



EASTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN



EASTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN  
**2025**  
ANNUAL REPORT

GATHERING TOGETHER



REACHING OUT



EASTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

## 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     |
| 2025 Benevolences.....  | 10-11 |
| Financial Information.....                                      | 12-13 |
| Worship & Music.....  | 14-16 |
| Story Highlight: Welcome Rev. Rob Schoonover.....               | 17-18 |
| Ecumenical & Church Relations.....                              | 19    |
| Eastminster Day School.....                                     | 20-22 |
| Safety.....   | 23    |
| Property.....   | 24    |
| Stewardship.....  | 25    |
| Story Highlight: Courtyard Dedication .....                     | 26    |
| The Eastminster Endowment.....                                  | 27-28 |
| Membership & Outreach.....                                      | 29-30 |
| Nurture, Education & Discipleship.....                          | 31-36 |
| Story Highlight: ACCESS Branding.....                           | 37-38 |
| Finance.....  | 39    |
| Missions, Service & Benevolence.....                            | 40-42 |
| Personnel.....  | 43    |
| Communications.....   | 44    |
| Story Highlight: Ambassador Flag Social Media Summer Blitz..... | 45    |
| Congregational Care.....  | 46-47 |
| Story Highlight: The Healthy Grief Taskforce.....               | 48-49 |
| Christian Life Center.....                                      | 50-51 |

# A YEAR IN REVIEW

## A Letter from Your Pastor



**D**ear 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,

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



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

---

## ELECTED ELDERS:

### 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

Becky Airheart  
Eleanor Boyd  
Will Brownlee  
Emma Bryson  
Andy Cameron  
John Hart  
Julie Hudson  
George Kennedy  
George McCutchen  
\*Bob Staton

### CLASS OF 2027

John Arnold  
Elizabeth Barber  
Amy Cain  
Ryan Causey  
Sark Derderian  
Katie Evatt  
Susanne Hicklin  
Harriet Kneece  
Marion Moses  
Laura Twitty

### CLASS OF 2028

Branford Breland  
Yolanda Courie  
Perry Crosthwaite  
Mary Hanna  
Rebecca Hartner  
Susan Jones  
Anne Kleitches  
Kit Pound  
Drew Richardson  
Scott Verzyl

## ELECTED DEACONS:

### 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  
\*Katie Alice Walker  
Kris Whiteside

### CLASS OF 2028

Charlotte Castles  
Mark Chappell  
Kristin DiMarco  
Jim Kitchens  
Stephen Ross  
Parker Sizemore  
Stacy Strong  
Lee Tupper  
Dana Wilson  
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 |

# 2025 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

| <u>INCOME</u>                      | 2025:                 |                       | 2024:                 |                       |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|                                    | 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  | <u>\$178,513.81</u>   | <u>\$109,250.00</u>   | <u>\$112,514.33</u>   | <u>\$110,150.00</u>   |
| <b><u>TOTAL INCOME</u></b>         | <b>\$5,578,364.81</b> | <b>\$5,179,172.00</b> | <b>\$4,904,014.32</b> | <b>\$4,886,760.00</b> |
| <br>                               |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| <u>EXPENSES</u>                    |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| 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                    | <u>\$0.00</u>         | <u>\$0.00</u>         | <u>\$20,000.00</u>    | <u>\$20,000.00</u>    |
| <b><u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u></b>       | <b>\$4,957,664.86</b> | <b>\$5,179,172.00</b> | <b>\$4,677,969.52</b> | <b>\$4,886,760.00</b> |
| <br>                               |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| <b><u>TOTAL NET INCOME</u></b>     | <b>\$620,699.95</b>   | <b>\$0.00</b>         | <b>\$226,044.80</b>   | <b>\$0.00</b>         |

\* 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        | <u>109,250.00</u>     | <u>192,250.00</u>     | <u>75.97%</u> |
| <b>Total Budgeted Income</b> | <b>\$5,179,172.00</b> | <b>\$5,460,337.00</b> | <b>5.43%</b>  |

## 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                           | <u>0.00</u>           | <u>20,000.00</u>      | <u>100.00%</u> |
| <b>Total Budgeted Expenses:</b>   | <b>\$5,179,172.00</b> | <b>\$5,460,337.00</b> | <b>5.43%</b>   |

\*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.



## 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*

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

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



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

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.



