

Eastminster Eagle

Volume 37, Issue 4

April, 2020



Notes From Fred

As I am writing this we are in the continuing “social distancing” in order to try to stem the Covid-19 Virus from spreading. In addition to all the meetings, services and businesses that are closed, it also means no choir rehearsal as a choir. Our choir however is continuing to practice at home on some of the upcoming anthems though recordings, doing some vocal exercises to keep their voices in shape as best can. Sean Turner made some digital rehearsal part music for anthems for Easter we are singing from the Messiah. Instrumentalists for Easter and other upcoming times are also able to practice at home. All these efforts are to try to keep ourselves in shape for the music we offer in corporate worship on behalf of the congregation to God.

These are for some very trying times, I miss very much being able to rehearse with the choir and Melody, the Searchers Sunday School Class, both groups are like very close family to me and the fellowship, humor, and discussions mean a lot to me, my faith search and now in the present state I’m finding they meant a lot more to me than I really knew before. I also miss getting to see and talk with many who are not in those groups and hearing you lift your voices on the hymns and songs and the liturgy. We can rejoice in that we are the body of Christ and that God is with us.

While our lives are on a slight hold maybe it will give us time to reach out to our extended families both regular and church family as well as friends we maybe haven’t seen in a while, phones, cell phone, internet provide us with the means to do that.

Go on the internet and find some of your favorite hymns and sing along with them. As Paul says “Rejoice in the Lord, always.”

I pray, maybe for selfish reasons, that the restrictions currently in place are working and will save many lives and others from sickness, and that we will all soon be rejoicing, singing praises, sharing our faith, and praising God together. And I hope that by the time you read this we are together worshiping in the house of the Lord.

Till that time and in that time,
God bless you



March 2020 — Mission on the Mountaintop and in the Wilderness

Christina Cosby, Mission Specialist, Middle East and Europe Presbyterian World Mission

Where do you find God? Is God in the clean crisp air breathed in at the mountain's summit? Do you feel God in the wilderness, when the right direction is not clear?

As a child, climbing to the mountaintop was not easy. I especially recall making my way to the summit of Lookout Mountain with my church youth group, at Montreat Conference Center, in western North Carolina. It was a climb I reluctantly made with much encouragement and even physical support from fellow travelers.

Once at the top, there was no denying God's presence — even God's breath — among us. Birds chirping, miles upon miles of mountain ranges in view, and air filling my lungs cleaner than one can imagine.

God is indeed on the mountaintop, yet God is also present in the wilderness.

It is in the wilderness that we lose our way.

That we wonder why, where and how God is acting in our lives. It is here, that God finds us as we are. There is no need to climb, to achieve, to succeed — we are found as beloved children of God regardless.

When it comes to mission, it is the mountain climb itself and our searching in the wilderness that prompts deeper reflection. Mission is both the striving to be a transformative presence in the world, while recognizing that we too are being transformed through mission in partnership.

Mission is both an active and passive word. It is something we do and something transformative that happens within us.

'Mission matters' because at its best, it is an exchange between cultures offering their very best. It is traveling to a new place (or welcoming others into our space) and finding our way together as children of God. It is offering our resources and God-given gifts, recognizing that we, too, are the ones in need.

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Mission on the mountaintops and in the wilderness has one thing in common — it strives to make the world a better place by relying on God’s grace. Mission at its best recognizes that God is at work in many ways and in many places. God is walking before us, behind us, beside us, and all around us. Mission is God aiding us in our journey, smoothing the rocky paths around the world through partnership and relationship.

This Lenten season we focus on the wilderness as Jesus spent much time there. We, too, reflect upon times that we have felt especially near or far from the God who loves us dearly. Eliminating things that separate us from God, we strive to experience a wilderness, praying that God will find us anew. Adding faith-filled habits to our day, we strive to connect to God in significant ways, experiencing a renewed divine presence in our midst. Our Lenten practices create mountaintop and wilderness experiences in our ordinary lives, making them not so ordinary after all.

Let these experiences also create a renewed sense of mission that transforms us, so that we may be sent to serve all our neighbors in God’s world.

