



FPCE Ministry & Mission Continues Through Summer Heat

We typically do a July-August newsletter due to the church calendar "settling down" during the summer. However, exciting things continue at FPCE, and we wanted you to keep up on what is happening. August brings us the next installment of our monthly community meals, the return of Emerging Worship (hopefully) outside on the lawn, a new way for FPCE to be involved in the annual Edgewood Community Day, and continued talks about the proposed renovations to our building. Read on to learn about our vibrant worship, joyful fellowship, and heartfelt outreach as we strive to live out our mission to love God, love each other, and love our neighbors.

Community Meal



WEDNESDAYS

August 5, September 2, October 7
6:00-8:00PM, Side Lawn*

We will continue our outreach to the community this summer and into the fall with several more dinners on the lawn. 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? Meet to set up at 5:00, or stay to clean up after. Or Contact Chris Baldwin, Tyler McGuigan or Jim Segedy. Make sure to sign up on the lists in the side entrance to bring dishes, too!

**If inclement weather, we will move into the Social Room.*



AUGUST 2015

Summer Worship Schedule

Services begin at 10am through September 7

AUGUST 2

(John 6:24-35; Exodus 16: 2-4, 9-15)

On this morning of music, liturgy, prayer and reflection on the bread which will not leave us hungry, we will remember and celebrate the community which gathers around the Lord's table to share the meal of unity Jesus gave to us.

AUGUST 9

(Ephesians 4:25-5:2; Psalm 34:1-8)

Community rules! My wife shared results of an inquiry conducted by a researcher on why young adults go to church. Can you guess what that reason is? What draws you to Sunday morning worship?

AUGUST 16

(John 6:51-58; Proverbs 9:1-6)

Do you know how many times food and eating are mentioned in the scriptures? The staples of any good meal? Bread and wine. A reflection on what communion with Jesus is all about.

AUGUST 23

EMERGING WORSHIP RETURNS (outside weather permitting)

(Ephesians 6:10-20; Psalm 84)

Everyone of us has a set of defense mechanisms we turn to when threatened, Paul concludes his remarkable Letter to the Ephesians urging us to put on a God-given set of defenses.

AUGUST 30

(Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23; James 1:17-27)

Jesus goes head-to-head with the religious authorities and their traditions. Where does "good really come from? Will we know it when we see it?

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

Student Pastor..... Jeffrey Nine
jeff.nine@westernsem.edu

Minister of Music..... Shaun Cloonan
music@fpcedgewood.org

Organist & Pianist..... Sunny Sakai
sunnysakai4@gmail.com

Section Leaders..... Tyler McGuigan
Mandy Rineer

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

Building Manager Rob Mysels
building@fpcedgewood.org

Nursery Attendant..... Kristi Cloonan
LittleK815@aol.com

Summer Office Hours:
Monday–Friday
9:00AM–1:00PM



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.

PASTOR'S POINT OF VIEW



Michael P. Rucker
Pastor

Happy Summer to all members and friends of FPCE,
A COUPLE OF UNRELATED but important items will
occupy “my” space this month.

THANK YOU FOR THE INSTALLATION SERVICE AND RECEPTION!!!

On Sunday, June 14, I was installed as your full-time
(on longer interim) Pastor—or Teaching Elder
according to the Presbyterian Book of Order.

The service was led by good friends, fellow pastors and
elders—The Dr. Beverly James, Reverend Sharon
Stewart, and Elder Roger Stuart.

The wonderful, delicious and filling reception was
organized and served by Lorraine Douthett, Mary Ann
Hartman and the Deacons, Chris Baldwin and other
elders. (I am sure I neglected to list some names, my
apologies.) Suffice it to say—the day was worth
waiting for.

Now let’s get to the work of loving and serving the
community in which God has placed us!

#

WE KNOW HIM SIMPLY AS JEFF NINE, Student Pastor.
Jeff teaches, leads a men’s group and occasionally preaches
and leads us in worship.

