

# Eastminster Eagle

Volume 37, Issue 10

October, 2020

## *World Communion on the Lawn*

Dear friends in Christ,

What better way to celebrate World Communion than gathering to share bread and cup and...have a picnic brunch!

Next Sunday, October 4 from 10:00 to 10:45 a.m., we invite you to gather on the back lawn of the church for a socially-distanced, brief communion worship service. We will be offering factory-sealed communion elements. Only in the event of an emergency will the building be opened. Parking will be offered on the back parking lot (east side) and volunteers will be available for questions.

If you are not able to gather, a communion worship service will still be offered via social media. In the event of inclement weather, we will cancel the outdoor service. If that happens, you will receive a call.

These are some helpful guidelines to ensure we are providing a safe environment for gathering:

- \*Worshippers should either call the church office or send an email to register your intent to gather with us.
- \*Worshippers **MUST** wear masks at all times. Please bring your own, but should you forget, masks will be available.
- \*You are asked to bring your own lawn chairs. Should you wish to stay after the service and enjoy brunch, please bring it with you as you enter worship, keeping in mind that the building will not be opened. This helps limit our movement and contact with one another.
- \*Observing social distancing, you will be directed to an entry point where your temperature will be taken and you will be given the opportunity to sanitize your hands. Bulletins will be available. Please understand that should your temperature be elevated, we will ask that you not enter the worship space, but return home to care for yourself and others.
- \*Volunteers will escort you to your seating area. Any guests wishing to gather with us will follow the same entry procedure. Pre-positioned chairs will be available.
- \*Following the latest suggestions for outdoor social gatherings that include music, you will be led by a volunteer to pre-arranged spots that are 12 feet apart. Families can choose to sit closer.
- \*The opportunity for unison speaking and singing are limited for safety purposes.

Continued from Page 1

\*Factory-sealed communion elements will be served by masked and gloved elders who will also collect the empty cups.

\*Following worship, we ask that those remaining for brunch remain seated and those wishing to leave will be led to the exit by volunteers. Again, this helps us maintain distance.

\*A basket will be placed at the exit for all wishing to share their offerings.

We realize this sounds very regimented, but, it really is doing what we have already been asked to do for the health and well-being of self and others: wear a mask, sanitize our hands, and keep our distance.

In knowing that each of us is taking care of the other, I pray this service will fill our souls with joy and offer thanksgiving to God who continues to walk with all of us through a time such as this!

Hope to see you on Sunday...virtually or in person!

Pastor Sherry

## *Blessing of the Animals!* *Saturday, October 3, 10-11 a.m.*

Back by Popular Demand in an up-dated Format.

While surviving the pandemic, we appreciate the gift of companionship these beloved animals are. Praise God for all the Animals!

Animals of all shapes and sizes are invited to the drive-thru Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 3, between 10-11 a.m. in the front drive of Eastminster. Their human drivers are asked to enter the line, receive instructions from the greeters and move along to their blessing. It's up to the dog, cat, rabbit, fish, bird, horse or hamster whether they remain inside or gently step out of the vehicle for their blessing. They are not required to wear a mask, nor keep their social distancing, but drivers should follow the directives of the medical professionals.

If you don't have a pet, ask a pet-attached friend to join us. Or, you may choose to line up your lawn chairs and just enjoy the parade. Just be a part of the celebration of a day celebrated around the world.

### *Prayer of St. Francis*

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,  
where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is  
injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light; and  
where there is sadness, joy.

O, God, grant that I may not so much seek to be  
consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
Amen.



## House & Property News

We thought you might like to have a brief highlight of what's been happening in and around the

church from the House and Property committee, the ADA Task Force, Nursery Advisory Group and the Safety and Security Task Force. Here's a short list of recent projects:

Updates to the nursery continue with new tile flooring in the powder room, trim painting and soon to come, fixtures in the powder room, bamboo flooring and tech items. Decorating and furnishing of the nursery is beginning soon as well.

The Security Task Force continues to evaluate the best course for security cameras inside and outside. Reviews of emergency response policies and procedures continue through the subcommittee charged with this aspect of keeping the congregation safe.