Christina Cosby, a graduate of Princeton



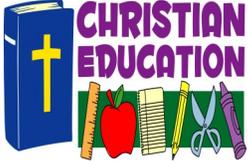
Theological Seminary, recently joined the World Mission staff as mission specialist for the Middle East and Europe. (Photo by Matthew Collen)

A modern-day parable

In Luke 15, Jesus tells three parables about the precious being lost and, at great lengths, found again. The kingdom of heaven, he says, is like that. But most of us don’t shepherd sheep and wouldn’t fret over one lost coin. A child, on the other hand ...

In fall 2019, as night fell in northern Minnesota, 6-year-old Ethan and his dog wandered off. Family and police grew frantic because the area consisted of fields, woods and swamps. Authorities requested assistance.

The kingdom of heaven, Jesus might say, is like 600 volunteers searching diligently in the dark for a child they didn’t know. It’s like Steve Fines who, though also a stranger to the boy, grabbed his company’s pricy heat-seeking drone and worked the camera for hours, until it detected Ethan huddling with his dog, safe but cold. Yes, the kingdom of heaven — indeed God — is like people giving their all and refusing to quit until the lost one is found.



**CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION**

*A true friend is not someone
we have chosen for ourselves,
but rather someone God has
placed in our lives for a*

purpose.

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After reading this on Face Book, it reminded me that within our Eastminster Friends/Families, we have smaller friends/families...our Sunday School peeps.

Those of us that are able to attend a Sunday School class, whether it's Fred's, Blair's, Christine's, Tom's, or the Gleaner's, along with our Bible study, we probably missed seeing, visiting, and praying with each other, friends that God has placed in our lives for a purpose!

I know that I look forward to having the opportunity to study scripture with my Sunday school peeps. I love hearing how their week went, their joys, their concerns, their needs, and seeing their smiling faces.

In this time of quarantine, many of us are not used to being confined to home or our activities greatly reduced. I encourage you to reach out, if not by phone, then a quick email/text and let your Sunday school members know that you are uplifting them in your prayers and that you are there for them.

Gleaner's, we were to learn and discuss, that really easy to pronounce book Habakkuk! Although I was ready to teach, it was sort of a relief since I never pronounced Habakkuk the same way ever!

Continue preparing for your lessons as if you will be there on Sunday, invite others to attend one of Eastminster's Bible Studies and stay safe and healthy until we meet again...God willing on April 5.

Peace of Christ be with you all....

Vicki Gayle and Christian Education

What is One Great Hour of Sharing?

Immediately following World War II, Protestant churches in the U.S. made appeals for the relief and reconstruction of areas devastated by the war, primarily Europe and Asia. In 1949, the leaders of several denominations formed a committee to organize an appeal to support their churches' separate campaigns.

A program called One Great Hour was broadcast on March 26, 1949, over major networks and many independent stations. The broadcast closed with a request that listeners attend their local church the following morning and make a sacrificial contribution. No exact measure of receipts was possible, but it was estimated that more than 75,000 churches participated.

Today, projects supported by One Great Hour of Sharing are under way in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. In recent years Presbyterians have given about \$10 million annually.

Currently, there are eight denominations participating in One Great Hour of Sharing.

The Session of Eastminster during their February Session meeting approved the One Great Hour of Sharing receipts to be divided. One half will be used for local mission projects and the remaining one half will be sent to the denomination.

There are many opportunities and many different ways to contribute to One Great Hour of Sharing. Throughout the church and included in this newsletter is a One Great Hour of Sharing Calendar with interesting ways to begin your contribution. Truly, the calendar explains not only the needs but the daily reminders just how much we are blessed.

The Offering will be received March 29, April 5, and April 12 Easter Sunday.

Please prayerfully consider this special offering. Thanks be to God.



Have you wondered just what can you do in the mission field? You just don't feel like you have anything to offer? It may be a case of too much on your calendar, or that you just don't feel called to help build a house or volunteer at a local school. The Outreach Committee has a plan that we can all share in no matter our calling or circumstance: praying for those who are working around the world to bring Christ's light to others.

We can get to know individuals from their short biographies from Presbyterian Mission. Won't you read about this servant, glean her needs, and pray specifically for her this month? There will be more friends in mission work to meet coming to you in various ways during 2020. With our social distancing, we can still move and work for God's people in our prayers.

Meet Cheryl Barnes!



