

# Eastminster Eagle

Volume 40, Issue 8

August 2023



## *WELCOME THE REV. DR. PAUL M. BURNS*

Rev. Burns comes to us with experience and education. He was the Pastor of First Presbyterian Garland for five years, and has been the Interim Pastor at United Presbyterian Church in Greenville for the past year and a half. His experience has taken him to churches as a pastor and/or staff member in Dallas, Austin, Nashville, and New York City. He is currently the Vice Moderator of Grace Presbytery.

In 2020 Pastor Burns founded and is the Director of GSN Ministries LLC dba Soul Metrics. He helps coach Christian leaders and trains them to help others with their spiritual health. Rev Burns has led workshops and retreats on the topic of spiritual health for churches, seminaries, hospitals, and Christian non-profit groups.

Pastor Burns has a Doctorate of Ministry and Christian Coaching from Western Seminary, Portland, Oregon, and a Master of Divinity from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Austin, Texas. Rev Burns also has a Bachelor of Musical Arts in Vocal Performance from the University of Oklahoma. He has Clinical Pastoral Education from Methodist Dallas Medical Center and is a Certified Christian Leadership Coach from Coach Approach Ministries.

In addition to his religious training, Rev Burns has other professional experiences working for Fidelity Personal Investments in New York, NY, Fidelity Investments Private Wealth Management Group, Morristown, NJ, and Fidelity Investments Retirement Services Co. Dallas, TX.

Rev Burns is married and has two children.

Please join us for worship at our new time at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 6, led by Pastor Burns.

Following worship, please join us for a reception to welcome the Rev. Dr. Paul M. Burns to Eastminster.

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Dear Eastminster Members and Friends,

It is with maximum joy that I write to you today. I am so very excited to begin ministry with you. I want you to know a bit about who I am as a pastor and what my calling is.

From the very beginning of my ministry, I felt called to help churches grow in faith and in number (Acts 16:5). At one point early on in my ministry I was struggling with my understanding my purpose, and I heard a still small voice say to me from within, "Paul, you help people to believe." In a nutshell that is my purpose on this earth. What do I help people to believe? I help them to believe that with God all things are possible. I help them to believe

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they and all people are valuable in God's eyes. I help them to believe that God has a purpose for their lives. I help them to believe God gives them everything they need to fulfill that purpose.

How does helping people believe help a church to grow in faith and in number? God can do anything with people who believe anything is possible with God. Those who believe like that are not limited to what seems manageable. They are not daunted by the mission of the church to make disciples of all nations. They can love anyone and everyone and in doing so spread the love of God. God sends people in need to these kinds of believers. I can't predict how it will happen, but I know it will. God will connect us with people who need the Good News and Love of Jesus Christ. Our community of faith will grow to the extent of our belief in these things.

Perhaps you are imagining having to knock on doors and accost people at the mall. No. When we believe we will simply be open and ready for the people that God sends our way and begin loving them like they were members of our family until they become members of our family. God's family.

Former Prime Minister of the Netherlands and Reformed theologian Abraham Kuyper said, "The greatest gift a church can receive is to have a group of families who take their responsibilities with such Christian seriousness that they are willing to completely alter their lifestyle to raise up disciples for Jesus Christ." You may have thought the greatest gift you could receive is a great pastor, but Kuyper is right. It will be families in the church who are willing to sacrifice everything for the sake of the Gospel that will make all the difference in the future of Eastminster.

My role with you will be: 1) to take care of you (pastoral care), 2) to preach Spirit-led, biblical sermons that give you practical application for living out your purpose (preaching), 3) to teach the Bible for the sake of growing in faith (discipleship), 4) to equip you to reach out to others for the sake of connecting people to both God and our community (evangelism), and 5) to join you in discerning God's will and vision for the church (prophetic leadership).

The last thing I want to say is that this will be an adventure. When you are living in the flow of the Holy Spirit life is amazing and even fun. I will lead with a sense of imagination, curiosity, humor, and experimentation. We will be getting into all kinds of exciting adventures together. These adventures with the Holy Spirit will become our testimony. We will grow in our story telling about what impossible things God can do for, in, and through us.

