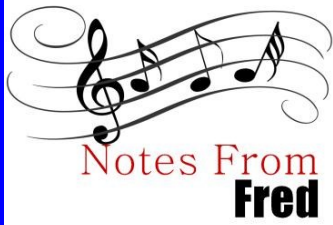


Eastminster Eagle

Volume 40, Issue 2

February 2023



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 are about our worship of God. I found inspiration in them, and I hope you will as well.

For me, I get a lot of inspiration from hearing the congregation and choir singing the hymns, songs, spirituals, and anthems. It is also inspiring to see those who do not sing, but who follow the verses in the hymnbook.

“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 it is vital that we understand that it is rooted in a conscious act of the will, to serve and obey the Lord Jesus Christ.”—Graham Kendrick (British religious song writer/musician).

Composer/text of *Shine Jesus Shine* GTG 192 and *The Trumpets Sound*, aka *The Feast Is Ready* GTG 505

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)

From your heroes you pick up mannerisms and phrases and tones of voice and facial expressions and habits and demeanors and convictions and beliefs. The more admirable the hero is and the more intense your admiration is, the more profound will be your transformation. In the case of Jesus, he is infinitely admirable, and our admiration rises to the most absolute worship. Therefore, when we behold him as we should, the 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, to whims, or to 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

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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

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 with us in all our walks of life and deserves our grateful praise. FW

What in our worship service inspires you? Please tell me. You can send me an email

fred.eastminster@yahoo.com, or in person or drop me note in my box in the office or mail me a note to Eastminster mailing address P.O Box 571188 Dallas, TX 75357

"...give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Saying good-bye has never been easy for me when my heart is fully engaged. And Eastminster partners in ministry, my heart has been yours for over thirteen years. It was not, still is not, an easy good-bye. The road of faith we walked together had its share of ups and downs and detours, but never did I feel those were without the guidance of God who gives us the Spirit to endure and persevere and follow faithfully.

For the encouragement, support and kindness you have shown me and our family through these years, I am fully grateful and keenly aware that not all pastors receive the same kind of care you have shown. I know I have been blessed and I do not take that for granted.

It is hard to surprise me, but I was completely overwhelmed by the show of love on Christmas Day. What better way to answer God's call from one ministry into another than having people you love worship together on Christmas morning. Forever etched in my memory is celebrating together the birth of our Lord and giving thanksgiving to God whose plan we don't always understand, but trust in its goodness.

The beauty of the plate and flask and its scriptural reference will be used time and again, I promise. It is much more than a showpiece for me; it is my connection to our ministry together, and it a ministry that has strengthened my faith and taught me lessons that I will continue to share with others. And the financial gift just affirms for me the generosity of the people of Eastminster and reminds me of God's call to share the gifts we have been given. To the glory of God, this gift also will be shared.

With the love of the Lord,

Sherry

Session Planning Meeting

On January 14, 2023, Session held its first planning meeting in two years. With Pastor Sherry leaving, Eastminster is facing a lot of changes this year, but this meeting reinforced just how blessed we really are.

The Interim Pastor Selection Committee has already had its first short meeting. We have started developing a list of possible choices and are waiting to hear from the Committee on Ministry (COM) about their suggestions. Chandra reviewed office and newsletter procedures, while Charlotte went over Session procedures. Cindy gave us a budget overview and there was good news there as well: pledges for the upcoming year will cover about 78% of the budget as opposed to 71% of the budget in 2022. While we did have an operating budget shortfall last year, it was quite a bit less than anticipated. Our cash reserves are continuing to rebound from the general economy downturn. If we were to cease taking in money today, we would still have enough money to operate almost another year and that's on a budget that includes Sherry's salary.

There are some long-term financial fundamentals that need to be addressed over time, but we are still very blessed.

Fred updated us on pulpit supply and we have some exciting speakers and services planned all the way through March.

Next, all of the Committees gave a short update on 2022 and 2023: what worked well, what didn't, and exciting plans for the new year. I think the congregation will also be excited about the coming year. We also talked about bringing in a staff person to plan programming for children, youth, and families. We hope to have someone within 30 days.