One of the main objectives of this call to mission service in Malawi is to improve the quality of education for the children, including those with special needs, of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian. Additionally, this appointment will serve to encourage the education and empowerment of girls, address violence against girls, and facilitate the retention of girls in school, so that they may share in the socio-economic blessings of a quality education. This ministry has the potential to transform communities through the improvement of educational processes. "God has instilled within me a love for the education of children and this position allows me to use my passion for teaching and for sharing the hope of the gospel message with the most vulnerable populations in Malawi" Cheryl says.

(From one of our Christmas Village Families.)

**Thank
You**

Thank you so much. Words cannot explain. Only if you could see the joy on my children's faces...The reaction from me was tears of joy and relief. Unbelievable still. I'm beyond shocked. If I could hug all of you... Me and my kids still have all we needed, past the holidays. Thank you so much for the blessing. Me and my kids are forever GRATEFUL! You put so much faith on my heart that people care. May the Lord Bless You All.

Samantha Sanders, Eli and Skylar.

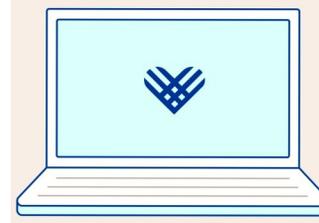
P.S. We had more than enough...I wish I could hug every last one of you. You all have lifted so much stress off of me. Thank you and God Bless You All. Drive Safe. Much love to Eastminster Presbyterian Church of Dallas.

Dear Congregation,

Our heartfelt appreciation for all your cards, prayers and support during our trial with the death of my husband, Jack Lucas. We are so grateful for a loving and caring church family.

Bonnie Lucas

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.



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Loosed From Death

Almost 100 years ago, one-time U.K. poet laureate John Masefield wrote a play called *The Trial of Jesus*. In it, the centurion who oversaw Jesus' execution returns to give Pontius Pilate an official report. When Pilate's wife requests and receives details about the crucifixion, she asks, "Do you think he is dead?" Despite what he had witnessed, the centurion answers, "No, lady, I don't."

Confused, Pilate's wife inquires, "Then where is he?" The man's response: "Let loose in the world, where none can stop his truth."

Indeed, as 2 Timothy 2:9 (ESV) attests, "The word of God is not bound!"

Remembering Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The Christian church commemorates Dietrich Bonhoeffer — pastor, theologian, anti-Nazi spy — on April 9, the anniversary of his 1945 martyrdom. Among his much-loved writings are nuggets of wisdom such as these:

"Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating. By judging others we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the grace which others are just as entitled to as we are." (*The Cost of Discipleship*)

"In normal life we hardly realize how much more we receive than we give, and life cannot be rich without such gratitude. It is so easy to overestimate the importance of our own achievements compared with what we owe to the help of others." (*Letters and Papers from Prison*)

"The table fellowship of Christians implies obligation. It is our daily bread that we eat, not my own. We share our bread. Thus we are firmly bound to one another not only in the Spirit but in our whole physical being. The one bread that is given to our fellowship links us together in a firm covenant." (*Life Together*)



Thursday, April 9, 7 p.m. fundraiser for the Pleasant Grove Food Pantry will be at the Dallas Comedy House. Advance tickets can be purchased online for \$15.00. Tickets are \$20.00 at the door. There is seating for 115. All ticket sales will be remitted to the Pleasant Grove Food Pantry within two weeks after the event. Dinner is available to purchase from their menu during the event. Come join in on the fun and help out the food pantry too!

“Easter is a time when God turned the inevitability of death into the invincibility of life.”
—Craig D. Lounsborough

“Never yet was a springtime, when the buds forgot to bloom.”
—Margaret Elizabeth Sangster

“The fact of Easter is the fulcrum upon which our worship pivots.”
—Preston Philpott

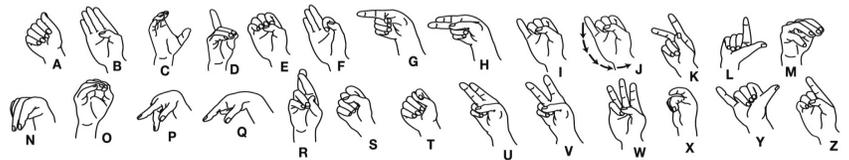
“I feel as if God had, by giving the Sabbath, given 52 springs in each year.”
—Samuel Taylor Coleridge

“Spring shows what God can do with a drab and dirty world.”
—Virgil A. Kraft

Fellowship with Christ is participation in the divine life which finds its fullest expression in triumph over death. Life is a larger word than resurrection; but resurrection is, so to speak, the crucial quality of life.
—William Temple

Puzzle!

