

# Eastminster Eagle

Volume 39, Issue 9

September 2022

## *THE IONA CROSSES*

Last month I left you at the dock, ready to rest from a long traveling journey from Dallas to the Isle of Iona. But before our little vessel landed, we caught a glimpse of the Iona Abbey from the water. There was a holy silence that came over me. To view it from the island side, breath-taking. To worship within these walls where generations have worshiped for centuries was a thin place.



From this tiny 3 mile long and 1.5 mile wide island, monks and nuns helped spread Christianity throughout Scotland. Stepping back in time set my mind to wondering. How did they live? Fellowship? What was it like to spend so much time in silence? What did it feel like to worship in the Abbey? What were the conversations surrounding the decision to take the Gospel from the little rock to the larger world? Did St. Columba ever dream that this Abbey would become the spiritual home of the Iona Community, an ecumenical Christian religious order?

And the crosses, standing all these centuries as witness to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, what was it like to look upon them? For me it was a powerful coming home, again remembering the sacrifice of our Lord for the gift of forgiveness and eternity with God for us.

The best preserved cross on Iona is the 17 feet tall St. Martin's Cross made from a single slab of gray epidiorite. It has been standing in its original position where the monks placed it 1200 years ago. The raised circles, or bosses, are thought to represent God with everything revolving around Him. Intertwined between these bosses are serpents, which in the Celtic world represented rebirth since the snake sheds its old skin; symbolizing our rebirth into a new life upon acceptance of Jesus. The ring around the cross head represents eternal life and is a common feature in Celtic crosses.



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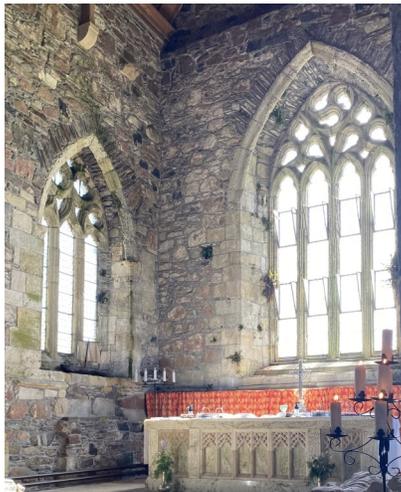


St. John's Cross at one time had one of the widest spans of any cross in the British Isles. Standing outside St. Columba's Shrine, is a concrete replica. The original was made in several pieces joined together with mortise and tenon joints. Originally it was simply a cross with

crossarms, but this proved to be unstable, especially with the island winds, and the 'ring' support was added shortly after to try to strengthen it.

St. Matthew's Cross, the third high-cross by the entrance to the Abbey, is present only as the base. St. Oran's Cross, the fourth historic cross is visible in the Abbey Museum as carved fragments.

Since returning from Iona, I find myself asking more and more the same questions I asked on the island, not from a reflective mood. Instead the questions have taken on a new life pointing to the future: Is my present living what I want for the future? Why don't I spend more time in silence with God? Does worship always have to be a grand experience or can it also be as simple as sitting with God and God's people? Am I making decisions that move me toward sharing God's Good News with the larger world? Can I embrace faith enough to let God's dreams be my dreams? And finally, do I give thanksgiving for the sacrifice of Jesus upon the cross every time I pray? For a little island, Iona surely inspires some big questions!



## CONGREGATIONAL GATHERING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2022 FOLLOWING WORSHIP

The Long-Range Planning Committee Members are excited about inviting all the congregation to this Gathering. Following worship, a light lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall, and then we will return to the Sanctuary. This gathering gives the Committee the opportunity to better share the process of discernment in which they have been engaging and inviting you, the congregation, to continue discerning God's plan for the ministries of Eastminster. Other topics will range from financial information to facility updates to attention to the current ministries of Eastminster. There will be a time for questions and sharing from all gathered. More information will be coming your way.

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
and do not lean on your own  
understanding. In all your ways  
acknowledge him, and the Lord will  
make straight your paths.*

*Proverbs 3:5-6*



## Congregational Care

Once again, the Congregational Care Luncheon held on Wednesday, August 18, was a huge success. Vicki Lynn's Oven Baked Chili Dogs were a hit! Jan made some delicious stove top baked beans (we do not want to heat up those kitchens) and her Cheesy Mexicali Bean Dip was a hit. The recipe for the dip is featured in the recipe section. We also had potato salad, coleslaw, watermelon and plenty of wonderful deviled eggs with paprika, of course!

There will not be a Congregational Care luncheon for September due to the 25th Ordination Anniversary Reception for Sherry on the 11th and the Congregation Meeting on the 25th.

