

Eastminster Eagle

Volume 41, Issue 4

April 2024

Dear Eastminster members and friends,

April showers bring May flowers. As I write this, I hear a lovely shower outside my window and the gentle swishing of cars on the street. I know my wife is happy because she has been busy preparing her garden and planting seeds. You can do all the prep work, but without water it won't matter. Of course, we use our sprinklers to water, but it's pretty expensive. Rain is a free gift of God's grace!

March is a time for planting seeds. We engage people and invite them to events at the church, especially Easter Sunday. You may have noticed that we are starting to have some new plants springing up (new people—in case you aren't following me!). These new people did not come from nowhere. Seeds were planted. They were invited by someone in the congregation. But planting seeds is not where the work of a gardener ends.

Now we water. We nourish the new seedlings with lots of love. Perhaps it seems like an awful lot of work to grow a church, but we are not alone in it. From time to time, God gives us rain. Ultimately, it's his garden. He just put us in it to tend it. But God is in charge of the rain and the sunshine, which is what plants need to grow. Part of our job is to trust that God is doing things with people that have nothing to do with our effort. God is pouring out grace into people all the time whether we know it or not.

We have our part to play. We tend the soil, plant seeds, weed, prune, and water during dry times. April is a time for watering and trusting that if we are faithful in our task, God will always be faithful in bringing fruit. We hope that many new people will have attended services and events at the church in March, and now we water. What does that mean?

We don't just say, "We hope to see you again next Easter!" We begin relationships with people. We listen to the stories of their lives. We pray for them. We help them with whatever they are dealing with if we can. We become sources of encouragement and acceptance for them.

Two things that nobody gets enough of in this hard soiled world are good listening and encouragement. Listening is a way of watering people. Being heard is a rare and wonderful gift. It helps people to know that they matter. And when you

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listen to people don't just say, "Well good luck with all that." Encourage them. People get all the discouragement they can handle from people and circumstances, but they rarely get encouragement. Encouragement is like a rain shower in April. By listening and encouraging you will see withered, wilting people begin to bloom. Through them and by God's grace we will see our church bloom.

Ah what a beautiful world it will be in May, if we shower our neighbors with the love of Christ in April!

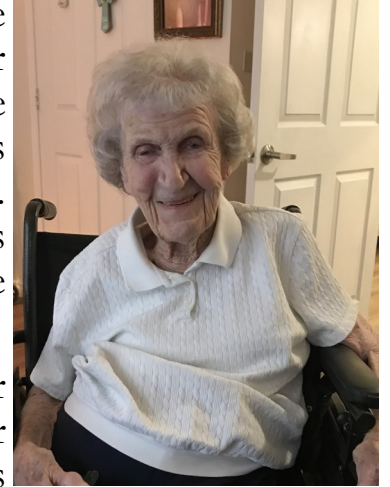
Yours with love,
Pastor Paul



In the Spotlight

BETTYE CLARK,
Valued Longtime Member

As a teenager and young adult, Bettye was a member of Exposition Park Presbyterian Church, along with Jimmy and Susie Fielding. Exposition Park merged with Calvary Presbyterian, and later, Calvary merged with Meneely Presbyterian, and the name became Eastminster Presbyterian, making Bettye one of the charter members along with Jimmy and Susie. Bettye is an elder who has served many times on the session.



One of the things I never knew about Bettye was her love of dancing. Her eyes light up as she recalls good times dancing and winning trophies!

When she went to work for Mobil Oil Company in the tax department, she would take two weeks for vacation. Along with Dot Hixson and Susie Fielding, Bettye used some of that time to teach Bible School each summer. She retired from Mobil after 34 years. After retiring, Bettye met friends at the pool to exercise almost every morning. She was faithful in supporting and working in the church long after retirement, and it has been said that she could make the prettiest bows of any size for packages!

Bettye was born on September 12, 1929. She has two children who were raised in our church, Robert, and Cathy, and three beautiful granddaughters, Carolyn, Cathryn, and Lauren. Bettye said that she feels Eastminster is the most loving church, and she really likes our new Pastor Paul!

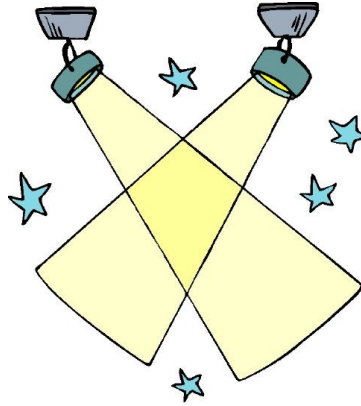
Take a break from your daily schedule and run by for a bit and say hello to Bettye. Her smile will make your day!

