

Eastminster Eagle

Volume 33, Issue 6

June 2021

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Jeremiah 29: 11

God has a plan, and with great joy, I believe Eastminster continues to live into that plan. As we entered both 2020 and 2021 the session made the decision to continue our pursuit of a Director of Family Mission and Ministries (DFMM). Monies for such a position were added to the church budget in 2019. The heart of this position is about stepping out in faith and giving concentrated attention to family ministry-including parents, children, and youth. We also see it as an extension of our calling to reach out beyond our church walls.

This year, in the midst of conversations about the position, we received information from the Center for Youth Ministry Teaming (CYMT) about partnering with them and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (APTS), in support of a student in their program moving toward ordination with a specialization in youth ministry. This is much like the Supervised Practice of Ministry (SPM) that pastors seeking ordination are required to do; both the CYMT and SPM are three-year commitments. The only difference is the extra youth training that comes through the CYMT affiliation. Like the seminary experience, the CYMT places students in particular locations, and by the guiding hand of the Spirit Eastminster was suggested as one of those locations.

The Center for Youth Ministry Training (CYMT)

CYMT equips leaders to minister, innovate, and engage with youth so that they may experience the love and grace of Jesus Christ leading to identity and purpose. Communities without equipped leaders risk leaving youth without relevant faith spaces to grow and mature in their faith. Leaders themselves risk burning out quickly in their faith calling because of lack of training, coaching and guidance.

The Graduate Residency in Youth Ministry is designed to wholly equip today's professional youth minister. During the 3-year program, residents receive practical training and coaching from CYMT and a theological education at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, where they earn a Master of Arts in Youth Ministry (MAYM) degree.

Through the **classroom**, Residents gain the biblical and theological expertise needed to design and engage in ministry programs that help young people develop a deep, life-changing Christian faith.

Through **communities of faith** CYMT partners with the communities of faith who are a part of the Body of Christ, to place residents to serve as a youth minister. CYMT Residents serve the Church through a variety of ministry settings, ranging from camp ministries to nonprofits, to traditional church settings.

As Cohort, Residents join a group of fellow youth ministers from the same area and move through the program together. Residents receive consistent, personalized coaching from a CYMT-trained, veteran youth minister. Coaches help develop youth ministry skills, challenge growth, and hold Residents accountable while still providing support.

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CYMT knows that ministry is hard so they seek to teach self-care so those called can stay in ministry for the long haul. Care for the Resident comes through spiritual and pastoral support. Residents learn how to fill their tanks, so they are not serving on empty.

Theological Education. Practical Training

All CYMT residents earn their Master of Arts in Youth Ministry (MAYM) through Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (APTS). All residents, regardless of their placement, attend Austin seminary through our hybrid classroom model. The Master of Arts in Youth Ministry degree provides foundational studies in Biblical Studies, Theology, Ethics, Pastoral Care, and Missions & Evangelism. The degree has room to choose from among many elective options including denominational coursework for those interested in pursuing ordination.

Since 2006, CYMT has equipped outstanding youth ministers. 90% of our alumni are still in professional ministry. The application process is designed to match a church with a youth minister who is the best fit both in personality and theology. Not only does CYMT provide mentoring and coaching, they provide a veteran youth minister coach. This coach helps develop a fertile environment for growth, building a foundation and infrastructure for ministry such as vision and mission statements, goals, curriculum, a discipleship plan, long-term calendars, and volunteer training and recruiting.

After many conversations and visits with the staff of CYMT and a Resident candidate, the session and CYMT staff both believe that our position description for the DFMM and the responsibilities of a Resident complement each other. It is with great joy, we announce our partnership with the Center, APTS and Resident, Audrey Webb. Audrey will be joining the staff on Sunday, July 11. We believe this is an answer to our intentional praying and listening and together we say, "God is good all the time; all the time, God is good!"

Over the course of several days, we will begin introducing Audrey to the congregation via a series of daily emails. Thanks be to God for this blessing to Eastminster, to Audrey and all whose love of the Lord will deepen through our ministry together.

That you may live

During the pandemic, I've worshiped online with several congregations. The web address for one ends ".net/live." As I navigate to this site, I tend to read the adjective form "live," as in "livestream." One Sunday, however, the verb form, as in "Worship and live," popped into my mind. I had almost slept in and skipped that morning's service. But as I worshiped with others, albeit remotely, my spirit indeed felt increasingly alive.

That whole day I felt I was living more fully because I'd been inspired by God's Word in sermon and song and shared in praising God with others.