Audrey, let it be known that she is looking forward to another exciting Chili Cook-Off (one of her favorite foods) so we will use that as our luncheon for October.

Not sure about November/December but we are considering some type of holiday feast! That info will be coming soon!

The Congregational Care Committee has had a wonderful time preparing for our luncheons. I know many of you have enjoyed coming and the food and fellowship cannot be beat!

See you soon...

CCC



Sunday, September 11—25th Anniversary Celebration of Sherry's ordination

Sunday, September 25—Congregational Gathering

Saturday, October 2—The Chili Cook-off

Saturday, October 8—Work Day

Saturday, November 5—Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, November 6—Stewardship Luncheon

## Cheesy Mexicali Bean Dip

1 8oz pkg softened cream cheese

1/2 c. sour cream

116 oz can refried beans

1 4 oz can diced green chilies

2 tbsp chili powder

2 tsp ground cumin

1 tsp. garlic powder

1/2 tsp cayenne pepper (Optional)

1 1/2 cups shredded pepper jack cheese, divided

1 1/2 cups shredded cheddar cheese, divided

Garnish: 1 tbsp. each chopped fresh cilantro and chives

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a large mixing bowl using a hand-mixer at medium speed, beat cream cheese, sour cream, refried beans, and diced green chilies until well blended. Stir in seasonings and 1 cup each of the cheeses. Spread mixture into a lightly greased shallow 2-quart baking dish, and top with remaining cheese.

Bake uncovered for 20 minutes or until dip is hot, and cheese is melted. Garnish and serve with corn or tortilla chips.



On September 25th following worship, we will have a luncheon and a congregational meeting to hear a report from and to ask questions, if any, of the Long-Range Planning Committee. They have been meeting for a year exploring many ideas for Eastminster's future mission. They have continually been in a state of prayer as they worked on the task. We too, were asked to be in prayer for them and ourselves as we seek God's purpose in this place and at this time.

Over the months that the committee has been meeting, the hymn that keeps coming to my mind is *Be Thou My Vision* 450 in our GTG hymnal. This well-known Irish hymn (poem) dates to the 8th century and two copies from that era are in the library of the Royal Irish Academy. The poem is a prayer that invites us to connect with the saints who have gone before. In our current place those members, many who

are now with the heavenly hosts, had the vision and guidance of God to establish Eastminster nearly 40 years ago. It also asks God to give us vision now and to be in our hearts and minds day and night, waking or sleeping, as God's presence in us is our guiding light.

The choir has often sung this hymn arranged by Jack Cannon, one of my friends and suite mates when I first came to SMU and one of Katie Karlen's high school choir directors. As a congregation we have sung the hymn often and we will sing this hymn in the coming months as we ask and listen for God's guidance in our mission.

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me save that thou art.  
Thou my best thought, by day and by night,  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

A hello from our friend and sister in Christ Helen. And from EPC to Helen, we miss you!



# Puzzle!

Look up each verse in an NIV Bible and find a word that fits in that row. Then write the word from the bold vertical column in the blank below to complete Proverbs 24:3-4.

1 Corinthians 8:1				<b>N</b>				
Philippians 1:9							<b>H</b>	
2 Peter 1:5								<b>S</b>
			<b>A</b>					2 Timothy 3:7
Matthew 24:32					<b>S</b>			
John 7:15				<b>R</b>				
						<b>I</b>		Isaiah 33:6
2 Peter 3:18							<b>E</b>	
		<b>W</b>						Proverbs 24:5

“Prayer is thinking deeply about something in the presence of God.”  
—Wayne Cordeiro

“The beautiful thing about learning is nobody can take it away from you.” —B.B. King

“God is a busy worker, but he loves help.” — Basque proverb

“Faith walking in the dark with God only prays him to clasp its hand more closely, does not even ask him for the lifting of the darkness.”—Phillips Brooks

Love is the spark that kindles the fire of compassion.



Compassion is the fire that flames the candle of service. Service is the candle that ignites the torch of hope. Hope is the torch that lights the beacon of faith. Faith is the beacon that reflects the power of God. God is the power that creates the miracle of love.

—William Arthur Ward

By wisdom a house is built, and ...  
through \_\_\_\_\_ its rooms are filled with  
rare and beautiful treasures.

PROVERBS 24:3-4, NIV

Answer: know, insight, goodness, always, lesson, learning, foundation, grace, power, knowledge



House and Property Committee

## House and Property Committee

We are about to make it through the hot dry summer. Our utility bills have been extremely high this summer due to the heat, drought and cost of electricity. Praying only one more month to go before we see cooler weather. Praise the Lord!

