

Leaps & Bounds



Bob Bullock, Pastor

Tim Erskine, Interim Associate Pastor

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ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT

With the turning of the calendar to February comes Lent which begins with Ash Wednesday (February 21st). Allow me to explain the significance of both, first with a look into history and then for their observance for us today.

With the dawning of the Fourth Century, the early church in West determined that the Lenten Season should become a time of fasting and spiritual renewal in the church. Lent was designed to correspond to the forty day fast of our Lord (Matthew 4:2) following his baptism and before he began his earthly ministry. Ash Wednesday is determined by counting back forty days from Easter (excluding Sundays) to arrive at the Wednesday seven weeks before Easter. These forty days were to be the time during which converts to Christianity were prepared for baptism on Easter Sunday. Later on, the season became a general time of preparation of penitence and renewal for all Christians. Ash Wednesday became the beginning of the Lenten renewal.

Ash Wednesday has a threefold purpose: 1) to meditate on our mortality, sinfulness, and need for the Savior; 2) to renew our Christian commitment to daily repentance not only during Lent but in all of life; and 3) to remember with gratitude and grow in confidence that our Lord Jesus Christ has conquered sin and death in our behalf. Ash Wednesday then is filled with biblical truth that the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord were his gift to us. In this season we personally witness to the power of our relationship to Jesus in the daily dying to our sin and the daily rising with Christ to new and eternal life.

The imposition of ashes has often been seen within the long history of the Scriptures where dust and ashes symbolize our human frailty or death (Genesis 18:27), sadness and mourning (Esther 4:3), judgment (Lamentations 3:16), and repentance (Jonah 3:6). To many then, ashes become a sign of penitence or sorrow for sins and a renewal of our lives spiritually by Christ's death on the Cross and by his Resurrected life that he shares with us.

Because the observance of Ash Wednesday has become a part of the practice of some Presbyterians only in the last twenty years, those with roots to the Reformation of the Church in the sixteenth century observe the beginning of Lent not with an outward display of repentance but with the rending of the heart (Joel 2:13). They well remember that the Reformers themselves did away with the Roman Catholic practice of the imposition of ashes as a part of the sacrament of penance which they discarded.

While I hold to the Reformed practice myself, our denomination has sanctioned the practice of the imposition of ashes during Ash Wednesday worship. This places me on the horns of the proverbial dilemma in that many of the churches I have served, like Eastminster, have observed Ash Wednesday *with and without* ashes. So my counsel which the Session has accepted is this, since this practice is a non-essential for salvation and since the imposition of ashes is considered a meaningful practice by many of our members, let us respect the consciences of all and have two Ash Wednesday observances: one with ashes at noon; and one without ashes following Wednesday Night Supper on February 21st.

May God grant us all a meaningful Ash Wednesday and a Holy Lent.

Ever Seeking to "Build Christian Lives,"

Dr. Bob

BIRTHDAYS for February

1	Candy McNair	13	Bob Wiley
1	Davis Lakeman	14	Stephen Touse
2	Merilyn Mitchell	15	Mike Moran
2	Brian Melcher	15	Lynn Durham
5	Jeanette Gowen	15	Matthew Wessner
5	Kyle Watson	17	Karen Grigg
6	Rebecca Johnson	17	Randy Gehman
7	Thad Oviatt	18	Lisa Rish
8	Dennis Yu	19	Emily Hishta
8	Alan Gibson	20	Ashton Turner
8	Katie Crock	21	Ryan Will
8	Rachel Nielsen	21	Sydney Allen
9	Devony Morgan	22	Chris Foster
9	John Speiser	23	William Hewett
9	Krissie Robinson	23	Janelle Welborn
10	Zachrey Bradley	25	Sharon Melcher
10	Jacob Sphar	25	Patrick Pooser
11	Tom Candler	25	Andy Starnes
11	Madeline Kennedy	26	Sonny Hall
11	Molly Jennings	28	Rhonda Bradley
12	Caroline Cribb	28	Mikey Mortimer
12	Steve Dempsey	28	Jay Coleman
13	Martie Pottinger	29	Fred Duda

