

**EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
5501 Washington Avenue  
Evansville, IN 47715

**RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED**

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 2682  
Evansville, IN 47708



# Eastminster Messenger

Heads, Hearts & Hands for Christ in Service & Celebration

Volume 32, Issue 1

January 4, 2017



## "Why Me?"

This past Sunday – New Year’s Day – Barb Ferguson led us in worship for the beginning of the New Year and Epiphany Sunday. While you were worshipping here at Eastminster, Emma Sue and I were worshipping at New Hope Presbyterian Church in Fishers, Indiana. We were in the middle of the row (not pew), with Drew and Marie on one side of us and David and Kelsie on the other. Emmett (age 3) and Asher (age 1) were first on one side and then the other and then in the middle. Those of you who do or have worshiped with children understand what I mean! What a great way to begin the New Year for us and I’m so thankful to Barb for providing such an opportunity.

This Sunday is designated as Baptism of the Lord Sunday, which seems rather odd since we have just completed our celebration of the birth of Jesus and then the visit of the Wise Men. That wouldn’t be at all odd if baptism at the time of Jesus was practiced as we ordinarily do. His baptism would have taken place shortly after his birth. We know, though, that Jesus was baptized at about the age of 30 and he was baptized by his cousin John, known to us as John the Baptist.

When we focus on the baptism of Jesus, we usually center on the last half of the passage that addresses it – the part where the baptism itself takes place with all of its miraculous surrounding events. We have the parting of the clouds, the descent of the dove and the heavenly declaration from God.

This Sunday, though, I’d like to look at the first half of the passage – the part where John initially objects because he’s not really worthy to be doing so.

There’s a reason for that being our focus this Sunday. This Sunday is also Ordination & Installation of new officers and I think it fits perfectly with the passage of Jesus’ baptism.

I think we can see a logical connection between that event and the second half of the passage, but focusing on the first half makes it a bit more personal for me.

I think it fits for our new officers as well and I think it really fits for every one of us in the way God calls us to serve in some capacity.

Read the account of the Baptism of Jesus in Matthew 3:13-17. There’s a question that many of us ask at various times of life. It’s a question that’s ordinarily asked in a negative fashion. The same question, though, can be asked in an almost exact opposite fashion and I think this passage offers a very helpful answer to that way of asking it. The question is “Why Me?”

Blessings,  
Dennis

P.S. In addition to the Ordination & Installation of new officers (10:30 service), we will also celebrate Holy Communion at both 8:00 and 10:30 as we go back to our regular schedule after two weeks of one service.



**Sunday, January 8, 2017**

**8:00 A.M. SERVICE**

**LITURGIST**      **USHER**  
Mark Nicholson      Jim Stevens

**10:30 A.M. SERVICE**

**LITURGIST**      **HEAD USHER**  
Mark Nicholson      Mel Ellsperman

**USHERS & GREETERS**  
John & Carol Oglesby  
Ron & Patsy Sproatt  
Pat, Jayne & Tracey Manis

**COMMUNION ELDERS**  
Karla Horrell      Dick Yeager  
Steve Fritz      Becky Nichols  
Shannon Irmscher      Jack Turpin  
Dan Engelbrecht      Barb Ferguson

**ACOLYTE**  
Tyler Kuhs

**CHILDREN’S WORSHIP LEADER**  
Annie Engelbrecht

**Eastminster Staff**

Anna Cantrell - Housekeeper  
Kayla Cantrell - Nursery Worker  
Dennis R. Davenport - Pastor  
Emma Sue Davenport - Dir. of Christian Education  
Mary Fulkerson - Office Manager  
Trey Fulkerson - Youth Director  
Marian LaChance - Housekeeper  
Dennis Malfatti - Director of Music  
Helen Skuggedal Reed - Organist

**Church Office Hours**

M - Th: 8:30 –4:00 P.M.  
Friday: 8:30 - Noon

**Church Communication Lines**

Phone#: 476-3355/Fax: 476-8755  
Web: eastminsterchurch.com  
Email: epc@epcevv.com  
Webmaster: Nance Fiester  
Sound Engineer: Ron Harper  
Facebook Page Administrator: Tony McClees



# Important NOTES



Final 2016 Giving Statements will be mailed within the next two weeks. Please contact the office if you do not receive yours or if you have discrepancies.

## DON'T FORGET

Annual Reports are NOW due by all Committee Chairs. If you have not done so, please send your report via email to Mary at [epc@epcevv.com](mailto:epc@epcevv.com).



## Assembly Night

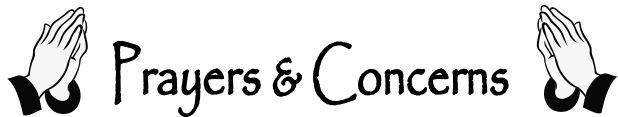
If you are serving on Session or have been asked to serve on a committee, please remember to sign up for the Assembly Night meal that will be held on Wednesday, January 11th at 6 p.m.



Pizza & drinks will be served so it's good to have a count on what to order. The sign up sheet is located in the Narthex or see Mel Ellsperman for assistance.



Sympathy is extended to Jim McGillem & family in the death of Mona McGillem who passed away on December 26, 2016.



## Prayers & Concerns

Please pray for the following individuals:

Walt Lowe, Jane Williams, Ray Schaefer, Austin Smith, Steve Robinson.

## NEW OFFICER TRAINING AND ORDINATION & INSTALLATION

This Saturday from 9-Noon will be our New Officer Training Day. All newly-elected Deacons and Elders will be meeting in Room 101 to learn what their role will be in their respective offices. This training will be very basic and most of what someone needs to know to be an effective officer will come through the experience of actually serving in that role. Our service of Ordination & Installation of new officers will take place this Sunday at the 10:30 service. This is a very important and meaningful experience for all of us – those being ordained and installed along with the rest of us who will be served by these new officers. The following are the Ordination/Installation questions that will be posed to the new officers.

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?

Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

(For elder) Will you be a faithful elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

(For deacon) Will you be a faithful deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need? In your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

## EASTMINSTER BOARD LISTING

### SESSION

CLERK OF SESSION – Melissa Mattingly

#### CLASS OF 2017

Sherie Hambidge

Sabrina Holden

Tony McClees

Mark Nicholson

John Niehaus

Jarid Shofstall

#### CLASS OF 2018

Barbara Barrett

Tim Fiedler

Steve Fritz

Patti Garcia

Karla Horrell

Gary Van Zandt

#### CLASS OF 2019

Donna Cooke

Ralph Frasier

Shannon Irmischer

Dorothy Mans

Vickie Rauch

Dick Yeager

### TRUSTEES

Frank Richardson

Corinne Smith

Fred Folz

Anne Fiedler

Ron Ison

Ron Sproatt

### DEACONS

Jane Biggs

Dan Engelbrecht

Alice Hoover

Marlene Huffaker

Jimmy Moore

Karen Schaefer

Rob Engelbrecht

Tom Goodloe

Jayne Manis

Jim McGillem

Madonna Smith

Patsy Sproatt

Sarah Karges

Chris Kuhs

Sue Kuhs

Deveta Miller

Carol Oglesby

Anne Stallings