

# Eastminster Eagle

Volume 37, Issue 1

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## *EPC Neighborhood Breakfast News! Five and a Half Years and Still Going Strong*

by Blair Garrett

While serving on the Grace Presbytery Committee on Ministry for two years back in 2001, I was blessed to meet a pastor from Whitesboro Presbyterian Church that had started a breakfast ministry to help his congregation open their doors to service and evangelism. After several discussions with the pastor about the breakfast ministry the thought came to my mind, also known as the prodding by the Holy Spirit, that this type of ministry might be a great opportunity for Eastminster to serve its neighborhood. After further investigation and thought, I put the thought behind me because it was just too much work to start the ministry and maintain it. As time passed, I was further prodded by the Holy Spirit and shown the opportunities of this ministry. I struggled, fought and even asked the Lord to let this cup pass from me. After two years of struggling whether to accept the call or not, I accepted.

After bringing the ministry opportunity to the Session and gaining their approval to begin the breakfast, I asked Lewis Thiebaud to help me plan and coordinate the breakfast ministry, we named it the Neighborhood Breakfast since our focus was to get to know our neighbors by way of fellowship and providing them a hot breakfast. Our first step was to go and witness the First Presbyterian Church of Garland's breakfast ministry that they had started just two years prior. After volunteering to serve at their breakfast, we analyzed their operation and made some adjustments that would meet our physical plant and also our suburban location.

On April 5, 2014 we opened our doors as Eastminster Presbyterian Church's Neighborhood Breakfast. We had 18 volunteers that worked the breakfast from 8-10 am and we served 3 people.

The Neighborhood Breakfast requires someone to purchase all items by Friday of each week so the group that sets up on Friday can coordinate in advance the fellowship hall and the kitchen so the Saturday morning preparation group can efficiently prepare the food and drinks for the Neighborhood Breakfast. The setup usually takes about an hour with 3 people involved.

The Saturday morning preparation team arrives at 7 am and sets up the drink machine, water for each table, butter serving dishes, hot syrup dispenser and then

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starts cooking sausage in three ovens, grilling pancakes on skillets and scrambling eggs on our cook top. Coffee is setup on the drink table and begins percolating at 5 am so that coffee is available by 7 am on Saturday morning. Then the fun begins!

As our guests enter our fellowship hall, they are welcomed by a greeter that introduces themselves to our guests and helps them find a table that is welcoming to them. On each table they will find a greeting card which includes a prayer, a menu, water, cream for coffee and a small bowl of butter for pancakes. A server comes to their table and serves them what their request is to drink (milk, apple juice, orange juice and coffee). Their order is taken and the server brings them their food along with silverware wrapped in a napkin and warm syrup if they are eating pancakes. Some guests request ketchup or hot sauce for their eggs and the servers can provide that also.

It is our mission that all servers get to know the guests that they are serving. We will sit down with them and converse with them and make their visit with us just like having breakfast with their family. Over the years we have provided clothing, blankets, hygiene kits, backpacks, coats, extra food, bus passes and help our guests with transportation to hospitals, clinics and to their workplace. We have helped assist our guests obtain their birth certificates, ID cards and social security cards. We have a library cart of books that is also available to our guests. They are free to choose any book that they would like to read and the return is optional.

Starting in 2018 we were been blessed with the students at Skyline High School to serve

at the Neighborhood Breakfast for volunteer hours that they were required to have by their school. We also have two neighboring churches volunteer to serve with us - they are Christian Stronghold and Greater Bethlehem Baptist Church. They serve three Saturdays each month. We appreciate their willingness to serve and their caring hearts that they bring each week.

Over the past five and a half years we have served every Saturday except for one Saturday in 2015 due to icy roads. We have served over 26,170 plates of food to over 17,583 guests with over 301 volunteers that have served a total of 15,453 hours. For the year of 2019 we have averaged 76 people served each Saturday with 16 volunteers serving. We all know it is not about the numbers. Our ministry has blessed us because we have served to honor our God that has blessed us so much with His grace, His blessing and His forgiveness. We are further blessed by getting to know many new people that have shared breakfast with us that we now call "our friends." Our faithful servants that served almost every week of 2019 were, Jim Lee, Harry Karlen, Darlene West, John Sill, Bobbe Brown, John Randall, Helen Randolph, Reggie Major, Christine Blair, Brady Byrum, Tom Pappas and Blair Garrett.

