

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

January 2018

PASTOR'S **POINT OF VIEW**



Michael P. Rucker
Pastor

THE GOSPEL FOR 2018

Jesus said, "The time is at hand, the kingdom of God
is near,
repent, and believe the gospel!"
Mark 1: 14

The word "gospel", as you know, means
"good news." Brothers and sisters, I am writing to
tell you - there is good news for the year 2018!

Dr. Francis Collins is a scientist held in the
highest regard around the world (he played a key role

in the Human Genome Project.) Not many may know
that Dr. Collins is a man of faith and conviction. His
book "*Faith*" is well worth the read.

Francis Collins sees a vibrant, new reality
emerging in the world; the re-birth of a vigorous
spirituality and commitment to faith. His observation
is that a decades-long era of scientific empiricism and
rationalism is coming to an end. (An era when
something was true only if it could be proven
scientifically, is a rough definition.) But the spirit of a
living God cannot be denied or ignored forever. A
profound and transformational spirituality is being
born all around us!

Recently I read an article by Diane Butler Bass,
a theologian widely recognized as an expert in
mainstream church life in the United States. For most
of her career, she watched in despair as mainline
denominations were being pushed to the sidelines. If
there was ever a time when a nation needed a
spiritual renewal it is now! She writes:

Worship Schedule for January

January 7

Epiphany Sunday. We will recall the journey of the Magi, their meaning-laden gifts, and the impact on the magi willing to take the risk and make the trip. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Congregational meeting to follow.

January 14

Not only will we read the story of Jesus' baptism by John, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism with two of our families! A Sunday of joy and thanksgiving.

January 21

On this Emerging Worship Sunday, we will discover that the preaching of Jonah and the initial message of Jesus share a common theme. Check it out: Jonah 3: 1-5 and Mark 1: 14-20.

January 28

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will follow our Classical style worship service. In the morning's reading from Mark 1: 21-28, an anonymous man with a bad spirit confronts Jesus face-to-face.

STAFF DIRECTORY

120 East Swissvale Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15218
Phone: 412-241-4613
www.fpcedgewood.org

Pastor:
The Rev. Michael P. Rucker
mprucker@fpcedgewood.org

Pastor Emeritus:
Dr. Gerald Hollingsworth

Minister of Music:
Shaun Cloonan
music@fpcedgewood.org

Organist & Pianist:
Sunny Sakai
sunnysakai4@gmail.com

FROGS Director, Office &
Cleaning Manager:
Judy Mysels
frogs@fpcedgewood.org
office@fpcedgewood.org

Building Manager:
Rob Mysels
building@fpcedgewood.org

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'd.)

Strange as it may seem in this time of cultural anxiety, terrorist fear, political violence, environmental crisis, and partisan anger, I believe that the United States (and not only the United States) is caught up in the throes of a spiritual awakening, a period of sustained religious and political transformation during which our ways of seeing the world, understanding ourselves, and expressing faith are being, to borrow a phrase, "born again."

I am convinced that Dr. Francis Collins and Diana Butler Bass are onto something. As I talk to younger people and read the blogs, articles, websites on the internet, younger people are rediscovering the reality of the human soul, a higher power, the need for deeper connection to one another and the world we live in. Young people are actively seeking and uncovering the reality of spirituality.

Now, the catch is, this renewed spirituality does not have much to do with religious traditions, denominations, church structure, or structures. As Jesus said, "**The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.**" Jn.3: 8.

It is an exciting time for people of faith. The question for those of us who have been main-line Presbyterians for decades is this: can we catch up? Are we willing to let the wind blow us where it pleases? I am reminded of a startling thing God spoke through the prophet Isaiah when God was rebuilding the nation and the faith of Israel:

**Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.**

Isaiah 43: 18-19

Pastor Michael

Stewardship is a Spiritual matter and a matter of our life priorities.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." Malachi 3:10
After all, whose money is it? It takes a congregation of great faith to support a church.

Looking into Stewardship for 2018

Boxed 2018 envelopes are available at the side and front entrances of church. They can also be mailed to you. Please let the church office know if you want them mailed.

The session reminds you to review the financial commitments you may have made to support the FPCE budget in 2017 and the building renovation fund. Thank you for completing those commitments.

The Church Community



CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

January 7: first presentation of the 2018 budget and election of officers. Questions and comments welcome.

January 28: annual congregational meeting after the service.

REPORTS NEEDED!

If you are a staff member, chair or secretary of a ministry team or organization within the church, please have your narrative report in to the church office by **January 22.** It can be given in hard copy or e-mailed as an attachment to Judy Mysels at office@fpcedgewood.org.

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS

Not forgotten!

During the month of November, many of you took part in one of four congregational gatherings to talk about our vision and next steps as the people of God living in this community at this time.

The ideas are not lacking! In January, the session will begin to take the next steps – put some of those ideas into action.

“UN-HANGING” OF THE GREENS SET FOR SUN., JAN. 7

You know how beautiful the sanctuary looks during the Advent/Christmas season? It’s because of the dedicated work of our faithful “worker bees” each year right around Thanksgiving who stay after worship to make it happen.

One of the things that sometimes gets forgotten is how to *take it all down* in a nice, orderly fashion. Many years it falls to Judy to do over the course of a week in between her normal office duties.

Please help us by sticking around after worship on **Sunday, January 7** to “un-hang” the greens and put everything away neatly. “Many hands make light work.” Thanks in advance!

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

On **Saturday, January 20,** Pastor Michael will lead a new member’s class for those who would like to learn more about becoming an active participant in the mission and ministry of FPCE. If interested, see Pastor Michael after worship or call the church office at 412-241-4613.



