



news from the **EDGE**

120 East Swissvale Avenue

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15218

412-241-4613

office@fpcedgewood.org

JUNE 20



14

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 (til June 8)
10:00AM
starting June 15

www.fpcedgewood.org

This month's news from the **EDGE** is sponsored by

YOU?
Sponsorship is available.

A SHOUT OUT TO DADS

*All I can think of
is being five years old following
behind you at the beach
tracing your footprints in the sand
trying to walk like a man.
- Bruce Springsteen*

As I struggled through adolescence into young adulthood, I spent many long days working in the field for my Dad's construction company. My next oldest brother, David and I are pretty sure that Dad harbored the unspoken hope that one day one of us would become the CEO of the fledgling family firm. On occasion Dad would pull me from the field to accompany him to a conference of civil engineers who spent the day discussing construction stuff. Those were long days for me...very long. I never caught construction bug.

"Pastor's Point of View" continued on page 2 →



June Worship Schedule

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

Wear red! It's Pentecost. At this time last year, we left the worship service with warm hearts and a big smile on our faces. We will again this year: Youth Sunday! Let's follow as our young lead us into worship. Let's support the adults who give of themselves to our kids all year long.

SUNDAY, JUNE 15

Worship Moves to 10:00AM for the Summer

Father's Day. Dads rule! (And no, I did not say that when I was 16 either!) But a man humble before God is a man

worthy of our honor and thanks. Please bring your Dad, your Grandpa, your Uncles. After worship enjoy *Donuts for Dad* and give *Tools for Hope*.

SUNDAY, JUNE 22

God-willing, we will emerge from the sanctuary and have a spirited Emerging Worship experience on the lawn.

SUNDAY, JUNE 29

After a month of creative worship experiences, we will return to our Classic worship service with hymns and liturgy.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH!



First Presbyterian Church of
EDGEWOOD
The Community Church



STAFF DIRECTORY

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

Interim 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
Section Leaders	Tyler McGuigan Mandy Rineer
Office Manager.....	Judy Mysels office@fpcedgewood.org
Building Manager	Rob Mysels
Nursery Attendant.....	Kristi Cloonan LittleK815@aol.com

Summer Office Hours:
Monday–Friday
9:00AM–1:00PM (begin 6/16)



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

A couple of weeks ago I attended a conference only preachers would enjoy: *"The Festival of Homiletics."*

Sometimes I would think how tiring this

conference would have been for Dad. He never caught the "church" bug. Yet, when it comes to preaching, I remember something I heard years ago: "The only sermon many people will ever experience is the way we live our lives." Dad's life was one of the best sermons I'll ever experience.

I didn't follow in my Dad's footsteps. He was befuddled by my decision to become a preacher. But he came to hear me preach every time he could. He never ceased asking, without a trace of sarcasm, *"So Michael, tell me again what it is you do during the rest of the week?"*

In some ways, Dad and I never really "got" each other. During my teen years, we met frequently met on the verbal field of battle. But the more I ponder the footprints he left in the sand, the larger they become.

One time Jesus posed a question to his disciples: *What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' The son answered, 'I will not;' but later changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same. The son answered, 'I go, sir'; but did not. Which of the two did the will of his father? (Mt 21: 28-31)*

Here's a shout out to the Dads and Grandpas and Uncles and other significant men in the lives of young people: to those who don't understand church and churchy things; to those who decide to stay at home on Sunday morning, have another cup of coffee and a cigarette while reading the Sunday paper; to those too embarrassed to ask what the Bible really means; to those who believe prayer is akin to talking into the empty sky. Make no mistake, I would rather you be with us. But when you aren't: Preach it.

Pastor Michael

**WORSHIP MOVES TO 10AM ON
SUNDAY, JUNE 15**

Community Meal



COMMUNITY DINNER SET FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11 5:30-7:30PM, SIDE LAWN*

The Evangelism ministry team is once again planning to connect with our community. Spread the word that we will be opening our doors for a FREE meal that is open to ***ALL*** in our Edgewood and surrounding areas.

Want to help out? Contact Jim Segedy or sign up on the lists in the side entrance.

