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# Edgewood Presbyterian Church

Newsletter—January 2024



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## New Beginnings

January is a time of new beginnings. New Years resolutions are made, usually related to health and fitness or, more abstractly, too be more compassionate and patient. None of these are inherently bad. They are worthwhile goals, but too often we forget about them as we're stuck in traffic or push the workout off to the next day, which becomes the next, and the next, until we don't remember the last time we exercised.



A few years ago, I heard about making SMART goals, SMART standing for Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Timeframe. It was a new way to look at resolutions that I might actually be able to achieve as they are realistically set, specific rather than general and abstract, given a limited time-frame, and include a way of determining success. For example, "I'm going to drink at least 32 oz of water everyday through 1/14." I'm not sure I followed through on my SMART goals any better than I did resolutions.

"New Years resolutions" implies that the new year is the only time to start something, to get on a path to healthier

eating and exercising, to focus more on one's relationships with others. If we need to eat more vegetables or lose a few pounds, according to our doctors, surely it would be better to just start, whatever the time of year. Working on greater compassion and patience is always appropriate in a world that tends to be fast-paced and self-focused.

In the church, the new year begins with the first of Sunday of Advent, in a month of preparation for the coming of Christ into the world at the Incarnation and the coming again of Christ in glory, bringing God's reign to fullness in the world. So, the new beginning is really on Christmas Day when we celebrate the birth of our Savior. The Christmas Season continues for 12 days, ending on January 6, Epiphany, the day we celebrate that the provincial, Jewish Messiah has become known to the whole world and that the message of God's love and grace is for all people far and wide. This too is a new beginning of the world-wide, universal message of God's grace and reign.

And yet, new beginnings for our lives are not limited to Advent, Christmas, New

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Years, or Epiphany. Every day we have the opportunity to begin anew. As Paul writes in 2 Corinthians, “so if anyone is in Christ there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see everything has become new” (5:17). God calls us to new life, to new beginnings. When we confess our sins, personally and corporately, God forgives us and gives us the opportunity to try again, to begin anew, over and over and over... for God’s love and grace steadfastly abound and abide with us through Jesus Christ our Savior.

So, with the new year, set resolutions and/or SMART goals, but always remember that you are a beloved child of God for whom each day, each moment, is a new beginning, a new chance to be a faithful disciple sharing God’s love and grace with the people and world around you.

Sara

*Thank You!*

During my first month as pastor, you have been so gracious and welcoming. From the bottom of my heart, I am so grateful and delighted to have been called to serve as your pastor. Thank you for your kindness, generosity, and warm welcome!

Sara





# A NEW BEGINNING!



An emotional/heartfelt introduction



First sermon at Edgewood by **Pastor Sara Martin**



Our new pastor, **Sara Martin** and family, with the Pastor Nominating Committee that brought her to Edgewood  
December 3, 2023

The four year long search is concluded! Our PNC Committee found a pastor we believe will inject new spirit into Edgewood and guide us to new achievements. After a long period without consistent leadership, we will now have someone who can show us the way to new growth. Thank You Sara for choosing us.





# Treasurer's Report

## November 2023

Receipts . . . . . \$9,034.41  
 Expenses . . . . . \$5,515.58  
 Special Offerings:  
 CUOC Turkeys . . . . . \$266.00



*January  
 Prayer Families of the Week*

- 7 James & Joyce McGehee & Family
- 14 Chris & Glen McNeill
- 21 Faye & Willis McNeill
- 28 Janet McNeill

**Head Usher for January  
 Teresa Mangum**



I HOPE THIS NEW YEAR BRINGS YOU...

- Courage to try again
- Passion for doing what you love
- Ambition to aim higher
- Resilience in overcoming obstacles
- Humility to learn from others
- Kindness for yourself and others



OurMindfulLife.com



*Happy Birthday to all  
 who are celebrating  
 birthdays in January!*



## Missions

A special offering on November 19, for the **CUOC Turkey** program, totaled \$266. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

Our church sponsored 12 Salvation Army Christmas Angles this year—another example of Edgewood generosity.



Zon joined some of the Edgewood regulars at CUOC to help distribute food.

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## Communications Committee

December has been especially busy for us. There have been more than the usual photo opportunities. We welcomed a new pastor. We had exceptional music performances. The PW had their Christmas celebration. Helen and Dawn had their annual Christmas gathering. Christian Ed held a gathering for the youth.

We have also posted videos of the worship services on the church Facebook page beginning December 3.

Don't forget to check out the Edgewood Facebook page and the church website . (Google "Edgewood Presbyterian Church Sanford NC".) The church schedule and the monthly newsletters are posted.

## Christian Education

December 15 was a fun filled night in the fellowship hall from six until a little after nine. We had 8 youth and many adults who ate pizza and lots of fancy finger food and desserts. The youth made cookies and reindeer food and did crafts. The youth had boxes of cookies to take home and to share with others. All enjoyed the movie, *Polar Express*, while eating popcorn and drinking hot chocolate. If you left hungry, it was your own fault. A wonderful time was had by all. I want to thank the best committee anyone could have. Gratefully, Jean McSwain.