Final construction documents from the architect are due to be delivered within the next two weeks for the ADA improvements project. Construction bids will be gathered from contractors and will be presented to the Session for consideration and approval. Financial arrangements can begin once the cost estimates have been determined. Final approval by the congregation would follow in the case of the need for financing the project. There is a set of drawings in the large conference room if any member of the congregation wants to take a sneak peek ahead of time.

The parking lots have been restriped and some of

the new staff parking signs have been installed. Additionally, thanks to the coordination by Vicki Lynn Cook and the generous donation of Haynes and Boone Law Offices, a new workstation has been installed in the office at which Chandra Anderson can work more efficiently. This new addition has added not only functionality but a new, more professional look and feel.

There are more projects in the works. For updates on the status of any of the items on the list, feel free to contact any of these hard-working individuals: Katie Karlen, Jo Byrd, Vicki Lynn Cook, Evelyn Parker, Pastor Sherry, Brittney Bennett, Betty Crabtree, Talat Robert, Gary Holloman, Tim Kreger, David Anderson, Jim Lee, Fred Watkins, Paul McLin, Sean Turner, Ronnie Dixon, or Bruce Turner. A big thank you goes out to all of these people and to God for His abundant generosity in providing a wonderful place in which to worship.



In my top 10 list of favorite hymns is Isaac Watts' *I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath*, GTG 806. It wasn't in my

Baptist Hymnal of 1956 or the previous one so I did not learn of the hymn until I came to SMU. It is popular in Methodist Circles as it was a favorite of John Wesley. My introduction to it was a choral arrangement written by Dr. Lloyd Pfautsch, worldwide known choral director and composer and director of the University Choir. When we first sang his handwritten copy, it was stirring, but when we sang it with the brass it was so uplifting that it brought tears of joy to many of the college aged singers. From that time to now, anytime I feel down, I listen to it or start singing it. We first sang the choral arrangement when we celebrated in the new sanctuary (in folding chairs as the pews weren't installed yet) to the present time for some of choir reunions, a favorite of some of the choir. Pfautsch's arrangement of the voices, organ, and brass captures the meaning of each verse. We sing it also as a congregational hymn and it is stirring to hear our congregation singing those words of praise to God.

Isaac Watts(1674-1748) is called by many the "Father of English Hymnody." He was not the first to write Hymns in English but he was the first poet who wrote a large number of hymns of high quality. At the time Watts was writing, congregational singing was dominated by metrical psalms sung in a very strict manner. Watts wanted to break the grip of metrical psalms on congregational singing. To do this he wrote poems using psalm paraphrases and what is known in

hymnology as hymns of human composure" which are composed hymns such as *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, GTG 223 & 224. *I'll Praise My Maker* is a paraphrase of Psalm 146. Watts' original title was "Praise to God for his Goodness and Truth" and published in his *Psalms of David, Imitated in the Language of the New Testament* (1719).

John Wesley adapted four of the six original Watts' stanzas and used it in the first hymnal published in America, the *Charlestown Collection of Psalms and Hymns* (1737). J.R. Watson, British hymn scholar notes "In its shortened form, this hymn was greatly loved by John Wesley, who died singing it."

Its popularity is demonstrated through its inclusion in every Methodist hymnal since 1737. It is sung to the tune attributed to Mattheus Greiter, 1525 and arranged by V. Earle Copes 1963 for the *Methodist Hymnal* 1964. We use the same arrangement in our *Glory To God Hymnal*.

The experiences of the pandemic and how our lives and all others have been affected should lead us as believers to sing with deep conviction:

*I'll praise my Maker while I've breath;  
And when my voice is lost in death,  
Praise shall employ my nobler powers.  
My days of praise shall ne'er be past,  
While life, and thought, and being last,  
Or immortality endures.*

*Continued on Page 5*

# Blessing of Animals

By Kevin E. Mackin, OFM



This time of year, people in various places may notice something odd. A procession of animals, everything from dogs and cats to hamsters and even horses, is led to churches for a special ceremony called the Blessing of Pets. This custom is conducted in remembrance of [Saint Francis of Assisi](#)'s love for all creatures.

Francis, whose feast day is October 4th, loved the larks flying about his hilltop town. He and his early brothers, staying in a small hovel, allowed themselves to be displaced by a donkey.

Francis wrote a Canticle of the Creatures, an ode to God's living things. "All praise to you, Oh Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures." And there was testimony in the cause for Saint Clare of Assisi's canonization that referred to her little cat!

