

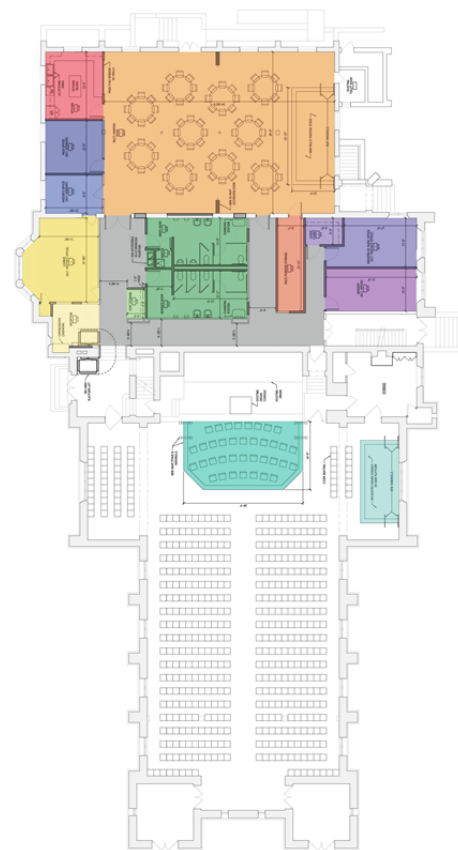


Inside Renovations Top Discussion at Congregational Meeting

After the worship concluded on Sunday, January 31, Bob Grubb of Lami Grubb Architects delivered a power point presentation of what the possible building renovation would look like. After a fifteen minute presentation, Pastor Michael opened the floor for questions. Bob Grubb, Tom Ochs, Jim Segedy and Pastor Michael responded to the questions.

Here is a brief overview of the proposed renovated space of the first floor:

- An elevator will be installed in an unobtrusive fashion just as one enters the side door. The elevator will make it much easier for people to get from the floor level where sanctuary is located to the level where the restrooms, office area and lounges/classrooms are located.
- The floor level that includes the Pastor's study, the offices, Gathering Place, choir room will be reorganized. A cozy lounge will replace the Pastor's office area. The pastor and church office will comfortably fit into the current office area. The Christian Educator's office will be replaced by a "warming" kitchen. The kitchen will have a window opening into the Gathering Place. The Gathering Place will be enlarged to include the current nursery room and will include room dividers that will create smaller spaces that can be used at the same time. Updated, accessible men, women and family restrooms will be installed. The current lounge area will be subdivided into a choir room and nursery. (The events and activities currently held in the present lounge will easily be accommodated in



Continued →

FEBRUARY 2016 Sunday Worship Schedule

February 7

We will celebrate a full and meaningful service as we receive the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. This is also Scout Sunday, when the young men of Troop 23 assist in worship leadership. In scripture we will read of the Jesus' dramatic encounter with his Father on the mount of Transfiguration.

February 14

Pastor Michael will begin a Lenten preaching series entitled Christ Encounters. This week, (even though it is Valentine's Day!) we read of Christ's encounter with evil. Try to place yourself inside the story in Luke 4: 1-13.

February 21

This is February's Emerging Worship service. Shaun and the Praise Ensemble always transport us into a place of joyful celebration. On this Sunday, Christ encounters the faithless and fearful people of Jerusalem. See Luke 13: 31-35 for details

February 28

We will return to our classic worship style as we discover what Jesus had to say to people who are swift to pass judgement. Read the story in Luke 13: 1-9 to prepare yourselves for worship on this third Sunday in Lent.

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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.

Continued From Previous Page the lounge that replaces the pastor's office or the renovated Gathering

Place.) This entire area will be heated and air-conditioned.

- As for the sanctuary area itself, an accessible, one-foot high platform will be installed in the current empty space between the pulpit and pews. The pulpit itself will be of the same lovely design and woodwork, but will become a mobile pulpit. The platform area will easily accommodate the communion table, baptismal font, the pulpit, the choir and the attractive, wooden pillars that are used for floral arrangements.

