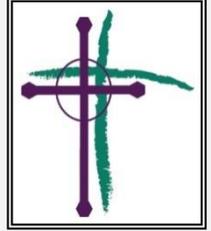


Eastminster Edition



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

September 2015

Eastminster Staff

Pastor

Pressley Cox

pressley@eastminster.com

Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Lynn Moorshead

lynn@eastminster.com

Administrative Assistant

Ellen Irick

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Accompanist

Brian Thomas

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Wanda Grant

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Church Information

Eastminster Presbyterian
2240 Woodruff Road
Simpsonville, SC 29681
www.eastminster.com
Phone: 864-284-0190
Fax: 864-284-9316



Eastminster Presbyterian Church is a church of the Presbyterian Church, USA

This is Our Story!



September 13th

9:15 a.m. Brunch

(Sign up in the Commons!)

Montreat Youth Worship



Pastor's Corner- A Note from Pressley

Dear EPC family and friends-

As many of you remember, last fall we tried a "new" way of offering Children's Sunday School by placing it at the beginning of the worship hour rather than the traditional Sunday School hour before worship. This change has resulted in growing our average attendance for children from 5 or less to sometimes as many as 25! The children are receiving Christian education for 40 minutes before joining the congregation after the sermon as we respond to God's word through affirming our faith, presenting our tithes and offerings, and sharing in Communion. *This year, we will continue to offer Children's Sunday School at 10:30.*

Reflecting upon the positive change for children's education has led to numerous discussions on the overall Faith Formation program at Eastminster. What is that we do well and what can we do better? How can we provide the education for our youth?

During the August session meeting, our elders made a radical decision to take a five month intentional sabbatical from offering youth Sunday School during the traditional Sunday School hour. Instead our youth will have their education after church on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. I am excited about this change and pleased to be a part of it by leading the 1st Sunday each month!

While both these changes are exciting, one element that has been missing is an intergenerational education event that we will begin offering once a month. This will be a time of Feast, Faith and Fellowship (F³) for families. The vision of F³ is to get people of all generations (preschool, elementary, youth, college, young adult, middle aged, older adults, etc.) to gather for an educational event once a month. Our first F³ will be on Sunday, September 27 at 5:30-7:00 pm. I hope you will all join us as we grow in faith together!

Grace and Peace-

Pressley

September Worship Schedule

September 6 Communion

"Voices"
Mark 7:24-37

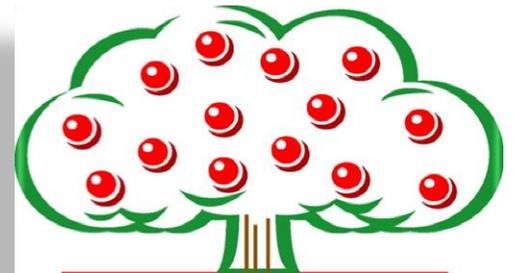
September 13 Rally Day Third Grade Bibles Montreat Youth Sunday "This is Our Story"

September 20 Two Cents a Meal

Mark 9:30-37

September 27

Elizabeth Jones Preaching
Mark 9:38-50



And may the Lord
make you increase
and abound in love
for one another
and for all ...

1 Thessalonians 3:12

"We are one family in Christ,
living in community, celebrating our faith,
called, comforted and
challenged by the Word of God,
reaching out to all persons."

Our Vision:

To grow in God, make Christ known and serve with love.

Our Mission:

Worship GOD, GROW IN FAITH, GO AND SERVE

Congregational Joys & Concerns

EPC Members Norton Cater, Molly Gassner, Lynn and Sandy Ingram, Ron and Barbara Mann, Mike Randall, Winebarger Family.

Homebound/Nursing Home Sylvia Meyer, Emily Phillips

EPC Extended Family

Paul and Susan Burks (*Cathy Parrish's sister and brother-in-law*)
 Eli Chavez (*Anita Harley's cousin's grandson*)
 Bill Gunter (*family of Syble Drake and Audra Pierce*)
 Susan Harrell (*Lindy Landers' sister*)
 Cindy Herbert (*Beverly George's sister*)
 Danny Kuzminski (*JoAnne Kuzminski's son*)
 Jean McAllister (*Sande Schweir's mother*)
 Ruth Parks (*Ben Cox's Aunt*)
 Mohini Talwar (*Sam Talwar's mother*)
 Joyce (*Bonnie McCourtie's aunt*)
 Michael (*Eileen Osteen's brother*)
 Jason (*Diane Hughes brother-in-law*)
 Jerry (*Barbara Kurta's brother*)



1 Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

EPC Friends...