What has been done in the months of July and August:

- ♦ Replaced the Nursery AC/Heating Unit - \$8,600 donation paid for the new system
- ♦ Removed and replaced engineered hardwood flooring that was damaged due to heaving of the wood from uncontrolled heat during the month of May with broken AC Unit. Bruce Turner, Katie Karlen, Jim Lee and Blair Garrett did the work - \$1,248.00
- ♦ Replaced broken coil in church office AC Unit- \$2,000.
- ♦ Replaced rusted condensate pan under Unit 12A that supports the Fellowship Hall
- ♦ Repaired the double doors to the courtyard west entrance. Foundation movement was the cause for the repair - \$400.00
- ♦ AC/Heating Unit 12B's compressor has burned out and will need to be replaced. This unit is over 40 years old. Waiting on estimate
- ♦ Poured root killer down sanctuary drain (This is quarterly maintenance to avoid sewer backup)
- ♦ Replaced filters to AC/Heating systems – monthly and as needed

- ♦ Installed two hooks for the candle lighters in the Narthex closet
- ♦ Repaired the organ in the chapel - \$521 - Funds donated for the repair

### *We Need Your Help!!!*

Planned Work-Day Saturday, October 8th 9am—Noon. Please volunteer and let us know what you are willing to do so we can plan accordingly:

- ♦ Paint water-stained ceiling in kitchen
- ♦ Touchup painting of main hallway of education wing
- ♦ Paint water-stained ceiling in Fellowship Hall. Small area.
- ♦ Caulk and paint round window above exterior of kitchen
- ♦ Replace large planters outside of sanctuary entrance and transplant shrubs and plant flowers
- ♦ Replace stained carpet with new carpet square sections in Fellowship Hall
- ♦ Treat courtyard benches with wood oil
- ♦ Light tree and shrub trimming
- ♦ Clean and organize Maintenance closet

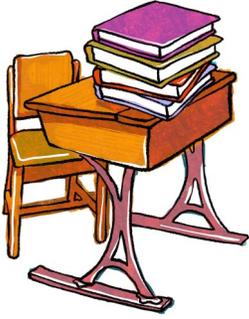
Can You help? Pick up trash that you see in and around the building. Turn off lights if you know you are the last to leave a room. Let the House and Property Committee know if you see something that doesn't look right or is not working properly. Let's all share in the stewardship of God's house.

Blessings,

Blair Garrett, Chairman

House and Property Committee:  
Bruce Turner and Jo Byrd, Members

### *The beauty of learning*



There is divine beauty in learning. ... To learn means to accept the postulate that life did not begin at my birth. Others have been here before me, and I walk in their footsteps.

The books I have read were composed by generations of fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, teachers and disciples. I am the sum total of their experiences, their quests. And so are you. —Elie Wiesel

### *Ever outward*

Poet Rainer Maria Rilke said, “I live my life in widening circles that reach out across the world.” Indeed, we all do. As newborns, we focus only on ourselves. But as we grow, little by little we learn that the people and things around us are separate from us. Soon we can attend to others’ actions, needs and feelings. Like ripples from a stone dropped in water, our circles of care widen from family (biological or otherwise) to friends (playmates, classmates, colleagues), church family, community, country and finally even people across the globe.

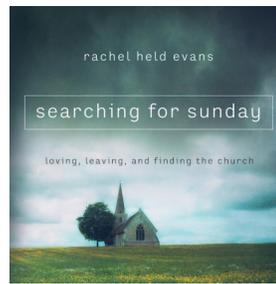
The ministries of Jesus and his disciples also were widening circles: first “to the lost sheep of Israel” (Matthew 10:6; 15:24, NIV) but soon to “all nations” (Matthew 28:19). Early church leaders took the gospel message ever outward, as Jesus had directed them: first to Jerusalem, then Judea and Samaria, and finally even “to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8, NIV).

As our faith matures, our impact spreads outward too. Some people move geographically farther from home, while others use prayer, communication and technology to widen their reach of spiritual, emotional and financial support. How exciting that God’s love encircles us all and that we can share it far and wide!  
—Heidi Hyland Mann

### *Always room in God’s kingdom*

Jesus told a parable about a man who invited his friends and neighbors to a banquet, but they declined. So he told his servants to go find anyone who was hungry or lonely or in need. Still there was room. “Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in,” the host said, “so that my house will be full” (Luke 14:23, NIV).