That there are today over 62 million cats in the U.S. attests to the continuing affection we have for our furry, feathered or finned friends. We've even had a cat called Socks in the White House. Other popular presidential pets range from Abraham Lincoln's Fido to Lyndon

Johnson's beagles, named Him and Her.

For single householders, a pet can be a true companion. Many people arrive home from work to find a furry friend overjoyed at their return. Many a senior has a lap filled with a purring fellow creature.

The bond between person and pet is like no other relationship, because the communication between fellow creatures is at its most basic. Eye-to-eye, a man and his dog, or a woman and her cat, are two creatures of love.

At Franciscan churches, a friar with brown robe and white cord often welcomes each animal with a special prayer. The Blessing of Pets usually goes like this:

"Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land. You inspired Saint Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless this pet. By the power of your love, enable it to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen."

As the prayer is offered, the pet is gently sprinkled with holy water. Believe it or not, most pets receive this sacramental spritz with dignity, though I must admit I have seen some cats flatten their ears a bit as the drops of water lightly pelt them.

But the owner is happy, and who knows what spiritual benefits may result?

*Blessing, Continued on Page 6*

*Blessing, Continued from Page 56*

Usually the Blessing of Pets is held outdoors. But I remember it rained one year, and all were invited inside St. Stephen's Church in Manhattan. It was quite a sight to see pairs of creatures—one human, one animal—sitting in the pews. The pastor joined right in with his beagle. Noah's Ark was never like this!

Some people criticize the amount and cost of care given to pets. People are more important, they say. Care for poor people instead of poodles. And certainly our needy fellow humans should not be neglected.

However, I believe every creature is important. The love we give to a pet, and receive from a pet, can draw us more deeply into the larger circle of life, into the wonder of our common relationship to our Creator.

Kevin E. Mackin, OFM, is a Franciscan of the Holy Name Province.



## *New Work Station for the Front Office!*

The new workstation has been delivered and set-up in the front office. It is a beautiful and functional addition. There is plenty of room to organize and work. Thank you Vicki Cook for coordinating this donation from Haynes & Boone. And thank you Bruce Turner and Jim Lee for picking it up, and setting it up.

The old desk and some other outdated furniture have been picked up by Soul's Harbor.



### *Just be — and be still*

Various versions of the following sentiment are posted online: “I am a human being, not a human doing. It’s okay to just be sometimes.” Many of us get anxious if we think we’re not doing enough, but peace activist Thich Nhat Hanh insists it’s not a waste of time to just be: “To be alive, to be peaceful, to be joyful, to be loving ... is what the world needs most.”

During the pandemic, when people were urged to stay home to slow the virus’ spread, we had to think hard about how to continue being the church while limited in what we could go out and “do.” Yet church leaders reminded us that we were actually loving our neighbors by staying home — by being less active.

It’s sometimes okay — ideal, even — to just be. In quieting our bodies, minds and hearts, we may find ourselves more often in prayer, more aware of God’s presence and more nourished for when the time is right to again take up more active forms of ministry, peacemaking and love. “In quietness and trust is your strength” (Isaiah 30:15, NIV).

—Heidi Mann

### *A singular focus*

When we try to focus on too many things at once, sometimes we end up doing nothing well. During a visit to their house (see Luke 10:38-42), Jesus tells Martha that only one thing is needed and that Mary has chosen rightly. Surely Jesus doesn’t mean that quiet devotion is needed while serving others is not. But when we let ourselves get “worried and distracted by many things,” we may lose sight of the one crucial thing: love.

St. Francis is credited with the following quote: “God came to my house and asked for charity. And I fell on my knees and cried, ‘Beloved, what may I give?’ ‘Just love,’ God said. ‘Just love.’”

And in Galatians 5:6 (NRSV), St. Paul writes, “For in Christ Jesus ... the only thing that counts is faith working through love.” Amid all the worthy pursuits that fill your days, remember to choose rightly — by choosing love.



In Jesus' parable about people who hear and live by God's words, on what did the wise man build his house?

- A. rock
- B. sand
- C. grassland
- D. soil that was free of rocks



Answer: A (See Matthew 7:24-27.)

Dear God,  
I want to be just like my Daddy when I get big, but not with so much hair all over. Tom

Dear God,  
You don't have to worry about me. I always look both ways. Dean

Dear God,  
I think the stapler is one of your greatest inventions. Ruth M.

