
Edgewood Presbyterian Church

Newsletter—February 2025



In-Between Times

Last year at the beginning of February, I was preparing for Lent that began on Ash Wednesday – February 14. This year Ash Wednesday isn't until March 5. We have almost a month extra between two significant seasons of the church year: Advent-Christmas and Lent-Easter. The dates for some holy days are set: December 25 – Christmas; November 1 – All Saints' Day. Others are determined in relation to other celebrations: the dates for Ash Wednesday and Pentecost are based on when Easter falls. Easter, however, is the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox which occurs around March 21. So, a date that I rely on my calendar (or the internet) to tell me.



So, what are we to do during this in-between time? Some liturgical sources indicate we remain in the Season of Epiphany – the season of God's revelation and manifestation in our lives and world – until it ends with Transfiguration Sunday on the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday. Other sources say that we are in Ordinary Time – not ordinary as in boring or commonplace, but ordered time, named for the ordinal numbers (1st, 2nd...) used to designate the Sundays, during which we grow in our faith, and which is represented by the color green. The question remains – what are we to do during this time?

I suggest that we watch for signs of God's revelation while seeking to grow as disciples on our journeys of faith. When we read and listen to the lectionary readings, we can hear the language of revelation – light, dawn, insight, glory. In the passages from Luke's Gospel, we find Jesus at the beginning of his ministry: calling the first disciples; teaching, including the Sermon on the Plain; healing; and having meals with "unsavory" characters. More than one commentator suggests that, when Jesus reads from the scroll of Isaiah in the synagogue in Luke 4:18-19, he is announcing his mission statement or agenda for his ministry, and, thus, we could rightly use it as our own agenda or as a measuring stick for our mission:

- Jesus was led by the Spirit of God and anointed for a task.
- Jesus brought good news to the poor.
- Jesus proclaimed release to the captives.
- Jesus proclaimed recovery of sight to the blind.
- Jesus let the oppressed go free.

Jesus proclaimed the year of God's favor – the Jubilee year during which debts were forgiven, land returned, and socioeconomic relationships rebalanced.

Empowered and guided by the Spirit, Jesus resisted the status quo that sought to maintain the power of the rich and influential and instead Jesus supported the poor, blind, and oppressed, those marginalized by the status quo as unimportant and unworthy of consideration

(Continued on page 2)

During this in-between time, we can ask ourselves: How are we doing? How can we live more fully into this mission? What can we do better? How can we be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, the anointed one of God? These aren't easy questions, but such is the life of faith. May we grow in response to the challenge of faith.

In faith, hope, & love,

Sara

Pastor's Office Hours

Sunday

Monday–Wednesday mornings

Saturday (various times)

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

O God, by your spirit, open our eyes
to see your revelation in the world. Light the
way for us to follow in faithful discipleship,
walking in the footsteps of Jesus who
brought good news and liberation to the
oppressed and marginalized in society. And
grant us the wisdom and courage to go and
do likewise, in a world that shuns Jesus' work
for compassion and mercy.

Amen

Upcoming Sundays

2/2/25 "Love Language"
Jeremiah 1:4-10; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

2/9/25 "Unfit for Service"
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

2/16/25 "A Level Place"
Luke 6:17-26; Jeremiah 17:5-10

2/23/25 "Measure for Measure"
Luke 6:27-38; Genesis 45:3-15

3/2/25 "From Glory into Glory"
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36
Transfiguration Sunday

Scheduled Special Offerings

2/2/25 – 2 ¢ a Meal

2/9/25 – Blanket Sunday

3/2/25 – 2 ¢ a Meal

Head Usher for February

Patsy McBryde



TREASURER'S REPORT

DECEMBER TOTALS

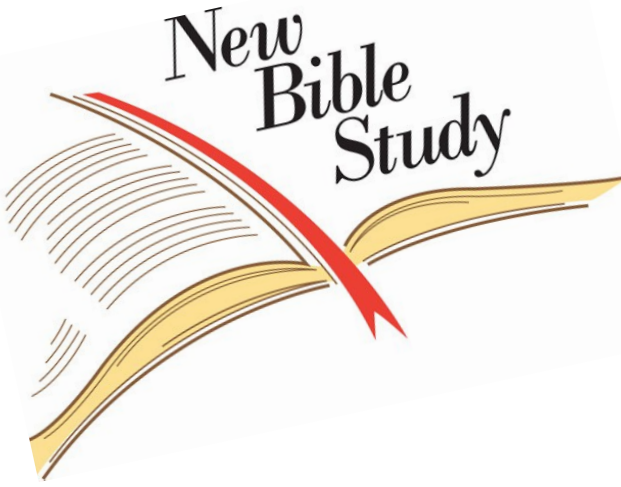
Receipts	\$ 8,326
Expenses	\$ 8,887
Special Offerings:	
Cents-ability	\$ 30
Thank Offering	\$ 25
Joy Offering	\$ 166
Special Offering	\$ 100

2024 TOTALS

Receipts	\$116,127
Expenses	\$147,884

PLEASE NOTE!