Mary Hoag
 (friend of the Lane family)
 Lindsey Motley
 (friend of Kimberly Lane)
 Francine Murphy
 (friend of Eileen Osteen)
 Dave Ruquet
 (friend of Ben Cox)
 Maridel, Cooper and Tucker Shaw
 (friends of Amy Campbell)
 Sandy Stewart
 (Jim Stewart's sister)
 Roxanne Waling
 (Eileen Osteen's friend)
 Calleigh
 (friend of Dan Harris & family)
 Susan
 (co-worker of Ellen Cortright)
 Mary Beth and Jim (friends of Beverly George)
 Sandra and grandson Kyle (friends of Ron and Barbara Kurta)

For additions or corrections to the prayer list, please contact

Network 6:2 Coordinator Syble Drake at 350-7637 or email network62@eastminster.com
 Eastminster's Administrative Assistant Ellen Irick at 284-0190 or email admin@eastminster.com



- | | | | |
|------|---|------|--------------------------------|
| 3 - | Shirley Nease
Heather Taylor
Laura Rhodes | 19 - | Genaro Marin
Molly Gassner |
| 4 -- | Alison Morris
Roman Morris
Will Brandenburg | 20 - | Norton Cater |
| 5 -- | Lisa Cuppett | 22 - | Ellen Cortright
Gage Keller |
| 7 -- | Valeen Goodreau | 23 - | Lisa Calloway
Audrey Cobb |
| 9 - | Susan Carlson | 25 - | Betty Taylor
Taylor Bielek |
| 11 - | Max Gassner | 27 - | Sally Seal
Syble Drake |
| 12 - | Billy Dunn | 28 - | Sylvia Meyer |
| 13 - | Rande Fleitz | 29 - | Becky Dunn |
| 18 - | Jane Couch | | |



Children's Ministry News



ATTENTION RISING THIRD GRADERS!!

If you are entering 3rd grade this year, we want to give you your VERY OWN BIBLE on Rally Day, Sept. 13th! We'll call you up during Worship to present it to you, Please email lynn@eastminster.com to make sure you're on our list of recipients and to let her know if you'll be in Worship that day!!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL RETURNS! Rally Day is Sept. 13, which is also Montreat Sunday. We want the kids to be able to see the entire service that day, so children's Sunday school will begin on September 20. Once again, children K-4 through 5th grade will go upstairs for Sunday school class at 10:30 and return to the service during the singing of the second hymn, which is right after the sermon.

We are using the Whirl Lectionary curriculum again this year, with the children reading and discussing the same Scripture as their parents will hear in church. Each child will be given their own bulletin to take home with discussion starters on the back to share with their parents. We hope that families use these questions to further faith conversations at home.



EASTMINSTER CAMP OUT On **Sept. 18th (6:00 PM)**, we invite all of you **DADS** out there to bring your kids, a tent, sleeping bags, flash lights and a happy camper attitude to our first EASTMINSTER CAMP OUT!! We'll pitch our tents on the lawn near the sanctuary, grill hot dogs, make s'mores and play some games. Then bed down for the evening and wait for dawn. **MOMS**: don't feel left out, 'cause we're gonna need your help making breakfast in the morning at 7:30 AM for all those sleepy campers!!



Please RSVP to lynn@eastminster.com by **Sept. 12th!!!** Each family is asked to contribute \$5 towards the food provided.

