

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

November 2015

PASTOR'S POINT OF VIEW



Michael P. Rucker
Pastor

A blessed autumn to all!

"Why is Jesus so hard on Peter?" I ask myself that question every time I read the story of Peter taking a BIG step in faith. He falters. He cries for help. After saving him, Jesus pointedly rebukes him. Why?

We know the story. The disciples are in a boat, without Jesus, trying to cross the stormy, dark Sea of Galilee. The angry waters slap the boat to and fro. The safety of dry land is far away. The disciples are afraid of

sinking and dying. But here comes Jesus, walking ON the water; rising above the storm and terror. After convincing the disciples that he is not a ghost by pronouncing the tradition laden words "*It is I,*" (All but declaring— "*My name is YAHWEH!*") Peter demands, "Command me to get out of the boat and walk on the water with you. That's faith talking. "*Come on out—the water is fine,*" Jesus responds. With profound courage and faith, Peter steps out of the boat; takes a step or two on top of the water; sees the stormy waves; the fear within him roars to the surface; he begins to sink. Instead of applauding his faithful effort (something I would do) Jesus rebukes Peter: "*You of little faith, why did you doubt?*"

Why is Jesus so hard on Peter? None of the other disciples volunteered to take a step in faith! They clung to their fear (fear is the opposite of faith) and stayed in the boat. Peter begins a new journey of faith, falters, and Jesus rebukes him. Why?

(Continued on page 2)

NOVEMBER 2015 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

All Saint's Sunday. Join us for this powerful and meaningful time of worship. We will honor those who have helped us become who we are. We will remember the family, friends, mentors and all of those who have gone before us into the eternal realm with God. A time of quiet and candle-lighting will be followed by a celebration of the Lord's Supper.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Stewardship Sunday. We will consider again how we as individuals and a congregation can become the best caretakers of the resources, gifts and talents that God has given to us. Please bring the commitment cards you will have received in the mail. This is going to be an exciting year for us!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

We will anoint Christ as King a week earlier than most other churches. Christ the King Sunday marks the end of the church calendar year. The intriguing conversation Jesus has with Pilate will and the glorious vision of the coming kingdom of God will be the focus of the morning.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Thanksgiving Sunday. Please join us as we prepare ourselves to give thanks to God for the goodness, comfort, strength and vision he provides— "*Now thank we all our God, with hearts and minds and voices!*"

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

The 1st Sunday of Advent. We enter another year of growth, challenge and joyful new beginnings. The year begins with Holy Communion.

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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 (continued)

In my reading of the gospels, Jesus becomes angry and frustrated with two groups of people:

1. He reserves his deepest wrath for the Jewish leadership. Not the ordinary Jewish woman or man, toward whom he shows compassion, but Jesus scoffs, mocks, embarrasses and ridicules the Jewish leadership. They have usurped the name of Yahweh for their own ends. In his *Inferno*, Dante would have placed them near the bottom of his rings of hell.
2. He shows frustration and anger toward the disciples for not having enough faith. That is why Jesus both loves and rebukes Peter.

This wonderful story holds deep meaning for disciples of Jesus. You often hear me preach that God loves and accepts you just as you are. Just as you are! With out warts, weaknesses and skeletons in the closet, God loves you. Accept that love. That is the first step of faith.

The message of this story is that God does not expect us to stay “just as we are.” God calls us to grow and mature in our faith. God asks us to step out of our boats and into the storms we face. Peter falters. Jesus rebukes him. We walk by faith, not by sight.

Pastor Michael



Women's Choral Festival

Returns to FPCE

Sunday, November 8

3:00PM, Sanctuary

The FPCE Music Ministry is pleased to once again host the regional Women's Choral Festival in our sanctuary this month. Last year's event was very successful, filling the pews with singers and audience members, and filling the church with beautiful music.

