

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

May 2016

Congratulations!



humor have supported Jeff through the more trying times. His journey as student and candidate for becoming a Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church USA is at an important crossroads.

On Monday, May 9, Jeff and Tina will attend the graduation ceremony from Western Theological Seminary. Two days later, accompanied by Tina, Gregg Baldwin, Pastor Michael and his wife, Heather, Jeff will read his statement of faith to the Pittsburgh Presbytery's Committee on Preparation of Ministry. These are long-awaited and important steps in Jeff's journey of faith. To be sure, there is more work to be done before Jeff is ordained, but milestones are worth celebrating, aren't they?

Within weeks of beginning my work as Interim Pastor, I had the unexpected and profound blessing of getting to know Jeff and Tina Nine. They love God and this church.

Many of you know that Jeff Nine has served us as Student Pastor while attending Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. Tina's strength, encouragement, and fantastic sense of

Worship Schedule for May

May 1

Where are you fed spiritually? That may be the most important question you will ever have to answer. This Sunday provides all of us with an opportunity to be fed. Jeff Nine and I will lead the service and I will continue my series on the beatitudes: *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."* The sermon will lead us directly into the Celebration of the Lord's Supper—where we will take into our selves, the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

May 8

All of us sprang into this world through the womb of our mothers. On this Mother's Day Sunday, we will recall the words of Jesus—*"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy."* We will be the givers of mercy as we contribute to the Blanket Sunday offering. After the service, the Deacons will serve the annual Muffins for Mom fellowship hour.

May 15 (Emerging Worship)

It's our birthday! Pentecost. A powerful spirit of courage and love filled the hearts, minds, and spirit of the disciples -men and women! Pray—all of us—pray for the Holy Spirit to breathe life into the Praise Ensemble, me, and all of us during this Pentecost Celebration!

May 22

Jeff Nine, our Student Pastor, will be preaching this week. Jeff will cross a bridge toward ordination on May 11. He is excited about leading this worship service. Please join in the celebration!

May 29 (Memorial Day weekend)

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." Pure in heart? Seeing God? This is the wistful hope of naïve people, right? Wrong. Purity of heart is not the same as moral purity, which is impossible for all of us. Seeing God is possible every day—if we are looking. After the service we will honor those individuals and families who have lost their lives or the lives of their loved ones in the conflicts that plague this world.

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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.



Michael P. Rucker
Pastor

PASTOR'S

POINT
OF
VIEW

Hello members, friends, and relatives of FPCE,

Spring is springing up all around us. After the mercurial weather pattern of March and April, I'm sure most of us long for seasonable temperatures and an end to the coughing and sniffing that many of us are enduring (and probably sharing with one another.)

Let's talk stewardship.

Let's talk about this large, lovely, and costly edifice we call our church home.

When I arrived in October, 2012, Brad Masten served as chair of the stewardship committee. He did so with gentle prodding and a sense of humor. After Brad stepped aside, Paul Otori gamely took on the role of stewardship chair. I have appreciated Paul's educational and creative approach to the call for all of us to be stewards. When it comes to caring for the property and finances of our fellowship, Dan Mielke and Time McGee, elders on the Property ministry team are doing a bang-up job. The books are in the capable and responsible hands of Tom Ochs and Pam Thompson. A big "thank you" is in order for all of them.

I would like to make one point perfectly clear—stewardship is not only about fundraising and turning in a pledge card in November. To be sure, that is an important part of fulfilling the call to stewardship, but only a part. Stewardship is a way of life.

Stewardship is God's call for each one of us to be responsible caretakers of the gifts, talents, and resources that God has given us. The resources of God are not distributed evenly. All of us are to **"contribute to the needs of the saints"** (by the way, in the New Testament, all of us are saints.) But, some of us have been blessed with many resources. Paul challenges those who have been blessed with much to **"give generously."**

Clearly, when we consider this church building, we have been given much. The sanctuary is a striking and meaningful work of art. The first floor provides us with plenty of room to have fellowship, classes, and potlucks. The lower level has so many rooms that I still get lost down there! The side yard is a place for children to play, a community to picnic and a congregation to worship. We have been given much, and from us, much is expected.

The building renovation is a stewardship issue. How are we called to use this place and all of this space? How can we best care for it? How can it become a resource not only for us but for the community? How can the beauty and strength of this structure be used to advance the Kingdom of God that Jesus ushered into this world?

It is true—putting together the drawings and specs for us to look at is taking longer than we anticipated. Can we think of this waiting time as an opportunity for prayerful discernment and not a time to feel anxious and frustrated? When it comes to our call to the stewardship of this facility—let us pray.

Pastor Michael

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STRAWBERRY Festival

Wednesday, June 15
6-8PM, Side Lawn (weather permitting)

Mark your calendars!