We are in continuing conversation with the architect and engineers regarding the most affordable, long-time, reliable heating and cooling system. It is clear that cooling the sanctuary will be very expensive, perhaps on hot Sundays the worship service will be moved to the renovated Gathering Place.

This renovation addresses changes to the sanctuary and first floor of the church. The lower level, including the kitchen and social hall, could become another project. It should be noted that a renovation of our lower level kitchen that would make the area usable, safe and up-to-code will be expensive. Nearly all the current church activities will be possible on the renovated first floor level.

Most of the questions from the congregation were addressed in a manner satisfactory to the person asking the question. The major issues yet to be decided are the heating/cooling system design, and the cost. The architect agreed with our treasurer, Tom Ochs, that an estimated cost of \$400 – \$500,000 is realistic. The soonest the work could begin would be in three or four months from the time this congregation is willing to give the “go-ahead” with the renovation.

Finally, the decision regarding the renovation will be voted on BY THE CONGREGATION NOT ONLY THE SESSION. Consequently, the leadership of this project (Tom Ochs, Jim Segedy, Pastor Michael and session) will be conducting at least two more congregational meetings before a decision is made.

I would add two more remarks:

- Please be patient as the final renovation possibilities are put into place. You should know that the renovation plans may change *somewhat* as the project moves forward.
- The final cost will be a close estimate, but not an exact figure.

Finally, and from personal experience, my father was contractor. As I grew up, I became very aware of the issues and challenges a contractor faces as building construction and renovation efforts move forward. My Dad made it clear that church construction/renovation projects were extra challenging because so many people from the church would contribute to the design plan as the work proceeded. I will assume that FPCE will not be different. I hope and pray that a firm, trusting relationship between leadership team, session and congregation will be formed so that everyone voice will be heard and all of us will be aware of the changes that occur. As your pastor, I will make every effort to hear and respond to every concern that is raised.

May God bless us with wisdom and resources as we look into the future. The most important guide will be that this congregation become a more effective mission arm of the kingdom of God that Jesus Christ ushered into this world.

PASTOR'S POINT OF VIEW



Michael P. Rucker

Dear members and friends of FPCE,

IS IT EVER OK TO GIVE UP?

As we were growing up, weren't we taught that *giving up* was a sign of weakness. In our "pull yourself up by your own bootstraps" world, to give up is the first step down the slippery slope into mediocrity or failure.

Winston Churchill, the "British Bulldog", after England endured the dark days of the German Luftwaffe's London Blitz, addressed the shaken nation, famously saying; *"Never, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever give up. Never give up! Never give up! Never give up!"* England did not give up and won the war. The message rings loud and clear and inspires us! And don't we tell our young people when they are struggling to learn a musical instrument, run cross country, learn long division or overcome an injury—*don't give up!*

Ash Wednesday, our first step into the season of Lent, is less than two weeks away. Aren't we supposed to give up? Give up something for 40 days? The concept cuts against our grain, but we justify the "giving up" because we are giving something up for a greater good: to learn the value of sacrifice.

The message of Lent is that the practice of giving something up challenges us more deeply than simply hiding the chocolate candy for 40 days. Behind the practice is a profound demand, an insistent call from Jesus that can cause us to feel very uncomfortable. **"If any would become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."** I get the impression that Jesus is talking longer than 40 days. Sounds like he is talking about a way of life; a way of being in the world; a way of being his disciple.

Yet, giving up is something we are trained from our youth not to do! Giving up is weak. Giving up is the opposite our striving to be ambitious, self-reliant and independent men and women! The demand of Jesus feels like surrender.

Here, we are helped by one of my favorite spiritual writers, Richard Rohr, *"...surrender is not 'giving up', as we tend to think, nearly as much as it is a 'giving to' the moment, the event, the person, and the situation"*

Brothers and sisters, during Lent we are not so much "giving up" as we are giving ourselves over to the way of Jesus. It might feel like losing at first, but that feeling deceives us. We are giving in to someone who is leading us toward a deeper and richer life than we would ever find on our own. **"I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."** May those words inspire us this Lenten season.