I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you in the coming months and years. Let the adventure begin!

With great anticipation,

Pastor Paul

revpaulburns@gmail.com

214-930-9415

***Please note the changes in times in our  
Sunday Schedule:***

9:00 a.m.—9:45 a.m. Breakfast

10:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:30 a.m. Worship

## *A Surreal Moment*

Michele Hain Pappas

It was time.

In 1983, two years after I graduated from SMU and achieved more success than I ever imagined, I stepped away from my athletic career as a diver. It's not that I didn't have more to give, as I qualified for the 1984 Olympic Trials. But at the same point in time, I had already accomplished everything I wanted to and more.

I was blessed to have a wonderful career at SMU. Between the All-American honors, competing for championships, diving at the 1980 Olympic Trials, I didn't believe I had anything else to prove. I was living out my dream, and I loved every second of it.

But it was time to move on.

I transitioned into coaching a club team, Mustangs in the Sun, for the next 30+ years to keep me around the sport, but truthfully, I never gave my diving career too much thought once I retired.

When I received word that I was being inducted into the 2023 SMU Hall of Fame, that's when all of those memories and moments in my career came flooding back.

No athletes begin their journeys thinking they'll be Hall of Famers. We compete because, first and foremost, we love our sport. And that love and passion has taken me to places I only dreamed about as a little girl growing up in Oklahoma.

**My first big decision:** It's comical looking back on this now, but when I was in high school in the 1970s, I wanted to compete at the state championships. The problem was, there were no girls state championships at the time. My, how times have changed.

Since there wasn't a girls state competition, I competed with the boys during my sophomore and junior seasons and ended up winning both years. It was at this point that I began to see that I had potential in this sport, and it could help enrich my life with some incredible opportunities. One of those opportunities, of course, was to earn a high-quality education.

My brother swam for two years at SMU, so when they reached out, that piqued my interest. I should also add that they had lots of cute boys that were divers on their team. Let me tell you, that didn't hurt their chances in the recruiting process. I met and married one of those cute swimmers and have been married to him for 36 years!

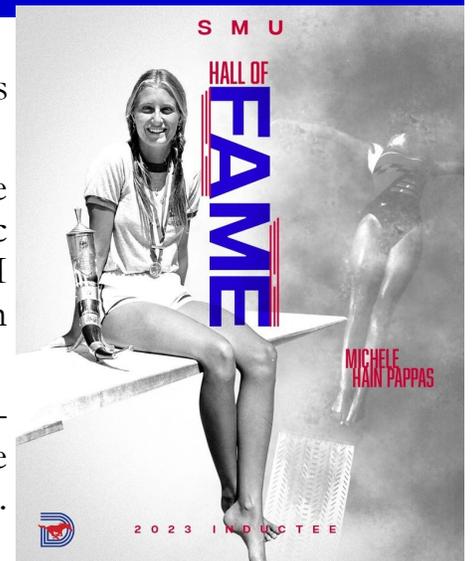


My mom wanted me to go to Michigan to dive for the legendary Dick Kimball, but it didn't feel right. SMU was close to home, and more importantly, SMU felt like home.

The first big and independent decision I made, which was a polarizing one at the time, was when I chose to dive at SMU.

Looking back on it, I'm amazed at 18 that I had the conviction to make such an impactful decision like that on

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my own, but I'm so glad I did because SMU would be nothing short of a blessing to my life and career.

**Influenced by a legend:** Something I learned early on, before my career even started at SMU, was to never underestimate the influence you can have on someone's life.

I went to SMU the summer before my freshman year to train, and I ran into Christine Looock, who was a legendary diver and ended up being a Hall of Famer in her own right. She told me how excited she was that I was here and that she firmly believed I could win a national championship. That blew me away.

Someone of her stature did not have to go out of her way to tell me that, but to have that affirmation from someone I looked up to meant everything in the world to me.

As I went on to win the 3-meter in the U.S. Diving Championships and earn seven All-American honors during my career at SMU, I always circle back to that moment with Christine.

Would these accomplishments exist without her instilling that confidence in me right away as a bright-eyed 18-year-old?

