

Eastminster Eagle

Volume 37, Issue 11

November, 2020

Grace of Giving



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

To say that this has been an interesting year would be an overwhelming understatement. Who could have foreseen, back when we were planning on *Seeing Through Jesus' Eyes* in 2020, that we would be where we currently are? A global pandemic, social unrest and calls for justice, unemployment, debating

everything from when and how to open schools and churches to whether masks should be mandated. With so many challenges this year the Stewardship Committee has selected as our campaign theme: *Grace of Giving*.

This phrase is based on the beautiful words of scripture in 2 Corinthians 8:1-7:

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

These verses are so applicable because in this unusual year, Eastminster members have overcome severe trials and given with rich generosity out of love and faith! In spite of the pandemic and not worshipping in person, our church has remained in good financial health and continues to move forward serving the Lord in many ways. The 2021 budget was approved at the Session meeting on October 19th. The 2021 pledge and time and talent form are available on the

Continued from Page 1

church website to be filled in and submitted online or printed out and mailed to the church. There is a link on the website to view the 2021 budget, which includes a 2.8% cost of living increase for salaried employees and \$.50 per hour increase for hourly employees, bearing in mind that there were no raises in 2020. The budget will be received & Pastor Terms of Call will be voted on by the congregation at a brief meeting on November 1st following the outdoor communion and worship service. The committee recommends that all members who have internet access fill out the pledge form on the church website. Look on the right side of the main page at www.eastminsterdallas.org. Paper forms will be mailed to members that do not provide email addresses to the church and anyone may request a mail-out by calling the church.

Stewardship season begins November 1st with commitment Sunday on November 15th. Please pray about what God is calling you to commit for next year in financial, time, and prayer support for the Lord's work at Eastminster and submit your pledge and time and talent form by November 15th.

The question that guides stewardship is never, "What do I owe?" or "What can I afford this year?" but rather, "How am I called to respond to the abundance of gifts that God has already given me?" The Apostle Paul specifically reminds the

Corinthians, "I do not want you to give because you think that you have to – or even because you think you ought to – I want you to give because you have been moved to share with others the very gifts that God has so graciously shared with you."

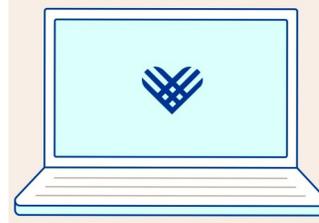
Eastminster members have always been generous, selfless givers who share their resources and time just like Paul advocated and we are so thankful.

Your Stewardship Committee,

Paul McLin, chair, Tony Bennett,
Cindy Garrett, Darlene West, David
Anderson, Dick Knox



You may securely give from our website and via text message, you can even set up recurring donations. If you'd like to activate your account, please contact the church office by email at officeadmin@eastminsterdallas.org or by calling (214) 381-4693. We'll then email you so you can get started today.



GIVE ONLINE
Fast. Easy. Convenient.

Outdoor Worship Service On November 1 At 10:00 A.M.; Stated Congregational Meeting To Follow

On Sunday, November 1, Eastminster will have an outdoor worship service with Communion. Should there be inclement weather, we will utilize the radio station format where the service audio will be transmitted live on a frequency available on car radios. Following the service, we will have a Congregational Meeting to present the budget, Pastor Terms of Call, and slate of officers for the Congregation's vote.

November 15th is Commitment Sunday when the Time & Talent forms should be received in the church PO Box.

There is an outdoor service planned for November 15th where you can turn in your forms.

In conjunction with the "Grace in Giving" stewardship campaign, this is the first notice for the Stated Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, November 1. The meeting will immediately follow a 10:00 a.m. outdoor worship service. The purposes of the meeting are as follows: to approve the Call of the Pastor; to receive the 2021 budget; to elect elders to the class of 2023; to elect two trustees, one for the class of 2023, and one to fulfill an unexpired term; and to elect three members from the congregation-at-large to the 2021 Nominating Committee.

The following names are presented for elders and trustees. (Congregational members-at-large will be voted on):

Elders: Betty Crabtree, Blair Garrett, Jim Lee and Charlotte Turner

Trustees: Christine Blair and Vicki Cook

Congregational Members-at-Large to be announced.



