

# 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 2017**

## PASTOR'S POINT OF VIEW



Michael P. Rucker  
Pastor

He was nearing retirement. I believe he was about to step back from his leadership responsibilities at my home church, First Presbyterian Church in Canton, Ohio. I do not recall whether he was a retiring minister or elder. I did not know him well; I don't even remember his name. But I respected him mightily and will not forget the closing words of his final sermon. *"For me, one verse in scripture has guided me reliably and unfailingly through my years as a servant of Jesus Christ. It is from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians: **"We walk by faith, not by sight."***

*If I have learned anything in my years of ministry it is this; we never know what God is up to - and thank God we don't! We cannot see what lies ahead, so we take care of today the best we can.*

This church leader had experienced a lot in his lifetime as a leader in the church. The Great Depression, World War II, the Korean Conflict, the Viet Nam War, the '60's, and the myriad of responses the church had to all of those challenges. He made it. He stepped back with a smile on his face and love in his heart. **"We walk by faith, not by sight."** Do these words speak to you?

One thing I have learned in my years of service is that we rarely see what God is doing by looking at the surface of things. The changes – on the surface - of church life these past thirty years! O my! I hardly need recount them. But if we only look at the surface of church life (attendance, giving, number of

## Worship Schedule for November

### **NOVEMBER 5 (Don't Be Early...Change Your Clock...Get an Extra Hour of Sleep!)**

All Saints Sunday. The history of this congregation is filled with men and women who have walked by faith and blazed trails of worship and service before us. The service will include the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.



### **NOVEMBER 12**

According to the Gospel of Matthew, before Jesus departed from them for his journey to the cross, he told them three powerful parables. During this worship service in our classic worship style, we will let the experience of Ten Bridesmaids teach us something about the value of faith that endures. (See Matthew 25: 1-13)

### **NOVEMBER 19**

Stewardship Sunday. During this Emerging Worship style service, our Praise Ensemble will lift our spirits and our songs as we recall the expectations a certain generous but absentee landowner had of those he left in charge during his trip away. There is good news. The landowner does reward those who are willing to take a chance and invest what does not really belong to them. The bolder the investment, the better. (See Matthew 25: 14-30.)

## STAFF DIRECTORY

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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'd.)

diligently report to the PCUSA every January, things do not look good. But, ***“we walk by faith, not by sight.”***

To me, that means we keep on keeping on with what God has called us to do. Worship. Serve the community the best we can. Take care of one another. Pray. Study the scripture. Meet together and encourage one another. Love one another. Doing these things in faith is our responsibility. Renewal and reformation is up to God.

The church of Jesus Christ has carried out its ministry ever since the Day of Pentecost. God has remained faithful. Let us trust that God is faithful to us. Still. Today. Let us be sisters and brothers to one another and seekers of God – ***“we walk by faith, not by sight.”***

*Pastor Michael*

### STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS ON NOVEMBER 19

#### ***Stewardship is a Spiritual Matter and a Matter of our Life Priorities***

In our daily activities, prayer and Bible study comprise the foundation of our Christian lives. These practices result in meaning worship and the fruits of worship are service and stewardship. Does being a Christian bring you joy? If so, let us be mindful of what we reap and give accordingly. God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Cor 9:7)

### HANGING OF THE GREENS

#### **Sunday, November 26, 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. 26**. 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.

### Worship Schedule for November (cont'd.)



#### **NOVEMBER 26**

Christ the King Sunday. We have reached the end of the church calendar year. On this Sunday following Thanksgiving, we will do two things. First, we will listen as our shepherd, Jesus, plainly tells us what he expects of us. (See Matthew 25: 31-46.) Secondly, after worship, we will prepare the sanctuary for the season of Advent, which begins on Sunday, December 3.

## **ALL OF YOU ARE INVITED**

### **TO TALK...TO LISTEN...TO PRAY**

#### ***“FPCE: The Community Church Recreating a Vibrant Community”***

Clearly, life at FPCE is not as it used to be. And that statement applies to congregations – Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Orthodox - throughout the Edgewood and surrounding communities. Congregations across America, truth be told. It’s time to simply sit down and listen to one another, pray for guidance, and share our thoughts.

At its October meeting, the elders and I had a short and invigorating discussion about this very matter. By the end of the conversation two things were clear: it is time to think in new ways, and we would like to hear from as many of you as possible.

In early November, you will receive a letter urging you take part in one of at least three gatherings where we will engage in these “holy conversations.” During these conversations, we will adhere to a few guidelines:

Let us not relive or revisit the past. As wonderful and meaningful as the history of FPCE has been, we can relish it as a beautiful memory, but it is time to look ahead. Whenever the Apostle Paul encourages his congregations, he always talks about “looking ahead” and “running the race set before (not behind) us.”

