

Edgewood Presbyterian Church

Newsletter—May 2024



Reflections

It has now been more than a month since I was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament and installed as the Pastor of Edgewood Presbyterian Church. The work of being your pastor keeps me busy and has prevented me from reflecting on this significant life change or maybe it has given me a ready excuse to avoid deep thoughts.

In some ways, little changed on March 17. I had been doing this work of “pastoring” since the beginning of December. That was when the most significant transition occurred. Prior to my coming to Edgewood, I had worked as an administrative assistant pretty much since I graduated from college in 1997. In that work, there was little room for creativity, study, or leadership. I had to squeeze course work, sermon preparation, and Sunday School lessons into my evenings and weekends. Everything felt rushed and compressed. Once I began serving at Edgewood, my days have been filled with worship planning and sermon research, Bible Study preparation, meeting planning.... I get to do things that I love – leading worship, sharing God’s love, studying, writing.... This doesn’t mean that I don’t still feel rushed and compressed, but I have time to breathe in the evenings, to spend time reading and sewing in peace.

In some ways, much changed on March 17. My calling to ministry was definitively affirmed by this congregation and the Church, represented by the Presbytery of Coastal

Carolina. This is the work and love that I am called to do. With my ordination, I am allowed, actually mandated to celebrate the Sacraments with you, to incorporate those vital and life-giving signs and symbols of God’s love into worship to better and more fully share God’s grace. And I am overjoyed and filled with gratitude, humbled to have this opportunity and privilege to walk alongside you in our faith journeys.



When my boys were born, I experienced this odd phenomenon where my heart seemed to grow exponentially in love and in the capacity to love, in ways that didn’t make sense and yet were so perfect and true. In serving as your pastor, now as Reverend, my heart has swelled with love for you. It’s an amazing thing... a gift of grace.

In faith, hope, & love,

Sara

Pastor’s Office Hours

Sunday
Monday–Wednesday mornings
Saturday (various times)

919-770-5791 ~ sara.martin@edgewoodpres.

TREASURER'S REPORT

March TOTALS

Receipts	\$17,907
Expenses	\$19,551
Special Offerings:	
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 192
Hymnals	\$ 829
Memorial Gifts	\$ 1,101



Prayer Family of the Week

- May 5 Gerald & Anne Thomas
- 12 Dr. Amelia & Milton Torres
- 19 Ms. Eddie Wade
& Michael Edwards
- 26 Debra & Spencer Wall

SPECIAL OFFERINGS IN MAY

May 5, 2024
First Sunday Offering
CUOC BackPack Pals

Head Usher for May
Debra Wall

May 12, 2024
Birthday Offering
OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



May 19, 2024
Pentecost  Offering

*To those celebrating
birthdays this
month!*

Schedule of May Activities

Sunday, May 12—Mothers' Day

Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering

Sunday, May 19—Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost Offering—PC(USA) offering to help the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children.

Graduate Recognition—help us celebrate our high school graduates!

Congregational Meeting—after worship, we will hold a short congregational meeting to elect the 2024 Congregational Nominating Committee (see details below). This meeting will also serve as the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and the Corporation.

Cupcakes on the Lawn—after the congregational meeting, we will have cupcakes on the lawn in celebration of Pentecost, the birthday of the church!

Presbytery Family Fun Day—3:30-6:30 at Camp Monroe (See page 10 for details)

IMPORTANT

Volunteers needed! We are looking for a few volunteers to serve on the 2024 Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC). This committee is responsible for nominating individuals to serve as elders next year and to help find volunteers to serve on other committees. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Sara Martin.

We will have a brief congregational meeting following worship on May 19 to vote on a Congregational Nominating Committee and to elect Corporation Officers.



In This Together Bible Study

Beginning Tuesday, April 30
and ending Wednesday, June 5

The same class will be taught with two options to attend:
Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and Wednesdays at 11 a.m.

Just bring your Bible and yourself!

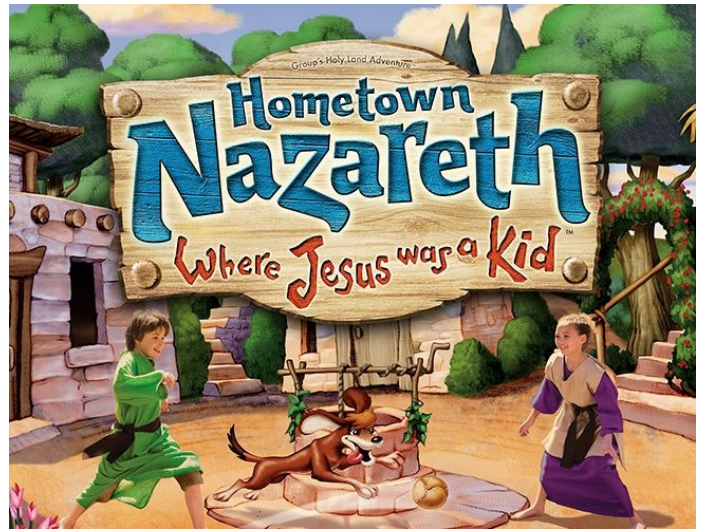
Edgewood Presbyterian Church, Sanford, NC

Worship



Tony and Zon provided beautiful music at our worship service April 7, 2024.