Contact Blair Garrett at 214-402-3153 or [blair@jbgarrettengineering.com](mailto:blair@jbgarrettengineering.com) to support in anyway. You can make financial donations to the Neighborhood Breakfast by way of the Eastminster website: <http://www.eastminsterdallas.org>



### *From the Christmas Village Book Nook*

You helped to make a miracle.

If that sounds overblown, keep reading. In the past, the Book Nook has always begun each year with a tidy stash of books to put out. And we've never had problems getting folks to clean out their kids' shelves and send us more books. Additionally, you've always been good about cleaning out your own shelves and letting us reap Half-Price Books cash for them.

This year, all three of those resources fell apart. HPB stopped paying all but pennies

for used books, your kids grew up and didn't have children's books, and – worst of all – the flooding in June took all of our precious stash.

Things looked grim.

Yet somehow, some way, you made books appear. You kept giving cash, and Chandra kept shopping. Boxes of books appeared outside the office. You asked co-workers to donate.

The upshot of all this is that on Christmas Village morning, the Book Nook was FILLED with books. And once again, no parent was told to limit the number of books chosen for the children. EVERY SINGLE BOOK was taken, and those parents were beyond excited to get them.

So from the Book Nook – thank you. Thank you for helping to make a miracle.

## *Tuesday, February 25*

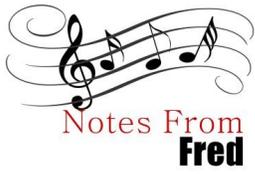
What is happening on Tuesday, February 25? Hint: Fat Tuesday, the day before Lent begins.

Did you guess Pancake Supper? Right you are!

Do you enjoy the addition to our Worship Services of guest musicians? Well, the choir is sponsoring the pancake supper as a fundraiser to provide the funds for the guest musicians.

Watch for more details!





*Epiphany* is a set feast day on January 6. It is the day Protestants and Catholics celebrate the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles in the visit of the Magi. The Orthodox Church celebrates it as the birthday of Jesus, the coming of God in human form.

Epiphany has another meaning that is “a sudden, intuitive perception of or insight into the reality or essential meaning of something, usually initiated by some simple or commonplace occurrence or experience.” John Wesley experienced such an epiphany during his heart-warming salvation experience: “About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.”

Still another definition of epiphany is kin to the word theophany: a revelation or manifestation of the divine, or the actual appearance of a god to a human, or a divine disclosure. Theophany was pretty common in Greek and Roman mythology, much rarer in the Old Testament. Some examples include: Exodus 3: Moses and the burning bush; Exodus 19: Moses on Mt. Sinai; Ezekiel 10 and Isaiah 6 the commissioning of Ezekiel and Isaiah. Similar to those examples also comes, from the TV show *Touched by an Angel*. Each episode climaxed with the revealing or epiphany scene, in which Monica (Roma Downey) or Tess (Della Reese), both angels, would reveal their nature as heavenly angels sent to help some troubled or suffering earthly human.

So the themes of Epiphany continue some of the Christmas themes: the nativity,

incarnation, and baptism of Christ which we remember this year on January 11. Others include those around the Magi: gift giving; humans searching for and their recognition of the divine in our midst; God's self-revealing and manifestation among us; evangelism; and missions.

Epiphany has no season like Advent. We have Epiphany Day, January 6, and we often observe it in worship on Epiphany Sunday, the Sunday before Epiphany Day this year January 5th. The Sundays after Epiphany are Sundays of Ordinary Time, also known as Sundays After the Epiphany, that is, Sundays that are in between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany and Lent-Easter-Pentecost cycles. These Ordinary Time Sundays after Epiphany number between four and nine, depending on the date of Easter. There are five Sundays this year before we celebrate Transfiguration and enter the Lent-Easter-Pentecost cycles.

We sing hymns, anthems and songs, on Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord Sunday with the themes of sudden insight through “the Light” that was brought into the world and following Jesus’ examples and of incarnation. These themes in Epiphany and Ordinary Time should be a worthy goal of each of us and as a congregation, to continue to experience every day the revelation and manifestation of God in our lives. Through the readings, prayers, communions, sermons, hymns, songs, and anthems your Sunday morning and other worship times are seeking to encourage that presence of God in our worship and lives.

