

# news from the EDGE



First Presbyterian Church of  
**EDGEWOOD**  
The Community Church

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.

The monthly newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood

**April 2016**



Michael P. Rucker  
Pastor

## PASTOR'S POINT OF VIEW

Hello members and friends of the FPCE community,

An important question for every pastor to ask her/himself is: "Where will I go to be fed? Who will be the

shepherd that keeps me on the right path? Who can I turn to when my spiritual life becomes an arid, depressing, and meaningless wasteland? (Yes, this happens to Pastors, too!) I will confess in my earlier days of ministry, I was too proud or naïve to believe I needed anyone outside of me and my God. Guess what? It didn't work. So I began to develop a list of names who I can turn to for spiritual direction. After Heather and I were married, she introduced to another spiritual writer, Joan Chittester. She is a member of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, PA. Joan is a woman of depth, candor, and wisdom. Below is a resurrection reflection followed by prayer. It is powerful. I pray it is an inspiration for all of you.

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To say 'I believe in Jesus Christ . . . who rose from the dead,' is to say I believe that the Resurrection goes on and on and on forever. Every time Jesus rises in our own hearts in new ways, the Resurrection happens again. Every time we see Jesus where we did not recognize him before — in the faces of the poor, in the love of the unloved, in the revelatory moments of life, Jesus rises anew. The real proof of the Resurrection lies not in the transformation of Jesus alone but in the transformation awaiting us who accept it.

To say, 'I believe in Jesus Christ . . . who rose from the dead,' is to say something about myself at the same time. It says that I myself am ready to be transformed. Once the Christ-life rises in me, I rise to new life as well. 'Christ is risen, we are risen,' we sing at Easter. But it has a great deal more to do with life than with death. If I know that Jesus has been transformed, then I am transformed myself, and as a result, everything around me.

Until we find ourselves with new hearts, more penetrating insights, fewer compulsions, less need for the transient, greater awareness of the spiritual pulse of life, resurrection has not really happened for us. Jesus has risen but we have not. Resurrection is change at the root of the soul. It marks a whole new way of being in life.

*Jesus, help me to understand that in every life, something good fails, something great ends, something righteous is taken unjustly away, something looms like an abandonment by God. Give me the wisdom to know that You rose from the dead as a sign to us that every one of these 'little deaths' is life become new all over again. Be with me in living Your Resurrection over and over again.*

## Worship Schedule

### April 3

The first Sunday after Easter often is a time when Pastors (and church members) take a break. Let us not do that. A low-key, informal, service of praise and thanksgiving is being prepared. The doubt of Thomas (see John 20: 19-31) will be contrasted with the great hope of Revelation 1: 4-8.

### April 10

Pastor Michael will begin a series of sermons on the beatitudes, See Matthew 5: 1-12. **Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.** We often feel that we can't get enough of a good thing on earth (we can't get enough chocolate or Steeler victories!) Can we ever have too much of God? Can we ever say, "God, I'm good. Thanks." I don't need you or more of you anymore?

### April 17 (Emerging Worship) **Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.**

Mourning the loss of a loved one is one of many losses we grieve. Does comfort only mean a hug and kind words. Mourning, as painful as it is, opens the door to a deeper world.

### April 24

Hey people—Jesus said, **Blessed are the meek**", not the weak. Being one of the meek of the earth takes courage and faith. We will explore this idea this morning.

## STAFF DIRECTORY

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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.

## Session Retreat

On Saturday, February 20, the session of FPCE set aside a day long self evaluation and planning retreat. Pastor' Michael's wife, Heather Wilson, who has had years of experience in leading planning retreats, proved to be an engaging, creative, and patient leader. Here some of the results of our day together. Please read them, ask questions, talk to one another about them. Soon, we will discuss them at a congregational luncheon after worship.