Worship reminds us there is something — Someone — greater than ourselves. Worship opens us to new ways of living.

Moses, after he had passed along God's gift of the Ten Commandments, including the rule to keep the Sabbath day holy through rest and worship, told the people, "Walk in obedience to all that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live" (Deuteronomy 5:33, NIV).

We too worship God regularly — so that we may more fully live. —Heidi Hyland Mann



In 1979 Robert Ray sat down to write *Gospel Mass*, an experimental work, for a one-time performance. The work surprised him as it caught on to

become a seminal work of African American music performed in worship and concerts all over the world.

Our choir has sung three pieces from it so far: the *Kyrie* (Lord have Mercy), the *Credo* (I believe) and the *Alleluia! Praise the Lord*. We just sang the last Sunday of May the *Credo*. We hope to do the 30 minute work in the context of a communion service sometime in the near future similar to when we did the *Rejoice Folk Song Communion*. It is a favorite of many in the choir and from your response when we do a piece most of you seem to enjoy the work as well. The work has some solos integrated within the choral pieces and is accompanied by piano, bass, and drums.

Ray had no doubt God played a role in the writing of his now famous Mass, which sets the words from the Catholic Mass (communion) to the rhythm and harmony of African American music. "God controls everything I do," said Ray, a composer, conductor, and music educator. "It was written in about a two-week period. The hard part for me was not being a formally trained composer. The creativity was a result of divine inspiration. He was working with me." He agrees that it also came at the right time and place. The Black Power movement was pushing cultural pride and identity, Martin Luther King Jr.'s message of inclusion still felt fresh, and white audiences were embracing African-American gospel music. The music for the Mass, like other pieces Ray later composed, was based on his own musical experience, growing up in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

While the joyful toe-tapping mass reflects King's life and message, changes in the Roman Catholic

Church also played a role. The *Gospel Mass*, Ray explains, is a direct result of the Second Vatican Council in the mid-'60s and its decision to hold Masses in the language of the host country rather than in traditional Latin. That opened up the mass to other changes. The Rev. Clarence Rivers, a musician and the first black Catholic priest in the archdiocese of Cincinnati, was an advocate for the use of African-American spirituals in the Catholic liturgy. Ray, a graduate of Northwestern University in music and piano performance, was asked to be on Rivers' liturgical team.

"We went around the country, advocating the use of jazz and African-American music in the liturgy," Ray recalled. "We pretty much talked to black Catholics and got a mixed reaction. Some people had joined the Catholic church because they wanted to get away from that traditional music." In spite of that, Rivers and Ray continued their workshops with the National Office of Black Catholics. Ray had just begun teaching at the University of Illinois-Urbana, when he was asked to try composing an African-American style Mass. From the beginning, *Gospel Mass* was wildly successful. The official premiere was in 1979 at the University of Illinois-Urbana, with a chorus of Ray's students. "There was an incredible response," Ray recalls. "We performed to jam-packed houses. I was very excited. To have that kind of response to the first work you have ever written was very gratifying. Like I said: 'It was the hand of the Almighty.' Even so, Ray never expected *Gospel Mass* to be performed again. He packed the music in storage and went on with his life.

Several years later a friend asked to use *Gospel Mass* in a high school concert. That

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concert hooked Ray up with the Hal Leonard music publishing company, which published *Gospel Mass* and all Ray's other work. The piece, he believes, struck an ecumenical chord that "allowed people of all denominations or faith to embrace the style."

Like any parent, Ray has his favorite sections, such as the *I Believe credo* and *Hallelujah, Praise the Lord*. "There is a special story behind *Hallelujah*," Ray recalls. "It was written the night before the premiere and taught by rote to the chorus. I came in and taught it that night." I hope you enjoy and are moved by the music as the choir and the are inspired by the faith of the composer.



DOWN WITH THE BRITISH! UP WITH THE AMERICANS!

The headline is from the movie *The Great Escape* where Americans with some help from their fellow British war

prisoners are celebrating the Fourth of July all in good fun in spite of their conditions.

We don't know what our conditions will be like, but the Congregational Care and Worship Committees are planning a 4th of July luncheon and program on Sunday July 4th after worship. Hot dogs, burgers, fellowship for lunch hoping to be in the fellowship hall. Following lunch we will return to the Sanctuary for a program of the choir and congregation singing patriotic songs, all in a program highlighting excerpts from *The God Who Gave Us Liberty* by Randall Thompson based on some of the writings of Thomas Jefferson, readings of other writings, "The Declaration of Independence," and the "grievances" that caused the declaration to be written and ultimately the Revolutionary War by Tom Pappas.

