

# Eastminster Eagle

Volume 40, Issue 10

October 2023

Dear Eastminster Members and Friends,

The picture below features me and a statue of John Knox taken at the St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh, Scotland (UK). John Knox facilitated the Protestant Reformation in Scotland. In Knox's perspective, one of the keys to reformation was Biblical literacy and education in general. He lobbied to make education free for Scotland. How can you read the Bible if you can't read?



As you can see in this picture to the left, John Knox and I are serious about learning the Bible.

Beginning October 4th I will lead a study on the Gospel of Matthew called "Making Jesus My Teacher for Life." We will meet on Wednesdays at 10:30 am in the Session/Conference Room. Matthew contains more teachings of Jesus than any of the other Gospels—one such teaching is the Sermon on the Mount. If we are going to follow Jesus, we need to know his teachings.

Something you should know about the way I lead a Bible study is that we will always be focused on concrete application of the scripture. As Presbyterians we love to gain knowledge of the Bible and just about anything having to do with truth. However, this will not be an academic study of Matthew. It will be a practical study. We will learn how to live the teaching of Jesus. We will have rich discussion not just about the scripture, but about our own personal walk with Jesus. Think of me as less of a teacher and more as your coach. No pushups or laps! But, there will be some challenging assignments to take with you.

Our purpose will be to grow in our discipleship and relationship with Jesus, the Father, and the Holy Spirit. I hope so many of you will join me that we have to abandon the Session/Conference Room and move to the Fellowship Hall!

John Knox and I will be eagerly awaiting your participation!

With a smiling face,  
Pastor Paul

"Making Jesus My Teacher for Life."  
Weekly Bible Study beginning  
Wednesday, October 4th at 10:30



## Notes From Fred

### Beer Hall Song meets religious text, maybe or maybe not.

Reformation Sunday is on October 31st. We will once again sing the great hymn of the Reformation: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*. This is hymn 275 in the *Glory to God Hymnal*. It is the best-known hymn of a large body of congregational hymns that Martin Luther wrote and his most ecumenical.

You may have heard Luther's story. There are many biographies and films of the Roman Catholic monk and some highlights of his life. During his studies, he came to believe that the Church of Rome was corrupt. On October 31, 1517, he posted his now famous 95 theses on the door of the Wittenberg Church hoping to stimulate some debate. In 1521, Luther broke with Rome and refused to retract his writings before the Diet of Worms (a kind of Catholic Court). Soon after, Luther was recognized as the leader of the German Reformation.

Luther was blessed with several skills: writer, translator, preacher, and amateur musician. His thirty-seven hymns stand alongside his theological writings and his translation of the Bible into German as testaments to his creativity and intellectual ability.

United Methodist Hymnal editor Carlton R. Young summarizes well Luther's contribution to hymnody: he "wrote several original hymns and melodies, revised many Latin hymns to German texts set to adaptations of plainsong and folk melodies, and encouraged the composition of new texts and rhythmic hymn melodies. His thirty-seven hymns and paraphrases are cast in simple, plain, and sometimes rough phrases and striking metaphors, qualities that are for the most part lost in English translations." One Hundred English-language versions of Luther's hymns

exist. In 1853 an American Unitarian minister, Frederick Henry Hedge (1805-1890) made the translation that appears in most modern hymnals. The German version of the hymn is a metrical paraphrase of Psalm 46 and contains some embedded Christological images.

Finally, we get to the popular notion among many who state that Luther (and John and Samuel Wesley) went into bars to find congregational tunes. Yes, Luther, John Wesley, and Samuel Wesley composed or used musical settings that were the musical styles of their day. Yes, Luther liked his beer, but the original music for *A Mighty Fortress* is in a Renaissance folk style.

It is a much livelier version of the tune *Ein Feste Burg*. I once used it with the youth choir at FPC Dallas and the congregation loved it. Perhaps sometime we may try it here. Most likely the reason people associated the tune as a bar tune is Luther's use of a music format called "Bar Form" (AAB) so with Luther's admitted attendance to some bars of his time it is easy to see where the idea that Luther used a bar song from one of his favorite hangout spots. So, no it is not a bar tune.

