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# Edgewood Presbyterian Church

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## Newsletter September 2021

### Pastor's page

Max Lucado, in his book *A Love Worth Giving*, tells the story of the Pellicano. The Pellicano is the world's most unwanted ship. Since 1986 she has been the hobo of the high seas. No one wants her. Sri Lanka doesn't. Bermuda doesn't. The Dominican Republic turned her away. So did the Netherlands, the Antilles, and Honduras.

The problem is not the boat. Though Rusty and Barnacled, the 466-foot freighter is seaworthy.

The problem is not the ownership. The owners have kept the license current and paid the taxes.

The problem is not the crew. They may feel unwanted, but they are efficient.

Then what is the problem? What is the reason for years of rejections? Waved away Sri Lanka. Turned away in Indonesia. Rejected in Haiti. Why is the Pellicano the most unwanted ship in the world?

Simple. She is full of trash. 15,000 tons of trash. Orange peelings. Beer bottles. Newspapers. Half-eaten hotdogs. Trash. The trash of Philadelphia's long summer of 1986 that's when the municipal workers went on strike. That's when the trash piled higher and higher. That's when Georgia refused it,

and New York declined it. No one wanted Philadelphia's trash.

That's when the Pellicano entered the picture. The owners thought that they would turn a quick penny by transporting the rubbish. The trash was burned, and the ashes were dumped into the belly of the boat. But no one would take it. Initially it was too much. Eventually, it was too old. Who wants potentially toxic trash?

The plight of the Pellicano is proof. Trash-filled ships find few friends. The plight of the Pellicano is also a parable. Trash filled hearts don't fare any better. I wonder if you can relate to the Pellicano? Are you unwanted at the dock? Drifting farther from friends and family? If so you might check your heart for garbage. Who wants to offer dock space to a smelly heart?

Life has a way of unloading her rubbish on our decks. Your husband works too much. Your wife gripes too much. Your boss expects too much. Your kid's whine too much. The result? Trash. Load after load of anger. Guilt. Pessimism. Bitterness. Bigotry. Anxiety. Deceit. Impatience. It all piles up.

Trash affects us. Today's jealousy is tomorrow's temper tantrum. Today's bigotry is tomorrow's hate crime. Today's anger is tomorrow's abuse. Today's lust is

tomorrow's adultery. Today's greed is tomorrow's embezzlement. Today's guilt is tomorrow's fear. Today's thoughts are tomorrow's actions.

Love, forgiveness and grace are precious commodities, and they are the answer to the trash that comes our way. Love overcomes. Forgiveness liberates. Grace rescues. Each day brings new choices. Every moment is an opportunity to push away the trash that comes our way, so we can be God's people to even "the least of these."



Wishing You Abundant Life in Christ,  
Chad

### **Session Notes**

The session met August 19 with Rev. Chad Neal as moderator. Rev. Neal will be on vacation the week of September 20 through the 26.

The new Sunday school year will begin Sunday, September 5. Sunday school will start at 10:00 through 10:40. Worship will start at 11:00. Please note that the session has decided to discontinue having the 9:30 assembly for now. (beginning September 5, 2021)

Thanks to all those who have made the commitment to teaching this year! The elementary class will be taught by Stephanie Sellars. The middle/high school class will be taught by Nancy Mead. She will be leading them in a series called "Faith Questions".

Jean McSwain and Connie Wynn will teach the Mary Olive Smith class, from the *Present Word*.

Teresa Mangum and Steve Womack will teach the Nannie Monroe class, using the *Present Word* also.

*We encourage the use of masks by everyone while in the church, due to the increase of Covid 19 cases.*

The next session meeting will be September 16, at 11:00.

### **Communications Committee**

With the session's approval, we decided to discontinue recording the weekly worship service and posting it on Facebook. Very few people watched it. We will revisit that decision if there are substantial requests for us to do so.

Instead, we will redirect our effort to reconstruct the Edgewood church website. In addition to providing general information about our church, we plan to use the site to provide current news, church schedules, and activities. The new website is currently under construction. We welcome any suggestions for material you would like to have included on the website. It will probably be several weeks before it is available to the public.

Ideas? Concerns? – call or text Jerry at (919) 770-3645, or email [gwynn3645@gmail.com](mailto:gwynn3645@gmail.com).



**Thank you Kylie!**  
 Our first Acolyte since COVID  
 (And Happy Birthday!)

August 15, 2021



The PW coordinating team will meet September 6, at 2:00.

The PW circle will meet September 13, at 11:00 to start off a new year and a new bible study, *What my Grandmothers Taught Me*. We will be learning from the women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus. Jean McSwain will lead us in the introduction and first lesson.



August 14, 2021 Presbyterian Women Meeting



2021-2022 PW/Horizons Bible Study "What My Grandmothers Taught Me". Some members brought pictures of their mothers and grandmothers to the meeting.



**Presbyterian Women**

August 14, 2021



**Food,  
 Fellowship  
 and Music**



On August 14, the coordinating team hosted a brunch for the women. We had 11 in attendance. Each women was asked to bring a picture of her grandmother and/or mother for everyone to guess who belonged to who. It was so interesting seeing the favor in everyone's grandmothers and mothers. Jeanne Anderson stretched our memories by playing 11 different Broadway musical pieces for us to guess what the titles were. They were hits from long ago, but fun and upbeat. What a pleasure to recall them.

We dedicated the "Least Coin Fellowship", and discussed how we had met our budget and contributed to many local missions during this past 2020-2021 circle year.



Lunch to welcome Rev. Chad Neal

July 11, 2021



This was a fun time of fellowship....the first in many months. Welcome Chad!

### Church in the Park

First Presbyterian Church is planning *Church in the Park* at Kiwanis Park, Sunday, **October 17**. The morning will begin at 10:00 with music (combined choirs), worship at 10:30 and concluding with lunch after worship. There will be a catered meal (\$10 plate, \$5 children under 8) and a golf cart will be available for anyone needing assistance from the parking lot to the worship shelter. This is an opportunity to commune with God, nature and your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Rev. Chad Neal will hold services at Edgewood that Sunday for those who prefer not going to the Park.

### Special Offerings

Wounded Warriors (August 29)

Sarah Wilson Scholarship Fund (September 12)



Rev. Chad Neal will be on vacation *September 20 through the 26*. But if you have a special need during that time, he can be reached at 919-822-4013.



Prayers for the new school year!  
For the students, teachers, and parents!

