

Eastminster Eagle

Volume 42, Issue 9

September 2025

Dear Members and Friends,

Most of you know that I just played my first season of baseball in 35 years. My goal was to have fun and not severely injure myself. While I had a couple of minor injuries I had a successful season and finished strong. Let it be a sign unto you: If a 52-year-old can play baseball after a 35-year break then the church can make a comeback, too.

Over the last 35 years this church and the Church as a whole in America has steadily declined in membership. But recent reports are showing that the decline has leveled off across the country and many churches are beginning to experience growth again. But we have to get back in the game. Whether it be spiritual growth or numerical growth in a church, it does not happen by sitting in the stands or at home and watching the game. You have to join the team and get back on the field.

Jesus didn't just teach his disciples through teaching, he sent them into the world with a mission. To grow in faith we have to practice just like in baseball. I spent this last year strengthening my body, but you don't get good at baseball in the gym alone, you have to practice and play. And what are we practicing for at the church if not fulfill a mission?

So what does that look like as followers of Jesus? Yes, we study the Bible and pray, but you can't get better at loving your neighbor just by reading and praying. We learn to love by interacting with people. Coming to church, Bible study, and fellowship activities provides opportunities to grow in loving real live people. Interacting with your churchmates is great practice, but it is not the game Jesus is calling us to play. The game is actually played out in the world. In church we learn and practice so that we can love people and spread the Gospel out in our neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, and families.

Sunday September 21st is Back to Church Sunday at St. Mark. The new season begins. September 21st is the first practice. I want you to show up with you gloves and bats—urrrrr- rather your love and your faith. We are going to grow in faith and in number this year. With your participation we will have a winning season. Whether you have been on the team for years or you are ready for a comeback, I hope to see you there!

Coach Paul

Road Trippin with Paul *Beginning Sunday, September 14*

Our fall programing is entitled *Road Trippin with Paul*. Traci Truly leads this study.

And for something completely different, our study is moving to Sunday evenings. We'll have a potluck from 5:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The study begins following the supper—6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

We'll meet on Sept. 14, 21st, & 28th, Oct. 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th. Nov. 2nd, 9th & 16th.

Traci is an ordained ruling elder and member of First Presbyterian in Garland. She graduated from Austin Seminary in 2009 and is a candidate under care of Grace Presbytery. Traci was born in Pampa and graduated from Pampa High School. After earning business and law degrees from Baylor University in 1984, she practiced law in Dallas. She became her mother's full-time caregiver after her mother had a stroke in 2012. She is currently doing regular pulpit supply and practicing law while seeking a call.

Sunday Evening Menu

Sept. 14	Chili Dogs and chips
Sept. 21	Sandwiches and Potato Salad
Sept. 28	Tacos with sour cream, salsa,
Oct. 5	Red Beans and rice, corn bread
Oct. 12	Pizza and salad
Oct. 21	Bake potato with meat and salad
Oct.28	chicken and beef Casseroles, side casserole dishes

Nov. 5	Chili with crackers, cheese
Nov.12	Soup with cornbread, crackers
Nov. 19	Chicken Tenders with mashed, potatoes, rolls, macaroni and cheese, green beans

EPA Summer Dining

We enjoyed our last summer dining on August 12th at Haystack. We had some great conversations and all enjoyed the food. We look forward to next summer and trying out some different restaurants in the area.

Rally Day

September 7 following worship

During worship the choir and the Sunday School Teachers will be commissioned for the new church year.

Come and join enjoy a Taco Bar luncheon provided by the Christian Education Committee, with dessert by the Congregational Education Committee.

This luncheon is a big thank you to all the members of Eastminster for sharing their time, talent, and resources.

As a bonus, we'll enjoy live music and vocals. And, Traci Truly will stop by to invite us to the fall program: *Road Tripping with the Paul*. Traci is leading this program beginning September 14.

Come join the "Munch Bunch" as we gather for Sunday lunch after worship.

Two fun lunches are planned for September 28 at Salt Grass in Mesquite and November 9th at BJ's in Town East Mall.

