



## Church Programming Year Wraps Up As We Move From Easter to Pentecost

Easter isn't just a Sunday — it's a *season*. One day out of 365 is hardly sufficient to celebrate the great mystery of our faith — that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Accordingly, the season of Easter lasts seven weeks (a "week of weeks"), spanning the 50 days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday and encompassing the festival of the Ascension of the Lord.

Of course, Easter really isn't just a *season* either. In the fullest sense, Easter is a new way of life — in which we are "dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 6:11), called to "walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6:4). Every year, for fifty days, the church celebrates and rehearses this new way of life in the Season of Easter — as we await its completion in the fullness of Christ's reign.

As we move from this "joyful Eastertide" to the "joy in the Holy Ghost" of Pentecost at Edgewood, we bring our regular programming to an end. FROGS will take a summer break, the choir will rest their voices, Sunday School classes will go on vacation, and we'll move to the summer worship hour of 10:00 starting on June 7th. But before all of that happens, we have a full month the May, including a baptism, Youth Sunday, Muffins for Moms, and preparations for our summer events like the Strawberry Festival, community meals, and Vacation Bible School. As the old hymn says, "there's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place," and we want you to feel the presence of the Lord in this joyful church family. Plan to join us for all of our events and activities!



## MAY 2015 Worship Schedule

### May 3

On this glorious day that the Lord will give us, we will be blessed by both of our sacraments. As a community we will Celebrate the Lord's Supper and we will witness the baptism of Sophia Grace McGuigan.

### May 10

This is the Lord's day, we will continue to read from the opening chapters of the Book of Acts. It is amazing how God worked through the lives of the first brave disciples. This is also Mother's Day. Thanks to the Deacons, we will have Muffins for Mom after the service and have an opportunity to honor the special women in our lives.

### May 17

On this Emerging Worship Sunday, the Praise Ensemble will lead us in singing some of the most uplifting songs of our faith. We will read the story of the first official church decision. You will be surprised at how it went.

### May 24

This is the Sunday of wind and fire. We call in Pentecost. It is the day the church was born and inspired by the breath of God to get up and get going! On this Memorial Day weekend, we will remember the men and women who have served our country at home and abroad.

### May 31

On this Youth Sunday, we will confirm into membership six of our young people. This will be a day to rejoice and be glad!

## STAFF DIRECTORY

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

Pastor .....	The Rev. Michael P. Rucker mprucker@fpcedgewood.org
Pastor Emeritus .....	Dr. Gerald Hollingsworth
Minister of Music .....	Shaun Cloonan music@fpcedgewood.org
Organist & Pianist .....	Sunny Sakai sunnysakai4@gmail.com
Section Leaders .....	Tyler McGuigan Mandy Rineer
Office Manager & FROGS Director .....	Judy Mysels frogs@fpcedgewood.org office@fpcedgewood.org
Building Manager .....	Rob Mysels building@fpcedgewood.org
Nursery Attendant .....	Kristi Cloonan LittleK815@aol.com

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



Michael P. Rucker  
Pastor

Happy Easter brothers, sisters and friends of FPCE,  
We are still in the midst of celebrating the resurrection  
of Jesus—for this is the season of Eastertide. Therefore, stories  
like this one are still timely:

### *"My First Easter in Pittsburgh"*

Bailey Avenue Presbyterian Church is pleasantly  
perched on the crest of Mt. Washington, just a few blocks away  
from the aptly named Grandview Avenue. The week before  
Easter Sunday, my supervising pastor, Reverend Doctor Henk  
Bossers, approached me with a sly smile on his face and said,  
"*I'd like for you to be at the church by 4:00 a.m. Easter morning.*"  
In spite of my inner voice exclaiming—"*WHAT IN THE WORLD  
FOR???*" I calmly said that I'd be there—no problem. I  
remember wondering if all my Easters as a pastor were going to  
mean waking up *earlier* than the women rose on the first Easter  
to take spices and ointments to anoint the body of Jesus.

I arrived at the church at the appointed ridiculous hour  
and was informed that we were going to visit the homes of  
some members of the Bailey Avenue church family. (My first  
Easter in Pittsburgh was becoming more weird with each  
passing hour!) But what I discovered brought a big smile to my  
face and gave me a great Easter story to share. We must have  
made three or four visits. In each home, the entire family was  
wide awake—talking, laughing, drinking coffee or hot chocolate,  
snacking on Easter goodies and filling up balloons with helium.  
Somehow each balloon contained a small slip of paper declaring  
CHRIST IS RISEN! (If you find this balloon please call our  
church at...and let us know where you found it.)

