



# news from the **EDGE**

120 East Swissvale Avenue

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15218

412-241-4613

office@fpcedgewood.org

**FEBRUARY  
2013**

**LOVE GOD  
LOVE EACH 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  
**CONNIE  
BLACK**

## PASTOR'S **POINT OF VIEW**

## AMAZING!

Question: *"What's So Amazing About Grace?"*

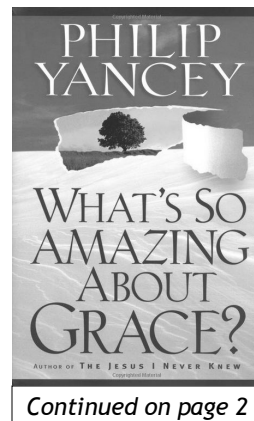
Not only is this a question for you to ponder, it is the title of a book by author Philip Yancey that the Tuesday Morning Book Group has just finished reading. I grew in my understanding of God and

this congregation throughout this moving and thought-provoking study shared with a wonderful, open-minded, open-hearted group of people.

Check us out if you can: 10:00 a.m. Tuesdays in the Lounge.

What's so amazing about grace? Grace is as profound a law of faith as gravity is a profound force in the nature. God's grace toward us is where the good news of Christianity begins. God's grace is the first and foremost gift we have to offer others. Grace is a reality that transform lives.

I ended up wondering to myself, "How are we doing?" Sharing this "amazing" gift of grace. One of the most haunting and heart-rending stories in the book tells of a conversation a pastor/friend of Philip Yancey's had with a woman "from the community." In this case a community of the down-and-out located in urban Chicago. His friend shares:



*Continued on page 2*

## Worship Schedule

### Sunday, February 3

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Shaun and the choir will lead us with their moving and uplifting song. And...guess who got kicked out of town after his first sermon?

### Sunday, February 10

SCOUT SUNDAY! The young men will help lead worship. It's also Transfiguration Sunday, Jesus assures us that in the end, all will be well.

### Ash Wednesday, February 13

A quiet, intimate Ash Wednesday service will begin at 7:00 pm. The ashes will remind us whose we are.

### Sunday, February 17

An Emerging Worship celebration. It is not easy to "stay on course" in today's world. Jesus knows all about the times we find ourselves lost in the wilderness. Even there—we're in good hands.

### Sunday, February 24

Lent is the season to entrust our lives to God's hidden hand. This worship service will be lyrical, focused, peaceful—Taize.



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





## STAFF DIRECTORY

120 East Swissvale Avenue  
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**Interim Pastor.....Michael P. Rucker**  
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**Mandy Rineer**

**Office Manager.....Judy Mysels**  
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**Building Manager.....Rob Mysels**

**Nursery Attendant..... Kristi Cloonan**  
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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)

*A prostitute came to me in wretched straits, homeless, sick, unable to buy food for her two-year-old daughter. Through the sobs and tears, she told me she had been renting out her daughter—two years old! - to men interested in kinky sex. She made more renting out her daughter for an hour than she could earn on her own in a night. She had to do it, she said, to support her own drug habit. I could hardly bear hearing her sordid story.... I asked if she had ever thought of going to a church for help. I will never forget the look of pure, naïve shock that crossed her face. "Church!" she cried. "Why would I ever go there? I was already feeling terrible about myself, They'd just make me feel worse." (What's So Amazing About Grace? By Philip Yancey, pg 11.) As a man of faith in the ever-present grace of God, I say: "Ouch!" How many people in need of grace find subtle but unmistakable displays of judgment in me? In us?*

Today as we concluded our study of that book, that same thought struck many of us. We asked ourselves: "how are we doing? Are we sharing this grace in meaningful ways with our community? How do we share it with people who may not be as desperate as the woman in the story, but still, people who feel unloved, unworthy, unmoved by God, untouched by Jesus? People who may simply feel all alone in this crazy fast-paced world...people who are sure no one really cares."

What's so amazing about grace? Grace is where the church is most alive. Grace is where the story of the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood began. Grace is where new growth and ministry will be born again.

I learned an interesting piece of Bible trivia as I read this book. The Apostle Paul is the biblical hero who was literally knocked to the ground by the totally unexpected, undeserved, blinding grace of God. It turns out that in every letter he wrote to the fledgling congregations he knew, the word "grace" appears no later than in the second sentence. As Frederick Buechner says, "*Grace is the best he can wish the people because grace is the best he himself ever received.*"

We may not be the largest, most contemporary, digitally cool church around. But we do have something everyone needs—a generous offering of God's grace. And that, brothers and sisters, will be enough.

Peace and grace to you!