We talked about the consensus of the Long Range Planning Report and have to go forward to develop specifics around each of the three options. Finally, we were able to agree on Committee Chair assignments that everyone felt happy and energized

(and challenged!) about. We ended on time with hymns and prayer.

The two main points of concern were: (1) slow response time from COM; and (2) untrue gossip.

The Session has every confidence that COM will be responding now that the holidays are over and we are working diligently to make that happen.

As for the gossip: we are trying to be completely transparent, active, and forward-leaning in our work. We are going forward with the Congregational Meeting at the end of January to discuss our plans and answer all questions. Yes, our membership has shrunk, but our church functions are vital and active and we continue doing God's will in big ways and small ways. We are talking to other churches in the cluster to see what is working for them and what is not working for them. Our finances are sound and all of our functions have leaders and exciting plans for the coming year. We look forward to sharing them with the congregation. Please. *no gossip*. If you have questions or concerns, ask a Session member about them. Come to meetings, read reports, go over financials, but please no gossip.

See you at the Congregational Gathering on January 29th following worship.



House & Property

What has been done in the month of November:

- ◆ Replaced a water sensor in the fellowship restroom
- ◆ DFW Security replaced the master panel in the hallway across from the choir room
- ◆ Replaced screws in cloister door
- ◆ Replaced all air filters for HVAC units

Items for workday tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 8th 10am-1pm:

- ◆ Clean out attic area above the kitchen
- ◆ Organize Maintenance closet
- ◆ Caulk and paint circular window above kitchen in the attic
- ◆ Finish staining Ark
- ◆ Finish touch-up painting of hallways, fellowship hall, fellowship restroom
- ◆ Adjust exit door to playground
- ◆ Replace Exit Sign lights
- ◆ Plant flowers in the courtyard and in front of the sanctuary

You can 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
Bruce Turner and Jo Byrd, Members



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Do you like pancakes? Do you like our Guest Musicians? Well, join us for the Eastminster Choir's annual Guest Musician Fundraiser on Tuesday, February 21.

With these funds, we can enjoy the enhancement that our guest musicians provide.

You may give online, or put a donation in a pew envelope, or give in person while you are enjoying the food and fellowship.

The cost for the supper is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children with a \$20 family maximum.

You can't beat a deal like this!