ANNIVERSARIES

3	Bill & Melinda Freeman
6	Dan & Grey Hydrick
9	Hart & Mary Alice Phinney
11	Jim & Debbie Bussart
14	Dan & Carolyn Waters
15	John & Lynne Buchanan
15	Bob & Beth Bullock
15	Tim & Cathy Erskine

ROMANCE IS IN THE AIR



Anyone interested in attending a marriage retreat at Winshape Retreat Center March 16th – 18th? Please contact Allison Hayes for further details.

SUPER BOWL PARTY and SUPER CHILI COOKOFF

February 4, 4 PM

Looking for at least 20 Super Chili Cookers to participate in the chili contest. The winner will receive four Atlanta Braves tickets and will be crowned Eastminster's Super Chili Dude/Chick. The party is at the Highland Point Subdivision Clubhouse. The party starts at 4pm with chili contest at 6pm. Come and join all your Eastminster friends. Soft drinks and kid's drinks will be provided. For any further info contact Robert Chesser at 770-924-6318 or rchesser@bellsouth.net.



WINTER LEADERSHIP EVENT

This leadership conference is for everyone! Join other church members in experiencing fun and exciting workshops on topics such as: church growth, stewardship, youth ministry, children's ministry, contemporary music, VBS, young adults, problems in the church, and worship. The conference is a one day event held Saturday, February 10 at First Presbyterian Church in Marietta. Registration forms are located in the narthex. The fee will be covered by the church. Please return your form to Allison Hayes.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Infant Room</u>	<u>Toddler Room</u>
Feb. 4	Volunteer Needed	Bryan & Cecilia Harned
Feb. 11	Kedrick & Sara Daw	Janice Turner
Feb. 18	Andy & Mary Evelyn Starnes	Todd & Ashley Mordecai

GREETERS

Feb. 4

- 9:00 Marilyn Lewis
Joyce Lester
11:00 Robert & Patty Stringer
Bill & Cindy Moultrie

Feb. 11

- 9:00 Jan Sherman
Chuck & Linda Stallworth
11:00 Bill & Melinda Freeman
Allen & Janet Warren

Feb. 18

- 9:00 Bill & Harriette Majoros
Ed & Betsy McConnell
11:00 Mike & Helen Moran
Scott & Angie Wessner

Feb. 25

- 9:00 Chris & Aimee Jackson
Tom & Brenda Hewett
11:00 Dennis & Beth Yu
David & Shannon Blakely

Middle and Senior High Parents

Now that the Winter/Spring Wild Side schedule is out, it is time for more volunteers to cook/provide the meals for Wild Side Sunday Night Dinners. The dinners should be:

- ♦ Ready in Fellowship Hall at 6pm.
- ♦ Numbers range from 20-40 attendees.
- ♦ You will be reimbursed if desired after receipts are turned in.

It can be as simple as ordering pizza or picking up KFC. Please sign up on the youth bulletin board or contact Jeanette Gowen at singingcayman@comcast.net or 770-634-4203.

Coming Soon to Eastminster MEMORIAL GARDEN - COLUMBARIUM

The Memorial Garden Columbarium is designed to minister to the needs of Eastminster Presbyterian Church members and their families - providing a dignified garden setting for the cremated remains of members and their families.

BUT THE GARDEN IS ALSO A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

It provides another living space for our church family while serving as a revered resting place for those who have gone beyond.

The garden is always a celebration of life! The garden is a celebration of Our Heavenly Father, His son, Jesus Christ and His Holy Spirit.

There will be times when we visit the garden to have some quiet time with departed loved ones. There will be other times when we just enjoy the surroundings as part of a church activity.

