

news from the EDGE



First Presbyterian Church of
EDGEWOOD
The Community Church

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.

The monthly newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood

January 2017

PASTOR'S

POINT OF VIEW



Michael P. Rucker,
Pastor

Mission: Recover and Discover

We are a people on a mission. It is in our nature. In our DNA. Has been for a long time. As people of God, we are on a mission inspired by Jesus and driven by the Holy Spirit. Seeking to be ambassadors of God's kingdom in this world. As citizens of the United States, we are pioneers. Always looking out, looking up, looking ahead, striving for a better future for ourselves, our children, our grandchildren. We are people on a mission.

Our natural tendency is to be people of tomorrow; to peer into the future and pray for God's will to guide us. Here we are, perched uneasily on the thresh-

old of the year of our Lord – 2017. What does the future hold?

But before we run ahead, a question: what are we to do with 2016? As is true for every year preceding it, 2016 brought us days of joy and heartache; hours of laughter of tears; new relationships and loss of others; big steps forward and major slips backwards. The year 2016 cannot be shed as easily as a snake slips out of its skin. We don't want to forget what is past, yet we don't want to get stuck in it either. There is nothing harder than moving forward while carrying our unresolved past on our backs.

As I thought on these questions, I came across a verse that caused me to pause. (Jeremiah 6:16) -

**Thus says the LORD:
Stand at the crossroads, and look,
and ask for the ancient paths,
where the good way lies; and walk in it,
and find rest for your souls.**

January 2017 Worship Schedule

January 8 – Epiphany Sunday.

We do not have to be good enough to enter God's world. God enters ours – this time through the presence of three strangers gathered around the two year old Jesus. Does that matter to us? Yup! God is bigger than our greatest dreams. On this Epiphany, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper.

January 15 – Ordination and Installation of Officers.

As we ordain and install officers, we will as ourselves – does someone as radical and faithful as Martin Luther King, Jr. still speak to us today?

January 22 – Emerging Worship

During this Sunday worship celebration our beloved and missing-in-action (for good reasons) Praise Ensemble will return. We will address this truth: when God enters this world. The status quo no longer matters, unless it serves God and not itself. God is doing a new thing.

January 29 –

Two questions. What does God ask of us? How will we respond? Read Micah 6: 1-8. After worship, we will

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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'd.)

God calls Jeremiah to speak to people facing a tumultuous future. Impending calamities and terrifying warnings abound. People are frightened and longing for solid ground to walk on and settled spirits to rest in. Jeremiah urges the people to stand tall, right where they are, but to cast their gaze onto the past. Do you remember the wisdom and courage of our ancestors? Can you recall the brave paths they forged in their ancient day? Sift through the collective memories buried deep within your souls. RECOVER those ancient paths, walk in them, and you will find rest and peace for the journey ahead.

Not long after Jeremiah's prophecy came to an end, God called the prophet Isaiah to bear his message to the people. Whereas Jeremiah delivered a frightening message, hope and restoration are at the heart of Isaiah's proclamation. His words are sprinkled with positive, encouraging exhortations. Isaiah shouts that the Lord is singing a new song! Israel will DISCOVER a new future. (Isaiah 43:18):

**Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.**

Isaiah knows how hard the past has been for God's people. Isaiah sympathizes with Israel's pain, but he dries tears, provides healing balm for broken spirits. His message is to remain rooted in God and look for the new paths God is forging into a future bright with hope.

I am your pastor, but only one servant of God, one pioneer of faith among many of you. The ground of 2017 lies before us like a sweeping, trackless field of opportunity and peril.

Let us RECOVER the good, trust-worthy, ancient pathways that are a vital part of our past. Let us DISCOVER the new road, the straight and level path God has prepared before us. I am blessed to be on this journey with you.

Pastor Michael



January 2017 Worship (cont'd.)

think about where and who we are...and where we are headed. Following worship we will engage in our Annual Congregational Meeting. **After the meeting, join us for a luncheon and the kick-off fundraiser for the renovation of our facility!**

February 5 – a Sunday to look forward to! Scout Sunday. Souper Bowl special offering. Celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Officers To Be Elected at Upcoming Congregational Meeting

At the upcoming congregational meeting on Jan. 8, the slate of nominees for church leadership will be presented and voted upon. The following members have been elected to the church councils and positions of leadership. New Deacons and Ruling Elders will be ordained to office, and returning members will be installed for a new term during our worship service on January 15. Session and Deacon terms are for 3 years, auditors and nominating committee members are for 1 year appointments.