A goal worth trying to achieve, is an Epiphany Theophany every time we gather and our prayer, one that only appears once in the New Testament in 1 Corinthians 16: “Maranatha! O Lord, come!”

*On behalf of the Garrett family*, I would like to thank my Eastminster family for the many prayers and condolence cards we received following the death of our father, Pat Garrett. Thank you to Pastor Sherry for her time spent with my family over the past several years with visitations with Pat and for leading the memorial service on December 7th. Thank you to the Congregational Care Committee and other members; Michele, Janet, Jan, Janice, Bobbe, Helen, Christine, Denise and Chandra for providing a beautiful reception held after the memorial service. Thank you to Tony and Janice for your service as ushers during the memorial service. Thank you to Fred and Melody for your willingness to offer your talents to make the memorial service a wonderful remembrance of my father. God bless you all for your faithfulness.

Love you all,

Blair and all the Garrett Family



## *Souper Bowl of Caring* February 3, 2019

The Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990 with a simple prayer said by

Reverend Brad Smith of Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina:

“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat.”

In that first year, 22 churches raised \$5,700. The number of groups involved has steadily grown each year, and so has the amount raised and put back into the communities.

Since that first year, more than \$143 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around the Big Game into the nation’s largest celebration of giving and serving.

Through this mission, young people learn what it’s like to make a positive difference in the world – as they collect food, raise money and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to those in need.

Be part of this movement that is sharing God’s love with those in need. Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday.

Eastminster will collect contributions of money and canned food for the Pleasant Grove Food Pantry. Canned fruit is especially needed. Please place any monetary donation in a pew enveloped marked “Souper Bowl of Caring.” Please place any canned food donations in the receptacles provided. You may also donate online at [www.eastminsterdallas.org](http://www.eastminsterdallas.org) and choose the Donate tab at the top.

Thank you, Eastminster, for your generous and caring hearts!



**SOCKS** are always needed for Saturday morning. Clean out your sock drawers and bring them anytime to the church. All sizes are needed.

“Our hope is not in the new year, but in the One who makes all things new.” —Unknown

“What a wonderful thought it is that some of the best days of our lives haven’t even happened yet.” —Anne Frank

“We should work for a world not simply that hates hatred, but that loves love.” —Fr. James Martin, S.J.

“No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.” —Charles Dickens

Of all persons, the Christian should be best prepared for whatever the New Year brings. ... In Christ he has disposed of a thousand enemies that other men must face alone and unprepared. He can face his tomorrow cheerful and unafraid because yesterday he turned his feet into the ways of peace and today he lives in God. The man who has made God his dwelling place will always have a safe habitation. —A.W. Tozer

There are two ways of remembering. One is to make an excursion from the living present back into the dead past. The other way is to summon the dead past back into the living present. ...

When Jesus said, “Do this in remembrance of me,” (1 Corinthians 11:24), he was not prescribing a periodic slug of nostalgia. —Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*

# Puzzle!

Use the word list to complete the crossword. Then fill in the numbered blanks to read God’s promise to Noah — and to us.

as, and, the, day,  
 cold, long, heat,  
 will, earth, night,  
 never, cease, winter,  
 summer, harvest,  
 endures, seedtime

“ 13 8 13 10 7 14 ,  
 2 6 5 9 6  
 3 12 6 1 down 4  
 6 11 across 1 across 11 down 15 ”

GENESIS 8 : 2 2 , N I V

Answer: “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.” Genesis 8:22, NIV

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### *Instruments of praise*

Some innovative musicians play instruments that actually melt at their fingertips. Their ice creations — everything from drums and a pipe organ to harps and didgeridoos — make awe-inspiring sounds (search online to hear for yourself).

The unique challenges posed by dissolving instruments seem to increase their impact. “ICEstruments” sculptor Tim Linhart says concertgoers, whose bodies also are largely composed of water, often feel a “spiritual connection” to the music.

Although people don’t melt, our physical bodies eventually return to ashes and dust. Despite that impermanence, God created us as wonderful instruments to make joyful noises for him: “Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!” (Psalm 150:6).

—adapted from The Wired Word

### *How to find peace*

Blessed are the single-hearted, for they shall enjoy much peace. If you refuse to be hurried and pressed, if you stay your soul on God, nothing can keep you from that clearness of spirit which is life and peace. In that stillness you will know what his will is. —Amy Carmichael

### *Love in action*

Martin Luther King Jr., whose life and legacy we honor this month, spoke often about the power of love. In fact, he equated the practice of nonviolence with “absolute commitment to the way of love.”