Join us for church and fellowship on Mother's Day: May 8 for Muffins for Mom; also join us for Father's Day: June 19 for Donuts for Dad. We are very much looking forward to seeing everyone, so bring your family, friends and neighbor and join us.

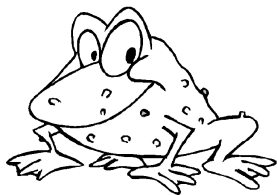
We recognize our college students: Charlie Baldwin, Jeffrey Mellon, J.D. Moore, Shane and Mariah Mysels, Rylie Ochs, Nozomi, Hibiki and Inori Sakai with student gift checks. We wish all our students the best with their studies.

Help us: we could use some peanut butter, jelly, cereal, pancake mix/syrup, tuna helper, spaghetti sauce and personal care items for the food pantry. All donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Can you believe we are already talking about the Strawberry Festival; are your taste buds watering??? Get ready—here it comes, June 15, 6-8PM.

May you be filled with God's Perfect Peace,

Mary Ann Hartman
Moderator



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

FROGS will be ending for this session on May 31. We have had a very busy, sometimes frustrating year, but also rewarding! Our FROGS always seem to have a lot of energy, don't always want to do their homework, etc., but at the end of the day, when hugs are exchanged and they walk out the door with their parents/guardians, we feel a huge sense of accomplishment!

We had a great planning meeting for year-end activities and looking ahead to the Fall 2016 session.

Many thanks again to our fantastic volunteers: Flo Raisig, Dan Mielke, Mary Ross, Ruth Miller, Rick Masten, Ed Masten, Sallie Monk, Mary Ann Hartman, Lori Stutz, Lynne Legge,, Glenn Allen Monk, Michael Rucker, Hazel Chen, etc.
Judy Mysels, Director



Deacons' Doings...

We Deacons, keep on keeping on...On Palm Sunday, we made Easter baskets filled with goodies and cards made from FROGS for "our friends of the church". We make our baskets on Palm Sunday so I can make palm crosses to place in them; For those across the miles cards are sent with crosses in them. Along with the FROGS May baskets of flowers will be made and delivered to "our friends of the church" this year.

*BE THOU
my Vision...*

Join us after worship on Pentecost, Sunday, May 15 in the Gathering Place for a light luncheon and conversation about the Session's vision plan for moving forward as the children of God in the Edgewood congregation. Celebrate the birthday of the church by sharing in its future!

(Note: this is not about the building renovation)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

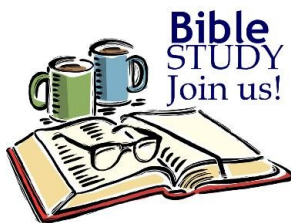
Growing in Faith & Spirit at FPCE

Adult Sunday School

"Gifts from God" will run at least the next 8 weeks. We are covering topics like friends, fellowship, creation, angels, spiritual gifts, love, fruits of the Spirit, among many others. Join us in the lounge each Sunday at 9:45 AM (up to June 5th then we will meet at 8:45 AM starting June 12th). All you need is your Bible and an open heart .

Men's Group

at Foli's - We are having a great time with some excellent conversation and fellowship. Come and join us 7:00 PM each 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 PM.



Tuesday Book Group

This group is reading a wonderfully informative book entitled *The Purpose Driven Life*. We enjoy the hospitality of Rhonda Apossos, enjoy one another's company and a meaningful discussion. If interested in joining us, Pastor Michael, the class leader, will get a book for you.

Wednesday Night Bible Study

"Tour Through the Bible"

Wednesday night Bible Study - will pick up with the Bible tour again on Wednesday May 25th. We will be continuing with Song of Solomon. Meetings will be every Wednesday at 7:00 PM in the lounge, except for days when the Community dinners or Strawberry Festival are happening.



Camp SOS Plans Moving Forward

Slowly but surely, our plans for the big mission/outreach/Christian Education project, Camp SOS:

Summer of Service, are coming along. We hope to have flyers out to the schools in the coming weeks, and will start taking registration for campers. We'll be reaching out to the local mission/service groups to coordinate visits and discussions. Soon you'll see information about ways you can donate time and financial support to the project. If you are interested in serving as a staff member, working with the campers, overseeing game time, or helping with food, please contact Judy in the office to get information on obtaining your clearances so that you can be set to work on the first day. The dates for Camp SOS are July 11-18 from 12:00-6:00PM. Any time you can volunteer will be appreciated, even if it's only a day or 2! More info to come....

Community Meal



**1ST COMMUNITY DINNER:
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1
6-8PM, SIDE LAWN
(weather permitting)**

We'll be grilling hot dogs and hamburgers and will appreciate any side dishes and dessert donations. Watch for bulletin inserts 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. Call Chris Baldwin with any questions 412-963-9860.