This is not the time to accuse or place blame. Wanting to blame someone or something, some decision or today’s culture is a tempting and easy thing to do. But, in the end, not helpful at all. Accusations and blame will only guarantee a quick close to what I hope will become a heartfelt dialogue.

Listening to one another will be every bit as important as speaking what is on our minds.

The session and I would love to hear every idea that any of you might have. There are creative ideas out there; let’s hear them.

The details as to where and when the meetings will be held are still be finalized. But keep your eyes peeled – a letter is coming your way.

Pastor Michael



**LUELLA BROE** can be called, sent cards, or visited at the VA Hospice in Aspinwall.

**Call** 412-822-2459 (or her cell phone)

**Mail to:** VA—PHS

HJ Heinz Community Living Center

Heinz Unit 3A—Rm. 132

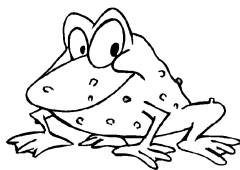
1010 Delafield Rd.

Aspinwall, PA 15215

If you **visit**, she is in Bldg. 51, Rm. 132. With advance notice, she can be “sprung” for lunch or a “chick flick!” ;-)



Some of these kids need help with their homework.....how could you resist???? Please give us an hour of your time on Tues. or Thurs. afternoon!!



# 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”.

We learned about Columbus and did Halloween/fall crafts/activities. On Oct. 19, we took a field trip to the Edgewood Fire Department so they could learn about fire safety. Officer Fred Livingston of the Edgewood Police presented a Halloween safety program on Oct. 26.

Also many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who help make this program so successful, especially during homework time.

Huge thanks for the donations of snacks and drinks from the wonderful FPCE family.

**Snacks are still needed:** fruit snacks, crackers, chips, cookies, and/or drinks: Capri Sun, juice, etc.

*Judy Mysels, Director*

## ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Sunday morning adult class at 9:45 currently discussing the letters of Paul. Lively conversation. All welcome.

Tuesday book group 10 a.m. now reading *Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths*. 361 Maple Ave.

Did you know FPCE has 18 active Prayer Warriors? Become one, or email/send us your prayer requests. Next meeting is Sunday, November 12, following worship.

Returning soon: Wednesday evening classes. Have an idea for an intriguing, controversial, or riveting topic? Or something you’ve always wanted to talk about with others? Shoot Pastor Michael a text or email.

Twitter sermons? Try your hand at one.

# FPCE Building Renovation Reminder

## REMINDER:

*Building renovation pledges for 2017 are due by year end!*

### RENOVATION UPDATE

The church renovation will go forward in two phases, one is the replacement of the steam heat system with a forced air system and second is the reconfiguration of the first floor which includes wheelchair lift, new bathrooms, larger Gathering Place and kitchen.

Before any construction contracts can be issued, building permits need to be obtained from Edgewood Borough which requires detailed drawings of the proposed HVAC additions and modifications. These drawings are in addition to Lami Grubb Architect work that addressed only the first floor. Phase 1 covers HVAC in all areas of the church, including the basement Social room, second floor day care and Sanctuary.

The HVAC drawing are complete and by the end of October will be submitted to Edgewood Borough for approval and a building permit. The Phase 2 drawings were submitted when completed over a year ago. Once building permits are obtained, contractors can be selected and construction will begin. Phase 1 will be completed before beginning Phase 2. The HVAC drawings can be viewed at: <https://sites.google.com/site/fpcerenovation/>

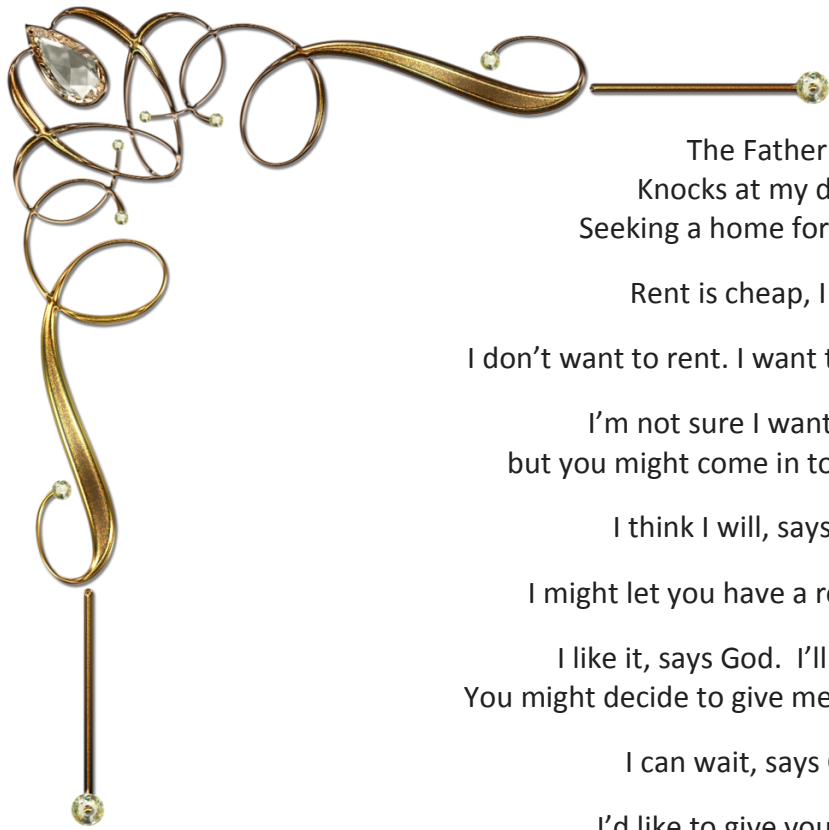
To pay for the renovation the following procedure will be followed:

