



news from the **EDGE**

120 East Swissvale Avenue

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15218

412-241-4613

office@fpcedgewood.org

December 2013

LOVE GOD LEACH OTHER 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
in the
Sanctuary

www.fpcedgewood.org

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

YOU?

Sponsors are needed for upcoming issues. Contact the office.

Marvel in its Miracles

December is upon us, and that means a time of joyful expectation and anticipation for Christians. The Advent season takes us on a faith-filled journey with the believers of old to Bethlehem, the birthplace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We celebrate that journey in many ways at First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood. We spend a day in quiet conversation with God during our Advent Prayer Vigil; we provide space for those not feeling joyful due to personal issues at our Blue Christmas Service. The arrival at Bethlehem takes place in our traditional Christmas Eve Service, as we welcome the Christ Child through prayer, song, candles, and communion. Join us as we journey together this Advent and "marvel in its miracles..."



December Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 1

Join us as we open the season of Advent with the celebration of the Lord's Supper. We will be decorating the sanctuary and enjoy a luncheon afterwards.

Sunday, December 8

Pastor Rucker will be preaching on the beautiful, prophetic words of the Prophet Isaiah. (See Isaiah 11) What a vision!

Sunday, December 15

The Praise Ensemble will lead us in our emerging style of worship. The Christmas beat will never be the same.

Wednesday, December 18

This is the evening for our contemplative, quiet "Blue Christmas" service. This month of robust celebration can be a difficult time for those who lost the person with whom they celebrated. This is a service for them.

Sunday, December 22

We will celebrate our Festival of Lessons and Carols service. Special music is being prepared. Many people will lead us through the Christmas story, full of wonder, full of joy.

Tuesday, December 24

The Christmas Eve service is an evening of enchantment and beauty. The carols...the choir...the candle-lighting...the miracle of God incarnate. 7:30PM in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 29

What is a "Snuggie Worship Service?" We all gather in the lounge for a fun and meaningful service full of fellowship, song, laughter and food. Your entire family will love it.



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 **Michael P. Rucker**
mprucker@fpcedgewood.org

Pastor Emeritus **Dr. Gerald Hollingsworth**

FROGS Program Director..... **Debbie Pike**
frogs@fpcedgewood.org

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

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

Choir Section Leaders **Mia Hotkowski**
Tyler McGuigan
Mandy Rineer

Office Manager **Judy Mysels**
office@fpcedgewood.org

Building Manager..... **Rob Mysels**

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

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



A Warm Advent Greeting to All!
CONNECTED.

WE ARE...IN WAYS WE CAN HARDLY COMPREHEND.

On four evenings last month, I took a seminar on the inter-relationship between faith, science and evolution. What did I learn? Connectivity is at the heart of it all.

In the very fiber of our being, we are connected to the universe...to the cosmos. As Carl Sagan put it, *"We are made of star-stuff. There are pieces of star within us all."* Less poetically, but still gripping, this statement by astronomer Harlow Shapley back in 1929: *"Our very bodies consist of the same chemical elements found in the most distant nebulae (star) and our activities are governed by the same universal rules."*

We also are connected to our evolutionary history. From the National Geographic News, March 2010: *According to new DNA studies, most humans have a little Neanderthal in them, at least 1 - 4% of a person's genetic makeup."* The seminar affirmed both of these connections with more up-to-date research. We are connected to the universe around us and to the deep evolutionary history behind us. Amazing.

Advent is equally amazing. Advent means that we are connected to the Creator who got this whole life business started by with the words, *"Let there be light."* Hundreds...even thousands of generations rose and fell throughout time and we lost the connection with the One who created us, the One who loves us. Yet God longs to be connected to us. God longs to be connected to you. And so, God sent his son to us as a baby to heal and re-gain that broken connection. *"The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God."* (C.S. Lewis in his work, *Mere Christianity*.)

Brothers and sisters, dwell intently on this reality over the next month: We are connected to God, the Lord of the universe, to the Alpha and Omega of history, to sisters and brothers around the world. Advent celebrates this amazing connection. A blessed advent to all!