Put it on your calendar and attend in person that day to worship God, fellowship with others, and remember our country's founding.

"Dads are most ordinary men turned by love into heroes, adventurers, storytellers and singers of song."
—Pam Brown

"Green is the prime color of the world, and that from which its loveliness arises."
—Pedro Calderón de la Barca

"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."

—Winston Churchill

"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under the trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time."

—John Lubbock

Real strength is neither male nor female but is, quite simply, one of the finest characteristics that any human being can possess.

—Fred Rogers



	Families	Adults	Children	Persons	Pounds
4-6	132	289	339	629	9,176
4-13	192	427	443	944	11,482
4-20	172	358	429	833	14,694
4-27	165	351	390	789	11,625
Totals	661	1,425	1,601	3,195	46,977



The Restoration Update.

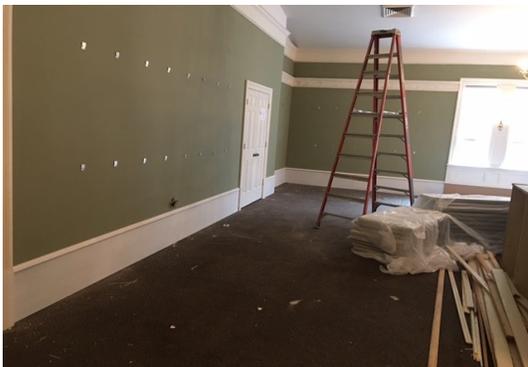
The work of putting God's house back in order began April 21st, so by the time you read this we will have experienced plenty of restoration. To date of this article, May 11th, Cousins Remodeling, the general contractor has installed all of the drywall and completed the tape, bed and texturing.

They have begun painting and the appearance of the remodeled area has begun to show dramatic improvement. Baseboard trim is now being installed and I can tell you we have a lot of trim to replace. After the trim is installed, it will be primed and painted, then all of the cabinetry and bookcases will be built and installed. We will have 3 storage pods brought to our property in a few weeks and all of our furnishings will be stored in them so the flooring can be installed. We are hopeful that all of this work can be done by the end of June. The Fellowship Hall will be ready to host the July 4th celebration.



The sanctuary entry remodel has begun and if the rain will hold off for a while, we can complete this project. There is a lot of damage to the wood in the entryway. Please be patient and careful as you enter the church on Sundays. We have employed an air conditioning contractor that will provide a solution so that condensation leaking from our air conditioning system will not happen again. I'm tired of water dripping on my head...how about you?

I want to thank Chad Dijkman, owner of Cousins Remodeling and all of his subcontractors for a wonderful job that they are doing. I look forward to giving you an even brighter update for the July newsletter. Stay safe and please continue to pray for all of the work that is being done to put our Lord's house back in order.



Blessings,

Blair Garrett, House and Property Committee



The Outreach Committee would like to ask all members to pray for the young adults who are working to establish their independence as a fruitful and contributing part of their communities. Opportunities exist whereby you can participate in helping these young adults. Contact a member of our committee and we can help you connect with Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services to see where you can help.

Denise Bennett & Kathy Kreger
Co-Chairs, Outreach Committee

Transitional Living

Many young adults who transition from foster care to adult life on their own experience difficulties. Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services helps young adults with an effective, results-driven bridge between living in foster care and living on one's own. We make sure those young adults are ready for managing their education or employment, and that they can achieve their goals of self-sufficiency.

These homes are not emergency shelters and only accept clients through an application, interview and assessment process. PCHAS Transitional Living is a long-term residential program that empowers clients to achieve goals and reach self-sufficiency. The program provides:

- ◆ Counseling
- ◆ Educational resources
- ◆ Employment guidance
- ◆ Financial education
- ◆ Health and self-care awareness
- ◆ Job skills training
- ◆ Life skills training
- ◆ Mentoring
- ◆ Personal and professional goal development
- ◆ Residential housing

Our hope is that the children we serve will successfully complete their education, find gainful employment, move into their own homes

and live successful, independent and productive lives.