Hands play a key role in the biblical accounts of Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection. Use this sign-language alphabet to retell what happened.



Jesus’ _____ were _____
_____ to the tree. Two criminals were also crucified,

one on the _____
_____ and the other on the _____ of Jesus. Jesus

cried out with a loud voice, “ _____ ,
into your _____ I commit my spirit.”

(Luke 23:46) Jesus’ friends _____
_____ him from the cross to the tomb. Jesus showed

_____ his _____ to prove
he was Christ. Bring your _____ together
in _____ , and thank God for his
Son, Jesus!

Answer: hands, nailed, right hand, left hand, Father, hands, carried, Thomas, hands, hands, prayer

Three of the Gospels tell that when Jesus was crucified, darkness covered the earth from noon until three in the afternoon. Which Gospel does not mention this event?

- A. Matthew
- B. Mark
- C. Luke
- D. John



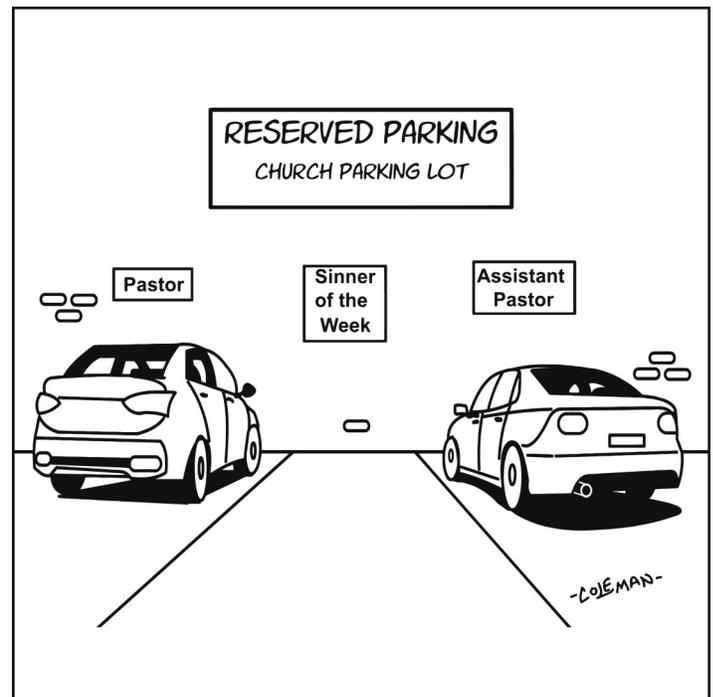
Answer: D (See Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, and

The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes Meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment, and gracious hostility.



Scripture Readings for April

1 Mark 10:1-16	11 John 20:19-23	22 John 15:1-11
2 Mark 10:17-31	13 Mark 16:1-8	23 John 15:12-27
3 Mark 10:32-45	14 Mark 16:9-20	24 John 16:1-15
4 Mark 10:46-52	15 Cor. 15:(29) 30-41	25 John 16:16-33
5 Luke 19:41-48	16 Cor. 15:41-50	26 Mark 16:9-20
6 Mark 11:12-25	17 Luke 24:1-12	27 Matt. (1:1-17) 3:1-6
7 Mark 11:27-33	18 Mark 12:18-27	28 Matt. 3:7-12
8 Mark 12:1-11	19 Exod. 14:5-22 1	29 Matt. 3:13-17
9 Mark 14:12-25	20 John 14:(1-7) 8-17	30 Matt. 4:1-11
10 Peter 1:10-20	21 John 14:18-31	