1. The Building Renovation Fund was supported by the congregation with pledges of \$104,114.00 over a three year period. In 2017 YTD a total of \$53,064.00 has been received. I encourage everyone who has pledged to send their 2017 commitment to the church.
2. A 15 year line of credit/loan will be obtained from the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation at 4.25%, fixed for 5 years and secured with FPCE investment as collateral. The line of credit will be used to fund construction and will convert to a loan when Phase 1 is complete.
3. The FPCE investments will be reinvested with the goal of providing \$24,000 annual income without reducing the investment principal of about \$600,000. The present income into the General Fund from investments is about \$5,000 annually and the additional income will help to pay down the loan. As long as interest rates continue to be low, additional loans will be pursued as the project progresses.

Tom Ochs 10/23/2017



- The FPCE family extends its sympathies to the family of Doris Jones. Doris was a stalwart active member of FPCE in her younger years. She passed away on October 9. Pastor Michael conducted a funeral service on Monday, October 16.
- The \$350 donation to the FROGS from the Deacons is very much appreciated. This donation can buy much needed supplies, games, etc.
- Thank you for supporting the work of the Church World Service. \$264 was raised from the FPCE family in support of the annual Crop Walk on Sunday, October 8.
- Allie Jean, daughter of Kathy (Hart) and George Horner, was baptized on Sunday, October 29th. Congratulations, Kathy and George!! And welcome to the world, baby girl!



The Father  
Knocks at my door  
Seeking a home for his son.

Rent is cheap, I say.

I don't want to rent. I want to buy, says God.

I'm not sure I want to sell,  
but you might come in to look around.

I think I will, says God.

I might let you have a room or two.

I like it, says God. I'll take two.  
You might decide to give me more some day.

I can wait, says God.

I'd like to give you more,  
but it's a bit difficult. I need some space for me

I know, says God. But I'll wait. I like what I see.

Hm, maybe I can let you have another room.  
I really don't need that much.

Thanks, says God. I'll take it. I like what I see.

I'd like to give you the whole house  
but I'm not sure...

Think on it, says God. I wouldn't put you out.  
Your house would be mine, and my son would live in it.  
You would have more space than you've ever had before.

I don't understand at all.

I know, says God, but I can't tell you about it that.  
You'll have to discover it for yourself.  
That can only happen if you let him have the whole house.

A bit risky, I say.

Yes, says God., but try me.

I'm not sure...  
I'll let you know

I can wait, says God. I like what I see.

*Margaret Halaska, osf*



# November



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
				3:45 FROGS	8:00 AA's	8:30 AA's
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
9:30 Choir Reh. 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship <b>Deacon Mtg.</b>		10:00 Book Club  3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA's		1:00 Daytime Circle  <b>NO FROGS</b>	8:00 AA's	8:30 AA's
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
9:30 Choir Reh. 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship <b>Prayer Chain Mtg.</b>		10:00 Book Club  3:45 FROGS  <b>7:00 Session</b> 7:00 AA's		3:45 FROGS	8:00 AA's	8:30 AA's
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
9:30 Choir Reh. 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship		10:00 Book Club  3:45 FROGS  7:00 AA's		THANKSGIVING DAY  OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED  8:00 AA's	8:30 AA's
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		
9:30 Choir Reh. 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship <b>Hanging of the Greens</b>	7:00 Joy Circle	10:00 Book Club  3:45 FROGS 7:00 ESO reh. 7:00 AA's				



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### December Upcoming Events

Saturday, Dec. 2 - ESO Holiday Concert, 7:30PM

Sunday, Dec. 10 - Congregational Meeting (election of officers, receive budget)

Sunday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Worship **at 7:00PM**

