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# Edgewood Presbyterian Church

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## Newsletter May 2021

### Living in Grace

Before the Apostle Paul's conversion, if someone had suggested that he would impact the world for Jesus, he'd probably have laughed. In fact, his original goal was to rid the world of Christians (Acts 22: 19-20)

God's grace can impact anyone; no sin is beyond the reach of His forgiveness. This amazing gift of redemption changes lives. Contrary to what many think, being a Christian does not mean adding good deeds to one's life. Instead, by God's grace, believers receive forgiveness and a completely new nature. Our inward transformation results in obvious outward changes.

The butterfly's metamorphosis can serve as an illustration to help us understand this. Once it's in a chrysalis, a caterpillar doesn't merely act or

appear different from the outside; it truly has changed inwardly as well.

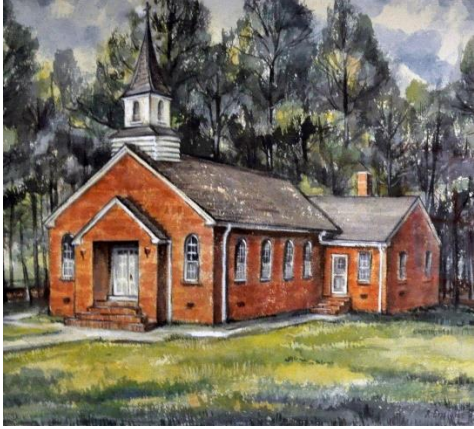


Transformation for believers occurs in many areas. For example, our attitudes change—salvation by God's grace results in humility and gratitude. Out of thankfulness for this underserved free gift, compassion for the lost flows along with a desire to share the gospel with them. Experiencing Christ's forgiveness also results in a longing to serve Him. This does not need to be in a formal church setting; we serve Him by loving others, helping those in need, and telling them about salvation.

While there are still natural consequences for our sin, God offers us forgiveness and redemption through Jesus. He made a way to restore our broken relationship with Him. What's more, our Father transforms our lives so we will become more like His Son and reflect His heart to others.

Dr. Charles Stanley





## Edgewood - Celebrating 70 Years of Serving God

### A Brief History of Edgewood Presbyterian Church

In 1948, First Presbyterian Church under the leadership of Dr. Chalmers F. McCutchen studied the need for a church in the court house area. After all the meetings, plans were made to build the chapel. The men on the committee wanted to use regular windows so if it failed as a church, it would be easy to convert to a residence. Mrs. Nannie Monroe convinced them to have arched windows to make it look more like a church. The chapel, known as Sanford Chapel, was begun January 1, 1949 with the opening service being held May 29, 1949.

*On May 27, 1951 a group petitioned Orange Presbytery asking that Edgewood Presbyterian Church be organized. This was accomplished and those involved were the charter members.*

Charter Members included the following:

Mary Ann Bellet, Mrs. Lotis Bradley, Mrs. J. W. Brannon, Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Cole, Mr. & Mrs. C. H. (Carey & Lillie Belle) Clark, Bertha Dickens (Davis Smith), Mr. & Mrs. Max (Mary) Dickens, Alvis Daniels, Doris &

Stammie Dowdy, Roger & Clara Foushee, Mrs. Guy Gordon (Theo Barber), Ruby & Owen Godwin, Charlie Goins, Lanie Bell Hamilton, Ernest & Christine Henley, Mr. & Mrs, C. C. Hollowell, Louise Hudson (Cox), Phyllis Hayes, Sarah Louise Joyner, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Medlin, Mrs. E. L. Moore (Edna), Roland & Nannie Monroe, D. H. (Howard) & Catherine McInnis (Wade), Colon & Mae McKenzie, Odie & Lizzie McBryde (Howard), Norma Faye McBryde (Ennis), Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Nobles, Pearl Reid Poe (Mrs. R. Van), Mrs. R. H. Poe, Martha Poe (Purdie) & Flora Poe (Perry), Mrs. O. P. (Bessie) Parrish, Vivian Ridenhour (Harness), Mrs. J. S. (Nonnie) Scoggins, Mr. & Mrs. B. G. (Nannie) Smith, Ida Sost, Doris Seawell, Mrs. Odell Stout, Mrs. Graham (Peggy) Terrell, Ila Warren, Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Wood, Mrs. John Waddell, Dorothy Waddell (Thigpen), Mr. & Mrs. Grady (Robena) Wright, Mr. & Mrs. A. G. (Arlie & Elizabeth) Wright. Non-Resident Members were Mr. & Mrs. Roy Ridgley, Mrs. W. E. Neal, Virginia Neal, Ann Bradley Cameron, Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Owen.

Dr. McCutchen served as temporary minister until the calling of Rev. John N. Wilson in November 1953. He served the church until October 1959.

Rev. J. Earl Adkins began serving the church as minister on June 1, 1960. He and his wife Ernestine lived in the manse on Garden Street. Rev. Adkins served the church until his retirement July 30, 1972.

Rev. John Alexander became the minister on March 1, 1973. Rev. Alexander and Sallie left Edgewood in 1978.

August 19, 1979, Rev. Jeffrey D. Smith became the minister. He and his wife, Mary Olive, and four children: Davilla, Mary Olive, Sandra, and Jeff, moved into the manse. Rev. Smith served until 1987.