It is my hope that you will take a few moments to read the text and understand the references so that we sing with knowledge as we praise God.

## House & Property

Fall is in the air. Yahoo!  
The Eastminster  
Workday will be Saturday,  
October 7th from 10 am-  
1:00 pm. Please come  
and help.

### *Accomplishments in August and September:*

- ♦ The popcorn ceiling in the choir room was removed and painted. The lower portions of the column at the exterior doors to the sanctuary were sealed and painted. The interior side of the sanctuary doors were stained. A pullout drawer in pastor's office was repaired. Loose wood trim on the backs of the sanctuary pews was repaired. The total cost was \$2,900. The work was performed by Victor Zarate.
- ♦ Replaced burned out bulbs in hallway.
- ♦ Replaced a capacitor for the condensing unit serving the toddler room.
- ♦ Replaced one sprinkler head and repaired a leaky valve in the sprinkler system.
- ♦ Plan to add 3 security lights to the west parking lot between the kitchen and the office windows. Cost is \$875.00. Waiting for cooler weather to do this installation.
- ♦ Treated the sanctuary sewer drain line with root killer.

### *Fall Workday is October 7th from 10 am-1:00 pm:*

- ♦ Clean the lenses on the lights;
- ♦ Clean out attic area above the kitchen;
- ♦ Organize maintenance closet;
- ♦ Caulk and paint circular window above kitchen in the attic;



- ♦ Adjust exit door to playground;
- ♦ Add gutter guards; and
- ♦ Deep clean the sanctuary.

You can help! Pick up trash that you see in and around the building. Turn off lights if you know you are the last to leave a room. Let the House and Property Committee know if you see something that doesn't look right or is not working properly. Let's all share in the stewardship of God's house.

Blessings,

Blair Garrett, Chairman

House and Property Committee:  
Bruce Turner, Katie Karlen and Jo  
Byrd, Members

### ***THANK YOU! THANK YOU!***

Thanks to those who brought us meals while I was still on restricted movement!

Thanks to those who were prepared to bring us more meals but didn't get to due to my recovery and ability to cook again!

Thanks to those who called, texted, and sent emails!

We are humbled by your generosity, concern, prayers, and encouragement!

Shirlene and I thank you again!

It is a wonderful feeling to know this is a caring, loving family that puts their faith in action.

May God continue to bless all of you and our ministries!

Fred





## Step Out of Your Boat!

### *STEP OUT OF YOUR BOAT!*

*Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" Matthew 14:31*

As people of faith, we understand that stewardship is not about a season, dates blocked out on our calendars, or a pledge card. Stewardship is a way of living every single day. Stewardship is believing in one omniscient and omnipotent creator of the universe and all that is within it, also believing that God has entrusted the care of all creation to humanity with the breath of divine air pulsing through us. And yet, part of being wise stewards is visioning, planning, preparing, and giving attention to how we can offer our resources in thanksgiving for God's purpose and plan. Thus, we do actually have a season, some dates, monetary pledge cards, gifts and skills commitment forms, and we call this a Stewardship Campaign. This year, we turn our hearts to Matthew 14:31 as a reminder that not only are we to follow the words and ways of our Lord, we are with those words and ways called to overcome our doubts with faith. Whatever we give (money, time, care, mercy, energy, skills) we give out of gratitude, not compulsion or coercion. We step out of our proverbial boats and trust that our Triune God will be further glorified through the limitless faith God has provided each of us.

The Sunday worship sermons will emphasize ways in which ordinary people like us have faithfully lived Jesus' words and ways, stepping out of our

comfort zones to offer our many resources as witness to the never-ending, unfathomable, and generous love and care of God for us, all creatures and His creation. Two of the stories we will explore are listed below. We encourage you to begin reading them with fresh hearts and minds to see how the Spirit speaks to you about how you are to be God's faithful steward for a season that blossoms into daily living.

October 22: Exodus 33:12-23, Matthew 22:15-22 "To Whom Do You Belong?"

October 29: Deuteronomy 34:1-12, Matthew 22:34-46 "Do You Love the Lord More?"