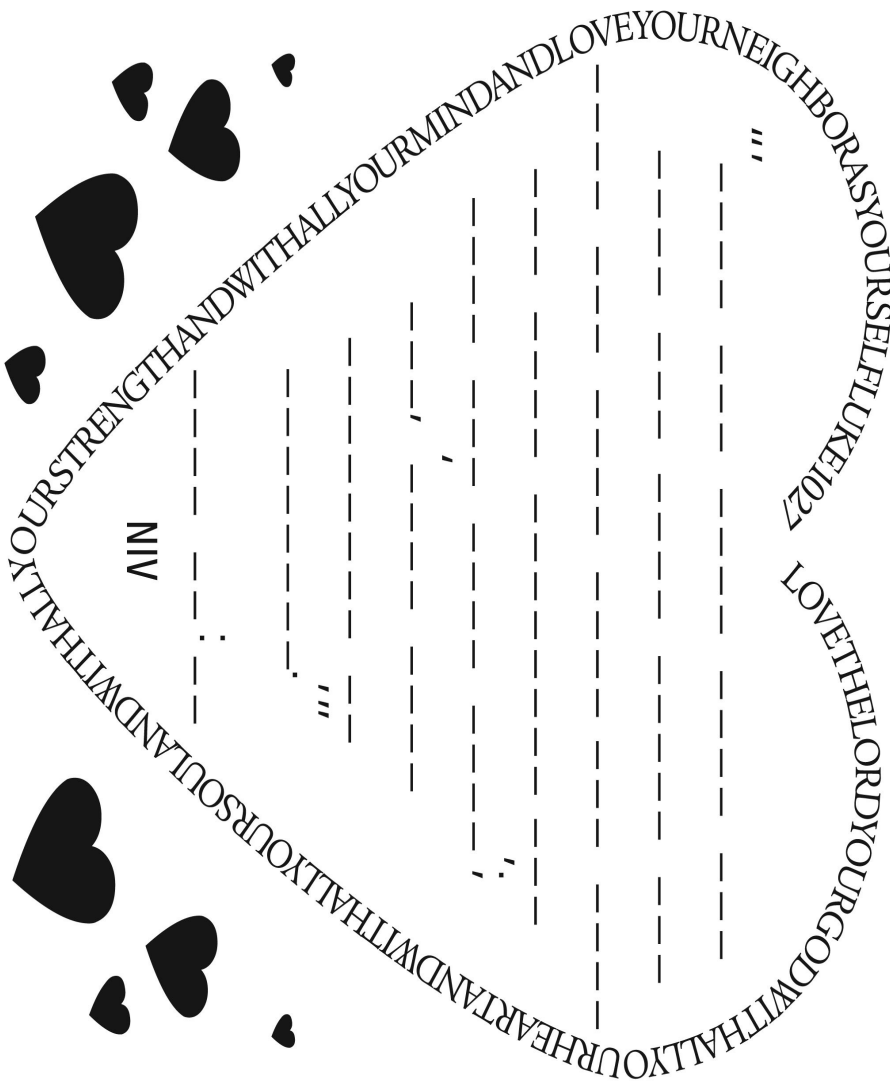
Come join us Sunday, March 5th

We welcome our own Alex Pappas to the pulpit. Following worship, there will be a reception to congratulate Alex on her ordination (which was held at Eastminster in 2020). Unfortunately at that time we could not gather so we are giving her a belated congratulations!

See you there.

Puzzle!

Draw lines to separate the words in the heart outline. Then, starting with "Love," write the words in order inside the heart to complete the two greatest commandments.



Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, Love your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27, NIV

"It is about as hard to absolve yourself of your own guilt as it is to sit in your own lap."

—Frederick Buechner

"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day."

—Sally Koch

"To love another person is to help them love God."

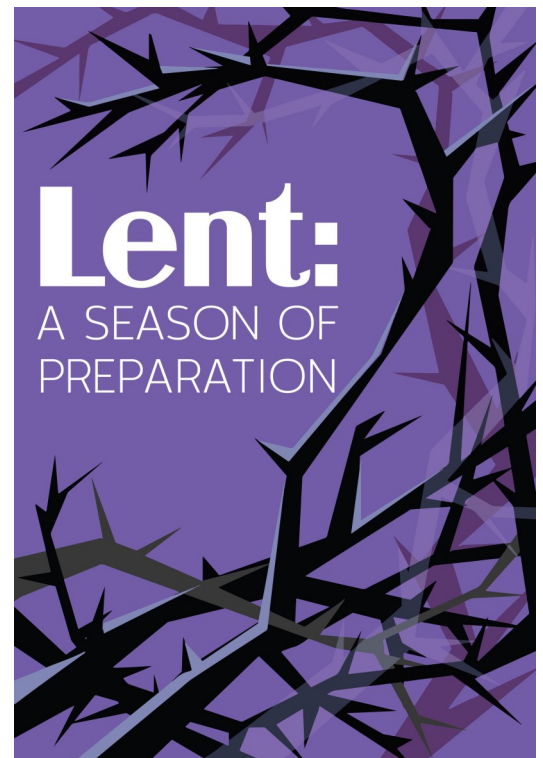
—Søren Kierkegaard

"You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist."

—Indira Gandhi

A daily prayer

Since God will be my end
Let him be my beginning,
So that I may now fully live
Instead of falling, straying,
sinning. —Angelus Silesius



Neighborhood Breakfast Update

	12/24	12/31	1/7	1/14
Guests	41	41	31	38
Servers	12	10	8	8
Total	53	51	39	46

December 24

Christmas Eve, Saturday morning we had really good attendance. Everyone wanted socks, and clothes flew off the rack. Some of our guests were talking about going out to West Texas to get work in the oil fields (decent pay, but cold hard work and a bad place for losing fingers). KT was in Parkland and two guests were going to try to do some yard work to get some cash for the holidays. It seemed like there was an extra dose of Grace due to Christmas. Maybe it was the Christmas packages that Darlene and Blair put together for every single guest.