Christian Education Committee



Stephanie Sellars and Beth Singer are the directors of the Edgewood Bible School entitled "Hometown Nazareth". It will be held **June 12, 13 and 14 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.** All participants will assemble in the Sanctuary. After a brief assembly, Rev. Martin will teach an adult Bible Study in the sanctuary, and the children will have their study in the fellowship hall.

A meeting was held on April 17 with Stephanie, Rev. Martin and Jean to make a list of items needed and to order the literature. Once the literature arrives, we will have a committee meeting to assign tasks to be done and to line up volunteers to help.

The fellowship hall will be the setting for Mary's house and various businesses that would have been in Nazareth when Jesus grew up. Please invite children and adults to attend Bible School. More details will be given in the June newsletter.

Please lend a hand and pray for a successful Bible School.

Jean McSwain, Chair

Fellowship Committee

Future Events

August 3 -
Ice Cream Social



September 14 -
Church Picnic



November 17 -
Thanksgiving Luncheon



Missions Committee

We continue to support Christian United Outreach Center (CUOC). Edgewood donated **84 pounds** of food to CUOC in April.

Food-Pantry Items Especially Needed:

Macaroni & Cheese

Pasta Sauce

Bags of pinto beans

Cans of black beans

Jelly

Peanut Butter

Food-Pantry Canned Goods Especially Needed:

Potatoes

Tuna & Canned Meats

Chili with Beans

Pasta (e.g., SpaghettiOs, ravioli, etc.)



Steve Womack, Chair



Property and Grounds Committee



The committee cleaned the church yard after the recent storms. They also planted some flowers and gave the ivy at the corner of the sanctuary a “serious haircut”.

Johnny Sellars, Chair

Communications Committee

We have developed Mother’s Day cards to distribute at worship service on May 12. We also printed cards to distribute at long-term facilities.

Connie Wynn, Chair



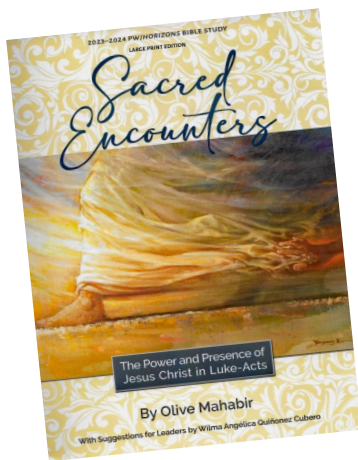
Presbyterian Women



Moderator: Teresa Mangum
Devotion: Connie Wynn
Program: Jean McSwain
Food: The Coordinating Team



April 8, 2024



Next meeting: Monday, May 13, 2024 at 2:00 PM.

Program: Lesson 8: "Lydia Encounters Jesus in Worship"

Bible Moderator: Patsy McBryde.

Scripture: Acts: 16: 11-15.

Circle Hostess: Jean McSwain.

Ladies, please come join us for fellowship and Bible Study.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE
PRESBYTERY OF COASTAL CAROLINA
*Annual Spring Gathering
and Business Meeting*

April 20, 2024

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
Sanford, North Carolina



Featured Speaker—Maggie Yow Buchanan

On April 20, Teresa Mangum, Joyce McGehee, Debra Wall and Connie Wynn attended the Presbyterian Women in the Coastal Carolina’s Annual Spring Gathering and Business meeting at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Sanford, NC. It was a wonderful gathering!

The Keynote Speaker was Sanford native, Maggie Yow Buchanan. Maggie is a relatable, up-beat, and wise-beyond-her-years Bible Teacher, Speaker, and Writer. She delivered an inspirational message titled, “Why Women Need Other Women”.

A big “thank you” goes out to our Edgewood Women for their generous response to the request for donations of canned food to the Salvation Army. We also delivered fabric donated by “Common Thread” in Sanford to Bethesda Christian Crafters for their Charity Pillow Case Ministry.



Mark Your Calendar:
Annual Fall Gathering
Saturday, August 17, 2024
Carolina Beach Presbyterian Church

More details will be available in late May.



Reflections From Exchange Students

We have enjoyed having two exchange students participating in our church this school year. We asked them to share some of their experiences with us. Antonin (Tony) Muller is from France and Zon Resueno is from the Philippines. Ron Coley is their host for the year.

Being an exchange student has been an amazing experience for me. I explored new places like New York City, Myrtle Beach and the mountains, met people from around the globe at school, at church and other places and learned about American culture. School is a bit different but I'm happy that I got to try out a different way of learning. It's been a really cool year and I'm having a really good time. I enjoy playing the piano at church sometimes on Sundays. I have been involved in several high school theater productions like Rebel Without a Cause in the fall, Frozen Jr. and The Addams Family, and I love it! I'm also part of the LCHS Show Choir.



