



news from the **EDGE**

120 East Swissvale Avenue

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15218

412-241-4613

office@fpcedgewood.org

**NOVEMBER
2012**

**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.

PASTOR'S POINT OF VIEW

Trust me on this, all the rain we are anticipating from Hurricane Sandy's visit will not dampen my spirits. What I heard from a half dozen people who know you is true - "FPCE is a great church full of wonderful, faithful people." I heartily agree! Thank you for your warm and encouraging reception.

And so we begin, my first job as an Interim Pastor, for you it is a second experience with an interim pastor in the past 10 years. Perhaps you have as much to share with me as I do with you. I attended an Interim Minister's Training event the second week of October and want to give you at least an outline of what an Interim Pastor is supposed to be doing.

This is an *interim period* - an "in between time."

As a congregation comes to the end of one pastor's ministry and anticipates the beginning of another, taking stock of who FPCE is, is a healthy thing to do. My oldest daughter's job will come to an end this year, she preparing herself for a new one in January. Fortunately she has a couple of offers to consider. My youngest daughter is readying herself for college. Still six months of high school to go, but her focus is on the future as she is taking a careful look a wide variety of institutions of higher education. Both of my daughters are asking themselves those basic, existential questions: Who am I? Who do I want to

Continued on page 2

Sunday Worship Schedule

Worship Alert! Sunday morning morning's at FPCE can become an important, meaningful and (yes) fun part of your week. Join us - bring a friend!

Michael and Heather. Manger Tree Kick-Off. Pastor Michael will preach about the "The Mighty Mite Lady" from Mark 12: 38-44.

Sunday, November 4

Recognition of All Saint's Day including the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Pastor Rucker will preach a sermon entitled: "Something Big Is Going On" based on Psalm 146.

Sunday, November 18

Emerging Worship service. Pastor Rucker preaching. Presbyterian Women will receive the thank-offering.

Sunday, November 25

Christ the King Sunday. Pastor Rucker preaching. Followed by "Hanging of the greens"

Sunday, November 11: a really big day! Stewardship Sunday (receive giving estimates). Luncheon with Pastor



First Presbyterian Church of
EDGEWOOD
The Community Church



STAFF DIRECTORY

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Interim Pastor **Michael P. Rucker**
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Pastor Emeritus **Dr. Gerald Hollingsworth**

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Tyler McGuigan
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)

become? What have I learned about myself these past several years? What are my strengths? What skills/abilities do I need to develop? What parts of me need to be left behind? What new directions are beckoning me forward?

In-between-times can be very fruitful and productive. Dreams that have remained beneath the surface have an opportunity to be born. Unfruitful areas of life can be pruned. New ways of "being the church" can take root in soil now lying fallow.

I will warn you of one common temptation to be avoided. A congregation cannot go "back to the past." Every church I have served had its "glory days": a time when the sanctuary was full, the Sunday School program burst out of its rooms, the fellowship was amazing and serving the community and world in Christ's name came naturally. Celebrate those days, give thanks for them, commemorate them but remember, those days will not come back. The world is changed, the community is changed, the membership is changed, the future is ahead of us, not the past. What kind of leadership does FPCE need to move into the future with energy and enthusiasm (literally, "in-God-ism!")? That's the big question!!!

The Interim Ministry trainers divided this "in-between-time" into stages:

1. Termination - celebrating but (however reluctantly) closing the door on the chapter in FPCE's life that has come to an end.
2. Direction-finding - Learning about the next steps that need to be taken before calling a new pastor. The session will work closely with the interim pastor and Presbytery representative to achieve this goal
3. Self-study - An "unhurried process of the congregation looking at itself, gathering
4. Search - Seeking, interviewing, praying with, praying for the PNC, the congregation and the person God has called to be the next pastor. This is a highly confidential step in the process.
5. The Decision - This is the joyful time when the search committee and the next pastor "find one another" and affirm that God is calling the congregation and new pastor to walk the next stage of their journeys together.
6. Negotiation - This is an important step, as the congregation and new pastor work through the details of expectations, compensation, start-up date, etc.
7. Installation/Start-up - Celebrate! It's a new day...a new beginning...a time when God will take another step in "making all things new."