- Thank you to all who stayed after worship on Nov. 26 for the Hanging of the Greens. With all the help we had this year, it was faster and easier than ever to make our beautiful sanctuary even more festive for the Season.
- Thank you to Sunny Sakai for playing Christmas music on the organ and piano while the FROGS decorated the sanctuary tree with Chrismons. They really enjoyed it!
- The congregation experienced a joyful and uplifting morning of song when the North Hills Singers, directed by Shaun Cloonan, sang during the worship service on December 17. A lovely and fun choral concert followed the service. Thanks also to the FPCE choir members for providing a tasty lunch for the students afterward in the Gathering Place.
- Thanks to Ruth Miller, Florence Pickels and Flo Raisig for their time arranging the beautiful poinsettias on the chancel for Christmas Eve.
- Russ and Flo Raisig welcome the birth of their granddaughter Victoria Simon, daughter of Elizabeth and Scott Simon born on December 15, 2017.
- Our sister, Luella Broe, died on Monday morning, January 18. Cards of sympathy and support to Luella’s husband, Bill Broe, would lift his heart and spirit. Send cards to Bill Broe, 492 Campbell Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15221.

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★ “You cannot go through a single day without ★
★ having an impact on the world around you. ★
★ What you do makes a difference – and you ★
★ have to decide what kind of difference you ★
★ want to make.” ★
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Christian Education

Tuesday Book Club

The book group meets at 10:00 a.m. every Tuesday at the home of Rhonda Apossos (361 Maple Ave. 412-243-2470.) We will begin meeting on Tuesday, January 9 at 10:00. It is a great time to hop on board as we will begin discussing a new book (yet to be decided.)

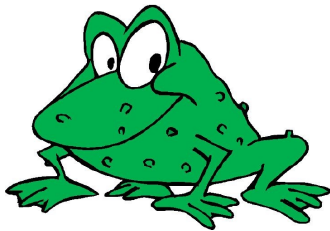
Men's Group

At the Edgewood Town Center Eat N-Park Restaurant

Come and join us January 16 at 7:00PM for a great time of food, fun and fellowship with like-minded guys. The conversation is enjoyable and wide-ranging. If you can spare an evening to eat, chat, and get to know some other men, there is room for you! No appointment necessary. Contact Pastor Michael if you have any questions.

Adult Class

Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. in the Lounge. Please join us!



F.R.O.G.S.

Friends, Reading, & Other Great Stuff

December was a short, but very busy, time for FROGS. We made ornaments to accompany the poinsettias the Deacons delivered, and we made other ornaments/sun catchers for FROGS parents/ etc.

Continued thanks for all the delicious donations for snacks. Please continue to remember needed drinks, etc. starting in January.

The FROGS program enjoyed the holiday break and resumed on January 2. Happy Holidays, and may you all enjoy a healthy 2018!

Judy Mysels
FROGS Program Director

LUELLA BROE, CHILD OF GOD - PLAYWRIGHT

We all have seen (or at least heard of) the timeless Christmas movie, "It's a Wonderful Life." It turns out that a daughter of FPCE wrote her own Christmas drama. Luella Broe died on Monday, December 18. As a child of God, Luella left her mark on the world in many ways. But most remarkably, before her death, the playwright ! Luella Broe, watched her drama come to life. Here is the story as recounted on the Veteran's Administration website:

Veteran Luella "Lu" Driscoll-Broe was working as a church drama director in the 1980s when she wrote a Christmas Sunday School play about humankind's desire for spirituality and peace. The former Pitt theater student tucked the roughly 12-minute script for "Have You Heard the Good News" away among her mementos, hoping one day to see actors bring her characters to life on stage.

Although Driscoll-Broe, an Army Veteran, is spending her final days at VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System's hospice facility in O'Hara Township, she has never forgotten her play. During an Oct. 19 meeting with recreation therapist Rosimar-Hernandez, Driscoll-Broe asked Hernandez to help her fulfill one last wish – to see her play performed live in front of an audience.

Hernandez reached out to the University of Pittsburgh's theater arts department, where her prayers were answered by Cynthia Croot. "I thought, what a rare and momentous opportunity to give back, to use theater to fulfill someone's final wish," said Croot, an associate professor and head of performance at Pitt. "I accepted immediately."

Hernandez recalled the moment on Nov. 2 when Driscoll-Broe learned Pitt would produce her play. The Veteran gasped with excitement and said, "My school! That's where I studied theater!" Despite rapidly declining health, Driscoll-Broe on Dec. 10 realized her dream of seeing her play performed in front of an audience.

This entire article can be found at: <https://www.pittsburgh.va.gov/PITTSBURGH/features/>



January



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | | 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA | | 3:45 FROGS | 8:00 AA | 8:30 AA |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 9:30 Choir Reh. 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship Cong. Mtg. Unhanging of the Greens | | 10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 Session 7:00 AA | | 3:45 FROGS | 8:00 AA | 8:30 AA |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 9:30 Choir Reh. 11:00 Worship/ BAPTISMS 12:15 Fellowship | OFFICE CLOSED | 10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 Men's Group 7:00 AA | | 3:45 FROGS | 8:00 AA | 8:30 AA |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 9:30 Choir Reh. 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship | | 10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA | | 3:45 FROGS | 8:00 AA | 8:30 AA |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |
| 9:30 Choir Reh. 11:00 Worship 12:15 Cong. Mtg. | | 10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA | | | | |



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