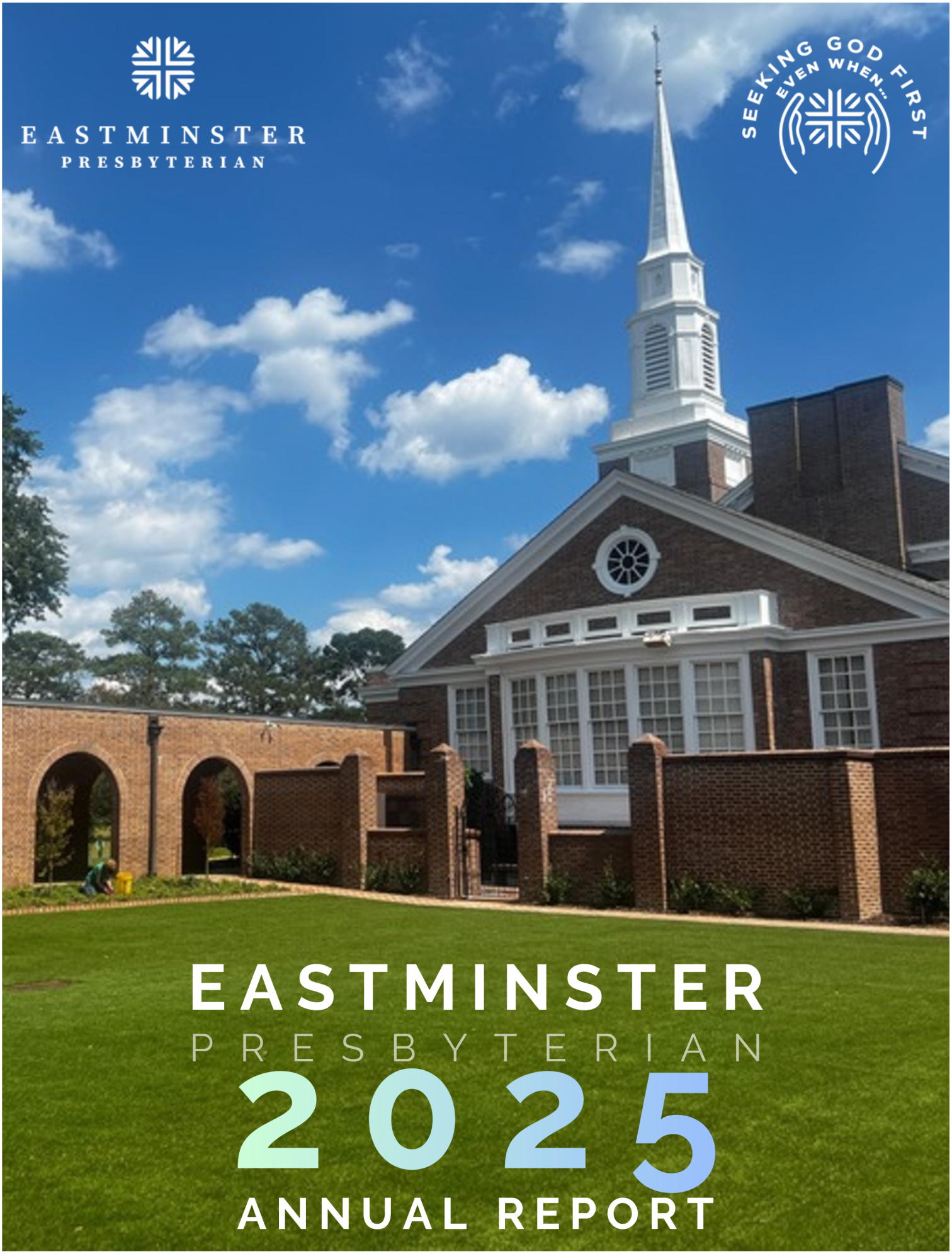
EASTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
SEEKING GOD FIRST
EVEN WHEN...
EASTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
2025
ANNUAL REPORT

GATHERING TOGETHER

REACHING OUT

EASTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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A YEAR IN REVIEW

A Letter from Your Pastor



Dear Eastminster Family,

If you were asked to describe the church to someone who has never been, nor had any exposure, what would you say?

A voluntary association of people walking through life together? A multi-generational worship, educational and inspirational organization? A collection of people reaching out with care and compassion? A support group? A community center? An institution for character formation? How about a family reunion that occurs every week?

Each of those captures elements of this strange but remarkable collection of diverse people, but there is, of course, more: How about people responding to the love and mercy of our gracious, holy and sovereign God? Or people finding meaning, purpose and community by giving ourselves to the God who has given himself to us in Jesus the Christ, and who is at work in the world and the church in the person of the Holy Spirit even now?

As you read this "Annual Review," I pray you think about the uniqueness and beauty of the church. Yes, we are a complicated bunch, each with our quirks, idiosyncrasies, preferences, and good old-fashioned sinfulness. But, by the grace of our Lord, the church is also the Body of Jesus Christ in the world today.

While this Annual Review is, by necessity, geared to facts, figures, and summaries, I pray you will have eyes to see and a spirit of mindfulness to behold the wonder and majesty of our God, who is involved and at work in our midst in ways seen and unseen, every moment of every day. Such is the grace of our sovereign God.

Gratefully and in Christ's Love,

Brad

Rev. Dr. Brad Smith, Senior Pastor
& Head of Staff

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. 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
Sarah Glenn Leventis, Communications Creative Specialist
Caroline Bennett, Director of Small Groups & Librarian
Emily Higgins, Director of Middle School Youth
Andrea Ferree, Director of ACCESS Ministries (Part-Time)
Stefanie Hammond, Children's Music & Discipleship Director (Part-Time)
Kristy Stoneburner & Katie Barthel, M&O (Part-Time)
Laura Long & Lauren Cunningham, MSB (Part-Time)

Support Staff

Julie McDaniel, Executive Assistant to Senior Pastor
Janice Blair, Administrative Assistant for NED & Administration, M&O
Kelly McGrady, Administrative Assistant for Congregational Care & MSB
Martha McCain, Drop-In Nursery Coordinator (Part-Time)
Jo Stephens, Congregational Childcare Coordinator (Part-Time)
Sound Technicians (Part-Time): Julian Barber, Nicholas Beitz, Walker Bell, Jay Lesesne, Anna Claire McCain & Sophie Verzyl

Worship & Music

Fredna Lee, Director of Music (Part-Time)
Dr. Augie Gil, Director of Worship & Arts
Louis Shirer, Organist and Worship & Arts Administrator
Zeke Bennett, Interim Jubilee Worship Leader
Chelse Lawson, Director of Handbells (Part-Time)

Administration

Alisha Hudson, Executive Director of Finance & Administrative Services
Kelly Fernet, Administrative Assistant for Finance & Administrative Services
Christy Rippy, Treasurer,
Risa Cuenin, Assistant Treasurer,
Leslie Swain & Fan Hopple, Financial Assistants
Regina Jeffcoat, Director of Food Services (Part-Time)
Chris Dixon, Felisa Lewis, 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
Vicki Wilson, PM Sexton Supervisor
Levi Burch, Sammy Cullen, Debra Levesque, Sonya McIntosh, Nora Mivins, Lamar O'Neil, Linda Walker, & Ben Wharley, Maintenance Technicians (Part-Time)

Christian Life Center (CLC)

Emmet Hough, Director
Elizabeth Cote, Meredith Dreibelbis, Tony Dukes, Susan Faulk, Ryan Marshall (Part-Time)

Eastminster Day School (EDS)