Pastor Michael

Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 7

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



tacklehunger.org

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.

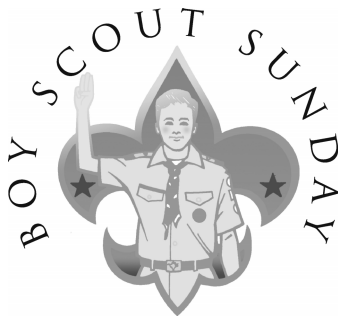
Scout Sunday and Troop 23

The Scout Sunday tradition was started in the 1940's to make people in houses of worship aware of Scouting, and to allow Scouts to live out their "Duty to God" pledged each week. The Scout Law says that a "Scout is Reverent" and the Scouts of all ages promise to do their "Duty to God". These values strengthen youth character in their family, community and faith.

This tradition has been part of the program of Troop 23 and First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood since Scout Sunday was first developed. Scouts and Leaders have participated in the service over the years. It is also a time for the Boy Scouts of America to recognize its partnership with the church. Annually the church and troop must apply for a new charter with the Boy Scouts of America and the charter is presented at Scout Sunday.

Boy Scout Troop 23 leaders and youth are grateful for the relationship we have with the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood and welcome all members of the congregation to get involved with us. It could be as simple as encouraging youth you know to become part of the program to getting involved with troop meeting and activities. The partnership with the church has led to a number of Scouting families joining the church as a result of their participation with Scouting and Scout Sunday.

— Charlie Huse



Scout Sunday will be observed during morning worship on Sunday, February 7.

A Challenge for Lent to the Entire Congregation

From Pastor Michael

Every year we talk about the spiritual disciplines that are at the very heart of Lent. This year, I would like to challenge all of us to practice three disciplines together. All three are forms of sacrifice and selflessness.

1. Each week, I will include a Bible verse or two in the bulletin. I would like for all of us to take those words into our hearts, memorize them if you can, and meditate on them for a few minutes each day of the week.
2. I would like to practice the discipline of fasting with you. I am going to skip at least one meal a week. As I do so, I will consider the value of giving up something so that I can give more of myself to God. If your health permits, I encourage you to do the same.
3. The prophet Isaiah interprets the discipline of fasting with these words, (Isaiah 58:6-7)

Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,

to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,

and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,

and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them,

and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

We will join Presbyterians across the nation to give generously and sacrificially to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. This offering supports the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance efforts and the Self-Development of People. More information on these programs will be included in the Sunday bulletins on each Sunday of Lent.



February 10 at 7:00PM

For this informal yet meaningful service, we will gather in the lounge. Sunny and Shaun will lead our singing and Pastor Michael will lead our praying and worshiping. The service concludes with the "Imposition of Ashes" on the foreheads of worshipers. On this evening, we will begin our spiritual journey through the season of Lent.

Sunday Morning Adult Class

A Ministry of Jesus:

"Health, Disease, and Healing"

During the Sundays of Lent, we will be led by Dr. Paul Otori in what promises to be fascinating Bible study. The title of the six week course is "Health, Disease and Healing." We will be focusing especially on how Jesus healed people of blindness, deafness, addiction, plague, mental illness and bleeding. As Jesus of Nazareth walked on this earth, many, many people suffered from these diseases. Paul will bring his experience as a medical doctor,

Pathologist and student of scripture to these classes.

Classes will start on **February 14 and be held at 9:45AM on Sunday mornings in the Lounge.** Please join us for study and worship every Sunday this Lent. More information about the class will become available on a week-to-week basis.

Wednesday Night Lenten Gatherings

As disciples of Jesus, we are works 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.