This festival began as an outreach event by the University of Pittsburgh Women's Choral Ensemble in an attempt to get college & university ensembles sharing music with each other. At the time, it was held at Heinz Chapel on the Pitt campus. Over the years, it has expanded to become a celebration of all types of women's vocal ensembles, including high school and community choirs. It has been held at Pitt, Seton Hill University, and now for the second year at FPCE as part of our Music Ministry's Concert Series. (Incidentally, we'd like to expand the series to include more than this festival and the ESO concert. Share your ideas!)

Participating in this year are the following groups: Duquesne University Pappert Women's Chorale, University of Pittsburgh Women's Choral Ensemble, Czarica Milica Serbian Women's Choir, Belle Voci community choir, and the North Hills High School Women's Choir. We hope you'll join us for this free event!



P.W. Corner

written by Kathy Clevenger
(special thanks to her for writing this article)

FPCE Presbyterian Women's Retreat...or...Women of The Covenant?

Upon arriving at Antochian Village, which sits on 300 plus beautiful acres of land, complete with trees, fountains and wild life, we could not help but notice signs that read, "The Women of the Covenant". These were directional signs with arrows, and we wondered, "who are they" and where are we suppose to go? It took some time, but you know how tenacious we Presbyterian Women are, we discovered we had been re-named by the establishment and the signs were actually for us (maybe they had the signs on hand, and times being what they are, who can afford to reprint signs for every group coming in, it doesn't make financial sense!). We adjusted, and moved into our rooms and met up to chat and be informed by Lori about our Saturday events.

Breakfast served at 8:00 AM, lunch at 12:00PM, and dinner in a gathering room at 5:00 PM. From breakfast to lunch, we discovered that the food at the lodge was plentiful—offering at least three choices or more at every meal—wonderfully prepared by the chef of Antochian who shops each morning for the food necessary for three meals each day, with 3-4 entree options per meal. As we sat at large round tables overlooking a large pond and fountain, we immediately got down to the business at hand: "did they think we were under weight? Did they believe we were coming from a part of PA where food was scarce? Do they do this at every meal"—yes indeed they do! On Saturday we ate a light breakfast consisting of only yogurt, fresh fruit, granola, hot oatmeal, muffins, cereal, coffee, juice, milk, and yes we refrained from the eggs, bacon, sausage, French toast, that we could have weighted ourselves down with, because we had work to do (however, we did partake at Sunday Brunch).

We walked between meals over the land that covers 300 plus acres with cabins, trails, and a swimming pool, in order to be "ready" for the next meal. We discovered graves one of which was Metropolitan Phil's, and one white goose left alone after the loss of his 4 companions, a goose that needed a few prayers to get him up and moving – it worked! Sunday morning Mr. Goose, blind in one eye was swimming happily with a small duck behind him, he looked very swan-ish!

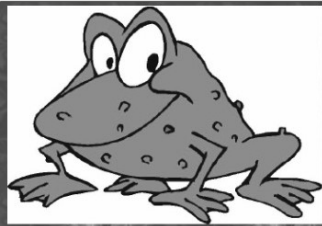
But even more important we sat and really talked to each other and got to know each other, truly a gift in our busy lives. We also were blessed by a well-chosen and speaker Rev. Page Creach, who came to meet with us and guide us through our stated mission; what we are doing to meet that mission and what we may want to do. Rev. Creach worked to connect each of us even closer to another person or persons through exercises that involved personal conversations focusing on each individual's life and what was going on in that life. We did indeed have a service and sang, prayed, focused, and let ourselves be rejuvenated in the PW Mission and each other, and one self. Then we had to walk because dinner was coming and we had no room left for food—we were full, spiritually and physically!

I cannot say enough about the quality and beauty of the facility, fabulous food, the hard work that Lori put in making these arrangements, our kind drivers: Ruth, Tina, Mary, and Elaine; MaryAnn for bringing a movie, "God is not dead" that we shared in our time together; and the ability to have time to grow closer as individuals and a group of women with a mission. If you were not able to join the PW for this retreat, we are sorry you missed it, and we are sorry for missing the opportunity to share and grow in sisterhood with you. We need each other for strength and support as we go out into the community, we offer just these things to others who are in need, in pain, and are hurting in mind, body, and soul.

