
Edgewood Presbyterian Church



Newsletter May 2022

Pastor's page

During my vacation after Easter, Cindy and I spent 6 of the 7 days putting together a playset with swings, a slide, a climbing wall, and some other things. (Full disclosure: My son in law and daughter helped on Saturday and Sunday). It was a big undertaking with lots of wood, screws, bolts and other items. When we began the process, we were excited to do this for our grandchildren. By Thursday afternoon, as the temperatures rose into the mid 80s, we lost our enthusiasm. Finding the right size bolt or screw amidst the boxes of hardware got to be harder and harder. The ground was not perfectly level, so things didn't align just right. In order to make things fit, heavy pieces of the playset had to be lifted, twisted, or both so it all connected properly. In the midst of it all, I would begin to wonder if attempting this project was such a good idea.

We know the story of the Exodus. After the pass over of the angel of death, the Jews escaped the slavery and abuse of Egypt and headed into the desert. They

were on their way to the Promised Land. The journey was hard and uncomfortable. There were times they thought they had made a bad decision following God and Moses into the wilderness.

They complained about the food, the water, the uncertainty, and the leadership of Moses. There were times they declared they wanted to return to Egypt. "Slavery is better than this!" they declared. Even though God presence was demonstrated by the pillar of cloud in the day and a pillar of fire at night, they still doubted Him. They questioned His intentions for them. "Did He bring us out into the desert just to die?"

Sometimes life can be beyond hard. Circumstances, illnesses, difficult relationships, finances, and life in general can put us in a tailspin. There can be times when we, like the Jews in the wilderness, can wonder about God's intentions for us. We can feel pushed to the brink, beaten down, stepped on, and forgotten. When days become difficult, I try to remember the calling of Moses in Exodus 3. From the burning bush God tells Moses, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am

concerned about their suffering.” When life is beyond difficult and troubles continue to pile up, remember that God is there. He sees our misery and hears our cries. He cares about what we are going through. God is not far off, or distant. Jesus was called “Emmanuel,” which means God with us.

I would love to say that our faith in God will guarantee us a life full of sunshine and rainbows. But we both know that is not true. The Israelites did escape the brutal life of slavery, but found themselves in the desert. Hot, tired, hungry, dusty. The journey to the Promised Land can be a difficult one. Challenges, difficulties, and hardships are found on that road. But so is God. God is with us. He has promised that He will never leave us nor forsake us. *James 5 reminds us: “... be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.”*

Wishing you abundant life in Christ,
Chad

Session Notes

The stated Session meeting will be Sunday, May 15, at 1:30.

Convocation of Lee County Elders - Sunday, May 15, at 5:00. The West Community Steering Team is inviting **all active elders** in Lee County to attend a conversational dinner to reconnect with leadership from the other Lee Co Presbyterian Churches. It will be a catered meal, so please let Patsy know if you will be attending.



Rev. Chad Neal breaking bread for Palm Sunday – Holy Communion

Missions Committee

Thanks to all who gave for the special offering for Humanitarian Relief for the Ukraine refugees. The total was \$632.00.

Contributions for the *One Great Hour of Sharing*, April 17, was \$310.87.

Two Cents a Meal Hunger Program, received \$55.00.

Thank you for giving to these worthy causes!


Treasurer’s Report for March

Receipts	\$ 5,807.70
Disbursements	\$11,082.49



The PW coordinating team will meet Monday, May 2, at 2:00.

The circle will meet Monday, May 9, at 11:00. Ladies, please come out and join us for the bible lesson and fellowship with one another. Patsy McBryde will lead us in Lesson 8, *Mary in the Faith and Tradition of the Church*.

 The PW ***Birthday Offering*** will be taken up on *May 15*, during worship. This is an annual special offering to help fund mission projects that improves lives. Nancy Mead will tell us more about it that Sunday.



Jean McSwain and Nancy Mead transformed our cross into a beautiful living cross, representing Christ risen from the dead.



Kids participating in Easter Service

April 17, 2022

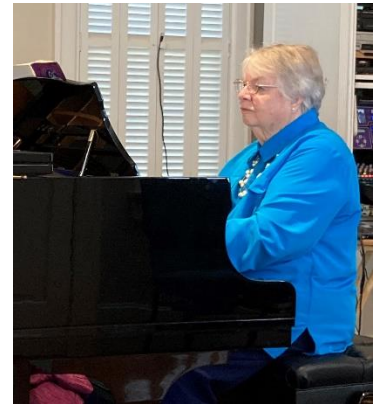


Kylie Wester was acolyte. Stephanie Sellars led the children's sermon, Easter Sunday.



The flowers were given in memory of Bill Hayes, by Pat Marion

Karen Miller played for worship April 10



Easter Sunday at Edgewood

April 17, 2022



What a special day!
Wilson Weathers played for our Easter service.

Alex Peralta Vera will be playing May 1. He is Ron Coley's exchange student from Spain. Alex is studying classical piano. We are glad to have him play for our worship service today.

We look forward to having Wilson Weathers back again to play for us on Mother's Day, May 8.

May Prayer Families of the Week



- May 1 Chad & Cindy Neal
- 8 Jennifer & Carlie Nicholson
- 15 Jim & Rose Owle
- 22 Liesl Owle & Kaitlyn
- 29 Barbara Rosser



Leslie Hanna played for our worship service April 24.





To all who are Celebrating
May Birthdays!

Birthday Blessings

Home

To an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you. 1 Peter 1:4

In her book about heaven, Anne Graham Lotz told about the time she bought a ticket for a tour of Buckingham Palace in London. She passed through one spectacular room after another gazing at the hand-painted ceilings, magnificent paintings, gilded furniture, and crystal chandeliers. But nowhere did she see a child's toy, an open magazine, a coffee cup sitting on a side table, or a table set for two. "Buckingham Palace is a magnificent showplace," she said, "but it's hard to think of it as a home"

(Recommended Reading 1 Peter 1: 3-9)

The glittering scenes of heaven will far exceed anything in Buckingham Palace, yet it will be our home. It will feel like home, it will look like home, and it will be home. Our resurrected and glorified bodies will be perfectly equipped to enjoy all the features

of the new heaven and new earth. Our friends and loved ones in Christ will meet us in New Jerusalem. Our tears will be gone, and our years will have no end.

How exciting to know the joy that awaits us in heaven. We should look forward to the eternal home Jesus is preparing for us.

Knowing where you are going takes the uncertainty out of getting there.

by: Anne Graham Lotz

(from Turning Points Devotional, May 2022)



Memorial Day, previously referred to as **Decoration Day**, is a day to recollect **memories of American armed forces** who've given up their lives in service to our nation. This official day recollects the **memory back in Civil wartime**, commemorating a quarter of one million lives that were lost throughout that four-year interval.

God bless all those who serve!