

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

July 2015



Summer Free Meals Continue to Reach Community

While regular weekly meetings and activities may calm down during the summer months at FPCE, several projects are

underway, including preliminary talks about our proposed building renovation and our outreach through free community cookouts. The Deacons helped us beat the heat with delectable desserts at the annual Strawberry Festival in June. Community dinners are scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month: July 1, August 5, September 2 and October 7, 6-8PM on the side lawn (weather permitting). July 1's menu consists of a sausage fest with pierogis and side dishes and/or desserts donated by you. Look for upcoming bulletin announcements, newsletters, emails announcing the main course menus. This is a great way to catch up with congregants, meet new members, neighbors, spreading the news of our church. The worship ensemble is set to try outdoor emerging worship (hopefully) this summer on the lawn. Will you be a part of our family this summer?

JULY 2015

Summer Worship Schedule

Services begin at 10am through September 7

"I did not come for the healthy, but for those who need a doctor." - Jesus (Luke 5: 31-32)

Pastor Michael's sermons this summer will be focused on the theme of healing. Before any one of us, or all of us as community, can move into God's future, we need to be healed—of past hurts, past injustices, past being ignored or counted as insignificant. All of us need healing before we can become the healers we long to become. This summer we will pray for healing.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH!

**Worship begins at 10:00 a.m.
through September 7.**

Ponder this: "These are the only genuine ideas, the ideas of the shipwrecked. All the rest is rhetoric, posturing, farce." Jose Ortega y Gasset

PASTOR'S POINT OF VIEW



Michael P. Rucker
Pastor

Happy summer brothers and sisters of FPCE,

QUESTION: "What do you do when you are not strong enough to handle what life dishes out to you?"

I remember a time, back in my high school years, when I was still striving to become a starter on the venerable Canton McKinley High School football team. Two a day practices had not yet started, but a group of us were working out in the weight room of the Canton YMCA. My best friend, Jeff, was at least 30 pounds of muscle bigger than me. But I, being the too proud adolescent boy that I was, tried to match his lifts. He worked out on the leg press. (The weight lift-

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Summer Office Hours:
Monday–Friday
9:00AM–1:00PM



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 (continued)

er lies on his/her upper shoulder beneath set of weights attached to a pulley. First, the weight lifter doubles his knees into his/her chest. Then one extends the legs upward, pushing the weight up, then lets it down into his/her chest etc...) I have no idea how much weight Jeff was pushing, but I was determined to match him. I slipped under the stack of weights, doubled my legs beneath the weights, took a deep breath and pushed up. Big problem: the weights did not budge; in fact they trapped me beneath them. So there I was, lying on my shoulders with I don't know how many pounds of steel pressing my legs into my chest. I was stuck. I wasn't strong enough.

QUESTION: "What do you do when you are not strong enough to handle what life dishes out to you?"

With a deep embarrassment that I can feel to this very day—I yelled out "SOMEBODY COME HELP ME!!" It took two guys to lift the weight up so I could escape. Lessons learned: I was not as strong as my best friend. And, more importantly, when stuck—ask for help.

QUESTION: What do you do when you are not strong enough to handle what life dishes out to you?

We people of faith in the United States are taught from early on in life that we should be strong, self-reliant, independent people. We spend hours of our time and energy developing an ego that needs no help.

Guess what? God does not care about our self-reliance. God does not care how independent and self-reliant our egos can be. (Make no mistake, God does yearn for our egos to be healed and made whole.) But God calls us to live in community—God expects us to need help. And to ask for it. God expects us to live in community—not as strong, self-reliant individuals, but as people of faith, people who are not self-reliant, with people in community.

The question for us in the FPCE family is not how strong you are? Instead, the question that will carry us into our future and into spiritual growth and health—how strong are WE?

Blessings...

Pastor Michael

Individually strong...