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

YEAR-END MEMBERSHIP REPORT

January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024:		1,978
Gains:	Letter of Transfer	32
	Reaffirmation of Faith	30
	Profession of Faith	1
	Confirmation	21
Losses:	Letter of Transfer	4
	"Moved" to "Other Participants"	72
	Removed Per Request	0
	Death	11
	Active Members as of December 31, 2025	1,978
	Affiliate Members as of December 31, 2025	8
TOTAL REGULAR AND AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2025:		1,986
Baptisms:		31
Member Marriages:		9

NEW MEMBERS IN 2025

Henry Armistead
Randy Bumgarner
Linda Bumgarner
Lucas Carlton
Marley Carlton
Linda Connelly
Rhonda Cortes
Melanie Dalton
Scott Davis
Milla Davis
Julius Davis
Joye Davis
Heyward Fawcett
Patrick Fawcett
Meg Garrison
John Garrison
Cooper Gresham
Becca Gresham
Rebecca Hall
Mary Hardin
Charles Hardin
Rebecca Hicks
Allan Hicks
Veronica Holland
Stanley Holland
Meredith Housman
Gary Housman
Nancy Hull
William Hull
Katie Hutchings
Bonnie Kelly
Mark Kirlough
Marie Kirlough
Patrick McLean
Kristen McLean
Virginia McLendon
Alex McMillan
Alesia McMillan
Larry McWilliams
Bryce Nussbaum
Lorien Owens
Will Owens
Bruce Peterson
Phyllis Peterson
Arden Riley
Troy Riley
Elizabeth Riley
Lu Schoenlien
Melissa Schoonover
Patrick Scott
Morgan Scott
Gina Staton
Wayne Staton
Grace Thaggard
Susan Toth
Julia Tourville
Travis Tourville
Evans Townsend
Mary-Riley Walker
Daniel Walker
Bob Wells
Ruth Ann Whitener



MEMBER MILESTONES 2025

BIRTHS IN 2025

Anne McWilliams

Mims Garvin

Davis Dukes

Olivia Robertson

Bleckley McDougald

Brunson “Be” Armistead

William “Cal” Elliott

Sutton Young

Oliver Ballew

Nelson Weathers

Edie Kiphart

Sullivan Freeman

McClain Bowman

Riley Walker

James Cornwell

Wynn Livingston

Lane Shultz

Hattie Hungerpiller

Henry Gresham

Davis Towles

Clark Tillery

Cacky Riley

Holden “Jack” Lowe

BAPTISMS IN 2025

Mark Dale Chappell III

Clayton Timothy Murrell

Caulder Alexander Winkles

Thomas Parks Winkles

Everett Ford Lea Law

Stanley Alexander Richards

Ann Stratton Townsend

Emma Ryan Sullivan

Beckham Crew Tourville

Margaret Helen McLean

Graves Kenneth Potter

Corden Baxter Kennedy, Jr.

Barrett Riley Strasburger

Sterling Carson Carter

Virginia Campbell Byars

Mims Day Garvin

Evan Phillips McMillan

Olivia Jane Robertson

Grady Hutchinson Kay

Brunson Edward Armistead

Bleckley Elizabeth McDougald

Cauley King McDougald

Edith Simpson Kiphart

Sutton Grace Young

Nelson Homer Weathers

Sullivan Elliott Freeman

McLain Palmer Bowman

William Callahan Elliott

James Preston Cornwell

WEDDINGS IN 2025

Ann Newsome
*Jordan Foster
March 8, 2025

Caroline Price
*Trey Coxe
March 15, 2025

Laura Hudson
*Brendan Dasher
March 22, 2025

Macy Morrow
*Ethan Tisdale
March 29, 2025

Lauren Ragsdale
Jamey Dye
April 5, 2025

Caroline Chester
Harrison Long
April 12, 2025

Natalie Gailey
Henry Tiller
May 31, 2025

Rachel Scott
Pat Frentz
August 2, 2025

Heyward Clayton
Patrick Fawcett
October 4, 2025

*denotes non-member

IN MEMORIAM

MEMBERS WHO JOINED THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT IN 2025:

Terry Brown 1/29/2025
O. Wayne Corley 2/4/2025
Winnie Dew 4/16/2025
Lita Ashley 4/24/2025
Daryl Williams 9/7/2025
Judy Chaplin 9/18/2025
Harriett McCoy 9/25/2025
Anna McCord 10/5/2025
Jim Johnson, Jr. 11/8/2025
Jody Miot 12/3/2025
Macky Norris 12/28/2025

ELECTED ELDERS:

CLASS OF 2025	CLASS OF 2026	CLASS OF 2027	CLASS OF 2028
Tiffany Beitz	Becky Airheart	John Arnold	Branford Breland
Connie Derrick	Eleanor Boyd	Elizabeth Barber	Yolanda Courie
Lib Foster	Will Brownlee	Amy Cain	Perry Crosthwaite
Bick Halligan	Emma Bryson	Ryan Causey	Mary Hanna
Judy Holmes	Andy Cameron	Sark Derderian	Rebecca Hartner
Kevin O'Connell	John Hart	Katie Evatt	Susan Jones
Nancy Scott	Julie Hudson	Susanne Hicklin	Anne Kleitches
Bob Staton	George Kennedy	Harriet Kneece	Kit Pound
Jeff Thordahl	George McCutchen	Marion Moses	Drew Richardson
Paul Trippe	*Bob Staton	Laura Twitty	Scott Verzyl

ELECTED DEACONS:

CLASS OF 2025	CLASS OF 2026	CLASS OF 2027	CLASS OF 2028
Parks Bunch	Sallie Jameson	Chad Abramson	Charlotte Castles
Chesley Good	Darren Knight	David Ellison	Mark Chappell
Adam Hegler	Josh Livingston	Nate Henderson	Kristin DiMarco
Karen Hudgens	Kathleen Muthig	Mary Frances Jowers	Jim Kitchens
Jay Hudson	Lisa Newman	Austin Rhodes	Stephen Ross
Zack Hudson	Geoff Reabold	Matt Riddle	Parker Sizemore
George Hutton	Joni Richardson	Lucy Scoville	Stacy Strong
Mary McCants	*Robert Simmons	Clay Sharpe	Lee Tupper
Simmons Purdy	Richard Slater	*Katie Alice Walker	Dana Wilson
Susan Ratteree	Sandy Spann	Kris Whiteside	Taylor Wray

*completing an unexpired term

2025 BENEVOLENCES

DISBURSEMENTS:

Alpha South Carolina	$5,000.00
Benevolences	$8,500.00
Bethel Evangelical Secondary School in Ethiopia	$2,100.00
Bradley Programs	$7,484.20
Camp Cole	$14,792.16
Capernaum Young Life Program	$10,000.00
CHAMPS Program	$22,345.77
Campus Ministries	$2,500.00
Cooperative Ministry	$27,500.00
Daybreak Pregnancy Crisis Center	$5,000.00
Disaster Relief	$49,242.80
EMS Closet	$2,000.00
Epworth Children's Home	$7,000.00
Family Promise of The Midlands	$15,853.72
Family Shelter	$10,000.00
Flora Football Devotional Meals	$1,500.00
Footcare Ministry	$4,716.71
Free Medical Clinic	$10,000.00
Gideons International	$2,000.00
Habitat for Humanity	$5,000.00
Haiti - Hospital St. Croix	$5,000.00
Harvest Hope Food Bank	$102,554.13
Heifer International	$1,506.24
Homeless No More	$3,560.00
Homeworks of America	$6,000.00
Hope Unlimited	$1,000.00
Imck Good Shepherd Mission Hospital - Congo	$3,000.00
Jubilee Academy	$10,000.00
Law Enforcement Chaplaincy	$3,000.00
Lighthouse for Life	$5,000.00
Live Oak Counseling Center	$8,000.00
Lutheran Services Carolinas	$15,000.00
MeadowFeed	$3,000.00
Medical Benevolence Foundation	$10,080.77
Medical Missions	$200.00
Midlands Fatherhood Coalition	$5,000.00
Midlands Sexual Trauma Service	$1,500.00
Migrant Ministry	$4,985.00
Mission Trips	$131,860.31

