



news from the **EDGE**

120 East Swissvale Avenue — | — Pgh, PA 15218 | — 412-241-4613 — |office@fpcedgewood.org

July/Aug. 2012

Pastor Mike's Monthly Message

Over the last seven years I've used this space to encourage, cajole, teach and preach. I've written scholarly essays, heartfelt laments and humorous anecdotes. Occasionally, with a deadline looming and no time to write, I've reprinted a favorite sermon. This month I'm at a loss. Our time together is nearing an end and there's not a whole lot more left to say. I suppose about the only thing left is "thank you."

Thank you, dear friends, for seven wonderful years. In our time together you have encouraged and cajoled me. You have taught me and held me accountable. You have given my sermons an honest hearing. You have accepted my leadership and opened yourselves to new experiences. You

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**LOVE GOD
TEACH 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**.

Sunday Worship Schedule

July 1 – 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time
A special worship service for commissioners to General Assembly
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a
2 Samuel 1: 1, 17-27
Sermon: *Love Is Love*

July 8 – 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Scripture: Psalm 85: 8-13
Ephesians 1:3-14
Sermon: *Laying It On Thick*

July 15 – Mike's last Sunday. We bid farewell to Pastor Mike in this communion service, with assistance from the choir in worship. We'll come forward in a single line to receive the elements so that Mike can serve each one of us a final time. A farewell reception will follow.

July 22 – It's Christmas in July! Come and relive the joyous account of the birth of Jesus as told in our traditional service of lessons and carols. The weather might not be "frightful" at this time of year, but we'll certainly enjoy in the angels' chorus, singing "Gloria in excelsis Deo!"

July 29 – Jazz Vespers. We'll feature our very own Sunny Sakai with several of her musician friends in a service of scripture, prayer, and music done in the jazz idiom.

SERVICES

Sunday Mornings
10 a.m. in the Sanctuary

www.fpcedgewood.org

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EDGEWOOD

STAFF DIRECTORY

120 East Swissvale Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15218
Phone: 412-241-4613 ~ Fax: 412-241-5805
www.fpcedgewood.org

Pastor **Rev. Michael S. Wilson**
pastor@fpcedgewood.org
home: 412-371-1483

Pastor Emeritus **Dr. Gerald Hollingsworth**

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Organist/Pianist **Sunny Sakai**
sunnysakai@hotmail.com

Section Leader **Tyler McGuigan**
Mandy Rineer

Office Manager **Judy Mysels**
office@fpcedgewood.org

Building Manager **Rob Mysels**

Nursery Attendant **Kristi Cloonan**
LittleK815@aol.com

Summer Office Hours
Monday–Friday,
9 a.m.–1 p.m.

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 \$40 per month.

Pastor Mike's Monthly Message

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have told me what works...and what doesn't. You have expressed your gratitude when I have served you well and have told me – always with kindness – when I have fallen short.

I feel that together we have accomplished much. The measure of a congregation's growth is not always or primarily numerical. Spiritual growth, empowered leadership, diversity of worship experience, greater theological and biblical knowledge, even a more sound financial footing – all of these are signs of a growing congregation and all are present among you. And it's perhaps fair to say that there is more we might have accomplished. But maybe that's as it should be. Your next pastor will bring her or his particular gifts and visions and will harness your energy, intelligence, imagination and love in new and exciting ways.

In the end, I hope that we have benefitted from knowing each other, worshipping and serving together, eating and laughing together, saying goodbye to those who have died, welcoming those newborn. I know that I have and I will miss you all dearly and for a long time.

I remember when I first walked into Edgewood Church. I had come down from Leechburg to preach for the PNC over at the Reformed Seminary on Penn. After I preached and we had talked I followed Tim Carr and Rick Masten over to the church: down Braddock to Greendale and up the hill to FPCE. I couldn't get a full tour, however, because it was flea market day and the PNC didn't want to risk anyone seeing me. So we slipped in the side door and into the sanctuary. And the moment I stepped into that space I thought, "I want to work in *here*." I've since explored every possible place in the building. I've been up in the bell tower, under the

Pastor Mike

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chancel and crawled around in the organ. I've been in the vault room, the dirt room and the Duff room. I know how to turn on all the lights, turn on the boilers and light the pilot on the dishwasher water heater. I know that place well and love to tell visitors all I've learned about its architecture, the hand-carved organ chest and grisaille glass. You are blessed with, as a History and Landmarks article about our church put it, "a local landmark of national significance."

But what I will remember and carry with me even more than the building is the people, all of you. All of you who have been my friends and family every bit as much as my parishioners. All of you who have helped Mary Louise and I through the deaths of our fathers and now Mary Louise's mother. All of you have loved me and cared for me and accepted me. I am privileged and humbled to have been your pastor and I will remain always your friend.

With love,



Vacation Bible School 2012



Join us for VBS this summer, Monday through Friday, July 9-13. We meet from 6:00 – 8:00pm (enter through back door by wooden ramp). Kids ages 3 – 12 may participate, and we welcome anyone older to help us run the program.

This year's theme is Sky: Everything is Possible with God. Each evening will be filled with music, Bible story, snack, games, and other activities. We will meet Flash Skyrunner, visit the Imagination Station & the Sky-dive Diner, watch our Sky High movie, play All Star games, and experience Wild Blue Bible Adventures, then end the day with our Fly Away Finale. Parents are encouraged to join us by 7:45 for each day's finale.

A registration form is required for each child, which may be completed ahead or upon arrival the first night. A \$10 donation is suggested to defray expenses, but all are welcome.