It's difficult to say for certain, but I do know that I've always tried to be someone that can be a positive influence and uplift other people as Christine did for me.

Christine may not even remember that interaction she had with me all those years ago, but she left an indelible impression on me that I was able to take with me throughout the entirety of my life and career.

**Making a Hall of Fame difference:** I knew I had accomplished quite a bit as a college diver. I was an All-American and

national champion, but I never thought I quite reached that pinnacle like some of my friends and peers that have been inducted into the Hall of Fame. And I was totally at peace with that. As I mentioned before, when I left the sport in '83, I had zero regrets.

When I got the call that SMU planned to induct me into their 2023 Hall of Fame, I was left speechless because I never thought of myself in that capacity.

Since my days in high school when I was beating the boys at state, I've always known I had a gift for diving. But I never could've predicted having my name and story going down in history in the Hall of Fame.

I've always looked up to these incredibly talented athletes that get inducted each year, so knowing I'm a part of this year's class, I realize they're looking up to me. More than anything, that's what makes me so emotional about this induction.

I'm in disbelief, really, and it feels like a dream. I also think that's fitting, though, because my career at SMU was a dream. That college experience made such a tremendous difference in my life, and it taught me to pay it forward by making a difference in other people's lives. This is something I strive to do on a daily basis.

The honors, awards, and accolades are unbelievably humbling, but if I can go to bed each night knowing I've made a difference, that's everything I could ever ask for and more.





With half of 2023 in the books, I will share a little about the finances of the church. The church is in the black through June 30 due to the generosity of our members and the careful use of our

resources. The detailed financial statements are posted on the Stewardship bulletin board in the hallway just outside the conference room, or they can be emailed to you upon request. Memorial gifts were given in honor of Stella Post and we are so blessed by her life and these gifts from those who loved her. The church sent the Mother's and Father's Day offerings of \$510.00, equally divided, to Meals on Wheels and Faith Presbyterian Hospice. Our reserves continue to grow due to the recovery of the stock market during 2023 and we will access these savings as needed in the second half of 2023. As always, if you have any questions or concerns about Eastminster's financial situation, please reach out to the Stewardship Committee or me personally by phone, 214-402-3152, or email, [treasurer@eastminsterdallas.org](mailto:treasurer@eastminsterdallas.org).

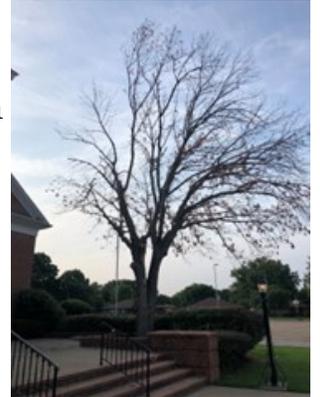
Blessings,

Cindy Garrett

## *House & Property*

It is still hot outside but praise the Lord for working HVAC units. What we have done in the month of July:

- ◆ Mario's Tree Service trimmed 8 large trees on the property and removed the dead Pistachio tree in the front of the sanctuary. The total cost was \$3,200.
- ◆ Replaced burned out bulbs in cloister and hallways.
- ◆ Sprayed round up in flower beds and along sidewalks.
- ◆ Plan to add 3 security lights to the west parking lot between the kitchen and the office windows. Cost is \$875.00.
- ◆ Treated the sanctuary sewer drain line with root killer.



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



One of the hymns that I remember from my childhood and one some of you have told me is among your favorites is *Holy, Holy, Holy* GTG 1.

I am moved every time we sing it especially when we get to verse 4 and the organ swells and our sopranos singing the descant soar above all the rest of us. It is a very worshipful moment.

I borrowed the following from Hymn Charts and written by Taylor Brantley.

“In the English vernacular, exclamation points are used to emphasize the importance of something. In the Jewish vernacular, repetition is used. The best example of this is when Jesus used “truly truly” to drive His points home. So, if a repetition of two is equivalent to an exclamation point, a repetition of three is equivalent to someone waving their arms and screaming at you. Of all God’s attributes, there is only one in the Bible where a repetition of three is used.