...together we are stronger



Deacons' Doings...

by Mary Ann Hartman, Board of Deacons Moderator

with 20 children eating, running around just having a good time, some roofers who just happened to drive by, stopped for a bite and the Deacons who gave their time for this event. Special thanks to Heather Hartman who made and donated the Strawberry Festival signs, Diane Kemmerer who donated the balloons, Connie Black and Marty Wolf who volunteered their time and again to the Deacons who helped make the Strawberry Festival possible.

The Board of Deacons will meet again the 1st Tuesday of September, which doesn't mean we aren't invisible during the summer months. Rick Masten and volunteers will prepare and deliver "home delivered meals". I'll be in and out of the food pantry, ushering and whatever else may pop up.

Again, many thanks goes out to the many who donate to our food pantry. If you know anyone in need, please call the church or email me.

Applications to the Melfard Douglass scholarship need to be turned in by July 26. You can get the application from Judy in the church office.

How beautiful the world we live in—the flowers blooming, the abundance of the garden, the sun rising and setting, the stars, I can go on and on...so everyday give thanks to our Creator as we marvel at the life in all of nature.

I always look forward to our Strawberry Festival—as I'm sure many others do. I look forward to spending time in fellowship, visiting with our neighbors, family, friends and meeting new people and being a taste tester with the best of them. But this year, even with the weather in our favor, I'm sorry to say our attendance wasn't as good as in the past. We were however blessed



Calendar Planning Meeting Rescheduled

Attention Session, Deacons, Staff, and any other leader of a ministry in the church! The

planning meeting that was originally set for the end of May has been rescheduled for **Sunday, July 5th** immediately following worship. The goal is to set dates for the remainder of the 2015 calendar year. Bring your datebooks, ideas, and come ready to look toward the future of our ministry here at FPCE.

Stewardship Update

Thanks be to God! To date, we have received \$1083 toward our Per capita contribution. This figure surpasses those of previous years. As you recall, our Presbyterian Church (USA) assesses each church according to its membership size. We, the FPCE, have been paying forward our share for each member each year to PCUSA. This is how we stay connected to 11,000 churches and participate in the greater mission of our wider church. Per capita contributions support the General Assembly meetings and the overall governance of the Presbyterian Church. It is never too late to submit your Per capita (\$27.85) and express our gratitude to God and His church.



P.W. Corner

Lori Stutz
Moderator



Just a couple of things to mention to you this month...

- First, a great BIG thank-you to Tina Nine for hosting our end of the year picnic!!!
- Our next PW meeting will take place on **Sunday, July 19** following morning worship. All women of FPCE are invited to participate.
- Our ALL WOMEN'S RETREAT is scheduled for September 25-27. The only cost per lady is a donation if you can make it. Transportation will be provided, and space is limited so let us know early!!! Anyone who would like to contribute a donation please make your check or money order payable to FPCE with Presbyterian Women in the memo.

I hope you all enjoy your summer!



COMMUNITY MEALS



WEDNESDAYS

July 1, Aug 5, Sept 2, Oct 7

6:00-8:00PM, Side Lawn*

We will continue our outreach to the community this summer and into the fall with several more dinners on the lawn. Spread the word that we will be opening our doors for a FREE meal that is open to ALL in our Edgewood and surrounding areas.

Want to help out? Meet to set up at 5:00, or stay to clean up after. Or Contact Chris Baldwin, Tyler McGuigan or Jim Segedy. Make sure to sign up on the lists in the side entrance to bring dishes, too!

**If inclement weather, we will move into the Social Room.*

Compassion, Peace, & Justice

by Luella Broe

I attended The Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington, DC. Each year the conference focus is a different topic. The year's focus: ***Breaking the Chains: Mass Incarceration and Systems of Exploitation.***

Globally, there are more than 10 million people in prison. Do you realize that United States has 25% of that 10 million people in prison? The United States has 5% of the world's population. Does something seem a little out of proportion? The US prison population is disproportionately black and brown people. There are more blacks and Latinos in prison. Historic patterns of discrimination perpetuate the incarceration of those people on the margins of society. Those who are impoverished, and members of racial and ethnic minorities.