Daylight Saving Time Ends November 1

Be sure to adjust your clocks to arrive at church on time!





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

November is a short month for FROGS because of school days off and holidays, but we are still “hopping”. In early October, we took a field trip to the library, so they could learn about it and take out a book. We learned about Columbus and did Halloween/fall crafts/activities. Take a look on the Mission bulletin board next to the “little” fountain on the main floor to see PACES’ poster of our trip to the Carnegie Museum. The kids loved it. Edgewood Police presented a Halloween safety program. The kids loved the Stineman’s visit on Oct. 29 with Bill dressed in costume. Huge thanks for the donations of snacks and drinks from wonderful FPCE family.

FROGS need your help...volunteers are needed to help with FROGS on Tuesdays/Thursdays from 3:30-6PM. Clearance papers need to be filled out and are available in the Church Office. Attendance has increased to 15 kids; more adult supervision is needed. If you are interested or have any questions, call Judy Mysels at 412/241-4613 or email frogs@fpcedgewood.org. Also snacks are needed: fruit snacks, crackers, chips, cookies, and/or drinks: Capri Sun, juice, etc.

Judy Mysels, Director

FPCE has an active PRAYER CHAIN with 16 Prayer Warriors. You’re welcome to join us. If you have a prayer request(s) contact: Pastor Michael at 412-241-4613 or mprucker@fpcedgewood.org; Judy Mysels at 412-241-4613 or office@fpcedgewood.org; Sallie Monk at 412-371-4344; Patti Mielke at 412-350-8442 or pgmielke@hotmail.com

You are welcome to send your requests for prayer. We phone or e-mail current requests as we receive them. If you have any questions, please contact one of us (see above).

Join us as a Prayer Warrior. We send out a prayer list quarterly and meet twice a year to review our prayer list. **Our next meeting is Sunday, November 1, following morning worship.**



Wednesday Night Bible Study

Come join Pastor Michael for a weekly, church-wide bible study from 7:00-8:00 PM in the Lounge. We are taking a journey through all the books of the Bible. New members are always welcome. Bring your Bible and come to the Lounge Wednesday night!

BLOCKS

Believing Little Ones Can Know and Serve

BLOCKS is a program for FPCE’s youngest members and friends. The name is more than an acronym. It’s a guiding principle for

Christian Education. We’ve had five meetings over the past several months. Each session centers on a “word of the day”—one vital block needed for building a strong Christian foundation. So far, the children discussed the meanings of church, kindness, rejoicing, prayer, and sharing. We read Bible stories, talk together, sing songs, dance, and complete an art activity. And, of course, we play! Please spread the word to your friends, neighbors, and family and help us build our base audience for BLOCKS. Our current regulars would love to make new friends! **BLOCKS is for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers.** All children must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver. We understand the needs of this age group and we expect there to be some sleepy babies, wandering crawlers, and enthusiastic roamers. In other words, parents should know this is a friendly environment which welcomes your child’s youthful exuberance!

Please help us promote the remaining 2015 BLOCKS sessions, which meet in the Gathering Place:

Tuesday, November 10th, 6:30 - 7:15

Tuesday, December 8th, 6:30 - 7:15

NOTE: Due to low attendance, the Pollyanna Club is suspended for now.

**CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION**



You should have received a letter from Stewardship Ministry Team chair Paul Otori. Here is an excerpt from that mailing if you did not receive it: "How does our renewal in God change the way we listen to God's words? How do we respond? We close our worship service with the words *Sending God's Word into the World*. That is a quite a commitment! During the rest of the week, do we reflect on His words and act accordingly? Do we make positive changes in our relationships with others? In Reinhold Niebuhr's Serenity Prayer, we ask God to give us serenity to accept what cannot be changed, the courage to change what can be changed and the wisdom to know one from the other.