In *Searching for Sunday*, Rachel Held Evans retells this story and writes: “This



is what God’s kingdom is like: a bunch of outcasts and oddballs gathered at a table, not because they are rich or worthy or good, but because they are hungry, because they said yes. And there’s always room for more.”

We’re all “outcasts and oddballs” in one way or another! May we know that God warmly invites us to his banquet — for no reason but that we’re hungry.



Besides being known for his proverbs about wise living, King Solomon was knowledgeable in other fields, including which of the following?

- A. zoology, including ornithology and ichthyology  
 B. botany  
 C. herpetology  
 D. songwriting  
 E. A and C  
 F. B and D  
 G. All of the above



Answer: G (See 1 Kings 4:29-34)



"So, who did you learn about in Sunday School today?"

My first job was in an orange juice factory. I got canned because I couldn't concentrate.  
 When I couldn't hack it as a lumberjack, I got the ax.  
 I wasn't suited to being a tailor.  
 Working in the muffler factory was too exhausting.  
 I was a banker ... until I lost interest.  
 I realized there was no future in being a historian.  
 Any way I sliced it, I couldn't cut the mustard at the deli.  
 I studied to become a doctor but had no patients.  
 My job at the coffee shop was always the same old grind.

## Scripture Readings for September

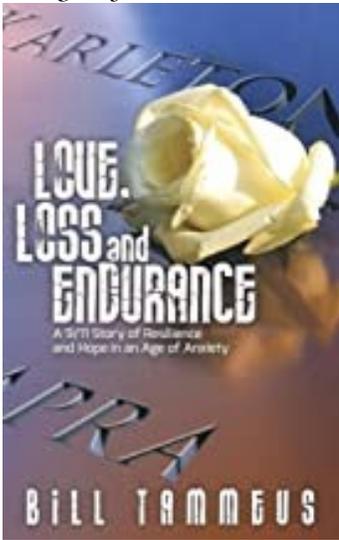
1 Pss. 26; 130	11 Pss. 81; 113	21 Pss. 125; 91
2 Pss. 25; 40	12 Pss. 97; 112	22 Pss. 81; 116
3 Pss. 125; 90	13 Pss. 30; 86	23 Pss. 6; 20
4 Pss. 117; 139	14 Pss. 48; 4	24 Pss. 100; 63
5 Pss. 82; 29	15 Pss. 80; 27	25 Pss. 66; 23
6 Pss. 102; 133	16 Pss. 32; 139	26 Pss. 73; 9
7 Pss. 1; 33	17 Pss. 118; 111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

## *A primer on love*

Is life not full of opportunities for learning love? Every man and woman every day has a thousand of them. The world is not a playground; it is a schoolroom. Life is not a holiday, but an education. And the one eternal lesson for us all is how better we can love.  
—Henry Drummond

## *Pursuing peace*

The 2021 book *Love, Loss and Endurance: A 9/11 Story of Resilience and Hope in an Age of Anxiety*



explores the dangers of extremism, both religious and political. Author Bill Tammeus, whose nephew died on 9/11, suggests three ways to be peacemakers. First, we can become more religiously literate, because “our human tendency is to fear what we don’t know or understand.” Second, we can deepen our knowledge of history, because

“shock waves” from past events often spark modern-day unrest.

Finally, we can spend time with people who are facing profound grief. “This is the emotional equivalent of walking a mile in someone else’s shoes,” Tammeus writes. “It can open our eyes to the countless ways that death — particularly unexpected, violent death — can affect almost every aspect of the lives of survivors. ... At the very least, go to funerals of people whose families you know, even of people who died of old age or of some illness late in life. Be present. Hear their stories.”

—adapted from *The Wired Word*

## *Keeping the Sabbath*

Oh, what a blessing is Sunday, interposed between the waves of worldly business like the divine path of the Israelites through Jordan! There is nothing in which I would advise you to be more strictly conscientious than in keeping the Sabbath day holy. I can truly declare that to me the Sabbath has been invaluable.

—William Wilberforce



*Neighborhood Breakfast*

It's been another successful month of Saturday breakfasts. The heat was brutal this month, even in the morning hours. However, the fellowship hall was cool and welcoming. Everybody got a good meal and lots of fellowship. We were a little short August 13 (Jim, Blair, and Christine were out). Reggie and Darlene were there so everything went smoothly. On July 30 and August 20, we had MJ, Voltaire, Lonnie, and Ivan helping. They were so amazing that Darlene and Michele were trying to "poach" them to help with the Pleasant Grove Food Pantry. A special shout out to Sean who came and helped on August 13. He also got some interesting publicity insight. I'm hoping more members will come for at least one visit. Experiencing the fellowship is very different from hearing about it.