2024 BENEVOLENCES

DISBURSEMENTS:

Missionary Support	$63,334.25
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	$2,380.00
Operation Christmas Child	$358.56
Presbyterian Community Charitable Care	$13,655.00
Presbyterian Women Missions and Benevolences	$2,407.00
Prison Ministries - Jumpstart SC	$10,000.00
Refugee Ministry	$5,000.00
Rise Against Hunger	$5,200.00
Salvation Army	$15,000.00
SC Inn at Montreat	$11,000.00
Scholarships (CHAMPS, EDS & Seminary)	$24,928.00
Scout Troops	$2,000.00
Servant Leadership Awards	$5,000.00
Shepherd's Center	$500.00
SisterCare	$5,000.00
Sozo Children's Home	$13,500.00
Sudan - South Sudan Presbytery	$2,000.00
Taiwanese Pastor Exchange	$10,000.00
Theological Training for Prisoners	$5,000.00
Thornwell Home for Children	$7,336.50
Toby's Place	$2,184.00
Transitions Homeless Shelter	$142,246.15
Turning Pages SC Adult Reading Program	$2,000.00
Trinity Presbytery, Synod & General Assembly	$165,127.56
Washington Street UMC Soup Cellar	$10,000.00
Women's Shelter	$6,590.40

TOTAL: $1,075,529.23

FINANCE 2025 & 2024 COMPARISON

	2025:		2024:	
INCOME	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Undesignated Pledges and Offerings	$5,092,760.20	$4,802,472.00	$4,564,007.62	$4,535,410.00
Program Revenue	$307,090.80	$267,450.00	$227,492.37	$241,200.00
Administration & Property Revenue	$178,513.81	$109,250.00	$112,514.33	$110,150.00
TOTAL INCOME	$5,578,364.81	$5,179,172.00	$4,904,014.32	$4,886,760.00
EXPENSES				
Worship & Music	$107,469.94	$96,450.00	$94,894.00	$90,850.00
Membership & Outreach	$55,806.52	$51,500.00	$62,819.19	$42,200.00
Nurture, Education & Discipleship	$172,705.50	$279,600.00	$232,541.80	$265,475.00
Ecumenical & Church Relations	$6,107.41	$21,250.00	$2,340.00	$2,750.00
Congregational Care	$22,193.54	$20,450.00	$10,444.55	$19,850.00
* Mission, Service & Benevolence	$640,947.15	$610,127.56	$591.006.02	$602,508.40
Administration	$81,535.30	$116,700.00	$111,498.82	$114,447.50
Communications & Computers	$144,671.09	$139,700.00	$116,019.28	$135,250.00
Property	$624,189.31	$573,000.00	$509,690.85	$555,500.00
Kitchen	$96,383.13	$73,550.00	$81,640.75	$69,800.00
Personnel	$2,927,577.74	$3,142,844.44	$2,775,350.36	$2,915,929.10
Christian Life Center	$78,078.23	$54,000.00	$69,723.90	$52,200.00
Reserve Funding	$0.00	$0.00	$20,000.00	$20,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	$4,957,664.86	$5,179,172.00	$4,677,969.52	$4,886,760.00
TOTAL NET INCOME	$620,699.95	$0.00	$226,044.80	$0.00

* CHAMPS included

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

FINANCE 2025 & 2026 BUDGET SUMMARY

Revenue:	2025 Annual Budget:	2026 Annual Budget:	%Change:
Pledge Income	4,118,222.00	4,347,337.00	5.56%
Non-pledge Income	625,000.00	550,000.00	-12.00%
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	267,450.00	311,500.00	16.47%
Administrative Income	109,250.00	192,250.00	75.97%
Total Budgeted Income	**$5,179,172.00**	**$5,460,337.00**	**5.43%**
Expenses:			
Worship & Music	96,450.00	100,300.00	3.99%
Membership & Outreach	51,500.00	66,000.00	28.16%
Nurture, Education & Discipleship	279,600.00	264,050.00	-5.56%
Ecumenical & Church Relations	21,250.00	5,750.00	-72.94%
Congregational Care	20,450.00	40,750.00	99.27%
*Missions, Service & Benevolence	610,127.56	609,025.00	- 0.18%
Administration	116,700.00	121,450.00	4.07%
Communications & Computers	139,700.00	144,000.00	3.08%
Property	573,000.00	603,000.00	5.24%
Kitchen	73,550.00	80,550.00	9.52%
Personnel	3,142,844.44	3,346,162.00	6.47%
Christian Life Center	54,000.00	59,300.00	9.81%
Reserve	0.00	20,000.00	100.00%
Total Budgeted Expenses:	**$5,179,172.00**	**$5,460,337.00**	**5.43%**

*CHAMPS included

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Mission:
To work with the clergy, Session, and Director of Music in creating meaningful worship opportunities including Sunday morning and Jubilee Contemporary Worship services, as well as weddings, services in witness to the resurrection, and other worship occasions.

Leadership:
Worship and Music Chair:
George McCutchen (2026)
georgethomas4677@gmail.com

Eastminster Staff Support:
Dr. Brad Smith, Fredna Lee,
Dr. Augie Gil & Julie McDaniel



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2025:

- The $200 organist fee was removed for funerals.
- In conjunction with NED, the Sunday Night Children's Ministry expanded to include more children from K4 to Grade 5. The new groups are known as Kingdom Kids (K4 to Grade 2) and Club 345 (Grades 3-5).
- More Jubilee Contemporary attendees were added to the Jubilee Contemporary (Improvements) Task Force to evaluate and make recommendations.
- The Eastminster Arts Academy was established with Dr. Augie Gil as Director. Teachers have been hired, and new students began studying in September 2025.
- Revising 2025 Christmas Eve Schedule for services at 3:00, 5:00, and 7:00 p.m. rather than the previous schedule of 5:00, 7:00, and 9:00 p.m.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

GOALS FOR 2026: (W&M)

- Hire a Jubilee Contemporary Music Director.
- Offer a Concert in the Courtyard at 5:00 on April 19, 2026.
- Host a Hymn Sing, through Presbyterian Association of Musicians, for our Region - Georgia, South Carolina, Florida, and Puerto Rico. This event would include both a church-wide invitation as well as an invitation for the community at large.
- Incorporate more instrumentalists for traditional worship.
- To cultivate participation in the Music Ministry, a “Just for Fun” choir will be offered to those interested in becoming part of an EPC’s music ensemble.
- Revisit portions of the Wedding Policy to revise policy regarding videography.

GOALS FOR 2026: (EAA)

- Eastminster Arts Academy hopes to increase number of on-site students for Spring 26 and Fall 26 terms.
- Offer community-engaging group workshops.
- Collaborate with the Director of EDS to create an Arts Program for the After-School students.
- Day School collaborations

EASTMINSTER
ARTS ACADEMY

WORSHIP & MUSIC CANDIDS











EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Rev. Rob Schoonover - Associate Pastor for Sr. High Youth & Younger Adults

ANN CAMERON - CHAIR APNC



"I believe in the Triune God, who out of love created the heavens and the earth. That God's treasure of creation was human beings, people like you and me, who were created for worship. I believe that God is not done with the church and I desire to be a part of the exciting things happening in the church today. - Rev. Robert Schoonover

MEET THE EPC STAFF

APNC RECOMMENDS

Rev. Robert W. Schoonover

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) was charged with finding the person that God has prepared and called to serve as the primary clergy for Senior High Youth and Younger Adults at Eastminster Presbyterian Church. For over a year, we looked for a passionate, relationally-oriented minister called by God to fill this position and join us as we journey in faith together. We believe that the Holy Spirit has truly led us to that person and that person to us. The APNC unanimously and enthusiastically recommends Reverend Robert Schoonover to be our new Associate Pastor for Senior High Youth and Younger Adults.