Pastor Michael and others invested in adult education here at FPCE will be choosing the format and resources that will guide us through these weeks. Lent can be viewed as a spiritual pilgrimage: a pilgrimage all of us can take through the Lenten season. **The first class will take place on Wednesday, February 17 at 7PM in the Lounge.**

2016 CHURCH BOARDS

Michael P. Rucker – Moderator
Florence Raisig – Clerk of Session

THE SESSION

2016

Rhonda Apessos
Chris Baldwin*
Gregg Baldwin
Dan Mielke

2017

Chris Apessos*
John Foster
Tyler McGuigan*
Timothy McKee

2018

Luella Broe
Lorraine Douthett
Nancy Ernst
Jim Segedy

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Amy Moore
Connie Ochs

2018

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Helen Ebken
Mary Ann Hartman
Ed Masten
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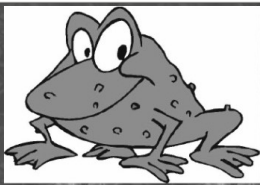
AUDITOR

Tim Carr

2016 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Judy Mysels, Mary Ross, Lisa Segedy, (Session Rep.), (Deacon Rep.)

*denotes second consecutive term



F.R.O.G.S. **AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM** (FRIENDS, READING, & OTHER GREAT STUFF)

The FROGS After-School Program is hopping along nicely. We had some snowy, cold days, but we still met and tried to stay warm.

Special thanks to Desmond Rucker, who came in Jan. 26 to teach the FROGS about music. He brought in his djembe and spoke about rhythm and technique. We were very impressed with his maturity, ability and communication with the kids.

Our volunteers are wonderful! Mary Ross, bought the kids models for the older ones to build (with the help of the other volunteers) - will keep you posted and may even show some pictures of their finished projects?

FROGS are in need of snacks such as: individual juice boxes/bag, individual snack packages such as peanut butter/cheese crackers, fruit roll-ups, pretzels, chips, Rice Krispy bars, cookies, etc. Thank you!

The Bulletin Board

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

- A BIG SHOUT OUT THANK YOU from the Worship Committee to all who assisted in the “Unhanging of the Greens” after worship on Sunday, January 3. It didn’t take long and everything is marked and packed away for 2016 Advent season.
- Continued prayers for John Mikels, Diane Kemmerer, Mary Ann Hartman’s sister (having surgery Feb 4th, blood clot left side of her head) and Judy Mysels’ sister, Jeanne
- Thank you to the Deacons for providing our chili luncheon that followed the January 31 Annual Congregational Meeting,
- Thanks to Judy for doing such a good job compiling the annual reports which were presented at the meeting.

Continuing our 125th Anniversary Celebration: The Bells

At the top of the South Bell Tower, in the front of the church are eleven cast bronze bells. The bells were produced by the McShane Bell Foundry and bear in addition to individual inscriptions on each bell (see table below) they are inscribed “McShane Bell Foundry Co. Baltimore, MD 1929”. An article that appeared in the paper in 1929 was titled “Bells Gladden Hearts of People” with a subtitle of “Edgewood Church Installs Set of New Chimes”. The article stated that the cost of the installation was approximately \$12,000 and provided as a donation of Mr. & Mrs. George C. Blackmore of 433 Maple Avenue. Mr. Blackmore was also a trustee of the church at the time. The largest bell (or bourdon) weighs approximately 2,000 pounds and the smallest approximately 450 pounds.