December 31

Handed out more Christmas bags. Christian Stronghold was in the house! Books, socks, coats, and clothes were again in big demand. We learned of Jesse's passing.

January 7 and 14

Jesse's funeral was later in the morning. Numbers were down a little, but everyone was in good spirits. Shelly and her husband were there and it was really good to have them back. Ivan the Terrible was there again doing the work of two with the good cheer of three. Christine's pancakes were exemplary.

Tom

Dear Friends –

Please excuse the time it has taken me to submit this heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to Mother's 100th birthday celebration at the end of November.



It really was exceptional with so many family members and friends honoring her that day through worship and table fellowship. And it was because of each of you who helped in the planning, setting up, picture-taking, home movie screening and sound, greeting, directing, serving, and cleaning up that made it successful. Many, many thanks and much love to all.

– Vicki Lynn

Pleasant Grove Food Pantry for December 2022



<i>Date</i>	<i>Families</i>	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Seniors</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>New</i>
5	127	239	73	182	494	9285	6
6	214	457	111	361	929	16098	5
12	132	257	92	183	532	9670	6
13	153	332	87	309	728	11269	9
19	144	275	95	167	537	16405	2
20	255	507	149	466	1122	33875	15



Lenten signals

Why should we observe Lent? This 40-day season of repentance and reflection that begins on Ash Wednesday has three important purposes. Lent helps us STOP, LOOK and LISTEN.

We observe Lent because it tells us to STOP and rest awhile — and to stop sinning. Lent tells us to LOOK inward for an honest self-examination, to look upward to see the cross of Jesus with healing and love, and to look forward to the hope of the Resurrection. And we observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN — to the voice of God, the words of Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

STOP, LOOK and LISTEN! These commands that are so crucial for travel safety are also important for our journey through Lent.

Amazing love

If there is one subject more than another upon which I wish ever to speak, it is the love of Christ; but if there is one which quite baffles me, and makes me go back from this platform utterly ashamed of my poor feeble words, and of the tongue which has uttered them, it is this subject. This love of Christ is the most amazing thing under heaven, if not in heaven itself.

—Charles Spurgeon

The river of life

The Red River of the North, in the north-central U.S. and central Canada, takes countless twists and turns. A close-up aerial photo or map shows its frequent sideswipes and U-turns. One could cross the river several times without changing direction while hiking or biking along the border between Minnesota and North Dakota. You might wonder at points if it has completely

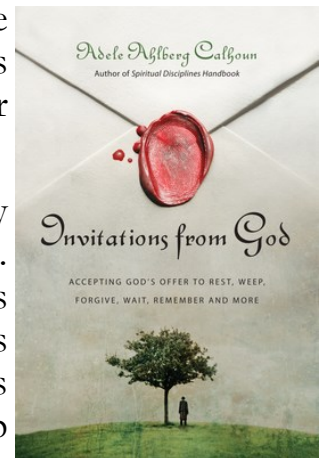
turned back south — which raises another point: While most rivers flow south, the Red River flows north.

Sometimes life meanders, but that doesn't mean we're off course. Sometimes we seem to be going in the opposite direction of most people, but that doesn't mean we're not headed the right way. Sometimes it feels like it takes us a long time to make progress, but that doesn't mean we're not moving. We might just be taking in more of life's scenery! Follow your own unique trajectory, letting God, the creator of all rivers and all life, serve as the current that moves you ever onward.

Love aces the test

Author Adele Calhoun describes life as “our ‘open-book’ test on love.” How can we ace it? In *Invitations From God*, she points out that daily decisions are the make-or-break factors: “Day in and day out as we plan, work, produce, commute and relate, we make life-altering choices to either love or neglect others.”

For another study guide, reflect on St. Augustine's timeless words: “What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of [people]. That is what love looks like.”



