

Why We Build



by
Pastor Paul A. Coats

Recognizing that life is limited and all-too short is a reality that haunts every human being. Will we be remembered; will our life have made a difference when all is said and done? Perhaps it is this question that plants the desire in humans to build. It is like saying, *“If we cannot last, maybe the things we leave behind will.”*

Alfonso Cervantes is not a name many outside of St. Louis, Missouri recognize. Nevertheless, he is the mayor who oversaw, and largely enabled the completion of the Gateway Arch—one of the most magnificent monuments in the world. You can find his name on the appropriate plaque by the entrance to the Westward Expansion Museum underneath the Arch. Of course, hardly anyone pays attention to it or gives it a second thought. What they do see is the Arch and what they remember is the role St. Louis played in the westward expansion of our great nation. That is exactly as it should be because that is the reason the Gateway Arch was built.

Why does the church exist? Why do we erect places of worship and adorn them so beautifully? To what end are we willing to sacrifice hard earned money to build a structure none of us will never live in? The answer to each of the questions should be the same. **We build churches for the glory of God.**

Deeds, not stones, are the true monuments of the great.

John L. Motley

to invoke deep feelings of awe and majesty. Their impressively high ceilings were intended to cause worshipers to direct their attention upward toward God. The danger, of course, is that they can just as easily cause us to marvel at the abilities of humankind. We are, let’s admit, rather proud of ourselves. The Bible tells us that the people wanted to make a name for themselves. Why, we must wonder, were they not so inspired to elevate the name of God?

In truth, God does not *need* our praise, nor does God *need* for us to elevate his name. But *we need* to do both—praise God and elevate his name. On the one hand, we need to honor and respect who God is and what God has done. On the other hand, we need to remember our place as creatures; we are not the creator. But the most compelling reason for our praise, our lifting up the name of God, our spreading the word concerning his truth and love is that *God told us to do so.*

Most of us have had the experience of a parent telling us to do something we didn’t want to do. Naturally, we asked, *“Why?”* Very likely, you received an answer something like this, *“Because I said so.”* God does occasionally tell us to build something. He told Noah to build an Ark. On two occasions he told the Israelites to build a Temple.

The last time God told us to build something, we were told to *build his Kingdom.* He even told us how to go about it. Moreover, he showed us how by walking beside us for a while. Our response to what he told us to do has too often been tepid. There simply is not enough prestige or recognition in such a project. But the reason for us to do so is clear, *because God said so.*

Making Disciples
Every Person Counts where

FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS FOR:

Kitchen	Patricia Banks
Sanctuary	Lee Hartline
Ushers	Walter Nesbitt & Karen Wetherell (CC); Rae Taylor; Theresa Kelly; Taylor Mills; Sheryl Wright
Visitor Greeter	Virginia Gilmore

SERVING EPC WEEK OF FEBRUARY 19

Children's Church	Patricia Collins; Sandy Jowers
Counters	Susan Gilbert; Pete Sanders-Nesbitt
Elder Prayer Partner	Julie Ligon
Greeters	Allison Grainger; Sue Hearn
Greeting Cards	Ann Hall
Lay Reader	Allison Grainger
Nursery	Virginia Gilmore
Security	Walter Nesbitt
Sound	David Knapp; Taylor Mills

OUTREACH

Last Sunday's Attendance at EPC

Worship: 102 Sunday School: 45
Visitors at EPC: In town: 15 Out of town: 1

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The *Spiritual Discipline* Adult Sunday School Class will begin a 4-week series this Sunday morning. This will be an excellent opportunity for you to develop your answer to the question, **Are You Saved?**

The class meets in Room 4 on the 2nd Floor of the Education Center from 9:30-10:30 a.m., and you are cordially invited to join us as we study God's Word concerning God's amazing plan of salvation.

If you have been considering participating in Adult Sunday School classes, this will be a golden opportunity for you to join with your EPC brothers and sisters as this class seeks to discern the answer to this most important question. Please bring your Bible and share with us.

**Are
You
Saved?**

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, February 19

9:30 am	Sunday School
10:30 am	Fellowship Time
11:00 am	Worship
	Prayer in Parlor with elders
	Lunch after Church at El Carrizo, Macon Road
4:00 pm	Youth Group
7:00 pm	Session Meeting

Monday, February 20—Church Office Closed for holiday

6:00 pm	HOPE Life Group
6:30 pm	Life Group Meeting at Coats' home
7:00 pm	Transitions Life Group at Virginia Gilmore's home

Tuesday, February 21

7:00 pm	Bridge Club
7:00 pm	Boy Scouts

Wednesday, February 22—Ash Wednesday

10:00 am	Crafty Crew in Education Center, Room 4
5:00 pm	Joyful Ringers
6:00 pm	Adult Bell Choir
6:00 pm	Tai Chi Class in Fellowship Hall, stage area
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 23

6:30 pm Cub Pack 100

The Church Office is closed on Fridays.

Saturday, February 25

10:00 am Presbytery Meeting; Macon, Northminster



CONGRATULATIONS

to Pam and Rick Parker, grandparents of Robert Patrick Parker, who was born February 9, 2012. He weighed in at 9 lbs 9 ozs; 20 inches long. His parents are Will and Paige Parker of Kansas City.