The enclosed Garden is a verdant outdoor setting for meetings; for gatherings around the coffee brewer. There are lots of areas for sitting, for meditating, for conferring with associates.

This attractive, peaceful area will be available for memorial services, and other church events. Tables and chairs and lighting can be added for both day and night functions.

The Memorial Garden-Columbarium extends the spiritual, timeless life of our church. It brings the country church yard of old into the practical modern world as a significant asset to our congregation.

What is a columbarium?

The focal point of the garden is the Columbarium - a beautiful granite structure in the center of the site containing 72 niches. Each niche has space for one or two urns for the inurnment of cremated humans.

“Columbarium” comes from the Latin name for the dwelling place of a dove (columba), which Christians believe is the symbol of the Holy Spirit.

Each Niche shows the name(s), date of birth and death of the deceased, and, if desired, a Bible reference. (ie. John 3:16)

There will be a short information meeting in the fellowship hall following the 11AM service on February 11. Get your questions answered and hear more about this outstanding new project.

CRAFT CIRCLE

The Sharin 'N Carin craft circle would like to thank everyone who donated hats, mittens, and scarves for our hat tree. We were delighted at the response and MUST was very grateful for your donations. Our next circle meeting is on February 12 in the parlor from 10-1. We will be helping Lynn Hall make hospital gowns for babies that we will sew and send to Africa. If you have cotton fabric to donate, we'd love to have it! If you have any questions, please call Shirley Byrd at 770-517-9518 or email me at tnsbyrd@comcast.net.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Our next Circle of Friends gathering will be Wednesday, February 14th from 10:00 - 11:30 am in the parlor. We will be discussing Chapter 8 of the book, *Cultivating Contentment* by Luci Swindoll. We have a wonderful group of ladies who love to visit with one another and learn more about Christ! Please contact Jennifer Gettys at 770-578-9525 or Janie Bunch at 770-579-1301 for more information and to secure child care. Come and join us!

SPUNKY SPIRITS

The Spunky Spirits will be meeting February 8, 2007 at the home of Jo Byrd. (This is a change in location for the meeting) The address is 605 Burke Lake Drive, Marietta, 30064. If you cannot attend, please call Jo at 770-425-6558. We will be carpooling from the church. We will be studying lesson 4 of "*Finding Joy*". For more information contact Susan Bryg 770-565-2842 or Barbara Duda, 770-321-4400.

COLLECTION OF EYEGASSES

Your discarded eyeglasses - someone else's vision. Collection of eyeglasses will conclude May 24. These glasses (and also cases are accepted), will be taken to third world countries where volunteer Optometrists and Oculists will test and prescribe eyeglasses to those who otherwise would have very limited vision. Thank you for your donation. If you have questions, contact Jeanette Gowen.

TRUSTEE OFFICERS FOR 2007

President: Tom Candler **Secretary:** George Merry
Vice President and Treasurer: Dick Smith

BRIDGE GROUPS

Eastminster has three bridge groups that are active and going strong. We have folks of all ages--both with and without partners. If you do not have a partner, we can match you up with one. The groups are as follows:

- ♦ 2nd Saturday of the month in the evening
- ♦ 3rd Monday of the month at 10am
- ♦ 3rd Tuesday of the month in the evening.

If you are interested in joining one of these existing groups, please contact either the church office or Jan Janssen at 678-492-3466.

THANK YOU

Dear Eastminster Church Family,

I would like to thank you all for the prayers, meals, flowers and cards after my surgery in October. I truly am blessed to have such a loving and caring church family. Thanks again.

Suzanne Edmond

HELP CLEAN UP KITCHEN

We need some good helpers to clean the kitchen again!! Please come if you can on Saturday, February 24th between 10:00 and 1:00. We will provide all the supplies but bring gloves if you know that you will need them. Call Nancy Speiser if you have questions. 770-977-0379

CUB SCOUT CORNER!