## 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

**INJOY**  
*Stewardship Solutions™*



## 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

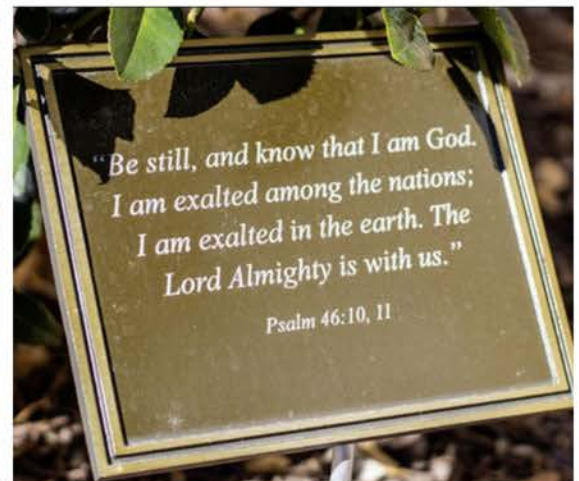
### COMMUNICATIONS



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.

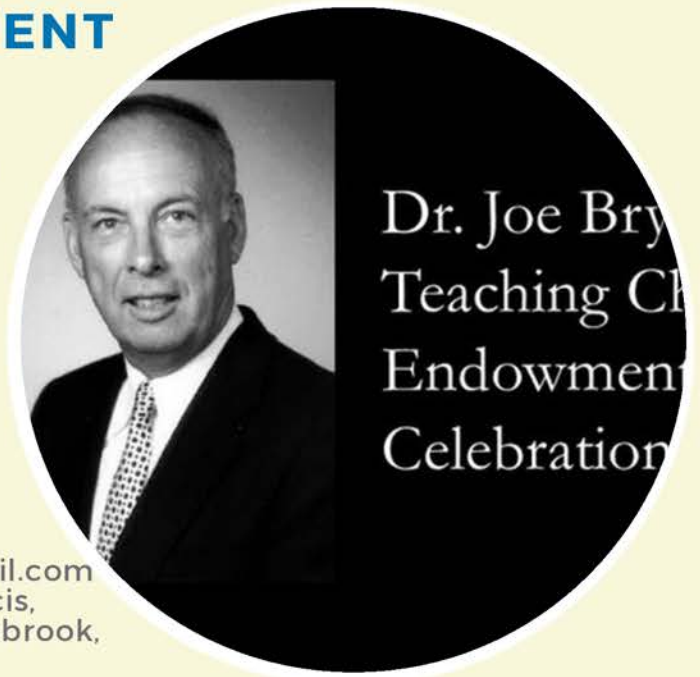


# THE EASTMINSTER ENDOWMENT

**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- \$4,080.77:** 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