At the Stewardship Luncheon we will offer the gifts of our hearts, lives, and resources as we dedicate them all to the glory of God by completing the time and talent form.

May the Spirit bring to us the joy of giving, the gift of laughter, and faithful hearts because we are responding to God's will through the words and ways of Jesus, "... why did you doubt?"

“Silence roots out the weeds of our souls and levels the rocky ground in which we’ve grown.” —Sister Joan Chittister

“The function of prayer is not to influence God but rather to change the nature of the one who prays.”

—Søren Kierkegaard

“I sought to hear the voice of God and climbed the topmost steeple, but God declared: ‘Go down again — I dwell among the people.’”

—John Henry Newman

“Old gardeners never die. They just spade away and then throw in the trowel.”

—Herbert V. Prochnow

### *Joy in the Word of God*

Oh! how great and glorious a thing it is to have before one the Word of God! With that we may at all times feel joyous and secure; we need never be in want of consolation, for we see before us, in all its

brightness, the pure and right way. He who loses sight of the Word of God, falls into despair; the voice of heaven no longer sustains him; he follows only the disorderly tendency of his heart, and of world vanity, which lead him on to his destruction.

—*The Table Talk of Martin Luther*



### *Welcome to the Neighborhood*

Eastminster has new neighbors! If you haven't seen the new Tenison Village home development, it's worth a few minutes of your time to drive about a mile west on Samuell Blvd. and see what's going on. Lots of new homes are being built, and new families are moving in. We've already started welcoming them to the neighborhood.



The Outreach Committee has put together Welcome bags for these new folks. The bags contain a bottle of water, crackers, candy, and lots of information about both Eastminster and one of our mission partners, The Pleasant Grove Food Pantry. The bags also include invitations to the Neighborhood Breakfast, and special crosses that Michele Pappas handmade.



The first 42 bags were delivered on September 16.

Outreach hopes to have the next round of bags ready to deliver as soon as more houses finish closing. We'd love to have your help. Can you provide some goodies? Help stuff the bags? Participate in delivering bags to our new neighbors (which only takes about 20 minutes)? Let us know how you want to participate.

## *Michele Pappas' Acceptance Speech for her Entrance into the SMU Hall of Fame for Diving*

*With thanks to Alex Pappas for writing and editing*



I'm not a big reader, that's more my husband's realm, but there is one book that I have read that has really stuck with me: William Young's *The Shack*. In the novel the main character has a conversation with God after the loss of his daughter.

Of course, that is a VERY brief summary, but there is a quote from *The Shack* that stood out to me and

that I think best encompasses not only my career as a diver, but the way in which I choose to live my life. It says,

"If anything matters then everything matters. Because you are important, everything you do is important. Every time you forgive, the universe changes: every time you reach out and touch a heart or a life, the world changes: with every kindness and service seen or unseen, my purposes are accomplished and nothing will ever be the same again."

There are many people who have supported me along my journey from learning to dive to coaching others how to dive, from student to teacher, both in my athletic and personal life, all of these people have shaped me and embodied how true this idea is. Everything you do has the ability to affect those around you whether you always realize it or not.

First, I want to thank my family. Thank you to my parents, Ray and Penny, who are no longer with us but I know would be so very proud of this achievement. They attended countless meets, and in a fit of frustration about the way in which age groups were determined, my father joined and eventually led USA Diving. My parents never did anything in half measures and they impressed upon me the importance of being fully committed to whatever I did.

I am the youngest of five, and each of my siblings have shaped me in different ways. Thank you:

To my sister Ann who led the way for me in the sport of diving.

My brother Mark who swam at SMU.

My oldest brother Raymond who always took an interest in my diving.

And my sister Mary Beth and her husband Lyle who are here tonight to celebrate this achievement.

To my children Alex, Daniel, and Lilly as well as Alex's husband Ellis and Daniel's wife Mary Kate and to my first grandchild who was born just this June. My kids have been immersed in the diving and swimming world since before they were born, and I can't wait to eventually share my passion for the water with my granddaughter.

And of course, I cannot forget my husband Tom. He swam for SMU while I was diving, so some would say we were destined to be together.

