

Eastminster Eagle

Volume 41, Issue 5

May 2024

Dear Eastminster Members and Friends,

Over the last few newsletters, I have talked about gardening as a metaphor for what we do as a church. We have prepared, planted, and watered our gardens. Now we will talk about harvesting the fruit that is ripening.

May 19th is Pentecost Sunday, a celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the Church. The word Pentecost is a Greek word for 50. Before Pentecost became a Christian celebration, it was a Jewish feast—in Hebrew Shavuot. Shavuot was 50 days after Passover and celebrated the wheat harvest.

Christian Pentecost celebrates the harvest of spiritual fruit. It happens 50 days from Easter, the day we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Jesus had been preparing soil, planting seeds, and watering the souls of his disciples. All that was needed was the Holy Spirit for the spiritual fruits to begin to emerge. On the Day of Pentecost, the Spirit began to blow like a rushing wind. The Apostles began preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ like they never thought they could. 3000 listeners believed it and were then baptized. A huge harvest! The Church was born.

I am seeing spiritual fruits emerging in the members of the church. I am also seeing members engaging with people outside the church. You are doing your own gardening with the Holy Spirit. You are becoming Jesus for others just like the Apostles did when they received the Holy Spirit. And the Spirit is blowing.

When I was little, I used to love to blow dandelion blowballs in the spring before the flowers emerged. The wind carried the seeds to a new destination and dandelions spread. There are wildflowers all over our neighborhood. Like the Spirit when we blow on the wildflowers the gospel spreads. All we must do is meet people where they are and be willing to listen to them, pray for their needs, and share the Gospel as the Spirit moves us to. It will spread and eventually there will be a harvest.

Consider memorizing a handful of short scriptures that you can use to gently blow on your neighbors. Pick scriptures that have encouraged you over the years. And add a word of interpretation and application (preaching!). One of my favorites is Psalm 23. It has a verse for about everything you would need. If someone is afraid you might say, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for you are with me...God will lead you through this, my friend." Or if they are worried about feeding their family you might say, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want...God is taking care of you and your family." Or if they are concerned about enemies, "You

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prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies...Even though you are feeling under attack right now, God is protecting you and feeding you." Perhaps there are other scriptures that come to mind. It will help greatly to have a daily devotional book for you start your day.

As Jesus said to his disciples before he sent them out on their mission, "The harvest is great, but the laborers are few." The world is bursting with fruit. The heads of grain are on the stems. Go out and bring in the harvest for our God with all the love of God! Don't let all that good fruit out there go to waste.

Pastor Paul



Mother's Day Offering

This year Mother's Day is Sunday, May 12. In honor and in memory of all of the moms, we will receive a special Mother's Day offering on the first 2 Sundays in May. The recipients of this year's offering will be Faith Hospice and Dallas Meals on Wheels. You may give online by choosing Mother's Day from the dropdown menu, or indicate it on your check and envelope in person.

Moms bring your kids, and kids bring your moms! Let's celebrate and give thanks for our moms.



On Sunday, May 19th— Pentecost Sunday— Eastminster celebrates 40 Years

CCC is spreading the joy by handing out a special gift to everyone in attendance on the 19th. And, everyone will get a cupcake at the end of the worship service!

Who can resist a present and a cupcake?



We're Having a Party!

On June 30th, we are celebrating Eastminster's 40th Anniversary, and to celebrate and welcome our new members.

Lets all come and give them a warm welcome.

CCC will provide Chicken, cake, and drinks. Can you provide the side dishes? Watch for the sign-up insert in the bulletin.

Treasurer Time

The church was in the black by over \$15,000 for the first quarter of 2024 due to the generosity of our members and the careful use of our resources. This is much better than the \$4,000 loss expected in the budget. The detailed financial statements are posted on the Stewardship bulletin board in the hallway just outside the conference room, or they can be emailed to you upon request.

Eastminster has so far collected offerings of \$860 for One Great Hour of Sharing. Per Session approval, ½ will be sent to the denomination, and the other ½ will be sent to Camp Gilmont. Our next special offering will be for Mother's Day. This offering will be split equally between Dallas Meals on Wheels and Faith Hospice. Please prayerfully consider donating to these worthy causes.