THANK YOU FROM SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN: On August 3rd, EPC received a letter of thanks from Tracy McReynolds, Director of Development for **50 activity bags** they received through VBS missions and outreach. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Children's Calendar

Friday, September 18- Saturday, September 19
Sunday, September 27 5:30-7 pm
Sunday, October 25 5:30-7 pm

Dads and Kids Campout
F³ (Feast, Faith and Fellowship)
F³ (Feast, Faith and Fellowship)

Youth Ministry News

Youth Dinner at the Randalls' House: On **Sunday, Sept. 13**, the Randalls are hosting a Youth dinner and game night at their home: 313 River Walk Drive, Simpsonville, 29681. All Youth from 6th grade through 12th are invited. Several parents signed up to bring things and Sara will be contacting you shortly. We need a head count for food, so please RSVP to lynn@eastminster.com and let her know you're coming! We hope to see as many youth as we did at the lunch a few weeks ago.



YOUTH SUNDAY CLASS

The Youth have spoken and we have responded with a class time and topic that fulfills their requests. We will begin a new "Sunday School" time and format for all youth (6th-12th grades) on Sunday, Sept. 20th immediately following church. We will use "Faith Lens," a weekly Bible study that engages youth and young adults in connecting world events with the Bible, faith, and everyday life. - See more at: <http://blogs.elca.org/faithlens/#sthash.gWqeqZVE.dpuf>



Our class will meet the **1st and 3rd Sundays** of every month, upstairs in the Youth Room, **11:45-12:30**. Pressley will lead the class on the first Sunday, and Lynn will lead the 3rd Sunday. Parents are encouraged to attend as "guides" to our conversations. For our first class, please bring a bag lunch. We will discuss families taking turns providing lunch for subsequent classes, so please bring \$2.00 to put into a lunch "kitty." Parents: please support your youth by making it possible for them to attend; we need everybody on board to make the conversations meaningful and awesome!

Youth Calendar

Sunday, September 13	5-7 pm	Rally Day Fun at the Randalls
Sunday, September 20	11:45 am	Youth Sunday School
Sunday, September 27	5:30-7 pm	F ³ (Feast, Faith and Fellowship)
Sunday, October 4	11:45 am	Youth Sunday School
Friday, October 16	time TBA	Scarowinds
Sunday, October 18	11:45 am	Youth Sunday School
Sunday, October 25	2:00 pm	Transformation Walk
	5:30-7 pm	F ³ (Feast, Faith and Fellowship)



The EPC Youth are officially Twitter-ized! Follow us to find out all the latest happenings and to connect with your EPC friends: [@EastminsterYouth](https://twitter.com/EastminsterYouth) or search EPC Youth.



News and Notes



RALLY DAY COMING SEPTEMBER 13TH!!! Mark your calendars now for RALLY DAY!! Plan on sharing a brunch with your church family before the service; then, you'll hear about all the wonderful opportunities available to us to grow our faith, interact with each other and reach out to others. More information will follow soon!

As summer winds down we begin to shift our focus to the fall and things that we will commit our time to at church. We are in need of additional people to serve as ushers and greeters during our Sunday morning service.

This is an important ministry that requires nothing more than a friendly smile and the willingness to make visitors and members alike feel welcome as they enter our building. Many new members have said that one reason that they decided to return to Eastminster after their initial visit is because of the way they were greeted the first time they attended worship with us.



The time requirement to serve as an usher or greeter is minimal: 30 minutes before the service and 10 – 15 minutes after the service. You can serve as a single person, as a couple or as a family if you wish. If you are interested in helping, please speak to Tom or Anita Harley or email Tom at tharley72@yahoo.com. A training session is being planned for September. New and existing ushers and greeters are encouraged to attend. We will notify you of the date prior to that. Please consider becoming part of this important ministry.



NURSERY ATTENDANT NEEDED: Eastminster is searching for a Nursery Attendant who loves children, has the ability to plan activities for them, and has good communication skills. Applicants must also have good organization and administration skills. This is a part-time position and the job description is available in the church office. Anyone interested in applying or who knows someone who might be interested can submit a resume to Ellen Irick in the church office or email to admin@eastminster.com.

The church's new office hours are: Monday – Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The church office will be closed on September 7th in observance of Labor Day.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL will continue with the Feasting on the Word curriculum. Join us every Sunday at 9:15 a.m. starting Sunday, September 20th!

Small Group Ministry Opportunities

F.U.N. GROUP Attention all those who would like to join the Fifty and Up Network for fellowship on Sunday **September 6th**. Meet at Firehouse Subs on Woodruff Road following worship!



