



news from the **EDGE**

120 East Swissvale Avenue

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15218

412-241-4613

office@fpcedgewood.org

**APRIL
2013**

**LOVE GOD
LOVE EACH OTHER
LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS**

Believing we are called together by **God's love through Jesus Christ**, our mission as the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood is to **love God**, to **love each other**, and to **love our neighbors**.

WORSHIP

Sunday Mornings
11:00AM
in the
Sanctuary

www.fpcedgewood.org

This month's news from the **EDGE** is sponsored by **YOU?** Sponsors are needed for upcoming issues. Contact the office.

PASTOR'S **POINT OF VIEW**

Hello Good Brothers and Sisters of FPCE,

Our celebration of rebirth, redemption and renewal is two days gone by, but still living in me. What encouraging celebrations we had! From the Palm Sunday dramatic reading to the moving Maundy Thursday to the resurrection joy on Easter morning, all who had ears to hear would know we worshiped from the heart. (And wasn't the choir on fire Easter morning?!)

Now begins the Easter season. One of my favorite writers, Dr. N.T. Wright, urges Christians to celebrate as joyfully and meaningfully throughout the Easter season as we repented and sacrificed during Lent. Every Sunday morning service, he urges, should be filled with upbeat song, hand-clapping, foot-stomping, trumpet blasting shouts of praise - followed by a champaign brunch and chocolate cake. (Verrrrry non-Presbyterian, but OK by me!)

My thoughts turn to one of my favorite pieces of advice from the Apostle Paul. He writes to the new born Christians in Philippi - "...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you." (Phil. 2:12-13)

All that we have - including the healing and salvation of resurrection life - is a gift from God. What we do with that gift is up to us.

Continued on page 2

April Worship Schedule

Sunday, April 14

"The Scots are coming! The Scots are coming!" Come to our annual Tartan Sunday celebration. A first for me - but I understand bagpipes and scones are involved.

Sunday, April 21

Our Emerging Worship ensemble will lead us in song. Two other surprises await us.

Sunday, April 28

I'll be honest - it's a work in progress. Still catching my breath after the Easter service. I can promise you this: We will worship. We will be renewed (*Thank you Lord for taking us as we are and sending us out as who we can be!*) We do have room for you...and your friends...and your neighbors...and those "fringe people" I talked about last month.

*Jesus Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!*



First Presbyterian Church of
EDGEWOOD
The Community Church



STAFF DIRECTORY

120 East Swissvale Avenue
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Office Hours:
Monday–Friday
9:00AM–2:00PM



News from the Edge
is the monthly newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood.
If you have information you would like
to include in the next issue, email Judy Mysels
at office@fpcedgewood.org by
the 15th of the prior month.
Sponsorship is available for \$40 per month.

Pastor's Point of View (cont. from page 1)

Allow me share a story from the life of one of my idols (oops, scratch that!) heroes - Bruce Springsteen.

As an eight year old growing up in the small, insular town of Freehold, New Jersey, Bruce lived in a "TV culture." One Sunday evening, he was watching the *Ed Sullivan Show* when one amazing performer made his TV debut - a wiggly-hipped rocker named Elvis Presley. It rocked Bruce out his chair and he asked for a guitar. His parents obliged. Like most eight year olds would do, he strummed a few chords and put the guitar back in its box and up on a shelf in a closet.

Seven years passed. Now, fifteen years old, hormone driven and restless, still living in that TV culture, Bruce found himself in front of Ed Sullivan's show again. Another contemporary phenomena appeared on the screen - The Beatles. Their set of songs ended, Bruce ran upstairs, dug out his guitar and hasn't put it away since. (I, for one, thank God for that!) The loud, brash, foot-stomping rock-and-roll world has never been the same.

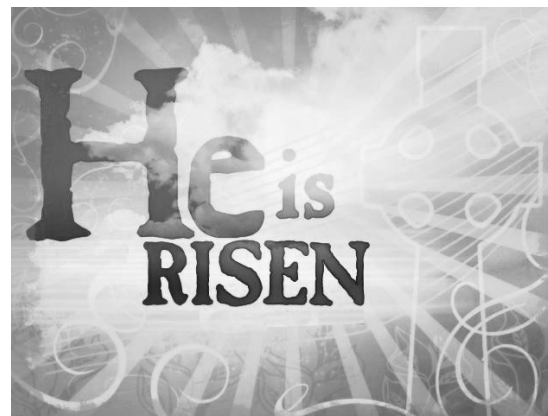
Bruce received "the gift" when he was eight years old. It took another seven years and one inspiring performance to wake him - and he began to "work the gift."

When asked by an enthusiastic evangelical, "When were you born again?" One of my seminary professors, Dr. James Walther, answered, "I was born again 2000 years ago on a hill just outside Jerusalem called Calvary. That's where a man people named Jesus died to show God's love for the world and me. God raised him and Jesus has become the Christ, the head of the church, the Savior of humankind."

On Easter morning we celebrated the gift of God's salvation, what we do with that gift is something each of us will have to work out - **with fear and trembling**, confident it is God who is at work in you.