Reservations are for 1:30 pm.

Please let Vicki Lynn know if you plan on attending and we look forward to you joining us in fellowship.

VNA MEALS ON WHEELS

An immense joy, as well as a simple thing to do, is to deliver prepared meals to some in our senior population or to those who are unable to cook nutritious meals for themselves.

Monday-Friday, at 2:00 a.m., the VNA Meals on Wheels program chefs kick into high gear, preparing 5400 meals in their massive state of the art kitchen. As you can imagine, it takes more than a village to deliver those meals to each client every day. Meals are brought to a central location in each area where meals are delivered in Dallas city and suburbs of Dallas County, and many routes are in your own neighborhoods. Daily, many routes are not covered for various reasons, leaving seniors without a hot meal.

Can you please consider giving one morning a week to deliver meals? Or you could team up with some friends and share a route once or twice a month. Husband and wife teams work well together, or friends can have a morning delivering together (and lunch afterward)! You will make new friends along your route, listening to their stories, laughing with them, sometimes crying with them, praying with them, giving them the blessing of your time, while they give you heartfelt blessings of their gratitude. How could your day get any better?

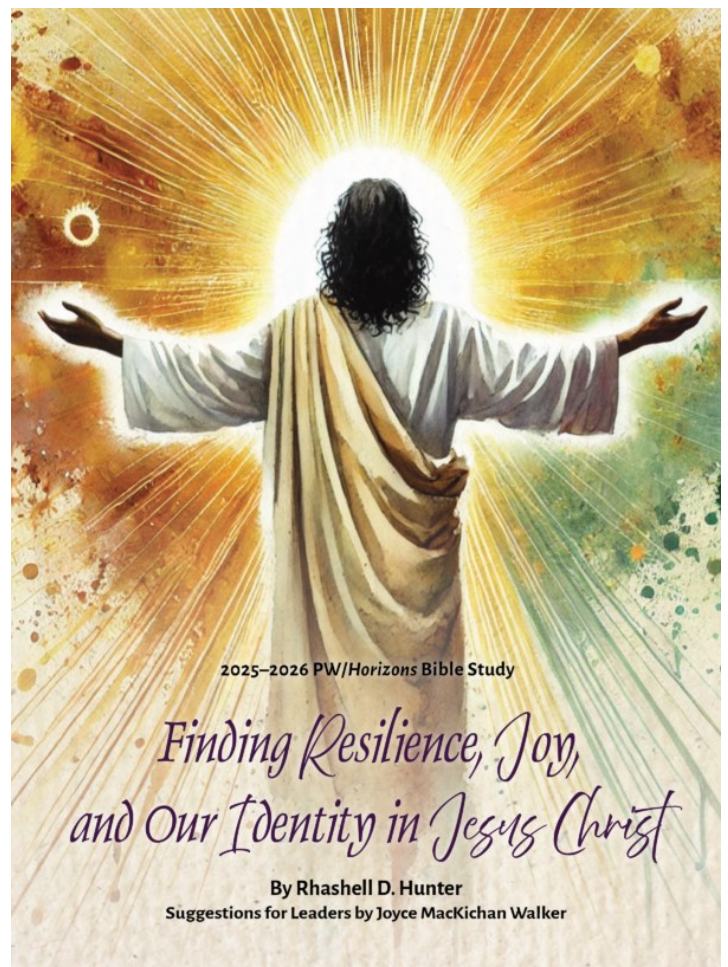
To register as a volunteer and choose your area of service for VNA Meals on Wheels by phone or by going to Volunteer Registration online at: 214-689-3222; volunteer.vnatexas.org

You may be the blessing, but you will be blessed!

EPW

EPW (Eastminster Presbyterian Women) meets on the second Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 p.m. via zoom. The title of the study is *Finding Resilience, Joy, and our Identity in Jesus Christ*. We'll learn how do we find our resilience and joy in the midst of stressful life circumstances, by following women in the Bible and by studying Jesus' witness. We'll discover a path that helps us fully embrace who we are as faithful disciples.