SEAN TALLEY

If you have not met our newest Eastminster member, then what are you waiting for? Sean Talley has been working within our programs for several months now, and finally made it official as a new member. He is a regular in Saturday morning breakfast, serving and visiting with guests. Whatever is happening within the church, you will find Sean in the middle of it, helping.

Sean is a native Dallasite, born on December 28, 1992. He attended North Mesquite High School and graduated from W. W. Samuell in 2011. He served in the Marine Corps, attached to the 2nd Battalion 14th Marine regiment.

In his spare time, Sean enjoys target practice at the shooting range, music, movies, good conversations about anything, and helping people.

*KATHLEEN SEYMOUR*

★ She's Back!

We welcome home a member of Eastminster from long ago, Kathleen Seymour. Kathleen and her family joined Eastminster in the mid-1970s, but they later left the Dallas area.

Though moving back to Dallas in 2001, Kathleen has now returned home to Eastminster, and we are so happy to see her!

Kathleen was born on October 29th, in Dallas. She has three children who were in Sunday school while they were members, Brian, Steven, and Jennifer, and now, nine grandchildren to enjoy.

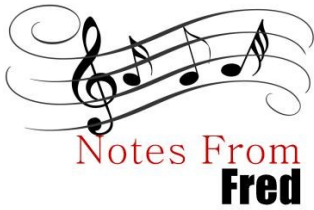
In her careers, Kathleen went to work at IBM, using her degree in Business Administration and accounting. In her 40s, she felt called to become a nurse, and with that degree, specializing in counseling, she later worked with domestic violence cases and child abuse cases as a court advocate. She has been retired since 2016, but she can still speak her peace when she is enthusiastic about an issue.

Her favorite vacation was to the Grand Tetons and Lake Jenny, and it is on her bucket list to return to that beautiful spot! She has many hobbies that include gardening, cooking, fishing, playing dominoes, and working jigsaw puzzles. For an interesting visit, give Kathleen a call!



He is such a welcome gift from God! Make it a point to meet Sean. It will bless your day!





During an evangelistic campaign in New York, the boat on which Phoebe Palmer was traveling began to sink.

When she and her companions broke into song, a fellow passenger exclaimed, "There are Methodists here!" The "people called Methodists" have always been famous for their singing, particularly congregational singing. Congregational singing was far more important to Methodist worship than choirs, instrumental music, or "special songs." Congregational singing is also one of the cornerstones in Presbyterian worship, and at Eastminster, we include it as part of the liturgy (the work of the people) hymns, spirituals, and songs in each service.

John Wesley was known for his preaching and Charles Wesley, his brother wrote hymns which were considered second only to the Sermons of John. Many of Charles hymns are in our *Glory to God* hymnal. Just thumb through the index under composers and lyrics and you will see how many.

But sadly, today, in many congregations, congregational singing is not that strong. Such was also the case in some of Wesley's congregations during his lifetime. So he came up with some directions for singing, and these are still appropriate for us today. Remember you do not have to be a good singer to be a good hymn, song, spiritual singer. Just remember to Whom we are singing this statements of belief, prayers, and praise. So just sing!

1. Learn these tunes before you learn any others; afterward, learn as many as you please. In Wesley's time a hymn tune was

used to sing several different hymns. Hymns are a form of poetry so in those times, different hymns were set to the same music.

Even in Wesley's time this was not a call to only sing "the old songs" but we have large body of hymns in our *Glory To God* Hymnal that range many styles from ancient music to current "praise songs."

2. Sing them exactly as they are printed here, without altering or mending them. Wesley noticed that many people learned their religious beliefs through hymns, so he wanted hymn writers to ensure that their texts aligned with the doctrine and beliefs of their denomination. Today, hymnals like *Glory to God* have committees made up of ministers, hymn/songwriters, and musicians who carefully select content that is in line with their denomination's beliefs.

3. Sing all. See that you join the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not a single degree of weakness or weariness hinder you. If it is a cross to you, take it up, and you will find it a blessing. In other words, there is no excuse not to sing.

4. Sing lustily and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. Be no more afraid of your voice now, nor more ashamed of its being heard, than when you sang the songs of Satan.

