

Edgewood Presbyterian Church



Newsletter—April 2024

Hallelujah ~ Alleluia ~ Praise God

You may have heard or discovered this by now: I love words. I love learning what they mean, what they used to mean, where they come from.... As I am writing this, Easter hovers on the horizon – Alleluias and Hallelujahs ready to take center stage in our praise for God. It occurred to me that I didn't remember reading Hallelujah in the Bible. So, I looked it up. In the New Testament, it occurs only in Revelation, Chapter 19, verses 1, 3, 4, and 6. But it is derived from the combination of two Hebrew words: *halal* meaning “praise” and *yah*, the name of God. In the Old Testament, translated from the Hebrew, we find “Praise the Lord,” as in Psalm 150.
הַלְלוּ יְהוָה *hal-lu yah*



How did we end up with two distinct spellings – Hallelujah and Alleluia? I love that I had to learn the basics of Koine Greek and Hebrew in order to become a minister in the PC(USA), as I am able to puzzle this question out. In Greek, the word begins with an alpha – an “a,” followed by two lambdas or “l”s, and the rest of the word generally transliterates to what we hear at the end of hallelujah and alleluia. Not knowing much Greek, it initially looks like alleluia would be correct. But, in the Greek, there's a special breathing mark over the alpha (it looks like a backwards apostrophe) that indicates the vowel is pronounced with a “h” sound at the beginning – hallelujah. (If the vowel at the beginning of the word is not pronounced with an “h,” a different breathing mark that looks like an apostrophe is used so we always know how the vowel is to be pronounced.)

As the language of the church transitioned from Greek to Latin, the “h” was dropped, and alleluia became standardized and used liturgically. For more than a thousand years, Latin was the primary language for worship, so it's little surprise that the Latin version is so prominent.

Does it matter which form we use – hallelujah or alleluia? I tend to prefer accuracy, and hallelujah seems to be closest to the pronunciation of the original languages. But I also like the visual shape of the word alleluia and the softer sound, without the “h.” Alleluia is also shorter and I can spell it correctly more often when I both handwrite and type things! I think the more important questions is – are we praising God? If so, how we spell it and pronounce it are inconsequential!

As April begins, we shout Hallelujah! Alleluia! We rejoice in the resurrection of Christ, in whom life and love prevailed over the powers of the world. We are given the promise of new life, new eyes with which to see the way that God worked through Jesus' life and ministry to change the world, to show us what it means to follow the Torah, to love one another, and to love God above all else. We seek to discover God's calling for us as we live as faithful disciples in a world where suffering and oppression are far too common. We look for ways to celebrate and share that grace and love abound for all!

הַלְלוּ יְהוָה
hal-lu yah

ἀλληλουϊά
hal-lay-lu-ee-ah

Hallelujah! Alleluia! Praise God!

In faith, hope, & love,

Sara

Pastor's Office Hours

Sunday
Monday–Wednesday mornings
Saturday (various times)

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

FEBRUARY TOTALS

Receipts	\$ 7,516.20
Expenses	\$16,166.81
Special Offerings:	
Hymnals	\$ 1410.00
Cents-ability	\$ 102.20
Blankets	\$ 390.00



Faye (Beal) McNeill

Our sympathy goes out to the McNeill family. On February 27, 2024, we lost a long time Edgewood servant. Faye loved Edgewood Church. We will miss our friend.

A Message from our Pastor

The last four months have been extremely busy for me but I want to say ***“Thank you!”*** I am overwhelmed by your outpouring of joy and support, your beautiful hospitality, and your willingness to listen to God and take a chance on me. I am also overwhelmed by the weight of responsibility and the immensity of the task, coupled with self-doubt and insecurity. But God is good and gracious! I know and work hard to trust that God is leading me, leading us, on this journey and will provide what we need along the way. Over the next month, I plan to contemplate this wonderful and momentous time in my life and will share in the May newsletter some thoughts on my ordination and installation, adjusting to a new vocation and location, etc. Until then,

In faith, hope, & love,

Sara



Prayer Family of the Week

April 7	Barbara Rosser
14	Johnny and Trisha Sellars
21	Stephanie Sellars
28	Rusty, Beth, & Brooke Singer