My role, as an Interim Pastor is two-fold. I am to serve you as a Pastor is called to do, i.e. lead worship, preach, administer sacraments, perform weddings and funerals, make hospital visits, moderate session, etc. But I have to be careful to not become so dedicated to being your pastor that I neglect the important ministry of leading FPCE through this interim period. I am to walk you through the interim steps. I will be working very closely with the session as we do this. (A note: I will not be working with the Pastoral Nomination Committee, they will work closely with presbytery.)

There's the outline of what lies ahead of us. Let's all take a deep breath and open our ears and heart to the voice of the shepherd who assures us in John 10:14: "I am the good shepherd. I know my own, my own know me." The shepherd is leading us to new pastures. Let us follow.

In Christ's service,

Pastor Michael

We Live Together

"How very good and pleasant it is with kindred live together in unity!" – Psalm 133:1

As a fellowship of disciples of Jesus Christ, we are walking through this stage of our lives together. We find strength, comfort and joy in that unity—how good it is! Sure, we may disagree with one another when it comes to politics, theology, biblical interpretation, favorite worship style., the color of the carpet in the parlor or how we like communion to be served. But when it comes to praying for one another - we will be one, we will be "there" for you. We will *"rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep."* Romans 1:15. (Please call the church office with names you would to have included.)

We pray for healing in body, mind and spirit for:

Gregg Baldwin as he recovers from a stroke (Mercy Hospital). & for Chris as she provides care.
Ruth Wolf as she recovers from a brief hospital stay.
Tracy Huse.

We grieve with Helen Ebken and family as she mourns the death (on October 5) of two of her sisters.

We rejoice with

Jim Segedy in finding a new job.
Tyler McGuigan and Stephanie Nihart in buying a new home for their soon-to-be married life.
Ruth Hamilton and Tracy Huse—our most recent cancer survivors!
Jim and Marcia Haley celebrating 44 years of life together on October 12.
Shaun Cloonan for his birthday celebration.

Special prayer concern:

Our nation as we elect women and men into a positions of high responsibility on November 6.

Note: this is a new entry to our newsletter. It is not meant replace the prayer network. If we neglected to list your name - we apologize, the omission was entirely unintentional, give Pastor Michael/the church office a call and you will be included next month. Your feedback to Pastor Michael or session is appreciated!



A Youth Group has started here at FPCE on Wednesdays at 7PM (same time as Church Wide Bible Study). Childcare available for all ages. Youth could sign up to bring snacks, lead a lesson, plan a game on a rotating basis with various adults. Ideas or questions welcome.

CHURCH-WIDE BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, 7PM

Topic: The Beautitudes

Held every Wednesday until November 14
(except on Halloween—Oct. 31)
Child care available for all ages





**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

P.W. CORNER

By Luella Broe, Presbyterian Women Moderator

Bless the Lord, o my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. (Psalm 103:1-5 NRSV).

The Lord forgives our sins and heals our diseases whether they be physical, mental or spiritual. He has steadfast, unfailing love for us all regardless of our past.

As I copied, wrote these verses, I felt as though I wrote a prayer. Let us pray these verses through November and see how God blesses each of us. I know God and I

know he will bless.

PWPP Upcoming Events:

Nov. 10—Thank Offering Gathering at Presbytery Office

Dec. 10—4th Quarter Mission Pledge Due

2013 Events:

March 10—1st Quarter Pledge Due

March 16—Prayer Breakfast (location and time TBA)

April 20—Spring Gathering at Bethany Presbyterian Church

Local Events:

Nov. 4—P.W. Business Meeting/Election of Officers

Feb. 10—2013 P.W. Business Meeting

**November 4:
Following worship
in the Gathering Place
Monthly meeting &
election of officers**

STEWARDSHIP LUNCHEON

NOVEMBER 11

following worship in the Gathering Place



PROJECT MANGER TREE

Beginning Sunday, Nov. 11, 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 (located in hallway next to the water fountain) 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 9**. Thank you for your support of this project.

