



# news from the **EDGE**

120 East Swissvale Avenue

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15218

412-241-4613

office@fpcedgewood.org

## MARCH 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](http://www.fpcedgewood.org)

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

Sponsors are needed for upcoming issues. Contact the office.

## PASTOR'S POINT OF VIEW

Thirty years gone by – my how things have changed! We can all say that, can't we? From your workplace to your home to the way we go shopping - nothing's the same!

Nearly thirty years ago I walked into my first pastorate. About that time, I read a piece of advice from one of those experienced, wise, pastor-turned-authors who wrote: *When you're new to a church, find the heart of your*

*congregation and beat in time with it.* I interpreted that to mean that as a new pastor I should walk beside, feed, encourage, pray for and support the servant-leaders who have worked so hard for so long. I believe I learned how to do that pretty well.

One major problem: in every church I have served (save one) as the leadership got older, the congregation grew smaller. There were fewer and fewer people to walk beside.

So, about fifteen years ago, I looked for some new wisdom from successful church leaders. I found a few of them, and basically, they said the same thing in their own way: *Seek out the fringe people—learn how to feed them with the good news of Christ—then open your doors.* I interpret that to mean it's time to look outward not inward; time to seek out the seekers; time to serve people who aren't in the church—yet.

*Continued on page 2*

## March Worship Schedule

### Sunday, March 3

On the third Sunday of Lent we will gather around the Lord's table and commune with him. As we do, we will take responsibility for our own spiritual growth and pray for others.

### Sunday, March 10

The scripture readings will all focus on one theme—homecoming. Powerful stuff!

### Sunday, March 17

How deep is your love? One woman friend of Jesus "got it." When it came to loving him; she went all out to show it. Emerging Worship.

### Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24

This is going to be a special day. Palm Sunday pageantry, celebration and drama!

### Maundy Thursday, March 28

One of the most meaningful and powerful evenings of the year. We will participate in Jesus' last night with his disciples.

### Easter Sunday, March 31

"CHRIST IS RISEN!" What can that possibly mean for your life? A whole lot, it turns out.



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**  
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**Mandy Rineer**

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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. from page 1)



We might not be able to define a fringe person, but we know who they are, don't we? Those who have strayed, never felt at home, have "issues", made wrong turns—people who don't believe they fit in. People who need to be reached and touched with the same gospel of the Risen Jesus Christ but in different ways.

As a pastor, and, you, as a church member, must ask our selves how to do that? Is there anything wrong with "beating in time" with the heart of the church? Absolutely not. Is there anything wrong with reaching out to the people who haven't found their way to the One who is "*the way, the truth, and the life*?" Absolutely not.

So how do pastors and church members do their jobs? Should we focus on the people within or the people without? Should we stop serving the current leadership and begin serving whoever is "out there?"

I believe I have an answer. Ideally—and the New Testament abounds with these kinds of stories— when the heart of the church is full of compassion and a strong desire to reach those who are "on the fringe;" God is able to do amazing things. The Holy Spirit springs to life and brings new life in new and unexpected ways.

I wonder if the FPCE family is ready to look beyond the walls, beyond those who are and always will be "present and accounted for?" Is the leadership...are the members...of FPCE ready to seek out the seekers? To live with those on the fringe?

As I close, I am going to challenge each of us to do one thing over the next month. Look around your neighborhood, think about those you work with, play with, talk with, run into every week— seek out a fringe person in your life. I am certain each one of us knows at least one. Think of that person. Pray for that person. Pray for her several times a day or more! Pray for him at night before you go to bed and in the morning when you wake up. Pray for that person and ask God how we, the daughters and sons of God at FPCE, can serve them with the same grace, love and humility that we show one another. Invite them into our hearts. Will you do that? Thank you. One piece of advice that has not changed in the past thirty years. All growth begins with prayer.

Peace and grace to you!

