search process for Nick's successor was underway.
- Adult VBS welcomed the Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Virginia for two evenings in August.
- Our Small Group Ministry welcomed the Rev. Steve Eason to its kick-off dinner in September and continues to be a strong focus for adult faith formation.
- ECAMP continued to serve 60+ children on a weekly basis, providing children's choir, Bible study and fellowship each Sunday evening.

NURTURE, EDUCATION & DISCIPLESHIP (NED)

GOALS FOR 2025:

- Revamp Sunday School (K-5th grade) - \$25,000 has been set aside in a designated fund during 2024 to hire a consultant if desired to help NED write curriculum standards by grade level.
- Evaluate the Learning Difference Young Adults Ministry.
- Develop a process for approval of outside speakers for Sunday school classes and youth events.
- Sort out kick-off dates and process for Fall 2025.
- Create content for a scrolling screen in the CLC track area to publicize weekly activities, speakers, classes and special events.
- Consider adding speakers for Intergenerational Breakfast Sundays (Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day weekends).



NED CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CANDIDS



NED YOUTH MINISTRY CANDIDS



NED LEARNING DIFFERENCES CANDIDS



NED ADULT MINISTRY CANDIDS



FINANCE

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

Leadership:

Finance Chairs:
Kevin O'Connell (2025)
koconnell1423@gmail.com

Eastminster Staff Support:

Alisha Hudson, Christy Rippy & Leslie Swain



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024:

- Conducted 2023 Audit with our audit firm, Capin Crouse.
- Coordinated the development of 2025 church budget.
- Closely monitored monthly financials.
- Guidance was provided by the Endowment Committee to the other committees for using endowed funds in regards to the spending rate.
- Monitored the reserve funds and utilized opportunities to increase investment income while also ensuring the safety of those funds in a volatile market.
- Held an endowment event.

GOALS FOR 2025:

- Conduct 2024 Audit.
- Coordinate the development of 2026 church budget.
- Monitor the reserve funds for opportunities to increase investment income while optimizing safety.
- Continue to closely monitor monthly financials.
- Assist with guidance for the new Director of Stewardship, Endowment & Planned Giving (Generosity & Special Projects) person when hired.
- Monitor and track Inspirational Giving and adherence to Session's percentage guidelines.

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:

George Hutton, Sr. (2025)

george_s_hutton@yahoo.com

Eastminster Staff Support:

Dr. Ben Sloan, Kristy Stoneburner & Kelly McGrady



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024:

- 67 adult members (along with 40+ teens sponsored by NED) attended mission trips to Marsh Harbour, Bahamas; Chiapas, Mexico; Nkhoma, Malawi; Mwandi, Zambia; Dallas, TX; and St. Simon's, GA.
- Sent at least five trucks of Hurricane Helene relief materials to First Greenwood and First Spartanburg, along with \$10,000 for Hurricane relief divided among 5 PCUSA churches.
- Distributed \$162,000 in grants over and above the budget to Camp Cole, Nkhoma Hospital operations, Family Promise, Habitat, Reconciliation Ministries, Queens Chapel NCD, Bibles for Mexico, Transitions Dutch Plaza project (\$75k), Bradley Book Vending, Jumpstart Prison Ministries, Footcare chairs, MBF-Haiti, Hendrickson's Bahama Missions, and Hurricane Helene relief.
- Received Endowment Funds for the following projects: Nkhoma Seminary Scholarships (\$13k); home for nursing/med interns (\$25k- now built); Lutheran Family Services Refugee House (\$10k).

MISSIONS, SERVICE & BENEVOLENCE (MSB)

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024:

- 60 staff and members served at the Salvation Army Christmas Warehouse for the day and we provided 700 Bibles to be included in children's gifts.
- Held a Clemson/Carolina Food Drive in Fall 2024 and donated 3,000+ pounds of food to Harvest Hope, Cooperative Ministry, and North Star Food Bank.
- 300 members participated in March Out Mission Day where we packed 10,000+ meals and sent members into the community to serve with our local mission partners.
- Continued the 41-year relationship between the Columbia Women's Shelter (CWS) and Eastminster Missions by encouraging Eastminster Presbyterian Women (EPW) in partnership with CWS to nurture and grow this outreach through attendance and support of the November Women's Souper.
- CHAMPS and Bradley Lunch Buddies had a new staff member in Stan Holland. We have over 50 Bradley volunteers and about 20-30 children involved with CHAMPS.