God Bless,
The Board of Deacons



FALL F.R.O.G.S.

(Friends, Reading, and Other Great Stuff)

Fall FROGS is hopping! Our afternoons include a meal; activity time for homework, reading, crafts, etc; and outdoor time. The fall days have mostly been beautiful for playing outside. Our outing to the Edgewood Borough Building was a treat despite walking there in steady rain - kids met firemen and police officers, and saw some of the tools they work with. Sitting in a police car and checking out the jail cell were highlights for the students.

Our after-school continues Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, with a few days off in November for conferences and Thanksgiving. If you are able to give an hour or so of your time, consider a visit to see what the church is offering the children of our community. To set up a visit or to volunteer, please contact Debbie at frogs@fpcedgewood.org or 412-241-4613.



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER, 12-4PM

This outreach event has brought hot, home-cooked meals to many Edgewood homebound residents, provided fellowship for those without families to spend the day with, and a given a holiday pick-me-up for service workers at the police, fire, and EMT stations in the area. The entire meal is donated and prepared by church and community members. If you would be interested in helping to prepare the meal, cook an extra turkey at home to donate, provide canned or boxed donations, serve the meal, or deliver take-out meals, please contact Judy at the church office to get signed up. All hands and hearts are welcome for this important hands-on act of compassion toward the Edgewood and surrounding communities.

Organizational plans are already underway to get ready for the day. Here is what is needed: 20 turkeys (at least 10 cooked and delivered to the church before 10AM on Thursday). Other donated turkeys can be roasted the day before by needed volunteers. Will also need vegetables and potatoes (we will have the food drive donated by Shadyside Academy delivered on Nov. 19 which will help with peas, corn, sweet potatoes, stuffing mix, gravy, etc.). Lists of needed donations of other traditional homemade side dishes such as mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes/yams, (watch out for upcoming BOGO's in store ads), stuffing mix, gravy, rolls, butter, pies, etc. will be posted/listed on the side vestibule bulletin board. Volunteers are needed the day before (Wednesday) to peel potatoes, set up tables, chairs, decorate tables, cut butter, make stuffing, run dishes through dishwasher (time to be announced). Then on the big day (Turkey Day) 10 people are needed to set up serving stations and prepare food for delivery (delivery begins 11-11:30AM), clear tables during dinner/ refill drink containers, plus 2 clean up crews (3-5PM) and 5-7PM) with everyone returning to their own homes by 7PM. If you will be out of town and cannot participate, feel free to send a donation of food beforehand or a check made out to FPCE with Thanksgiving Dinner in the memo line (for various supplies such as butter, milk, onions, spices, etc. that need to be bought).

Watch for upcoming bulletin inserts and sign-ups on bulletin boards to help in any way.

Joys and Concerns of God's People in Edgewood

We had another beautiful day for the Crop Walk. Participants: Mary Ann Hartman (and friend), Tyler McGuigan, Stephanie Nihart, Judy and Mariah Mysels finished in record time. Upon registration, recorded initial contributions, but monies can be still be collected. Deadline is Nov. 14. Checks can be made payable to CWS/CROP or cash donations can be dropped in the collection plates or mailed into FPCE.

Thanks to all who helped make Harvest Happening a fun time had by all! (at least those who were there?) Special thanks to Mary Ann Hartman, Ruth Miller, Mary Ross, Rick Masten for their extra help before, during and after. To help improve next year's plans (dates, activities, etc.) please feel free to pass comments/suggestions, questions to the church office via email at office@fpcedgewood.org or call at 412/241-4613.