About the Renovation Proposal

by Tom Ochs

For the renovation, we must remember that we are dealing with a 100 year building and we are evaluating substantial changes. When the final report is issued, we will all be part of the process to understand the changes, evaluate the costs and make decisions about the feasibility of these changes being part of our growth in future years. Regardless of the final decision, as a church we should be looking optimistically to the future with the intent to grow our numbers and expand our mission.

Since the funds were approved to hire an architect to develop plans for the program area, sanctuary and HVAC, it was necessary to get detailed drawing of the building, survey the electrical and mechanical systems, determine how to relocate the large electrical panel by the men's bathroom, have a structural engineer evaluate the modifications needed for the ADA lift and have many discussion on the sanctuary platform. There have been discussions on the best method to replace the steam boiler and the most efficient way to service a building where most of the rooms are only occupied a few hours a week. We have had five HVAC contractors visit the church for consultation. The architect has also been backlogged resulting in drawings time taking longer than expected. Although there may be some impatience, for a project such as this a slow approach has its advantages because it helps avoid quick decision that may not be the best in the longer term.

At the present time, we are expecting to receive drawings in the next 2-3 weeks. Because the HVAC encompasses the whole building, we think it may be best to separate that from the program room/sanctuary platform changes. The current distribution of forced air furnaces would allow the HVAC to be installed before those changes are implemented. Of course, before any changes are approved or any contracts issues everyone will have the opportunity to review the changes proposed, the cost associated with those changes and how they will be funded.

When this project started the goal was to reconfigure the first floor to provide a program space that fit the present size of our congregation that was new, functional, easier to maintain, with ADA access and modern bathrooms and kitchen. The inefficient, high maintenance and irregular heat of the steam system was to be replaced with a new more efficient system. The sanctuary platform was to correct years of changes in the sanctuary including removing pews, worship service changes and use of the organ. Hopefully we will be wise enough to make good decisions for the future of our church.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PENTECOST

PENTECOST OFFERING

SUNDAY, MAY 15

IT'S ABOUT THE FIRST THIRD OF LIFE!

**Because we care so deeply for them, we
were glad to share not only God's good
news with you but also our very lives
because we cared for you so much.**

—1 Thessalonians 2:8

The Pentecost Offering Provides
Three Ways to Give:

1. 40% stays with your congregation.
Developing and supporting programs for children at risk, youth, and young adults in your own church and community.
2. 25% supports Young Adult Volunteers (YAV). Providing opportunities for young adults to serve in communities around the world and grow as leaders through transformative Christian service
3. 25% goes to Ministries with Youth.
Helping to guide our youth by uniting them in Christ and lifting them up as leaders and messengers of God's word
4. 10% advocates for at-risk children.
Supporting vital ministries to improve education and provide a safe haven for children across the globe.

Please plan to give generously to the Pentecost
Offering on Sunday, May 15!

Pentecost Offering

for Children at Risk, Youth, and Young Adults

Through the Pentecost Offering, the church expresses a common commitment to provide hope for children at risk, opportunities for youth and young adults to grow in their faith, and short-term mission service options for young adults.

Please give generously.



Blankets for Mom

Sunday, May 8

Honor your mom by giving the gift of love and hope in their honor or memory. Church World Service (CWS) and FPCE's Mission Ministry Team is sponsoring "Blanket Sunday" on May 8. Your donation of \$5 per blanket will help provide warmth and the knowledge that someone cares to refugees, victims of natural disasters and many others across the world. Fill out a bulletin insert through May 3or call the Church Office.



**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE
BLANKETS+**

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 1

First Community Meal
6-8PM on the Lawn

Calendar Planning Meeting Set for Sunday, June 5

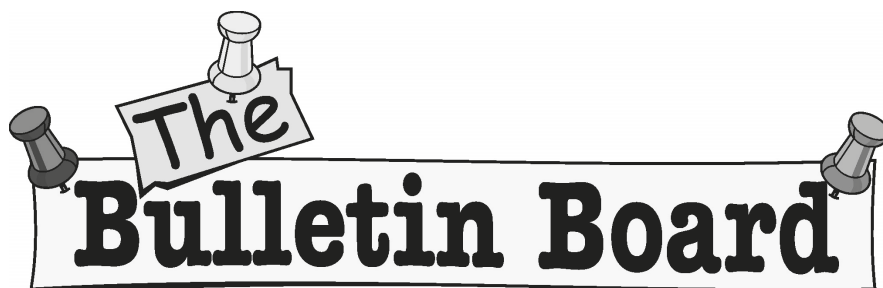
The next time for our church leadership to meet about upcoming programming is after worship on Sunday, June 5. We'll finalize the summer calendar and look ahead to the 2016 year so that we can begin plans for another exciting church year together. Session members, staff, and any leaders of particular ministries in the church should plan to attend this important meeting in the Gathering Place.