## 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.

**SUNDAY PM MUSIC & MORE 5:00 - 6:30 PM**



 CHILDREN

**STARTS JANUARY 11! - MRS. STEFANIE & PASTOR CROSKEYS**

# 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



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*

# ACCESS MINISTRY

## A Sweet Friendship

DR. DOUGLASS KEY & ANDREA FERREE



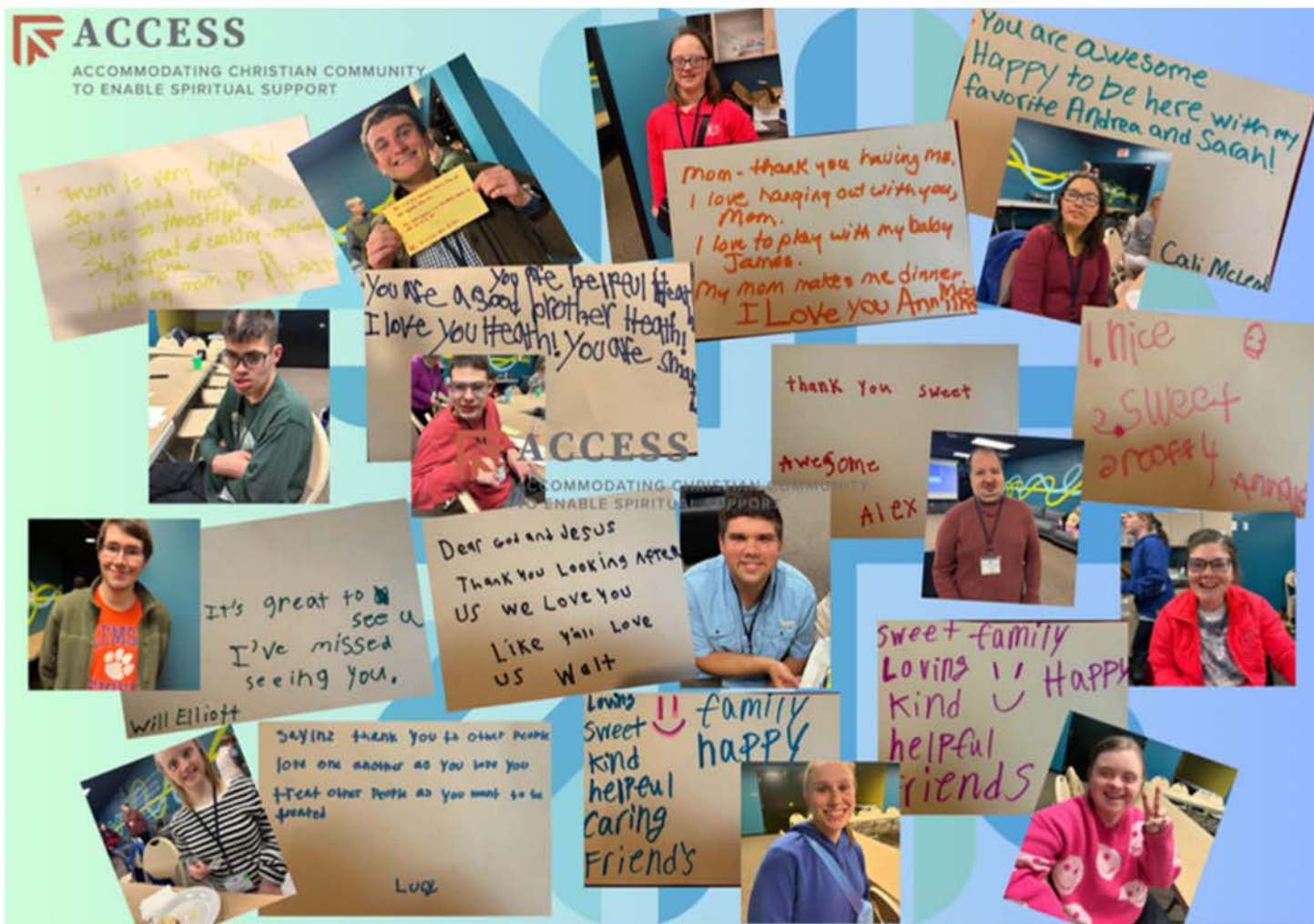
ACCOMMODATING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY  
TO ENABLE SPIRITUAL SUPPORT

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 [afferree@eastminsterpres.org](mailto:afferree@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.