Our reserves at the Texas Presbyterian Foundation (TPF) continue to grow due to gains in the stock market. The church was able to add to our reserves in the first quarter and a simple computation of the EPC TPF investment account, \$255,088.89, divided by the 2024 budgeted loss, \$16,561.42, shows our reserves could last us over 15 years, all other things being equal. Praise God for His perfect provision!

Regarding 2024 pledges, of the \$231,120 that was pledged (20 families made pledges), \$84,418.56 has been fulfilled as of April 17, 2024. The rental income from St. Peter's Anglican Church and Face It Counseling continue to provide important resources to help us afford and maintain our property.

The Lord has given us these resources to use for His glory! If you want to be a part of the many uses for them, get involved in one of the 6 committees and prayerfully consider where He is calling you to serve and how you can

share your talents and these gifts with our neighbors.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about Eastminster's financial situation, please reach out to the Stewardship Committee or me personally by phone, 214-402-3152, or email at treasurer@eastminsterdallas.org.

Glory to God,

Cindy Garrett



House & Property

What has the House & Property Committee been up to? This committee has been busy as always. They are why our building is in such good shape.

This year, the Committee hopes to be able to replace the 30+ year-old HVAC units with cost efficient units.

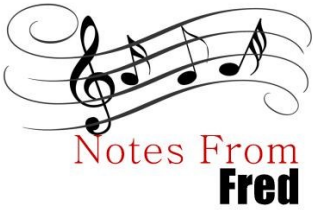
They handle the opening and closing of the church.

Have you been here in the evening? The parking lot lights have been replaced so we can see.

The trim around the exterior will be painted and repaired—dry rot will not be permitted.

The fire extinguishers have been inspected and certified; the gutters have been repaired. And this list is only a small fraction of what this Committee does.

Take all those things that homeowners must do to keep homes in repair, and multiply that by 100. That's what our House and Property committee does. They volunteer because they love this church family and are dedicated to keeping us going! Thank you Blair Garrett, Sean Talley, Dick Knox, Jo Byrd, Katie Karlen, and Bruce Turner.



This year Pentecost occurs on May 19th. We will sing hymns, songs, and anthems in worship that day, celebrating the very early beginnings of the Church and the coming of the Holy Spirit. *Breathe On Me Breath of God*, page 285 in our *Glory to God* hymnal is a favorite song for many people. This is sung not only at Pentecost, but at other times as a call to prayer and as a prayer.

The hymn is pretty simple, but was written by highly educated and knowledgeable Anglican priest, Edwin Hatch (1835-1889). Hatch ministered for several years in the slums of east London before becoming a lecturer at Trinity College in Quebec where he also served as Rector of Quebec High School. He returned to Oxford to be vice-principal of St. Mary's Hall, along with some other positions including Bampton Lecturer and Reader in Ecclesiastical History.

Hatch was recognized as an authority on the early church because of his Bampton Lectures, "On the Organization of Early Christian Churches." These lectures were acknowledged by a leading continental scholar on this topic and translated into German.

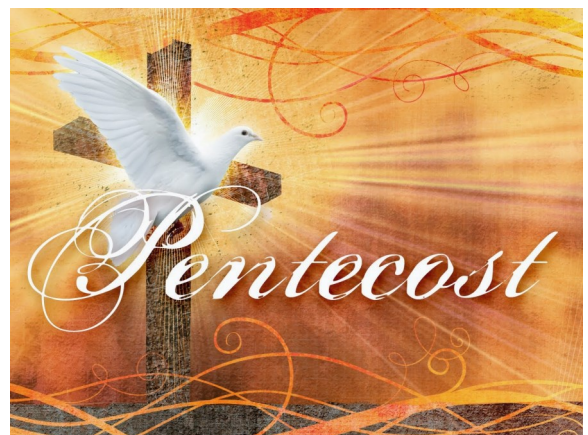
Breathe on Me Breath of God is one of his only remaining hymn in print today. The hymn text draws mostly from John 20:21-22, which follows John's account of the Resurrection,

"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even, so send I you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'"

The writer of John correlates with Genesis

2:7 where "the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being." Hatch's hymn asks the Holy Spirit to come into his life and transform it. Using the first-person perspective throughout the hymn adds to the hymn's power as the singer seeks the breath of God (Genesis 2:7) as a source for renewal. J.R. Watson, British hymnologist, says the hymn "was given the title of *Spiritus Die* (Spirit of God), linking the 'breath' image with that of the Holy Spirit (as in the Greek, where the same word is used for 'spirit and breath.'"

