

Edgewood Presbyterian Church



Newsletter February 2022

Pastor's page

I was a fan of the old TV show *Cheers*. My favorite character was Norm, a short homely heavy set man, who would walk into the bar and say, “Evening everybody.” He would then be greeted by everyone in the bar calling back, “NORM.” There is one show where the typical greeting of Norm happens, and then Coach asks, “How’s life treating you, Normy?” Norm shakes his head and says, “Like I just ran over its dog.” One of the great allures of the show was the opening song, which says we all want to go someplace where we are welcomed, cared about, where everybody knows our name. This odd mix of characters all blending together becoming friends made the show something many people connected with. There was the good-looking former baseball star; the know-it-all postman (who actually knew nothing); Norm – the accountant; the loveable and perhaps senile, Coach; and the high strung, overly educated waitress. Somehow this odd collection of people who would normally have little to do with each other, all find community and friendship at *Cheers*.

There are frequently two things happening when someone visits a church. First, they are

looking for a new place to worship and experience God. The second thing happening is they are looking for a connection with the people there, for community, for friendship. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to extend our love and friendship to those outside our circle. We are to love our neighbor. At times it can be a challenge to love our neighbor...so many of them work so hard at being unlovable. And yet, it is as followers of Jesus where the zealot and the tax collector became brothers. The fisherman sat beside the teacher. The young and the old, the rich and the poor, the respected and the despised, all found a welcome in the body of Christ. As followers of Jesus, we are called to tear down dividing walls. We are to welcome any who come in among our fellowship. We are to extend the love and peace of our Savior. We are to not just tolerate their presence, but to be their friend.

I knew a man who had some terrible problems. He was a disabled vet that had turned to drinking and drugs to get away from his struggles. He hit bottom and knew he needed to change his life. He asked if I would visit with him. I did. One day he asked if it would be alright if he came to church. I smiled and said we would welcome him gladly, but in the back of my mind I knew this man was going

to be a challenge for some people to welcome. He was dirty, literally. Every time I visited his home, I felt like I needed to take a very hot shower with anti-bacterial soap, just to stand to be in my own skin. Somehow my smile and assurance of his welcome was enough. He said he could come to church, and a couple Sunday's later there he was. It was winter time, and he wore a long dress coat, with a sport coat and slacks underneath. They looked a little worn and dirty, but I knew he was trying. I was thankful to see him, perhaps my visits with him and my prayers for him had finally gotten through. As he found a spot to sit, he removed his coat and hung it over the pew in front of him. Shortly after the service began, some people sitting near the visitor looked up at me with eyes wide open in panic. I saw a few people step into the aisle and then back into their pew. It turns out our visitor had several large cockroaches that had made a home in his rarely used wool coat. Once he had draped it on the pew, and it sat undisturbed for several minutes, the roaches decided to explore their new environment. This was noticed by several men and women who were sitting behind the visitor- thus the wide eyed panicked look. The men had stepped into the aisle in order to step on the roaches. As nerve-wracking as the roaches were, I was so proud of the church members who greeted the visitor after church. They asked his name, said they were glad he was with us, and hoped he came back. He did come back another time or two. He even brought his wife with him once. But old habits are hard to break, and he soon fell back into his drinking and drugs and no longer wished to have me visit. Somehow, I believe the people of the church planted a seed that day. They were a community of acceptance and love to a man who was far different than they were. They were a fellowship of welcome.

When people come to church...will we be ready to welcome them? Some days it's not so easy to do. But our Savior ate with tax collectors and sinners....like you and me. Perhaps we could be as caring so others might also know God's warm welcome.

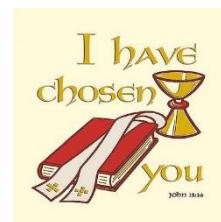
Wishing You Abundant Life,

Chad



Installation/Ordination of Elders class of 2024

Jonathan Wester, Teresa Mangum, and Johnny Sellars. Thanks for being willing to serve God and your church in this capacity. Your leadership is appreciated.



The PW coordinating team will meet Monday, February 7, at 2:00.

The circle will meet Monday, February 14, at 11:00. Ladies, please come out and join us for the bible lesson and fellowship with one another. Jeanne Anderson will lead us in this Lesson 5, on Ruth and Redemption.

From January 10th Circle Meeting



Fellowship Committee

The fellowship committee is inviting everyone to a soup & sandwich lunch *following worship, February 20.*



Communications Committee

Jerry Wynn, chair; and members: Patsy McBryde, Maggie Wester, & Connie Wynn

While COVID limited church activities during 2021, this committee was busy. Following are some of our achievements:

1. Developed a new website for the church. Updated and maintained the church Facebook page.
2. Recorded, edited, and posted 43 videos of worship services and music performances on Facebook.
3. At the request of the Presbyterian women, printed Mother's Day and Father's Day cards for distribution to members. Printed over 2,000 cards for Valentines, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas for distribution to nursing homes.
4. Updated the upstairs bulletin board each week, posting over 100 sheets of pictures during the year and posting weekly "Prayer Family".
5. Supported other committees by providing photos and completing their requests for some small printing projects (signs, announcements, sign-up sheets).
6. Contributed heavily to the 70th Anniversary publication distributed at that celebration.

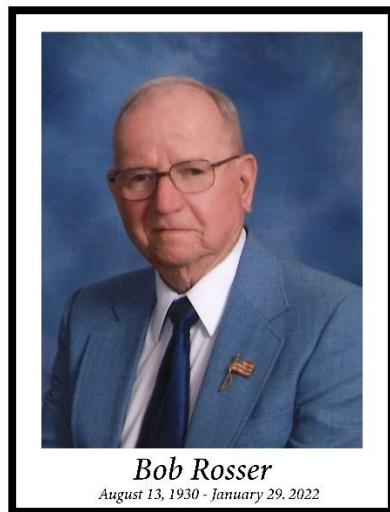


Jimmy Williams in the death of his father; Charles Dull in the death of his mother; and Jeanne Anderson in the death of her mother (in December).

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Matthew 5:4



Chad's children sermon on Facebook, January 23 included his dogs Daisy and Sparky. Sparky was talking about sharing with others.



Our Heartfelt Sympathy goes out to the family of Bob Rosser. We celebrated his life Wednesday, February 2, at Edgewood. Bob has served as Elder and sang in the choir. He will be missed by all who knew him.