Love, declared the minister and activist, “is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.” And, he said, anyone who’s “devoid of the power to love” is “devoid of the power to forgive.”

King distinguished between true love and “empty sentimentalism,” however. He taught — and showed — that love is “the active outpouring of one’s whole being into the being of another.”

Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross is the ultimate “active outpouring” of love, and we can choose to follow his example daily.

“Because of Calvary I’m free to choose,” writes Max Lucado in *When God Whispers Your Name*. “No occasion justifies hatred; no injustice warrants bitterness. I choose love. Today I will love God and what God loves.”



According to Matthew, who was present at Jesus' baptism? (Choose as many as apply.)

- A. John the Baptist
- B. The Spirit of God
- C. Jesus' mother, Mary
- D. His first disciples

Answer: A and B (See Matthew 3:13-17.)

A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.

May all your troubles last as long as your New Years resolutions.

We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day.

Take a leap of faith and begin this wondrous new year by believing.



## Scripture Readings for January

1	Isa. 62:1-5, 10-12	12	Gen. 1:1-2:3	23	Gen. 11:1-9
2	1 Kings 19:1-8	13	Gen. 2:4-9 (10-15) 16-25	24	Gen. 11:27-12:8
3	1 Kgs. 19:9-18	14	Gen. 3:1-24	25	Gen. 12:9-13:1
4	Josh. 3:14-4:7	15	Gen. 4:1-16	26	Gen. 13:2-18
5	1 Kgs. 3:5-14	16	Gen. 4:17-26	27	Gen. 14:(1-7) 8-24
6	Isa. 49:1-7	17	Gen. 6:1-8	28	Gen. 15:1-11, 17-21
7	Deut. 8:1-3	18	Gen. 6:9-22	29	Gen. 16:1-14
8	Exod. 7:1-7	19	Gen. 7:1-10, 17-23	30	Gen. 16:15-17:14
9	Isa. 45:14-19	20	Gen. 8:6-22	31	Gen. 17:15-27
10	Jer. 23:1-8	21	Gen. 9:1-17		
11	Isa. 55:3-9	22	Gen. 9:18-29		

## *The power of listening*

Jesus repeatedly urged his followers to not simply hear but listen to his teachings. Others also have championed sincere listening to show compassion and respect.

“Part of doing something is listening.”  
—Madeleine L'Engle,  
*A Swiftly Tilting Planet*

“One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say.” —Bryant H. McGill

“And so he listened. And in his listening, his heart opened wide and then wider still.” —Kate DiCamillo, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*

“Too often we underestimate the power of ... a listening ear ... to turn a life around.”  
—Leo Buscaglia

## *A sacred partnership*

Bible scholar William Barclay notes that John the Baptist was “startled and unwilling” when Jesus asked to be baptized. The evangelist thought he needed what Jesus could give, not the reverse!

We are pros at taking our needs to God — indeed he invites this: “Call on me in the day of trouble” (Psalm 50:15). But God also comes to us with needs: “Mortal, I am sending you” (Ezekiel 2:3, NRSV); “Go ... make disciples” (Matthew 28:19); “Carry each other’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2, NIV).

Apparently, God prefers partnership to acting solo. From the beginning, God has invited people to name the animals, tend the garden, welcome strangers, build the tabernacle, proclaim his word, ensure justice and mercy, share his love.

What does God need from you, as Jesus needed baptism from John? Salvation is God’s alone to accomplish, but then he calls us to share work with him, for the world’s sake. So we echo Jesus: “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this” (Matthew 3:15, NIV).

—Heidi Mann



No doubt you will have noticed the various improvements that have been done to the church over the last year, including sprucing up the Chapel with fresh paint, new carpet and window coverings. Continuing with that “sprucing up”, the Session approved replacing the pew and communion railing cushions in the Chapel.

The order has been placed with Waggoners, LLC, the same company that supplied the pew cushions for the Sanctuary. The

expected ship date from Waggoners is late February or early March.

The Worship Committee will provide updates on the arrival of the cushions as the ship date draws near.