The world now knows him as :

Dr. Jeff Nine
Pathologist and Director of Autopsy Services
for the UPMC hospital system

The July 2015 edition of the Atlantic Monthly features
an article describing the work Jeff does in the bowels of
the autopsy service at UPMC. A fascinating article that
describes Jeff perfectly. Check it out at [http://
www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2015/07/
pathology-medicine-autopsy-pathologist/398288/](http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2015/07/pathology-medicine-autopsy-pathologist/398288/)

(FYI... FPCE members, Dr’s Paul and Karen Otori, work in
the UPMC Pathology Department as well.)

FPCE at Community Day 2015

This year's Community Day for Edgewood Borough is scheduled for **Saturday, August 29**. For the first time, FPCE has decided to sponsor a *game booth* run by various members/friends of the church. Not only will we be handing out prizes from the game, but also brochures about our church to Community Day participants spreading the word about FROGS, upcoming events, etc. Come down to Koenig Field and support our game booth from 12Noon to 5PM.



Renovation Update

Following the worship service on Sunday, June 28 about 30 people remained for a very informative Question and Answer meeting about the proposed building renovation. Pastor Michael presided over the discussion, but Tom Ochs, Dan Mielke, Chris and Greg Baldwin especially, all addressed concerns and answered questions about the

ambitious project. The session voted (and those present concurred) that an architect would be hired to provide a complete set of plans and specs for the renovation. Initial fundraising efforts will begin soon. Pastor Michael with input from Tom Ochs and others is forming two sub-committees, Fund-raising and Building Design, to provide leadership for the next steps. It was agreed that once the architect had completed the drawings, another informational meeting would be called that would include a power point presentation of the proposed design of the first floor.



P.W. Corner

Lori Stutz
Moderator



It's about a nice smothering 90 plus degrees today, and probably the farthest thing from our minds is the cool crisp air of fall, or the fabulous, brilliant, art work of God's Autumn. But before you can get too comfortable in your shorts and T-shirts it will be time to pack them away for sweaters and jeans.

We are having a Woman's Fall Retreat at antiochianvillage.org. This is a camp and conference center right outside Ligonier. The retreat will be the weekend of September 25,26,27, 2015. Hotel like accommodations, beautiful scenery, fellowship with other woman, and our key note speaker will be Rev. Page Creach.

Rev. Creach lives in Franklin, PA, and is known for her humorous, down to earth, relatable messages. Originally, she told me she was going to pray about our program, she came up with the theme, "**Begin Again.**" What a wonderful theme and time that we will have. Now, some of the details, PW will provide transportation to and from the church to the center. We will have free time, movies, a program, and 4 meals are all included in the program. As far as cost, we suggest a donation to off set costs. The spaces are limited!!!!!!!!!!!! So please let us know as soon as you can so that you get a spot. If you have any questions please let me know via email xyyzzdesertroad@aol.com or phone 412-829-1410. Let me know or the church office if are interested in attending, please leave your necessary info, Name, address, phone number, email. If you need transportation.

I also want to say to a special Thank you to Elizabeth Hand for helping with all her help and Donations to PW.

Our next meeting will be after the retreat. We are still in need of some ladies to be on the nominating committee, to nominate people for officers, please contact me and let me know.

I hope you enjoy your summer, and that we all get to have a wonderful time together in fall. In the meantime enjoy the warm days of August.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

*Growing in Faith
& Spirit at FPCE*

Wednesday Night Bible Study “Tour Through the Bible”

The weekly “Tour Through the Bible” class meets Wednesdays at 7:00PM in the Lounge when there isn’t a Community Dinner. If you are looking for a new Bible study to join, now is the time. The class is low-key, no previous reading or preparing is required. Bring your favorite Bible and join us as we unwrap the story of God in a fun and interesting way. The class is led by our student pastor, Jeff Nine.



By Judy Mysels, FROGS Program Director

FROGS are already hopping...planning for our **September 8** start-up day. We met on July 14 for calendar planning, brain-storming, etc. and came up with ideas for activities, crafts and field trips for our FROGS youth.

Emily Lilly and PACES will be coming Sept. 17 for a program in development, linked and center around natural science, specifically animals and their habitats, followed by a field trip sponsored by PACES to Carnegie Museum of Natural History on Sept. 24.

I would like to thank Presbyterian Women for a donation from their Mission Funding to the FROGS program to be used for scholarships, special events, etc.