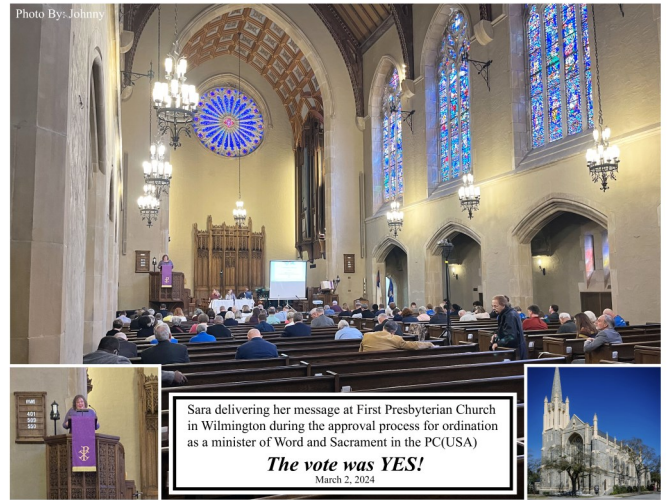
Head Usher for April Johnny Sellars



Happy Birthday to all
those celebrating
April birthdays.

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina Meeting

Teresa, Jean, Connie, Debra, Joyce and Johnny attended the March 2 Presbytery meeting in Wilmington to offer support of Sara as she completed the examination process for ordination as a minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA).



Service of Ordination and Installation For Sara Martin



Immediately after being ordained, Sara served her first communion.



Congratulations Sara!

Sara M. Eaton Martin was ordained and installed as pastor of Edgewood on March 17, 2024. Participating in the service were many of those who encouraged and supported her in achieving her dream. The youth choir from Sardis Presbyterian Church in Charlotte performed during the service.

We are so proud of Sara and happy she is our pastor!



Sara's Family

Chuck and Sandy Martin (in-laws), Adraian, Micah, Eli, and Sara Martin, Gary Eaton (dad), Steve Eaton (brother)

Fellowship Committee



March 17, 2024

Sara Martin's Ordination & Installation Reception



From Women of the Church and the Fellowship Committee:



The Fellowship Committee gives everyone a big **THANK YOU** for all the help and prayers we received for Reverend Sara's ordination celebration. It was a huge success. The Church had beautiful flowers and the fellowship hall was beautiful. The best count we have is 65 attendees. Our guests gave us wonderful comments.

Big thanks to everyone who planned, organized, cleaned, donated, and attended the celebration. It was a blessing to have our church and fellowship hall full.

Debra Wall, Fellowship Committee Chair

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).

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., spaghetti, ravioli, etc.)



Steve Womack, Chair



One Great Hour of Sharing



Collected by Steve and Kylie

Property and Grounds Committee

Investigation of why the floor in part of the sanctuary was sagging established that some repairs must be made and additional floor joists are needed to stabilize the floor. The work has been approved by the Session and will be done in the near future.

Johnny Sellars, Chair

Lee Christian School of Sanford NC

The Beta Club performed mission work by volunteering at The Breadbasket of Sanford.



The Breadbasket has fed the hungry of Sanford for over 30 years, no questions asked. Hot meals are served 11:30 to 12:30, Monday through Friday at 140 East Chisholm Street.



Communications Committee

We had a busy month capturing and posting photos and videos for the special events including the March 2nd Coastal Carolina Presbytery meeting where Sara was approved for ordination. Then there were Sara's ordination and reception at Edgewood, Maundy Thursday, and the "Glow-in-the-Dark" Easter Egg Hunt. In case you missed the events, pictures are posted on the church bulletin boards and some pictures and videos are posted on the Edgewood Facebook page and website.

At Jean McSwain's suggestion, we printed all newsletters from 2016 to the current issue and put them in notebooks in the Fellowship Hall. They provide a lot of history of the church. We were unable to find issues from November 2016 or January 2017. If you by chance saved copies, please let Jean, Connie or Jerry know. We would like to copy them for the notebooks.

Connie Wynn, Chair

Christian Education Committee

Edgewood hosted a glow in the dark Easter Egg Hunt, Friday, March 29, 7 until 9 p.m. We planned to stuff the eggs with glow sticks and have the candy, treats and prizes in bags for each child. Great idea, except we did not consider the street lights. Even though the eggs didn't shine as anticipated, it was still light enough to find them. It surely didn't dampen the spirit of the party. It was a joy seeing the laughter and joy of a fellowship hall full of children and adults enjoying pizza, chips, cookies, cupcakes and punch. All the children had a bag of treats and a prize to take home. Thanks for all who made this such a success.