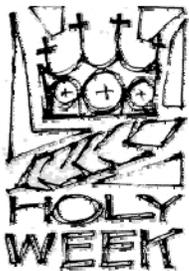
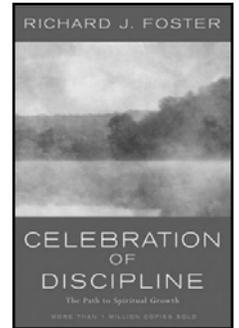
*Pastor Michael*



## LENTEN GATHERINGS

Lent is a time for discipleship. In the earliest days of the church, the season of Lent marked the time for new Christians to be trained in the way of Christ, then the new disciples rose to their feet along with the rest of the faithful on Easter morning and affirmed—*"Christ is risen!"* That period of devotion and training for new members has become a time of devotion, teaching and disciple training for all the church.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING DISCIPLESHIP:** *"The Celebration of Discipline"* might seem like a grim title for a book. Actually it is one of the most helpful and insightful books on spiritual formation and growth ever written. A classic. The book focuses on the spiritual disciplines of meditation, solitude, fasting, study, confession, etc. We will read and discuss three of those chapters on the Wednesday evenings of February 27, March 13 and 27. Our nights together will begin at 6:30 with a delicious soup and bread supper. Please join us—and bring a friend; it's a casual, warm-hearted and delightful time to be together. If you are interested in joining us, call the Church Office at 412/241-4613 or email Pastor Michael at [mprucker@fpcedgewood.org](mailto:mprucker@fpcedgewood.org) so enough material can be ordered.



### Holy Week begins on March 24, Palm/Passion Sunday

Our Maundy Thursday service will begin in Gathering Place and process to the sanctuary for a Tenebrae, service of shadows. Good Friday again will feature an all day prayer vigil in the sanctuary. Please consider signing up for a block of time to participate in our continuous prayer vigil. The sign-up sheet is at the side entrance for those who are interested. Join us for these Lenten services and take advantage of this time to grow more deeply in God's grace.

*"...the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart;" - 1 Samuel 13:14*



Some sobering statistics:

- On any given Sunday there are 13 million more women than men in America's churches
- Midweek church activities draw 70-80% more female participants
- Over 70% of boys raised in the church will abandon it during their teens and twenties
- Only 1 of 6 self described "Christian" men attends church regularly
- Fewer than 10% of U.S. churches are able to establish or maintain a Men's ministry
- Lack of male participation is strongly associated with congregational decline

Let's not be one of those statistics.

FPCE is looking for men seeking after the Lord's heart. Come and join us on March 11th for the start of a new and vibrant Men's ministry. We will meet bi-weekly, providing a safe and fruitful environment for men to discuss the struggles we face; to "lay aside every weight and the sins that so easily ensnare us" (Heb 12:1); to become men after God's heart.

**When: Monday March 11th, 7:00 pm**  
**How often: Bi-weekly**  
**Where: Lounge**  
**What: Bring your Bible and an open heart**

## NEWS FROM "THE GRIEVING SPACE"

A special Taizé service is being planned for the March 21 group meeting led by Pastor Michael. This is the fourth year we have held a Taizé service around the Easter holiday and people have found it to be a particularly moving and comforting program of prayer, silence, scripture, and chanting. Please come join us at 7:00PM in the Lounge. Coffee/tea, refreshments are served.



**SHARING  
BRINGS JOY**  
TO OTHERS, TO GOD, AND TO US.

Since 1949 Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians of several

denominations through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with those in need. This year's theme is "Sharing Resources, Changing Lives." Your generous gifts assist those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and assist in helping to empower the poor and oppressed. When emergencies like Superstorm Sandy hit, resources already exist to give immediate assistance through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The Presbyterian Hunger Program works to alleviate hunger and find longer-term solutions to food inequity through direct relief and partnering with positive programs. Self-Development of People participates in the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people through grants and other actions.

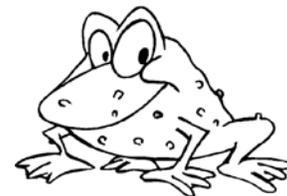
The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected both Palm Sunday and Easter, or may be sent in to the church any time this month.

## F.R.O.G.S.

(Friends, Reading, and Other Great Stuff)

Winter FROGS continues through March 21. The after-school program is going well with homework and activities up in the Gathering Place, outdoor play when weather allows, then dinner and dismissal downstairs.

Spring FROGS begins Tuesday, April 9 after a break for Holy Week and Easter. Meeting Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, we welcome new students (K-6) to participate as space allows. Any adults willing to volunteer regularly or occasionally on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays are welcome; please contact Debbie at [frogs@fpcedgewood.org](mailto:frogs@fpcedgewood.org) or 412-241-4613 for details.



## PARKING LOT CLOSED

Parking lot at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf will be unavailable after April 1 because of construction of a dormitory. Please use street parking East Swissvale Avenue and parking in the rear of the building.

## *The Edgewood Community Ringers*

Forming in 2013, this community handbell ensemble is based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Edgewood Community Ringers is hosted by the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood. This community group is open to people of all ages!