I would also like to invite FPCE members and friends who have a special talent, gift or job that could be shared with our FROGS program/youth to think about coming in on a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon. For example, Mary Ann Hartman, visited the kids last year during dental hygiene month to teach proper teeth cleaning, gave samples of toothpaste/toothbrushes, etc. Anyone who might be interested in coming in for an afternoon session, please feel free to call the Church Office at 412/241-4613 or email: FROGS@fpcedgewood.org.

Our special volunteers make our FROGS after school program flourish. If you would like to volunteer a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon, we would love to include you. All volunteers have completed all clearances/paperwork in order to be around the kids.

Most importantly, please spread the word about our FROGS after school program. The Edgewood Elementary School is switching back to Kindergarten to 3rd grade, so our parameters have changed a bit. Some of our FROGS from last year left us due to various reasons, so we need to broaden publicity.

BLOCKS

The “BLOCKS” Program For our Youngest Disciples

In April, we gathered for our first BLOCKS program. The first “foundation” word of the day was **church** and the little ones of FPCE sang songs, drew pictures, and played with blocks while learning how “we are the church together.” As we continue learning, join us on **Wednesday, August 19, 6:30-7:30 in the Gathering Place**. BLOCKS is for children ages 6-months to kindergarten with a caregiver. This gathering of the young is taught by Emily Lilly.

Tuesday Book Group

This group is reading a wonderfully informative book entitled *The Bible Speaks to You*. The author, Robert McAfee Brown, in his own informative and whimsical manner, will take us through some of the more puzzling questions people ask of the Bible and the Christian faith. If interested, Pastor Michael, the class leader, has a book for you. The group meets Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the home of Rhonda Apossos, 361 Maple Avenue, Edgewood.



Alaijah Clements

(a member of the 2015 Confirmation Class)

I believe in God, the Creator of the world and us.

I believe that no matter what I do - God will always love me.

I believe that God sent his son, Jesus, into the world to save us from our sins. I believe Jesus died and rose from the dead.

I believe that the Holy Spirit is always in us and guides us to do right.

I believe the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit form the triune God.

I believe the Bible is God's word. The scriptures teach us about creation, Jesus' life and tells us how God wants us to live.

I believe the church is our faith family. At church Christians gather as a family to worship God and do his work. I believe we are all children of God.

I believe the sacrament of baptism formally unites us with God and our church family.

We practice communion as Jesus taught his disciples and we remember Him. When I take communion I feel closest to Jesus and remember how He died to save me.

Looking ahead...

There will be 2 more community meals after this month, with the next one happening on **Wednesday, September 2.**

The last summer worship at 10:00 will take place on **Sunday, September 6.**

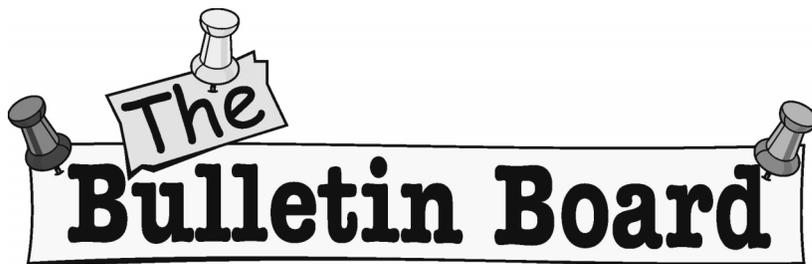


The Church Office will be closed the following day, **September 7**, in honor of the Labor Day holiday.

Regular fall programming, including 9:30 choir rehearsal, 9:45 Sunday School, and 11:00 worship, will begin on **Rally Day, Sunday, September 13.** Nancy Ernst is heading the activities for this day, so look for more details in the September newsletter!