Love is

Fill in the blanks for three qualities Paul, in 1 Corinthians 13, attributes to love: "Love is _____; love is _____. ... it keeps no record of _____."

- A. challenging, important, the past
- B. childlike, innocent, injustice
- C. self-sacrificing, generous, finances
- D. patient, kind, wrongs

(ANSWER: D (See 1 Corinthians 13:4-5, NIV))



A cookbook is being compiled by the ladies of the church. Please submit your favorite recipe, also a short antidote for it.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5pm — prayer and medication to follow.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 a.m. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.

The missionary from Africa speaking at Calvary Memorial Church in Racine: Name: Bertha Belch. Announcement: "Come tonight and hear Bertha Belch all the Way from Africa."

Ushers will eat latecomers.

Scripture Readings for February

1 Pss. 96; 147:1-11	11 Pss. 104; 149	21 Pss. 42; 146
2 Pss. 116; 147:12-20	12 Pss. 19; 150	22 Pss. 5; 147:1-11
3 Pss. 84; 148	13 Pss. 135; 145	23 Pss. 27; 147:12-20
4 Pss. 63; 149	14 Pss. 123; 146	24 Pss. 22; 148
5 Pss. 103; 150	15 Pss. 15; 147:1-11	25 Pss. 43; 149
6 Pss. 5; 145	16 Pss. 36; 147:12-20	26 Pss. 84; 150
7 Pss. 42; 146	17 Pss. 130; 148	27 Pss. 119:73-80; 145
8 Pss. 89:1-18; 147:1-11	18 Pss. 56; 149	28 Pss. 34; 146
9 Pss. 97; 147:12-20	19 Pss. 103; 150	
10 Pss. 51; 148	20 Pss. 5; 145	

Let's go bananas!

When the baseball team in Savannah, Georgia, got new owners in 2016, it also received a new name and identity — the Bananas! Adding pep to what often seemed a long, boring game, Jesse and Emily Cole offered a creative new experience, full of entertainment and spectacle. Players wear all-yellow uniforms (sometimes kilts), and the mascot is a banana named Split. Cheering on the team are the Banana



Nanas senior-citizen dancers and the Man-Nanas Dad Bod Cheering Squad. The entire organization sets out to bring hospitality and joy, sending people home thinking, “This was the best experience of my life!”

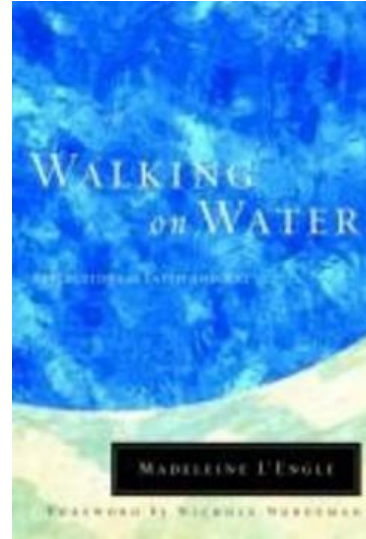
What if Christians, individually and as a community, fully embraced our new name and identity, sharing radical hospitality and profound joy with everyone? Jesus has bought us from our former owner, sin, and given us a new name: Beloved of God. This identity may seem silly to some, just as the Savannah Bananas raised eyebrows initially. But before long, the delighted fans were going bananas for them!

With the same wild abandon and big-hearted outreach, the church — with its much-greater message — can spread love and goodwill, and have fun doing it!

Don't lose the key

In *Walking on Water*, Madeleine L'Engle writes: “We have to be braver than we think we can be, because God is constantly calling us to be more than we are, to see through plastic sham to living, breathing reality, and to break down our defenses of self-protection in order to be free to receive and give love.” That sounds inspiring, but the moment I stumble, exhausted or overwhelmed, these words no longer encourage. Instead, they read like the work is mine alone, and I'm not up for that.

Knowing some of L'Engle's writings on faith, I researched that quote. Turns out it had been chopped off at



the knees. Her next words are the key: “With God, even a rich man can enter the narrow gate to heaven.” With God.