*Pastor Michael*



# Mark Your Calendar!

## UPCOMING FEBRUARY/MARCH LENTEN ACTIVITIES

### ASH WEDNESDAY

**7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, February 13**

I invite all of you—and urge you to bring your neighbors and friends—to an evening of reflective worship as we enter the season of Lent. We will pray, sing, hear the transforming word of scripture read and applied to our lives today. The service will conclude with the Imposition of Ashes.



### LENTEN GATHERINGS

**(A work in progress.)**

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.

I do intend to lead Wednesday evening gatherings during the Lenten season. At this point, I regret to say, I don’t know when we will begin nor do I know what we will study. I am reviewing a number of options that I’m sure will be useful and fruitful guides to spiritual growth. Thank you for your forbearance. You will hear more from me soon!

*Pastor Michael*

### SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

**Sunday, February 3**

**SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY:** In 1990, a Super Bowl Sunday prayer inspired a group of young people to do something more than celebrate a football game. They created the Souper Bowl of Caring, and have mobilized youth across the country to raise more than \$71 million since ‘91 for people in need. **ALL THE MONEY RAISED** goes directly to a charity of our choosing—no administrative costs are deducted. Please drop at least \$1.00 in a soup pot that will be at the exits of the sanctuary this morning.



**tacklehunger.org**





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8 p.m. AA	2 11:00a.m. New Member Class
3 9:30 choir reh. 11 a.m. Worship <b>SOUPER BOWL OF CARING</b> 12:15 Fellowship 12:30 Worship Team	4 7 p.m. Scouts	5 10:00 Tuesday Group 3:45p.m.FROGS 6:30 p.m. PNC 7 p.m. AA 7 p.m. Deacons	6	7 3:45 p.m. FROGS	8 8 p.m. AA	9
10 SCOUT SUNDAY 9:30 choir reh. 11 a.m. Worship 12:15 Fellowship/ <b>P.W. Meeting</b>	11 7 p.m. Scouts	12 10:00 Tuesday Group 3:45p.m.FROGS 7 p.m. AA 7 p.m. Session	13 ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service	14 3:45 p.m. FROGS	15 8 p.m. AA	16
17 9:00 Worship Ens 11 a.m. Emerging Worship 12:15 Fellowship	18 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 7 p.m. Scouts	19 3:45 p.m. FROGS 7 p.m. AA	20 7:00 p.m. Lenten Gathering (tbd)	21 3:45 p.m. FROGS 6:30 p.m. Blue Gold Banquet/Pack Mtg. 7:00 Grief Support Group	22 8 p.m. AA	23
24 9:30 choir reh. 11 a.m. Worship 12:15 Fellowship	25 7 p.m. Scouts	26 3:45 p.m. FROGS 7 p.m. AA	27 7:00 p.m. Lenten Gathering	28 3:45 p.m. FROGS		



## **2013 CHURCH BOARDS**

Rev. Michael Rucker—Moderator  
Doris Hamilton—Clerk of Session

### **SESSION**

#### **2013**

Chris Baldwin  
Kathy Clevenger  
Joseph Elliott  
Liz Held\*

#### **2014**

Chris Apossos  
Marcia Haley\*  
Tom Ochs  
Tyler McGuigan

#### **2015**

Lorraine Douthett  
Doris Hamilton  
Paul Ochori\*  
Jim Segedy\*

### **DEACONS**

#### **2013**

Ann Bliss  
Ralph Bliss  
Patrick Carrick\*  
Glenn Allen Monk  
Sallie Monk

#### **2014**

Tim Carr\*  
Marilyn Lobert  
Patti Mielke  
Michelle Santo

#### **2015**

Helen Ebken  
Mary Ann Hartman\*  
Rick Masten  
Stephanie Nihart

#### **Name**

#### **Email**

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Stephanie Nihart	Stephanie.nihart@gmail.com	484-942-8851

### **PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (PNC)**

Rhonda Apossos, Patrick Carrick, Brad Masten, Tyler McGuigan, Judy Mysels

### **2013 NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Marcia Haley (Session Rep.), Rick Masten (Deacon Rep.) Elaine Cloonan, Ruth Miller, Lisa Segedy



## **FPCE MINISTRY TEAMS**

# **MINISTRY TEAMS**

**Note from Pastor:** As I learn to work with the newly formed session, some of the ministry team structure/goals/purpose may require some adjustment in order to match current resources with the current ministry and mission needs of FPCE. One point that does not change: ***all members of FPCE are also ministers.*** If you are interested in learning more about one of the teams, please talk with me or one of the active elders. All of us working together can accomplish wonderful things as servants of the gospel of Jesus Christ!