Pastor Michael



DECEMBER

Events & Activities

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Sunday, December 1 following worship

Advent, our journey to Christmas, is here! We'll begin our visible preparations with the Hanging of the Greens after church on December 1. We'll meet in the Lounge for fellowship, then, as usual, we will dress up the sanctuary and hallways for Christmas. Join us for this time of celebration and anticipation. Many hands make for light work—the more, the merrier!



BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Wednesday, December 18 at 7:00PM

The holidays can be a time of anxiety and sadness for those dealing with loss and grief, financial insecurity, difficult family situations, addictions and other less-than-merry circumstances. This quiet, contemplative service is for those who need a break from the frenzy and false cheer of the holiday season. Through music, scripture and liturgy, we'll seek to provide a genuinely sacred experience that reveals the deep compassion and love of God.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS:

Advent Dinner & Study

On Wednesdays, December 4 and 11, Pastor Rucker will lead a discussion on two of Advent's background stories. Come and discover which two key "figures" unveil the significance of the Christmas stories found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. The evenings begin at 6:30PM. Join us for a fun and relaxed evening of food, fellowship, study and prayer.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, December 8, following worship

We will conduct a congregational meeting immediately after worship on Sunday, December 8.

This will be an informal meeting at which you'll get a chance to see and comment on the 2014 budget before it is formally adopted by the session. We also will elect officers to the class of

2016. The session values your input and seeks to be responsible stewards of your money. Copies of the proposed budget will be available at least one week prior to the meeting.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

ADVENT PRAYER VIGIL

Friday, December 20

Advent is a time of expectation, a time where we keep vigilant watch for the coming of Christ because "...you do not know when the time will come." (Mark 13:33) Our Advent prayer vigil is an opportunity for you to practice the discipline of watchfulness. Our sanctuary will be open from 9AM-4PM on Fri., 12/20.

A sign-up sheet will be at the side entrance. People may come for as long as they are able. You may come as an individual, couple, small group or family. More than one person or group may be present at the same time. If you would like to come for the traditional 30 minute period, that will be fine as well. This is a great opportunity to enter more fully into our journey toward Bethlehem.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24 at 7:30PM

This service moves from prophetic expectation to awestruck wonder as we celebrate the Savior's birth with song and scripture. We'll celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and conclude singing Silent Night in a sanctuary illuminated only by candlelight.

*Glory
to the
Newborn
King!*



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF EDGEWOOD

Home for the Holidays
Berlin's White Christmas
Chadwick's Noel
Herbert's March of the Toys
Traditional Rock of Ages (Arr. by Molly D. May)
Select Holiday Favorites

Bring the entire family to hear your holiday favorites while experiencing the inspiring performances of the Edgewood Symphony Orchestra. It wouldn't be the Holidays without highlights from Handel's inspiring Messiah featuring the Renaissance City Choirs. The ESO continues its tradition of ushering in the holiday season with the ever-popular White Christmas, Sleigh Ride, the March of the Toys and the Polar Express. This is a concert not to be missed!

Featured Artist(s)
The Renaissance City Choirs

Venue Details
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EDGEWOOD
120 E Swissvale Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15218
Tickets are available at the door
(cash or credit cards accepted)

PROJECT MANGER TREE

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 in the back of the sanctuary 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 8. Thank you for your support of this project.

LISA SEGEDY'S JEWELRY SALE

Thanks to everyone who purchased jewelry on Nov. 17 to support the Deacons. Another jewelry sale will be held on December 15 in the lounge after worship service with 100% of the proceeds going to the Deacons to support their work in the Church. Great for Christmas gifts!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Tuesday Group

For the month of December we will be looking at the scriptures of Advent and offering our usual support to one another. Join us in the Lounge for an hour beginning at 10:00AM.

Adult Sunday School Class

A special Advent series will take place during our Adult Sunday School class beginning December 1 through January 5 at 9:45AM in the Lounge. Jeff Nine and Pat Carrick will be leading the discussions.

Youth Sunday School

Through the fall, the children and youth class has studied Paul's letters to the early churches (and us). We have learned that Christians are called to a life of love. Nothing can separate us from God's love! We are all part of the body of Christ; we are citizens with the saints and members of the household of God. We can put on the armor of God and clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. We can rejoice in the Lord always.