EPW meets on: Sept. 9th, Oct. 14th, Nov. 11, Dec. 9th, Jan. 13th, Feb. 10th, Mar 10th, Apr 14th and May 12th.





I have been writing this column for many years. I usually get my ideas from some of you, asking about a hymn or why we do such and such in the worship service, or an anthem the choir may have sung, or from something I have read or am currently reading, or a conference I attended. This one is full of just quotes and who quoted them about music, and most about our worship of God. I find inspiration in them as I prepare the music and liturgy. I hope you will as well.

One of the things that always inspires me in our worship is when I hear you (the congregation and choir) singing hymns and anthems and participating in the liturgy.

“Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through music.”—Martin Luther.

“Worship has been misunderstood as something that arises from a feeling which ‘comes upon you,’ but we must understand that it is rooted in a conscious act of the will, to serve and obey the Lord Jesus Christ.”—Graham Kendrick (British religious songwriter/musician).

God directs his people not simply to worship but to sing his praises ‘before the nations.’ We are called not simply to communicate the gospel to nonbelievers; we must also intentionally celebrate the gospel before them.”—Timothy J. Keller (American pastor, theologian)

By observing your heroes, you adopt their mannerisms, phrases, tones of voice, facial expressions, habits, demeanors, convictions, and beliefs. The more admirable a hero is and the more intense your admiration for them, the deeper the transformation you will experience. In the case of Jesus, he is infinitely admirable, and our admiration elevates to the utmost level of worship. Therefore, when we truly behold him, the resulting change is profound.” — John Piper (American theologian,

seminary president, pastor)

We should know and celebrate God with our whole person. While too many Christians neglect to serve God with the mind, others cultivate only their minds and neglect the emotional aspects of worship.”—Craig S. Keener (American Professor of New Testament)

The worship to which we are called in our renewed state is far too important to be left to personal preferences, whims, or marketing strategies. It is the pleasing of God that is at the heart of worship. Therefore, our worship must be informed at every point by the Word of God as we seek God’s own instructions for worship that is pleasing to Him.”—R.C. Sproul (American Theologian)

Worship springs from amazement: *“We are perishing for lack of wonder, not for lack of wonders.”*—G.K. Chesterton (British writer)

Many Spirit-filled authors have exhausted the thesaurus in order to describe God with the glory He deserves. His perfect holiness, by definition, assures us that our words can’t contain Him. Isn’t it a comfort to worship a God we cannot exaggerate?”—Francis Chan (American religious writer)

“With my song I will praise God.” Psalm 98:7

This next one is one of my favorites: *Sing lustily and with a good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep, but lift up your voice with strength.* — John Wesley

God loves us, God is in us, God forgives us, and God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit deserve our grateful praise. Fred

THY NEIGHBOR

On a recent visit to The Stewpot, founded in 1975 by First Presbyterian Church of Dallas, Jan Walters and Bruce Turner were given a tour of the amazing facility that helps the unhoused and others in the downtown Dallas street community. The purpose of the visit was to further explore options at securing a benefactor for the Saturday Morning Neighborhood Breakfast. One of the highlights of our visit was the Writers' Workshop and Art Studio, where essays and artwork are created by those who are served by The Stewpot. The Eastminster congregation has been given a copy of a book they published, *THY NEIGHBOR*, that features the stories and creations of artistry and gives insight into the lives of some from the Dallas street community. What follows has been excerpted from the book.

“Being a good neighbor is the same as doing unto others as you would want to have done to you. It’s courteousness and being mindful of other people and caring for their possessions and property.”

“Being a good neighbor is keeping your yard cut and clean, so your neighbor’s yard won’t get weeds. It’s taking care of your body, so you won’t get the person next to you sick.”

“Being a good neighbor is providing a certain level of security in the community for safety and comfort, while still having privacy. For example, if you see something wrong, you do something right. If someone’s trying to steal a neighbor’s bike, you say something. You make wrongdoers aware that they’re being watched.”