States are selling their prison system to private corporations. Private enterprise thinks about the bottom line. What is the bottom line? It is of course profit. Profit means health care for the prisoners may not be adequate. A woman and her daughter were imprisoned in a private prison. She needed to undergo treatment for cancer and it was neglected.

The rate of incarceration of young people in the world is highest in the United States. More must be done to understand the racial, gender, economics, and other factors that contribute to the incarceration of individuals. Special attention needs to be paid to the problem of youth being tried as adults, and the role of literacy and education play in the prevention of crime. Criminals have less literacy and education. A law was made that says those imprisoned may get their GED, but will not allow the states to pay for any further education.

If a prisoner wants to get a degree, the prisoner must pay for it out of his own pocket. Education is a resource that may prevent a life of crime.

Many return to prison because of the way society reacts to the former prisoner. People with prison records have a hard time getting a job. There is a move afoot called "Ban the Box." The box refers to the check-box on job applications that asks if someone has a record. The former prisoner commits another crime so that he/she can go back to prison for three meals and a cot.

This is information that I learned at the conference.



Renovation Update

An informational meeting/discussion was held after worship on Sunday, July 28. In the Session's attempt to make sure the congregation is involved and aware of all that is going on, the following two items were shared:

- Session has authorized the spending of up to \$30,000 to secure the services of an architect who can provide us with specific details of the proposed changes to the building, including costs of doing all renovations as a whole, or breaking them down into phases (phase 1 being HV/AC upgrades, phase 2 as the changes to the programming area on the first floor, and phase 3 as improvements to the sanctuary).
- Session has voted to explore beginning a capital campaign to aid in the financing of this project.

More specific details will be discussed in next month's newsletter, and it was also requested and agreed that there will be regular informational meetings held after church as we move forward on this proposal. No official decisions have been made to this point other than getting the drawings, costs, and exploring financing options.



Statement of Faith

Pastor Michael asked each of the confirmands to write a statement of faith before officially joining our church. Here are a few of them for you to read what our newest members believe.

Travis Allabon

I believe in God, Creator of everything that is good;
The One that gives us every breath and drop of life.
I believe in Jesus, the One that gave his life to
forgive me of my sins
So that I may spend eternity with the one, true God.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The One that comforts me in my saddest hours and
guides me every day.
I believe in the church as the place
Where the people of God come to worship God.
I believe in baptism as the religious ceremony that
all the people of God
go through to grow closer to God and to be with
him for all eternity.
I believe in the Lord's Supper,
That as I eat the body of Christ that I may grow
closer to Christ
And as I drink the blood of Christ that I may
remember all of the great things did for me;
He forgave me all of my sins by dying on the cross
for me.

Hayley Dujmic

I believe in the Holy Spirit and I believe in God,
because God renews me every Sunday
and forgives my sins.
Every day and night, I feel blessed from the day I
got baptized, thanks to my mother and father,
who also gave me faith to this day.
Church is a place where everyone can get along and
that hour long sermon I hear every Sunday is an
hour of inspiration.
Every Sunday,
I am inspired to be proud of whom I am,
and I am so happy that I am confirmed today
in this church so I can prove my faith.

**LOVE GOD
EACH OTHER
OUR NEIGHBORS**

Abbey Lehrian

If you had asked me a few weeks ago what I believed I probably would have murmured something about God and creationism.

Now I can tell you:

I believe in God. I believe in a God who brings joy in spite of despair;

who brings light in spite of the dark;

and forgiveness in spite of our sins.

I believe in Jesus; our physical form of hope.

I believe in Jesus; our Savior, our salvation.

I believe in Jesus; our Guide and moral compass, telling us to make the right decision without judgment.

I believe in the Holy Spirit. I believe in the binding it brings.

The way it influences us. I believe the Holy Spirit that guides us in our everyday lives.

I believe in the Bible that tells us the of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit,

that spreads the word of God and helps us understand him.

I believe in the church, that brings us all together.