Other dates to mark down include:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Tuesday, September 8 | FROGS begins |
| Fri-Sun, Sept. 25-27 | PW Retreat |
| Wednesday, October 7 | Community Meal |
| Sunday, October 11 | CROP Walk |
| Sunday, October 18 | Potluck Luncheon |
| Sunday, November 8 | Women's Choral Fest |
| Sunday, November 22 | Calendar Planning Mtg |
| Sunday, November 29 | Hanging of the Greens |
| Saturday, December 5 | ESO Holiday Concert |
| Sunday, December 13 | Congregational Mtg |
| Wednesday, December 24 | Christmas Eve Service |



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

- **GOOD NEWS** from our local Edgewood Police. Starting August 1, yellow lines will be painted on the curbs on East Swissvale Avenue (in front of our 2 sanctuary door entrances) in order to control parking from local school buses. This will help immensely when turning left (times posted on sign) or right from parking lot. This will apply only during weekday hours to discourage school bus drivers from causing accidents or hazards.
- **OUR PRAYERS** are with the Florence Pickels' daughter, Holly Steiner and Holly's two boys. All three are facing health challenges at this time. Holly's words in her emails to Patti Mielke, the chair of our Prayer Chain Ministry, are heart-felt and faith-filled. Here is one thought from Holly I feel free to share with you: *Thank you all again for your support. I pray that you find good in praying for us and that you might also be strengthened.*
- **BILL AND DONNA STINEMAN**, long-time, brave, faithful servants of the Lord, express their gratitude for your prayers as they move slowly but certainly along the road to healing.
- **FOR ALL TRAVELERS, VACATIONERS, STAY-CATIONERS**— We pray for your time on the road or at home to be safe, fulfilling and re-creation-al!

Remembering Our Past...

Last summer, we reprinted an essay that Florence Pickels found when she was going through old papers that gave a fairly detailed history of the "Edgewood Presbyterian Church," as FPCE was called originally. A follow-up to that was supposed to have happened the next month and it never did. You may not know this, but we actually have an anniversary coming up in 2016. It will mark this church's *quasiquicentennial* celebration, which is a word that no one knows that means 125th anniversary. There are several ideas floating around about how we might honor this special occasion, including a "homecoming" worship service, expanded concert series, reunions, and more. Everything is very much in the initial stages of discussion, so if you have any ideas, feel free to talk to the Elders or staff members.

While we begin to plan, take a few moments to read what Mabel Holliday wrote for the program booklet when we celebrated our centennial in 1991. Here is her historical recounting of "Edgewood Presbyterian Church - The First Hundred Years - 1891-1991."

As the year of Centennial celebration of the Edgewood Presbyterian Church approaches, those interested in preserving its history throughout this first hundred years have found limited information available in the Church records. A request for additional historical data has been made of the Edgewood Historical Society (1944-1988). This society preserved a more comprehensive history of the Church from its inception to the present. A desire to supplement already documented historical information and to bring it up to date is the reason for this essay.

The sources of information are from the ongoing records of the Historical Society, contained in its Annals which include the original copy of the attached prize-winning essay by Mary Purdy; "Edgewood - Once Upon a Time" by Mrs. Thomas S. Grubbs, published in 1934; Earnest S. Craighead, first Historian of the Edgewood Historical Society, and his sister, Mary Craighead Brinton; and from material contained in various church bulletins and papers preserved by the Society. All of the above was recorded before 1965. Later reminiscences and comments are supplied by the writer of this essay.

A comprehensive Fiftieth Anniversary celebration history of the Church published in a Church Bulletin in 1944 preceded the essay by Mary Purdy. There was also a publication of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary celebration, with some variations, in 1966.

Recollections by Mrs. Grubbs, a member of the early church, are quoted as follows: "Our community had depended on Swissvale, Pittsburgh, Beulah, and Wilkesburg Churches. Prayer meetings were held in various homes and Mrs. Gordon, Sr., gathering about her a little group, held a Sunday School in her home."

A dialogue between Ernest S. Craighead and Mary Brinton records that women began holding garden parties for the purpose of raising funds for a church. The first party raised \$170.00. At that time the home of Alexander Gordon, Sr. was 149 Gordon Street. Between 1957 and 1959 during renovation the front of the house was changed to face Chestnut #327, presently the oldest house in our borough still standing.

"On March 26, 1891, a group met in the home of Mr. W. N. Taylor to consider the organization of a church and Sunday School and plans were made to purchase a lot to erect a suitable building. At a meeting of the subscribers to the building fund held July 11, 1891, a committee consisting of Messrs. W. N. Taylor, Wm. N. Burt, E. J. Harlow, and A. W. Cadman, was appointed to present a petition to the Presbytery signed by 65 persons for a church in Edgewood."

