
Edgewood Presbyterian Church

Newsletter—September 2023



A call to pray for our nation

BY DEL E. PARKERSON

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Never have I seen during my almost 92 years of life a time when so many people are concerned about the welfare and future of our country.

Scandals, corruption, crime, political division, and raw greed exist in the highest levels of our government. Disintegration leading to gun violence is widespread on the streets in our inner cities. Headlines dealing with sexual promiscuity, social injustice, and power politics provide the source of endless newspaper headlines on a regular basis. Can there be any doubt that our nation desperately needs an inner renewal of faith and a transformation of the spirit. In other words, our country needs God. The place for Christians to begin is on our knees.

When the early leaders of our country assembled to write the Constitution, Benjamin Franklin proposed that each session be opened with prayer. He said, "I have lived a long time, and the longer I live the more convincing proof I see of the truth that God governs the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it possible that an empire can rise without His aid?"

In the days during our nation's Civil War a personal friend of Abraham Lincoln visited him in the White House and captured an

unforgettable scene in these words, "I had been spending three weeks with Mr. Lincoln as his house guest. One night — it was after the Battle of Bull Run — I was restless and could not sleep. From a private room where the President slept, I heard low tones, for the door was partly open.

Instinctively I wandered in, and there I saw a sight which I have never forgotten. It was the President, kneeling before an open Bible. His back was before me. I shall never forget his prayer: 'O God who heard Solomon in the night when he prayed and cried for wisdom, hear me! I cannot lead these people; I cannot guide the affairs of this nation without Your help. O God, do hear me and save this nation.' "

President Lincoln was very aware of the inability of his individual wisdom to guide the affairs of our nation at such a challenging hour. He was aware of the tragic impact that slavery was having upon our nation and knew that the wrongness of it would only accelerate and continue to blight our nation's future even more in the future. As we look back to those difficult days in our nation's history, we can give thanks to God for the kind of leader Lincoln was.

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As stated earlier, the United States is once again in the middle of a historically difficult hour. We live in what is often called “the nuclear age.” We have more ways to destroy civilization than has been the case at any time in history. Leaders of the caliber of Abraham Lincoln are desperately needed. Like Abraham Lincoln did during the Civil War — we need to fall upon our knees, acknowledge our inability to know the answers, and cry out to God in prayer for our nation. Psalm 33:12 puts it this way: “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.” It could not be said any better than that.

Our nation needs to rededicate itself to God in prayer. Prayer can make the difference between moving into a bright future and having to face a future containing very dark clouds. So great are the dangers, so grave the perils, so tremendous the political and social problems, so important the election issues of 2024 in November, that it is imperative that we lay hold upon the Lord God in prayer for His will to be done in our nation and in our individual lives. God is being pushed to the periphery in public life. Just one example among many that this is true is that on the west coast a high school football coach was fired because he would not stop having prayer with his football team prior to every game.

Prayer provides power, poise, peace, and purpose. It can provide the difference between our nation having a successful future or the facing of very dark days. Remember this: nothing lies outside the reach of prayer except that which is outside the will of God.

Del E. Parkerson is former pastor at First Baptist Sanford.

September Worship Leaders & Music

3 – Rev. Misty Mowrey & Susan Thomas

10 – Rev. Laura Lupton & Leslie Hanna

*Sara Wilson Scholarship fund

17 – Terry Pleasants & Leslie Hanna

24 – Rev. Donald Thompson & Leslie Hanna

Worship Duties

Head Usher: Jonathan Wester



September

Prayer Families of the Week

- | | |
|----|---------------------|
| 3 | Catherine Coley |
| 10 | Ron Coley |
| 17 | Royce & Edna Davis |
| 24 | Ronnie & Dail Dowdy |



September Birthdays

We wish everyone who is celebrating a birthday this month a very happy one.

Treasurer's Report

July 2023

Receipts \$8347

Expenses \$3692

Special Offerings:

BackPack Pals (CUOC) . . . \$133

VBS \$60

Communications Committee

Check out the bulletin boards in the Fellowship Hall! We posted pictures from the **Ice Cream Social** and **"Back-To-School"** pictures of our Edgewood kids.



"Blessing of the Back Packs"

Twenty-five bags of school supplies were packaged by our PW ladies to give to kids (and teachers) returning to school.



Missions

We will collect a special offering for the **Sara Wilson Scholarship Fund** on Sunday, **September 10**. It helps deserving students at St. Andrews University in Laurinburg. The fund is named for Sara Wilson, who taught Sunday School and served Edgewood in numerous ways for many years. She was the mother of Jeannie Williams.

Welcome Exchange Students!

Ron Coley has welcomed two new exchange students for this school year - Antonin from France and Zon from the Philippines.



Have you noticed that the old faded photo of the church that was hanging in the Fellowship Hall has been replaced?

Thanks Jean!

Fellowship Committee

From: Debra Wall -
Fellowship Chairman

Our Ice Cream Social was held August 5, 2023 in the Fellowship Hall. We had 22 attendees. The decorating committee did a great job. The room looked like a party. Check out the pictures on the bulletin board.

We had two churns of homemade ice cream and five bought cartons. There was fruit, sprinkles, chocolate and caramel sauce and an assortment of cookies.

Thank all of you for coming out and making donations. It was a good time.

Editor's Note: Debra had major surgery just a few days prior to this event, but she (with the help of her daughter Angela) directed the Fellowship Committee to produce a very successful gathering.



Check out the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall!



We're Having a COOKOUT!



Saturday, September 9, 4:00-6:00 In the Fellowship Hall



Edgewood Presbyterian Women

The Coordinating Team hosted the **Annual Brunch**, Saturday, August 12. Connie delivered the devotion, telling a story of an unusual “Umbrella Ministry” by Roberta L. Messner.

During the business meeting, the 2023-2024 budget was approved. \$151 was collected for the CUOC “Back Pack Pals” program. Two members were recognized for their many years of service, Helen as Vice-Moderator and Patsy as Secretary.

Rev. Kathryn Dudley installed the new officers for 2023-2024.

The group assembled “Hygiene Kits” for missions through Church World Service, to be delivered to the PWCC Fall Gathering.

School supplies were packaged to give to students (and teachers) at the “**Blessing of the Back Packs**” during our August 13 worship service.

Teresa, Mary, and Connie attended the **Fall Gathering of the Presbyterian Women of Coastal Carolina, at Highland Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville** on Saturday, August 19.



Edgewood Presbyterian Women Installation of Officers



Teresa Mangum - Moderator
Joyce McGehee - Vice Moderator
Connie Wynn - Secretary
Debra Wall - Treasurer

Connie Wynn - Search Chair
Teresa Mangum - Historian
Trish Sellars - Advent Chair

*Special Offerings chaired by:
Jean McSwain - Thank (11-12-2023)
Nancy Mead - PW Birthday (5-12-2024)



Property and Grounds

A new dehumidifier has been purchased to be placed in the lower hallway in an effort to eliminate the dampness and associated odor.

A second table rack has been purchased to use in the Fellowship Hall. It will give us the capacity to conveniently store all of our tables.



Special Recognition

The Lee County Gymnastics Team was acknowledged at the Lee County Commissioners meeting August 21. **August 22, 2023 was declared Lee County Gymnastics Team Day!** The team competed in the AAU Nationals in Orlando, FL where Brooke won gold medals in several events and the All-Around gold medal. **Great accomplishment!**