On Friday, July 13, the kids will have a shortened session with the lesson, etc. then come out to the side lawn to share their songs and enjoy a picnic until dusk. Please come share in the festivities – the whole church community and all the families are invited!

“MIND THE GAP!”

If you’ve ever traveled on the Underground railway system in London, you’ve heard that phrase uttered many times. The matter-of-fact, yet stern cautionary British man’s voice alerts you to watch your step, noting the space between the station and train when entering or exiting.



We’re in a similar “space between” here at Edgewood. This gap that we’re about to mind is the period between Mike’s departure and the arrival of our new Interim or Transitional Pastor. The search team has been formed, the Session has met with Presbytery staff, and now we wait to hear who will guide us through the next “gap,” the period when we will form our Pastor Nominating Committee and go through the search process and find the person who God has called to be our next pastor.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the LORD. (Jeremiah 29:11-14a)

The Book of Order states that the Session is technically responsible for the entirety of each worship service. The reality at Edgewood is that it has mostly been Mike and me planning the outline of services (when we do emerging, readers theater, Taizé, etc.) and then we enlist the help of the various leaders, musicians, elders, and whoever else is needed to physically make the service happen.

The Worship Team, led by Paul Otori, and I have laid out a schedule of worship services to get us through the summer, the post-Mike and pre-Interim Sundays. Our goal is to make things feel as “routine” and “normal” as possible, remembering that our history has been to try different things during the summer. Hopefully, the regular worshiper will feel as though we’re just doing worship “while the pastor is on vacation.” Only this time, the return will be a different person!

On the plan between July 15 and September 1 is a jazz vespers service featuring Sunny and Friends, Christmas in July, an outdoor Emerging service with a post-worship cook-out, a choir summer family reunion in worship, and a

couple of “regular” worship services with guest preachers. In the coming weeks, you will receive a few e-mails asking for assistance to make worship happen. We’ll need readers, prayer leaders, folks to help set up and tear down, and of course, some of our resident cooks to prepare some goodies for our picnic!

We are blessed in our congregation to have many members who are gifted in the various aspects of worship. You know the quality of the music ministry, and we’ll utilize our worship ensemble, choir, section leaders, and of course, Sunny and me. We have several talented and creative readers and speakers who will deliver God’s Word in various ways – dramatic readings, sermons, prayers, liturgists. And, we’ll also call upon the Presbytery for assistance in bringing in several supply pastors to fill in the spaces we can’t cover ourselves (such as presiding over Communion!).

The hope is that we will have our Transitional Pastor in place on or around Labor Day, though if we don’t quite meet that goal, we can continue doing good quality, strong Presbyterian worship – gathering around, proclaiming, responding to, sealing upon our hearts, and bearing into the world God’s Word. During this “in between” period, we’ll do what we do best – come together as a family of faith, living out our mission to love God, love each other, and love our neighbors. Let’s MIND THE GAP and enjoy the ride!

- *Shaun Cloonan*

JULY/AUGUST P.W. CORNER

“Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all days of her life.”

CEV says "pearls" instead of "rubies". The Good News Bible says "jewels" instead of "rubies". Jewels, rubies, and pearls convey different ideas, but each of them is very valuable. None of us women mind a necklace made of any of these: jewels, rubies or pearls. In God's eyes, we are much more valuable than any jewel or pearl. As women, we sometimes forget how valuable we are. Not just to our families which should be first, but also our community or organizations. We are more valuable than even the Hope Diamond in God's eyesight. The Hope Diamond is a very large and valuable diamond.

Luella Broe, Moderator,
Presbyterian Women

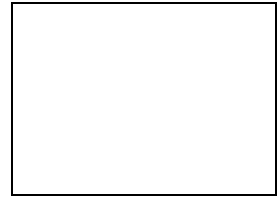
July 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedn.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10:00 Worship	7 p.m. Scouts	7 p.m. AA	OFFICE CLOSED	10:00 Thursday Morning Group	8 p.m. AA	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10:00 Worship	VBS 6-8PM	VBS 6-8PM	VBS 6-8PM	10:00 Thursday Morning Group VBS 6-8PM	VBS 6-8PM	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10:00 Worship	7 p.m. Scouts	7 p.m. AA		10:00 Thursday Morning Group	8 p.m. AA	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10:00 Worship	7 p.m. Scouts	7 p.m. AA		10:00 Thursday Morning Group	8 p.m. AA	
29	30	31				
10:00 Worship	7 p.m. Scouts	7 p.m. AA				

August 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedn.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				10:00 Thursday Morning Group	8 p.m. AA	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:00 Worship	7 p.m. Scouts	7 p.m. AA		10:00 Thursday Morning Group	8 p.m. AA	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:00 Worship 11:15 P.W. Mtg.	7 p.m. Scouts	7 p.m. ESO Auditions 7 p.m. AA	6-8 p.m. Peach Festival	10:00 Thursday Morning Group	8 p.m. AA	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:00 Worship	7 p.m. Scouts	7 p.m. AA		10:00 Thursday Morning Group	8 p.m. AA	Edgewood Community Days
26	27	28	29	30	31	
10:00 Worship	7 p.m. Scouts	7 p.m. AA		10:00 Thursday Morning Group	8 p.m. AA	

First Presbyterian Church of
EDGEWOOD
The Community Church
120 E. Swissvale Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15218



PEACH FESTIVAL
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 6-8PM

\$4.50 for adults,

\$2.50 for children 12 and under

Mark your calendars for Peach Festival
sponsored by Deacons and Presbyterian Women
featuring delicious peach desserts.

Weather permitting we will gather on the church lawn,
inside in the Social Room, if inclement weather.