In this season, let us pray for wisdom to better understand the needs of our church and others and make positive changes in our stewardship - the act of responsibly overseeing, protecting, and preserving what we value. Paul Otori.

Note: there will not be a luncheon after the stewardship worship service this year.

HANGING OF THE GREENS Sunday, November 22 following worship

Advent, our journey to Christmas, begins in just a few weeks! We'll begin our visible preparations with the Hanging of the Greens after church on **Nov. 22**. We'll meet in the Lounge for fellowship, then, we'll begin decorating. For those who have never participated, we put up the Christmas tree, decorate the sanctuary, lounge, entrance ways, etc. Join us for this time of celebration and anticipation.



Building Renovation Update

The work proceeds with careful and prayerful deliberation. Two teams have been formed to help all of us understand what a renovation could look like and how we could pay for it.

The Building Design Team:

Chris Baldwin, Emily Lilly, Mary Ross, Tom Ochs, Jim Segedy and Pastor Michael.

The Fundraising Team:

Gregg Baldwin, Amy Moore, Paul Otori, Rhonda Apossos, Tyler McGuigan, Tom Ochs and Pastor Michael.

Both teams have met and developed some positive ideas. Tom and Pastor Michael have met with the architect and engineers to discuss *initial, potential changes*. Soon, the architect will have a plan to propose and the entire congregation will be invited to listen to the architect's presentation, openly discuss and vote on the proposed renovation.



*Sharing in the Joys & Concerns
of the Family of FPCE*

- CROP Walk, Oct. 10, raised \$350.
- Mary Ann Hartman became a Great Aunt to niece, Christina Kemmerer; 8lb., 7oz., baby Zachery.
- Travis Allabon received a 97% on school project "History of Edgewood Presbyterian Church" ...way to go Travis!!!
- Desmond Rucker was invited by his drum instructor at CAPA to sit beside him in the orchestra pit for the October 24th evening performance of the Pittsburgh Ballet.
- Deepest sympathies to Heather and Pastor Michael on the passing of Heather's mother, Carol Ann.
- Congratulations to Kathy Hart and George Horner on their October 31st nuptials here at FPCE.
- Condolences to the family of Robert Carmack, who passed on Oct. 19.



Deacons' Doings...

We have so much to be thankful for in life. God has made it possible for us to work together to accomplish some incredible things. For example: Being able to help people; Our Food Pantry has helped so many people this past Summer and already quite a few this Fall. We have a lot of pasta, beans, mac-cheese and corn bread mix that will be given to Word and Worship

Church in North Braddock. We can always use cereal, dry milk, sauce, peanut butter, jelly, tuna and tuna helper, toilet paper, Kleenex and paper towels; Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.

The Manger Tree Project is coming sooner than we think. So how can you share the hope of Christ this Christmas season and bring joy to someone's heart? Take a Manger or two and bring a gift to church for one of God's children. If you want to donate money, we can purchase a gift and/or wrapping paper. Let's share the joy of giving.

We will be making Harvest Baskets for our "Friends of the Church" and FROGS will be making a craft for the baskets. Let us all remember "our friends"; drop them a line or give them a call; they would enjoy hearing from you.

Part of being thankful is being able to help others. Lift someone's burden to see a grateful smile, to receive a thank-you card. Together we can make a difference.

*I enjoy being a blessing to others (1 Timothy 6:18),
Mary Ann Hartman, Moderator,
The Board of Deacons*

Project Manger Tree

Beginning Sunday, Nov. 8, the Board of Deacons will be working with Action Housing Homeless Service again this year. We have had an overwhelming response from the congregation in the past and would like to continue this wonderful project.