According to a letter addressed to Mr. Craighead from Allen S. Davison, January 14, 1944, 46 persons were organizers of the church: Swissvale 10; Wilkesburg Presbyterian 17; Bellefield 7; First Presbyterian-Pittsburgh 4; First Congregational Allegheny 5; Second Presbyterian-Pittsburgh 1; North Presbyterian-Allegheny 2. The home of W. N. Taylor was 346 Maple Avenue.

"In December 1891, the petition was granted, and Johnston Baldwin, Matthew Bigger, Robert C. Moore, and Wm. N. Burt were elected Ruling Elders. The first Board of Trustees consisted of Messrs. A. W. Cadman, C. M. Thorp, Wm. G. Gordon, Edw. J. Lloyd, W. N. Taylor, and J. H. Harlow. The Sunday School was organized in January 1892 with ten teachers and fifty pupils and Mr. John F. Miller, Superintendent."

"Pending the erection of the church a little frame building on the Keller property where Mr. Curtis now has his office, originally built as a Land Office, was used for church services. An organ was installed with Mr. E. J. Lloyd as organist. In May 1890 (error in date - other documents state March 1892) the Reverend Earnest McCartney was called and the Building Fund was increased by heroic efforts on the part of the women of the congregation, who gave fairs and suppers to which everyone went, and it is needless to say that in the upbuilding of our church ties were formed and friendships cemented which endure to this day. In 1893 a beautiful little church was built and Mr. C. C. Mellor donated a handsome organ."

Records of the Historical Society show that the frame building used for church services had been an office for Squire Collins, owned by Homestead Land Company before Incorporation of the Borough. Here the Reverend Dr. Samuel J. Fisher, Pastor of the Swissvale Church, conducted the first service. The first sermon was preached by the Reverend John Gordon, son of Alex and Mrs. Gordon, Sr. Mr. Edward J. Lloyd, donor of the organ, was organist and choir director. Mr. Craighead remembered the

organization of the Boys' Brigade in 1907 in the little church. The Keller property mentioned by Mrs. Grubbs is now an apartment complex. In the early years of the new Edgewood Church, Chauncey and Mrs. Mellor took charge of the musical service as a labor of love, he presiding with his well-known skill at the organ, and she taking charge of the singing in the choir. Mr. Mellor died in 1909. Margaret, daughter of C. M. Thorp, was the first child baptized in the Edgewood Church.

"By 1916 we had so outgrown our little church that plans were on foot to utilize the old building as far as possible and to extend a new building to the sidewalk on Swissvale Avenue. The old Church, setting well back, had a large expanse of lawn in front. On July 22, 1917, the cornerstone of the new church was laid and on November 17, 1918, the beautiful commodious structure was dedicated. Mr. George S. Davison presented the beautiful organ in memory of his wife, Clara Isabel Davison, and later the melodious chimes were installed, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. George A. Blackmore."

"I might say in passing that the Edgewood Presbyterian Church, or Community Church, as it is called, occupies an absolutely unique position in the community. Many small towns of our size are endeavoring to support six or eight small churches of various denominations."

Following is the list of items contained in the Cornerstone:

Two copies of the Edgewood Presbyterian, dated March and June 1895.

"The Continent," "The Banner," "The Presbyterian," "The Outlook," of July 19, 1917.

"The Pittsburgh Post," "The Pittsburgh Dispatch," "The Gazette Times," of July 21, 1917.

"Church Bulletin" July 22, 1917.

The Program of the Services of the Laying of the Cornerstone July 22, 1917.

The Leaflet, "The Four Evangelists."

The continuation of the History of the Church from June 29, 1892 to the present.

A copy of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Church together with the Directory of the Officers and Members.

A list of the Officers, Teachers, and Scholars of the Sunday School.

A list of the Officers and Members of the Women's Association.

A list of the Officers and Members of the Men's Association.

A list of the Officers and Members of the Endeavor Societies - Senior and Junior.

A list of the Officers and Members of the Cot Club.

The Constitution, Officers, and Members of the Woman's CLUB of Edgewood.