“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!” – Revelation 4:8

*Holy, Holy, Holy* was written by a man who revered God as wholly holy; a man who put such an effort into living for God that it eventually killed him.

Reginald Heber was born in Cheshire, England, in 1783. He came from well-off parents, allowing him to receive exceptional education throughout his early years. Reginald easily could have taken these blessings for granted, but he did not. For Reginald, failing his education would be to tell God that His gifts are undesirable. Therefore, Reginald learned the value of hard work through his appreciation of God’s gifts. In turn, he received top grades and was praised for his academic ability. Soon after completing his education, Reginald was ordained into the Anglican Church and became a minister.

Rather than using his great education and reputation to find the largest and most glamorous church to lead, Reginald chose a tiny church in the little village of Hodnet, England. Within his congregation, Reginald had a reputation for two things: being a devout man of God and being a wonderful poet; the perfect recipe for a legendary hymn.

In 1823, Reginald was called to serve in India. He was still young – only 40 years old – and the responsibility was greater than his years. His title was Bishop of Calcutta, which made him the leader of missions in India, the Island of Ceylon, and even all of Australia. During his time in India, Reginald worked tirelessly. Once again, he refused to squander this great gift from God. His chief ambition was to build a training school for local clergy so the area would have ministers long after Reginald was gone. Along with building the school, Reginald also traveled across India spreading the gospel.

Over the years, the intense climate and even more intense responsibility wore on Reginald’s health. Through the hardship, he never relented. Such an effort did he give that on one Sunday, directly after an outdoor sermon to a large group of Indians, Reginald dropped dead from heatstroke.

In death, Reginald’s work carried on, for it turned out that during his time at the tiny church in Hodnet, Reginald had written several hymns. He never sought publication; perhaps too humble, or perhaps thought his work not good enough. But his wife saw the beauty in her husband’s work, and she put a collection of her husband’s hymns together and had them published. Fifty-seven hymns made up the collection, and all fifty-seven are still being used to this day. Of the collection, one stood out far above the others:

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning, my song shall rise to Thee!”*



## BIG THANKS AND SHARING FROM THE INTERIM/STATED SUPPLY COMMITTEE

I would like to thank Denise Bennett and Tom Pappas who worked with me on securing a Stated Supply Pastor. We had several meetings in person and on Zoom. It was not an easy task. The Presbytery was in transition from last year's committees to the new ones. We had some very frustrating times since some on the list finally given us by the Presbytery had already taken positions. But we kept "beating the bushes" and getting names from other Pastors and some of our Pulpit Supply. Finally, we found two ministers who were interested in talking with us and they did. Both had skills and experience that would be helpful to help us move into a new time of ministry, but both were not available at that time but soon would be.

Following a list of options, the Session had been exploring, we decided to send a letter to St. Mark about possibly sharing a Pastor with us. That was on Sunday afternoon June 23. The next morning before the letter has been sent, I received an email from the Chair of St. Mark's committee asking if we would be interested in sharing. The Session and the Committee felt God's hand was in this new direction. I called one of the candidates that St. Mark had talked with concerning this possibility and the Rev Dr. Paul Burns expressed that he was indeed interested in the sharing and was going to be available to start on Aug 1.

The Session agreed with the proposal and added Blair Garrett to our committee as we were to negotiate a Covenant with St. Mark. At our first joint meeting on June 25, present were Joanna Kim, Director of Ministry Services, and both churches liaisons from the Committee on Ministry. It was a great meeting with lots of optimism and an agreement to enter a Covenant. Big thanks to Blair who wrote a few drafts of the covenant that were shared by both committees.

We met on July 11 and fine-tuned the draft with Pastor Burns present.

You have heard the saying: "When one door closes, God opens another"? There is no doubt in our Session's thinking that God provided this opportunity.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [fred.eastminster@yahoo.com](mailto:fred.eastminster@yahoo.com) or in person at the Church.

Fred Watkins, Chair



If you can do a little better than "carry a tune in a bucket," the choir needs you. All ages from 13 and up are welcome!

A fun-loving group but also seriously dedicated to singing praises and prayers to the Triune God.

We meet on Wednesdays from 7 pm to 8:30 pm.