One of the most sung hymns in the Universal Church is “**Holy, Holy,**

Holy” (*Glory to God 1*) by Reginald Heber (1783-1826). It touches every denomination and while mostly associated with the liturgy of Trinity Sunday, it covers with its praise, many of the year’s liturgical days. It is different in that one characteristic of the text doesn’t start the praise but instead encourages us to join in an endless song. Isaiah 6:1-5 and Revelation 4:2-11 are the Scriptural bases for this hymn. When we sing the Trisagion (thrice holy) we are reminded that this has been used in worship for centuries. Isaiah 8th century B.C. vision, John the Apostle in his late 1st century Revelation. Heber composed the hymn in 1826 in the 19th century. In the 21st century congregations continue to sing and be inspired by the text and the tune (NICAEA) by John Dykes (1823-1876) an excellent wedding of text and tune and a tune that adds to the up-lifting texts. It was named by Dykes NICAEA after the Council of Nicaea which set the doctrine and nature of the Trinity theologically.

It is safe to say that songs of praise, begun by the seraphim and cherubim, have been echoing throughout the millennia has outlived many of Reginald Heber’s other hymns and most of his contemporary hymn writers. We sing his other popular hymn at times of communion “**Bread of the World in Mercy Broken**” GTG 499.

It wasn’t till after his death in 1826 that his widow published a large volume of his hymns arranged by the church year. In some churches his “**Brightest and Best**” is sung. Reginald Heber worked as a missionary in India for many years after being a bishop in England. He founded schools for local clergy and preached all over India. He died in India from a stroke.

“**Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty**” has stood the test of two hundred years and parts of 3 centuries and while there are changes going on in congregational singing I hope good hymns like this “evermore shalt be.”

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

HIGHLIGHTS from the STATED SESSION MEETING**October 19, 2020**

- ◆ Pastor's Call was reviewed and discussed. Motion made, seconded and approved to present the Pastor's 2021 Call to the Congregation at the upcoming November 1, 2020 Congregational Meeting as presented on COM Form B attached to these minutes.
- ◆ Motion made, seconded and approved to accept the September 2020 Treasurer's Report and to include in these minutes:

Total Revenues, Year-to-Date September 30, 2020:	\$210,920.95
Total Expenses, Year-to-Date September 30, 2020:	\$238,083.78
Total Current Assets, Year-to-Date September 30, 2020:	\$1,320,444.88
- ◆ Report from the Re-Entry Task Force: With a rise in the number of Covid-19 cases in the Dallas area, it was recommended that outdoor worship/communion be continued in November as weather allows. Approval was given for the continuation of outdoor worship gatherings on the EPC church grounds for worship on Sunday, November 1 and 15, 2020, and providing drive-through communion on Sunday, November 1, 2020.
- ◆ Report from the Nursery Advisory Group: Most projects on the repaired and remodeled nursery are completed with furnishings being ordered and anticipating delivery/installation within the next few weeks. Thanks were given for the hard work and attention given to this project by Bruce Turner, Katie Karlen, Sean Turner, Betty Crabtree, Brittney Bennett and Sherry Holloman.
- ◆ Update on the Ordination Service for Alex Pappas Ward: Grace Presbytery will be hosting the November 21, 2020 ordination service at Eastminster Presbyterian following the current rules in place for gathering during the pandemic. Attendance will be limited to ten individuals total, with others participating via video recordings. Motion made, seconded and approved to host Grace Presbytery's Ordination of Alex Pappas Ellis as Minister of Word and Sacrament on November 21, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.
- ◆ Update on the Christmas Village: The Christmas Village will follow a modified format for 2020 with a drive-through style celebration on Saturday, December 12. Preparations are underway with Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services, and invitations have been issued to other area Presbyterian churches to participate with EPC. Off-campus home groups are being serviced by this annual project.
- ◆ Permission was granted by the Session to allow Rev. Jessie Light-Wells to serve as Pulpit Supply on Sunday, November 8, 2020, for the vacation scheduled by Rev. Sherry Holloman. Rev. Light-Wells indicated that in-person or virtual officiating was acceptable with her.
- ◆ Discussion of Payroll Protection Program Loan: The United States Payroll Protection Program provided EPC with \$40,636 through a loan that will be forgiven with proof of payroll, utility payments and other specified expenses. It was suggested by the Stewardship Committee that these monies be ear-marked for special projects and that the Session determine the allocation of these funds.
- ◆ Singers' Masks: Motion made, seconded and approved to have Fred Watkins select, order and purchase 20 Singers' Masks for use by the EPC choir for in-person worship and rehearsal not to exceed \$500 funded through Account 5304.