The Officers and Members of the Civic Club.

The Edgewood Public Schools.

The Edgewood Borough Officers.

A list of the Charter Members of the Church.

In 1918 George S. Davison, father of Allen S. Davison, donated the large organ pipes. Among his many gifts to the Church was the Tiffany carved woodwork with its motif the Thistle and the Rose, on the pulpit and chancel. The chimes donated by Mr. and Mrs. Blackmore were dedicated in 1929. Plans for the present edifice were drawn in 1916 by the architect, Thomas Hannah, and ground was broken April 9, 1917. Total cost of the new church and its furnishings was \$150,000.00.

In 1967 a new Moeller organ console was dedicated. At this time the Zimbelstern Bells were added to the organ, a gift to the Church by a grateful patient of Dr. William E. Gibson.



The Men's Association remained active in the Church through the 1950's, sponsoring annual Father and Son Dinners. Mother-Daughter dinners were sponsored by the Women's Association through the 1960's. Boy Scout Troop 1 – now #23 – was sponsored by the Edgewood Church as early as the Fall of 1914, having received its charter upon application by several members of the Church. Scouts still meet in the Church. The Historical Society Annals contains a letter written by John F. Miller, a charter member of the Church, October 22, 1925, indicating that Scout activities were carried on in the Church before that date. In 1925 Mr. Miller became the second president of the East Borough Council, succeeding Edwin M. Herr, also an Edgewood resident. During the 1940's and 1950's three adult Bible classes met each Sunday: The Home Training Class whose teacher was Dr. Walter Moser; the Fellowship Class taught by John "Jack" Duff; and the Men's Class taught by George Roth Craig.

During this time of expanding membership it became necessary to utilize space as yet not in use throughout the church structure. The Pastor's office was moved and refurnished; an Assistant Minister's office created along with a Women's Lounge and small kitchen attached, conversion of the old Pastor's Lounge to a storage area for church and pulpit supplies. Extensive alterations and additional rooms and toilet facilities were also made on the lower levels, including enlargement and redecoration of the church kitchen and dining room. The Home Training and Fellowship classes acquired special meeting rooms. A Teen room was created. Additional rooms for Christian Education of the children of the church were created on the second floor of the building. Dedication of the Christian Education Unit was on March 31, 1957. Between 1953 and 1956 the Church property was expanded southward by the purchase of the adjoining lot at 116 East Swissvale Avenue.

During this renovation the Fellowship Class donated to the Church a small library of religious books which had been a possession of "Jack" Duff. The site of the old pastor's office became the new Church Library under the guidance and direction of Mrs. Stewart Townsend. The complete library of Allen S. Davison was donated by Mrs. Davison who had transported the entire collection from their home in Florida, to which they had retired. Mrs. Townsend, former Librarian, maintained the Library for many years. Furniture for the Library was donated by Mrs. Davison. Two of the chairs were placed in front of the chancel. They were eventually covered with needlepoint. Miss Virginia Watson designed the covering which carries the motif of the woodwork in the Chancel and the needle work was done by several women in the Church. The Kneeling bench and its satin covering were gifts from Mr. and Mrs. George Roth Craig and Mr. and Mrs. William H. Hamilton in loving memory of Anne Gibson, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. William E. Gibson after her death in 1972. Mr. Hamilton crafted the bench, also four circular stands to be used for holding

plants or flowers. Two large brass urns were also donated to the church.

The role of women in the governing body of the Church and in its ministry gradually became more prominent with the ordination of women elders taking place nationally in the early 1930's. The first women minister was ordained in 1956. During the ministry of the Reverend Gerald Hollingsworth, women were elected to be Deacons. The first woman elder in the Edgewood Church was Mrs. Samuel Craig, in the mid-1960's; Mrs. Townsend the first woman on the Board of Trustees. For a brief period during his ministry, a woman served as Assistant Pastor. During the ministry of Mr. Douglas Stevens, in 1990, there was a woman Interim Associate Pastor (Rev. June Taylor).

On September 11, 1983, Edgewood Church was joined by the First Presbyterian Church of Wilkinsburg. The jointure changed the name of the church to First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood.