At first the idea of being an exchange student scared me a little but soon as I got here I realized it was going to be amazing and it has been 100 times better than what I expected. The people here are really nice and have been very welcoming.

This year has also been a year full of learning and a very enriching experience. I am going to miss the US a lot but memories I have made are amazing and I'm more than happy I got to come here and experience being an exchange student.

Tony

9000 Miles and Counting: How I Left Home to Find Home

Home; is it a place? A people? I never really knew how to answer this question; it was not until I found myself on the other side of the world as an exchange student that I even began questioning it. Embarking on a journey that spanned over 9000 miles, my quest to discover the essence of "being home" took me to unfamiliar landscapes and diverse cultures. As an exchange student, I became a global wanderer, navigating the intricacies of new languages, customs, and friendships. After all, it is something we all long to find or even just feel; some of us are fortunate enough to achieve it, some still long to find it. This is that story; how I left my family to find family, how I left my friends to make new ones, and how I left home to find home.

I am Rolenzon Resueno, 18 years old, an exchange student representing the pearl of the orient sea, the Philippines, in the land of the free and brave, the United States of America. Currently, I reside in Sanford, North Carolina; a small town with a big personality. My younger self from 10 years ago would say, "you're crazy" if I told him what I was up to now – flying across the globe to meet new people, seeing the lights of New York City,

(Continued on page 9)



and performing in front of hundreds of strangers. All these experiences were once only things I saw in movies, but now they are forever etched into my memory and soul's heart.

Leaving my family in the Philippines was a daunting leap, but the connections I formed in the U.S. became an extended family. As I reflect on my journey, the notion of "home" has evolved from a fixed location to a dynamic experience shaped by the people and moments that define it. Leaving behind the familiarity of my native Philippines, I stepped into the unknown, armed with curiosity and a thirst for connection.

Little did I know that this adventure would redefine my understanding of belonging. It's true that the fruit of the journey is often not what lies ahead but the friends that we make along the way. The concept of family expanded beyond blood relations; it encompassed the bonds forged through shared experiences and mutual understanding.

Despite the anxiousness it entailed, I was greeted by a heart-warming home. Ron Coley, my host dad and my exchange brother, Antonin Muller built me the best home I could ask for. Sundays were always a highlight every

week, Ron's Mother, Grandma Blue, always served us amazing southern cuisine. His sister, Cathy Wicker, never failed to entertain us with her antics and funny stories and Cathy's daughter, Anna, had the same level of eccentricity if not more. His cousins Sylvia and Judy were always good company exposing us to southern traditions. Then suddenly, I had a real American Family.

From the Philippines to the small town of Sanford, North Carolina, onto the stage, and into the bright city lights of New York, every step had been a revelation, every challenge a stepping stone towards finally answering my quest to understand the concept of home. As the applause echoed in the theater, I knew that, in that moment, I had found another facet of home – not in a place or a person, but in the shared passion and unity of a creative community that had embraced me as one of their own. And so, with 9000 miles behind me and countless memories ahead, my journey in search of home continues, enriched by the realization that it's not only a destination but a vibrant, ever-expanding tapestry woven by the threads of experiences and connections that define us.

Zon



Some memories they leave with us!



Extra Curricular Activities

You are invited to Camp Monroe!

Family Fun Day on May 19th: Families & Youth Groups are invited to Family Fun Day hosted by the West Community of our Presbytery. This will be at Camp Monroe on Pentecost Sunday, May 19. The fun begins at 3:30PM with many options including: swimming in the pool, 6 holes of Disc Golf, Playing Gagaball, Cornhole, ZIPLINE (release form required), Mini-golf (Putt Putt) and more.... Following the recreation time, there will be dinner then Vespers. Everything wrapping up about 6:30. If you can come, please let us know. There is no charge for dinner but they want to have enough! So please reply by Monday the 13th at presbycc.org/2024/family-fun-day-24/ The camp is located at 24501 Camp Rd., Laurel Hill, NC. All are invited to attend and bring friends!



ST. ANDREWS COMMUNITY DAY

BOUNCE HOUSES, FIRE TRUCKS,
POLICE CARS, GAMES, FOOD
AND SO MUCH MORE!



SAT., JUNE 1, 2024
10AM - 2PM

5422 ST ANDREWS CHURCH RD
SANFORD, NC 27332



Facebook.com/SAPCSanfordNC



www.StAndrewsSanford.com

Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church is having a Community Day again this year. *The Edgewood Church family has been invited to join in.* This is not a fund raiser, but it is an outreach project to our communities. There will be hot dogs and a lemonade stand. Any profits from those services will be donated to Holly's Nest. Representatives of non-profit resources will be there to offer information on where and how help can be found if needed. There will also be a dunking booth, face painting, and other activities.