# 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 R A N S I T I O N S



S E N I O R S M C L E O D F A R M S



H S Y O U T H B A H A M A S



P R O J E C T H E A T



M S Y O U T H C R O S S - N C



# 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



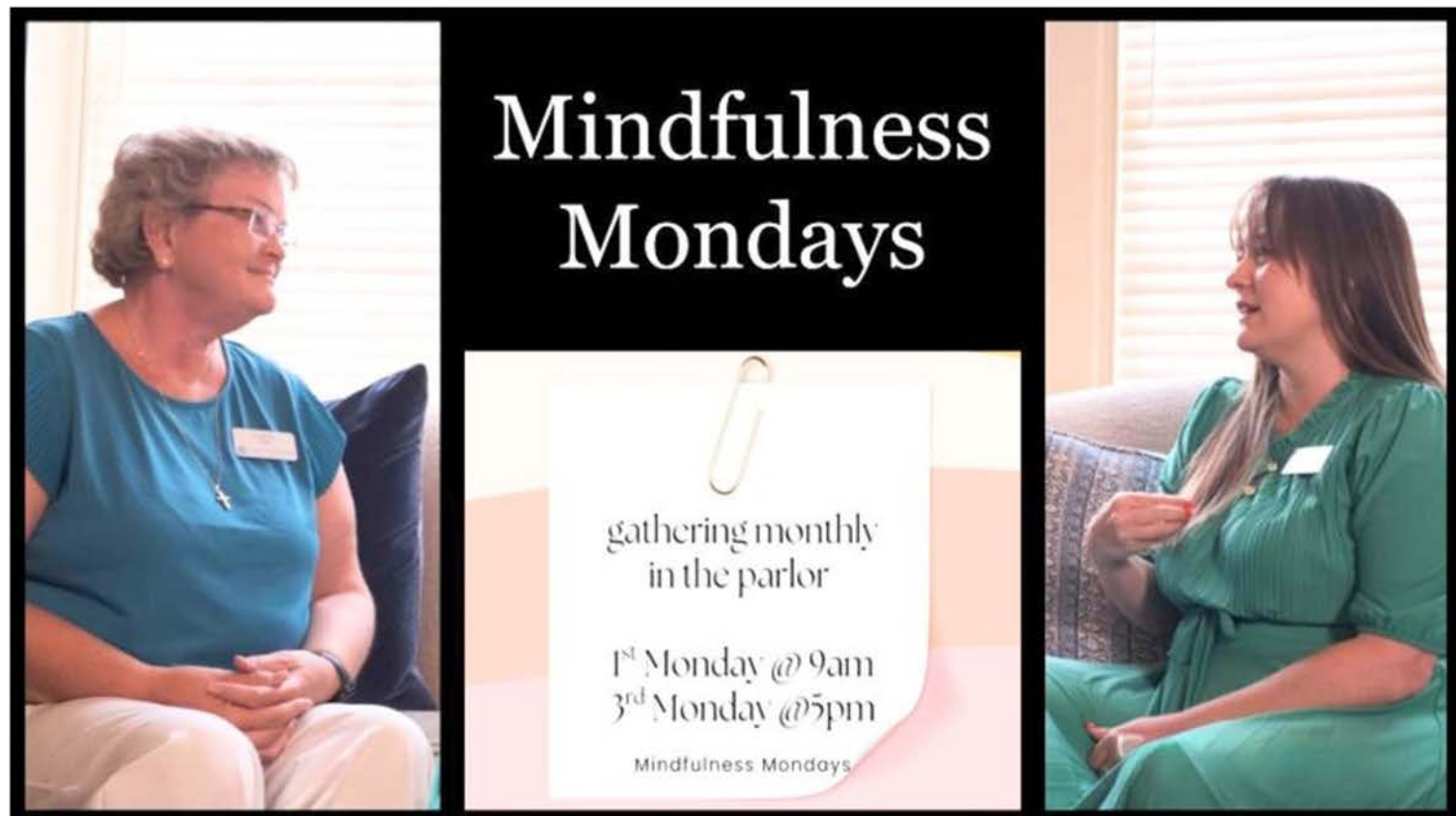
## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2025:

- 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](http://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.



## 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.



**JOIN US FOR  
Lectio Divina**  
WE@EPC PM CLASS  
10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22 & 10/29  
6-7 PM  
Rev. Emily Mooneyhan  
Room C - 265

MEDITATE, REFLECT & REFOCUS ON GOD

## Phase II: Discovery

BY DR. CAROL BYRD



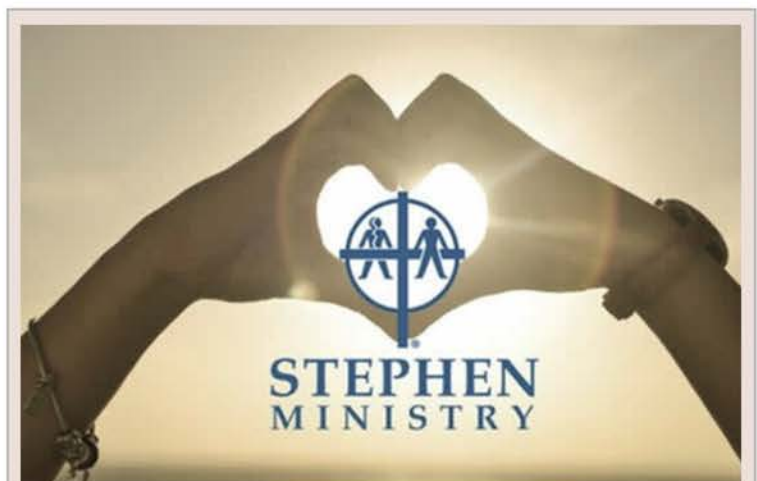
The Healthy Grief Task Force continues to meet monthly to discuss how Eastminster might better meet the needs of church members who are experiencing grief. We were also tasked with a wider vision of exploring ways to address the needs of others in our community, both children and adults, who are grieving 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](mailto: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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