You are invited to our annual choir dinner on July 23 at 5:30 followed by rehearsal. Just let Chandra in the office or [Fred.eastminster@yahoo.com](mailto:Fred.eastminster@yahoo.com) know you are coming so we can prepare enough food.



It seems like only yesterday that we were cheering the beginning of summer break, and now we're seeing "Back to School" displays in every store. It's that time, and the Outreach Committee is excited about a new opportunity to help.

This year, we're partnering with Dallas ISD's "Homeless Education" program – specifically students in the Eastminster Community who attend Skyline High School. According to the Ken Hall, Community Liaison for Skyline, they serve between 30 and 50 students at any given time. Our school supply commitment is simple: Buy as many of the following products as you are comfortable with and return them to the Church before Monday, August 7.

- ◆ Pencils — #2 Ticonderoga or good mechanical pencils (It does matter. Nobody can use a bad pencil, even if it's cute.)
- ◆ Ball point pens – blue or black
- ◆ Filler paper – Most teachers prefer wide rule.
- ◆ Binders – 1-inch, white or black is best.
- ◆ Kleenex – (Ask your favorite teacher how fast kids go through Kleenex.)

These needs are basic, but they're vital. Outreach is looking forward to helping these students get the very best start to their new school year.



The last stop for Summer Dining is on August 15th, El Vecino Mexican Restaurant, 718 Buckner Blvd. We are all familiar with Tex Mex food, but I guarantee that the food there is really good.



The group enjoying fellowship and food at Verona Italian restaurant on the Second Stop of Summer dining.

# Puzzle!

Fill in the blanks with the correct words. Then transfer the letters to the numbered boxes below to complete Psalm 107:1, NIV.

- Shape that symbolizes love 31 15 7 18 5
- Part of a stove used for baking 12 3 24 39
- Color made by red and yellow 28 42 7 8 27 37
- A present 1 32 20 11
- Clothing a girl wears 19 22 43 44 33
- Something you open to go into a room 40 29 17 47
- Opposite of soft (sound) 34 17 41 30
- To take a long walk 14 2 9 38
- A high body temperature 45 50 49 48 42
- Items used to build or fix things 13 35 21 16 26
- Edge of the sea 10 23 46 51 4
- Home for a bee 6 25 36 4

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |    | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9  | 10 |    | 11 | 12 |    | 13 | 14 | 15 |
|    | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |    | 20 | 21 | 22 |
|    | 23 | 24 |    | 25 | 26 |    | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 |    | 31 | 32 | 33 |    | 34 | 35 |
| 36 | 37 |    | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 |
| 44 |    | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 |

“Make the world a better place one person at a time. Start with yourself.” — Linda Poindexter

“Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.”  
— Miles Kington

“Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.”— attributed to Vincent van Gogh

“Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer.” — Rainer Maria Rilke

### *Ingredients for true success*

How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these.

—George Washington Carver

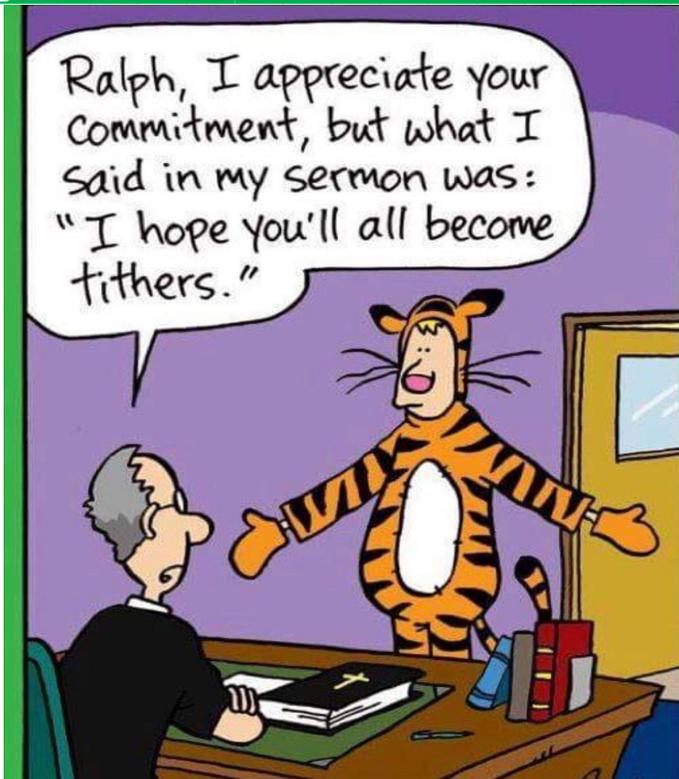
Answer: heart, oven, orange, gift, dress, door, loud, hike, fever, tools, shore, hive, Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Psalm 107:1, NIV