I believe in the church that feels like home, a community of people all coming together to express their beliefs.

I believe in the sacraments.

I believe in the celebration of the Lords Supper.

Of the blood and body of Christ to be shared among us.

And I believe in baptism in bringing the children of our faith into the church

and committing to educating them as best we can.

I believe in our community, our family. I believe in the celebrations of the church.

I believe in the church itself. I believe in the trinity.

Cassidy Dujmic

I believe in our one Holy Spirit, in a forgiving God that gave us the physical form of hope many years ago.

I feel cleansed and hopeful

for when I hear the story of Jesus,

I am certain of being protected

in and out of church by the

Holy Spirit for it's always with me every step of the way.

I rely on the Bible to give me faith

in the church to free me weekly,

even if it's just for an hour in a pew, to

help me through my busy and stressful school days.

Being in the church makes me feel like life can be beautiful and the Spirit of God is beautiful, too.

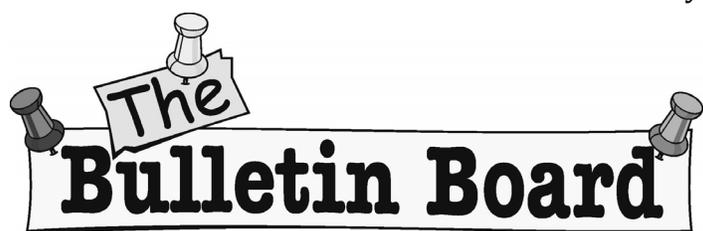
I accept my commitment of confirmation and I accredit my parents for having me baptized to start my faithful life.

I keep the faith by accepting the Lord's Supper and being made one with God.

God is around us constantly and is always trying to hold our heads up high.

When we shake our neighbor's hands and give off radiant smiles to one another is, in my eyes,

love from our hopeful hearts, made possible by God.



Sharing in the joys and concerns

of our family & friends at FPCE

- Shane Mysels was named to School of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, Robert Morris University Deans List for Spring 2015 semester. Way to go Shane!
- Welcome officially to Ed Masten, who was received into church membership by letter of transfer on Sunday, June 28th.
- Congratulations to Inori Sakai, who graced us with a mini-recital after worship on June 21st in preparation for her performance with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra at their "Celebrate Pittsburgh" concert on June 27th.
- Shaun Cloonan recently earned his Certified User credential from California University of PA for Pro Tools, a program he uses with his music technology students at North Hills. He reports that he feels he "might know what he's talking about now" for the next time he teaches it!
- Thanks to Lorriane Douthett for coordinating with Session and the Deacons to provide the reception after Pastor Michael's installation service on June 14th.
- Prayers of traveling mercies to all those vacationing during the summer months.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00-8:00PM Community Meal	2	3 8:00 AA (SR)	4 <i>Independence Day</i> 8:30 AA (SR)
5 10:00 Worship (Communion) 11:15 Planning Meeting (GP)	6 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 Scouts (SC)	7 7:00 AA (SR)	8 7:00 Bible Study (L)	9	10 8:00 AA (SR)	11 8:30 AA (SR)
12 10:00 Worship 11:15 Congregational Meeting (S)	13 7:00 Men's Group 7:00 Scouts (SC)	14 7:00 AA (SR)	15 7:00 Bible Study (L)	16	17 8:00 AA (SR)	18 8:30 AA (SR)
19 10:00 Worship (S) 11:15 PW Meeting	20 7:00 Scouts (SC)	21 7:00 AA (SR)	22 7:00 Bible Study (L)	23	24 8:00 AA (SR)	25 8:30 AA (SR)
26 10:00 Worship (S) 1:00 ESO Auditions	27 7:00 Men's Group 7:00 Scouts (SC)	28 7:00 AA (SR)	29 7:00 Bible Study (L)	30	31 8:00 AA (SR)	1 AUGUST 8:30 AA (SR)



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120 E. Swissvale Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15218

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



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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, 7pm

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