2024 Expenses exceeded receipts by
\$31,757



New Bible Study

IN THE BEGINNING

Exploring the Book of Genesis

January 14 - February 18, 2025
Tuesdays at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.

We will look at Genesis 1-24, the stories of creation through the stories of Abraham, considering who God is and who we are in relationship with God.

Just bring your Bible and yourself!

In the Beginning: Exploring the Book of Genesis

In the beginning, God created, relationships were broken, reconciliation offered and accepted. The Book of Genesis explores the themes of broken relationships between humans and God, between humans, and within families. God offered reconciliation through covenant promises with Noah and Abraham; familial relationships were also restored. What does this book of ancient stories tell us about God? About ourselves? About our relationships with God and one another?

For six weeks in January and February, we will explore Genesis, Chapters 1-24, focusing on the stories of creation and Abraham. Then we'll take a break for a Lenten Bible Study in March and April before resuming our study of Genesis in May and June, finishing out Chapters 25-50 and the stories of Jacob and Joseph.

Join us as we Explore the Book of Genesis to learn more about the beginnings of our faith tradition, rooted in the stories of the Hebrew people.

The study is based on *Interpretation Bible Studies: Genesis* by Celia Brewer Sinclair (Westminster John Knox Press, 1999) and *Genesis* by Walter Brueggemann, part of the *Interpretation Bible Series* (John Knox Press, 1982).

Part I

Lesson 4 – There Once Was a Man from Ur February 4
Focus: Genesis 15:1-21 Preparation: Genesis 11-15

Lesson 5 – Indeed, You Laughed February 11
Focus: Genesis 18:1-33 Preparation: Genesis 16-19

Lesson 6 – God Will Provide February 18
Focus: Genesis 22:1-19 Preparation: Genesis 20-24

If you are not attending this Bible Study you are not only missing the opportunity to learn more about the stories in the Bible, you are missing the lively and joyful discussions we are having at each session. Please join us!

Prayer

February Prayer Family of the Week

- 2 Nancy & Dave Mead
- 9 Rafael Morales & Family
- 16 Drew and Katie Morrison
- 23 Jennifer, John & Carlie Anne
Nicholson

Christian Education Committee

The Christian Education Committee met Wednesday, January 29 at six p.m. Those attending were Nancy Mead, Kim Dakdouk, Beth Singer, Debra Wall, Stephanie Sellars, Sara Martin and Jean McSwain.

We will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on April 19 from 2 until 4 p.m. A craft will be made, eggs hunted and refreshments will be served. We are going to invite a group outside the church to attend. Sara volunteered to design the post cards and take care of registration. The Committee will meet in the library on April 13 between Sunday School and Preaching to finalize plans.

Bible School will be held June 25, 26, and 27. Nancy Mead, Kim Dakdouk, and Stephanie Sellars will be joint directors. The title of Bible School will be "True North". A committee to plan Bible School was set up consisting of Stephanie, Nancy, Kim, Debra, and Sara. This committee will meet April 30 at 6:30 to start planning. We will invite a group outside the church to attend.

Our next Christian Education Committee meeting will be Wednesday, May 14 at 6 p.m.

Jean McSwain—Chair



*Happy Birthday to
everyone celebrating
birthdays this month*

Communications Committee

We printed 250 "Valentine Cards" for distribution to long term care facilities. We printed 200 more "Edgewood Tags" to attach to hats and scarfs donated to CUOC. We also printed signs and a sign-up sheet for the upcoming "Soup & Sandwich" luncheon.

We maintained the church website, recorded, edited, posted the worship services on Facebook. We posted 7 sheets of pictures on bulletin boards in the church in January.

Connie Wynn - Chair

Property and Grounds

The electrical problem we had in the Fellowship Hall has been fixed. All the outlets are now working and safe.

Johnny Sellars—Chair



Congratulations Rev. Sara!

On January 13, Rev. Sara Martin was elected to the CUOC Board of Directors.

Edgewood has earned a reputation at CUOC as being a small church with a very big heart. Our financial support, donations of goods, and the time and effort invested by Edgewood members who have volunteered to work there, have made a substantial contribution to the CUOC mission to assist our Lee County neighbors in need. We are confident that Sara will be another great asset to the organization.



Winter Hats, Scarves, and Gloves!

The temperature keeps fluctuating, and, when it's cold, it's cold! CUOC distributes our donations to our neighbors in Lee County who are in need.

They can be handmade or store bought.



CUOC Food Donations

Again this month, we are asking you to **donate a specific food item** for CUOC. Doing so, simplifies sorting the items at the facility. **For the month of February**, we ask you to donate individual **cereal cups** for Backpack Pals program.