Recently we had a young woman, Amanda, who had aged out of the foster care system return to our care in Transitional Living. When Amanda graduated she wanted the opportunity to try to make her way in the world without help. She had been in the system for much of her life and had been hurt by adults in her life prior to coming to PCHAS so she wanted to see if she could accomplish her goals without help. She ended up being homeless for a year before she sought the help of PCHAS Transitional Living program. Amanda came into the program and quickly established that she wanted to go to culinary school. She applied and was accepted into a local program. She has enjoyed all she is learning in culinary school and at PCHAS. She still has some goals to accomplish before she can be on her own successful, but she is on her way!

Realm of Possibilities



Realm is a cloud-based church management solution that combines administration, accounting, and community all in one tool. The solution provides multiple security layers for financial transactions and registration payments. I would like to give a huge thank you to the team members (Tony Bennett, Cindy Garrett, Chandra Anderson) who have been involved with the installation of the **Realm** solution, and the conversion of our old accounting and administrative systems to the new **Realm** system.

There are several users, committees, and congregation members (Financial Secretary, Administrative Assistant, Session, Stewardship Committee, Giving Contributions) currently using the **Realm** system. The members of the Stewardship committee would like to inform you of some of the benefits and functionality that is available to each member of our Eastminster family. One of the benefits of the **Realm** system is the online giving functionality is integrated with the financial functionality which enables each **Realm** user to print, download, or have your statement emailed to you for tracking and tax purposes. If you would like to join and use the **Realm** system you must first request an invitation from our Office Administrator (OfficeAdmin@Eastminsterdallas.org) and she will send an email invitation to you which will then allow you to setup your access/login credentials.

Once you have created your login credentials or you already have a **Realm** login you may request that your Contribution statement be emailed to you by:

Login to **Realm**

- ◆ **Click** on your name in the upper right-hand corner and select **My Profile**
- ◆ **Click** the **Edit Profile** button
- ◆ **Click** the Personal Information tab
- ◆ **Click** Statement Delivery Box and **Select** Email
- ◆ **Click** the **Save** button

This concludes our **Realm** system user tip for this month, if you have any questions or need help getting started using **Realm** you can contact Tony Bennett, Chandra Anderson or Jim Lee and we would be happy to assist you getting started in the **Realm** of Possibilities.

Have a Blessed Day

THANK YOU!



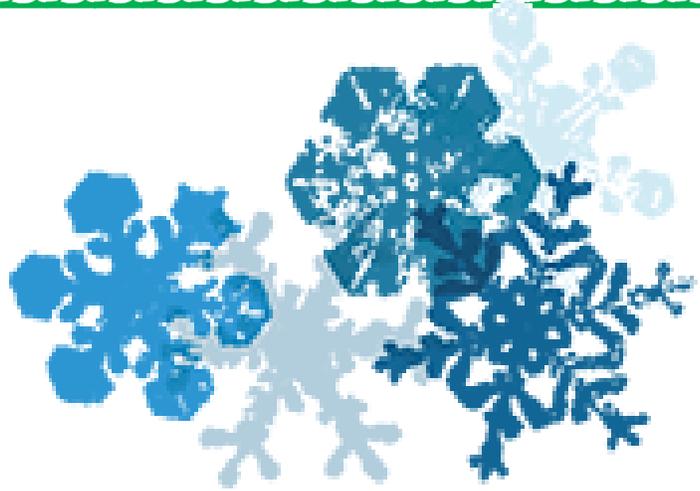
Thank you to all signed the neat card in recognizing my 40 years of service at Eastminster before the service on May 2. Special thanks to those who participated Bruce and Charlotte Turner, Katie Karlen, and Michele Pappas. Huge thanks for the gifts and to the Choir past, now, and future!

Thank you for allowing me to serve and minister through music and teaching!

Fred

Complete this proverb: "Like snow in _____ or rain in harvest, so honor is not fitting for a fool."

- A. springtime
- B. summer
- C. seedtime
- D. autumn



Answer: B (See Proverbs 26:1, ESV.)

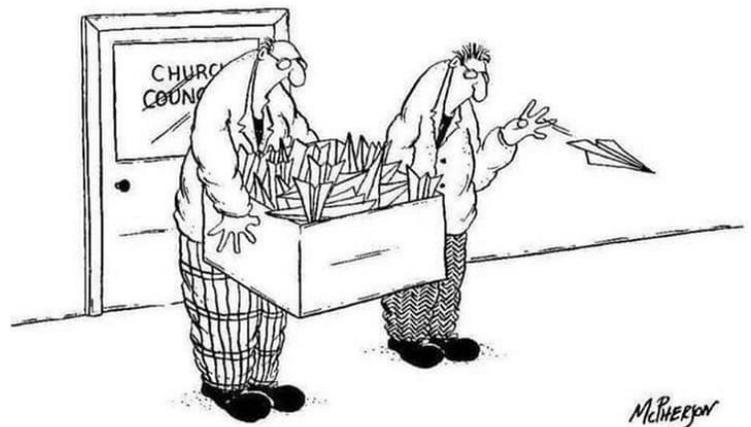
Dear God,
I read the Bible. What does "begat" mean? Nobody will tell me. Love, Alison