Peace and grace to you!

Pastor Michael





P.W. CORNER...

By Luella Broe, Presbyterian Women Moderator

PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

FLEA MARKET

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 10AM-2PM

Read Romans Chapter 12 and I Corinthians Chapter 12. Both chapters deal with gifts of the Spirit and ministry. Have you thought about your gift? Have you read these passages and thought that they applied to someone else and not you? I know that I have read the passages and thought that they are for someone called to the ministry as in Pastors. God has given each one of us a gift and we are to use the gift in ministry to others. About knowing your gift, it is through prayer that we learn our gift. Many have been using their gift for years.

Now, there is some thought that these passages applied only to the early church. However, the Holy Spirit operates in the present-day church just as much as he did in the Early Church. A body contains many parts and there are many gifts. None of us have all the gifts, but all the gifts can operate when we come together as a body.



Presbyterian Women will host our annual Flea Market on Saturday, April 20, 10am - 2pm. Please help us in this endeavor to raise funds for mission.

- Bring in "treasures" to sell: art supplies, books, dishes, holiday décor, jewelry, knickknacks, linens, toys & games, tools, and small appliances... (sorry no clothing or electronics)
 - Help clean, sort, and price items Tues - Friday (April 16-19) 10am-2pm
 - Make bread, brownies, cookies, pastries, or soup for our homemade foods table
 - Mind a station during all or part of the sale - arrive 9:15am
- Come shop!

JOY CIRCLE MEETING
APRIL 29, 7PM in the Gathering Place

"...the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart;" - 1 Samuel 13:14



Some sobering statistics:

- On any given Sunday there are 13 million more women than men in America's churches
- Midweek church activities draw 70-80% more female participants
- Over 70% of boys raised in the church will abandon it during their teens and twenties
- Only 1 of 6 self described "Christian" men attends church regularly
- Fewer than 10% of U.S. churches are able to establish or maintain a Men's ministry
- Lack of male participation is strongly associated with congregational decline

Let's not be one of those statistics.

FPCE is looking for men seeking after the Lord's heart. Come and join us on start of a new and vibrant Men's ministry. We will meet bi-weekly, providing a safe and fruitful environment for men to discuss the struggles we face; to "lay aside every weight and the sins that so easily ensnare us" (Heb 12:1); to become men after God's heart.

When: April 1, 15, 29
Where: Lounge
What: Bring your Bible and an open heart

A BIG THANK YOU!

As you might expect, a lot goes on here in our church fellowship that is rarely noticed. Time to notice something. Some of you might know that our back up power generator was no longer working. Estimates came in to replace the generator for several thousand dollars. That's when Tom Ochs, our treasurer/former engineer, and Rob Mysels, our



**SHARING
BRINGS JOY
TO OTHERS, TO GOD, AND TO US.**

Since 1949 Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians of several

denominations through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with those in need. This year's theme is "Sharing Resources, Changing Lives." Your generous gifts assist those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and assist in helping to empower the poor and oppressed. When emergencies like Superstorm Sandy hit, resources already exist to give immediate assistance through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The Presbyterian Hunger Program works to alleviate hunger and find longer-term solutions to food inequity through direct relief and partnering with positive programs. Self-Development of People participates in the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people through grants and other actions.

Envelopes and "fish boxes" may still be brought in this month if you were unable at Easter.

A-Maizing Grace Famine Relief Program

More than \$100,000 (1,300 families have been sustained for a three month period) has been received to date. Contributions have come in from scores of church, hundreds of individuals, and many states across the country.



F.R.O.G.S.

(Friends, Reading, and Other Great Stuff)



Spring FROGS begins Tuesday, April 9. Students from Edgewood Elementary School attend Tuesdays and Thursdays after school for a snack, help with reading and homework, crafts, playtime with friends, and dinner. Anyone interested registering a student or volunteering may contact Debbie at frogs@fpcedgewood.org or 412-241-4613.

Many thanks to our volunteers for Winter FROGS: Chris Baldwin, Connie Black, Rick Masten, Dan Mielke, Flo Raisig, and Mary Ross.



PARKING LOT CLOSED

Parking lot at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf will be unavailable because of construction of a dormitory. Please use street parking East Swissvale Avenue and parking in the rear of the building.

Inori Sakai was a soloist performing with the Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra on April 6, 7:30p.m. at Upper St. Clair High School Theatre, as one of their Concerto Competition winners. Her next appearance will be on April 30, as the featured soloist playing Vivaldi's "Winter" with the Westmoreland Symphony.

Inori will be given the opportunity to perform with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra in this coming season, by her latest the first prize winning at Duquesne Young Artist Concerto Competition.



TARTAN SUNDAY

April 14

Edgewood Church is the official Pittsburgh church to recognize and celebrate Tartan Day, the National Day to recognize the contributions the Scots have made in America. This celebration will include special worship and music including an anthem by our former tenor soloist, Bob Murdoch who is also Chairman of National Tartan Day. There will be tartans to decorate our sanctuary, tartan sashes, and heather to complement the elegant thistle carvings in our sanctuary. Congregational members are encouraged to wear their kilts and family/clan colors.