Session

Rhonda Apossos
Tom Ochs
Paul Ohori
Flo Raisig

Deacons

Tim Carr
Tim Hoffman
Dan Mielke
Glenn Allen Monk
Sallie Monk

Nominating Committee

Chris Baldwin
Gregg Baldwin
Michelle Santo

Appointed Session Member
Appointed Deacon Member

Auditor

Tim Carr
Cathy Fisher

"Un-hanging of the Greens" Set for January 8

You know how beautiful the sanctuary looks during the Advent/Christmas season? It's because of the dedicated work of our faithful "worker bees" each year right around Thanksgiving who stay after worship to make it happen.

Well, one of the things that sometimes gets forgotten is how to *take it all down* in a nice, orderly fashion. Many years it falls to Judy to do over the course of a week in between her normal office duties.

Please help us by sticking around after worship on **Sunday, January 8** to "un-hang" the greens and put everything away neatly. "Many hands make light work." Thanks in advance!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING ON JANUARY 29!

Call for 2016 Reports

On Sunday, **January 29** immediately following worship, the Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held to receive the 2017 budget and annual reports of the various ministries of the church.

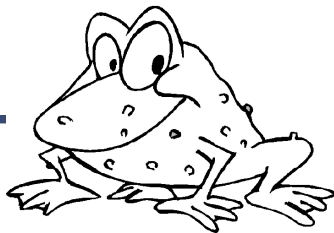
If you are a staff member, chair or secretary of a ministry team or organization within the church, please have your narrative report in to the church office by **January 23**. It can be given in hard copy or e-mailed as an attachment to Judy Mysels at office@fpcedgewood.org.

F.R.O.G.S. News

Friends, Reading, & Other Great Stuff

Judy Mysels

FROGS Program Director



Tuesday Book Club

Beginning this month, the Tuesday morning book group will begin reading "The Secret Cord" by Geraldine Brooks. Ms. Brooks is a master at bringing the past alive, imbuing history with living, breathing characters who allow us to understand the very difficult task of being human. Whether her novels concern ordinary people or kings, in Brooks's skillful hands the issues of the past echo our own deepest concerns: love and loss, drama and tragedy, chaos and brutality.

Perhaps the hardships of war and the intricacies of human behavior are always at the heart of Brooks's books. Her new novel, "The Secret Chord," focuses on the most legendary warrior of all time: David, father of Solomon and Israel's greatest king. The story is told through the eyes of the prophet Nathan, who is both seer and adviser.

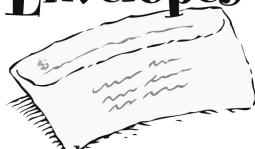
The book group meets at 10:00 a.m. every Tuesday at the home of Rhonda Apossos (361 Maple Ave. 412-243-2470.) **Note: on the second week of January only, the group will meet at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, January 11 before resuming its Tuesday schedule.**

Being of Service

Got one hour a week to give? Hospice is always looking for volunteers to spend an hour each week visiting with their patients. You get as much as you give! Find a hospice near you and ask when the next training session is.

Mom's hospice volunteer Pat was truly an angel and a dear friend to her. Sometimes, she would just quietly sing hymns. Other times, she was a fresh ear for the old stories. Maybe you have that same gift?!

Offering Envelopes



Boxed 2017 envelopes are available at the side and front entrances of church. They can also be mailed to you.

Men's Group

FOLI'S

Come and join us each 7:00PM every 2nd and 4th Monday at Foli's (1050 Brinton Road) for a great time of food, fun and fellowship with like-minded Christian guys. We talk about all sorts of things. If you want a place to chat and have fun with other guys in the church, just meet us there. No appointment necessary. Contact Jeff Nine if you have any questions.

BLOCKS

Believing Little Ones Can Know & Serve!

- Does your baby cry?
- Does your toddler insist on shouting his or her newly learned words at the most inappropriate times?
- Is your preschooler, shall we say, “spirited”?

Those of us who are caregivers for young children know—the answer to these questions is almost always, “Yes, of course.”

And for all those guardians who have faced the staring, gawking, disapproving, “tsk-tsking”, head-shaking, “Back in my day”-saying people at the grocery store as their child makes yet another scene, let us thank the Lord, indeed, for the words of Matthew: “Do not judge, or you too will be judged.”

FPCE is a place to go where all are welcomed...including energetic children. BLOCKS, in particular, is an especially inviting program for young children (and always judgement-free!).

Babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and their caregivers are encouraged to join us for our next BLOCKS session on **Tuesday, January 17th at 6:30 in the Gathering Place**. Following the themes of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, we will learn together about “service”. Even our youngest disciples have a role to play in serving God, our church, and our community.