### Force Field Analysis

#### ***What are the Forces Moving FPCE Forward***

We like each other  
Tradition  
Untapped potential (people, ideas, resources, outside groups)  
FPCE community  
Leadership  
Generosity of members  
Music

#### ***What are the Forces Holding FPCE Back***

Tradition  
Fear of change: impact on "me"  
Fear of making mistakes  
Fewer members = weariness in volunteers  
Money  
Aging population  
Large, OLD facility  
Mission statement too broad  
Changed community demographics  
Sunday morning & online competition

### The Ideal Church Would:

- Have more people in the pews
- Use events to draw in more people
- Use events to share faith/ evangelize
- Use love to draw people to you, to do outreach
- More integration (agape) of groups and strengths via activities
- Broadcast what we do
- Develop a deeper sense of belonging
- Examine the tension between contemporary culture and enduring values
- Place an emphasis on music and the arts
- Reach out to community agencies
- Remove some of the obstacles to being church, being a "member"

### STRATEGIC GOALS

Expressing our Faith, Evangelizing, Engaging our Community,  
Educating Ourselves and Energizing FPCE

We will:

1. Use the arts to draw more people to the church.
2. Improve the integration of groups, strengths, activities.
3. Broadcast what we do
4. Develop skills to better use social media

Coming Soon!!!

## A Congregational Luncheon & Discussion

The staff and session are very much looking forward to hosting a

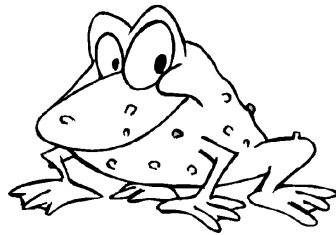
Sunday luncheon, immediately following worship within the next month. As a congregation, we are looking at some significant issues that will go far in setting the direction that FPCE. The leadership of this church will not make any major decisions without input and insights from you, the congregation. We will be addressing two issues in our meeting together: **the renovation of the building and the newly developed strategic plan.** The discussion will be moderated and facilitated by Pastor Michael.

With plans in hand, the people who have worked the most and the hardest on the renovation plan will be present. The elders will all have an opportunity to share their thoughts and understanding of the strategic plan. **YOUR THOUGHTS ARE ESSENTIAL TO US! MORE LATER. KEEP PRAYING!**



## Building Renovation Update

THANK YOU for your patience. The good news is that the architect will have the plans, drawing, and specs for us in the next couple of weeks. Please don't be discouraged with the apparent lack of progress. Tom Ochs (with an occasional assist from Jim Segedy and Pastor Michael) has been meeting at least weekly with engineers, etc. Tom is especially working hard with HVAC people — and there is the rub. The heating and air-conditioning issue is not as easily done as we thought originally. You will hear much more about the possible renovation soon! Hang in there!



## F.R.O.G.S. AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM FRIENDS, READING, & OTHER GREAT STUFF

FROGS have been “Marching” through the month keeping busy with activities regarding Dr. Seuss, St. Patrick’s Day, Easter and Spring. The kids made Easter cards for “friends of the church” and decorated Easter basket cupcakes thanks to Sallie Monk and Mary Ann Hartman. Special thanks to Rick Masten who hid goodies for a Easter scavenger hunt that all the kids loved!

A big thank you to Betty Sheridan, the Stineman’s, Rick Masten, Deacons (just to name a few) who donated drinks and/or snacks. Anonymous donators are also very much appreciated!

I would like to give a huge shout-out to our fantastic volunteers, who without them, this program could not exist: Flo Raisig, Dan Mielke, Mary Ross, Ruth Miller, Rick Masten, Ed Masten, Sallie Monk, Mary Ann Hartman, Lori Stutz, Lynne Legge,, Michael Rucker, Hazel (our newest volunteer) etc.  
*Judy Mysels, Director*

**BLOCKS**

Our next BLOCKS session (Believing Little Ones Can Know and Serve) will be on Tuesday, April 12th, at 6:30 in the nursery.

Join us for Bible stories, activities, and playtime. This “Intro to Sunday School” is for babies to kindergartners. Caregivers should attend with children.





