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# Edgewood Presbyterian Church



*Newsletter—August 2023*

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## Grace for the Journey

By: Beverly & George Thompson  
(Excerpts from Finding Yourself in the In-Between)

Genesis 12: 1-2 Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go...to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you.”

. .so, Abram went—but he did not go alone!

Although we church folks seldom consider it, we are a people on an amazing journey. Like Abram and so many other biblical ancestors who followed the Spirit’s leading to a new place of promise and hope, each of us is traveling a path God has set before us. Like any journey, our path includes twists and turns, high roads and low places we must learn to navigate.

Most people prefer to have a clear idea of where they are going and how they will get there. When planning a trip, some folks turn to maps, while others look to a GPS to guide them. In our instant, want-it-now American culture, we usually seek the quickest and most direct path.

Most of us join churches that seem to have a clear direction, only to discover sooner or later that the roads we travel by faith rarely are smooth. Every congregation faces times in its life together when a blind turn or an unexpected shift takes it down a

different road. Suddenly the church finds itself in an unfamiliar and uncertain place. This twist in your journey calls your congregation out of its ordinary routine. You have entered an in-between time, a space in which things may no longer feel familiar and comfortable. Naturally, this in-between time brings with it more than a bit of anxiety.

If your community of faith is in the midst of one of those in-between times right now, have no fear. Rather than living in anxiety, this can be for you a time to celebrate—because you have entered a phase that is expectant with grace. This in-between time can become a sacred space for discovering new life-giving possibilities for your congregation.

Like Abram, every church is called by God—and not just once, but over and over again. Have you ever thought of it that way before? Your church is part of the body of Christ: Its members are called together for a distinctive purpose. That purpose—God’s preferred future for you as a faith-filled community—is your communal call. It is God’s vision for you.

As circumstances shift over the years, God’s call on your congregation may change. As that

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call changes over time—and it will—your church will experience times of transition. And over the last several years we have experienced many changes.

Responding to God’s call is not always easy or clear. Yet our journey of faith remains just that—a journey, one that is filled with promising in-between times. transitions. Let’s pray that God is getting us ready for a new call.



August Prayer Families of the Week

- 6 Kathie and Stephen Womack
- 13 Connie and Jerry Wynn
- 20 Betty Bullard
- 27 Mary Lee and Thesley Byrd  
Hailey, Meghan, & Adelyn

August Worship Leaders & Music



- 6 – Rev. Laura Lupton & Leslie Hanna  
\*1st Sunday Offering - CUOC Backpack Pals
- 13 – QRE Gracie Williams & Leslie Hanna
- 20 – Rev. Sue Hudson & Leslie Hanna
- 27 – Gary Moore & Wilson Weathers  
\*Wounded Warriors Offering

Worship Duties

**Head Usher & Announcements:** Patsy McBryde



**To everyone celebrating birthdays this month.**

## Treasurer's Report

### June 2023

Receipts . . . . .	\$7697
Expenses . . . . .	\$5084
Special Offerings:	
BackPack Pals (CUOC) . . .	\$173
Pentecost . . . . .	\$45

### January—June 2023

Receipts . . . . .	\$53,070
Expenses . . . . .	\$34,193

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## Communications Committee

We printed flyers to advertise VBS. Connie and Beth took lots of pictures and Jerry used some of them to make a video to show to the congregation.

A bulletin insert was printed to inform everyone of the August 5 Ice Cream Social. Signs and sign-up sheets were also printed.

Unfortunately, the problem we experienced in uploading the worship services to Facebook a few weeks ago has not been resolved, so recent services are not available.

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## Fellowship Committee

Debra had major surgery recently, but she directed her committee in organizing our August 5th Ice Cream Social anyway. Thank you Debra for your extraordinary effort! Photos will be in the September newsletter.

## Missions

The special offerings on the first Sunday in June, in July and in **August** will help fund the **CUOC Backpack Pals** program. Many Lee County kids are at risk of having poor nourishment when they are not at school. **The Backpack Pals help feed 900 kids each week during the summer.** Also, the following items may be donated to help with this program:



Lance Crackers  
Cereal Bars  
Nutri-grain Bars  
Granola Bars

Pop-tarts  
Instant Grits (individual packs)  
Instant Oatmeal (individual packs)

Fruit Cups (individual size)  
Applesauce Cups (individual size)  
Raisins (small boxes)  
Fruit Snacks

Puddings (ready to eat)  
Jello (ready to eat)

Chicken Noodle Soup (pop-top lids)  
Chicken and Stars (pop-top lids)  
Macaroni and Cheese (individual size)

Any kind of snack that does not have to be refrigerated and is individually wrapped, that you think a child would enjoy.

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## Property & Grounds Committee

A new foundation was installed under the Prayer Garden bench to stabilize it.

## News from the Christian Education Committee

Vacation Bible School was held July 26, 27 and 28. This was the first VBS since the pandemic. The program, entitled "The Rocky Railroad", was directed by Stephanie Sellars.