Immediately following the worship service a "Wee Ceilidh" or festive gathering will occur in the Social Room. There will be Scottish refreshments of scones, shortbread, tea and punch. The entertainment will include bag piping, Highland Dancing, solos of Scottish ballads by Bob Murdoch and a Scottish sing-along led by Bob Murdoch with Shaun Cloonan on the piano/keyboard.

So please join us for this wonderful celebration and know that there are "Ceud Mile Faulte" - 100,000 welcomes.

Call Doris Hamilton at 412/418-3905 with questions/comments.



"Peter's Epistles"

Wednesdays,

7:00-8:15 PM

April 3-May 29

Child care available upon request



Wilkinsburg Community Ministry continues to be very grateful for the continuing support from the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood. The financial and volunteer support make us able to provide 16,000 meals in 2012

through our Youth Food Program and over 12,000 meals to senior citizens through the Meals on Wheels program. In addition, WCM operates the Dollar Energy Program for the electric and gas companies to help people who have fallen behind in payments, an emergency food pantry, counseling, Thanksgiving and Christmas food bag, to name a few programs. Your support helps WCM bring over \$250,000 to those that need help in Wilkinsburg.

Volunteers are always needed. Currently we need drivers for Meals on Wheels on all days, but primarily on Wednesday. Being Meals on Wheels driver requires driving a route with someone that will deliver the meals to the home between 11:00 am and 12:30pm. Schedules are flexible and we have a coordinator to find substitutes if you are unavailable for a scheduled date. Volunteering once a month will help.

This summer we will continue the M-W-F children lunch program and will expand the locations where lunch is served. We need volunteers to staff these locations from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Ann Grieder at (412) 241-8072 or Tom Ochs (412) 952-8242.

Thanks for helping your neighbors.

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7 p.m. Men's Group 7 p.m. Scouts	10:00 Tuesday Group 7 p.m. AA 7 p.m. Deacons	7 p.m. Bible Study		8 p.m. AA	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30 choir reh. 11 a.m. Worship 12:15 Fellowship	7 p.m. Scouts	10:00 Tuesday Group 3:45p.m.FROGS 7 p.m. AA 7 p.m. Session	7 p.m. Bible Study	3:45 p.m. FROGS	8 p.m. AA	10:00 a.m. set up for Tartan Sunday
TARTAN SUNDAY 14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30 choir reh. 11 a.m. Worship 12:15 Fellowship	7 p.m. Men's Group 7 p.m. Scouts	10:00 Tuesday Group 3:45p.m.FROGS 7 p.m. AA	FLEA MARKET SET UP 7 p.m. CAT Survey 7 p.m. Bible Study	FLEA MARKET SET UP 3:45 p.m. FROGS 6:30 p.m. Pack Mtg. (Scout Room)	FLEA MARKET SET UP No AA's	10am-2pm P.W. Flea Market
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30 choir reh. 11 a.m. Worship 12:15 Fellowship P.W. Installations	7 p.m. Scouts	10:00 Tuesday Group 3:45 p.m. FROGS 7 p.m. AA	7 p.m. Bible Study	3:45 p.m. FROGS	8 p.m. AA	
28	29	30				
9:30 choir reh. 11 a.m. Worship 12:15 Fellowship	7 p.m. Men's Group 7 p.m. Joy Circle (GP)	10:00 Tuesday Group 3:45 p.m. FROGS 7 p.m. AA				

On Sunday, February 24, FPCE added four new members to our fellowship: Jerry Coleman, Johnny Hrebik and Tina and Jeff Nine (see photo) Johnny Hrebik, now Dr. Johnny Hrebik, Ph.D , wrote a poem for us - his new church family.

I Am Love

I am the soil's sugary fragrance
a mid-summer's rain,
fresh reborn.

I am the sun's affection
blanketing the sodden earth,
the gentle weeping of the stream.

I am autumn's breeze,
A funneling dervish of leaves -
dancing colors of amber, indigo, and honey.

I am soft silence
awakened by a whisper...
winter's gentle breath
Beckoning: *come closer.*

I am the downy ocean foam
Quenching the shoreline's thirst -
the water's edge
a path to follow.

I am your silhouette's armor,
a respite from the sun's burn -
healing days scorched by speech.

I am joy, pain,
laughter, and melancholy...
I am love,
Drink me in

Johnny Ryan Hrebik

*Special note -
if you have something you have written to submit to
News From the Edge, please forward it to Judy or Pastor Michael.*





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EDGEWOOD
The Community Church

120 E. Swissvale Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15218

**A monthly support group
for people surviving the
loss of a love**



First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood
Rev. Michael Rucker, Interim Pastor
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GRIEVING SPACE

at the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood

Here, we understand that finding the space to grieve can sometimes be every bit as challenging as the loss itself.

Should you need us,
our support group is here.

Meetings: every third Thursday of
the month 7 pm

Call us to let us know you are coming:
412-241-4613

Individual support with a certified
grief counselor is also available through:



Edgewood Psychological Services