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Congregational singing is often a reasonable barometer for the enthusiasm of the church for worship. Enthusiastic singing does not prove spiritual life, but congregations that sing "as if they were half dead" very often are, in fact, half dead.

5. Sing modestly. Do not bawl, so as to be heard above or distinct from the rest of the congregation, that you may not destroy the harmony; but strive to unite your voices together, so as to make one clear melodious sound.

The phrase "Sing modestly" complements the previous instruction to "Sing lustily." This means that worshippers should sing with confidence and unity. Congregational singing should reflect the principle of the unity of the church, with everyone singing together as one body. The goal of every church should be to create a great "congregational choir" that raises a united voice in praise to God.

6. Sing in time. Whatever time is sung, be sure to keep with it. Do not run before or stay behind it, but attend close to the leading voices and move therewith as exactly as you can. Take care not to sing too slow.

Sometimes, especially when we are singing an unfamiliar hymn, this may happen, and that's ok, but ordinarily follow the choir. The "Directory for Worship" in our *Book of Order* states that the choir is to support and lead congregational singing. They, along with the accompanist, work together to lead the congregation.

7. Above all, sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. In order to

do this, attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve here, and reward you when he cometh in the clouds of heaven.

Wesley's exhortation to "sing spiritually" underscores the significance of congregational singing as a spiritual practice rather than merely an aesthetic one. Therefore, it is crucial to regularly evaluate the lyrics we sing and reflect on whether they truly reflect our beliefs and values. If they align with our principles but not with our actions, we should strive to live in accordance with the truth we are singing.

Just sing! Even if you can't carry a tune in the old bucket, you can mouth the words as they are being sung, and at the very least as the hymn, song, or spiritual is being sung read the text as the congregation sings.





February 23-25 Women's Retreat at Camp Gilmont

What a fun weekend the 5 of us had! Christine Blair, Philis Knox, Vicki Cook, Lorna Almas, and Kathy Kreger attended the First Presbyterian Church, Garland Women's Retreat, February 23-25. The theme for the weekend was Pillars of Strength. We learned about women who served as Pillars in our lives, we met in groups of 2-3 to share stories and talked about women and others who have been pillars of strength for us. Jennifer Rigoulot gave us a ride up to Chapel Hill. We went shopping in Gladewater, enjoyed a Taizé Worship Service, and ended Saturday night with Karaoke. Our cabin was Dogwood. We laughed so much this weekend. We had good conversations in the car ride down (thank you, Lorna, for letting us go in your car). Kathy and Vicki threatened to get duct tape for the 3 in the back seat! We discovered on Saturday that a way to keep Philis quiet is to give her some ice cream. Everyone else was quiet with soft drinks and tea. (thanks, Vicki, for the drinks and ice cream) But overall, we all had lots of good belly laughs and sharing over the

weekend. On our way home we stopped for a wonderful lunch in Canton.

Feel free to ask any of us about the weekend. We would invite other women in the church to join us next year.

SURROUNDED!

On April 28th at 5:00 pm, the Eastfield Early Brass Ensemble will perform in our Sanctuary. The ensemble will play brass from both the Chancel area and the Choir Loft, creating a unique and beautiful sound. This year, the Brass will be joined by the combined choirs of Eastminster and St. Mark, making it an even more



glorious experience. The brass group gets its name because they meet at 7:30 a.m. to rehearse. They play music from the early periods to today.

Last year's program included some fun music, as well as a terrific reception sponsored by the Congregational Care Committee. It was an opportunity to visit with players from the brass group, other visitors, and members from our congregation, all gathered in conversation. After the program join us at the reception!

Don't miss this year's performance on Sunday, April 28th at 5:00 PM. It will be worth your time and effort and is sure to lift your spirits!

Neighborhood Breakfast Eastminster Presbyterian

*Saturday Morning Breakfast
10th Anniversary Celebration*



On April 6, we will be celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Saturday Morning Neighborhood Breakfast. Blair and Lewis saw the potential and made it happen. We've served over 50,000 people in those 10 years.

We may have some special menu items that Saturday. We also want to honor everyone who has ever volunteered with particular attention to those who have died. We will also honor the two other churches that have been right there helping us every month: Christian Stronghold and Greater Life. Their generosity, consistency, and good cheer has helped make Saturday mornings even more fun.

Blair is working on a brief history and memorials and we may have some other surprises too.

Please! Please! Please! Plan on attending either to serve, celebrate, just eat breakfast, or all three. We're hoping our church friends will show up for us like they have since day one.