Sunday, June 12

Worship moves to 10:00AM

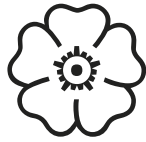
Wednesday, June 15

Deacons' Annual Strawberry Festival,
6:00-8:00PM on the Lawn

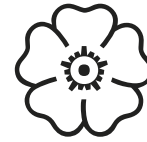


*Sharing in the joys and concerns
of our family & friends at FPCE*

- After five intense years of study, Jeff Nine is finally graduating from Western Theological Seminary with his Masters of Divinity (M.Div.) degree on May 9. He is also fully engaged in the ordination process with Pittsburgh Presbytery. Lord willing he will become an ordained Pastor (Teaching Elder) next year.
- Ericka Keef, granddaughter of Ruth Miller, received her Doctorate in Computational Biology at the University of Pittsburgh on April 4. Way to go, Dr. Keef !!!
- Shane Mysels will be graduating from Robert Morris University on May 8 with a degree in Biomedical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering.
- Happy 50th birthday to Glenn Allen Monk on May 6!
- Prayers for Diane Kemmerer, Carol Tessauro for healing and Heather Hartman (Mary Ann Hartman's niece) with a child due in early July. Sudzy (Mary Ann Hartman's brother-in-law) is doing much better and back to work. Thank you for your prayers.
- We pray for Emily, Josh, Noah, and Theodore Lilly. Emily's father, Reverend Edward T. Schantz, died unexpectedly on Saturday, April 16 at the age of 83. He was the husband to Susan McColly Schantz. Reverend Schantz was ordained in 1965 in the United Church of Christ and celebrated his 50th anniversary of ordination last July. The family is very grateful that the pastors of this congregation, Reverend Mike Wilson and Reverend Michael Rucker, were blessed to share the wedding of Emily and Josh and the baptisms of Noah and Theodore with Reverend Schantz. Well done—good and faithful servant.
- Ask Helen Ebken about Travis — making it to the finals?



MAY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Worship (S) Communion 12:15 Fellowship (L) 12:15 Prayer Chain Mtg. (GP)	2 7:00 Scouts (SC)	3 10:00 Book Club (A) 3:45 FROGS (SR) 7:00 Deacons (L) 7:00 AA (SR)	4 7:00 Bible Study (L)	5 3:45 FROGS (SR)	6 5:00 AA Party (SR)	7 8:30 AA (SR)
8 <i>Mother's Day</i> 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Muffins for Mom (L) 12:15 Camp SOS Meeting (GP)	9 7:00 Mens Group (F) 7:00 Scouts (SC)	10 10:00 Book Club (A) 3:45 FROGS (SR) 7:00 Session (GP) 7:00 AA (SR)	11 7:00 Bible Study (L) 7:00 Worship En (S)	12 1:00 Day Circle (L) 3:45 FROGS (SR)	13 8:00 AA (SR)	14 8:30 AA (SR)
15 <i>Pentecost</i> 9:00 Worship En (S) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Emerging Worship (S) 12:15 Luncheon & Discussion (GP)	16 7:00 Scouts (SC)	17 10:00 Book Club (A) 3:45 FROGS (SR) 7:00 AA (SR)	18 7:00 Bible Study (L)	19 3:45 FROGS (SR)	20 8:00 AA (SR)	21 8:30 AA (SR)
22 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L) 12:15 Camp SOS Meeting (GP)	23 7:00 Mens Group (F) 7:00 Scouts (SC)	24 10:00 Book Club (A) 3:45 FROGS (SR) 7:00 AA (SR)	25 7:00 Bible Study (L)	26 1:00 Day Circle (L) 3:45 FROGS	27 8:00 AA (SR)	28 8:30 AA (SR)
29 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Memorial Day Observance (MP)	30 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 Scouts (SC)	31 10:00 Book Club (A) 7:00 AA (SR)	June 1 5:00 Set-up 6:00 Community Dinner (Lawn)	A=Apeossos' Home; C=Choir Room; F=Foli's Restaurant GP=Gathering Place; L=Lounge; MP=Memorial Park O=Office; PS=Pastor's Study; S=Sanctuary SC=Scout Room; SR=Social Room		



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120 E. Swissvale Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15218



125
YEARS
CELEBRATING
1891 - 2016

The First Presbyterian Church of Wilkinsburg merged with the Edgewood Presbyterian Church in 1983 to become the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood. Pictured left is one of the first worship services of the newly merged congregation in the fall of 1983.