During December, we will study the stories of Advent. On December 22 we will stay in worship to participate in the service of lessons and carols rather than leaving for class.





P.W. CORNER

By Luella Broe, Presbyterian Women Moderator

Thank you, Ladies, for a fantastic 2 years as your Moderator. What did we accomplish? We grew and we now have an annual Peach Festival that helps this local PW chapter and the Board of Deacons. I know that we will continue to grow. Lori Stutz becomes the new Moderator as of January 1, 2014. Please support her as you have me. I know that she can count on your continued support. Lori wants to focus more on the local church. I will continue to work with Presbytery's PW. We have built a strong PW at FPCE. Let's keep it strong. It was decided in our quarterly business meeting that we should donate \$5,000 to the repair of the church roof! Finally, a big thanks to all who participated in

the Fall Bible Study.

"Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift a song to him who rides on the clouds-his name is the Lord—be exultant before him. Let us praise the Lord, Our God who does wonderful and marvelous things among us. Each day is the day that the Lord has made. The end of that verse says, "be exultant before him." Keep a song of praise in our hearts all the time. "Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel." Ps 68:35a (NRSV)

JOY CIRCLE CHRISTMAS PARTY
Monday, December 9, 6:30PM
at the home of Doris Hamilton
132 Beech Street, Edgewood
RSVP to Church Office 412/241-4613

CALL FOR 2013 REPORTS

On Sunday, January 26 immediately following worship, the Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held to receive the 2014 budget and to elect the church officers.



If you are the staff member, chair or secretary of a ministry team or organization within the church, please have your narrative report into the church office by **January 20**. It can be given in hard copy or e-mailed as a Word file attachment to Judy Mysels at office@fpcedgewood.org.

PNC UPDATE

The Pastor Nominating Committee has been hard at work and has just submitted the Ministry Information Form (MIF) to Presbytery. Now we wait to hear back from Presbytery as to the next steps. We will soon start to receive Pastor Information Forms (PIF) from potential applicants to review. The Committee will be more diligent to let the congregation know where it stands in the future.

THANKSGIVING THANKS

Thank you to everyone who helped plan, shop, cook, serve, deliver or clean-up our Thanksgiving meal. People in the community receiving meals were most grateful for the food, but especially for being remembered and visited on this special holiday.



THANK YOU for a great hymnal dedication service on November 24! As a congregation, you rallied behind the purchase of our new *Glory to God* Presbyterian hymnals, each contributing to the number of books that are now in the pews. I'm glad we were able to carve out a special place in the service to pay tribute to your support and to declare our collective intent to utilize the new books to our best abilities in worshipping our God.

I need to make a special thank you to Judy and Lorraine, who really went above and beyond in making sure that the dedication plates were properly placed in the front of the books, organizing them on the table by last name. I know we missed a couple, and we'll go back and make corrections as needed. For those that missed the service, the dedications are reprinted on the next page. Thank you also to the 10 or 15 folks that stayed after to swap out the rest of the blue books for purple, and to (FINALLY!) remove the red binders for good!

I've been told that there are several of you out there that would like to pay for a dedication. I think we can accommodate this...if you'd like to donate \$20 and add your dedication, we'll place another order by the end of December (guaranteeing the discounted price on the books).

Blessings to you all. I'm thankful each and every week to see you in worship, and look forward to continuing to sing a new song to the Lord!



**GLORY
TO GOD**

THE PRESBYTERIAN HYMNAL

We are grateful to all who donated and made the purchase of our new hymnals possible. Those who gave were offered the option to dedicate books in honor or in memory of a loved one. The dedications have been placed on the inside covers of individual hymnals and will be distributed into the pews after the completion of today's service. We dedicate these new hymnals as follows:

In Honor of:

Amy McCrady by Kemp Ed and Brenda McCrady
Brandon Ochs by Tom and Connie Ochs
Brenda McCurdy McCrady by Ed and Brenda McCrady
BSA Troop 23 Eagle Scouts by Liz and Kurt Held
Doris Hamilton, devoted, compassionate, giving, long-time member of the congregation
Edward Daniel McCrady by Ed and Brenda McCrady
Edward McCrady, III by Ed and Brenda McCrady
Elizabeth Fletcher Carmack by Robert Carmack, Jr.
Florence Pickels and her many years of handbell choir leadership by Bill and Martha Crean
H.E. Carmack, Jr. by Robert Carmack, Jr.
Janet D. Wolf by Ruth F. Wolf
Jim Haley by Marcia Haley
Kristi Cloonan by Marcia Haley
Linda Wolf Robinson by Ruth F. Wolf
Mariah Mysels by Judy Mysels
Mulberry Presbyterian Church by Elizabeth Hand
My Family by Florence Pickels
My Siblings - My Daughters and Sons-in-law/ My Grandchildren by Ruth Miller
Our beloved son-Jake John-Dean Santo by Michelle and Jason Santo
Our Children by Jim and Lisa Segedy
Our Loved Ones by Ralph and Ann Bliss
Our Parents by Jim and Lisa Segedy
Robert G. Wolf by Ruth F. Wolf
Ruth F. Wolf by Ruth F. Wolf
Rylie Ochs by Tom and Connie Ochs
Shane Mysels, "as long as I'm living, my baby you'll be" by Judy Mysels
Shaun Cloonan by Connie Black
Tyler Ochs by Tom and Connie Ochs

In Loving Memory of:

Addison Sharp by Betty Sheridan
Alice and Jack Gambill by Tim Carr
Alice Gambill by Connie Black
Alice Gambill - her love of music and humor by Bill and Martha Crean
Betty Aber by Tim Carr
Bob Hamilton by Doris Hamilton
Bonnie Squires by Will Squires
Charles and Edna Raisig by Russ and Flo Raisig

Charles Peterson by Tim Carr
Doe Pfundt by Connie Black
Donald, Linda and Jim Gallagher by Martha Gallagher
Dot and Ed Masten by Kay and Brad Masten
Edward McCrady, Jr. by Ed and Brenda McCrady
Elva Ruth "Anna" Martin by George and Debbie Pike
George and Fran Coolidge by James D. Moore, Sr.
Hal B. Coats and Florence H. Coats by Keith H. Coats
James H. and June F. Masten by Richard W. Masten
Jane Colborn by Tim Carr
Jim and Louise Moore by James D. Moore, Sr.
L. Claire Fisher, Catherine A. and Joseph E. Armstrong by Cathy Fisher
Lucille, our beloved wife and Mother by Al and Mary Ann Hartman
Margaret & Tom Smith from Salem, OH, who loved the FPCE sanctuary by Bill & Martha Crean
Margaret Baldrige McCrady by Ed and Brenda McCrady
Mary Sheridan by Betty Sheridan
Minnie and Joseph Nichol by Donna Stineman
My Dad, William R. Elliott by Judy Mysels
My Father, Al - a loving man, worthy of honor by Mary Ann Hartman
My Grandparents, Koichi and Terue Okada by Paul Ohori, MD
My Grandparents, Rev. Atsushi and Shige Ohori N. by Paul Ohori, MD
My Mother, M. Jean Tibby Carrick by Patrick Carrick
My Parents - My Husband - My Brothers and Sisters by Ruth Miller
Norma and Bill Schwartz & DoDo and Izzy Reese by Kay and Brad Masten
Rebecca McCrady Frey by Ed and Brenda McCrady
Ruth Rodgers McCrady by Ed and Brenda McCrady
The Remington and Stroman Families by Stephen Remington
Rev. and Mrs. Ervin J. Blair by George and Debbie Pike
Thomas Sheridan by Betty Sheridan
Treva Ann Chism by Emily Allen and Jake McGregor
Walter Stineman by Bill Stineman
William and Marie Stineman by Bill Stineman
William S. Bilyak by Margee Bilyak

**Additionally, there were several individuals who did not specify dedications. We weren't sure who preferred to stay anonymous, so that list was not included...but thank you!*



First Presbyterian Church of
EDGEWOOD
The Community Church

120 E. Swissvale Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15218



CHRISTMAS

EVE



*December 24, 2013
 7:30pm, Sanctuary*

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 8, 2013.**

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.