**CHILDREN AND
YOUTH MINISTRY**

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 19

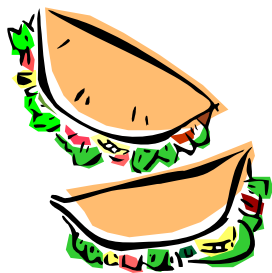
MH/SH Youth 4-5:30 pm

February 26

Kids Club 2-4 pm

FELLOWSHIP

LUNCH AFTER CHURCH



Lunch after Church on Sunday, February 19, will be at El Carrizo, just across the street from EPC on Macon Road. You are invited (Dutch Treat) to join us. Please don't forget to sign the notebook on the credenza in the narthex before worship for a seating count.

LENTEN ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES

Parents, Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles: Please check out the materials in the basket on the credenza in the narthex for Lenten Activities that can be done with one or several individuals to help us understand Lent and prepare our hearts for Easter. Please pick up a set of activities to do with your family during the Lenten season.



It is hard to believe but **February 22nd is Ash Wednesday** which is the beginning of the Lenten season. Ash Wednesday takes place 40 days before Easter. In many churches, not just Catholic, during Ash Wednesday services, worshippers come forward

and the pastor makes a mark in the shape of a cross on each person's forehead with the words "Remember, you are dust, and to dust you shall return." This seems gloomy but it is to remind us that Jesus paid a debt he didn't owe because we owed a debt we could never pay. Let us prepare our hearts and minds during this Lenten Season looking at the wondrous gift Jesus gave us on Good Friday.

**ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 22, 2012**

WORSHIP

13 WEEK SERMON SERIES

Feb. 19 *Called by a Promise* Genesis 12:1-9; Hebrew 2:14-18
Feb. 26 *Promises Fulfilled* Genesis 21:1-21; I Cor. 9:16-23

NEW PRAYER GROUP

Do you have a desire to deepen your prayer life?

Do you feel led to answer Scripture's call to pray without ceasing - for those you love, the sick, those in need, for our church, community and country?

If so, there is an opportunity for you to become part of a group that will meet on a monthly basis to lift our hearts and voices to the Lord in prayer. If you are interested and would like more information, please call Julie Ligon at 706-565-9963 or 706-718-9405.

I'm looking forward to a new journey as we wait to see God's hand at work through prayer. We can make a difference, because **Every Prayer Counts!**

CELEBRATION OF FAITH WEEKEND OF MARCH 2-4, 2012

The Flint River Presbytery will host the 30th Annual Celebration of Faith at Norman Park, Georgia, March 2-4, 2012. Go to www.flintriverpresbytery.org and click on the link on the left hand column marked COF 2012. Sign up right away.

It is for children, youth and adults....the food is great and the time is packed with classes and activities....and for some free time as well.

Change your prayer life—Change Your World!

SAVE THESE DATES

June 11-15-Music Camp at First Pres. for children
June 10-16-Montreat Youth Conference for rising 9th grade to 2012 seniors
June 19-23-Kamp Kolomoki for rising 3-5 graders
June 25-29-Kamp Kolomoki for rising 6-9 graders

**EPC's Vacation Bible School is
Sunday, July 8th through Thursday, July 12th.
The theme this year is "Sky."**



Making Disciples
where Every Person Counts

3617 Macon Road
Columbus, GA 31907



HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY TO:

Yvette Tshiupula 22
Bette Schroeter 24
China Phillips 26

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR CHURCH FAMILY

The following live in their residences:

Ernestine Banks Rachel Flournoy Janie McClerkin Bertrom Hunter
Margaret Greene Grace Robinson Nell Swensen Don Kinard
Mig Hanko J. C. Bray Wilma Meadows



Covenant Woods: Eva Lucille Roberts, PC 227
Gardens at Calvary: Lee Cook, Apt. 321
Emeritus - Heritage Hills: Bette Schroeter, Room 123
Magnolia Manor: Lillian McLeod, Rm 24; Herb Jones, Rm 13
Morningside Asst'd Living: Bob Gedroic, Room 142; David Anastasia, Room 108
Muscogee Manor: Lillie Register, East Wing 25B

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES

Nancy DeCurtis (Larry Mills' co-worker) breast cancer
Morgen (Charlie Wike's great-granddaughter) heart problems
Ava Wilson (Christine Brooks' granddaughter) undergoing tests
Joe Post (friend of Ligon's) stage 4 brain cancer
Charles Smith (Roark/Grainger relative) deployed to Afghanistan
Don Morrow (Ligon's friend) undergoing tests
Tina Singleton (Ligon's friend) unknown cause of illness
Rigsby Dixon (Mary Adams' premature great-granddaughter)
Reese Stansfield (baby girl with brain cancer)
Dorothy Cupples (Bob Ligon's sister) heart condition
Ron Weller (Ligon's friend) stroke rehabilitation

Jackie Jernigan (Tammy Mills' friend) widespread cancer
Kay Fouts (former member)
Miranda Erwin (daughter of Walter & Shirley Williams)
Al McCullough (Pete Sanders-Nesbitt's Dad) cancer
Bradley Brooks (Gigi Lennon's friend's toddler) seizures
Joe Jones (Marge Welker's friend)
Robert McCart (Frances Long's brother) throat cancer
Bill Blakely (former member)
Bobbie Marbut (former member)
Sue Poore (Janie McClerkin's sister)