Tom, you are my rock and the one person who always believes in me, even when I don't believe in myself. Thank you for always supporting me, loving me, and believing in me.

Next I must recognize and thank my diving and swimming community, both here at SMU and beyond.



*Continued on Page 7*



*Continued from Page 6*



My college coach Bryan Robbins who was inducted in 2019, thank you for teaching me to be courageous, always encouraging me to take on more challenging dives and that I was better because of those challenges.

My teammates Christine Looock, also a hall of fame inductee, Janet Ely, a hall of famer and Olympian as well, and Cynthia Potter, also an Olympian. Thank you for teaching me how to be a better competitor. You don't get many chances to train with the best!

My teammates Wire, Astro, Jenks and Tentacle, all of you kept me laughing and brought levity to the deck which I always appreciated so much.

My mentor, Jim Stillson, former SMU diving coach for 30 plus years. I never had the privilege of diving for you but I did have the privilege of standing next to you and learning how to teach and coach young divers from you.

Andy Serie who I coached in high school and who would go on to run our club team. I learned so much coaching alongside you as well, a role reversal I am glad happened.

Jim Montgomery, Olympic gold medal swimmer and his daughter Ellis Raymond. Thank you for giving me the opportunity now to teach young children how to be safe in and around water.

And last but never least, all the SMU swimmers, divers, coaches and parents here tonight to support not just me, but the SMU swimming and diving program past, present, and future.

Finally I must thank SMU. Thank you President Turner, Rick Hart and the selection committee for this honor. I was pleasantly surprised when I received a phone call from Rick and I am truly grateful for this recognition.

There were three schools that showed interest in me when I was looking at attending college.

One had a strong diving program, but I knew that the leadership was not a good fit for the diver I was and the diver I wanted to become.

The second was the naval academy which was flattering, but impossible seeing as only men were admitted to the academy at my time of enrollment. I guess they thought my name was Michael.

And the third was SMU. I am so glad I ended up at this institution, a place where I received a wonderful education and where I grew exponentially as a diver.

My quote at the beginning is mostly about people. And I truly believe people shape us.

I also believe that places can help shape us as well. They can serve as an inspiration, as a challenge, and as a place of well earned nostalgia.

To most of you here tonight, this is the Armstrong Fieldhouse, but for me and my teammates, we are standing (or sitting) on a place that has been integral to our lives. For many, many years, this was the very place where the Perkins natatorium and the AR Barr outdoor pool stood.

If I close my eyes I can still see where those pools would be, the one meter boards, the three meters, the outdoor platform and the old wooden stadium benches lining either side.

It was in that natatorium I trained while I was a student here at SMU.

It was also in that natatorium that I first began coaching diving, while my young children played on the stretching mats at the back of the pool. In the shallow end of that pool my children learned how to swim, and it was where I would bring my whole family to watch the swimmers

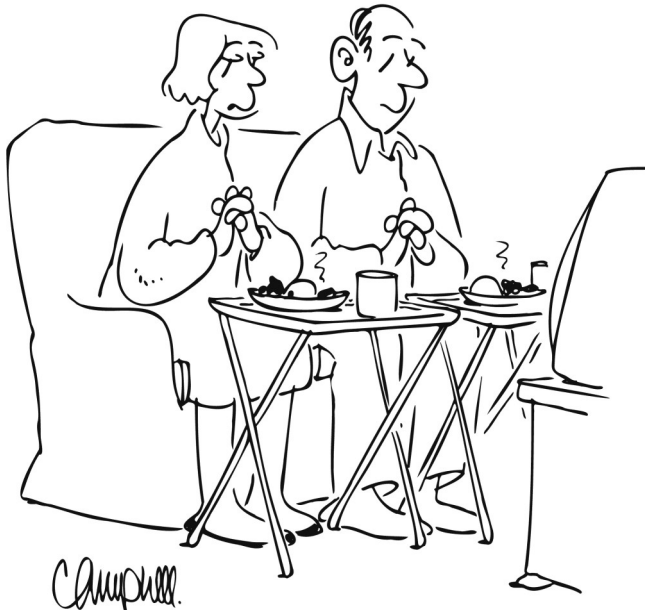
*Continued on Page 10*



Not long before Jesus' arrest, he said: "I did not come to \_\_\_\_\_ the world, but to \_\_\_\_\_ the world." Fill in the blanks.