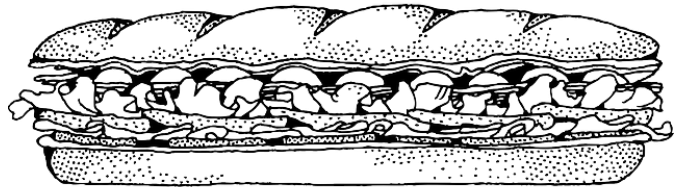
Please select a tag from the tree and buy an age-appropriate gift. Money can also be donated to buy wrapping paper, gift bags and ribbon. See any Deacon for more information about the project, for help in selecting a manger tree tag and for gift ideas. Please sponsor one of God's children.

We would like your UNWRAPPED gifts along with the tag returned to the church **by Dec 6**. Thank you for your support of this project.

Deacons Hoagie Sale Returns

The Deacons are selling the famous Triangle Hoagies.

- 8" Italian \$7.00 with/without oil
- 8" Corned Beef \$8.00 with/without oil
- 8" Turkey \$8.00 with/without oil
- 8" Roast Beef \$8.00 with/without oil



Orders are being taken now. Call the Church Office at 412-241-4613 to place order, send in check made payable to FPCE with "hoagie sale" in memo line. **Deadline is November 16th by 2PM. Pick up will be at the church on Thursday, November 19th from 11AM-1PM, and 4-6PM.** Questions, contact Rick Masten at 412-371-4984.

December Upcoming Events

- Saturday, Dec. 5 - ESO Holiday Concert
- Sunday, Dec. 6 - Advent Taize Worship, Congregational Meeting (election of officers, receive budget)
- Sunday, Dec. 13 - North Hills Singers visit FPCE Worship (mini-concert after service)
- Sunday, Dec. 20 - Advent Emerging Worship
- Thursday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Worship at 8:00PM

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Saints Sunday 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Worship (S) Communion 12:15 Fellowship (L) 12:15 Prayer Chain Meeting (GP)	2	3 10:00 Book Club (L) 3:45 FROGS 7:00 Deacons (L) 7:00 AA (SR)	4 7:00 Bible Study (L)	5 3:45 FROGS	6 8:00 AA (SR)	7 8:30 AA (SR)
8 Stewardship Sunday 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L) 3:00 Women's Choral Festival (S)	9 7:00 Men's Group 7:00 Scouts (SC)	10 10:00 Book Club (L) 3:45 FROGS 6:30 BLOCKS 7:00 Session (GP) 7:00 AA (SR)	11 7:00 Worship Ensemble (S) 7:00 Bible Study (L)	12 1:00 PW Circle (GP) 3:45 FROGS	13 8:00 AA (SR)	14 8:30 AA (SR)
15 9:00 Worship Ensemble (S) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Emerging Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L)	16 7:00 Scouts (SC)	17 10:00 Book Club (L) 3:45 FROGS 7:00 Session (GP) 7:00 AA (SR)	18 7:00 Bible Study (L)	19 NO FROGS	20 8:00 AA (SR)	21 8:30 AA (SR)
22 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Thanksgiving Worship (S) 12:15 Hanging of the Greens (S)	23 7:00 Men's Group 7:00 Scouts (SC)	24 10:00 Book Club (L) 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA (SR)	25 7:00 Bible Study (L)	26 THANKSGIVING DAY	27 OFFICE CLOSED 8:00 AA (SR)	28 8:30 AA (SR)
29 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L) 12:15 Planning Meeting (GP)	30 7:00 Joy Circle (L) 7:00 Scouts (SC)	C=Choir Room GP=Gathering Place L=Lounge O=Office PS=Pastor's Study S=Sanctuary SC=Scout Room SR=Social Room				



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CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Poinsettia plants may be contributed by anyone to help decorate the sanctuary for the Advent season. Please fill out the order blank below and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the Church Office. **Deadline is December 6, 2015.**



I wish to contribute _____ Poinsettia(s) for the beautification of the Church Sanctuary for Christmas.

I would like choice of color: ___red ___white ___marble

Please attach a check or money to this order form. Make all checks payable to First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood. **The cost is \$7.50 per plant.**

The wording: ___In honor of: _____

 ___In loving memory of: _____

By: _____

___I wish to take my plant after the Christmas Eve candlelight service.