## Camp SOS Plans Underway, Volunteers Needed

These are exciting times at the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood!

The planning team has met and the outline of what we hope will be a wonderful new outreach opportunity for our congregation is taking shape.

We recognize that our old way of summer programming via a Vacation Bible School program was proving to be unsuccessful. Our volunteers were not able to commit the time needed, and our recruitment efforts were not bringing in the numbers to continue doing VBS just because "we've always done it that way."

So, here is our new plan: outreach through service. We're starting small this year, with the plan to bring in middle school aged youth (grades 5-8) to give them a week where they learn about acts of service to the community...through experiences with people and groups that offer services in various ways. The major focus is COMMUNITY and how to be a part of it as well as how to give back to it.

We're planning to run a full week that includes a free lunch each day, includes puppet theater as a team-building task that is creative based on the ideas of service and community. The campers will learn about service from our Edgewood Police and Fire Departments, the School for the Deaf, the Edgewood Library, and our own FPCE "service" programs such as the Deacons' Food Pantry and our FROGS program. We'll bring in guests from each of these agencies, and also walk over to them to see how the groups work and what is involved in the service work they provide. Then, our campers will learn from our resident storytelling and puppetry expert, Lisa Segedy, how to make their own masks and puppets, which they will use to share a story of their creation (they have to write their own script, make their own characters, build their own "stage," rehearse their script, and present them for each other and their families).

Of course there will still be outdoor fun, games, snacks, and the usual "camp" stuff. But we're trying something new by trying to instill values of volunteerism, service, and contributing to your

community. We're hoping to have between 25-50 students, and we're also planning to enlist the help of local high school students who need community service hours for graduation as well as membership into the National Honor Society.

Expanding upon our monthly community meals, we're also planning to end **each** day with a free meal on the lawn for the campers and their families, building on our idea of community. We hope to have a huge celebration at the end of the week, where the groups perform their puppetry skits, we have games, and a great finale to a week of fun.

This is just the beginning of what we hope will grow into a much larger camp, where an actual service project takes place, such as cleaning up the parkway on-ramp, making dolls to help at Children's Hospital, working in a soup kitchen, or helping with a Habitat for Humanity house. The possibilities are endless, and this could be a way to tap into the youth of our community in a truly meaningful way.

Doesn't it sound exciting? Don't you want to help be a part of it? Of course you do!!! Here are the specifics:

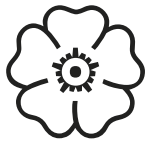
Dates: Monday-Friday, July 11-15, 2016

Times: 12:00-6:00 (lunch at noon, dinner at 5:00)

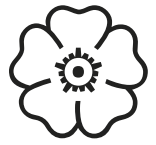
We plan to make this an investment in our mission, evangelism, and Christian Education ministries, so we're allocating a fairly significant amount of money to making sure this is successful. Also, we're committed to making this a FREE program for the families who choose to send their children, so we'll gladly accept monetary donations to help us in purchasing supplies, food items, or to "sponsor" a camper if you are unable to give of your time physically to help us.

***If you are interested in volunteering***, please contact the church office and let us know your availability. It could be 3 hours for 2 of the days, it could be just to help with lunch or dinner each day, etc. If you do plan to work with the campers, though, we need to make sure you have your Child Abuse and Criminal Background clearances current and on file. The PA government has reduced the cost, and if you check "volunteer," the fee is waived, and one of them gives you an instant result that you can print out.

If you have any questions or want to get in on the planning, contact Shaun Cloonan, Emily Lilly, Pastor Michael, Nancy Ernst, Lorraine Douthett, Lisa or Jim Segedy, Martha Crean, Sallie Monk, Tyler McGuigan, Jeff or Tina Nine, or Chris Baldwin.