Stephanie recruited the workers (mostly from the younger generation), ordered decorations, designed the train and station, bought the crafts, and refreshments including a beautiful cake for Friday night.

The program consisted of Assembly, Video Story Time, Video Music (song and dance), crafts and refreshments each night. It was fast paced and kept the students' interest.

The workers were Stephanie Sellars, Beth Singer, Mary Lee Byrd, Brooke Singer, Alyssa

Grooms, Laura Poe, Dawson Yow and Jo Winfrey. Sandy Dull served the refreshments. Johnny and Trish not only helped at VBS but they also helped Stephanie shop and transport the supplies, build sets, and decorate. Beth Singer and Connie Wynn were in charge of the photography. Jerry Wynn made a video with the pictures that were taken and the music that was used. It was shown to the congregation at worship service. The photos and music reflected the success of the Bible School.

Adults attending and willing to help were Teresa Mangum, Nancy and Dave Mead, and Jean McSwain.

We thank everyone who helped in any way.



**2023 Edgewood Vacation Bible School**  
*Director: Stephanie Sellars*

## Edgewood Presbyterian Women

The Coordinating Team met July 10 for a yearly planning session. Teresa Mangum furnished a light lunch, and the team planned for the coming year.

The coordinating team will host our **Annual Brunch, Saturday, August 12, at 10:00 am**. All women are invited to come out for good food and fellowship. Rev. Kathryn Dudley will have an installation program for the new officers for 2023-2024.

### PW Officers for 2023-2024

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 (11-12-23)  
Nancy Mead – PW Birthday (5-12-24)

Thanks to all who agreed to serve and all women who participate in this worthy organization. The Presbyterian Women of Edgewood have met many needs both in the local community and worldwide missions. We are grateful for what God has done this past year through our circle of women.

We will be sending hygiene kits to the **Fall Gathering of the Presbyterian Women of Coastal Carolina August 19, at Highland Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville**. These kits will be for missions through Church World Service. Please let Teresa Mangum know if you want to go to the gathering so we can carpool. Hopefully we will have more information about the gathering soon.

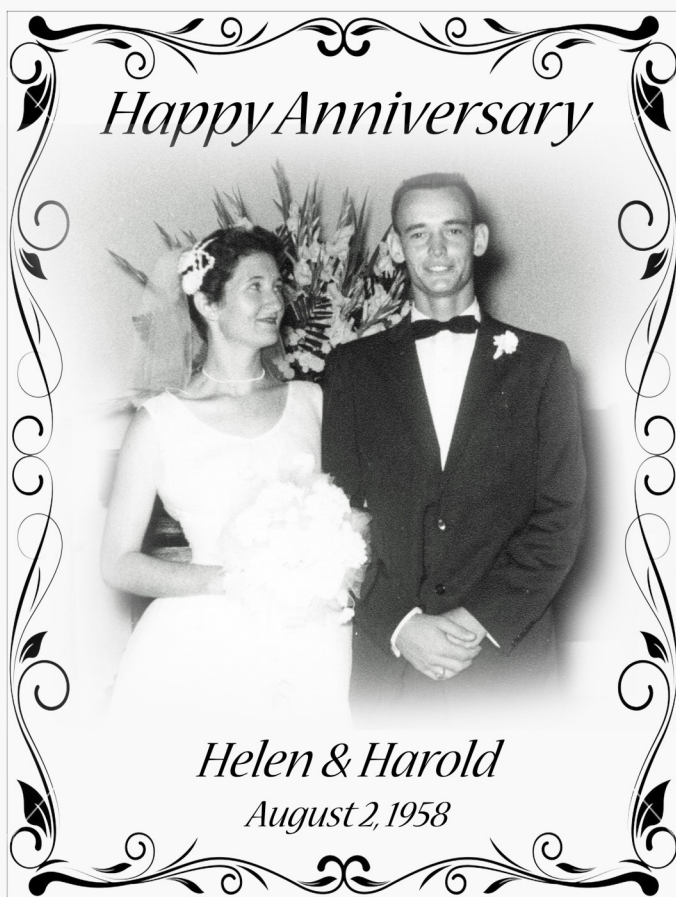


PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

*The three figures in our logo represent ALL women in the Presbyterian church, young or old, of any national or ethnic background ... a community of women in Christ. "Forgiven" is suggested by all three figures rising from the Bible. One is studying. One is caring for others. One is praising God. The three figures suggest the Trinity: The design is a triangle within a circle suggesting Trinity and Unity. The Bible represents the Word who is Jesus Christ, the foundation of our faith and fellowship.*



# Major Milestones



***Congratulations!***

***Helen and Harold Weathers  
celebrated 65 years of marriage!***

## **Brooke Singer**

***All Around 1st Place Champion***

Brooke placed first in Bar, Beam, Vault, and Floor exercise at the National AAU Gymnastics competition in Orlando, Florida, and took home ***Gold Medal for All Around!***



***National AAU Bar, Beam, Vault, Floor, and  
All Around 1st Place Champion***