By Gershon Trunell

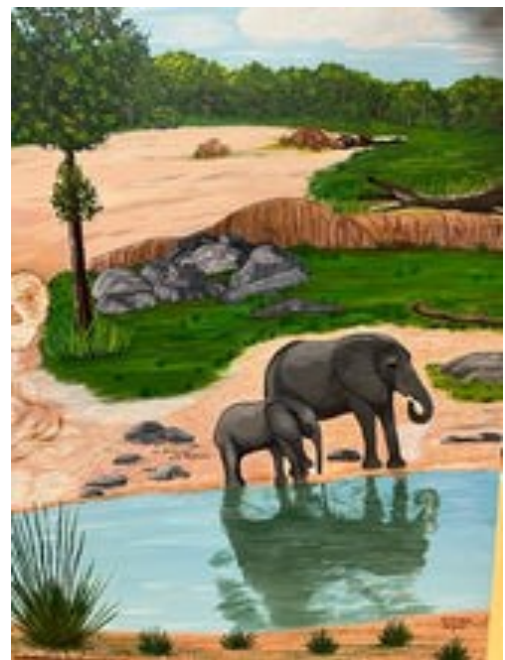
“Being a neighbor and being a good neighbor are separate. Being a neighbor doesn’t require much of us. But being a good neighbor means at least smiling and participating in small talk: “How have you been? Good morning.” It also means noticing any changes in people’s routines, like if they have a new car, a pet, or even a new hairstyle.”

By Jason Turner

“So, neighbor, Cici loves you without exception. Treat me poorly and I will love you imperfectly. I’ll turn you over to God and ask someone else to pray for you. But treat me well and I shall celebrate you as one of God’s most beloved angels, because you certainly are.”

By Cici Guerre

The book, *THY NEIGHBOR*, is available from The Stewpot for a \$30 donation. Visit their website at: www.thestewpot.org/thyneighbor. The book that was given to the congregation will be available soon if you’d like a preview.



At the Watering Hole by Colleen Pryor.

Seasons of Change, Signs of Grace

“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease” (Genesis 8:22, NASB).

As autumn begins, we watch the world transform before our eyes. Leaves change color, the air turns crisp, and a new rhythm settles in. In these seasonal shifts, we are reminded of God’s faithful hand over all of creation.



Genesis 8:22 assures us that the cycles of nature—seedtime and harvest, summer and winter—are part of God’s ongoing promise.

Each season speaks of His order, care, and presence. Autumn, in particular, invites reflection. Just as the trees release their leaves, we are called to let go of what no longer serves us and make space for renewal.

This season also marks a return to routines—school schedules, church programs, and community events. As we step into new responsibilities or revisit familiar ones, may we do so with gratitude and trust. God is not only present in the harvest but in the quiet letting go.

Let this autumn be a time to embrace God’s steady rhythm, find beauty in change, and rest in His faithful promises that never cease—even as the world around us shifts.

Honoring the Gift of Work

The Bible affirms both the value and dignity of work. From the beginning, God placed Adam in the garden “to work it and keep it” (Genesis 2:15, ESV). In the fourth commandment, we

are reminded not only to observe the Sabbath, but also to labor diligently throughout the week: “Six days you shall labor, and do all your work” (Exodus 20:9, ESV).

Work is more than a routine obligation; it is an opportunity to engage our God-given abilities in meaningful ways. Whether using our hands, minds, or hearts, we reflect the image of our Creator—bringing order, care, and creativity into the world.

Our labor allows us to contribute to the common good, find personal fulfillment, and practice faithful stewardship of the talents and strengths God has entrusted to us. As Paul writes, “We are God’s fellow workers” (1 Corinthians 3:9, ESV).

On this Labor Day, may we take time to recognize the blessing of work and celebrate those who serve, build, teach, lead, and labor with purpose and care.

—Author unknown



God's Left Hand

A 6-year-old and his grandma went for a walk one autumn day. "Look at the gorgeous leaves!" Grandma exclaimed. "Just think, God painted each one of them just for us!"