- A. judge; save
- B. hate; love
- C. condemn; teach
- D. disrupt; conform to

(Answer: A (See John 12:47, NIV).)



"Please bless these chops, these peas and these potatoes, both actual and couch."



## Scripture Readings for October

- |                       |                           |                        |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Pss. 108; 150       | 11 Pss. 89:1-18; 147:1-11 | 22 Pss. 67; 150        |
| 2 Pss. 62; 145        | 12 Pss. 97; 147:12-20     | 23 Pss. 57; 145        |
| 3 Pss. 12; 146        | 13 Pss. 51; 148           | 24 Pss. 54; 146        |
| 4 Pss. 96; 147:1-11   | 14 Pss. 104; 149          | 25 Pss. 65; 147:1-11   |
| 5 Pss. 116; 147:12-20 | 15 Pss. 19; 150           | 26 Pss. 143; 147:12-20 |
| 6 Pss. 84; 148        | 16 Pss. 135; 145          | 27 Pss. 88; 148        |
| 7 Pss. 63; 149        | 17 Pss. 123; 146          | 28 Pss. 122; 149       |
| 8 Pss. 103; 150       | 18 Pss. 15; 147:1-11      | 29 Pss. 108; 150       |
| 9 Pss. 5; 145         | 19 Pss. 36; 147:12-20     | 30 Pss. 62; 145        |
| 10 Pss. 42; 146       | 20 Pss. 130; 148          | 31 Pss. 12; 146        |
|                       | 21 Pss. 56; 149           |                        |



## *It's a Little Thing . . . That's Huge*

It's something we take for granted: the ability to be clean when we leave the house. But for homeless students, it doesn't always happen easily. Frequent moves may mean some things get left behind or that your caretaker provided a bed but never thought about soap and deodorant. Laundromats are available, but sometimes laundry soap is outside the budget. It's a small, but critical detail that can get lost in the shuffle.

When Skyline's Community Liaison, Kenneth Hall, reached out to us in August to tell us his toiletries shelves were bare and to ask if we might supply some soap and deodorant for his homeless kids, Outreach jumped at the opportunity, assuming that we could provide perhaps a short-term solution to the problem.

We severely underestimated your generosity.

After one email – *just one email* – you came through with enough soap and deodorant to **FULLY STOCK** the shelves at Skyline. Furthermore, there was enough to send a little bit down to Ann Richards Middle School as well. (They are just starting their own supply closet, and they had nothing.)

Then he somewhat hesitantly asked about laundry soap. He was running low, he said, and some of his students were unable to get their clothes cleaned even once a week. His plan was to secure large tubs of soap that his student volunteers could divide into smaller bags that the kids could take home with them weekly. Again, the Lord – through you – provided enough (in donated monies that you had already given) to supply **580 LOADS** of laundry detergent.

The Liaison was overwhelmed by your donations (in a good way) and wanted to be sure that we knew not

only that they are grateful, but exactly what your gifts meant to students who often come to school ashamed of their hygiene. Kids who are self-conscious about those things, he explained, cannot focus their attention on learning because they're worried about their peers' reactions. The simple gift of being clean – an action most of us give no thought to – is a blessing to a student who worries about it.



Outreach does not know where God will take this partnership with Skyline High School, but ripple effects are already there. The good folks at St. Mark Presbyterian, after hearing about our project, are also donating toiletries from their supplies to the cause, and they are exploring ways to minister to the homeless students in their neighborhood. The teachers at Skyline are so impressed with the



response that they, too, are looking for ways to involve their churches in this kind of

Neighborhood Outreach.

God is Good all the time, and nowhere is that more evident than in your embrace of this small, but ultimately huge, mission.

*Michele, Continued from Page 7*

and divers compete with rival teams in the Dallas Morning News Classic meet.

I have coached countless divers off the old 10 meter that is now covered by this fieldhouse.