Watson summarizes the message of the hymn by suggesting that the breath of God "brings new life and love, purity and obedience, surrender and inspiration and finally eternal life, as the hymn moves through various stages of Christian experience and discipline towards a unity with God."





Pentecost Sunday, May 19th is Eastminster's 40th birthday! We will celebrate with birthday gifts and cupcakes to take home after worship.

On Palm Sunday in 1984, Calvary and Meneely Presbyterian Churches voted to merge. That is why the palms are on the Eastminster Banner. The first merged service was held on Pentecost Sunday, June 10, 1984 at the Meneely building. The new church selected Pentecost

Sunday as its official birthday. Pentecost marks the beginning of the worldwide church, making it an obvious choice for the new congregation.

At this time, most merged congregations lasted only five to ten years. However, with God's blessings and the unwavering dedication of current and past members, this congregation has been able to establish ministries that serve the community, create a welcoming environment for visitors and new members, a church family, and a congregation looking forward to a future of spreading the message of the Kingdom on earth.

Later, at the dissolution of Colonial Church, some of its members became part of the Eastminster family.

The first service in the new sanctuary was on Easter Sunday 1989. The dedication of the Sanctuary was held on the 200th Anniversary of the first General Assembly in the United States held May 1789.

Outreach Asked, and You Reached Out



Outreach presented the Congregation with not one, but two service projects during the Lenten season, and – as usual – you exceeded our goals.

Again this year, we asked you to donate supplies to make “Lenten Lunch Bags” to be distributed to our Neighborhood Breakfast guests. Our goal was to collect enough to fill 50 - 60 bags. You donated enough supplies for 100 BAGS, with even extra left over to stock our day-to-day emergency food pantry! And a good-sized crew stayed after church to get all those bags filled in record time.

Our ministry partners at St.



Mark asked for “Fifth Sunday Sandwich Makers” to help produce sandwiches for their mission work. After one sign-up day, you committed to making 17 dozen sandwiches – not a bad haul, considering that “Fifth Sunday” fell on Easter. But



when the time arrived for the Pappas family to deliver those goodies, you had supplied 34 DOZEN – DOUBLE what anyone expected.

To everyone who made this happen: **THANK YOU.**

Saturday Morning Breakfast Tom Pappas

March and April were very eventful months for the Saturday Morning Breakfast. On April 6, we celebrated the 10th Anniversary of serving breakfast to visitors from the neighborhood. Imagine that—10 years, every Saturday, the only interruption was during COVID. Over 40,000 meals have been served.

10 years ago on that first Saturday we had 18 servers and we served 3 guests. The Anniversary Saturday we had 22 servers and 78 guests. As you can see by the chart below, we are consistently running 60-100 people every Saturday (52 when there was a driving rain).

On April 6, we honored Lewis Thiebaud and Blair Garrett. We presented a framed 10th Anniversary program to Blair and to Vicki in Lewis's memory. We also honored all those who served with us over the years, and those faithful servants who have passed away. We thanked the two other churches that have helped us regularly: Greater Life and Christian Stronghold. We acknowledged and thanked all those who have volunteered and served over the years.

Our Presbytery representative, Lisa Wraith, was there. She was so excited by what she saw that she wants us to report to the Presbytery what we're doing. She also wants to bring her kids one Saturday so that they can experience the meaning of serving. It is so gratifying to have Presbytery officials

that care so much about the life of our church.

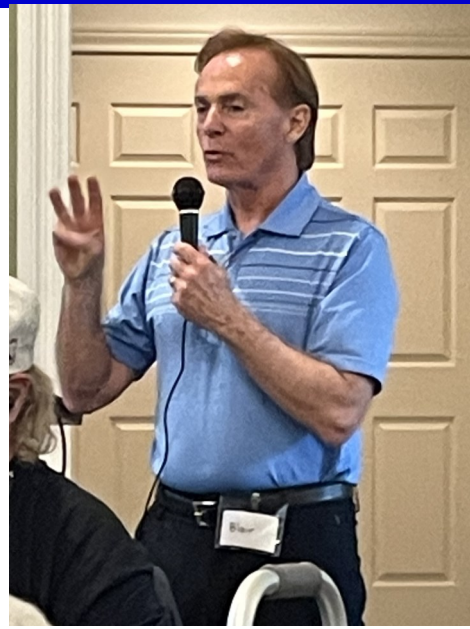
Living out Jesus's teaching sometimes seems difficult in these times and in this city. Simplicity, consistency, and humility somehow get multiplied by the Holy Spirit and things begin to happen that, over time, seem miraculous.