One Great Hour of Sharing Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>March 22</p> <p>When homes are destroyed by floods, One Great Hour of Sharing can help rebuild them. Give 50 cents for every year your home has remained standing.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>If you had to work today, put in a dollar and thank God you are able to work.</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>“I was thirsty and you gave me drink.” 50 cents for every drink today.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>People are in darkness this day. Give 25 cents for every window in your home.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Did you eat out this week? \$1.00 for every one who ordered.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>50 cents for each TV and radio in your home.</p> 	<p>28</p> <p>A cow can make all the difference. It provides milk for a family to drink or sell. Give 25 cents for each food item in your home that comes from a cow.</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Natural disasters bring with them not just physical damage, but also separation from family and friends. Give a dime for every hour your family or group spends together today.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>“Give us this day our daily bread...” 50¢ for every loaf of bread in your home.</p>	<p>31</p> <p>It’s a good day today! 50 cents rain or shine.</p> 	<p>1</p> <p>A hungry world is a dangerous world. Put in 75 cents today.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>75 cents if you don’t have to wear glasses. 50 cents if you do. What a joy to be able to see!</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Are your clothes nice and clean? 75 cents for your washer, and 75 cents for your dryer.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Trees help keep the soil in place so homes don’t wash away and people have good soil for planting. Give 10 cents for every plant in your home and every tree in your yard.</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Staying clean helps keep us healthy. People need toothbrushes, soap and shampoos. Give 10 cents for everything you have that helps keep your body clean.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Children are a blessing! \$2.00 for each one in your family.</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>A dime for each between-meal snack you had today.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Jesus said, “I am the door.” 25 cents for every door in your home.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>A dime for each time you opened the refrigerator today.</p> 	<p>10</p> <p>\$1.00 if you have not been sick this month. Thank God for good health!</p>	<p>11</p> <p>One Great Hour of Sharing helps deliver first aid and medicine – a luxury for many families. Give ten cents for every over-the-counter medication that your home is blessed with.</p>
<p>April 12</p> <p>After a flood, people need mops, gloves, sponges, detergent, and many other things to clean their homes. Give 10 cents for each thing in your house that you clean with.</p>	<p>This Sharing Calendar is a fun way for your family to make an offering to One Great Hour of Sharing while you learn about how contributions help people around the world.</p>	<p>Use your One Great Hour of Sharing coin bank for the days from March 22nd through Easter Sunday, April 12th.</p>	<p>Each day, participate with your family in a different activity. Create a pattern of sharing, learning about the needs of others, and deepening the relationship in your home.</p>			

April

- Neighborhood breakfast every Saturday (4, 11, 18, 25)
 Choir practice—Wednesdays (1, 8, 15, 22, 29)
 5 Communion – Intinction; Palm Sunday
 7 EPW (7:00 p.m.)
 9 Maundy Thursday Service (6:30 p.m.)/Communion
 - Intinction
 10 Good Friday Service (6:30 p.m.)
 12 Easter Service Communion
 13 The Office is Closed
 19 Stated Session Meeting
 20 Newsletter Deadline

May

- Neighborhood breakfast every Saturday (2, 9, 16, 23, 30)
 Choir practice—Wednesdays (6, 13, 20, 27)
 3 Communion–Intinction; Committee Meetings: CE,
 CCC, Outreach & Stewardship 12:30 p.m.
 5 EPW (7:00 p.m.)
 10 Mother’s Day Offering (Presbyterian Communities
 & Services Foundation)
 17 Stated Session Meeting
 18 Newsletter Deadline
 25 Office Closed (Memorial Day)
 30 Stated Presbytery Meeting – St. Andrew, Denton
 31 Pulpit Supply – Clay Brantly

June

- Neighborhood breakfast every Saturday (7, 14, 21, 28)
 Choir Practice - Wednesdays (4, 11, 18, 25)
 1 Communion Sunday; Committee Meetings: CCC,
 CE, Outreach 12:30 p.m.
 3 EPW (7:00 p.m.)
 4, 11, 18, 25 Lent Study 6:30 pm, light supper 5:30 pm
 8 Committee Meetings: H&P 5 pm, Worship 8:30
 a.m.
 15 Stated Session Meeting; No Sunday Breakfast
 16 Newsletter Deadline
 29 Pulpit Supply – Ron Holloman



APRIL

Birthdays

Kelsey Whitlow	1
Frank Karlen, Sr.	4
Cary Blair	5
Craig Blair	5
Brittney Bennett	6
Anne Lindberg	11
Deidre Maples	12
Charles Blair, Jr.	13
Garrett Gibbs	14
Danny Wood	15
Mason Gonzales	17
Talat Robert	18
Olivia Ferrari	19
Trey Karlen	23
Lauren O'Neill	30