2019 Worship Committee



### *January 20120*

Neighborhood breakfast every Saturday (4, 11, 18, 25 )

Choir practice—Wednesdays (8, 15, 22, 29)

- 1 The Office is Closed
- 5 Communion Sunday
- 7 EPW 7:00 p.m.
- 10-11 Officer/Staff Retreat
- 19 Ordination and Installation of Officers; Session Meeting; Souper Bowl of Caring Collection begins
- 20 Newsletter Deadline
- 26 Congregational Meeting

### *February*

Neighborhood breakfast every Saturday (1, 8, 15, 22, 29)

Choir Practice - Wednesdays (5, 12, 19, 26)

- 1-2 SHYC – Grades 9-12 at Austin College
- 2 Communion Sunday /Souper Bowl Sunday - food drive; Committee Meetings
- 4 EPW (7:00 p.m.)
- 16 Stated Session Meeting
- 17 Newsletter Deadline
- 22 Stated Presbytery Meeting: 1st Pres. Dallas
- 25 Pancake Supper
- 26 Ash Wednesday Service (6:30 p.m.)

### *March*

Neighborhood breakfast every Saturday (7, 14, 21, 28)

Choir Practice - Wednesdays (4, 11, 18, 25)

- 1 Communion Sunday; Committee Meetings
- 3 EPW Night Circle (7:00 p.m.)
- 15 Stated Session Meeting
- 16 Newsletter Deadline

## JANUARY

### Birthdays

Vicki Thiebaud	1/2
Marian Brown	1/3
Jo Byrd	1/4
Elizabeth Kelleher	1/5
Judy Moreland	1/5
Ian Venegoni	1/5
Alleen Wilkinson	1/8
Austin Gibbs	1/9
Jan Anderson	1/14
Barbara Wyatt	1/14
Dick Knox	1/15
Tom Pappas	1/16
Loren Beatty	1/21
Lewis Thiebaud	1/21
Gary Holloman	1/25
Sophia Veloz	1/30
Lois Byrd	1/31
Jordan Holloman	1/31

## JANUARY

### Anniversaries

Susie & Jim Fielding	1/26/1957
Julie & Trey Karlen	1/3/2009
Teresa & Steve Slaton	1/29/1976

## Those Who Will Serve in January



### Ushers/Greeters—Team 4

Dick Knox                      Will Nixon  
 John Randall                 Sharon Smith  
 Jan Anderson (12, 19, 26)

### *January 5*

Liturgist: Denise Bennett  
 Communion: Tony Bennett and  
 Chandra Anderson

#### *Acolytes:*

Jacob Whitley, Candles  
 Jim Lee, Cross Bearer

### *January 12*

Liturgist: Katie Karlen

#### *Acolytes:*

Jo Byrd, Candles  
 Paul McLin, Cross Bearer

### *January 19*

Liturgist: Philis Knox

#### *Acolytes:*

Janet Muller, Candles  
 Kathy Kreger, Cross Bearer

### *January 26*

Liturgist: Bruce Turner

#### *Acolytes:*

Michele Pappas, Candles  
 Tom Pappas, Cross Bearer



## 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

## HIGHLIGHTS from the STATED SESSION MEETING NOVEMBER 17, 2019

- ◆ Worship Committee (Action Item) Worship: amend recommendation for new Chapel pew pads to “up to \$2000” voted and accepted. Motion made, seconded and approved.
- ◆ Motion made, seconded, and approved for Lorna Almas’ Building Request for Saturday, November 23 from 4-8p.m.
- ◆ Motion made, seconded, and approved for Building Use Request from “the Karlen Cousins Christmas” for Monday, December 23 beginning at 4:00 p.m.
- ◆ Motion made, seconded, and approved for the Addition of Charles (Dick) Knox as a signer on the Texas Presbyterian Foundation (“TPF”) accounts.
- ◆ Motion made, seconded, and approved the nomination of Lewis Thiebaud as trustee to finish the term of Doyle Oliver.
- ◆ Updates on the Security and ADA Task Forces. The original amount of \$4600 did not include the Extra panic buttons or the first months monitoring. \$4749.99 is the new amount needed for security install and monitoring, recommendation of amendment to allow up to \$5000. Motion made, second and approved to increase the amount up to/not exceed \$5000.
- ◆ Motion made, seconded and approved to appoint Bruce Turner to fill the last year of Tom Whitley’s term as Session Elder.



### Special dates

- New Year’s Day, January 1, 2020
- Epiphany, January 6, 2020
- Baptism of the Lord, January 12, 2020
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, 2020
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 20, 2020