Pressure Turns into Relief | Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services

<https://www.pchas.org/2020/09/11/pressure-turns-into-relief>

His seven-year-old son had reached across Mason's laptop enough times that Mason was distracted and annoyed. They battled for the dining room table until Mason moved to the kitchen. Minutes later Theo was rocking so hard at the table that his cup of juice fell to the floor and the boy began howling.

Raising a child on the autism spectrum, like little Theo, can be exhausting. Mason usually dealt with the boy's behaviors patiently but, after the pandemic began and his babysitters refused to come over, the divorced dad felt more and more overwhelmed.

Mason was already meeting virtually with Sheila, a Child and Family specialist. She had coached him on new routines to fit the COVID-19 quarantine and best practices for parenting a child with Theo's challenges. Mason was especially grateful that PCHAS does not charge for this program, as his unemployment benefits were running out. When Theo was finally calm and the orange juice was cleaned up, Mason reached for the phone and called Sheila.

They discussed how a lot of autistic children respond well to a weighted blanket, which provides a generalized pressure. Some kids on the spectrum prefer that to a light touch, such as a pat on the back, which may feel stimulating instead of calming. "He seems less anxious when he's under a heavy blanket," Mason told her. "But he can't wear a blanket all day. I'd really like to get a weighted vest, one he could wear for half an hour at a time, to help him when he's anxious."

The problem was the cost, Mason admitted. It was under \$100, and it surely seemed essential, but he just didn't have the money. Fortunately, PCHAS had designated a fund for basic needs such as groceries, utility payments and medical equipment. PCHAS covered the cost of a therapeutic vest for the seven-year-old. It arrived on a Monday and Theo tried it out.

Tuesday afternoon, Sheila received an excited text from Mason: "Theo asked for his vest and wore it 30 minutes. Even after that, he kept playing on his own for another 20 minutes. I was able to make my calls without interruption and then spend some quality time with him."

Now Theo chooses to wear his new vest several times a day. "I was at the end of my rope," Mason says, "and helping Theo to regulate his emotions is a great help to both of us. That gift has truly changed our lives and given me hope for our relationship."

Learn more about our family counseling services by contacting us online or calling 800-888-1904.

Puzzle!

Write the words below in alphabetical order inside the squares. Then read down the second column to discover the sentence that begins and ends Psalms 146, 147, 148, 149 and 150.

FEAST
KHAKI
MOUTH
ESSAY
LLAMA
ORBIT
CARRY
UDDER
BRUSH
ITEMS
APPLE
LEARN
CIDER

A				

Answer:

----- !

The simplest prayer

An eccentric blind man nicknamed Joybubbles reportedly loved Mr. Rogers so much he listened to 10 hours of the TV show daily until he'd heard them all. One night, when Joybubbles was in a kind of awake dream state, he said Mr. Rogers visited him and offered to teach him how to pray.

Joybubbles protested that he couldn't pray because he always forgot the words. To which Mr. Rogers said not to worry; the prayer he'd teach had only three words. "What kind of prayer has only three words?" Joybubbles asked.

"Thank you, God," Mr. Rogers replied.

—adapted from *The Wired Word*

Answer: Praise the Lord!



After Jesus healed 10 men at one time, how many returned to thank him? What had been their ailment?

- A. five; blindness
- B. all 10; deafness
- C. one; possession by demons
- D. one; leprosy

Answer: D (See Luke 17:11-19.)

Dear God,
Thank you for the baby brother, but
what I really prayed for was a puppy.
Joyce

Dear God,
I didn't think orange went with purple
until I saw the sunset you mad on Tues-
day. That was cool!
Eugene

Dear God,
Did you mean for the giraffe to look like
that, or was it an accident?
Norma



Scripture Readings for October

1 Pss. 117; 139	11 Pss. 48; 4	21 Pss. 100; 63
2 Pss. 82; 29	12 Pss. 80; 27	22 Pss. 66; 23
3 Pss. 102; 133	13 Pss. 32; 139	23 Pss. 73; 9
4 Pss. 1; 33	14 Pss. 118; 111	24 Pss. 36; 7
5 Pss. 16; 62	15 Pss. 46; 93	25 Pss. 132; 134
6 Pss. 142; 65	16 Pss. 85; 47	26 Pss. 26; 130
7 Pss. 138; 98	17 Pss. 28; 99	27 Pss. 25; 40
8 Pss. 81; 113	18 Pss. 125; 91	28 Pss. 125; 90
9 Pss. 97; 112	19 Pss. 81; 116	29 Pss. 25; 110
10 Pss. 30; 86	20 Pss. 6; 20	30 Pss. 40; 67

Eastminster's Mailing Address Has Changed

Please start using
Eastminster's new mailing
address:

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



Richard J. Foster
(Celebration of Discipline)
says solitude is “more a
state of mind and heart”
than a place: “There is a
solitude of the heart that
can be maintained at all

times. Crowds, or the lack of them, have
little to do with this inward attentiveness.”