Blair had a calling and Lewis and Blair had a genius to create and implement. Now here we are 10 years, thousands of meals, and hundreds of people later. We have all been blessed with the powerful idea of "service."

I feel blessed. I know I can share that the other volunteers feel blessed. I can say with great certainty that God is smiling upon us.

Serving Numbers

	Servers	Guests	Total
3/23	14	50	64
3/30	13	66	99
4/6	22	78	100
4/13	15	50	65
4/20	10	42	52



**The Neighborhood Breakfast
10 Years and Still Going Strong
April 5, 2014 – April 5, 2024**





What two rivers that we still know today are named in the Creation account in Genesis 2?

- A. Nile
- B. Yangtze
- C. Jordan
- D. Tigris
- E. Ganges
- F. Euphrates

Answer: D & F (See Genesis 2:10-14)



"I was a first-grade teacher.
What did you do?"

Mothers with teenagers know why animals eat their young.

Happy Mother's Day! Yes, it's today. How fast can you glue macaroni into a bracelet?

Q: Why is a computer so smart?

A: It listens to its motherboard.

Q: What did the digital clock say to its mother?

A: "Look, Ma! No hands!

Q: What did the mother broom say to the baby broom? / A: It's time to go to sweep.

Q: What did the Egyptian kid say when it got lost?

A: I want my mummy.

Q: What did the momma say to the foal?

A: It's pasture bedtime

Scripture Readings for May

1 Lev. 19:1-18	12 Heb. 12:18-29	23 1 John 5:13-21
2 Lev. 19:26-37	13 Josh. 1:1-9	24 2 John 1-13
3 Lev. 23:1-22	14 1 Sam. 16:1-13a	25 3 John 1-15
4 Lev. 23:23-44	15 Isa. 4:2-6	26 John 1:29-34
5 Lev. 25:1-17	16 Zech. 4:1-14	27 1 Tim. 1:1-17
6 Lev. 25:35-55	17 Jer. 31:27-34	28 1 Tim. 1:18-2:15
7 Lev. 26:1-20	18 Ezek. 36:22-27	29 1 Tim. 3:1-16
8 Lev. 26:27-42	19 Deut. 16:9-12	30 1 Tim. 4:1-16
9 Dan. 7:9-14	20 Prov. 3:11-20	31 1 Tim. 5:17-22 (23-25)
10 1 Sam. 2:1-10	21 1 John 4:7-21	
11 Num. 11:16-17, 24-29	22 1 John 5:1-12	

Puzzle!

Fill in the horizontal rows using the clues. Then, using the number codes, complete the squares below to read three Beatitudes from Luke 6:20-21, NIV.

Grassy area behind a house

Blooms that have petals

Spring precipitation

Puffy and white in the sky

Soil

Lawn

Must be weeded and tended

Tiptoe through these

Baby sheep

We need food and this

God made this from nothing

A sign of God's promise

These, in April, bring May flowers

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19				
20	21	22	23	24	25		
26	27	28	29				
30	31	32	33	34			
35	36	37	38	39	40		
41	42	43	44	45	46		
47	48	49	50	51			
52	53	54	55	56			
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
65	66	67	68	69	70	71	
72	73	74	75	76	77	78	

“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.” —Anne Bradstreet

“None can believe how powerful prayer is, and what it is able to effect, but those who have learned it by experience.” —Martin Luther

“In times of stress, the best thing we can do for each other is to listen with our ears and our hearts and to be assured that our questions are just as important as our answers.” —Fred Rogers

“Walk lightly in the spring; Mother Earth is pregnant.”
—Native American proverb

Music is the one art we all have inside. We may not be able to play an instrument, but we can sing along or clap or tap our feet. Have you ever seen a baby bouncing up and down in the crib in time to some music? When you think of it, some of that baby's first messages from his or her parents may have been lullabies, or at least the music of their speaking voices. All of us have had the experience of hearing a tune from childhood and having that melody evoke a memory or a feeling. The music we hear early on tends to stay with us all our lives. —Fred Rogers