Dear God,  
My brother told me about being born, but it doesn't sound right. He's just kidding, isn't he? Marsha



## Scripture Readings for October

1 Hos. 4:1-10	11 Hos. 11:1-11 1	22 Micah 5:1-4, 10-15
2 Hos. 4:11-19	12 Hos. 11:12-12:1	23 Micah 6:1-8
3 Hos. 5:1-7	13 Hos. 12:2-14	24 Micah 7:1-7
4 Hos. 5:8-6:6 1	14 Hos. 13:1-3	25 Jonah 1:1-17a
5 Hos. 6:7-7:7	15 Hos. 13:4-8	26 Jonah 1:17-2:10
6 Hos. 7:8-16	16 Hos. 13:9-16	27 Jonah 3:1-4:11
7 Hos. 8:1-14	17 Hos. 14:1-9	28 Nahum 1:1-14
8 Hos. 9:1-9	18 Micah 1:1-9 1	29 Nah. 1:15-2:12
9 Hos. 9:10-17	19 Micah 2:1-13	30 Nahum 2:13-3:7
10 Hos. 10:1-15	20 Micah 3:1-8	31 Nah. 3:8-19
	21 Micah 3:9-4:5	

## *Eastminster's Mailing Address Has Changed*

Please start using Eastminster's new mailing address:

**P.O. Box 571188  
Dallas, TX 75357**



## *Outdoor Sunday School Continues*

The Searchers Class continues to meet outdoors on the patio at Michele and Tom Pappas' home. This informal setting makes for relaxed and interesting discussions. We have just finished the book "Heaven and Hell: A History of the Afterlife" by Dr. Bart Ehrman which was interesting to trace how the afterlife was viewed prior to Jesus and down to today.

Our new study is some DVD selections about how the books that came to us as the Old and New Testaments were canonized and others were not. Also a look at the variety beliefs that grew from Jesus to become Church dogma all of which affected the decisions about which books to use and who won the dogma battles.

You are welcome to join us at 9:30 Sunday mornings, some light snacks are available.



When I was a child, my parents loved me not because I was good but because I was ... their child. I loved them, and I wanted to please them, but their love of me did not have to be earned.

Neither does the love of God. We are loved because we are his children, because we are. If we feel that we ought to be loved because it is our due, or because we deserve it, the less we will truly feel the need of God's love; the less implicit will be our trust; the less we will cry out, Abba!

—Madeleine L'Engle, *Walking on Water*

### *A lesson in appreciation*

During a church anniversary celebration, a pastor overheard a group discussing various congregational leaders over the years. Her ears perked up when an older member said, "Whenever someone asks which of our pastors I liked best, my answer is always, 'The one we have at any given time is my favorite.'"

What a relief for the pastor to hear — and what a great lesson for Pastor Appreciation Month. God sends each shepherd to us with a specific set of spiritual gifts and then works through those gifts to bless us.