APRIL

Anniversaries

Beverly & Roy Ridley	4/2
Vicki & David Gibbs	4/29

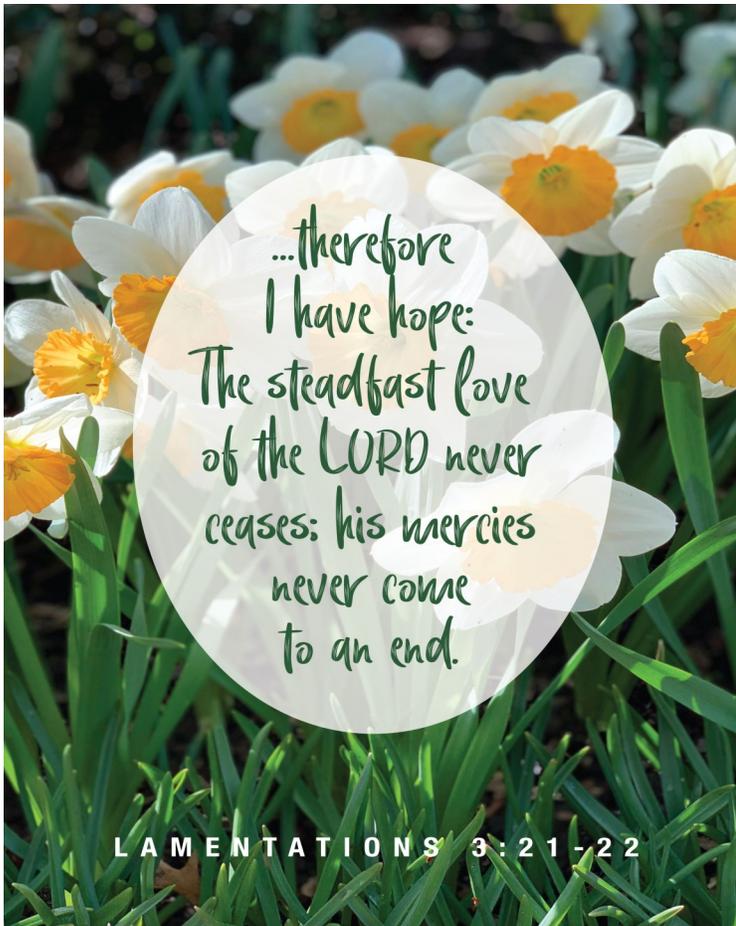


Why we celebrate

Jesus is a redeemer, a restorer in every way. His day on the cross looked like a colossal failure, but it was his finest moment. He launched a kingdom where the least will be the greatest and the last will be first, where the poor will be comforted and the meek will inherit the earth. Jesus brought together the homeless with the privileged and said, “You’re all poor, and you’re all beautiful.”

The cross leveled the playing field, and no earthly distinction is valid anymore. There is a new “us” — people rescued by the Passover Lamb, adopted into his family and transformed into saints. It is the most epic miracle in history. That is why we celebrate.

—Jen Hatmaker,
7: An Experimental Mutiny Against Excess



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

February 16, 2020

- ◆ Statistical Report, motion made, seconded and approved to receive and submit the Statistical Report.
- ◆ Child Protection Policy: Session members will review
- ◆ James Wilcox, PCHAS Development Officer, presented information regarding the Transitional Living Program and describing ways that EPC donations help young adults who have recently aged out of the foster care system establish themselves as responsible adults.
- ◆ Motion made, seconded and approved to schedule Rev. Denise Odom for June 21, 2020, Pulpit Supply, replacing Rev. Clay Brantley.
- ◆ Prayer of thanksgiving for the life of Pat Beck was given by the moderator. Motion made, seconded and approved to remove her name from the roll.
- ◆ Stewardship: One Great Hour of Sharing with the offering being split between the denomination and the EPC back-to-school shoe drive; Mother's Day and Father's Day with receipts distributed to Presbyterian Communities and Services Foundation; Christmas Joy with receipts being split between denomination and Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services.
- ◆ House & Property: Spring Work Day, April 4 on the calendar at 9 a.m.
- ◆ TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion made, seconded and approved to spread in summary form the Treasurer's Report for January 2020.

Total Revenues, Year To Date January 2020: \$ 17,813.66

Total Expenses, Year To Date January 2020: \$32,039.63

Total Current Assets, Year To Date January 2020: \$99,765.06



Special dates

- Holy Week, April 5-12, 2020
- Palm/Passion Sunday, April 5, 2020
- Maundy Thursday, April 9, 2020
- Good Friday, April 10, 2020
- Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020
- Administrative Professionals Day, April 22, 2020