Tom Pappas

<i>Date</i>	<i>Guests served</i>	<i>Workers</i>
July 30	31	8
August 6	36	6
August 13	32	6
August 20	31	9

*One Word*

Author and lay minister Samuel Gordon told of an elderly woman whose memory began to fade. "She had once known much of the Bible by heart. Eventually only one precious bit stayed with her [2 Timothy 1:12, KJV]: 'I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.' By and by, part of that slipped its hold, and she would quietly repeat, 'That which I have committed unto him.'

"At last, as she hovered on the borderline between this and the spirit world, her loved ones noticed her lips moving. They bent down to see if she needed anything. She was repeating over and over again to herself the one word of the text, 'Him, him, him.' She had lost the whole Bible, but one word. But she had the whole Bible in that one word."



## Pleasant Grove Food Pantry Numbers for July

<i>Date</i>	<i>Families</i>	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Seniors</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Total Ind</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>New</i>
July 5	231	479	147	394	1020	16532	11
July 11	84	185	45	149	379	6019	6
July 12	238	478	133	396	1007	17323	22
July 18	72	179	44	119	342	5332	6
July 19	228	466	130	412	1008	16049	18
July 25	62	136	26	112	274	4640	6
July 26	246	503	144	453	1100	17967	23
Total	1161	2426	669	2035	5130	83862	92



**SEPTEMBER**  
BIRTHDAYS

- Tammy Crouse 9/3
- Shirley Dry 9/3
- Frank Karlen, Jr. 9/11
- Bettye Clark 9/12
- Harvey Beatty 9/14
- Alex Pappas 9/17
- Michele Pappas 9/22
- Alek Veloz 9/23
- Linda Stamport 9/26
- Henry Owen 9/28



**SEPTEMBER**  
ANNIVERSARIES

- Susan & Bob Barraza 9/1
- Rhonda Kraft 9/5
- Rhonda & Kevin Kraft 9/5
- Jan & David Anderson 9/10
- Chandra & Frank Karlen 9/17
- Shirley & Harry Karlen 9/18
- Lorna & Javed Almas 9/28

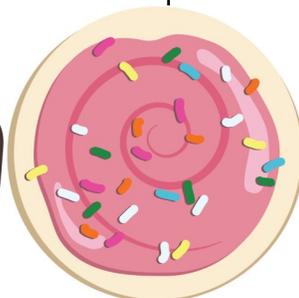
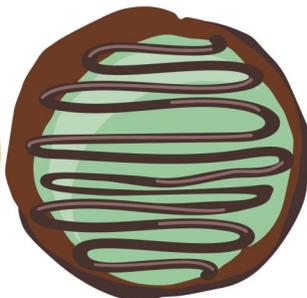


**Eastminster  
Session**

- Betty Crabtree
- Kayla Dixon
- Blair Garrett
- Kathy Kreger
- Jim Lee
- Tom Pappas
- Vicki Thiebaud
- Charlotte Turner
- Sean Turner
- Fred Watkins



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



## HIGHLIGHTS from the STATED SESSION MEETING August 21, 2022

At the August 21 Stated Meeting, the Session

- ♦ Heard a report from the Treasurer regarding financial losses for June and July. It is necessary to use funds in savings to offset these losses.
- ♦ Approved holding a “Blessing of the Animals” event on Saturday, November 5.
- ♦ Approved a Building Use Request for the 100th birthday party for Stella Post.
- ♦ Approved a Building Use Request for the Wedding of Molly Fockler and Sean Turner.
- ♦ Approved two Building Use Requests from non-members.
- ♦ Approved a motion for Audrey Webb to serve as Pulpit Supply for Sunday, October 9, 2022.
- ♦ Elected Fred Watkins to serve as Commissioner to the Presbytery Meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 2022.
- ♦ Heard a preliminary report regarding the creation of a Digital Communications committee to upgrade our digital presence and community outreach.
- ♦ Heard a report on the successes of the Saturday Neighborhood Breakfast.
- ♦ Heard a report from House and Property regarding the aging air conditioners and the need to replace them.
- ♦ Heard a report from House and Property regarding the repair of the nursery floor.
- ♦ Heard a report from House and Property regarding the Fall Work Day, scheduled for Saturday, October 8, 2022.



### Special dates



- ♦ Labor Day, September 5
- ♦ Patriot Day, September 11
- ♦ National Grandparents Day, September 11
- ♦ Hispanic Heritage Month, 15–Oct. 15
- ♦ First day of autumn, September 22