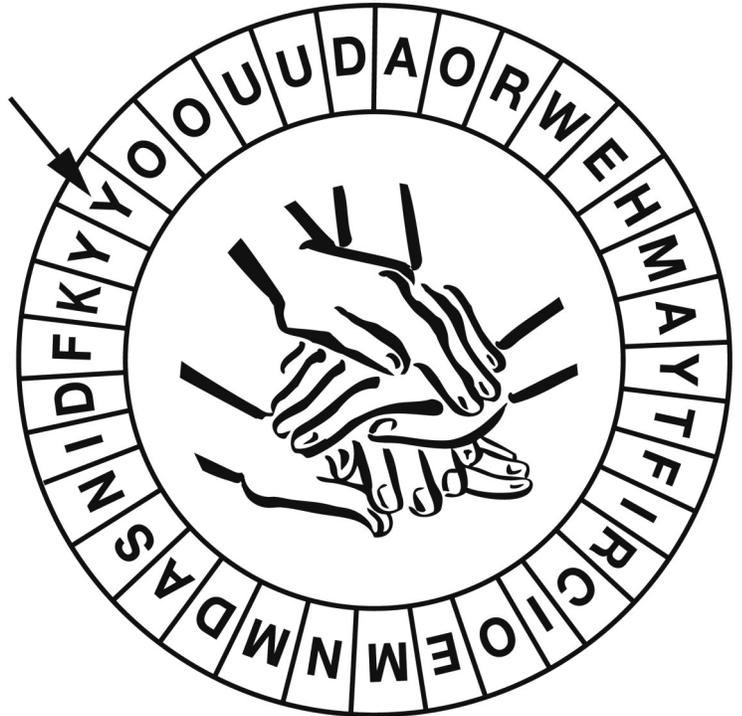
**OCTOBER**

**Birthdays**

Nathan Eaton	10-3
Michelle Uche	10-5
Shirley Karlen	10-9
David Anderson	10-10
Karen Martin	10-11
Katie Karlen	10-15
Bob Barraza	10-17
Teresa Slaton	10-17
Isabella Venegoni	10-20
Jacob Wood	10-21
Bruce Turner	10-22
Evelyn Parker	10-25
Doyle Oliver	10-28

# Puzzle!

Beginning at the arrow and moving clockwise, write every other letter on the spaces below to discover what Jesus says about his friends.



“ Y \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_”

JOHN 15:14, NIV

**OCTOBER**

**Anniversaries**

Sue & Jim Bender	10/15
Anna & Charles Blair, Jr.	10/28
Doris & Bill Parker	10/6
Jacqueline & Talat Robert	10/10
Cheryl & Danny Wood	10/21

Answer: "You are my friends if you do what I command." John 15:14, NIV

“One can never consent to creep when one feels an impulse to soar.”

—Helen Keller

“Faith consists in believing what reason cannot.”

—Voltaire

“Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you’re doing the impossible.”

—Unknown

“Nothing [is] more truly artistic than to love people.”

—Vincent Van Gogh

Dwell in the wonder of these two gifts of God: that God made us in his very image (Genesis 1:26), and then — “much more”! — that Christ came to earth as a human being (Philippians 2:7).

Ponder and savor how poet John Donne (1572-1631) describes these mysteries:

“’Twas much, that man was made like

God before,

But, that God should be made like man,  
much more.”



## Eastminster Session

Janice Bell

Denise Bennett

Tony Bennett

Kayla Dixon

Ronnie Dixon

Kathy Kreger

Paul McLin

Janet Muller

Michele Pappas

Helen Randolph

Vicki Thiebaud

Bruce Turner



Pastor

Director of Music

Organist

Administrative Assistant

Hostess/Housekeeper

Child Care Provider

Sherry Holloman

Fred P. Watkins

Melody S. Davis

Chandra Anderson

Minerva Hernandez

Betty Crabtree

## HIGHLIGHTS from the STATED SESSION MEETING September 20, 2020

Pastor reported the following:

- ◆ shared time with congregants in Meet & Munch zoom get-togethers
- ◆ attended weekly Re-entry Task Force zoom meetings
- ◆ participated in children's zoom Sunday school
- ◆ continued weekly YouTube worship service

Treasurer's Report—August 31, 2020

- ◆ Total revenues: \$210,920.95
- ◆ Total expenses: 213,257.82
- ◆ Total Current Assets: -28,262,83

Actions of the Session:

- ◆ Approved Wilkinson Center Christmas Toy distribution event pending Coronavirus conditions.
- ◆ Approved the re-opening protocols of the Neighborhood Breakfast for a date to be determined.

Reports:

Christmas Village planning has begun in conjunction with PCHAS

Nursery Task Force is moving along on repairs and renovations due to plumbing leak:

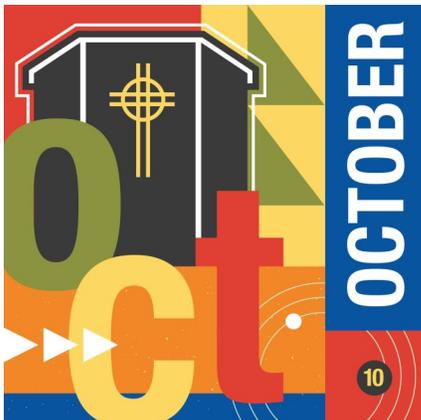
Board & batten installed

Dry wall repair with texturing

Surfaces painted

Flooring installed

Restroom upgrades



### Special dates

- Pastor Appreciation Month
- World Communion Sunday, October 4, 2020
- Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2020
- Reformation Day, October 31, 2020