"Yep," said her grandson, "and he did it left-handed."

Perplexed, Grandma asked, "Why do you think God used his left hand to create all this beauty?"

"Because," said the boy matter-of-factly, "we learned in Sunday school that Jesus sits on God's right one."

More than Reading, 'Riting and 'Rithmetic

You may recall that many followers of Jesus called him "Rabbi." In essence, the word means teacher. Clearly the word describes the brilliant Nazarene who was constantly teaching his listeners about God and God's expectations of humans.

In a secular society, it is of paramount importance that the teachings of Christ be proclaimed and affirmed wherever possible. In the early days of our country, it was customary for public schools to teach reading, writing and arithmetic as well as Christian principles. Subjects being taught were presented in a setting of morality, religion and character development.

The reading book compiled by William H. McGuffey in 1836 focused on such themes as self-denial, temperance, obedience, and warned against laziness, profanity, stealing and vanity.

In our time, however, when it is difficult to focus on God and spiritual matters in public schools, our churches and families have a

great responsibility. Sunday school attendance, not only for children but for adults as well, must be of primary importance. Prayer, as well as discussion of social issues from a Christian point of view, must be practiced in the home and church. We must learn and teach about Christ.

"Learn from me," Jesus said. "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:29 NRSV). Where shall we learn of him or from him if not in our churches and homes?

The Gift of Music

I wish to see all arts, principally music, in the service of Him who gave and created them.

Music is a fair and glorious gift from God. I would not forego my humble share of music.



Singers are never sorrowful, but are merry, and they smile through their troubles in song.

Music makes people kinder, gentler, more staid and reasonable. I am persuaded that after theology, music is the only art capable of affording peace and joy of heart ... the devil flees before the sound of music almost as much as before the Word of God.

—Martin Luther



Timothy was a young man who became a trusted companion and co-worker of the apostle Paul. Which of the following statements is not accurate?

- A. Timothy's mother and grandmother taught him the Scriptures.
- B. Paul considered Timothy his spiritual son.
- C. Timothy was born in Rome and raised as a Roman citizen.
- D. Paul wrote two New Testament letters addressed to Timothy.

Answer: C (See Acts 16:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:5; 1 Timothy 1:2)

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Thanks to Ron Nunnelee (See 1 Samuel 17)

08-15-2014

IT'S NOT SO MUCH THAT I'M BRINGING A SLING TO A SWORD FIGHT AS IT IS YOU BRINGING A SWORD TO A GOD FIGHT

A pastor giving a children's sermon on vestments asked:
"Why do you think I wear this collar?"
One kid answered:
"Because it kills ticks and fleas up to 30 days?"

Scripture Readings for September

1 James 2:1-13	11 Phil. 2:12-30	21 Acts 9:10-31
2 James 2:14-26	12 Phil. 3:1-16	22 1 Cor. 4:8-21
3 James 3:1-12	13 Phil. 3:17-4:7	23 1 Cor. 5:1-8
4 James 3:13-4:12	14 Acts 5:34-42	24 1 Cor. 5:9-6:11
5 James 4:13-5:6	15 1 Cor. 1:1-19	25 1 Cor. 6:12-20
6 James 5:7-20	16 1 Cor. 1:20-31	26 1 Cor. 7:1-9
7 Acts 4:18-31	17 1 Cor. 2:1-13	27 1 Cor. 7:10-24
8 Phil. 1:1-11	18 1 Cor. 2:14-3:15	28 Acts 9:36-43
9 Phil. 1:12-30	19 1 Cor. 3:16-23	29 1 Cor. 7:25-31
10 Phil. 2:1-11	20 1 Cor. 4:1-7	30 1 Cor. 7:32-40

Puzzle!

Use the words provided to complete the puzzle. Then write the numbered words in the correct blanks below to complete Psalm 67:6, NIV.