	1	10	13	15	25	39	38		2	7	13		5	22	23		12	73	11
17	31	39		45	22	63	7		9	70	56		5	22	23	58	46		
	27	15		61	73	13		4	18	19	30	26	22	49		22	9		
30	63	26		1	47	55	72	78	39	26		60	77	59		5	74	23	
	12	73	70		73	23	40	35	13	56		64	70	75		9	11	65	
5	63	23		75	18	10	47		1	76		72	48	61	27	34	9	44	13
26		1	43	55	72	78	76	24		2	7	13		5	22	23		75	73
22		12	59	39	45		64	63	52		9	22	58		5	70	42		
52	44	10	47		10	2	23	35	73										

Answers: backyard, flowers, rain, clouds, dirt, grass, garden, tulips, lambs, water, creation, rainbow, showers; “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.”

Mother — and more*Open Hands*

Liturgical scholar Balthasar Fischer (1912-2001) shared an “a-ha” realization about the significance of praying with open, outstretched hands, an ancient practice. The opposite gesture, a closed fist, is used to threaten others or even inflict violence. We also grasp things in closed fists, refusing to let go, to share, to hold gently or loosely.

When we pray with open hands, Fischer explained, we’re saying before God that we renounce “all highhandedness, all pride in [our] own sufficiency, all violence.” We hold up our empty hands to God, saying, “I have nothing that I have not received from you, nothing that you have not placed in my empty hands. Therefore I do not keep a frantic hold on anything you have given me; therefore, too, I desire not to strike and hurt but only to give and to spread happiness and joy.”

Though I’ve primarily known God as Father — along with metaphors such as rock, eagle, shepherd, potter — I also learned of Scripture passages portraying God as mother. For example (all NIV):

“For a long time I have kept silent. ... But now, like a woman in childbirth, I cry out, I gasp and pant” (Isaiah 42:14).

“As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you” (Isaiah 66:13).

“Like a bear robbed of her cubs, I will attack them” (Hosea 13:8).

In others, God is pictured doing traditional “women’s work”: making clothes (Genesis 3:21), sweeping (Isaiah 14:23), preparing and hosting a meal (Proverbs 9:1-6), baking bread (Luke 13:21).

One of my favorite images of God is tucked in Hosea. While many modern dads nurture their toddlers this way, the tender words surely call to mind a mama’s care: “It was I who taught [Israel] to walk. ... To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them” (Hosea 11:3-4). Most importantly, God — however known — is loving and good.

—Heidi Hyland Man





MAY BIRTHDAYS

Doris Parker	5-2
Bill Davis	5-5
Sean Turner	5-9
Julie Watkins	5-14
Kayla Kreger	5-15
Melody Davis	5-21
Coy Whitley	5-31



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Elizabeth & Sean Kelleher	5-15
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Eastminster Session

- Chandra Anderson
- Melody Davis
- Phillis Knox
- Dick Knox
- Tom Pappas
- Sean Turner
- Fred Watkins
- Patience Uche
- Darlene West



Pastor	Rev. Dr. Paul Burns
Director of Music	Fred P. Watkins
Organist	Melody S. Davis
Administrative Assistant	Chandra Anderson
Hostess/Housekeeper	Minerva Hernandez
Child Care Provider	Betty Crabtree



HIGHLIGHTS from the STATED SESSION MEETING

April 28, 2023

- ◆ Welcomed two new members, Brian Iverach and Melanie Litle, into the Eastminster family.
- ◆ Heard a report from the Treasurer that Eastminster is reporting a net positive income so far in 2024 and that our monetary assets are continuing to grow.
- ◆ Appointed a delegate (Fred Watkins) to the May 4 Presbytery meeting.
- ◆ Received information on upcoming Advent studies and celebrations.
- ◆ Received joyfully an invitation by Journey Church to a community Pentecost service on May 19.
- ◆ Enjoyed a meal provided by Bruce and Charlotte Turner.



Special dates

- ◆ National Day of Prayer, May 2, 2024
- ◆ Ascension Day, May 9, 2024
- ◆ Mother's Day, May 12, 2024
- ◆ Armed Forces Day, May 18, 2024
- ◆ Pentecost, May 19, 2024
- ◆ Trinity Sunday, May 26, 2024
- ◆ Memorial Day, May 27, 2024