MENTORS & PEERS: REFERENCES & TESTIMONIALS

Rev. Julie Bailey
Senior Director of Alumni & Church Relations
Columbia Theological Seminary
Decatur, GA

"Rob is the kind of pastor I want for my family. He is genuine, reflective, and deeply committed to his faith and to those he serves. His presence is warm and welcoming, and he brings humor and insight to every situation. Rob understands the significance of a vital youth program and is dedicated to nurturing the next generation in the ways of Christ."

Rev. Bradley Kibler Bond, Associate Pastor for Congregational Vitality
Shallowford Presbyterian Church
Atlanta, GA

"Rob has a special way of connecting with all generations--he lives in the real world but also offers a spiritual depth that is invitational, relatable, and authentic. It is easy for youth to connect with Rob because of his sense of humor, his compassion, and the respect he gives them. Rob believes we are all called to participate in God's kingdom."

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



THE SCHOONOVER FAMILY:
ROB, HARRIS (19 MONTHS) & MELISSA

Dear Eastminster Church Family,

My name is Rob Schoonover and I truly believe that God has called me to be the Pastor of Senior High Youth and Young Adults at Eastminster Presbyterian Church. I am excited about what God is already doing through the ministries of Eastminster, and can't wait to begin serving with you.

Here are some insights into my faith journey...
I grew up in Marietta, GA, where I was the youngest of three kids. My family bounced around churches growing up until we joined First Presbyterian Church of Marietta, where I was baptized and confirmed at age 14...Through that family of faith, I found friends, a sense of belonging and really learned who I was.

Despite my adolescence having its fair share of challenges, my church youth group was the first place where I was exposed to the unconditional love of God and a community of friends who I still hold close to this day.

After graduating from high school, I struggled to name my purpose. Deep down, I knew the answer, that God was calling me into ordained ministry. But throughout my college years and into my mid-20s I wrestled with this call. I spent time in numerous different expressions of the Christian faith and developed a deep love for the study of scripture and theology. Feelings of self-doubt and unworthiness plagued my early 20s until finally, in January of 2018, at the urging of my girlfriend, Melissa, who later became my wife, I sent an application to the Candler School of Theology at Emory University where I began my journey toward discerning a call to ministry.

Still wrestling with my call, I interned at a local PCUSA church down the road from Emory and absolutely fell in love with the church. When I graduated in 2021, I no longer carried the uncertainty of becoming an ordained minister. I felt and believed (and still believe) that God is not done with the Church and I desired to be a part of the exciting things happening in a church today...For that church to be Eastminster, a healthy, dynamic Body of Christ, with strong Children's and Youth Ministries- is a true blessing.

My family can't wait to meet you!

Pastor Rob

THANK YOU, ASSOCIATE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ann Cameron, Chair

Elizabeth Barber
Alec Chaplin, Jr.
J. D. Elliott
George Hutton
Annie James (Youth)
Drew Richardson
Bill Stallings
Marcy Swan

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:
Becky Airheart (2026)
bairheart@gmail.com

Eastminster Staff Support:
Dr. Douglass Key & Rev. Croskeys Royall

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2025:

- Provided funding for a dorm room renovation at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama
- Funded subscription for The Presbyterian Outlook magazine for all Session and Diaconate officers
- Successfully hosted the first Trinity Presbytery meeting in February, 2025, at which "Olympia overtures" were debated and voted on.
- Attended all YTD Trinity Presbytery meetings in 2025.
- Attended and witnessed Rev. Rob Schoonover's confirmation at the Trinity Presbytery meeting on August 16, 2025.

GOALS FOR 2026:

- Complete funding (if needed) for the dormitory room at Stillman College.
- Renew the subscription for The Presbyterian Outlook magazine.
- Attend all Trinity Presbytery meetings for 2026.

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:
Julie Hudson (2026)
juliejhudson3@gmail.com

Eastminster Staff Support:
Dr. Douglass Key
Katie Herndon

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2025:

- Scholarships for three families were approved providing financial support for nine children
- Pay raises were approved for qualified employees to improve employee retention
- Informational components were included in each meeting to increase committee members' understanding of the day-to-day operations of the day school as well as the Covenant Family policy and Scholarship process.
- A fence was installed along Longleaf to improve the security of EDS.
- Brivo scanners were installed on Longleaf gate and the gate near the Toddler playground.
- Teacher usage of Bright Wheel to ensure consistency across the building has increased.
- A member of the EDS Ministry Team is a member of the EPC Safety Team.

EASTMINSTER DAY SCHOOL (EDS)

GOALS FOR 2026:

- Review Covenant Family requirements and make any needed revisions.
- Create and include a Covenant Family mission statement on the Covenant Family application.
- Research to determine if there is a structure in place regarding who follows up with parents who are assessed as “non-compliant” Covenant Family members to provide additional support.
- Create a Covenant Family video that explains and promotes a positive understanding of the program.
- Continue to increase EDS Ministry Team members participation by asking members to work on the following committees: Covenant Family, Scholarship, EPC Safety, and other committees as needed.
- Assist with the development of written procedures for all safety drills, including “Active Shooter.”
- Establish an immunization schedule as part of the EDS policy.
- Investigate ways to expand the Eastminster Day School and After-school Programs.
- Create videos to showcase EDS activities.
- Long-term goal: Develop a timeline for possible EDS expansion to meet the increasing number of (infant 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 Chair:
Darren Knight (2026)
darrenknight45@hotmail.com

Eastminster Staff Support:
Rev. Croskeys Royall,
& Alisha Hudson



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2025:

- Installed a rod iron safety gate with fob access between the courtyard and the EDS play area.
- Provided CPR/AED Training for officers and staff.
- Continued to resolve deficiencies identified in the 2024 security self-assessment.
- Conducted active shooter training.
- Conducted a Sunday morning fire drill.
- Upgraded safety/security at the Jubilee service as needed.

GOALS FOR 2026:

- Install safety gates for access points to the Art Gallery on the EDS floor.
- Research/install safety netting or fencing for the periphery of our renovated courtyard.
- Continue to resolve deficiencies identified in the 2024 security self-assessment.
- Schedule a 2026 active shooter training.
- Conduct a 2026 Sunday morning fire drill.
- Schedule CPR/AED training for staff (new and those who need to renew)

PROPERTY

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

Leadership:
Property Chair:
Josh Livingston (2026)
joshlivingston@hotmail.com

Eastminster Staff Support:
Alex Rogers & Alisha Hudson



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2025:

- Mortar repairs in front of Sanctuary & Courtyard.
- Sanctuary basement water intrusion investigation/resolution.
- LED light fixture upgrade for EDS older hall and classrooms.
- Slate roof cleaning.
- Restriping of parking lots.
- Upgraded Courtyard landscape & necessary equipment to maintain landscaping.
- Repainted Thompson Hall/Kitchen hallway & maintenance hallway.
- Repainted steeple.

GOALS FOR 2026:

- Lumen study/ Upgrade of exterior lighting around campus.
- Purchase a lift for various uses around campus.
- Paint door frames on EDS hallways.
- Replace doors on both ends of the "art gallery" with doors equipped with windows, and add a fob reader.
- Bring walls outwards in Adult Reception Hall to create more storage space.
- Replace HVAC unit that serves the gameroom in the CLC.
- Replace breezeway roof between Thompson Hall and the Sanctuary.

