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# Edgewood Presbyterian Church

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## Newsletter August 2022

### Pastor's Page

We have been having a lot of storms lately. I'm glad because we've needed the rain. But our dog, Daisy, is terrified by the thunder. When the storms come, she wanders through the house trying to find a place to escape the noise. She hides under the desk. She crawls into tight corners. She begs to go outside hoping the noise is only inside. She can be frantic during the storms. Try though we might, we cannot comfort her when the rolls of thunder start booming. Friends have come up with ideas on comforting her – holding her; giving her treats; distracting her by playing with her; and a few other things. So far the only thing that seems to work is drugging her so she sleeps through the storm. It would be wonderful to be able to explain to her in a way she understands that the storm is just a lot of noise and nothing to fear. That way she could just wait it out.

I wonder if God looks at us like I look at Daisy. We go about our lives and suddenly a storm pops up. Illness booms. Financial difficulties pour down on us. Relationship problems rattle the windows. Difficult people drench us with frustration. Like Daisy, we see the storm and we begin to worry, or fear, or fret. We frantically run around trying to deal with the storm. We try to hide from the problem. We get angry at the problem. We fuss and fume and agitate. The storm has us running around trying to find a safe haven, a place of escape. But there is no way to escape the storm. Sometimes we just need to ride it out. We must dig in and wait until the storm goes away. Sometimes storms come and go quickly leaving us shaken but ready to move on. But sometimes storms stay. They last and last and do their destructive damage. Storms can tear up our lives by the roots; blowing over our

plans, hopes and dreams, and leaving us soaked in doubt and disappointment.

God sees things from a different perspective than we do. He understands our storms far more than we can. He sees what is happening. He knows that “this too shall pass.” He wants to tell us to trust, believe, and know that things will change. I’m sure there are times God wants to grab us and hold us and say, “Just wait a little more - this storm will pass soon.”

In the Gospel of Mark (4:35-41) is the story of Jesus calming the storm. You’ll remember that the disciples were rowing across the lake when a terrible storm blew in. It rocked their boat and threatened to swamp them. Jesus, who understands things from God’s perspective, was asleep in the back of the boat. He was at peace even in the midst of a storm. But his disciples were filled with fear. They woke him up and cried out, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”

Jesus got up and commanded, “Peace! Be still.” The wind stopped and it was completely calm.

Are you going through a storm right now? Are you feeling tossed about? About to be swamped? Blown over? Struck by lightning?

God is with us. He knows our need. He knows our hurts. He sees us even in our frantic state. I’m sure He would remind us that He is there, and nothing will separate us from Him and His love. But there is something else He would say to us. Sometimes the greater storm is the one we generate inside us. Sometimes we get so worked up, so fearful, so overwhelmed, so frantic, that we are our own storm. It’s times like this that we need Jesus. We need to hear Him say, “Peace! Be still!” We need to remember that He will never leave us nor forsake us and that in His love and grace we can endure whatever storms may come.

Wishing You Abundant Life in Christ,

Chad

### **THANK YOU!**

Dear Members and Friends of Edgewood Presbyterian Church,

I want to tell you how grateful I am for the opportunity to serve as your interim pastor. It has been an honor and blessing to serve among you, worship with you, and pray with you. Cindy and I will continue to pray for Edgewood and all of you. We trust that God will lead His very best to come and work together with you. Thank you for all the love and support you have given us.

Bless you all!

~Chad~



**The ice cream social was a fun event, enjoyed by all!**

We want to celebrate Rev. Chad Neal's time with us as Interim, here at Edgewood for the past 13 months. He has helped us grow and get things in order for a new full-time pastor in the future. We all wish he could just stay, but Chad is ready to retire. His last Sunday with us will be **August 21<sup>st</sup>**.

**The Fellowship Committee will host a retirement luncheon following worship on August 21.** There is a signup sheet in the hallway, to let us know how many to count on for the lunch.

Chad, we pray that you will enjoy your retirement and your new home!



## Christian Education Committee

The Christian Education Committee met on July 16, with Jean McSwain, chairman, Teresa Mangum, Mary Lee Byrd, Nancy Mead, Stephanie Sellars, Beth Singer, and Rev. Chad Neal.



We are asking for donations of school supplies to help the children returning to school to be prepared for their new year of learning. There are bins located at the front door to put your donations. **Items needed are: notebook paper, composition books, pencils, pens, highlighters, glue sticks, colored pencils, crayons, washable markers, pink stick erasers, folders with pockets, pencil boxes/pouches, mechanical pencils.**

Thank you for your support! We will pack the bags with school supplies after the lunch for Rev. Neal on August 21. If you would like to help, just let us know.



**We will have the Blessing of the Backpacks and Kick Off for the new Sunday School year on August 28.**

## Celebrate Sunday School

Please plan on coming to the fellowship hall **at 9:30, on August 28**, for a special celebration of another year of Sunday School, **with refreshments hosted by the Christian Education committee.**



### August Prayer Families of the Week



- 7 Jimmy & Jeannie Williams
- 14 Sandy, Jerrica, Ava & Bentley Williams
- 21 Stephen & Kathie Womack
- 28 Connie & Jerry Wynn

### Session Notes

The next stated Session meeting will be Sunday, August 7 at 1:30.



# Presbyterian Women

Edgewood's *PW Coordinating Team* will meet August 1, at 11:00 for lunch and a planning session.

The Presbyterian Women of Coastal Carolina *Fall Gathering* will be held August 13, 10-1:00, at Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Aberdeen. Keynote speaker will be Gracie Williams; required officer training for Moderators, Treasurers, and Historians. All women are invited to attend. Registration at 9:30.

The coordinating team will host a Brunch for the women, **August 27, at 10:00**. Put it on your calendar ladies to come and enjoy the good food and fellowship! Officers will be installed at this time.



*Blessings to everyone celebrating August Birthdays*



Presbyterians from all over the Presbytery are invited to an evening of fellowship and fun at the Segra Baseball Stadium in Fayetteville. **Friday, August 26**, will feature the Fayetteville Woodpeckers vs the Charleston River Dogs at 7PM. Let Sandy Dull know if you would like to go as a group.



To Helen & Harold Weathers as they celebrate their 64<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary August 2<sup>nd</sup>!



If you would like to send a card to David Dudley or Drew Morrison, here are their addresses:

David & Kathryn Dudley  
3108 Pine Lake Drive  
Sanford, NC 27330

Drew Ann Morrison  
Peak Resources Pine Lake  
801 Pinehurst Avenue  
Carthage, NC 28327



Drew Ann enjoyed a visit & flowers from Connie, Mary & Patsy this week.



*We extend our sympathy to Jean McSwain and family in the loss of her sister Thelma Tomlinson.*