**If weather is not cooperating, we will move into the Social Room.*



Ahmad Syarif, a member of the Tolong Menolong Fishers Group, and his son look to a brighter future. Indonesia, Paul Jeffrey/ACT Alliance

CWS Tools

Empowering families. Strengthening communities.

Contributions to CWS Tools mean Church World Service will be ready to help people around the world gain the resources and develop the skills necessary to sustain themselves and their families and to build viable communities.

Ahmad Syarif, a member of the Tolong Menolong Fishers Group in the Nias Island village of Olora, Indonesia, today fishes with one of several boats provided with the help of Church World Service. From fishing cooperatives in Nias to farming co-ops and training for 12 agricultural communities in northwest Haiti, CWS reaches out to those who have nothing to "fall back on," equipping them not only with solutions, but with resilience.

CWS TOOLS

... providing empowerment for people.



\$50 can provide 100 chicks – helping families find their way from need to nourishment with a self-propagating food source.



\$100 can provide tools for such trades as carpentry, plumbing and tailoring for refugees, asylum-seekers and survivors of trafficking who have skills but lack the necessary tools.



\$225 can provide gardening tools and materials to build three small raised beds for vegetables.

\$1,250 can purchase a share of a sand dam – a concrete wall built across a seasonal riverbed, which allows sand to build up behind it, trapping seasonal rains for year-round use by families.



Honor a special man in your life on Father's Day when FPCE dedicates the CWS Tools of Hope offering. See bulletin insert.

STRAWBERRY *Festival*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2014

6:00-8:00PM • Side Lawn

The Board of Deacons' Strawberry Festival occurs each year during June — rain or shine! Food includes grilled hot dogs, cold drinks and strawberry desserts!

Take out meals available.

This is an outdoor event held on the side lawn, unless weather requires the event to be held inside the building.

Costs:

3.00 for Adults

2:00 for Children

And half price refills!

HELLO FROM THE BOARD OF DEACONS!

On **June 15**, we will host fellowship on **Father's Day**—so bring your dad, grandfather, uncle, nephew to church, then to "Donuts for Dads" in the Lounge.

Applications for the Melfard Douglass Scholarship will be available at the church office. (If you need any information, contact one of the Deacons). The Melfard Douglass Scholarship was started 19 years ago in memory of Melfard, who was tragically killed in a plane accident; he was a longtime member of our church, a deacon and a volunteer fireman. This is a scholarship awarded to church members who are enrolling in secondary education/college. We was a man that always gave and loved his family and friends.

Congregational members are encouraged to help support the Melfard Douglass fund, the food pantry and bring a friend or two to church to join our church family—what a wonderful family we have!

*God's Blessings to you and yours -
Mary Ann Hartman
Moderator, Board of Deacons*

VBS INVITES ALL KIDS 3 AND ABOVE JUNE 23-27— 6:00-8:00PM

Dear Parents, Grandparents, Friends:

At Weird Animals VBS, kids discover that Jesus' love is one-of-a-kind. Weird Animals is a habitat filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste. Sciency-Fun Gizmos, team-building games, cool bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. Be sure to send them in play clothes and safe shoes—it may get a little messy! Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life—something we call God Sightings. Your kids will also participate in a hands-on mission project that will let the kids in our community show God's love.

Parents, Grandparents and friends are invited to join us in The Tail End Friends section each day at 7:45PM, because that's when we'll be having The Tail End—a daily celebration of Jesus' love you won't want to miss.

So mark June 23-27 on your calendar. The fun starts at 6:00 and will end at 8:00PM. Call 412/241-4613 to register your children for this life-changing adventure! Suggested donation: \$10





P.W. CORNER

By Lori Stutz, Presbyterian Women Moderator

I thought that I might hand off this article this month to someone else, but I just have too much to say about PW this month. We just had our first quarterly meeting; it came on the heels of our very successful Flea Market. In fact we all had so much fun at the Flea Market there's ideas buzzing about how we could even make it a bigger event next year. We raised a lot of money for PW. Special thanks to everyone who participated one way or another at the Flea Market. I especially want to thank Connie Black, who seems to have a very successful group of people who have taken much time out there schedules to work there. It ran like a well oiled machine.