Pine trees and a Pinewood Derby – what better way to start the New Year! On Saturday, January 6th, Pack 565 provided the staffing for “Bring One For The Chipper” – a Christmas tree recycling event sponsored by Keep Cobb Beautiful. We were stationed at Sewell Park from 8-4 to help unload trees that were brought to the site from homes in the community. The trees will be turned into mulch and used in our neighborhood parks. Saturday, January 27th will be a Cub Scout “Classic” – the Pinewood Derby. If you would like to see a favorite Cub Scout event in action, please feel free to drop by the Fellowship Hall on Saturday morning to witness the fun! Dr. Tim Erskine and Elder/Assistant Cub Master Terry Tolbert have begun teaching the God and Me Program for first, second and third graders and the God and Family Program for fourth and fifth graders. This program was opened to scout siblings, non-scouts and parents. Response to this program has been wonderful – more participants than ever before in the Pack history! Awards will be presented at Eastminster’s Scout Sunday on February 11th. Scouts completing the program will be awarded their religious knot at the Blue and Gold Banquet in February. Come and be a part of the fun in Pack 565!

Cindy Moran whmracer99@aol.com

Christian Life Conference 2007

The Christian Life Conference is an amazing gathering of Presbyterians. Attending the conference is becoming an annual tradition for the Eastminster Family. You and your family will be inspired by the speakers, renewed by the music and motivated by the conferences. You will enjoy the fellowship of your Eastminster family and others attending the conference. This popular conference is for the entire family and is attended by about 1200 each year.

"Empowered by the Spirit" is the theme for the Christian Life Conference. It is held at the Montreat Conference Center at Montreat North Carolina on June 30-July 3, 2007. John and Nancy Ortberg will be the morning and evening Keynote speakers. John's several books include "*If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat,*" "*Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them,*" and "*The Life You've Always Wanted.*"

Eastminster will be renting a mountain cabin near the conference center. We will share in the cooking, cleaning and the costs for food and housing. There will be an informational meeting on Thursday February 8th. Brochures are available in the narthex. Please mark this meeting on your calendar and join us. If you have question, contact John Speiser at j_speiser@msn.com.

MEN'S RETREAT February 24 and 25

Come join the men of the church for a day and a half of encouragement and renewal on Saturday, February 24th and Sunday, February 25th at the Cherokee Conference Center near Cartersville. Cost: Including lodging and meals is only \$50.00. Please mark check “Men’s Retreat”.

Our keynote Speaker is ex-Falcon wide receiver Wallace Francis. Wallace is an inspiring Christian who relates his experiences as a Christian with his career as a professional football player. This is an opportunity for all Eastminster Men that you don't want to miss!

Hosted by the Men's Leadership Team:

Eddie Capparucci; Robert Chesser; Andrew Sain; Mark Sphar

YOUTH YARD SALE - March 9 and 10

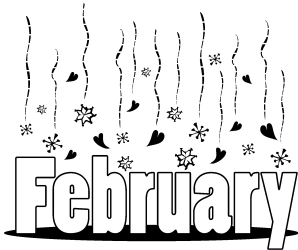
Our annual Youth Yard Sale is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, March 9 and 10, in the Fellowship Hall. We need your gently used cast offs to sell as we prepare for our youth summer mission trip to Kentucky and the Senior High retreat to Montreat in North Carolina. What a perfect time to let us sell your reusable items and turn them into much needed funds for our trips. For information please call Sarah Nielsen 770-321-5476, or Cameron Pauquette 678-910-9691