## Presbyterian Women Christmas Party

December 11, 2023



The Edgewood Presbyterian Women met Monday, December 11 for their Christmas party. Joyce McGehee was in charge of the program.

**Next meeting: Monday, January 15, 2024 at 2:00PM.**

*Our program will be Lesson Four, "Mary and Martha Encounter Jesus". Connie Wynn will lead the lesson. Circle hostesses will be Trish Sellars and Connie Wynn. Ladies, please come join us for fellowship and Bible Study. **ALL ARE WELCOME!***



The ladies were entertained at their Christmas party with a special performance by Antonin (Tony) Muller (piano) and Zon Resueno (soloist). These very talented guys are exchange students. Tony is from France, and Zon is from the Philippines.



## Christmas Angel Program



Edgewood members gave generously to the **Salvation Army Christmas Angel Program** by adopting a total of 12 kids. Steve Womack again lead the effort and delivered the gifts to First Presbyterian Church for distribution.

## Decorating Committee

Thanks to our Decorating Committee for their hard work to make our Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall beautiful for the holidays.

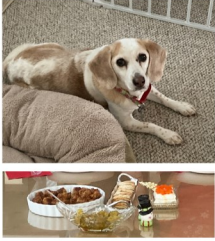


**Notice—No one was injured while decorating!**





# Annual Christmas Party hosted by Helen and Dawn



**Thank you  
Helen and Dawn!**

The food was delicious,  
the decorations were  
beautiful, the fellowship  
was most special!



**Christmas Party  
Hosted by Helen and Dawn**







# MUSIC FOR WORSHIP



December was an exceptional month of special musical performances at Edgewood.



Zon Resueno sang and Antonin Muller played piano at our worship service on December 17. These talented exchange students are staying with Ron Coley while attending Lee County High School this school year.



Joe Hanna performed beautiful music on his harp on Christmas Eve. His skill on this unusual instrument is always a special treat.

Also on Christmas Eve, Kaitlyn Brown sang a solo, "Oh Holy Night". She did a great job and we look forward to more performances from her in the future.

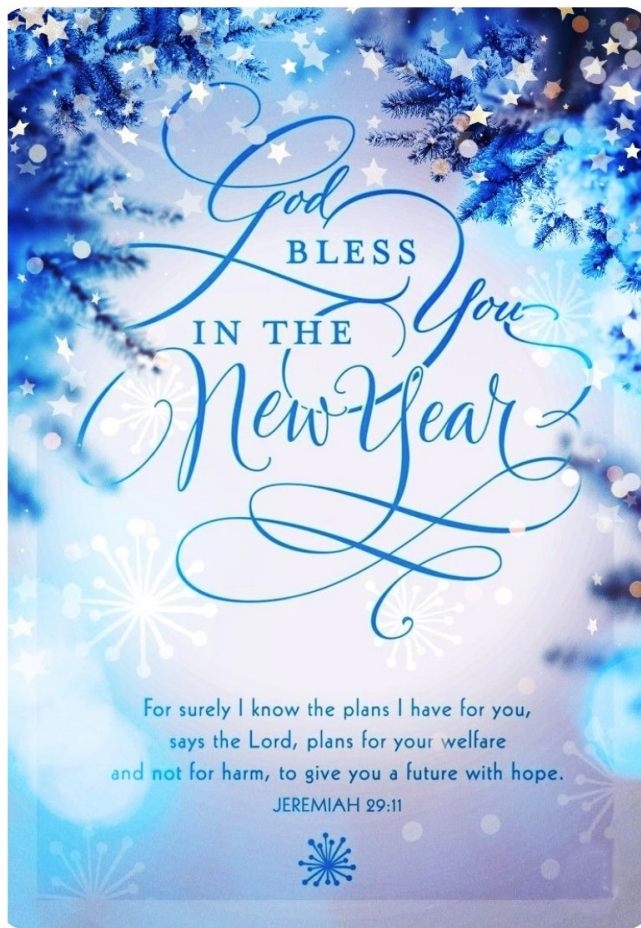


Leslie Hanna has been a true blessing to Edgewood all year playing the piano and sharing her beautiful voice with us.

Lauren Poe stepped up on two occasions in December, very capably filling in for Leslie.



# Happy New Year! 2024



## My New Year's Prayer

Dear Lord,

So far this year I've done well.

I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper, I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or overindulgent. I'm very thankful for that. But in a few minutes, Lord, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on I'm probably going to need a lot more help.

Amen



## Recipe of the Month

### Cheese Ball Recipe

Submitted by Maggie Wester



#### Ingredients:

- 16 oz softened cream cheese
- 2 c freshly grated sharp cheddar cheese
- 2 chopped green onions
- 1 tsp hot sauce, or to taste
- 1 tsp dried parsley
- 1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
- ½ tsp garlic powder
- ½ tsp oregano
- Fresh ground black pepper, to taste
- 2/3 c chopped and toasted pecans

#### Directions:

- Mix all but last ingredient by hand or with hand mixer and form into ball.
- Lightly toast chopped pecans in dry pan over low heat, approximately 3-5 min and spread on a plate.
- Press cheeseball into pecans and coat on all sides.
- Cover in plastic wrap and refrigerate at least 1 hr prior to serving.
- Serve with crackers, pretzels, chips or veggies.