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:

Richard Slater (2026)
Richard.Slater@sefl.com

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

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2025:

- Successful increase of number of pledges and pledge dollars from previous year
- Created a "best practices" document for Stewardship committee based upon INJOY consultant findings and recommendations
- Began to incorporate recommendations from INJOY consultant
- Worked closely with Communications team to collaborate on Annual Report and pledge season
- Developed job description and began search for Stewardship + Generosity employee

GOALS FOR 2026:

- Increase number of pledges and pledge dollars from previous year
- Support Brad and Personnel with hiring and onboarding Stewardship + Generosity employee
- Continue to incorporate additional INJOY recommendations
- Collaborate with M&O to offer a Spiritual Gifts assessment to the congregation, and assess viability of online portal across church activities

COURTYARD DEDICATION
Stewardship Celebration
COMMUNICATIONS

MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH



On Dedication Sunday, the Stewardship Committee hosted a Courtyard Celebration to thank the members of Eastminster for their commitment to giving in 2026. The First Step Class- new members who joined Eastminster later that morning during 11:15 sanctuary worship- were welcomed, and the space was officially "dedicated" via a short worship service.

If it was your first time attending a reception in the courtyard, you may have assumed the "grass" was always as lush, plaques with scriptures had peeked out of the perimeter's greenery for years, the stone cross was well loved, and hundreds of children had sat on the benches near the bubbling fountain. However...if you have been around longer, you probably witnessed transformative work being done and new enhancements being added to make this a more welcoming and prayerful place near the EPC Memorial Garden.

This metamorphosis was made possible through the Inspirational Giving Initiative. In early 2025, gifts of $249,866.13 were utilized for a comprehensive courtyard renovation, ensuring quality upgrades, and safety for years to come. The long awaited day was a true culmination of the hard work and collaboration of multiple ministries and staff. Thanks to all who contributed to the planning, renovations and beautification of our courtyard, and to the Stewardship Team for hosting.

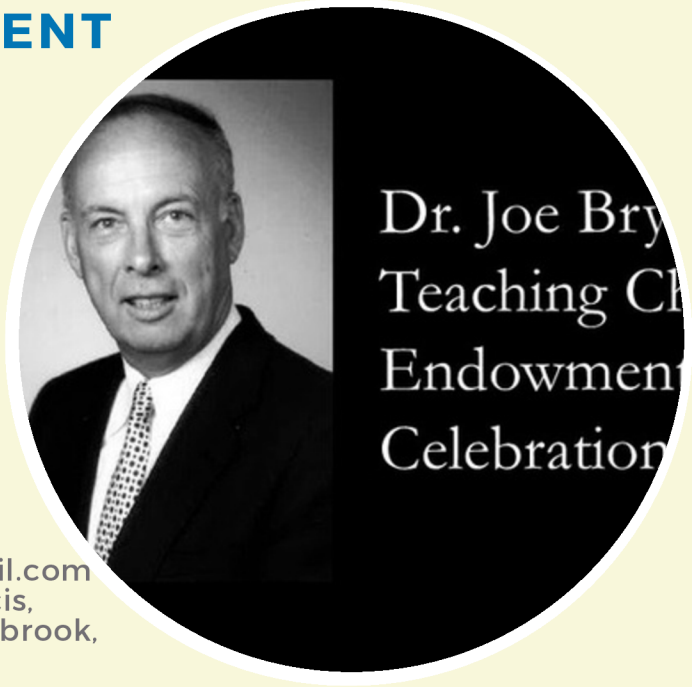






THE EASTMINSTER ENDOWMENT

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: Andy Lowrey feltonlowrey@gmail.com
Also serving: Bert Brannon, Sharon Bryant, Bill Francis, Susan Jones, 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.
  BALANCE 12/31/25: $1,716,388.51
- **Frank and Betty Harden "Reaching out with Love":** Established in memory of Frank and Betty Harden to support Christ's work in perpetuity.
  BALANCE 12/31/25: $86,901.01
- **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. **2025-$19,496.31**: $3,685.00 The Vine Speaker, $8,542.31 E2 Intern Program, $4,281.00 Adult VBS Speaker, $988.00 Small Groups Kick-off Dinner Speaker, $2,000.00 Advent Retreat Speaker
  BALANCE 12/31/25: $1,605,838.92
- **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 12/31/25: $363,439.31
- **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.
  2025- $15,000.00: To offset a partial expense of EPC's steeple painting
  BALANCE 12/31/25: $529,751.05

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 12/31/25: $122,897.17
- **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 12/31/25: $397,383.42
- **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 12/31/25: $125,658.02

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS:

- **Youth:** Established by the church to provide scholarship assistance for youth to attend retreats and mission trips.
  BALANCE 12/31/25: $93,501.37
- **International:** Established by the church to provide support for worthy international students. **2025- $4,o80.77:** Donation to Haiti's FSIL Nursing School Scholarship Fund
  BALANCE 12/31/25: $48,275.27
- **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. **2025- $6,400.00:** Scholarships for EDS students
  BALANCE 12/31/25: $142,518.85
- **Stradtman Memorial Seminary:** Established in memory of Mr. Earl W. Stradtman to provide scholarships for EPC members attending approved PC-USA seminaries. **2025- $1,764.00:** Tuition and Travel Expenses to Austin Theological Seminary
  BALANCE 12/31/25: $25,548.33
- **Wood Seminary**: Established by Gettis and Mary Vin Wood to provide scholarships for EPC members who are attending seminary. **2025- $1,764.00:** Tuition and Travel Expenses to Austin Theological Seminary
  BALANCE 12/31/25: $34,069.84

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 **2025- $6,000.00:** $3,000.00 Two Scholarships for Sozo Missionaries, $3,000.00 Live Oak Counseling Assistance
  BALANCE 12/31/25: $169,651.74

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:
Eleanor Boyd (2026)
eleanordboyd@aol.com

Eastminster Staff Support:
Rev. Emily Mooneyhan, Kristy Stoneburner, Katie Barthel & Janice Blair

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2025:

- Provided regular fellowship and prayer opportunities, with increased communication and visibility, for Men's Ministry with Annual Oyster Roast and weekly Men's Prayer Breakfast.
- Established option to pre pay online for We@EPC dinners.
- Partnered with Trenholm Road and Shandon Methodist churches for Trunk or Treat.
- Extended hospitality and fellowship opportunities by supporting and assisting new PEACE worship services, Blessing of the Animals and Blessing of the Backpacks; and by updating Greeter Sign Up and Training, with over 100 members serving as greeters in our Welcome Centers on Sunday mornings.
- Welcomed 62 new members into the body of Christ through our First Step class, engaged 23 members through our Next Step class series to help integrate them into the life of the church.
- Increased community building through social media with our EPC Ambassador Flag campaign.
- Eastminster Presbyterian Women's ministry continues to provide fellowship, service, prayer, and study opportunities, year-round, inviting all women to participate.

GOALS FOR 2026:

- Establish a churchwide, on site, digital payment system.
- Encourage outreach through partnering with, and inviting, area churches.
- Facilitate community building and outreach through creative use of EPC Ambassador Flag and social media.
- Support our college and senior ministries by sending college care packages and coordinating regular senior activities.
- Recruit at least two "at large" members to Membership and Outreach Committee.

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:
Andy Cameron (2026)
andycam4127@gmail.com

Eastminster Staff Support:
Dr. Douglass Key, Rev. Croskeys Royall, Rev. Rob Schoonover, Andrea Ferree, Emily Higgins, Caroline Bennett, & Janice Blair



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2025:

- ACCESS Ministry Policy and Procedures Manual and Volunteer Handbook created, approved by the Session, and implemented in fall 2025.
- NED approval process for outside speakers and curriculum has been created, communicated, and implemented for fall 2025 and thereafter.
- Huge increase in Sunday evening elementary age participation and substantial increases in middle school participation, leading to the development of the 2026 goal of planning for changes in the scale of children and youth participation.
- Began the Faith Formation Frameworks project to be continued into 2026.