HANGING OF THE GREENS
Sunday, November 25
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 **November 25**. We'll meet in the Lounge for fellowship, then, as usual, we will sing and pray. But we'll set aside a majority of our time for dressing up the sanctuary and hallways for Christmas. Join us for this time of celebration and anticipation.

Order Your Thanksgiving Pies NOW!

The Worship Committee is selling pies for Thanksgiving again this year. Selections include: Chocolate Meringue, Coconut Meringue, Lemon Meringue, Apple, Dutch Apple (crumb topping), No Sugar Added Apple (with Splenda®), Blackberry, Wild Berry Cherry (strawberries, blueberries & cherries), Razzleberry (blackberries, red raspberries & blueberries), Cherry (traditional tart cherry), Peach, Raisin, Pumpkin, Harvest (mix of blueberry, blackberry, cranberry, cherry and strawberry), Pumpkin Roll (can be frozen) 6 1/2" approx. - serves 8-10. Cost is \$8.75 per pie and the same for Pumpkin Rolls. See Lorraine for ordering or to get an order form if you can help with sales. Profits from the sale will go to worship related expenses. **Order deadline is Sunday November 4th.** Pick up your orders at the church on November 17th between 3:00 - 5:00p.m.



DEACONS SOUP SALE

Sunday, October 28-November 25

Autumn Harvest Pumpkin Lentil
Candlelight Corn Chowder
Fireside Supper Bean
Penn's Pike Potato Leek
Wagoner's White Bean Chili

Barn Raising Country Vegetable
Colonel Maxwell's Minestrone
Henna Marie's Potato Cheese Soup
Pioneer Split Pea
Yankee Doodle Chicken Noodle

Blacksmith's Black Bean Chili
Colonial Broccoli Cheddar Chowder
Mi Madre Maria's Chicken Tortilla
Ten Shilling Sherried Mushroom



Cooke Tavern Soups offer an easy, tasty alternative to fast food. No preservatives, no MSG or salt in any of our soup mixes. Made from only the finest all-natural and freeze-dried ingredients. Shelf life of at least one year. Each mix makes a full 2 quarts of soup. Great gifts for friends, neighbors, co-workers, teachers, etc. All soups are \$7 each or choose any 3 for \$20. Cash or please make check payable to FPCE Deacons (in memo line-"soup"). Please attach your order form to the check. All orders and payments are due by Sunday, Nov. 25 and may be given to a Deacon or placed in one of the baskets at church entrances. Orders will be available on Sunday, Dec. 9.

Mark Your Calendar!

UPCOMING DECEMBER EVENTS

Advent Soup & Scripture
Wednesdays at 6:30PM

Advent Prayer Vigil
Friday, December 21

Edgewood Symphony Orchestra
Annual Holiday Concert
Saturday, December 8 at 7:30PM

Christmas Eve Service
December 24 at 7:30PM

Blue Christmas Service
Wednesday, December 19 at 7:00PM



MUSIC Ministry

There's a new TV show on called "The New Normal." And, while it has absolutely nothing to do with anything relating to our music ministry, it centers around how things change when different people come into each other's lives and how they adjust to new ways of being...a "new" normal. Well, we're about a month into our time with Pastor Michael and we're learning the ins and outs of what our "new normal" in worship & music ministries has - and will - become.

Thanks to everyone who stayed faithful during our transition period and to all of those who have been supporting our church leadership in this adventure of Christian life together. In just a few short weeks during October, we experienced World Communion Sunday complete with music from many cultures; classic worship with organ, piano, and choir; the Harvest Happening, which included the tripping of the fire alarm during worship; and another installment of our signature Emerging Worship services.

For November, it will be more creation of this feeling of the "new normal" as we wrap up the church liturgical year and prepare for the beginning of Advent in December. The choir will continue its solid music leadership during our classic worship services (November 4, 11, and 25), and the worship ensemble will provide richness to the music infused into our emerging service on November 18. As Pastor Michael and I have a chance to continue talking, planning, and working with our worship ministry team, we'll craft exciting and creative ways to worship together. I'm looking forward to the things we'll do to prepare the way for the Christ Child.