# A • p • r • i • l



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
C=Choir Room, F=Foli's Restaurant, GP=Gathering Place L=Lounge, N=Nursery, O=Church Office, PS=Pastor's Study S=Sanctuary, SC=Scout Room, SR=Social Room				3:45 FROGS (SR)	1  8:00 AA (SR)	2  8:30 AA (SR)
3 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L)	4	5 10:00 Book Club (L)  3:45 FROGS (SR)  7:00 Deacons (L) 7:00 AA (SR)	6   7:00 Bible Study (L)	7 1:00 Daytime Circle 3:45 FROGS (SR)	8  8:00 AA (SR)	9  8:30 AA (SR)
10 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L) 12:15 Camp SOS Planning Team (GP)	11 7:00 Mens Group (F)	12 10:00 Book Club (L)  3:45 FROGS (SR)  6:30 BLOCKS (N) 7:00 Session (GP) 7:00 AA (SR)	13   7:00 Bible Study (L)	14  3:45 FROGS (SR)	15  8:00 AA (SR)	16  8:30 AA (SR)
17 9:30 Worship En (S) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Emerging Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L)	18	19 10:00 Book Club (L)  3:45 FROGS (SR)  7:00 AA (SR)	20   7:00 Bible Study (L)	21 1:00 Daytime Circle 3:45 FROGS (SR)	22  8:00 AA (SR)	23  8:30 AA (SR)
24 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L)	25 7:00 Mens Group (F) 7:00 Joy Circle (L)	26 10:00 Book Club (L)  3:45 FROGS (SR)  7:00 AA (SR)	27   7:00 Bible Study (L)	28  3:45 FROGS (SR)	29  8:00 AA (SR)	30  8:30 AA (SR)



## Presbyterian Women in Pittsburgh Presbytery 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Gathering

We welcome Rev. Dr. Angela Dienhart Hancock, Associate Professor of Homiletics and Worship at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Rev. Hancock will lead us in worship. Mary McElroy, former Moderator of PWPP, will be our featured speaker on "Why PW?". We will gather at Bethel Presbyterian Church, Bethel Church Road, south of Pittsburgh, for our annual meeting. Let us join together as we celebrate the installation of our new leaders, say our farewells to our outgoing leaders and give thanks for our many blessings. We will conduct our annual business meeting and the Birthday Offering will be presented. We will also hear a report on our collection of disposable diapers for the Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank, the Presbytery-wide mission project. We also look forward to enjoying the gracious hospitality of the good women of Bethel PW.



**Saturday April 16, 2016**  
**Registration 8:30 - Luncheon at Noon**  
**Cost \$10:00 payable to PWPP send to:**  
**Susan Hamilton**  
**5903 Fifth Avenue #204**  
**Pittsburgh, PA. 15232**

Bethel Presbyterian Church - 2999 Bethel Church Road- Bethel Park, PA.,15102

**Registration Fee: \$10.00**

**Registration Deadline: April 11,2016**

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### ***Presbyterian Women in Pittsburgh Presbytery*** ***28<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Gathering***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to PWPP and send to: Susan Hamilton - 412-441-2605  
543 Hastings Street  
Pittsburgh, PA. 15206





## Continuing the 125th Anniversary Celebration: The Edgewood Organ

The first pipe organ of the Edgewood Presbyterian Church was installed in 1917 by Casavant Frères Ltd. company of Canada. This organ served the church until 1967 when, under budgetary constraints, the failing organ was replaced with a modest-sized Möller organ, built in Hagerstown, Maryland. The console from the original organ had been retained until funds became available for a new one. In quite serious condition, the console was finally replaced in 1978 with a generously sized 4-manual Möller console built to match the intricately carved oak of the sanctuary and organ case. The console was well-planned for future expansions by then Music Director and Organist, Wayne Galbraith. Mr. Galbraith was determined to complete the organ that was begun in 1967 recognizing the need for a more complete specification instrument. This would allow for musical versatility primarily in the accompanying of congregational and choral singing.

Time was again taking its toll on the organ and console. Repairs were becoming more frequent and in the early 1990's, entire systems began failing. In 1992 the console was rebuilt with a new solid-state combination action which replaced the old, air-driven, pneumatic combination action. Less than two years later, the entire Antiphonal organ had to be shut down completely and it was apparent that substantial repairs were imminent.