GOALS FOR 2025:

- Strive to send 100+ members on mission trips regionally, nationally, and globally. Trips are planned for North Carolina, Africa, Bahamas, and Mexico, and we are looking for other opportunities.
- Look to open up one or two "regular/scheduled" service opportunities for members. We are investigating an additional meal at Transitions, possibly lunch to offer a different time to serve.
- Support North Carolina reconstruction and recovery after Hurricane Helene in consistent ways- regularly sending groups of volunteers to do mission work in Western North Carolina.

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 2024!

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:
Personnel Chair:
Bob Staton (2025)
bstaton0711@gmail.com

Eastminster Staff Support:
Dr. Brad Smith, Dr. Douglass Key &
Alisha Hudson



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024:

- Hired Louis Shirer as Organist.
- Hired Stan Holland as CHAMPS Director.
- Hired Alisha Hudson as Executive Director of Finance and Administrative Services.
- Renewed Parish Associate agreements for Ben Sloan and Carol Byrd.
- Hired Kristy Stoneburner as PT Member Involvement Coordinator.
- Worked to maintain competitive wages for hourly staff.

GOALS FOR 2025:

- Hire a Digital Content Coordinator.
- Hire a PT Director of Stewardship, Endowment & Planned Giving (Generosity & Special Projects).
- Hire a Senior Communications Officer.
- Call an Associate Pastor of Senior High Youth and Their Families.
- Maintain competitive wages for hourly staff.

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:
Mary McCants (2025)
marymccants@icloud.com

Eastminster Staff Support:

Blythe Lewis, James Cassidy &
Kelsey Smith



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024:

- Partnered with Worship & Music Committee, Senior Pastor, and vendor- BMG- and implemented a new Sound System.
- Partnered with M&O and implemented an online directory via ShelbyNext.
- Partnered with M&O and implemented an online directory via ShelbyNext.
- Partnered with M&O on effective promotional items & swag with consistent branding.
- Partnered with M&O on effective promotional items & swag with consistent branding.
- Conducted a thorough review of Eastminster Today Magazine to determine key enhancements.
- Conducted a thorough review of Eastminster Today Magazine to determine key enhancements.

GOALS FOR 2025:

- Expand brand & virtual presence (examples: continued SM outreach, website currency (updated photos, videos on ministry pages); look into implementing an EPC Podcast; research an EPC App (dependent upon Shelby Next).
- Provide support through ministry partnerships (examples: (M&O) online directory; (W&M) digital sign, surveys, Jubilee worship enhancements via media; (NED/New Assoc. Pastor for Youth & Young Adults) promote events & programs to engage EPC youth, children of EPC who are adults, and those in our community who are seeking a church home).
- Provide effective outreach (examples: remain current- technology upgrades and replacements; expand staff- covering bandwidth well with skill-sets needed).

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 Chair:
Susan Ratteree (2025)
shratteree@gmail.com

Eastminster Staff Support:

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



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024:

- Empowered Small Groups and Sunday School Classes to provide meal trains directly to their members when there was a need.
- Expanded our home communion accessibility by inviting all elders, past and current, to take communion monthly to our shut-in members. By inviting past elders to participate, we are able to extend the table to even more members on a given Sunday.

GOALS FOR 2025:

- Work to destigmatize mental health challenges and cultivate holistic wellness in our spiritual, emotional, and mental wellbeing through programming, communications and support group opportunities.
- Provide resources, support and educational opportunities for healthy grieving.
- Continue to adapt, develop and support opportunities for Congregational Care; b as ways to both serve and receive care, fostering healthy communication and partnership with other ministry areas to best serve our members and community in areas of care.
- Update Care self-reporting through the church website. Encourage and empower members to use this feature to communicate both joys and concerns.

GOALS FOR 2025 (CONTINUED):



- Offer and provide care support to our members and community through the Stephen Ministry program. Stephen Ministry remains an underutilized ministry opportunity.