The best part about the Edgewood Community Ringers is that no prior musical experience is required to join. We can teach anyone to ring handbells! Proposed practice times would be at FPCE on Monday nights from 6:00-7:00PM.

Interested persons please email Amanda Smith at [Amanda.E.Smith@Scouting.org](mailto:Amanda.E.Smith@Scouting.org) for more information.





## **P.W. CORNER...**

*By Luella Broe, Presbyterian Women Moderator*

**PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN**

# **FLEA MARKET**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 10AM-2PM**

Presbyterian Women will host our annual Flea Market on Saturday, April 20. If you begin your spring cleaning this month, please save items for our sale and mark your calendar to volunteer or shop. Items will be accepted in April and volunteers will be needed the week prior to the sale for sorting and set-up. We need housewares, bedding, jewelry, toys & games, books, holiday décor, tools, and small appliances (sorry no clothing or electronics). If you have questions of what we can use or how you can help, please contact Chairperson Connie Black at 412-371-1062.

In addition, PW will be collecting twin bedding (donations of new or used twin sheets, pillow cases, blankets and pillows) for Mars Home for Youth in May.



### **a-MAIZE-ing Grace!**

Pittsburgh Presbytery's Malawi Partnership Ministry Team is collecting funds for famine relief in Blantyre Synod, Malawi. \$25 will purchase a 50 kilogram bag of maize (corn) which will supplement the diet of a family for a month. Presbyterian Women of FPCE are donating \$100 (voted on at February meeting). For more information on this worthy endeavor, see Doris Hamilton or visit [www.malawipartnership.org](http://www.malawipartnership.org) on-line.

### **MALAWI JOURNEY 2013**

Applications are still being accepted for Pittsburgh Presbytery's mission trip to Malawi, Africa scheduled for July 18-August 4, 2013. Persons applying should be comfortable talking about their faith and willing to travel into rustic and challenging rural areas. If you are interested in this trip, please submit a completed Journey Application Form along with a deposit of \$100 (refundable) as soon as possible. Applicants will be interviewed by the Malawi Partnership Executive Committee to ensure they are a good fit for the trip. See [www.malawipartnership.org](http://www.malawipartnership.org) for more information.



**"Peter's Epistles"  
Wednesdays,  
7:00-8:15 PM  
April 3-May 29**

Child care available upon request

### **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**

Thank you to everyone who put donations to fight hunger in the soup pots following worship on February 3, and thanks to the youth who did the actual collecting. The Mission & Evangelism Team has decided that this year's donations will go to the Deacons for the purchase of items needed for the food pantry that are not donated. (The 2012 donation was given to Wilkinsburg Community Ministry for similar needs.)

### **PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT**

Each year, FPCE contributes its share to the Presbytery, the Synod, and the General Assembly for ecclesiastical purposes. The amount is determined by the number of active members in the congregation. For FPCE, the amount is \$3500 or \$23.65 Per Capita. Our church pays this amount upfront and it is up to us to contribute our share. This "pay forward" example is similar to how Jesus had paid for our sins before our asking. So, the question becomes—how do we respond?

Envelopes are available at the front door or the side door. Otherwise, your *Per Capita* maybe mailed to the Church Office.

Blessings,  
*Paul Ogori*, Stewardship Team

# MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Communion 3 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Ed (L) 9:45 Pollyanna (GP) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L)	4 7:00 Scouts (SC)	5 10:00 Tue Group (L) 3:45.FROGS 7:00 AA (SR) 7:00 Deacons (L)	6	7 3:45 FROGS	8 8:00 AA (SR)	9
10 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Ed (L) 9:45 Pollyanna (GP) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L) <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>	11 7:00 Scouts (SC) 7:00 Worship Ens Practice (S)	12 10:00 Tue Group (L) 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA (SR) 7:00 Session (GP)	13 7:00 Lent Discipleship Study Group (L)	14 3:45 FROGS	15 8:00 AA (SR)	16
Emerging 17 9:00 Worship Ens. 9:45 Adult Ed (L) 9:45 Pollyanna (GP) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship	18 7:00 Scouts (SC)	19 10:00 Tue Group (L) 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA (SR)	20 <i>Easter Flower Deadline</i>	21 3:45 FROGS 6:30 Pack Mtg. (SC) 7:00 Taize Service (L)	22 8:00 AA (SR)	23
<b>Palm Sunday</b> 24 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Ed (L) 9:45 Pollyanna (GP) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L)	25 7:00 Scouts (SC)	26 10:00 Tue Group (L) 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA (SR)	27 7:00 Lent Discipleship Study Group (L)	28 3:45 FROGS 7:00 Maundy Thurs Service (GP & S)	29 6:30AM-9:00PM Good Friday Prayer Vigil (S) 8:00 AA (SR)	30
<b>EASTER</b> 31 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Ed (L) 9:45 Pollyanna (GP) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L)	 <span style="font-size: 4em; font-weight: bold; margin-left: 20px;">LENT</span>					