The book of Revelation is written to seven churches.  
Which list includes a city that is not among those seven?

- A. Ephesus, Thyatira, Philadelphia
- B. Smyrna, Laodicea, Galatia
- C. Pergamum, Thyatira, Smyrna
- D. Sardis, Ephesus, Laodicea

Answer: B (See Revelation 2-3.)



Ralph, I appreciate your commitment, but what I said in my sermon was: "I hope you'll all become tithers."



ACTUALLY, YOU HAD A PRETTY GREAT LIFE, BUT YOU WERE LOOKING DOWN AT YOUR PHONE AND YOU MISSED IT!

## Scripture Readings for August

|                        |                           |                        |
|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Pss. 54; 146         | 11 Pss. 84; 148           | 22 Pss. 123; 146       |
| 2 Pss. 65; 147:1-11    | 12 Pss. 63; 149           | 23 Pss. 15; 147:1-11   |
| 3 Pss. 143; 147:12-20  | 13 Pss. 103; 150          | 24 Pss. 36; 147:12-20  |
| 4 Pss. 88; 148         | 14 Pss. 5; 145            | 25 Pss. 130; 148       |
| 5 Pss. 122; 149        | 15 Pss. 42; 146           | 26 Pss. 56; 149        |
| 6 Pss. 108; 150        | 16 Pss. 89:1-18; 147:1-11 | 27 Pss. 67; 150        |
| 7 Pss. 62; 145         | 17 Pss. 97; 147:12-20     | 28 Pss. 57; 145        |
| 8 Pss. 12; 146         | 18 Pss. 51; 148           | 29 Pss. 54; 146        |
| 9 Pss. 96; 147:1-11    | 19 Pss. 104; 149          | 30 Pss. 65; 147:1-11   |
| 10 Pss. 116; 147:12-20 | 20 Pss. 19; 150           | 31 Pss. 143; 147:12-20 |
|                        | 21 Pss. 135; 145          |                        |



**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

Shirlene Watkins 8/1  
 Margret Pearce 8/6  
 Doris Laporte 8/8  
 Toni Bacon 8/18  
 Janet Muller 8/25  
 Jim Lee 8/28



**AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

Denise and Tony Bennett 8/4  
 Kathy and Tim Kreger 8/138



**Eastminster  
 Session**

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



|                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Pastor</b>                   | The Rev. Dr. Paul Burns |
| <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

June 25, 2023

- ◆ Enjoyed a meal provided by Bruce, Charlotte, and Sean Turner.
- ◆ Welcomed Guest Moderator, Rev. Harry Meissner.
- ◆ Heard a report from the Treasurer that Eastminster's financial position for May is good.
- ◆ Heard a report from the Treasurer that our Mother's/Father's Day offering (still being collected at meeting time) will be split between Faith Hospice and Meals on Wheels.
- ◆ Elected 3 Session Members (Blair Garrett, Fred Watkins, and Chandra Anderson) to the Elder Nominating Committee. Blair Garrett will serve as Moderator.
- ◆ Approved a motion to contract with Rev. Dr. Paul Burns as Stated Supply Pastor starting 1 August 2023.
- ◆ Heard a report from Congregational Care Committee Chair Jim Lee regarding visitation with homebound members.



July 2  
Luncheon



## Special dates

- ◆ Tuesday, August 1, the Rev. Dr. Paul Burns joins Eastminster and St. Mark as our shared Stated Supply
- ◆ Sunday, August 6 The Rev. Dr Paul Burns is in the pulpit