In 1988 Pittsburgh Presbyterial Society changed its Constitution and name. The Women's Association of the First Church of Edgewood, and affiliate, adopted the change and at this time became known as "Presbyterian Women."

The Reverend Walter L. Moser, D.D., an Army Reservist, interrupted his ministry to answer the call to the military during the Second World War. He was Chaplain for the Pennsylvania National Guard at Chanute Field in Illinois. One hundred sixty Edgewood Church members also served in that War. Dr. Moser was Stated Clerk of Pittsburgh Presbytery for many years while ministering to Edgewood Church. From the mid-1960's until his death in 1978 he was Pastor Emeritus of the Edgewood Church. The Moser family resided in the Manse, 128 Hawthorne Street. The first mans was the original home of George Harlow, brother of James H. Harlow, a charter member of the Church, located at the corner of Locust and Hawthorne Streets. The house was sold in 1925. Three years later 128 Hawthorne Street became the Manse. The Reverend Gerald Hollingsworth, who succeeded Dr. Moser in 1959, lived in the same residence until about 1964 when the Church members approved the discontinuance of the use of a Mans for its pastors and their families.

The proposed budget of \$26,111.50 for the year ending March 31, 1944 was approved at the Congregational Meeting held April 21, 1943. The 1988 Annual Report for the fifth year of the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood included a proposed budget for 1989 of \$273,350.00.

In 1990 a brass Standard was purchased from the Louis F. Demmler Memorial Fund. This attractive addition to the Chancel will hold the Advent wreath and candles.

Mabel A. Holliday
December 6, 1990

A Letter from the Associate Minister for Discipleship to Pittsburgh Presbytery: *Let's Eat!!*

July 23, 2015

"When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?'" John 6:5 NRSV

As a brand new grandmother to a baby girl, Aria, who will be seven weeks old by the time this page is available to read, I have come to relearn that the first hours, days, weeks, and even months, of a child's life are all about eating. The number one goal for a newborn is growth. Of course -- kisses, hugs, lots of gentle talking, and even singing are also important!

But growth does not occur without steady, frequent, meals. The baby and new parents' lives really revolve around eating, broken up by periods of sleep. Eventually, if the eating enterprise goes well, there are periods of cheerful wakefulness in which everyone starts to get acquainted by introductions, conversations, and a whole lot of love.

We might think that eating and drinking would become less central over the years, but really, that's just not true. God has made us in flesh that requires frequent "feedings" all through our lives.

There is the food that keeps our bodies alive and well. But there is also the spiritual food that nourishes our minds, hearts, and souls. God and Jesus care deeply about both kinds of food.

Jesus knew people needed to eat. He needed to eat! And so he gathered his disciples together to share meals. Jesus also knew that many of the "people" around him were frequently in need of both edible and spiritual food.

In last week's passage from Mark, we read these words: *"Jesus said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. As he went ashore, Jesus saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things."* Mark 6: 31, 34

We see in this passage both kinds of hunger. Jesus ignored neither. In Mark, the very next event is the miracle of the loaves and fishes.

In John's telling of this same miracle, Philip can't figure out where they will find food for five thousand hungry souls. He answers the question Jesus posed above with these sarcastic words: *"Philip answered him, 'Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.'"*

In other words, "Give it up, Jesus! WE are hungry! Let's go grab dinner in a nearby village." To which Jesus responds by working a miracle of abundance from some bread and fish.

We live in an age of microwaves, snack-packs, and frozen meals. We can zap most anything in a couple of minutes and eat standing alone in the kitchen. We can go through this life increasingly by ourselves, alone, eating our yoghurt drinks on the run, and hitting the drive-through on the way home.

We can avoid the burdens of preparing meals for the community, and of opening our doors and hearts to the hungry. We can avoid making the effort to create a homemade meal to be shared sitting down around an actual table, or on a picnic blanket, or in a fellowship hall.

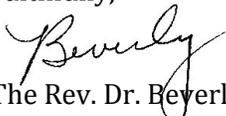
The early church looked like this: *"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."* Acts 2:42 We still need to be that Church!

So let us gather together whenever we can, to share a meal, to introduce ourselves, to have conversations, and to share 'the whole lot of love' of God in Jesus Christ with one another and a hungry world.