I'm also excited to report that we are making very strong progress toward the purchase of our denomination's new hymnal, *Glory to God*. As of October 15, we had passed the half-way mark of \$1,500 toward our goal of purchasing 150 new hymnals, and I know that donations were still coming in. In fact, I received 3 of them before and after worship on October 28 totaling another \$250, so thank you to all of you who have contributed to this initiative. Just as a reminder, we're hoping to take advantage of the discounted pricing the PC(USA) is offering by putting in our order *and* submitting payment to them by December 31st, even though the books will not be printed and distributed until early summer.



One thing I will need an opinion on before ordering is which color we should purchase! In the coming weeks, I'll send out an e-mail with a link to an online poll where you can let us know if we should get RED or PURPLE hymnals for our sanctuary. I believe the majority of folks are for the red option since they will match the carpet and the pew bibles, but that's just a quick informal poll in casual conversations with people. I want to be a good Presbyterian and get a general consensus by a vote! So, look for the e-mail, and if you don't have access to e-mail or are not on our church's distribution list, feel free to call in to the office and just let Judy know if you think we should buy RED or PURPLE. Thanks again for your continued support of the music ministry at FPCE.

I look forward to continuing to explore our "new normal" with the ever-changing and special family we know and love as the Edgewood congregation.

Blessings and peace to you all,

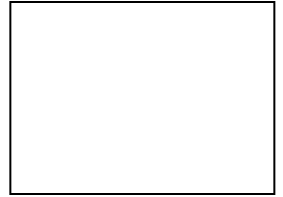


Shaun Cloonan
Minister of Music



First Presbyterian Church of
EDGEWOOD
The Community Church

120 E. Swissvale Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15218



*Don't forget to turn your clocks BACK
before church on Sunday, November 4th!*

**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

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office@fpcedgewood.org
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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

This month's meeting will be November 15 at 7 p.m. in the Lounge

NOVEMBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
C=Choir Room; GP=Gathering Place; L=Lounge O=Office; PS=Pastor's Study; S=Sanctuary Sc=Scout Room; SR=Social Room				1 10:00 Thursday Morning Group (L) 3:45 FROGS	2 8:00 AA (SR)	3
4 ALL SAINTS CELEBRATION 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Ed (L) Pollyanna (GP) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L) 12:15 Presbyterian Women (GP)	5 7:00 Parent Mtg.	6 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA (SR)	7 7:00 Bible Study (L), Youth Group (GP)	8 10:00 Thursday Morning Group (L) 3:45 FROGS	9 8:00 AA (SR)	10 11:00 Scouts Popcorn pick-up (Sc)
11 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Ed (L) Pollyanna (GP) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Welcome Celebration/ Stewardship Luncheon (GP)	12 7:00 Scouts (Sc)	13 3:45 FROGS 7:00 Session (GP) 7:00 AA (SR)	14 7:00 Bible Study (L), Youth Group (GP) Worship Ens. (S)	15 10:00 Thursday Morning Group (L) 3:45 FROGS 6:30 Pack Mtg. (SR) 7:00 Grief Group (L)	16 8:00 AA (SR)	17
18 9:30 Worship Ensemble (S) 9:45 Adult Ed (L) Pollyanna (GP) 11:00 Emerging Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L)	19 7:00 Joy Circle (L) 7:00 Scouts (Sc)	20 NO FROGS 7:00 AA (SR)	21 Thanksgiving Dinner set-up (SR)	22 12:00-4:00 Thanksgiving Dinner (SR)	23 OFFICE CLOSED 8:00 AA (SR)	24
25 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Ed (L) Pollyanna (GP) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L) 12:15 Hanging of the Greens	26 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 Scouts (Sc)	27 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA (SR)	28 7:00 Bible Study (L), Youth Group (GP)	29 10:00 Thursday Morning Group (L) 3:45 FROGS	30 8:00 AA (SR)	

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 5, 2012.**

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.