THE VIBRANT CARE MINISTRIES OF EPC WERE BUSY IN 2024:

- Love Bearers provided 268 handwritten prayer cards and notes.
- Prayer Shawl knitting group gave over 150 knitted hats to Oliver Gospel, Toby's Place, Transitions and NC Disaster relief, as well as numerous prayer shawls to members and friends in need of this warm gesture of care.
- The medical closet was a utilized resource for members and neighbors in need of medical equipment.
- Vases of Care ministry assembled weekly vases of our sanctuary flowers to be delivered to those who could benefit from the cheer.
- Food for the Soul hosted 23 memorial receptions.
- Prayer Matters expanded to include our Sunday School Classes and Small Groups Ministry to pray for each member of our congregation, by name.
- Invitation to Change (ITC), an ongoing support group for families with a loved one who's living with a substance abuse disorder, began meeting monthly.



 CONGREGATIONAL
CARE & CONCERN

CONSIDER JOINING US IN FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

The Prayer Shawl Ministry

1ST, 3RD & 5TH WEDNESDAYS 10-11:15AM
CLC ROOM 265

CONTACT BETTY SNYDER HBSNYDER@ATT.NET WITH QUESTIONS

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:

Karen Hudgens (2025)
khudgens@sc.rr.com

Eastminster Staff Support:

Dr. Douglass Key, Emmet Hough,
& Caroline Bennett



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024:

- Increased number of weekly fitness classes from 15 to 18, and added a third personal trainer.
- Competed in the Christian Youth Basketball League (CYBL), with 380 boys and girls participating on 37 different teams; and for adults, hosted 55 men on six teams in the Steve Bates Basketball League.
- Hosted our first EPC Pickleball Tournament with 16 doubles teams competing, and continued to expand our weekly Pickleball offerings.
- Hosted our second annual August CLC Fitness Open House, which increased in participants this year.

GOALS FOR 2025:

- Implement our new CLC membership (\$75) and fob (\$25) fees as of Jan 1, 2025.
- Host 2 blood drives throughout the year.
- Provide new opportunities for spiritual, physical, social and health development.
- Look into adding non-sports classes to the community (nutrition, meditation, art, cooking).
- Explore ways to better incorporate EPC's sermons/devos/messages into the different areas of the CLC.
- Start new Small Groups for Pickleball and Fitness Class attendees.

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (CLC) CANDIDS



EASTMINSTER RESPONDS: A STORY OF GENEROSITY

Thank you, Eastminster Family!

As we embark on a new year, Eastminster continues its unwavering commitment to glorify God and enjoy him forever. This year's theme of "Seeking God First Even When..." invites us to reflect on the countless ways we can make a difference.



Throughout the past year, we've witnessed the transformative power of our collective efforts. From local outreach programs to global missions, Eastminster's impact extends far beyond our church walls. We've seen how our financial support and volunteer hours have:

- Empowered individuals and families through serving with Transitions, Family Promise, Bradley Elementary, and CHAMPS.
- Begun providing hope to those in North Carolina who tragically lost so much through the devastating destruction of Hurricane Helene.
- Advanced the gospel message across the globe through mission trips to Bahamas, Chiapas, MX, and Dallas, TX.

Your generosity, both in time and treasure, has been instrumental in shaping the lives of countless people. As we look ahead to 2025, we invite you to join us in continuing this legacy of compassion and service.

By making a pledge, you're not just pledging to commit financially; you're investing in the future of our church, community, and God's kingdom. Your commitment will enable us to: expand our outreach programs, support vital ministries, and share the love of Christ with others.

We encourage you to prayerfully consider your pledge for 2025. Together, we can make a lasting difference.

PLEDGE UPDATE - NOV 17

Thank you to those who have pledged.
If you have not yet pledged, please join us in pledging to support Christ's work through Eastminster in 2025.

213 PLEDGES INCREASED
82 PLEDGES NO CHANGE
18 PLEDGES DECREASED
55 NEW PLEDGES

368 PLEDGES TOTALING \$3,577,631.00

117 PLEDGES WERE MADE FOR 2024,
BUT NOT YET FOR 2025.

2024 Year-end Giving: Thank you for your support of Eastminster in 2024. Year-end contributions can be made via the offering plate by Sunday, December 29, or by mail if postmarked by Tuesday, December 31. If you are bringing your balance by the Church Office, please mark "Attn: Treasurer," and deliver it to the receptionist on Tuesday, December 31, by 5 p.m. To donate stock, contact Christy Rippy, Treasurer, crippy@eastminsterpres.org for stock transfer instructions.

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
2 Corinthians 9:7