Session Meeting Highlights - January 28, 2007

- ♦ Session approved the baptism of Baliegh Addison Hammett, infant child of members Paige and Eric Hammett on January 21, 2007 at the 11:00 service.
- ♦ In order to comply with the Financial Procedures Manual for Eastminster, the Session approved a motion from the Building and Grounds team to acknowledge a \$2927 overage for Building and Grounds in the 2006 budget. This was the result of a number of unplanned unbudgeted expenses such as \$3152 in security system repairs, \$712 in repairs to the dishwasher, \$1,114 in repairs to movable walls in the Fellowship Hall.
- ♦ Session approved Mary Evelyn Starnes to teach Bible 101 beginning in February/March of 2007.
- ♦ Session approved Vacation Bible School be held the week of July 9th-13th.
- ♦ Session approved a team be created called the "Sunday Morning Schedule Team" to address the cramped time schedule between the early worship service and Sunday School classes.
- ♦ Session approved P.W. hosting a Sewing Mission date; Friday, March 23rd, 9-12 in the Fellowship Hall for their annual project of making hospital gowns.
- ♦ Session approved a Kitchen Clean Up day for Saturday, February 24th.
- ♦ Session approved a letter to go out to the congregation from the Mission Team for the United Mission Offering by March 1 and the collection to be on Palm Sunday, April 1.
- ♦ The Session approved a motion from the Stewardship and Finance Team that the 2006 operating cash surplus of \$18,949.14 be moved to and held as restricted funds in the Stewardship & Finance CAP account.
- ♦ Session approved a motion that Ken Wood be appointed as the designated S&F Team member of the Organ Fund Drive Preparation Team.
- ♦ The following persons were approved as members of the Stewardship and Finance Team for 2007: Jim Bussart & John Ortega, co-chairs; Ken Wood, Marty Taylor, Tripp Seitter, Connie Weems-Scott, Scott Keller, and Terri Khan.
- ♦ Session approved a motion from the Worship Team that there be two Ash Wednesday Services on February 21st: one at noon with ashes, and one in the evening (7:00 PM) without ashes.
- ♦ Session also approved that March 25th be designated as *Choir Sunday*, featuring the presentation of John Rutter's "Requiem" at both services; there will be no sermon.
- ♦ A church-wide calendaring meeting is scheduled for May 10 at 6pm.
- ♦ Session approved the examination of the confirmation class led by Dr. Erskine be held at the regularly Stated Session Meeting on March 18, 2007.
- ♦ There will be a Called Session Meeting on Sunday, March 11, 2007 at 10:30 AM in the parlor for the purpose of receiving new members.
- ♦ The next Stated Meeting of Cherokee Presbytery will be on February 27, 2007 at 10:00 AM at Eastminster.
- ♦ The four commissioners will be M. Gardner, K. Jacquot, T. Tolbert, and E. Gilbert. J. McIntire will serve as alternate.
- ♦ The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on February 18, 2007 at 12:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

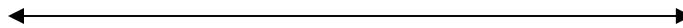
Respectfully submitted,

Karen Jones, Clerk to Session



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Our youth will hold soup pots at church doors on Souper Bowl Sunday (February 4). They will join young people in churches all across the country to collect money for those who are hungry and hurting. In 2006, 11,000 groups in all 50 states and outside the United States participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring generating over \$5 million. All of the money collected is donated to a charity selected by the participant. None of the money is sent to Souper Bowl headquarters. Organizers only ask that each participant report their collection so national totals can be determined and announced. Our church will donate the Souper Bowl collection to Cobb Family Resources. Since the Souper Bowl of Caring became a national grassroots event in 1993, more than \$33 million has gone to help those in need. Please support the youth of our church in this effort to "love our neighbors" by dropping your dollar or canned goods in the soup pot on Souper Bowl Sunday. If you have any questions, please contact Cheri Olivier at 404-545-1215



SEWING MISSION

Cherokee Presbytery and Eastminster P.W. are sponsoring a sewing mission to benefit hospitals in Africa. You can be a part of this mission opportunity in two ways:

- 1.) Make a donation from the following (There is a box for these in the alcove marked "sewing mission"):
Baby Blankets Flannel Receiving Blankets Cloth Diapers and Pins
Crib Sheets Baby Towels
All Clothing for Premies - 12 mos. (hats, gowns, onesies, sleepers, socks, booties, etc.....)
New or gently used (Flat) sheets - Single or Double
- 2.) Help with sewing hospital gowns, March 23rd, 9:00-12:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your sewing machine if possible. This is a great time for fellowship and rewarding work.