Our meeting on 5/18, was mainly about old/new business. We decided on two new sub-committees for PW currently. One is to help plan the upcoming Peach Festival in more detail and the other is for new ideas for events for PW. We also will be trying to get an idea of who might consider or might want to be an active member of PW. There will be things coming out at church in the near future that will ask if you are a female member if you would like to be on our active lists. However, if you are unable to be at church lately and want to be consider active please contact the church office with your phone number and email address. This was the last meeting for Debbie Pike as she will be leaving the church soon. We have also talked about maybe doing a day-time circle. It's just one of the many ideas we have for our new committee. I will keep in touch via email or phone for upcoming events.

Hope you all are enjoying the beautiful, warm days of sunshine we've been having. We will be looking forward to the Deacon's Strawberry Festival this month and are looking forward in working with them on our Peach Festival in August.

CALLING ALL GRADUATES

The church likes to honor students graduating from high school, college, and other programs. Please inform the church office as soon as possible if anyone in your family is celebrating a graduation this year.

DR. GERALD HOLLINSWORTH HONORED

From 1959 through 1989 the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood thrived under the ministry and service of Reverend Doctor Gerald Hollingsworth. Many of you hold a special place in your hearts for this capable and compassionate leader. On Thursday evening, the East Branch of the Pittsburgh Presbytery honored Dr. Hollingsworth for his 65 years of ordained ministry. We are grateful for his influence and leadership and pray for him in his well-deserved years of retirement.



A Little Church History...

While going through some old papers, Florence Pickels came upon a prize-winning essay written in 1947 by Mary Purdy about the first 56 years of the Edgewood Church. In the early 90's, the church celebrated its centennial, at which a continued history was compiled by Mabel Holliday. In this document, she quoted Ms. Purdy's essay. Next month, we'll print Ms. Holliday's account, but so that you know what she refers to, here is the original "History of the Edgewood Church" as told by Mary Purdy. Enjoy the read, and thanks Florence!

The history of the Edgewood Church and the history of the community of Edgewood are very similar. After the incorporation of the borough on December 1, 1888, the residents felt the need of a place of worship nearer home than Wilkinsburg, Swissvale, Pittsburgh, or Allegheny. Prayer meetings had been held in various homes, and a small Sabbath School was held at the home of Mrs. Alexander Gordon, Sr. As a result of this need for a church a meeting was called on March 26, 1891, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Taylor on Maple Avenue. Many more meetings were held in the next seven months, and finally a charter was obtained from the Commonwealth of

Pennsylvania, property purchased, and a committee appointed to prepare and present a petition to the Pittsburgh Presbytery for the organization of the church. It was accidentally discovered, though, that the Edgewood borough east of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and therefore the property purchased for the church, was within the limits of the Presbytery of Blairsville. It was generally felt that the church should be located within the Presbytery of Pittsburgh, so it was necessary to petition both the Pittsburgh and Blairsville Presbyteries, and the boundary line was changed to include the entire borough of Edgewood in Pittsburgh Presbytery. On December 1, 1981, exactly three years after the incorporation of the borough, the Presbytery of Pittsburgh received and granted the Edgewood petition signed by sixty-five persons, and an organization committee was appointed.

The first ruling elders of the Edgewood Church, as it now came to be called, were Johnston Baldwin, Matthew Bigger, Robert C. Moore, and William N. Burt. The first board of trustees consisted of A. W. Cadman, C. M. Thorpe, William G. Gordon, Edward J. Lloyd, W. N. Taylor, and J. H. Harlow.

On December 17, 1891 the organization committee met in the frame building on Edgewood Avenue between Elm Street and Maple Avenue, since torn down, where the Texaco Service Station now stands. This building was the office of the Homestead Loan and Trust Company, but the trustees had accepted the company's offer to use it free of rent. Here the first church service was held, with Rev. Samuel J. Fisher of the Swissvale Presbyterian Church conducting the services and Mr. E. J. Lloyd, who had given the organ, as organist. The first sermon was preached by Rev. John Gordon of Omaha, Nebraska, son of Alexander Gordon, Sr. of Edgewood, on December 20, 1891. On January 3, 1892 the Sabbath School was organized with John F. Miller as superintendent. The first Sabbath School had ten teachers and fifty pupils. The following Sunday, January 10, the first communion was observed, the services being conducted by Dr. W. J. Holland, Chancellor of the Western University of Pittsburgh. On March 9, 1892, at a congregational meeting, Mr. Earnest L. McCartney was elected pastor of the Church. He was installed on May 18, 1892 at exercises held in the newly erected Edgewood Public School building and conducted by Rev. S. H. Moore of the First Presbyterian Church of Wilkensburg.