Although Jesus preferred crowd-free alone
times, that's not always feasible. But no
matter your surroundings and
responsibilities, you can carve out
intentional time to “be still” (Psalm 46:10).
Try these tips for adding solitude to life's
rhythms:

- Take a day. Every month or two, enjoy a
day of solitude. Turn off your phone and
spend the day with God.
- Take an hour. Treat this time as an
important calendar appointment. Keep it
free to protect your solitude.
- Take a minute. Before a big meeting or as
you're answering the phone, breathe deeply
and invite God into the moment.

—Janna Firestone

“The thankful receiver bears a plentiful
harvest.”
—William Blake

“Miss no single opportunity of making
some small sacrifice, here by a smiling
look, there by a kindly word; always doing
the smallest right and doing it all for love.”
—St. Therese of Lisieux

“Do not spoil what you have by desiring
what you have not; remember that what
you now have was once among the things
you only hoped for.”
—Epicurus

“A man should never be ashamed to own
that he has been in the wrong, which is
but saying ... he is wiser today than
yesterday.”
—Alexander Pope

“I would maintain that thanks are the
highest form of thought, and that
gratitude is happiness doubled by
wonder.”
—G.K. Chesterton

One of the most gracious dispensations
of God concerning his saints is their
lovely unawareness of sanctity. The nearer
they move to him, the more conscious are
they of sin. If it were impossible at times
not to note their own growth in grace, it
were impossible also to forget that it was
all by his power. If they could be
persuaded to admit their progress and talk
of it at all, the language of their heart
would be this: “If God could do this in
me, he could do it in anyone.”

—W.E. Sangster



Thankfulness, studies show, has multiple physical, mental and emotional benefits. Psychologist Robert Emmons calls gratitude “fertilizer for the mind” because of its powerful effects.

He admits gratitude isn’t always easy — especially when life throws us curveballs (see the year 2020) — but says it can be most helpful during and after difficulties. Emmons suggests reframing challenges using thankfulness-based language.

Ask, for example: Though I wasn’t grateful for the experience at the time, how can I be now? What lessons did I learn, and how did I grow as a person?

Throughout his letters, the apostle Paul reframes his extensive sufferings and urges us to do the same. “Give thanks in all circumstances,” he writes, “for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV).



What’s New in the Kitchen?

How about a tile backsplash? Beautiful, clean lines, and a bright look.

Thank you, Bruce for all your hard work.



NOVEMBER

Birthdays

Jim Fielding	11-2
Vicki Cook	11-3
Vicki Gibbs	11-7
Doris Jordan	11-7
Miatta Wilson	11-8
Patience Uche	11-10
Lorna Almas	11-11
Cindy Garrett	11-11
Harry Karlen	11-13
Lilly Pappas	11-15
Doris Little	11-17
Charlotte Turner	11-20
Cheryl Wood	11-20
Helen Randolph	11-27
Jezzi Whitley	11-27
Stella Post	11-29
Kathy Kreger	11-30

NOVEMBER

Anniversaries

Vicki & Lewis Thiebaud



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	Sherry Holloman
Director of Music	Fred P. Watkins
Organist	Melody S. Davis
Administrative Assistant	Chandra Anderson
Hostess/Housekeeper	Minerva Hernandez
Child Care Provider	Betty Crabtree



AUGUST:

Families served	Adults	Seniors	Children	Total persons	Pounds served
816	1,902	205	2,091	4,198	56,211

SEPTEMBER:

Families served	Adults	Seniors	Children	Total persons	Pounds served
941	2,076	281	2,261	4,618	58,373



Special dates

- All Saints' Day, November 1, 2020
- Daylight-Saving Time ends, November 1, 2020
- Election Day, November 3, 2020
- Veterans Day, November 11, 2020
- Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2020
- First Sunday of Advent, November 29, 2020