Ladies' Circle will meet Thursday **September 10 at 10:00 a.m.** at the home of Jane Couch. Jane and Maryanne Torris will co-host as we begin the 2015-2016 Presbyterian Women *Horizons* Bible Study, *Come to the Waters*. Just as water nourishes our bodies, so the scriptures on water nourish our souls. Each month's lesson will focus on one of the over 800 Biblical references to water and a primary theological theme or issue. We meet the **second Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m.** in each other's homes, and ladies of all ages are invited to join us as we seek to nurture our faith through worship, study, friendship, and outreach. For more information, contact carolirick@charter.net or 962-2492.

If you are interested in an **evening circle**, we will meet on the 3rd Thursday of every month. Please contact pressley@eastminster.com for more information.

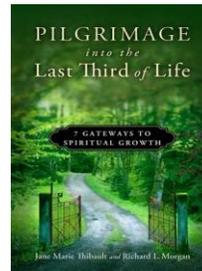
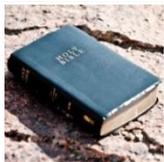
Young Families Discussion Group

Parents join together for fellowship and discussion on the **second Friday of each month**. Children are welcome! For more information contact Susan Carlson (susantcarlson@gmail.com or 292-8863) or Robb Ellis (robb@ellisdigital.com or 293-6727)



Food For Thought

The newsletter includes a daily Bible reading guide that will help you read through the Bible in one year. Bring a bag lunch and join Bonnie McCourtie and Diane Hughs on Sunday, **September 27** following worship to reflect on the September readings. If you would like a copy of the guide, you can get the latest newsletter on the EPC website or contact the church office.



Pilgrimage into the Last Third Of Life
Do you dread growing old? The last third of life, from age 60 up, doesn't have to be feared or dreaded. When viewed from a Christian perspective, this season of life can be meaningful and joyful. Thibault and Morgan suggest approaching the Last Third as a pilgrimage, a journey full of purpose, ripe with opportunities for spiritual growth.

The authors are aging bookends. Jane, age 65, represents the growing aging of boomers, while Richard, age 83, writes from the perspective of the older old person. The authors dig deeply into the realities of their lives and give you 7 ways to open yourself to God and the abundant life God wants for you. *Facing Aging and Dying, Living with Loss and Limitations, Doing Inner Work, Living In and Out of Community, Praying and Contemplation, Redeeming Suffering and Leaving a Legacy.*

This collection of scripture-based meditations will inspire you or someone you love to move fearlessly into the Last Third, looking forward to the opportunities these bonus years can bring. This study will be led by Diane Hughs, meeting time to be decided by the members of the small group.



Men's Small Group. Are you interested in growing deeper in faith and exploring Scripture? Consider adding this valuable time of study, prayer and fellowship to your week. This group meets on **Tuesday mornings at 7:00 AM** and they are currently studying 1 Peter. Contact Ed Irick or Jerry Calloway if you would like more information at edirick@charter.net or jerry@ceconstructionllc.com

Ladies Out to Lunch (LOL) All ladies are invited to join Pressley and Lynn for lunch once a month. The next date will be on **September 22nd** at 11:30 a.m. We will meet at Strossner's Bakery and Café, 21 Roper Mountain Road, Greenville, SC 29607. Please call/text 864-517-9781 or email pressley@eastminster.com to reserve your seat for lunch!