As the sun rose over the city scape, I was one of half a  
dozen pastors from the Mt. Washington community leading a  
surprisingly large gathering of shivering disciples in worship  
and song celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus. Behind us was  
a very large sheet of plastic, somehow pinned to the ground.  
Underneath the plastic there must have been one hundred  
balloons. At the conclusion of our final victorious hymn, the  
balloons were "set free" and rose over the city of Pittsburgh.  
All of us applauded and watched the balloons until they were  
nothing but colorful speck in the sky. (The balloon found  
farthest away (I think) made it Aspinwall.

That first Easter in Pittsburgh made me think, we are all  
like those lovely, colorful, helium filled balloons. Each one of us  
with our own resurrection story within us. It does not have to  
be a dramatic, stunning story of salvation. Just a story from  
your heart to the hearts of others. And who knows how far your  
message will travel?

*Pastor Michael*

## DEACON'S DOINGS...

We, the Board of Deacons continue to be a faithful, busy, but fun Board!

We will take time on May 10th to honor our Mothers as the Lord honored His own mother. So bring your mom, grandmother, sister and/or friend to worship and join us for fellowship (muffins and fruit) in the Lounge following worship.

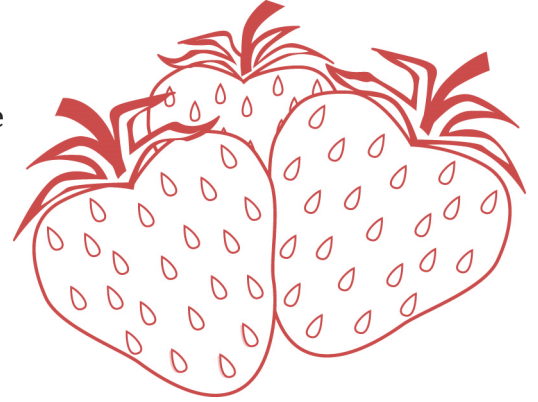
We all need a break from trying to figure out what to have for lunch or dinner...well don't worry...we have the answer...order a hoagie, see Rick Masten or fill out an upcoming bulletin insert.

Attention college students: the Melfard Douglass Scholarship applications will be available at the church office. Please pick up one if you are looking to further your education.

Thank you again and again for all the donations to our food pantry. The food pantry is being used often. If you need help, please call the Church Office.

Special thanks to Boy Scout Troop #23 for all their hard work and donations for the food pantry. Greatly appreciated and will feed many.

Can you believe the Strawberry Festival is coming...June 17, 6-8PM so mark your calendars, bring your family, friends and neighbors for hot dogs, desserts and great fellowship. Hope to see you there—no matter the weather.



Lord, thank you for loving us (Psalm 147:11)

Blessings to all,

Mary Ann Hartman  
Deacon Moderator

# Community Meal



## **COMMUNITY DINNER SET FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3 5:30-7:30PM, SIDE LAWN (weather permitting)**

We'll be grilling hot dogs and hamburgers and will appreciate any side dishes and dessert donations. A sign up sheet will be posted in the church two weeks before the dinner for the donations as well as volunteer times for set-up and break-down. Please join us to have fun with our church family and the community along with some musical entertainment. Call Chris Baldwin with any questions 412-963-9860.



## P.W. Corner

“And the beat goes on, on, on, and the beat goes on.” That’s what comes to mind when I think of the Flea Market writing this article. This year I was in charge of the Flea Market. It’s an event I have attended and worked at for more than 60 years. As a kid growing up in Edgewood, we would go down to the church on our lunch hour or after school to attend the 2 day festivities. Oh I remember well the fur coat I bought – in those long years gone past it was called a Rummage Sale and there were lots of clothes to be had as well as all the household items. We kids always got our dress up clothes there. Some of us “oldsters” were reminiscing about that as we were helping heck out all our patrons. This year when the thermostat registered 31degrees and the ground was covered with a slushy wet snow – we didn’t have as many people as we usually had. But no fear, we still met and exceeded our goal of \$1,000.

This money is all used to carry out our many mission and work projects that the P.W. Women’s group carries on throughout the year.