I've even coached a few brave football players to jump off the platform during their summer training camp.

SMU, thank you for your continued commitment to the diving and swimming program through the creation of the beautiful new facility over on SMU Boulevard. I hope for all those who practice and learn and grow there, it too will become a special space, just as the Perkins natatorium has been for us.

Be it big or small, knowingly or by accident, the ways we treat one another have repercussions we can barely even comprehend. Thank you to everyone who has made a difference in my life. I wouldn't be here without the many communities who have supported me in diving and beyond.

Thank you.

## EPW meeting dates

6:30 p.m. via zoom

October 10,  
November 14,  
December 12,  
January 9, 2024;  
February 13, 2024;  
March 12;  
April 19;  
May 14



- Every Saturday from 8-10 a.m.—the Eastminster Neighborhood Breakfast
- Beginning Wednesday, October 4th at 10:30 a.m., Pastor Paul will lead a study on the Gospel of Matthew called “Making Jesus My Teacher for Life.”
- Saturday October 7th Fall Workday from 10 am—1:00 pm:
- EPW meeting dates, 6:30 p.m. via zoom: October 10, November 14, December 12, January 9, 2024; February 13, 2024; March 12; April 19; May 14
- Sunday, November 6, Stewardship Lunch and Congregational Meeting.

## October Sermon Series: Five Questions for Personal Reformation

October 1, 2023: Exodus 17:1-7, Matthew 21:23-32 “Who Has Authority Over Your Life?”

October 8, 2023: Exodus 20:1-4, Matthew 21:33-46 “Are You Producing the Fruits of the Kingdom?”

October 15, 2023: Exodus 32:1-14, Matthew 22:1-14 “Are You Ready to Party with Jesus?”

October 22, 2023: Exodus 33:12-23, Matthew 22:15-22 “To Whom Do You Belong?”

October 29, 2023: Deuteronomy 34:1-12, Matthew 22:34-46 “Do You Love the Lord More?”



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Nathan Eaton, Sr. | 10/3  |
| Shirley Karlen    | 10/9  |
| Karen Martin      | 10/11 |
| Katie Karlen      | 10/15 |
| Isabella Venegoni | 10/20 |
| Jacob Wood        | 10/21 |
| Bruce Turner      | 10/22 |



## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

|                           |       |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Jacqueline & Talat Robert | 10/10 |
| Sue & Jim Bender          | 10/15 |
| Cheryl & Danny Wood       | 10/21 |



## Eastminster Session

Chandra Anderson  
 Betty Crabtree  
 Blair Garrett  
 Philis Knox  
 Dick Knox  
 Jim Lee  
 Tom Pappas  
 Charlotte Turner  
 Sean Turner  
 Fred Watkins



|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Pastor                   | The 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          |





## HIGHLIGHTS from the STATED SESSION MEETING

September 17, 2023

- ♦ Enjoyed a meal provided by Christine Blair.
- ♦ Rejoiced at the addition of new member Teawanda Tate.
- ♦ Heard a report from the Treasurer that Eastminster's financial position for August is still good.
- ♦ Removed Doris Laporte from the roll, with thanksgiving for her life.
- ♦ Established a Covenant Committee to meet quarterly with members from St. Mark Presbyterian Church to coordinate efforts in Worship, Outreach, and Congregational Care. Jim Lee, Tom Pappas, Sean Turner, and Fred Watkins will serve.
- ♦ Heard a report from Tom Pappas, Outreach Chair, on Welcome Bags that have been delivered to the new housing development at Tenison Village.
- ♦ Elected Blair Garrett and Philis Knox to be delegates/commissioners to the September 23 Presbytery meeting.
- ♦ Heard a report from the Nominating Committee regarding the election of Elders for the Class of 2026.



## World Communion Sunday

### Special dates

- ♦ Pastor Appreciation Month
- ♦ World Communion Sunday, October 1, 2023
- ♦ Columbus Day, October 9, 2023
- ♦ Indigenous Peoples Day, October 9, 2023
- ♦ Reformation Sunday, October 29, 2023
- ♦ Reformation Day, October 31, 2023