"While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' 'I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.'" Matthew 26:26; 29

From birth, to death, to life beyond death...we will still be coming to the table. So, let's eat!!

Faithfully,



The Rev. Dr. Beverly W. James,
Associate Minister for Discipleship to Pittsburgh Presbytery

News & Announcements from Pittsburgh Presbytery

Revisions to PA Child Protection Laws Effective Immediately!

On July 1, 2015 Governor Wolf signed into law additional revisions to Pennsylvania's child protection laws, effective immediately. A primary focus of this new legislation is to "clarify and make more explicit" provisions regarding background checks and clearances for employees and adult volunteers who work with children. The goal is to strike a balance between protecting children and not making the background check requirements for volunteers so onerous that programs beneficial to children are adversely affected.

Significant provisions of this new law include:

- Clarification of the deadlines for obtaining clearances and background checks;
- Extension of the time that clearances and background checks will be valid to five years;
- Codification of the waiver of the fees for volunteers for the Pennsylvania criminal history background check and child abuse history clearances;
- Clarification that administrative personnel supervised by mandatory reporters are not themselves mandatory reporters unless the individual has "direct contact with children."

Training for Volunteers Who Work with Children & Youth

Are you a volunteer with children or youth at your church? Did you say "yes" to yet another year of being a volunteer? Or will you be starting as a new volunteer in the fall?

You are committed and want to be faithful in the spiritual formation of children and youth! We want to help you improve your ability to do that well. We would like to provide our dedicated volunteers with an opportunity to learn new tips and skills that will make being a volunteer safer, more fun, and lead to real growth. Adding skills and gaining insight will make working with children and youth more fulfilling.

We invite you to a one-day event on Saturday, September 19:

"You Said Yes, Now What?"

**Volunteer Training for a Sustainable Children & Youth Ministry
Saturday, September 19, at Beulah United Presbyterian Church
from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM**

This event is for you! During this one day, with an eye on creating opportunities to meet in the future, you will connect with others who have said "yes" and who now want to fulfill that "yes" with new, tangible skills.

This day is an opportunity to see, do, and even try out new and exciting activities and approaches to children and youth ministry. With an expanded skill set, we will all become more competent and effective in being and making disciples. This will not be a day of just listening to a talking head!

This event is sponsored by the Crestfield Camp & Conference Center, the Ministry of Discipleship, and the Administrative Commission for Transformation of Pittsburgh Presbytery.

Lectionary Bible Study

The Lectionary Bible Study group meets every Monday from 10:00 AM-11:30 AM at the East Branch Regional Office located at Second United Presbyterian Church (300 Hay Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15221) in Wilkinsburg. Pastors, seminarians, CREs, church members and friends are welcome. We will read and discuss the lectionary readings for the coming Sunday following the Monday we meet. Pastors, this is a great way to get a jump on your sermon!

AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 10:00 Worship (Communion)	3 7:00 Scouts (SC)	4 7:00 AA (SR)	5 6-8PM Community Meal	6	7 8:00 AA (SR)	8 8:30 AA (SR)
9 10:00 Worship	10 7:00 Men's Group 7:00 Scouts (SC)	11 7:00 AA (SR)	12 7:00 Bible Study	13	14 8:00 AA (SR)	15 8:30 AA (SR)
16 10:00 Worship	17 7:00 Scouts (SC)	18 7:00 AA (SR)	19 6:30-7:15 BLOCKS 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Worship Ensemble (S)	20	21 8:00 AA (SR)	22 8:30 AA (SR)
23 9:00 Set-up Outside 10:00 Emerging Worship	24 7:00 Men's Group 7:00 Scouts (SC)	25 7:00 AA (SR)	26 7:00 Bible Study	27	28 8:00 AA (SR)	29 Edgewood Community Day 8:30 AA (SR)
30 10:00 Worship	31	Sept. 1 7:00 Deacons (L) 7:00 AA (SR)	2 6-8PM Community Meal	3	4 8:00 AA (SR)	5 8:30 AA (SR)



**Don't miss the next
FREE Community Meal!
Wednesday, August 5
6:00-8:00PM**