~ News from the Session ~

- ❖ Pastor Pressley Cox reported on the possibility of expanding EPC's role for Stephen Ministry. There will be a Stephen Ministry worship service, Saturday, September 12, 9 am-1 pm at First Presbyterian in Spartanburg. Six members from EPC will be attending.
- ❖ There will be a Greenville County Church Violence Conference, also on Saturday, September 12, 1-5 pm at Furman U. to discuss safety in the church.
- ❖ Our new EPC safety policy requires having two adults in the nursery to help Corky every Sunday. All elders are volunteering one Sunday during the fall. If our elders can keep the nursery, so can you!!
- ❖ Ann Coleman gave a report on the recent Foothills Presbytery called meeting. She spoke about how Foothills is a leader in the Presbyterian Church, USA for its commitments to writing overtures in church doctrine. There were eight overtures presented and all were accepted. Ann noted that there will be an increase of 0.7% in pensions for pastors.
- ❖ The following EPC members have volunteered to be part of the search committee for Luke's replacement: Melanie Armstrong, Gregg Campbell, Kim Gassner, Jim Parrish, Louis Steed, Carol Stewart and Linda Sucher.
- ❖ Pressley presented recommendations for changes in the youth Sunday school program. It was approved to take a sabbatical for youth Sunday school before church service (and continue having children leave for their Sunday School during service) until January in order to determine what other ways EPC can integrate youth spiritual needs within the context of the entire church service and community.
- ❖ Next Stated session meetings will be Sept. 20, Oct. 24, Nov. 15, Dec. 20 (Oct. 24 will be a Saturday Session Retreat and Session will provide breakfast for our GAIHN families). There will be a Session Retreat January 22-23 for the incoming elders.

Session

Class of 2015

Barry Campbell
Ann Coleman
Anita Harley
Dan Harris
Cathy Parrish

Class of 2016

Eileen Osteen
Sara Randall
Jim Stewart
John Taylor

Class of 2017

Heath Cobb
Beverly George
Ed Irick
Kimberly Lane

Marketing and Evangelism

The Marketing and Evangelism committee is looking for a few energetic members to add to their team. *Have you ever looked at all the wonderful things going on in the life of EPC and thought, "more people should hear about this!"?* Then you may be the person we are looking for!

- Have you got an artistic flair? We could use your help with billboards, signs, and banners.
- Are you computer savvy? Lynn Ingram could use your help maintaining the newly redesigned EPC Website.
- Are you a Facebook or social media fanatic? We've got the place for you!
- Have an English degree that you've always wanted to use? We're constantly looking for articles to fill the monthly newsletter and to get the word out about special events in our local papers.
- Ever wonder what those guys are doing at the back of the sanctuary with all the fancy equipment? Come say "Hi" and we'll put you to work.

There are many exciting things going on and we are always looking for ways to get the news out to members and the community alike. If any of the above sounds interesting to you or maybe you have a few ideas of your own, please consider contacting Heath Cobb. **We would love to hear your input and have you join our team.**



Read through the Bible in 2015

Join us in our 2015 EPC Bible reading plan. We will be posting readings in the monthly newsletter. If you follow the suggested daily reading, you will have read the **WHOLE** Bible by the end of 2015!

We recommend getting a journal or writing down observations from your reading. Consider using the **SOAP** method and finding a reading partner to keep you accountable.

SOAP method

Scripture – Read the passages of Scripture.

Observation – Write down what stands out to you.

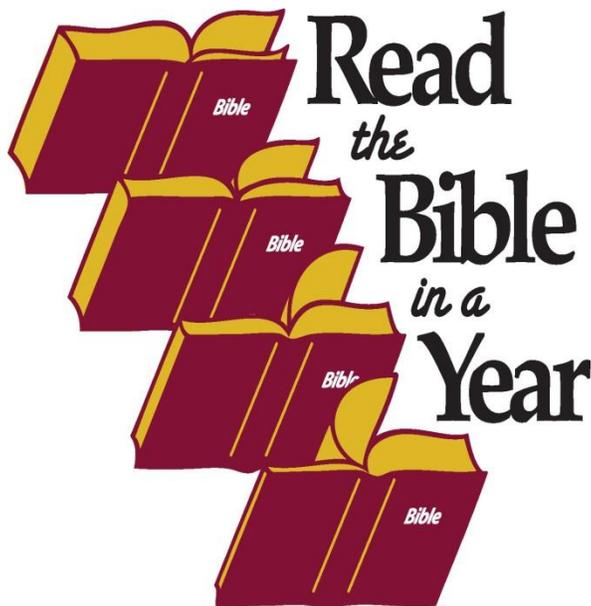
Application – How does this apply to your life?

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer – Pray about what stood out to you from the Scripture and conclude your time by praying through the Lord's Prayer.

Reading Partner

Find a reading partner or group to read with that meets on a regular basis (weekly or bi-weekly) to share what you are learning. We find that those who have a partner are more likely to follow through. Blessings on your year of reading!