It's special and it's come to be such an example and symbol of who we are as a church community and church family.

April 6: any time between 7:45 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. More will be announced as we get closer.

Tom

Narcan and AEDs

We have purchased a supply of Narcan in case of an emergency drug seizure. It is extremely simple to administer and it saves lives.

We also have the AED (portable defibrillator) available for use in cardiac emergencies. It is also extremely simple to use. It saves lives.

In the upcoming months, we will publish diagrams telling us where they can be found. We will also be giving a brief instructional so that everyone knows how to administer Narcan or use the AED in an emergency. The instructional will only last 10-12 minutes. If you have questions, you can ask anyone on the House & Property or Outreach Committees.

Please take the 10 minutes. While you may never have to use these two things, if you learn how to administer them you could save a life.

Tom



What does the newly risen Jesus tell his disciples — twice — when he appears in the locked room where they are hiding?

- A. “Love one another as I have loved you.”
- B. “Peace be with you.”
- C. “The last shall be first and the first shall be last.”
- D. “I am risen!”



Answer: B (See John 20:19, 21.)



What did pirates call Noah's boat?
“The arrrrrrrk.”

How are toddlers and those who attempted to build a tower to Heaven similar?
They all babble.

What kind of lighting did Noah have onboard the ark?
Floodlights

What do we have that Adam didn't?
Ancestors

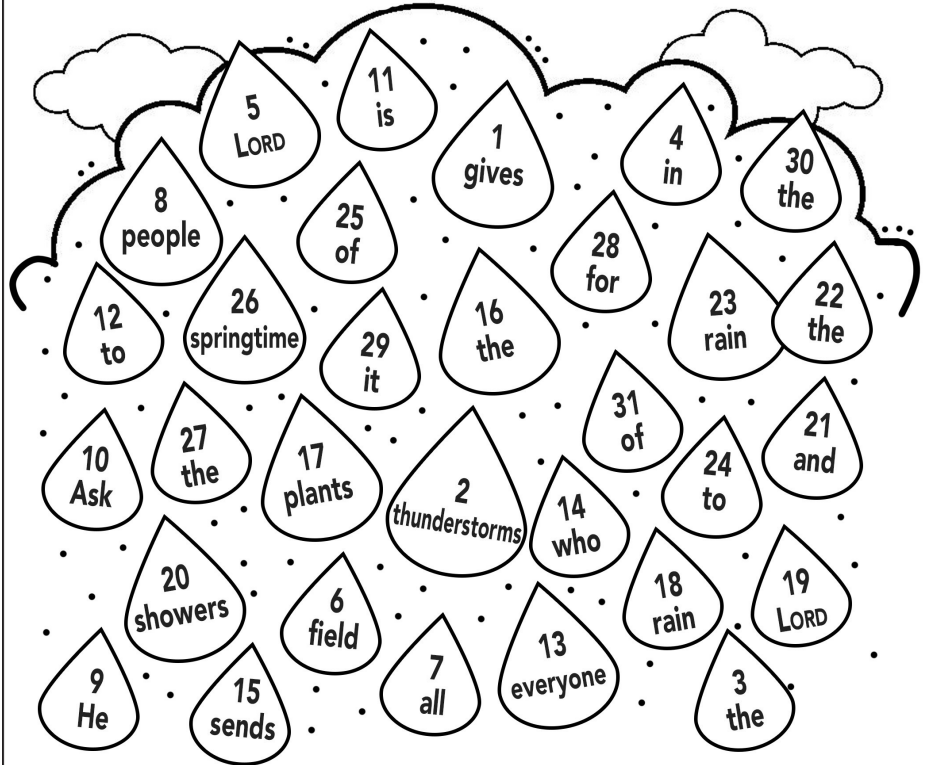
Where was Solomon's Temple located?
On the side of his head.

Scripture Readings for April

1	Exod. 12:14–27	11	Exod. 16:10–22	21	Exod. 28:1–4, 30–38
2	Exod. 12:28–39	12	Exod. 16:23–36	22	Exod. 32:1–20
3	Exod. 12:40–51	13	Exod. 17:1–16	23	Exod. 32:21–34
4	Exod. 13:3–10	14	Exod. 18:1–12	24	Exod. 33:1–23
5	Exod. 13:1–2, 11–16	15	Exod. 18:13–27	25	Exod. 34:1–17
6	Exod. 13:17–14:4	16	Exod. 19:1–16	26	Exod. 34:18–35
7	Exod. 14:5–22	17	Exod. 19:16–25	27	Exod. 40:18–38
8	Exod. 14:21–31	18	Exod. 20:1–21	28	Lev. 8:1–13, 30–36
9	Exod. 15:1–21	19	Exod. 24:1–18	29	Lev. 16:1–19
10	Exod. 15:22–16:10	20	Exod. 25:1–22	30	Lev. 16:20–34

Puzzle!