WORDS:

GOD, BLESSES, HARVEST, YIELDS, US, LAND

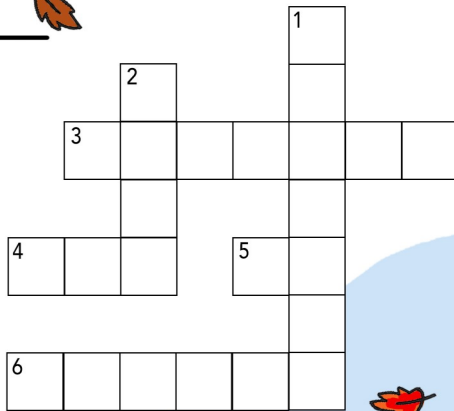


ACROSS

- 3. Rhymes with farthest.
- 4. Rhymes with nod.
- 5. Rhymes with thus.
- 6. Rhymes with fields.

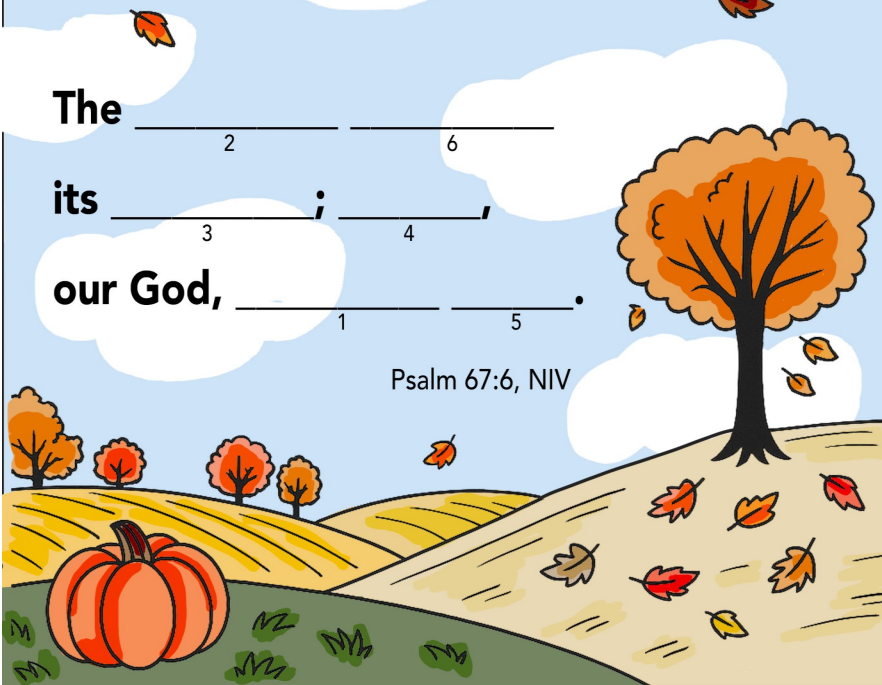
DOWN

- 1. Rhymes with messes.
- 2. Rhymes with hand.



The _____ 2 _____ 6
 its _____ ; _____ 4
 our God, _____ 1 _____ 5

Psalm 67:6, NIV



“The ultimate aim of the human mind, in all its efforts, is to become acquainted with Truth.”
 —Eliza Farnham

“By learning you will teach; by teaching you will learn.”
 —Latin proverb

“If God is your copilot, swap seats.”
 —Anonymous

“The truth is that people always act according to what they believe. It may not be what they say they believe, but deep down it's what they really believe. And false beliefs lead to false actions.”
 —E. Chris Curvin

Answer: The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us. Psalm 67:6, NIV



Outreach Asked. YOU Reached Out

Skyline High School's Homeless Student Program was again this year the recipient of Eastminster's Back-To-School outreach project.

Because of your generosity, students have enough soap, body wash, deodorant, and feminine hygiene to last them for quite a while.

It's hard enough to concentrate in class when your home life is less-than-stable. When you factor in that students know their ability to keep clean is difficult, it's a hardship that most of us have no frame of reference for. Skyline's attitude toward this special population is that all a student should have to worry about is learning, so they are committed to removing the obstacles like personal hygiene from their worry list.