Day	Scripture Readings
September 1	Song of Solomon 5, 6/1 Timothy 5
2	Song of Solomon 7,8/Psalms 99-101
3	Isaiah 1, 2/1 Timothy 6
4	Isaiah 3-5/2 Timothy 1
5	Isaiah 6, 7/2 Timothy 2
6	Isaiah 8, 9/Psalm 102
7	Isaiah 10-12/2 Timothy 3
8	Isaiah 13, 14/2 Timothy 4
9	Isaiah 15, 16/Psalm 103
10	Isaiah 17-20/Titus 1
11	Isaiah 21, 22/Titus 2
12	Isaiah 23, 24/Titus 3
13	Isaiah 25, 26/Psalm 104
14	Isaiah 27, 28/Philemon
15	Isaiah 29, 30/Hebrews 1
16	Isaiah 31, 32/Psalm 105
17	Isaiah 33, 34/Hebrews 2
18	Isaiah 35, 36/Hebrews 4
19	Isaiah 37,38/Hebrews 4
20	Isaiah 39, 40/Psalm 106
21	Isaiah 41, 42/Hebrews 5
22	Isaiah 43, 44/Hebrews 6
23	Isaiah 45, 46/Psalm 107
24	Isaiah 47, 48/Hebrews 7
25	Isaiah 49, 50/Hebrews 8
26	Isaiah 51,52/Hebrews 9
27	Isaiah 53,54/Psalms 108, 109
28	Isaiah 55,56/Hebrews 10
29	Isaiah 57,58/Hebrews 11
30	Isaiah 59, 60/Psalms 110, 111

Bring a bag lunch and join Bonnie McCourtie and Diane Hughs on Sunday, **September 27** following worship to reflect on the September readings.

F³- Feast, Faith, and Fellowship



5:30-7:00 pm
Sunday, September 27
Sunday, October 25
Sunday, November 22

Join us for a new way of growing in faith together on the 4th Sunday of every month.

After sharing a meal, we will have a lesson, perhaps involving a skit, a song or a short video. Always, we — families, singles, couples, and friends — will learn together.

Please sign up in the commons area to help the Faith Formation know how many to expect for dinner. A \$2.00 donation per person is appreciated to help cover the meal.



STEWARDSHIP

“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

What do you think of when you see that word? Many of us think immediately of money. We recall that time in our congregation’s life when we are asked to make a financial commitment for the coming year. At some level, however, we are aware that stewardship is more than money. Stewardship is how we live out our calling as followers of Christ. Stewardship is what we do after we say that we believe.

In our lives as stewards, the gifts we offer: time, talent and our tithes are holy gifts. They are symbols of love and signs of grace that are offered out of joy and devotion. These gifts are not dues to be paid or entrance fees to be offered. They are gifts of love. These gifts that we offer to God are symbols of our covenant of love with Jesus Christ, made in response to our understanding of Christ’s great love, which was offered first for us.

The tithes is an Old Testament idea. Prior to the coming of Christ, tithing was the law of the land requiring Israelites to give 10 percent of crops and livestock to the church or temple. Since the coming of Christ, we have moved away from tithing as law into a period of giving as we are able. The New Testament does not require Christians to systematically tithes, nor does it suggest a certain percentage of income to give. As Christians, we should make prayerful consideration in deciding how much to give and allow our giving to be a blessing.

As we enter into our stewardship season, we are looking for 4-5 people who will run our Stewardship campaign. This is a short term 3 month commitment! We want to emphasize the importance of offering time, talent and tithes for the 2016 ministry year! Please contact Pressley@eastminster.com or 284-0190 if you feel God calling you to serve Eastminster through this important team!