Dear God,
Maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each other so much if they had their own rooms. It works with my Brother. Larry

Dear God,
My bother is a rat. You should give him a tail. Ha! Ha! Danny

Dear God,
Who draws the lines around the countries? Jan

Dear God,
Did you really mean "do onto others as they do unto you"? Because if you did, then I'm going to fix my brother. Darla



"Remind me never to ask the Youth Group to help fold the church bulletins again."

Scripture Readings for June

1 Luke 17:11-19	11 Luke 19:41-48	22 Luke 21:37-22:13
2 Luke 17:20-37	12 Luke 20:1-8	23 Luke 22:14-23
3 Luke 18:1-8	13 Matt. 18:1-14	24 Luke 22:24-30
4 Luke 18:9-14	14 Luke 20:9-19	25 Luke 22:31-38
5 Luke 18:15-30	15 Luke 20:19-26	26 Luke 22:39-51
6 Matt. 15:29-39	16 Luke 20:27-40	27 Matt. 21:23-32
7 Luke 18:31-43	17 Luke 20:41-21:4	28 Luke 22:52-62
8 Luke 19:1-10	18 Luke 21:5-19	29 Luke 22:63-71
9 Luke 19:11-27	19 Luke 21:20-28	30 Luke 23:1-12
10 Luke 19:28-40	20 Matt. 19:23-30	
	21 Luke 21:29-36	

See light, be light

In January 2021, National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman presented her poem

“The Hill We Climb” at the presidential inauguration. The final lines read: “For there is always light, / if only we’re brave enough to see it. / If only we’re brave enough to be it.”

How often we long for light! In recent years we’ve agonized amid pandemic, angry politics and new awareness of racism. Some have suffered deep sorrow. But Jesus says, “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12) and invites us to turn to him. God is always bringing light into darkness, through helpers, healers, peacemakers, friends. Sometimes bravery is required to turn our focus from the negative to the positive — to see the light of God.

Jesus also says, “You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14, emphasis added) and calls us to brighten the gloom. That requires bravery, as Gorman notes, but as Christians we’re urged to look for light not just to make our own lives better but to shine into others’ lives too. The Holy Spirit gives us the needed courage — to both see and be light.



Stewardship Committee

Father's Day Special Giving

The Stewardship Committee has designated the following two local programs as recipients of our “extra-giving” on Father's Day (June 20). The contributions will be divided equally between:

- **Meals on Wheels:** This program is an essential part of the Visiting Nurse Association of Texas. The VNA Meals on Wheels program came together with the help of their donors and friends to continue serving their homebound seniors on a daily basis with meals and even holiday gifts. The caring volunteers continue keeping our vulnerable seniors fed and even deliver comforting friendship during their meal deliveries. Meals on Wheels continues to add new clients from the waiting list to ensure more seniors are being helped daily.
- **Faith Presbyterian Hospice:** This hospice care center is located in Dallas and its palliative care is Medicare certified. Services provided at Faith Presbyterian Hospice include home health aide, counseling, medical social services, medical supply services, nursing services, occupational therapy, physician services, physical therapy, short term inpatient care and speech pathology services. Faith Presbyterian Hospice also provides special care for people who are terminally ill. This involves a team-oriented approach that addresses the medical, physical, social, emotional and spiritual needs of the patient. Hospice also provides support to the patient's family or caregiver.

We trust that you will prayerfully give consideration to donating to these programs in the coming weeks.

Stewardship Committee

Hanging out with Dad

I've always been a "daddy's girl." Growing up, I usually spent Saturdays in the garage with my dad. We'd build something, fix a car part or get into some trouble together.

Though Joseph wasn't Jesus' biological father, he certainly served as a father figure for God's Son. Jesus followed in Joseph's footsteps as a carpenter, but we're told little about his childhood. When Joseph advised Jesus to "measure twice and cut once," did Jesus mention he'd get it right on the first measure? How many craftsman tips did Jesus learn from Joseph? And did Joseph learn a few from Jesus? Surely young Jesus looked up to Joseph. What did wonder look like in the eyes of the One who invented wonder?