All this activity takes many loving worker bees to accomplish. It also takes all the “fleas” you all shared with us. Joy and Wolf Goethert brought many of their precious fleas as they are moving to New England. We thank them and all of you or we would not have achieved what we did.

Most of all I thank all my worker bees for all their hours of work: Rhonda Apessos, Chris and Gregg Baldwin, Connie Black, Elaine Cloonan, Helen Ebken, Francine Feick, Marcia Haley, Liz Held, Ed Masten, Rick Masten, Evelynne McKee, Dan Mielke, Ruth Miller, Glenn Allen Monk, Amy Moore, Judy and Rob Mysels, Jeff and Tina Nine, Florence Pickels, Flo Raisig, Mary Ross, Betty Sheridan, Bill and Donna Stineman, Lori Stutz, Amber Wilson, Beth and Marty Wolf; also 3 Boy Scouts: Mark Caro, Owen and Tanner Maue.

We also want to thank all of you that supported our sale by your purchasing our fleas. What is left will be either saved for next year or be given to the Boy Scouts for their Flea Market or taken by the Salvation Army.

Again, thank you all for making such a successful Flea Market. The Lord worked with us and through us to raise funds for His Work.

In His Love,  
Sallie Monk

## Youth Sunday: May 31

Our talented group of young people will lead us in song, dramatic vignettes, and prayer as we worship God together. Our confirmands will make their statements of faith through the service. **Support and encourage our young people. This is an important Sunday for them...for all of us.**



## Calendar Planning Meeting Set for May 31

The next time for our church leadership to meet about upcoming programming is after worship on Sunday, May 31. We’ll finalize the summer calendar and look ahead to the 2015-16 year so that we can begin plans for another exciting church year together. Session members, staff, and any leaders of particular ministries in the church should plan to attend this important meeting in the Gathering Place.

## Deacons Triangle Hoagie Sale Ends May 18

The Deacons are selling the famous Triangle Hoagies.

8” Italian \$7.00 with/without oil  
8” Corned Beef \$8.00 with/without oil  
8” Turkey \$8.00 with/without oil  
8” Roast Beef \$8.00 with/without oil

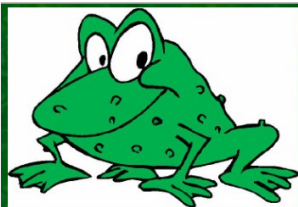
Orders are being taken now. Call the Church Office at 412-241-4613 to place order, send in check made payable to FPCE with “hoagie sale” in memo line. Deadline is May 18 by 2PM. Pick up will be at the church on Thursday, May 21 from 11AM-1PM, and 4-6PM. Delivery is also available upon request. Questions, contact Rick Masten at 412-371-4984.





# MAY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Class (L) Pollyanna (GP) 11:00 Worship (S) (Communion & Baptism) 12:15 Fellowship (L) 12:15 Prayer Warriors (GP)	4     7:00 Scouts (SC)	5 10:00 Book Club (L)  3:45 FROGS  7:00 Deacons (L) 7:00 Session (GP) 7:00 AA (SR)	6    7:00 Bible Study (L)	7   3:45 FROGS	8   8:00 AA (SR)	9   8:30 AA (SR)
10 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Class (L) Pollyanna (GP) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Muffins for Mom (GP)	11   7:00 Men's Group 7:00 Scouts (SC)	12 10:00 Book Club (L)  3:45 FROGS  7:00 AA (SR)	13   7:00 Bible Study (L)	14  1:00 Daytime Circle 3:45 FROGS	15   8:00 AA (SR)	16   8:30 AA (SR)
17 9:00 Worship Ensemble (S) 9:45 Adult Class (L) Pollyanna (GP) 11:00 Emerging (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L) 12:15 P.W. Quarterly Mtg (GP)	18   7:00 Scouts (SC)	19 10:00 Book Club (L)  3:45 FROGS  7:00 AA (SR)	20   7:00 Bible Study	21  3:45 FROGS  7:00 Grief Group	22   8:00 AA (SR)	23   8:30 AA (SR)
24 PENTECOST 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Class (L) Pollyanna (GP) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L)	25  7:00 Men's Group  7:00 Scouts (SC)	26 10:00 Book Club (L)  3:45 FROGS  7:00 AA (SR)	27   7:00 Bible Study	28  1-2:30 Daytime Circle  3:45 FROGS	29   8:00 AA (SR)	30   8:30 AA (SR)
31 YOUTH SUNDAY  11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L) 12:15 Calendar Planning (GP)	June 1   7:00 Scouts (SC)	2 10:00 Book Club (L)  7:00 AA (SR)	3  4:30 Meal Set-up 5:30-7:30 Community Meal	4    8:00 AA (SR)	5    8:30 AA (SR)	6    8:30 AA (SR)