Deliveries to CUOC

Your donations allowed us to deliver **96 pounds of food** (mostly soup), **25 hats**, and **6 scarves** to CUOC in January. Sara handmade 23 hats and 3 scarves with a great deal of “time, love and effort”. **Thanks to everyone!**



Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee has planned the following activities for 2025. Mark your calendars and make your plans to attend these fellowship fun days.

2025 Event Schedule

Soup & Sandwich

Sunday, February 16, 12:00—2:00PM

A Social Luncheon—Plus BINGO!

Sunday, March 30, 12:00—2:00PM

Pentecost Cupcakes

Sunday, June 8, After Church Service

Ice Cream Social—Plus movie

Saturday, July 26, 3:00—5:00PM

Church Picnic

Saturday, September 13, 4:00—6:00PM

Thanksgiving Luncheon

Sunday, November 16, 12:00—2:00PM

Debra Wall—Chair

Soup Sandwich

Church Fellowship Luncheon

Everyone is Invited

February 16

(Immediately after church)





Joyce McGehee, Vice-Moderator,
lead the meeting



Rev. Sara Martin presented
the program - "Water Justice"
Lesson 4 in the 2024/2025
PW/Horizon Bible Study



Presbyterian Women

January 13, 2025



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

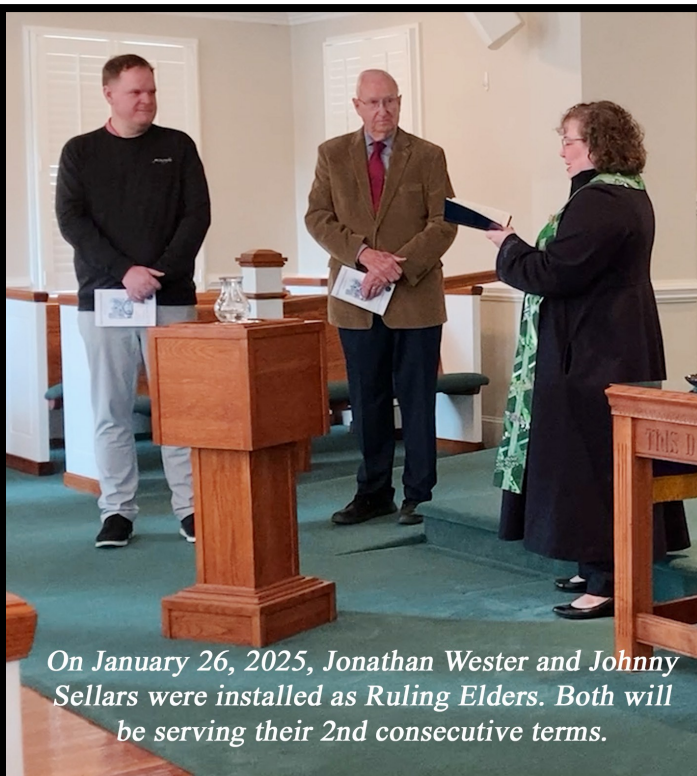


Devotion by
Trish Sellars



Food was provided by
Jean McSwain and Patsy McBryde

**Next Meeting will be 2:00PM,
Monday, February 10, 2025**



On January 26, 2025, Jonathan Wester and Johnny
Sellars were installed as Ruling Elders. Both will
be serving their 2nd consecutive terms.



Congratulations Brooke!
Lee Christian 2025 Homecoming Queen
January 17, 2025

Email Scams and Phishing

Today my son received an email from his pastor asking for assistance, but he quickly realized it wasn't actually from his pastor. The email had the Pastor's picture and showed his name as the sender.

How did he know it wasn't from the pastor?
And how can you know if you receive an email from me?

- Check to see the actual email address the message came from. My email program has an "information" icon which shows me this information. If it's a fake email, the email address will be different. Mine is sara.martin@edgewoodpres.org
- There's a sense of urgency to the message: "reply as soon as possible," "immediately," etc.
- The email is asking for money or is a vague request for help. I won't ask for money, and if I ask for help, it will be a specific request: "Would you be willing to help lead worship on [date]?", for example.
- The wording and punctuation are off. I may occasionally have typos, but I try to be as correct in punctuation and grammar as I can, even in text messages.

What should you do if you receive a questionable email (or text message) from me?

- It's best not to reply to the message. Sometimes the purpose of the message is to confirm an email or phone number. Sometimes it might contain a virus that will send messages "from you" to your contact list.
- Instead, type a new email or text message to me, ideally typing in the address/number rather than relying on autofill. Let me know that you got my message, and ask if it was really from me. I promise I won't be annoyed - I want you to be safe rather than sorry! Or call me at 919-770-5791.

- If you do reply to the message, don't agree to send money electronically or mail it anywhere other than the church's address. You could offer to drop it off at the church, and they will likely tell you that won't work or they need it sooner... But really, ***don't send money*** without verifying it's a legitimate request!

In faith, hope, and love,
Sara Martin, Pastor
Edgewood Presbyterian Church