We are working on our Bible School entitled "Hometown Nazareth". It will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday on June 12, 13 and 14. Mark your calendar for a time of fellowship and study of the life of Jesus.

We are in the planning stage for our new Sunday School year starting in August. If you have suggestions of how we can improve and enlarge our Sunday School attendance, please let one of the committee know. Working together, we can build fellowship and witness as we study the Word of God.

Jean McSwain, Chair



March 29, 2024



Thank you Christian Ed Committee for a very successful Easter Egg hunt.



Easter Egg Hunt with "glow-in-the-dark" eggs

March 29, 2024

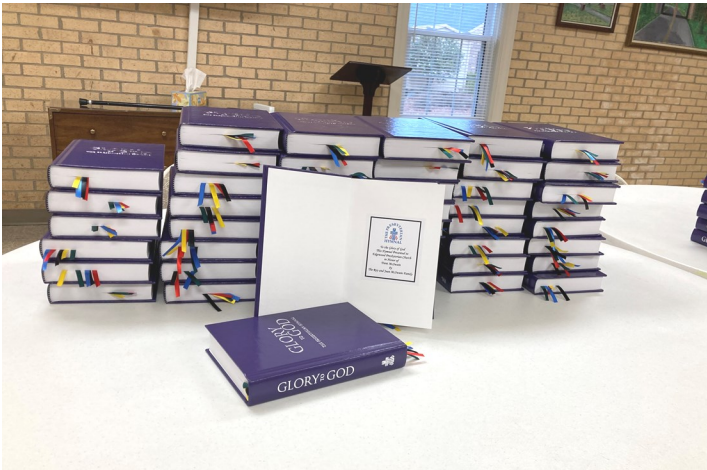




Our Maundy Thursday Service was very successful and effective. It was a joint service with Jonesboro Presbyterian Church and was held at Edgewood. Rev. John Taylor was guest Pastor and delivered the sermon. Their Chancel Choir lead us in song. We had 51 people in attendance.

Joint service with Jonesboro Presbyterian at Edgewood. The JPC Chancel Choir provided special music.

Worship Committee



Thanks to everyone who contributed to the purchase of our new hymnals. Labels were applied inside the front cover of each of the 142 hymnals designating “In Memory of” or “In Honor of” and the name of the donor.

Jerry printed the labels, Jean and Connie applied the labels, installed the ribbon page-markers, moved the hymnals to the sanctuary and took the old hymnals to storage. These ladies are *STRONG!*

Teresa Mangum, Chair

Thank You Leslie!



We were so blessed that Leslie Hanna shared her musical talents and special program organization skills with us for almost 2-years. We are sad that she is leaving us.

Presbyterian Women

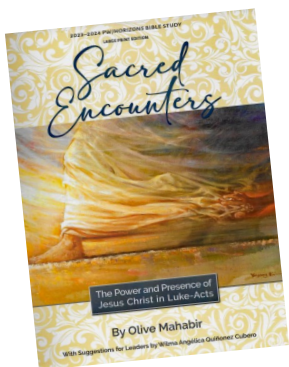


March 11, 2024



Presbyterian Women

Moderator: Teresa
Devotion: Debra
Program: Joyce
Food: Barbara and Ann

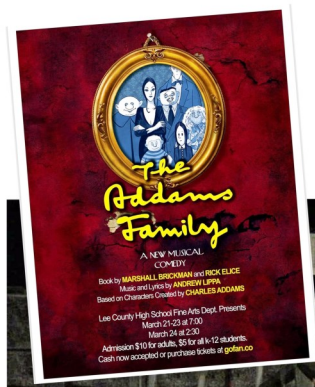


Next meeting: Monday, April 8, 2024 at 2:00 PM.

Our program will be Lesson Seven, “An Ethiopian Eunuch Encounters the Good News of Jesus”. Bible Moderator will be Jean McSwain. The Scripture will be Acts 8:26-40. Circle hostesses will be The Coordinating Team.

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

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Zon (Gomez Addams) and Tony (Lurch) perform again!

- LCHS musical comedy directed by Ron Coley -



Zon was sensational playing the lead character, Gomez Addams, in the Lee County High School production of "The Addams Family". Tony also played a major role as Lurch.



Ron Coley is to be commended for his outstanding direction of this major musical comedy.

The Empty Tomb

An Easter Sunday project by Kylie and Stephanie.