(In case of inclement weather, email EmilySLilly@gmail.com before 5:30 to check if BLOCKS has been canceled.) Please spread the word to your family and friends with little ones. Don’t let your fear of your child’s “church behavior” deter you. We welcome jumpy legs, off-key singing, and distracted wanderers. Truly, there is a place for all at FPCE!



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

- ♦ The congregation experienced a joyful and uplifting morning of song when the North Hills Singers, directed by Shaun Cloonan, sang during the worship service on December 18. A lovely and fun choral concert followed the service. Thanks also to the FPCE choir members for providing a tasty lunch for the students afterward in the Gathering Place.
- ♦ Thanks to Ruth Miller and Flo Raisig for their time arranging the beautiful poinsettias on the chancel for Christmas Eve.
- ♦ CONGRATULATIONS! CHARLIE HUSE is now a grandpa. Addilyn Elizabeth Huse was born on November 3rd. Her parents are Alexander Huse and Sori Kim. Alexander and Sori have set a wedding date for March 3, 2017.
- ♦ The church received a Christmas letter from Debbie Pike. The family moved to the Chicago area last year. George is the Director of the Northwestern Law Pritzker Legal Research Center. Jeremy is a freshman at Purdue University (engineering) and Benjamin’s high school band performed at the Epcot summer this past fall. In addition to keeping track of her three guys, Debbie has taken up gardening. God bless the Pike family, we do miss them!

On the Edge of Waiting
(A Meditation Poem for Christmas Eve)

By Brother Richard Hendrick

Shhh.
Come away a moment
my friend.
Come away
from the lights,
and the crowds,
and the shops,
and the noise,
and the pressure,
and the worries,
and the wounds that
winter us
before our time.
Come and sit with me here.
Rest.
Just for a moment.
Let me share with you once again
what we forget in our festive
frenzy:
He is coming...
Down the long ages of despair
He comes as Hope.
Down the rough road of doubt
He comes as Faith.
Down the broken byways
of the
human heart
He comes as Love.
He is coming...
Sit with me on the edge of waiting...
Sit in sacred stillness...
Breathe the deep breath of
blessing.
You do not have to do anything.
He is coming...
Whether you are ready or not
Aware or not,

Able or not,
Present or not,
Believing or not,
He is coming...
As the sun rises,
as the moon shines,
as the tides turn,
As the stars dance,
He is coming..
So do not worry.
Let the tyranny of
tension
Fall from you...
You never needed to carry it.
Let the false face of
righteous readiness to defend,
dissolve.
You never needed to wear it.
How could you ever be ready
for this?
For the first proclamation of the
Kingdom to be heard in a baby's
cry.
Nothing is asked of you
but
to be here and now
who you are.
Truly.
Fully.
Broken?
Yes.
Weak?
Yes.
Called?
Oh, yes.
He is coming...
And He is calling you to come to Him.
As He always does.
As He always will.
So, how will you greet Him,
the One who is coming?
The One who calls you
to His crib?

(Yes, you.)
Will you prepare a place for Him?
Will you open the cave of your heart
to Him?
Will you place Him in the sanctuary
of your soul?
Will you lay Him upon the rough
straw of your life?
Will you swaddle Him with your si-
lence?
Will you offer Him the gentle warmth
of animal breath?
Will you offer Him your love?
Or not.
He is coming...
Do not miss the moment
of Mystery's
mangled birth.
by succumbing to
Bethlehem busyness.
No.
Becoming as still as a shepherd
watching the flock of slumbering
sheep.
Become as still as a sage watching
the long dance of stars.
Become as still as Joseph hearing An-
gels on the edge of dreams.
Become as still as she who is the still-
point of love's longing, filled with
light,
and whose silence
brought forth the
Word of Love.
Be still and you will know
He is coming...
Always...
In stillness,
on the edge of waiting...
He is coming for you...
He is coming to you...
Always.
He is coming in Love.

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA		3:45 FROGS	8:00 AA	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:30 Choir Reh. 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship Cong. Mtg. Unhanging of the Greens	7:00 Men's Group (Foli's)	3:45 FROGS 7:00 Deacons 7:00 AA	10:00 Book Club	1:00 Daytime Circle 3:45 FROGS	8:00 AA	8:30 AA
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:30 Choir Reh. 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship	OFFICE CLOSED	10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 6:30 BLOCKS 7:00 Session 7:00 AA		3:45 FROGS	8:00 AA	8:30 AA
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:30 Choir Reh. 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship	7:00 Men's Group (Foli's)	10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA		1:00 Daytime Circle 3:45 FROGS	8:00 AA	8:30 AA
29	30	31				
9:30 Choir Reh. 11:00 Worship 12:15 Cong. Mtg.		3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA		3:45 FROGS		



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