# EASTER FLOWERS

We seek your help in making our sanctuary a place of graceful beauty and meaning on Easter morning. Through your donation, we can accomplish this:

I wish to contribute an Easter plant:

\_\_\_\_\_ Daffodil      \_\_\_\_\_ Hyacinth      \_\_\_\_\_ Lily      \_\_\_\_\_ Tulip

The wording for the bulletin is:

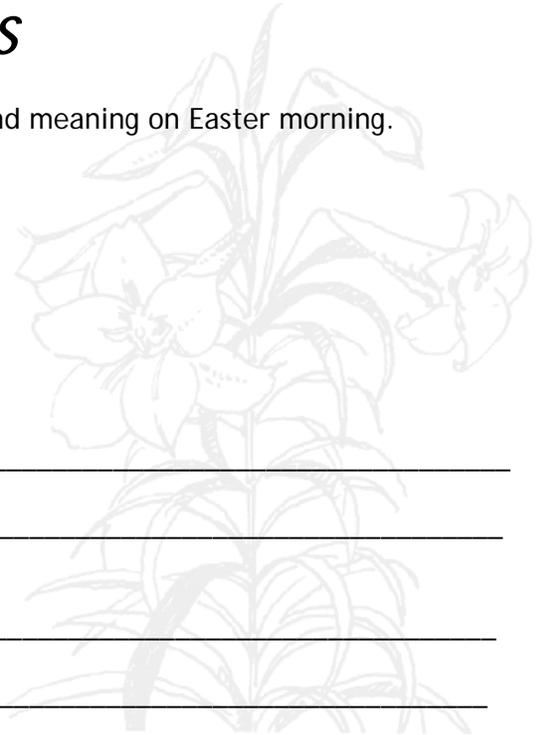
\_\_\_\_\_ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Order placed by \_\_\_\_\_

Please check:      \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to take the plant after the Easter service.

The cost of each plant is \$7.50. Please attach your check (payable to First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood) to this order form and return it to the Church Office. Deadline is March 20.



**A monthly support group  
for people surviving the  
loss of a love**



First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood  
Rev. Michael Rucker, Interim Pastor  
120 East Swissvale Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15218

412-241-4613  
office@fpcedgewood.org  
www.fpcedgewood.org

## GRIEVING SPACE

at the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood

Here, we understand that finding the space to grieve can sometimes be every bit as challenging as the loss itself.

Should you need us,  
our support group is here.

Meetings: every third Thursday of  
the month 7 pm

Call us to let us know you are coming:  
412-241-4613

Individual support with a certified  
grief counselor is also available through:

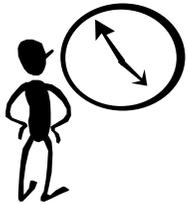


**Edgewood Psychological Services**



First Presbyterian Church of  
**EDGEWOOD**  
*The Community Church*

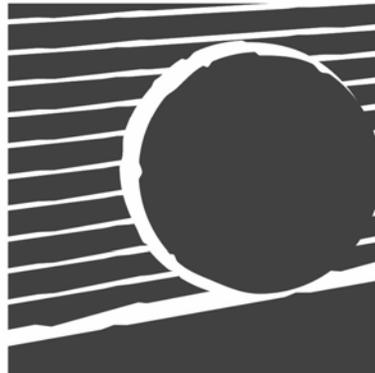
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*Don't forget to turn your  
clocks **FORWARD** (spring  
ahead) before church on  
Sunday, March 10!*



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## **LENTEN ACTIVITIES AT FPCE**

*Wednesdays, March 13 & 27  
Discipleship Study Group*

*Thursday, March 21  
Taize Service*

*Sunday, March 24  
Palm/Passion Sunday Worship*

*Thursday, March 28  
Maundy Thursday Service*

*Friday, March 29  
Good Friday Prayer Vigil*

*Sunday, March 31  
Easter Sunday Worship*