Additionally, your generosity has once again allowed Eastminster to provide some "extras" for these students. You provided enough in the school supply fund for us to purchase gift cards to "The Cheesesteak House" to reward students for meeting their personal grade and attendance goals. Kenneth Hall, the Community Liaison for the homeless program, holds his students to high standards, reasoning that if the community has removed some obstacles to learning, then learning needs to happen. And it IS happening.



Thank you. Thank you for reaching deeply and giving generously. Your efforts are making a difference.

Take Courage: Trusting the One Who Overcomes

A young woman was deeply troubled by the suffering she saw in the world, as well as by struggles within her own family and friendships. Unsure of how to help or where to begin, she turned to her pastor for guidance. He responded with a heartfelt letter. A portion of it read:

"Life is difficult. It is sometimes like a mindless boot camp. We seem to be rehearsing for something that is beyond our present knowing. We come from a beginning that we cannot remember, and we move toward a destiny that we cannot see. Only imagination, faith and a friend here or there give us the strength to go on.

When Jesus said that we would always have trouble in this world, he added an encouraging word that we should never forget: "Take courage; I have overcome the world."

I cannot fix you. You cannot fix you. Do not put your ultimate faith in me, or in yourself, or in any human being. Trust the Lord of the Harvest. He will fix you when he comes."

—Excerpted from a letter by Dr. Thomas Lane Butts



SEPTEMBER

birthdays

Shirley Dry	9/3
Mary West	9/8
Braylie West	9/11
Frank Karlen, Jr.	9/11
Bettye Clark	9/12
Casey Uche	9/20
Michele Pappas	9/22
Alek Veloz	9/23
Linda Stamport	9/26
Henry Owen	9/28



SEPTEMBER

anniversaries

Lorna & Javed Almas	9/28/1973
Chandra & Frank Karelen	9/17/1960
Shirley & Harry Karlen	9/18/1957
Rhonda & Kevin Kraft	9/5/1987



Eastminster Session

- Chandra Anderson
- Melody Davis
- Philis Knox
- Dick Knox
- Kathy Kreger
- Michele Pappas
- Bruce Turner
- Patience Uche
- Darlene West



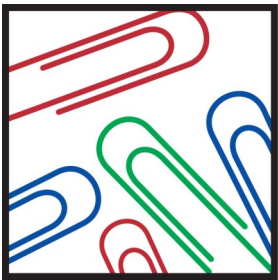
Pastor	Rev. Dr. Paul Burns
Director of Music	Fred P. Watkins
Organist	Melody S. Davis
Administrative Assistant	Cathy Schingle
Hostess/Housekeeper	Minerva Hernandez
Child Care Provider	Betty Crabtree
Audio/Visual Technician	Sean Turner



HIGHLIGHTS from the STATED SESSION MEETING

August 17, 2025

- ◆ Enjoyed a meal provided by Christine Blair.
- ◆ Heard a report from the Treasurer noting that we are in the black despite having budgeted for a shortfall.
- ◆ Approved a donation to Hill Country Flood Relief in the amount of \$1000.00 from Eastminster's "Disaster Assistance" fund plus other monies collected since the July flooding.
- ◆ Approved the purchase of an electronic sign.
- ◆ Approved the purchase of meal gift cards for Skyline High School's Homeless Student Program to benefit students who have met stringent grade/attendance goals.
- ◆ Received a check in the amount of \$1000.00 from the East Dallas Cluster of Churches to be used for the 2026 Vacation Bible School.



Office Hours

NEW OFFICE HOURS

Monday & Wednesday: 9 am—5p.m.

Friday: 9a.m. - 2 p.m.

Closed on Tuesdays and Thursdays



Special dates

- ◆ Labor Day, September 1
- ◆ National Grandparents Day, September 7
- ◆ Patriot Day, September 11
- ◆ National Grandparents Day, September 17
- ◆ Hispanic Heritage Month, 9/15–10/15
- ◆ First Day of Autumn, September 22