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

FROGS had 2 very special sessions in March/April. On March 29, Mary Ann Hartman and Sallie Monk baked cupcakes for the FROGS, brought in icing, coconut, jelly beans, pipe cleaners to turn them into adorable Easter baskets. Enough were made to send home to

parents and also eat for dessert. This was a fun and easy eatable goody that the kids really enjoyed. Then on April 9, Emily and Josh Lilly from PACES Sci-Tectives presented a program aimed to foster excitement for STEM-related fields (science, technology, engineering and math) through interactive and fun activities; focusing on how measurements are used for track and field events. Kids were learning, while they were having lots of fun!

Many, many thanks to Brenda McCrady, Barb Moyer and Marcia Haley for their donations of snacks. The kids enjoy their snacks as soon as they arrive from school, which tides them over until dinner.

FROGS are still in need of beverages such as: Sunny Delight, juice boxes, Capri Sun's, etc. Thank you! A million thanks for FROGS helpers: Connie Black, Ranger Tim Manka, Dan Mielke, Ruth Miller, Nozomi Sakai, Mary Ross.

## Financial News

Income and expenses as of March 31, 2015.

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$62,059.72	\$64,451.72
Expenses	\$56,290.30	\$67,559.22
Net Income	\$5,769.42	-\$3,107.50

The first quarter financial results are good. Income is a little under budget, but expenses have been lower than budget for what is usually a difficult expense quarter with winter furnace usage and unexpected maintenance. It appears the roof repair projects of the last couple of years have paid a dividend this year in reduced maintenance expense. If anyone is interested in a detailed income and expense statement a copy may be picked up on the Treasurer's desk.

## Deacons' Food Pantry Helps Our Community

Our Deacons, chaired by Mary Ann Hartman, recently sent food from our food bank to the much-visited food bank at the Word and Worship Church in North Braddock.

*Dear Mary Ann (and the rest of the Deacons),*

*This is letter is to thank you for the generous donation of the non-perishable food items. Your efforts have made a huge impact in the community to help those that are in need of food. This food will really help our cause! We thank you for your support! There is an on-going need for food to help the people so that they won't go hungry.*

*Alan Lohr, Community Connections Coordinator*



## Looking Ahead to June...

While there are still many activities and events happening this month, several items of note should make their way to your calendar for next month. Take note of the following dates and times:

Wednesday, June 3

First Community Meal

5:30-7:30PM on the Lawn

Sunday, June 7

Worship moves to 10:00AM

Sunday, June 14

Pastor Michael's Installation Service (originally scheduled for last month) during our regular worship hour. Look for more details in an upcoming mailing.

Wednesday, June 17

Deacons' Annual Strawberry Festival

6:00-8:00PM on the Lawn

June 22-26

Vacation Bible School

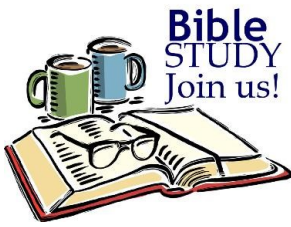
6:00-8:00PM

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## *Growing in Faith & Spirit at FPCE*

### Wednesday Night Bible Study "Tour Through the Bible"

The weekly "Tour Through the Bible" class meets Wednesdays at 7:00PM in the Lounge. If you are



looking for a new Bible study to join, now is the time. The class is low-key, no previous reading or preparing is required. Bring your favorite Bible and join us as we unwrap the story of God in a fun and interesting way. For

May we will be studying Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel. The class is led by our seminary intern, Jeff Nine.

## BLOCKS

### The "BLOCKS" Program For our Youngest Disciples

In April, we gathered for our first BLOCKS program. The first "foundation" word of the day was **church** and the little ones of FPCE sang songs, drew pictures, and played with blocks while learning how "we are the church together." Join us for our second session on **Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 - 7:30 in the Gathering Place** as we explore our second Christian building block: **kindness**. BLOCKS is for children ages 6-months to kindergarten with a caregiver. This gathering of the young is taught by Emily Lilly.