How am I hanging out with God on a regular basis? Am I continuing to learn his "trade"? Do I intentionally mimic his words, his kindness, his ways of loving others well? Take a minute to ponder that. Imagine yourself out in the garage with God (or in the kitchen with God, or at the computer with God). What task do you imagine doing together? What does God say to you as you look into his eyes?

—Janna Firestone

No boundaries

Love is a commitment to seek the good and to work for the good and welfare of others. It doesn't stop at our front door or our neighborhood, our religion or race, or our state's or [our] country's border. This is one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth, as the hymn goes. It often calls us to step outside of what we thought our boundaries were, or what others expect of us. It calls for us to sacrifice, not because doing so feels good, but because it's the right thing to do. — Bishop Michael Curry, *Love Is the Way*



JUNE



Sharon Smith	6/4
John Randall	6/6
Chandra Karlen	6/8
Kenneth Kraft	6/9
Daniel Pappas	6/11
Drew Turner	6/14
Heather Crabtree	6/19
Alicia Almanza	6/28
Susan Barraza	6/29
Nina Uche	6/30
Denise Veloz	6/30

JUNE



Ginny & Harvey Beatty	6/6/1981
Cheryl & Joe Gonzales	6/17/1989
Sherry & Gary Holloman	6/18/1999
Philis & Dick Knox	6/7/1969
Charlotte & Bruce Turner	6/26/1982
Charlotte Turner	6/26/1982
Fred P. Watkins	6/13/1964
Shirlene Watkins	6/13/1964

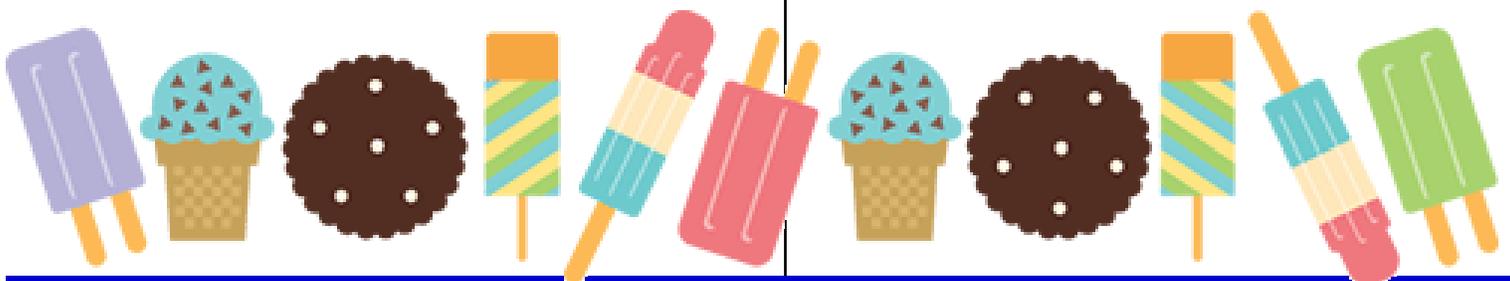


Eastminster Session

- Denise Bennett
- Betty Crabtree
- Kayla Dixon
- Ronnie Dixon
- Blair Garrett
- Kathy Kreger
- Jim Lee
- Michele Pappas
- Helen Randolph
- Vicki Thiebaud
- Charlotte 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

May 16, 2021

- ♦ Heard a report from the Treasurer stating that construction monies are in place and the Payroll Protection Program loan forgiveness has been approved. The Financial Review Committee met on April 24. A letter of findings is on file.
- ♦ Heard a report from the House and Property Committee Chair stating that building construction is progressing on schedule. The Chair will meet with the construction company to make final decisions for finishes.
- ♦ Heard a report on the live streaming option for Sunday services. The report indicates that we have 51 subscribers to the service, an indication that we are reaching others with the platform.
- ♦ Heard a report from the Re-entry Task Force, who met in light of new CDC guidelines regarding masks. The committee decided to keep the current mask policy in place until the Pastor returns from sabbatical.
- ♦ Approved an addition to the church calendar for a July 4 Patriotic Celebration.
- ♦ The Session will continue to pray for guidance in forming a Long-Range Planning Committee.



Special dates

- ♦ **Flag Day, June 14, 2021**
- ♦ **Father's Day, June 20, 2021**
- ♦ **First day of summer, June 20, 2021**