ACCESS
ACCOMMODATING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY
TO ENABLE SPIRITUAL SUPPORT

NURTURE, EDUCATION & DISCIPLESHIP (NED)

GOALS FOR 2026:

- Creating Faith Formation Frameworks with milestones for ages birth to twelfth grade. These frameworks will guide curriculum in Sunday School and all child and youth activities.
- Plan for changes in scale for Elementary, Middle, and High school to include a 2026 budget request for a new assistant for NED ministry
- ACCESS planning for Andrea Ferree's absence, specifically to meet shadowing needs by recruiting two paid people to assist when needed.
- College Ministry will begin small group meetings monthly this fall
- Young Adult Ministry- Rob is working to establish this group to have quarterly meet-ups.



NED CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CANDIDS



















NED YOUTH MINISTRY CANDIDS



















NED ACCESS CANDIDS











NED ADULT MINISTRY CANDIDS



















ACCESS MINISTRY

A Sweet Friendship

DR. DOUGLASS KEY & ANDREA FERREE

ACCESS
ACCOMMODATING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY
TO ENABLE SPIRITUAL SUPPORT



Eastminster's commitment to opening our services, programs and ministries to all of God's children has never been in question. From the Sunshine Sunday school class days through CHAMPS and last year's Eastminster Experience Interns, this congregation has sought to be a place of welcome and belonging for people of all gifts and abilities.

What has proved more elusive is how to talk about this commitment in terms that are not demeaning or stigmatizing. Over the past five years, our ministry with children, youth and adults with "different normals" has been called "Inclusion," "Special Needs," and "Learning Differences"- none of which met the standard of non-stigmatizing, welcome and belonging, accommodating the needs of all of God's children so that we can be a safe and supportive community of faith.

So we are proud to introduce our newly christened "ACCESS" Ministry – Accommodating Christian Community to Enable Spiritual Support. ACCESS describes what our goals and commitments are and encourages an expansive understanding of the barriers we unconsciously erect to full participation in our life of discipleship. We are committed to accommodating the needs of all of God's children so that we can be a safe and supportive community of faith.

Volunteer Sallie Jameson explains, "Working with these young adults has taught me how important it is to find

"A sweet friendship refreshes the soul." - Proverbs 27:9

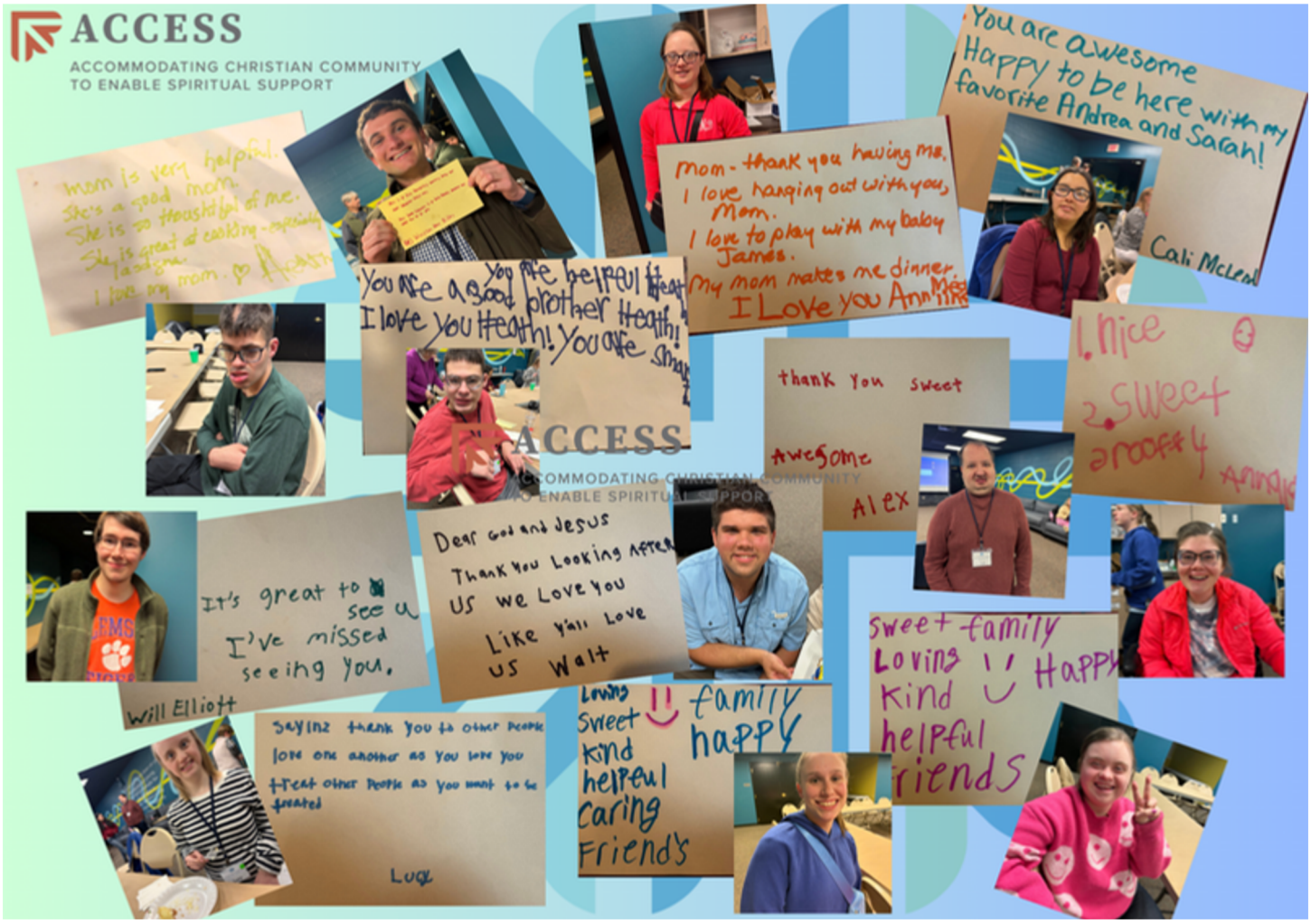
Eastminster Today Magazine - April/May 2025, Pages 16-17

the best in everything, even in the smallest situations, and to realize everyone has a voice. Winnie the Pooh said, 'Sometimes the smallest things take up the most room in your heart.' These young adults love each other. You can see a beautiful smile on their faces as they greet each other at every meeting."

Kit Pound explains how he became an ACCESS volunteer and why he keeps coming back, "I was aware of the ministry for a long time before I decided to volunteer. I did not feel that I had any skills or qualifications to offer, but Andrea Ferree, Dir. of ACCESS, assured me that anyone could help, and encouraged me to give it a try. I am so grateful that she did. Being a part of this ministry is one of the most rewarding ways I have ever served."

Kelley Liggitt, ACCESS parent, says about her daughter Kate's experience, "The ACCESS Ministry is one of the highlights of Kate's month! She loves the fellowship, dinner, and fun Bible-related activities that Andrea and the amazing volunteers have planned each time for them! It is a blessing for me as a parent to see how these church members make these young adults feel so happy and loved!"

To find out more about ACCESS and how you can help, contact Andrea Ferree at aferree@eastminsterpres.org.