### Tuesday Book Group

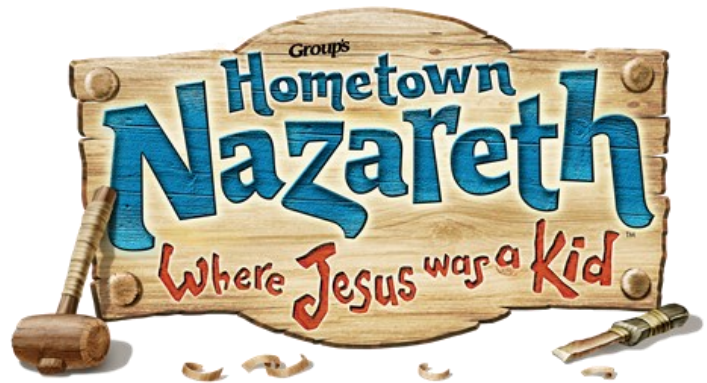
**This group** is reading a wonderfully informative book entitled *The Bible Speaks to You*. The author, Robert McAfee Brown, in his own informative and whimsical manner, will take us through some of the more puzzling questions people ask of the Bible and the Christian faith. If interested, Pastor Michael, the class leader, has a book for you.

### Vacation Bible School

#### The Preparation is Underway for "Hometown Nazareth"

What you need to know for now: Vacation Bible School will be happening from June 22-26 from 6:00—8:00PM. VBS is for young people age 3 (and potty-trained) through age 13. The VBS Director is Rhonda Apossos (rar@friedkanelaw.com)

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS! Even if you can only be with us for a couple of nights, let us know!



### Sunday Morning

#### Ongoing Educational Opportunities

##### ADULT BIBLE STUDY:

Adults of all ages are encouraged to attend our Sunday morning class. The focus for the near future is on the intriguing and inspirational First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. The adults meet in the Lounge.

##### THE CONFIRMATION CLASS:

Led by Pastor Michael, this group is studying and wrestling with the basics of our Christian faith. The goal is to confirm the young people who are willing to make that commitment during our Youth Sunday worship service on Sunday, May 31.

# The Bulletin Board

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

- Esther Wark, long-time member, turned 96 years young on April 26.
- Many, many thanks to Boy Scout Troop #23 for all their hard work and donations for the food pantry.
- Ruth Miller's granddaughter, Alexa, will be graduating from Allegheny College on May 9 in the Neuro-Science Program. Alexa also has made a name for herself on the Track Team for setting several records in throwing hammer. Way to go, Alexa.
- Travis Allabon knows a thing or two about Robotics! His school (Pittsburgh Urban Christian School) Robotics Club finished 15th out of 50 at an International Robotics Contest this past April. Way to go Travis!

## THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU...

I will never forget seeing the 100 lighted candles on the front of the sanctuary as I walked into church that Sunday morning and, of course putting them out later!!! Then there was that delicious luncheon. We certainly have wonderful cooks in our congregation. It was so wonderful seeing old friends who came just to wish me Happy Birthday. WHAT A DAY! I shall never forget it. I send a great big THANK YOU to ALL. THANK YOU EVERYONE for the memories.

*Florence Pickels*

## Pittsburgh Presbytery Night at the Pirates Game on Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mark your calendars now for Thursday, June 25, at 7:05 PM when the Pirates take on the Cincinnati Reds. Tickets must be ordered directly from the Pirates — a portion of the sales will go to support the mission of the presbytery. This would be a great all-church fellowship or youth group event!

We have also been invited to sing the National Anthem that evening and are hoping to have a combined choir of up to 150 singers from the churches of Pittsburgh Presbytery again this year.

What a wonderful opportunity for the churches of Pittsburgh Presbytery to share in a night of fellowship, baseball and singing, bringing glory to the Risen Christ!

### Ticket Information

Tickets must be ordered directly from the Pirates organization, noting you are from Pittsburgh Presbytery — a portion of the ticket sales will go toward supporting the mission of the presbytery. Remember to invite your family and friends and consider making this an all-church fellowship, branch, or youth group event!







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, Pastor  
120 East Swissvale Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15218

412-241-4613  
[office@fpcedgewood.org](mailto:office@fpcedgewood.org)  
[www.fpcedgewood.org](http://www.fpcedgewood.org)

## 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**