The first annual meeting of the congregation was held on January 13, 1892 and on April 13, 1892 the plans for the building of the church were approved and the trustees authorized to proceed with its erection. The cornerstone for the first church, which was on

Swissvale Avenue where the present church now stands, was laid September 20, 1892, and the church was dedicated on May 28, 1893. The organ was donated by Mr. C. C. Mellor and the new furnishings by the Dorcas Society.

Many women's organizations were formed in 1892 which greatly helped in the furnishing of the new church. In 1913 these organizations were disbanded and the Women's Association was formed to do all the work of the church. In this same year the Cot Club was organized for hospital work, its main purpose being to maintain a bed at the Presbyterian Hospital, but since then its object has come to include other charitable works and social activities.

In 1910, due to the great increase in the membership of the church, the trustees renovated and extended the Sunday School to the basement of the church. Five years later the congregation desired a new structure and plans were considered for a new and larger church. Although the members of the Edgewood Church held services in three buildings, they have owned only two. Ground was broken for the present church on April 9, 1917, and the cornerstone laid July 22, 1917. The dedication services were held November 17, 1918, and then three days later the organ, presented by Mr. George S. Davison, was dedicated. The chimes, which were given by Mr. and Mrs. George C. Blackmore, were dedicated on December 15 and 16, 1929. At first there was considerable debt on this new building, but the last of this debt was paid in March 1930. The total cost of the church and its furnishings was about one hundred fifty thousand dollars. The Edgewood Church is one of the few in the whole denomination which has no present indebtedness.

The first manse was at the corner of Locust Street and Hawthorne Street. This building was sold in 1925 to purchase another more suitable in size. Three years later the present manse was purchased (on Lloyd Avenue).

The church has had six pastors: E. L. McCartney, from May 18, 1892 to October 1, 1896; William R. Farmer, from December 4, 1896 to December 14, 1907; Duncan S. Cameron, from February 1, 1908 to February 1, 1925; Ralph W. Lloyd, from September 1926 to November 23, 1930; Victor A. Rule, from February 5, 1932 to May 31, 1932; and Walter L. Moser, who was installed February 24, 1933. Rev. C. C. Berryhill served as assistant pastor during Dr. Moser's service as a chaplain in the National Guard.

As it completes its fifty-sixth year, we find the Edgewood Church, the only church in a community of five thousand people, serving the people. May it continue to do so.

June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L) 12:15 VBS Mtg (GP)	2	3 10:00 Book Club (L) 7:00 AA (SR) 7:00 Deacon Mtg (L)	4	5	6 8:00 AA (SR)	7 8:30 AA (SR)
8 YOUTH SUNDAY 12:15 Fellowship (L)	9 7:00 Men's Group	10 10:00 Book Club (L) 7:00 AA (SR) 7:00 Session Mtg.	11 6:00-7:30PM Community Meal (Side Lawn)	12	13 8:00 AA (SR)	14 8:30 AA (SR)
15 FATHER'S DAY 10:00 Summer Worship (S) 11:15 Donuts for Dads (GP)	16	17 10:00 Book Club (L) Strawberry Festival set-up	18 6:00-8:00 Strawberry Festival (Side Lawn)	19 7:00 Grief Support Group (L)	20 8:00 AA (SR)	21 8:30 AA (SR)
22 10:00 Summer Worship (S)	23 7:00 Men's Group	24 10:00 Book Club (L) 7:00 AA (SR)	25-27 6:00-8:00PM Vacation Bible School			28 5:30 Joy Circle Picnic at the home of Tina Nine 8:30 AA (SR)
29 10:00 Summer Worship (S)	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> SUMMER OFFICE HOURS begin June 16 9AM-1PM Monday-Friday </div>					



120 E. Swissvale Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15218

If you want to be taken off the mailing list for “News from the Edge,” call the Church Office at 412-241-4613. To receive it via email, leave your email address when calling, or send a message to <office@fpcedgewood.org>.

**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, 7pm

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