SEPTEMBER



1	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
	11:00 a.m.	CNC meeting
	7:00p.m.-8:00p.m.	Boy Scouts
	7:00p.m.	Music Director Search
6	10:30a.m.	Worship
	12:00p.m.	F.U.N. Group
		Montreat youth practice
	4:30p.m.	Boy Scouts
7	6:00p.m.-9:30p.m.	Greenville In Harmony
		Office Closed for Labor Day
8	7:00a.m.	Men's Bible Study
	6:30p.m.	Boy Scouts
9	6:00p.m.	Handbells
	7:00p.m.	Choir
10	10:00a.m.	Ladies' Circle
12	9:00a.m.-12:00p.m.	Stephen Ministry Workshop at First Presbyterian Spartanburg
13	9:15a.m.	Rally Day Brunch
	10:30a.m.	Worship – Rally Day/Montreat Worship
	12:00p.m.	Finance Team Meeting
	5:00p.m.7:00p.m.	Youth Event at the Randall's
14	6:00p.m.-9:30p.m.	Greenville In Harmony
	7:00p.m.	Membership Meeting
15	7:00am	Men's Bible sTudy
	11:00a.m.	Worship Meeting
	7:00p.m.-8:00p.m.	Boy Scouts
16	6:00p.m.	Handbells
	6:30p.m.	Boy Scouts
	7:00p.m.	Choir
18	6:00p.m.	Dad and kid campout at EPC
20	9:15 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10:30a.m.	Worship – Two Cents a Meal
	11:45a.m.	Youth Sunday School
	12:00p.m.	Session Meeting
	4:30p.m.	Boy Scouts
21	6:00p.m.-9:30p.m.	Greenville In Harmony
	7:00p.m.	Faith Formation Meeting
22	7:00a.m.	Men's Bible Study
	11:30a.m.	Ladies Out to Lunch
	6:30p.m.-7:30p.m.	Boy Scouts
23	6:00p.m.	Handbells
	7:00p.m.	Choir
25	6:00p.m.-10:00p.m.	Greenville In Harmony
26	9:00a.m.-5:00p.m.	Greenville In Harmony
27	9:15a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10:30a.m.	Worship – Elizabeth Jones guest preacher
	11:45a.m.	Food for Thought
	5:30p.m.-7:00p.m.	F ³ on the 4 th
28	6:00p.m.-9:00p.m.	Greenville In Harmony
29	7:00a.m.	Men's Bible Study
30	6:00p.m.	Handbells
	7:00p.m.	Choir



August 20, 2015

August 20, 2015

Dear Clerks of Session, Pastors, and Members and Friends of Foothills Presbytery,

After months of careful study and review of the history of operations, the legal issues and the finances of the Buc Outdoor Center (BOC), the Buc Outdoor Center Transitional Board with the approval of Council has come to a determination regarding the operation of Buc Outdoor Center for 2016 and for a ten year plan beyond that.

In past years, the Unified Budget has included a line item for BOC in the amount of \$100,000; however, BOC has operated at a deficit for several years and Presbytery Operating Reserves have been used to cover that deficit in addition to the regular budgeted amount. Most recently in 2014, \$60,700 in Reserve Funds were used for the operating deficit and we project an additional \$51,000+ deficit in 2015 in spite of the best camping attendance in many years and the best cabin rental season ever. Due to the necessity of moving toward a smaller Unified Presbytery Budget and our inability to continue covering operating deficits, we must raise \$220,000 to operate Buc Outdoor Center in 2016. These gifts must be received by October 31, 2015.

Therefore, if you are willing to donate, please send those funds by October 31, 2015. The donated funds will be held in a restricted account. Should the Presbytery receive those funds we will form a Leadership Team to plan for Summer Camp 2016. We encourage churches to donate over and above their commitments to the Unified Giving Budget of Presbytery in order to ensure the continuation of Presbytery's other ministries.

If we do not receive the \$220,000 to operate BOC, we will not have Summer Camp in 2016, cabin and lodge rentals will cease on or about January 15, 2016, and all donations received for the purpose of continuing the Buc Outdoor Center will be returned to the donors.

The Buc Outdoor Center Transitional Board and Council have further concluded that the only viable long-term plan for Buc Outdoor Center is the establishment of a 501(c)(3) eleemosynary entity. In order to form such an entity, to create the necessary permanent Board, to hire the appropriate staff, to deal with long deferred maintenance and improvement, and to have enough money to continue to operate, money needs to be raised to fund a \$3 million Buc Outdoor Center Operating Fund. That amount represents \$300,000 per year for ten years in addition to the \$200,000 per year the Buc Outdoor Center receives in fee revenue to provide an annual operating budget of \$500,000. This amount is required for a safe, quality operation of the facility.