Rev. Mike Nevling was called as minister and preached from July 31, 1988 until September 29, 1991. His wife was Linda.

Rev. Jonathan Sherrod was called as minister June 7, 1992. He and his wife Camilla served the church through February 11, 1995.

August 4, 1996, Rev. Dale Miller became the pastor. He and his wife Karen moved into the manse. Rev. Miller retired at the end of the year 2002.

Rev. Mitzie Leshar Thomas was called to Edgewood and preached her first sermon on February 1, 2004. She was married to Rev. Troy Leshar Thomas. She resigned effective December 31, 2004.

Rev. Jason Davenport became our minister preaching his first sermon August 20, 2006. He and his wife Angela lived in the manse on Duke Drive. He preached his last sermon June 13, 2010.

Dr. William C. "Bill" Hayes was called as the minister in 2012. His wife Sally died August 31, 2016. Bill continued as minister until he retired in September 2019.

Rev. Cindy Neal served as a stated supply minister from March through November 2020. The Worship Committee has filled the pulpit with many good supply ministers through the months since.



Jody McNeill has lead five funerals for Edgewood members this past year, since we were without a minister.

A quote from Rev. Dale Miller at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary: "let's pause to give thanks to God for the persons who have been positively changed by Edgewood Church, and for the good works that have been done in the community."

Rev. Jason Davenport wrote in his yearend report of 2009: "When we take the time to gather the history of how God has been at work among us, it is truly overwhelming! When God's willing servants join the guidance of God's Spirit, amazing things happen. You are to be applauded for your service to the church and to the community in the name of Christ."

Rev. Katherine Dudley served us well, as an interim after Jason left, and focused on leadership development and organization.

Interim ministry is short-term by design, intended to help a church manage the transition time between one installed pastor and the next. Rev. Chad Neal will be leading us in this capacity starting in July. We look forward to his leadership, while our PNC searches for the next full-time installed pastor for Edgewood.

## Worship Committee

Communion Dates are scheduled for:  
May 23; July 18; October 3; and  
December 24

Pulpit supplies for *May* are:

2 – Julie Hughes; 9 – Gracie Williams;

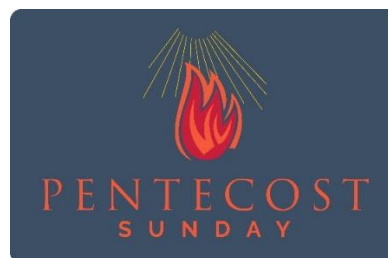
16 – Steve Womack; 23 – Laura Lupton

30 – Terry Pleasants

*June*: 6 – Matt Garrett; 13 – David Dudley

20 – Laura Lupton; 27 – Gracie Williams

We are celebrating Edgewood's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on May 23. Due to the pandemic, our celebration will be limited, but we can still recognize our church's beginning 70 years ago and that God has blessed us through the years with special leaders. How fitting that we celebrate Pentecost that day also, as we celebrate the birth of the Church, the gift of the Spirit.



### **May 23, 2021**

*"Pentecost" comes from a Greek word meaning fiftieth day. On this day the Holy Spirit came with wind and flame, empowering the disciples to proclaim the good news of the risen Lord to all people. Falling on the fiftieth day of the season of Easter, Pentecost represents the culmination of the church's seven-week celebration of Christ's resurrection. As the Lord's Day is sometimes called the "eighth day" of creation, Pentecost is a day of new creation - all things transformed and made new by the Word and Breath of the living God. On the Day of Pentecost we give particular thanks for the gift of God's Holy Spirit, who gathers the church as the body of Christ and sends us to share in Christ's mission throughout the world.*

*The notion of Easter as a season of fifty days is patterned after the ancient Jewish period of seven weeks that extended from the beginning of the barley harvest, after Passover, to the end of the wheat harvest at the Festival of Weeks. In Jewish tradition, Shavuot also marks the giving of the law to Moses at Sinai, a connection that may inform Paul's discussion of the law and the Spirit. (extracted from *The Book of Common Worship*, ©Westminster John Knox Press, 2018)*



We Celebrate all the special women of Edgewood on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

The PW coordinating team will meet May 3, at 2:00. The PW circle will meet Monday, May 10, at 11:00. Connie Wynn will have our lesson 10 in The Present Word.

Nancy Mead will have a minute for mission Sunday, May 2, to tell about the PW Birthday offering for 2021.

The Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women was born in 1922 when Hallie Paxson Winsborough challenged each member of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church in the United States to give a penny for each year of her life as a "birthday gift" for Miss Dowd's School for Girls in Japan. For just shy of 100 years, this offering has provided life-giving grants to mission projects throughout the world.

Take a moment to consider all that has taken place since the Birthday Offering was established! From world wars to the internet, being the hands and feet of Christ has been a constant joy for Presbyterian Women, in easy and difficult days.

As we establish a new "normal," let's remember our commitment to support ministries that matter, such as our Birthday Offering. Together, let us lovingly plant and tend the seeds of promise so that programs and ministries can grow and flourish.

The three grant recipients for 2021 are: Garden Gate Ranch, Memorial Drive Ministries; & Nkhoma Mission Hospital

The Presbyterian women are often God's hands and feet as we impact the lives of people in need in this country and around the world. Please give generously to the PW Birthday offering on May 2.