Complete a Bible verse about spring by writing the word from each raindrop on the correct numbered line below.



“The cross is both the symbol of our salvation and the pattern of our lives.”

—Brennan Manning

“Blossom by blossom the spring begins.”

—Algernon C. Swinburne

“If you are ignorant of God’s Word, you will always be ignorant of God’s will.”

—Billy Graham

“Do something you really love in the most adventurous place you can and make sure it helps other people.”

—Diane Sawyer

“We ourselves are not masters of our own ability and knowledge. They, like our talents and health, are a loan presented for our use. We must live as people who know that such temporary possessions are not true belongings and that we must give account for our management of them.”

—Albert Schweitzer

“Our God is not a God who discards what he has made, who is defeated by sin and evil. Our God is a redeeming God, a God who is determined to reclaim his fallen world, setting it free from its enslavement to corruption and bringing it to a final state of glory.”

—Douglas J. Moo, *Creation Care*

10 16 5 28 18

4 22 _____ ;

29 11 3 19 14 15

_____ 27 _____ 2

9 1 20 31 23

12 7 8 21 17 25

30 6 24 13

Zechariah 10:1, NIV

Answer: Ask the LORD for rain in the springtime; it is the LORD who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone. Zechariah 10:1, NIV

Saturday Morning Breakfast

Tom Pappas

	Servers	Guests	Total
2/17	15	56	71
2/24	21	69	90
3/2	11	74	85
3/9	11	74	85
3/16	21	70	91

Another month has gone by and our numbers continue to increase. Weather has been unpredictable: Cold, warm, sunny, rainy. We saw it all this month.

The regular crew continues to consistently show up and help. Christine, Darlene, Jim, Blair, John, Sean, Ivan, Dedee, Bill, Reggie, and me. We can always use another set of hands or two. Everybody brings all their skills and quirks to the job, but we all get along. Other church members are coming and helping as well. Even if you can only come one Saturday a month, we can really use you and I think you'll have lots of fun.

Many of guests have become more like family. The Union Gospel Mission crew make 2 bus transfers to get here, and they are as regular as clockwork. Some of our

“housing challenged” people make it every Saturday and get their friends there too. We also see a lot of people from the surrounding neighborhood (particularly Buckner Terrace) as well as three or four families every week.

We look forward to seeing you Saturday!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

April 6, Celebration of the Eastminster Neighborhood Breakfast, come and go between 7:45 and 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

April 28, 5:00 pm: The Eastfield Early Brass Ensemble with the Eastminster and St. Mark Choirs will perform in the Sanctuary.

Pleasant Grove Food Pantry for month of February, 2023

Date	Families	Adults	Seniors	Children	Total Persons	Pounds
5-Feb	211	339	135	246	720	8363
6-Feb	304	610	152	479	1241	11920
12-Feb	209	340	135	259	734	8072
13-Feb	299	609	157	453	1219	11352
19-Feb	150	230	106	155	491	6070
20-Feb	275	523	154	388	1065	10538
26-Feb	219	374	135	262	771	7040
27-Feb	248	472	149	353	974	7664
Totals	1915	3497	1123	2595	7215	71019





APRIL

Birthdays

Kelsey Whitlow	4/1
Frank Karlen, Sr.	4/4
Cary Blair	4/5
Brittney Bennett	4/6
Deidre Maples	4/12
Charles Blair, Jr.	4/13
Danny Wood	4/15
Talat Robert	4/18



Eastminster Session

Chandra Anderson
 Melody Davis
 Philis Knox
 Dick Knox
 Tom Pappas
 Sean Turner
 Fred Watkins
 Patience Uche
 Darlene West



APRIL

Anniversaries

Beverly & Roy Ridley 4/22



APRIL



Pastor	Rev. Dr. Paul Burns
Director of Music	Fred P. Watkins
Organist	Melody S. Davis
Administrative Assistant	Chandra Anderson
Hostess/Housekeeper	Minerva Hernandez
Child Care Provider	Betty Crabtree





GOD
HEARS
YOUR
PRAYERS