Bell	Note		Bell		Inscription
	Bell	Organ	Bottom Diameter	Height	
1	C	F	46"	40"	This chime of Bells is the gift of Mr. & Mrs. George C. Blackmore to the Edgewood Presbyterian Church "The Community Church" Edgewood, Pittsburgh Pennsylvania for the worship of god and service to the Community AD 1929
2	D	G	41"	36"	I am the voice of life: I call you; come and pray
3	E	A	36"	32"	Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof
4	F	B ^{flat}	35"	31"	Ring out the false, ring in the true
5	F ^{sharp}	B	34"	29"	Ring out the darkness of the land Ring in the Christ that is to be
6	G	C	32"	28"	For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life
7	A	D	29"	26"	Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace, goodwill to men
8	B ^{flat}	E ^{flat}	28"	25"	I am the way, the truth, and the life
9	B	E	27"	24"	Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness
10	C	F	26"	23"	Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all they heart and with all they soul, with all thy strength, and with all thy mind and thy neighbor as thineself
11	D	G	24"	21"	One God, one law, one element and one far-off divine event to which the whole creation moves

When the bells were dedicated on 15th and 16th of December, 1929, Franklin L. S. Walter of the McShane Foundry provided the concert. Walter C. Renton was the church organist at the time. At the time of dedication, the congregation had 1,100 members. The first tune played in recital was “The Doxology” played in an afternoon carillon recital of 12 pieces. The evening church service on the day of dedication opened again with “The Doxology”, included the tune “Softly Now The Light of Day”, and ended with the carillon playing “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”.

The bells can be played from the organ console. There is also a modified chiming mantle clock that has the striking rods replaced by switches that are connected to the bells enabling the clock to ring the outside bells in the in the familiar “Westminster” tune every quarter hour. An additional timer is in place to permit the hourly chiming to be limited to convenient hours (i.e. not late into the evening or overnight).

The bells themselves are arranged in two double height rows around the outside of the tower. The large clapper in the center of each bell that rings it is connected to a rubberized flat rope. All of the ropes connect at the center of the tower to individual rods in row that have 1” steel plungers at the bottom. These plungers fit into a row of 11 electro-magnetic coils below them. The magnets are slightly sheltered by some wood and metal casing and they are protected by fuses in the relay panel in the tower.

Normally the weight of the clapper pulls the plunger up. However when a key is depressed at the organ with the external ‘carillon’ tab engaged, or when the basement clock strikes the quarter hour, a 110-volt signal is sent to a relay box in the tower where an electronic relay closes the 220-volt circuit to the corresponding bell magnet. Once energized, the magnet pulls down the steel plunger and rod causing the corresponding bell to ring. When the key is released, the magnet de-energizes and the weight of the clapper pulls up the rod and steel plunger into its resting position.

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:00 Scouts (SC)	2 10:00 Book Club (L) 3:45 FROGS 7:00 Deacons (L) 7:00 AA (SR)	3 7:00 Bible Study (L)	4 3:45 FROGS	5 8:00 AA (SR)	6 8:30 AA (SR)
7 SCOUT SUNDAY SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L)	8 7:00 Men's Group	9 10:00 Book Club (L) 3:45 FROGS 7:00 Session (GP) 7:00 AA (SR)	10 ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00 Service	11 1:00 PW Circle (GP) 3:45 FROGS	12 8:00 AA (SR)	13 Scouts 8:30 AA (SR)
14 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L)	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16 10:00 Book Club (L) 3:45 FROGS 6:30 BLOCKS (GP) 7:00 AA (SR)	17 7:00 Worship Ensemble (S) 7:00 Bible Study (L)	18 3:45 FROGS	19 8:00 AA (SR) Scout Sleepover	20 Session Retreat Swissvale Football Banquet (SR) 8:30 AA (SR)
21 9:30 Worship Ens. 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Emerging (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L)	22 7:00 Men's Group	23 10:00 Book Club (L) 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA (SR)	24 7:00 Bible Study (L)	25 1:00 PW Circle (GP) 3:45 FROGS	26 8:00 AA (SR)	27 8:30 AA (SR)
28 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L)	29	C=Choir Room GP=Gathering Place L=Lounge O=Office PS=Pastor's Study S=Sanctuary SC=Scout Room SR=Social Room				



First Presbyterian Church of
EDGEWOOD
The Community Church

120 E. Swissvale Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15218

125
CELEBRATING
1891 - 2016
YEARS



Picture of bells before installation in 1929 arranged next to the church.