FINANCE

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

Leadership:
Finance Chairs:
George Kennedy (2026)
geolkennedy@gmail.com

Eastminster Staff Support:
Alisha Hudson, Christy Rippy, Risa Cuenin & Leslie Swain



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2025:

- Approved South State Bank's proposal to provide a quality yield on EPC operating funds at a rate, subject to change, of 3.5%.
- Worked more closely with Stewardship and Endowment Committees to advance common goals and to create a stronger long-term Endowment Committee investment strategy for the benefit of EPC and the Kingdom of God.
- Conducted 2024 audit.
- Coordinated development of the 2026 church budget.
- Monitored monthly financials.
- Guided other committees responsible for using endowed funds regarding the 2025 spend rate of 4.25%.

GOALS FOR 2026:

- Conduct the 2025 audit
- Coordinate the development of the 2027 church budget
- Monitor the reserve funds for opportunities to increase investment income while maintaining safety
- Closely monitor monthly financials
- Work closely with Stewardship and Endowment committees to advance common goals. A representative of the Finance Committee will attend three meetings of the Stewardship Committee and the Endowment Committee in 2026. We hope that a representative from the Stewardship Committee and a representative from the Endowment Committee will attend three meetings of the Finance Committee in 2026. The goal is to increase communication between the Finance Committee, the Endowment Committee, and the Stewardship Committee for the benefit of all.

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 Co-Chairs: (Geoff relocating in June '26)
Geoff Reabold (2026)
greabold@gmail.com
Lisa Newman (will finish Geoff's term - Class of '26)
newmanfive@earthlink.net

Eastminster Staff Support:
Dr. Brad Smith, Laura Long, Lauren Cunningham & Kelly McGrady

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2025:

- Mission Trips: SOZO Children (Africa) – 12 participants; High School (Bahamas) – 18; Middle School CROSS (Charlotte, NC) – 14; Chiapas, Mexico – 7; NC Hurricane Helene Relief – 57.
- Missionary Support: increased support to 10 missionaries serving in the field.
- CHAMPS: supported 25 students attending summer camp.
- November Hunger Drive: $57k raised for Harvest Hope; 2,963 lbs of food donated during the government shutdown.
- Transitions Ministry: added serving lunch on the third Thursday as a monthly volunteer opportunity.

SOZO CHILDREN

MISSIONS, SERVICE & BENEVOLENCE (MSB)

GOALS FOR 2026:

- Engage with Oliver Gospel Mission: both financially and through increased volunteer involvement.
- Reevaluate CHAMPS Scholarship Program to increase generosity and impact.
- Vet a new short-term mission trip, seeking opportunities that are both meaningful and engaging for our congregation.
- Connect with local mission partners: ensure awareness of EPC support, identify volunteer needs, pray with leadership, and collect key documents.
- Create/Update MSB “How-To” Manual document processes and procedures for continuity and clarity.
- Increase at-large committee members to broaden engagement and participation.
- Expand prison ministry support through exploring opportunities beyond financial contributions.



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 2025!

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 Co-Chairs:
Emma Bryson (2026) &
Bob Staton (2026)
ebryson@brysonfamilylaw.com
bstaton0711@gmail.com

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

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2025:

- Hired Ryan Holcombe, Communications Specialist.
- Promoted Blythe Lewis to Senior Officer of Communications.
- Called Rev. Rob Schoonover, Associate Pastor of Senior High Youth and Their Families.
- Hired Lauren Cunningham as MSB Coordinator.
- Maintain competitive wages for hourly staff (COMPLETED FOR 2025 BUT ONGOING FOR 2026).

GOALS FOR 2026:

- Hire an Assistant Treasurer.
- Hire a Director of Stewardship, Endowment & Planned Giving (Generosity & Special Projects).
- Continue the search for a Pastoral Resident.
- Hire a Jubilee Worship Leader.
- Hire a Creative Specialist.
- Develop and implement a plan to cover the responsibilities of Dr. Ben Sloan.
- Maintain competitive wages for 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:
Sallie Jameson (2026)
sabjameson5@gmail.com

Eastminster Staff Support:
Blythe Lewis, James Cassidy,
Ryan Holcombe & Sarah Glenn Leventis

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2025:

- Expanded brand & virtual presence through updating photos and videos on our website, and increased Social Media engagement, e.g., Ambassador Flag SM Blitz.
- Provided support through ministry partnerships (examples: (W&M) Jubilee worship enhancements via media, regular promotion of key events across all channels.
- Provided efficient outreach through expanding staff- covering bandwidth well with skill-sets, hired Ryan Holcombe as our Communications Specialist (June).

GOALS FOR 2026:

- Encourage collaboration through technology and processes (e.g. Social Media Calendar, Video Announcers Schedule) for better time management.
- Maintain technological currency, adding supporting equipment where needed.
- Extend video library to include additional ministry introductions.
- Utilize metrics in MailChimp and via WordPress to determine views, engagement, and website traffic.
- Hire a Creative Specialist to assist with Social Media, Daily Devotionals, ENews, publications, graphics, writing, and website updates.

AMBASSADOR FLAGS

Where in the World is EPC?- Social Media Blitz

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



CAMP COLE



THE SOUP CELLAR



CHAMPS CAMP



SOZO CHILDREN



MIGRANT MEAL



WEEKLY WEEDERS!



T RANSITIONS



SENIORS MCLEOD FARMS



HS YOUTH BAHAMAS



PROJECT HEAT



MS YOUTH CROSS-NC

SURRENDERING TO OUR SOVEREIGN GOD

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:
Kathleen Muthig (2026)
kathleen.muthig@gmail.com

Eastminster Staff Support:
Rev. Emily Mooneyhan, Dr. Carol Byrd & Kelly McGrady

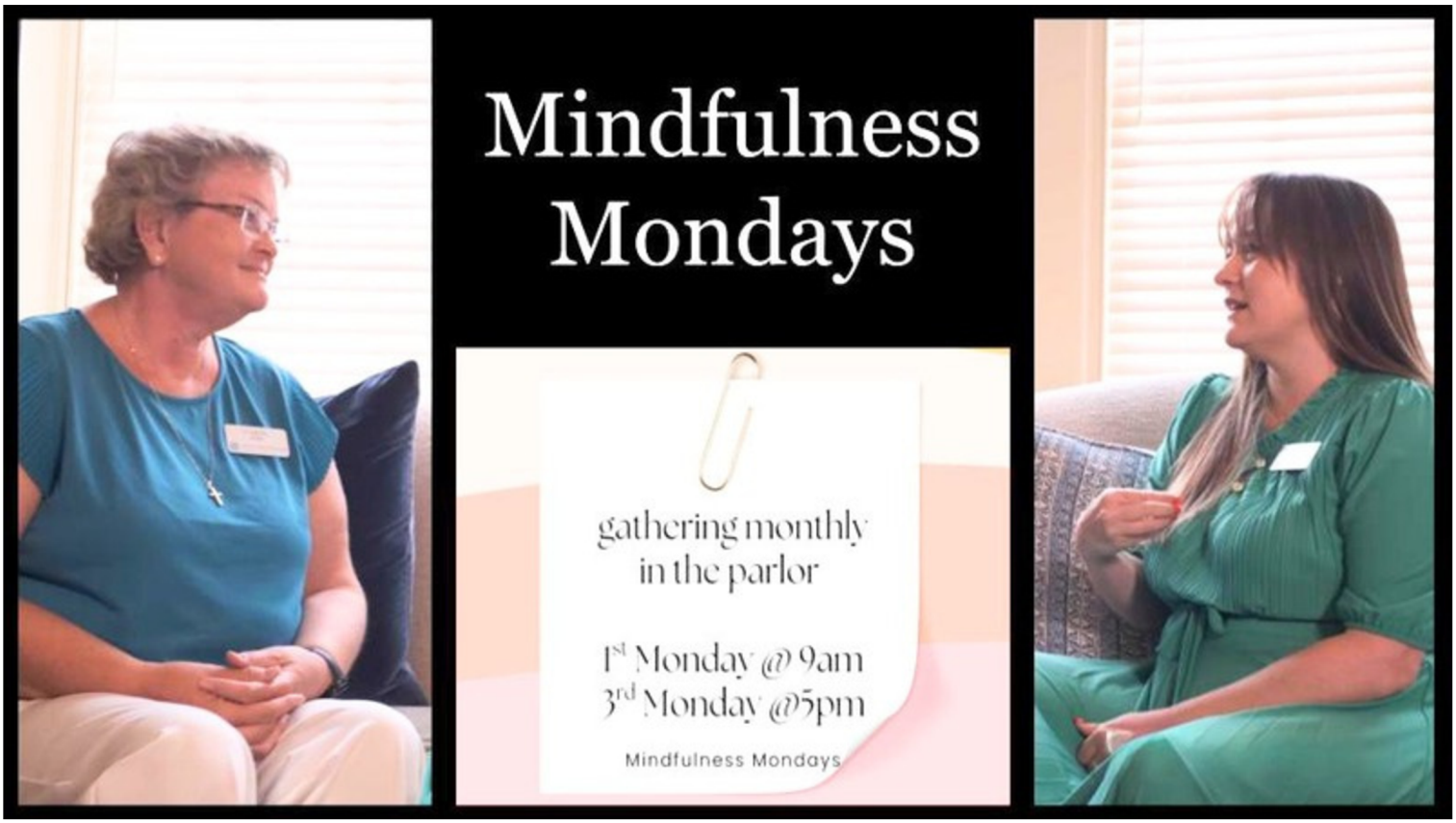
KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2025:

- Continued to offer Holistic Care- twice monthly mindfulness classes, Holy Rest Retreats in spring and fall, We@EPC holistic wellbeing classes, PEACE services for blessing and anointing, and a prayer group to pray over church family prayer card.
- Sorted and inventoried the Free Medical Closet
- Purchased a large, walkable, canvas prayer labyrinth for church use indoors or outdoors.
- Regularly communicated Care opportunities, such as Stephen Ministry, in announcements, from the pulpit, in the bulletin, and on the screens and enews.
- Streamlined communications for reporting care and prayer on our website: www.eastminsterpres.org/ministries/care
- Offered Divorce Care, Cancer Care, and Grief Share support groups to both church members and the larger community.
- Healthy Grief Task Force formed, for the purpose of considering how we might best minister to those among us who are grieving, both in our church family and community.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & CONCERN

GOALS FOR 2026:

- Continue to offer Holistic Care- mindfulness, emotional, spiritual classes; include programming, prayer, worship opportunities; perhaps have a weekly prayer service
- Recruit members for the Congregational Care Committee
- Explore opportunities for congregational care involvement with Pastoral Care visits: hospitals, nursing homes, shut ins
- Facilitate Prayer Matters through Small Groups and Sunday School Classes.
- Add Sunday morning screen time and promotion for Care Ministres: Meal trains, Prayer Matters, plugs for Stephen Ministers.



EPC CARE MINISTRIES INTRODUCES

The Healthy Grief Taskforce

BY DR. CAROL BYRD



Grief is part of the human experience. We have all experienced grief over the loss of family members and close friends, loss of job, loss of pet companions, and so much more. Grief touches every heart.

As Christians, we believe that God draws close to us when we grieve and gives us strength to carry on. We lean on our faith, our friends, our families, and we seek professional help to work through the grief.

The Healthy Grief Taskforce was formed by our Session in June of this year to research the programs and centers in Columbia and the surrounding area that are addressing the needs of those who grieve. We are also exploring programs and centers in other areas of the country that are addressing this vital need. Some of the centers that we have explored are: Good Grief in New Jersey, Kate's Club in Atlanta, The Center for Grieving Children in Maine, and Kinder Mourn in Charlotte.

As we move forward with our research, we are open to the possibility that God might be calling our church to launch a faith-based program to provide support and help to grieving adults and children. It might even be possible to develop a community-wide Grief Center, enlisting the resources of other churches in our area.

There are nine members of the Healthy Grief Taskforce offering their expertise in the areas of clinical, medical, legal, pastoral care, and finance. We are praying to discern God's voice and will. Please be in prayer for us as well. Following this discernment process, the taskforce will return to Eastminster's Session with our findings and recommendations.







CONGREGATIONAL CARE & CONCERN

THE HEALTHY GRIEF TASK FORCE

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & CONCERN

Phase II: Discovery

BY DR. CAROL BYRD



The Healthy Grief Task Force continues to meet monthly to discuss how Eastminster might better meet the needs of church members who are experiencing grief. We were also tasked with a wider vision of exploring ways to address the needs of others in our community, both children and adults, who are grieving the loss of spouses, children, parents, siblings, and others. Currently there is no Grief Center in Columbia or the surrounding area that meets this need on a broader scale.

One of the ongoing programs we discovered in the Columbia area is the Healing Hearts Grief Program, a quarterly, four-week offering at Prisma Children's Hospital (Richland) for children ages 5-18 who have lost a loved one. Another is GriefShare which has been an ongoing, weekly support group at Shandon Baptist Church for many years, offering care for adults going through the grief process. For children in public school settings, guidance counselors offer some support to those children who have experienced the loss of a parent or sibling. Counseling centers such as Live Oak Counseling Center, which we help to support, offer one-on-one counseling as well.

Our current thought is to strengthen our own church's ministries for grieving members. Some of our existing Grief Care resources are: Pastoral Care, Small Groups and Sunday School Classes, Staff, Stephen Ministers and Grief Book packets. In-person resources include GriefShare, led by Rev. Emily Mooneyhan, discussions with Stephen Ministers, and pastoral visits. We also offer home communion, prayer shawls, prayer cards, Food for the Soul, the Peace Service, and Meal Trains to comfort those who grieve.

In January, we'll survey members of all Small Groups and Sunday School Classes to assess which of our resources people have found helpful in their time of grief, as well as what was missing that would have been helpful. With the same or similar survey, letters will be sent to all members who have lost family members over the past three years. We encourage your feedback!



Are you walking through a valley and need someone to walk with you and/or listen to you without judgement? Eastminster's Stephen Ministers would love to meet you. Stephen Ministers are highly trained individuals who provide care for those in crisis. Whether it is the death of a loved one, loss of a job, a divorce, issues with children, or just an overwhelming schedule, contact Rev. Emily Mooneyhan: (803) 256-1654 or emooneyhan@eastminsterpres.org.

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:
Sandy Spann (2026)
spannsh@gmail.com

Eastminster Staff Support:
Dr. Douglass Key, Emmet Hough,
& Caroline Bennett

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2025:

- Maintained a variety of fitness classes- 11 different classes at 18 different times/week- and added Tai Chi, an EPC members-only Pickleball night, and a quarterly Healthy Snack event– all of which increased in attendance.
- Organized and hosted a successful youth basketball season for over 350 boys and girls, 2nd-12th grades.
- Hosted the 3rd annual CLC Open House, which increased membership.
- Re-coated the basketball court.
- Implemented new (non-EPC) CLC patron fees and key fob fees ($75, $25 respectively), as patron memberships continued to climb.

GOALS FOR 2026:

- Implement healthy living classes, such as nutrition/meal planning and cooking classes, and relationship-building opportunities, such as Mahjong.
- Provide two blood drives each year, possibly partnering with TRUMC.
- Consider repurposing lesser-used spaces for a CLC Cafe, Prayer/Meditation Room, and/or Personal Training/Stretching/TRX.
- Add fitness classes, such as yoga/relaxation, cardio/weights, and Fitness 101.
- Gather a resource list for patrons without transportation and other needs; call to check on patrons who haven't been to the CLC after a period of time.

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (CLC) CANDIDS



















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