I can't respond to God's call to be more than I am, grow in faith, serve my neighbor or “enter the narrow gate to heaven” on my own. But “with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26), and whatever Jesus calls me to do, he will equip me to do, walking with me all the way.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



From death to new life

After the inventor of the Frisbee died in 2002, family members honored his final wish: to have some of his ashes molded into a flying disk! The point, according to toy legend “Steady Ed” Headrick, was for his loved ones to have fun playing with him even after he had passed. “He lived for Frisbee,” said his widow, and now he lives on in one.

Thankfully, the ashes used on Ash Wednesday aren’t cremains. But they do have special significance. They’re often made by burning branches from the previous year’s Palm Sunday celebration. By tying together seasons, the practice of receiving ashes reminds us of cycles: sin, repentance and forgiveness, plus life, death and resurrection — Jesus’ as well as our own.

What’s in it for me?

Communion takes on new meaning for me when Jesus calls himself the bread of life. The day after feeding the 5,000, Jesus explains, “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life” (John 6:54, NIV). Many people stop following him after that, finding the teaching too difficult. Maybe Jesus is challenging people who claim to be his disciples but are in it just for the miracles.

When I hear the Words of Institution, I ask myself if I’m a “What’s in it for me?” follower. Do I expect Jesus to merely impress me with answered prayers? Or do I trust him completely and serve him wholeheartedly? Am I like Peter, who, when asked whether I’ll leave too, replies, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (v. 68). —Julie Lee



IN THE PULPIT FOR FEBRUARY - MARCH 12, 2023

Worship Committee Feb 5—David Schaefers, former pastor of First Presbyterian Richardson

Feb 12—David Schaefers

Feb 19—Clark Royle, theology degree from Princeton, lawyer, and member of First Presbyterian Dallas.

Feb 26—Kenny Rigoulet, Co-Director of Camp Gilmont

Mar 5—Our own Alex Pappas, Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian, Shreveport, LA

Mar 12—Service in Liturgy and Song

For more information or if you have any questions or suggestions please contact Elder Fred Watkins or any member of the Worship Committee: Elder Sean Turner, Elder Chandra Anderson, Denise Bennett, Jimmy Fielding, Susie Fielding, Steve O’Neal, or Michele Pappas



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jacob Whitley	2/1
Betty Crabtree	2/3
Rhonda Kraft	2/4
Matthew Bennett	2/7
Taylor Kraft	2/9
Michael Veloz	2/13
Oscar Veloz	2/14
Susie Fielding	2/23
Tony Bennett	2/24
Kellie Karlen	2/25
Javed Almas	2/25
Wayne Maples	2/27



Eastminster Session

Chandra Anderson
 Betty Crabtree
 Blair Garrett
 Philis Knox
 Dick Knox
 Jim Lee
 Tom Pappas
 Charlotte Turner
 Sean Turner
 Fred Watkins



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

January 15, 2022

- ◆ Enjoyed a meal provided by Sean Turner.
- ◆ Heard a report from the Treasurer that Eastminster's budget shortfall was not as high as expected. Revenues for fiscal 2022 were up, and the markets improved in the final quarter.
- ◆ Heard a report from Bruce Turner regarding Broker's Price Opinions for the Eastminster property. *Please note that these opinions were sought in response to advice from the Presbytery and are for information only.*
- ◆ Approved pulpit supply for February Sundays and for the first Sunday in March.
- ◆ Approved a request from the choir to hold the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper to benefit the Guest Musicians Fund.
- ◆ Approved the 2023-only suspension of Ash Wednesday services due to lack of pulpit supply.
- ◆ Heard a report from House and Property regarding air conditioning systems.
- ◆ Directed the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee to proceed with a search for a part-time interim.
- ◆ Approved office hours for the Administrative Assistant.
- ◆ Approved a motion to dissolve the Long-Range Planning Committee with gratitude for their service.



Special dates

- ◆ African-American History Month
- ◆ Valentine's Day, February 14
- ◆ Transfiguration Sunday, February 19
- ◆ Presidents Day, February 20
- ◆ Ash Wednesday, February 22