Foothills Presbytery needs to receive actual gifts and certified pledges toward that BOC Operating Fund by July 31, 2016. Again, all funds will be held in a restricted account and if the goal is not met the donations will be returned to the donors. Again, we encourage donations to be over and above commitments to Presbytery's Unified Budget.

The Buc Outdoor Center Transitional Board and Council are quite aware of the difficulty of this situation but as we are called to be good stewards of the gifts God's people freely give, we are confident that these decisions reflect that good stewardship.

We ask that you please make your congregations aware of this request.

Approved by Foothills Presbytery Council.



Amos Workman
Moderator

Buc Outdoor Center 2016 - Ways to Donate:

- Make checks* payable to :

Foothills Presbytery
2242 Woodruff Road
Simpsonville, South Carolina 29681
Marked for Buc 2016 Fundraiser

- Go to www.bucoutdoorcenter.org and click on the  button. Choose from the drop down menu, BOC Fundraiser.

If you prefer to pay by phone, you can also contact Warren Templeton or LeAnne White at 864-288-5774.

There will be two forums across Presbytery for people to engage in conversation around the options for the short-term and long-term future of the Buc Outdoor Center.

October 18th Central Presbyterian Church 3-4.30pm
October 25th First Presbyterian Church Greer 3-4.30pm



~ *WRAPPED IN LOVE* ~

WHO: Joint adult fellowship for Eastminster, First Presbyterian of Simpsonville, Fountain Inn Presbyterian and Grace Covenant Churches.

WHAT: Fellowship and mission project with each attendee preparing a knot quilt to be donated to children of Safe Harbor.

WHEN: Thursday, September 10th at 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: First Presbyterian Church of Simpsonville

BRING: “Covered dish” of sandwiches and salads; dessert and beverages will be furnished.

INDIVIDUAL MATERIALS: Each attendee bring two yards of two different but complimentary non-pile fleece (one piece being pattern and one piece being solid). Also bring scissors, and if you have rotary cutters and mat for cutting, please bring them. Wal-Mart has excellent prices and fabric choices.

MEN AND WOMEN: If you can use scissors and tie your shoes, you have all the skills necessary to make a knotted quilt!!

Stephen Ministry Introductory Workshop

Saturday September 12th

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

At 1st Presbyterian, Spartanburg, SC

Half day workshop featuring:

Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief

An Introduction to Stephen Ministry

How to Care in a Distinctively Christian Way

Pastors want to provide care to everyone who needs it – but they can't do it alone. Equipping laypeople to minister to hurting people is a highly effective and biblical way to ensure that those in need of Christ-centered care receive it.

Stephen Ministers are there:

...after the phone call you hoped you'd never get.

...after the divorce papers are served and the bottom falls out of your life.

...after the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.

...after the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."

...after the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "Welcome to your new home."

...after the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away – and the house suddenly seems empty.

...after the gavel goes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.

...after the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.

...after you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.

...after your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the "After People." They are ready to come alongside you – or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives – and provide comfort and support for as long *after* as needed. If you are interested in attending please contact Pressley Cox at pressley@eastminster.com.

www.stephenministries.org



SAVE THE DATE! Join us for the Blessing of the Animals on October 4th at 4:00 p.m. in the outdoor worship center.



GOD'S PANTRY Don't forget that Eastminster has been asked to stock the shelves of this local food bank with **tomato products**. So the next time you are at the store, pick up an extra can of pasta sauce, bottle of ketchup, (plastic or cans - no glass please!), diced tomatoes, tomato puree, tomato soup, etc. to help fill our bin in the commons area!



Due to recent office re-structuring/organizing, we have two desks available for purchase. Please contact the church office at 284-0190 or admin@eastminster.com for more details or to make an offer!



Are you looking for a way to stay connected with Eastminster?

EPC has a new and revised Facebook page online that will help keep you connected. This page allows the church to interact and share information with you online at your convenience. How do you get connected to this new page?

Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/eastminsterpresbyterianchurch?ref=hl> click on the LIKE button so you will receive information and news feeds from us regularly.

Newsletter Information

September 14 - Deadline for September mid-month newsletter

September 20 - Deadline for October newsletter

***Please send all mid-month and monthly newsletter articles to admin@eastminster.com**