### **Christian Education**

Coordination and oversight of all Christian Education programs and activities is the responsibility of this team. Specific responsibilities include teacher recruitment, curriculum selection, scheduling class times, junior church, confirmation class and vacation Bible school. Future activities might include small group ministry development. The Sunday School superintendents are members of this team.

***Session Team Leaders: Joe Elliott, Lorraine Douthett***

### **Mission & Evangelism (Outreach)**

The mission of the church is mission. A primary, indeed defining, activity of a church of Jesus Christ is service to those in need through a liberal commitment of time and treasure. The mission team plans all mission activities, both “hands-on” service and the distribution of dollars. Discovering opportunities for and promoting “sweat equity” mission, where people are out in the community serving others should be a primary focus for the immediate future. This team is responsible for the promotion of all special offerings including but not limited to the churchwide offerings (One Great Hour of Sharing, Christmas Joy), Souper Bowl of Caring, Lazarus Fund, Tools and Blankets of Hope, and more. The mission team is also in charge of fundraising programs and dinners that benefit its goals, the oversight of the FROGS program (along with Christian Education), and the annual Thanksgiving Dinner. The mission team should be entirely outwardly focused; its programs and offerings serve those *outside* the church community.

The evangelism team’s mission is the Great Commission: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28:19) Evangelism is proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ to those who are not part of our church community and inviting them to become Christ’s disciples and members of our covenant community. Additionally, the evangelism team should “provide opportunities for evangelism to be learned and practiced in and by the church, that members may be better equipped to articulate their faith, to witness in word and deed to the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and to invite persons into a new life in Christ.” The focus of the evangelism team is outward as it seeks to reach those who are un-churched or not Christian *and* inward as it seeks to teach evangelism to current members.

***Session Team Leaders: Chris Baldwin, Doris Hamilton, Tyler McGuigan, Jim Segedy***

### **Parish Life/Membership Care**

Parish life has a mostly inward focus and serves those who are already part of the church community. One of the primary responsibilities of Parish Life is maintaining contact with the church community through phone calls and notes, making sure that nobody falls through the cracks,

***Session Team Leader: TBD***



## **Personnel**

The personnel team is tasked with developing job descriptions (especially for non-ordained staff), annual personnel reviews (including ordained staff), non-ordained staff hiring and termination, staff conflict resolution, and assuring fair employment and compensation practices.

See Book of Order G-10.0102n

***Session Team Leader: Marcia Haley***

## **Property**

This team is tasked with keeping our building and its contents in good repair and working order and instigating necessary improvements. Matters of security and insurance also fall under the general heading of “property” as do grounds-keeping and building use policies.

***Session Team Leaders: Liz Held, Tom Ochs***

## **Stewardship (and Finance)**

The stewardship team oversees all that financial activity of the church: income and expenses, budget, payroll and more. Integral to the stewardship team are the treasurer/financial secretary. This team is also responsible for the annual stewardship campaign. How a church acquires and spends its money is a reflection of its spiritual strength and priorities. Thus, this team should include people whose gifts are spiritual and visionary and not necessarily financial.

***Session Team Leaders: Paul Otori, Tom Ochs***

## **Worship/Music**

The worship team works closely with the pastor to plan worship and to ensure that all our worship services are the best they can be. That involves planning special services; taking care of and setting up the sanctuary; and choosing and producing worship materials like bulletins, seasonal study guides and the like. Making sure that the sacraments are prepared for and rightly and regularly celebrated falls to this team. The minister of music and other musicians are integral members of the worship team. As we look to the future, the worship team would be responsible, along with the pastor, for recruiting and training liturgists and other worship participants. Worship is at the heart of our church experience and this team ensures that it is always done with excellence.

***Session Team Leaders: Lorraine Douthett, Marcia Haley***

### ***A Note from Paul Otori:***

***Stewardship: a Guide to Healthy Christian Living (Part I)***

***Steward (n.): a person who manages another's property or financial affairs; one who administers anything as the agent of another or others.***

***Stewardship: the act of being a steward.***

***What is under our stewardship:***

***Usually, we think about money when we hear the word “stewardship”. In reality, there is much more under our free will—possessions, time, relationships, etc. How do we choose to manage these resources each day? To whom do all these belong? Does God care? What happens when we work toward becoming His stewards?***

***I would like to explore these and other questions with you in the coming months.***

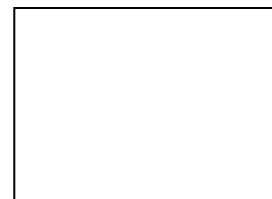
***Blessing, Paul Otori, Stewardship Ministry Team***





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

120 E. Swissvale Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15218



**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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## 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 is February 21 at 7PM in the Church Lounge**