Any questions, call Lynn Hall or Lynne Buchanan

February 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6p Worship (P) 7p CE (6)	2 7:15 Senior High Youth - Einsteins	3 8a Job Seekers (FH) 8a Landscape Team (P)
4 Annual Cong. Mtg. 9a Worship 10a Sunday School 11a Worship 12:30p Confirmation (P) 3p God & Country (7) 4p Super Bowl Party 5p Youth Choir 6p Youth Groups (FH)	5 7p CT Meeting (P) 7p Stephen M. Sup (6)	6 7a Prayer Group (P) 4p Bear Den 5 (FH) 6:30p Den 3 (7) 7p Boy Scout (T) 7p Elder Retreat Planning (P)	7 10a Bible Study (P) 4p Prime Time (P) 5p Cherub Choir 5:30p Junior Choir 6p Meal 6:30p Handbells 7p The Element 7p Experiencing God Groups 7p Men's Bible Study (7) 7:30p Chancel Choir	8 11a Spunky Spirits 7p Square Dance (FH) 7p Thurs. Eve Cir (P)	9 7:15 Senior High Youth - Einsteins Cursillo Reunion	10 Winter Leadership @ 1st Pres. Marietta 7p Pairs & Spares 7p Couples' Bridge
11 Scout Sunday 9a Worship 10a Sunday School 11a Worship 12:30p Confirmation (P) 3p God & Country (7) 4p Wolf (6) 5p Youth Choir 6p Youth Groups (FH)	12 10a Craft Circle (P) 6p Wolf (FH) 7p Finance (CR) 7p Fellowship (7) 7:30p Cong. Care (6) 7:30p Evangelism (P)	13 7a Prayer Group (P) 6p A&P (P) 6:30p Webelo 2 (FH) 6:30p Bears (7) 6:30p Webelo 1 (6) 7p Boy Scout (T)	14 10a Circle of Friends (P) 10a Bible Study (6) 5p Cherub Choir 5:30p Junior Choir 6p Meal 6:30p Handbell Choir 7p The Element (T) 7p Experiencing God Groups 7p Men's Bible Study (7) 7:30p Chancel Choir	15	16 7:15 Senior High Youth - Einsteins 4:30p Middle & Senior High Ski Trip -----	17 8a Job Seekers (P) 9a Health Fair (FH) ----- Suppers of Eight
18 9a Worship 10a Sunday School 11a Worship 12:30p Session (FH) 12:30p Confirmation (P) 5p Youth Choir Youth return from Trip	19 Cobb School Closed 7p Men's Min. (FH) 7p S.M. Sup. (6)	20 7a Prayer Group (P) Cobb School Closed 6:30p Health Min (P) 7p Boy Scout (T)	21 Ash Wednesday 10a Bible Study (P) 12n Ash Wed. Service (with ashes) 4p Prime Time (P) 5p Cherub Choir 5:30p Junior Choir 6p Meal 7p Ash Wed. Service (without ashes)	22 7p Square Dance (FH)	23 7:15 Senior High Youth - Einsteins	24 10a Kitchen Cleaning Men's Retreat @ Camp Cherokee
25 9a Worship 10a Sunday School 11a Worship 12:30p Confirmation (P) Men Return from Retreat 5p Youth Choir 6p Youth Groups (FH)	26	27 7a Prayer Group (P) 10a Presbytery Mtg. at Eastminster 6:30p Pack 565 (FH) 7p Boy Scout (T) 7:30p Mission (P)	28 10a Bible Study (P) 5p Cherub Choir 5:30p Junior Choir 6p Meal 6:30p Handbell Choir 7p The Element (T) 7p Experiencing God 7p Men's Bible Study (7) 7:30p Chancel Choir			