The Worship and Music Committee began discussing the repairs necessary and researching possible solutions. They presented a comprehensive report to the Session in late 1996. The organ was merely one item requiring attention and the Session determined it necessary to form a Projects Committee in late 1997. Their focus was to determine what major capital improvements should be addressed and how they would be accomplished. The organ repairs were one of the projects that would be discussed. The Projects Committee ultimately determined that the organ repair and restoration would be the focus. After meeting with and obtaining bids from numerous organ builders from across North America, the church awarded the contract in August, 1998, to the firm of Luley & Associates, Inc. of Pittsburgh. Following several months of work, the Projects Committee made a recommendation to Session that a special committee be formed whose focus would be to develop a fundraising campaign for this project. As a result, the Organ Fund Committee was formed in July, 1998. In addition, discussions were already underway regarding the purchase of a keyboard that would permit the addition of new sounds to accompany the music program and to use in case the organ became totally inoperable. A sophisticated Kurzweil keyboard was ultimately purchased in February 1997.

Next, the Organ Fund Committee developed a campaign strategy that would involve the entire

congregation, including the children of the Sunday School. The campaign was entitled "Music for the Millennium," which was launched on Easter Sunday, 1999. The fundraising efforts included Sunday brunches, concerts given by the choir and various soloists including members of the congregation, a "Chips for Change" project, selling of custom-designed Christmas ornaments and note cards, memorial donations, and contributions from various charitable foundations and many individuals. Through eager spirits and strong leadership, the committee was able to raise all of the necessary funds for the organ project.

Former Music Director and Organist, Paul Boyle, and Peter Luley carefully set out to design a grand organ that would have specific goals. First and foremost, the organ had to be effective as a leader of hymns. Whether prayerful or majestic, the organ had to both lead and stir the congregation. Next the organ had to have a complete range of appropriate voices to accompany the choral music by the choir and soloists. Finally, the organ would have to contain a broad spectrum of colors to perform many styles of organ repertoire from ancient to contemporary.

As designs were beginning to develop for the new instrument, a conscious effort was made to retain as much of the pipework from the Möller organ as well as that form the original 1917 instrument. Through careful inspection, it was determined that the majority of the pipes were in good condition and could be reused. Work commenced on the wind chests; replacing leather parts or building new chests as necessary. The rear antiphonal organ was completely redesigned and substantial alterations were made to allow the organ to "speak" better to the room. A new chest for a Principal chorus was constructed and mounted outside of the chamber also allowing for better sound delivery.

It was determined at the onset that the organ would be of English tonal character with warm, singing diapasons; clear flutes; sweet strings and reeds of beautiful color all the way through commanding forcefulness. A majestic Festival Trumpet of polished copper speaks from the top of the organ case with great authority and is the crowning glory of the instrument. In addition, a complete MIDI system was installed which enables the musician to incorporate sounds from an electronic keyboard for added dimension and versatility.

In 2001, Peter Luley and his staff finished their work. Several years later, it was discovered that some of the materials used in the reconstruction project were not of the highest quality and would not last the 30 years we were expecting, and so David Richards from the Allegheny Pipe Organ Company completed a partial upgrade to the tubing and electronics with better materials. The result is what you hear each Sunday from our gifted organist, Sunny Sakai.



**The  
Bulletin Board**

*Sharing in the joys and concerns  
of our family & friends at FPCE*

- Many thanks to Ruth Miller, Florence Pickels, Flo Raisig for making our sanctuary so beautiful for the Easter season.
- Next time you see them, give Nancy Ernst , Emily Lily and Stephanie McGuigan a big pat on the back for cleaning and organizing the nursery—fantastic job!
- Prayers for the friends and family of Marilyn Beaver. Marilyn was a member of the former Mulberry congregation. She died on Saturday, on the morning of March 19. At her request, no services were conducted.