
Edgewood Presbyterian Church

Newsletter—February 2024



A Really Stinkin' Long Time

That's what my husband would say in youth ministry when talking about the number 40 in the Bible – "A Really Stinkin' Long Time."



We can't really know how long Moses wandered in the wilderness or Noah and his family waited out the flood on the ark, but we can assume that it was a really stinkin' long time.

Lent is the next season in the church year, beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending at sunset of the Saturday before Easter. (In the Jewish tradition, the new day begins at sunset.) Lent is 40 days, plus six Sundays – a really stinkin' long time, as anyone who has given up chocolate, caffeine, or social media for Lent will attest.

Many people think of Lent primarily as a time of deprivation (giving up good or desired things), and gloom (focused on sin and penitence). It can be those things, but Lent is more than that. It is a time of preparation, a time of growing in our lives of faith, a time of reconciliation. In the ancient church, converts to Christianity were baptized on Easter Sunday, so the period of Lent served as a time of

preparation for the sacrament, for learning about God, who they were as disciples and God's children, and the work of the church.

Giving up things for Lent can be a useful way of practicing your faith, though this is more likely to happen when you replace that which you've given up with something spiritually meaningful – prayer, scripture reading, service to others, etc. In recent years, I've seen an increase in the promotion of adding faith practices that help us to focus on helping others and growing in our own faith. There are even Lenten Calendars (like Advent Calendars) that offer a suggested reading, prayer, and/or activity for each day (see below).

One practice you could add during Lent is attending a Bible Study. During Lent at Edgewood, I will be leading a weekly Bible Study on the Book of Exodus, using a new book from Westminster John Knox Press called *Hard & Holy Work*, looking at how the Biblical witness can guide us as we strive to work for reconciliation, liberation, and justice in our community and world. You might find having a copy of the book beneficial, but it's not necessary for participating in the Bible Study.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

As you journey through Lent this year, I encourage you to seek to grow in your life of faith by:

- Attending the Lee County Presbyterian Community Ash Wednesday Worship Service on February 14 at 7 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church (where I will be preaching);
- Joining our weekly Bible Study;
- Engaging in a new spiritual practice – reading a psalm each day, setting aside 10 minutes for prayer, collecting non-perishable food to donate to the hungry...

May God bless you with the perseverance, strength, courage, and faithfulness to walk more closely with God and one another through Lent, and that, this year, it won't feel like a really stinkin' long time!

In faith, hope, and love,

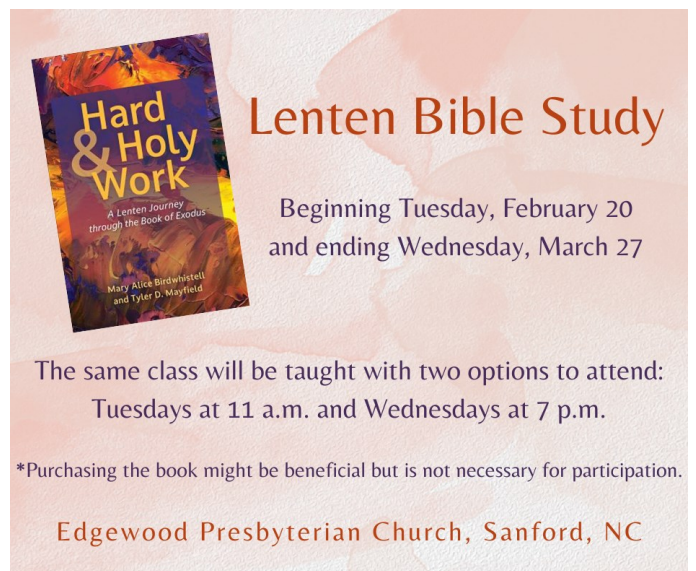
Sara



Lee County Presbyterian
Community
Ash Wednesday
Service

Wednesday, February 14 at 7 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church, Sanford

All are welcome!



Hard & Holy Work
A Lenten Journey through the Book of Exodus
Mary Alice Birdwhistell and Tyler D. Mayfield

Lenten Bible Study

Beginning Tuesday, February 20
and ending Wednesday, March 27

The same class will be taught with two options to attend:
Tuesdays at 11 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

*Purchasing the book might be beneficial but is not necessary for participation.

Edgewood Presbyterian Church, Sanford, NC

Lenten Resources

Calendars

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/tread-lightly-for-lent/>

<https://www.faithward.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Lent-Discipleship-Calendar-2024.pdf>

Bible Study

Hard & Holy Work: A Lenten Journey through the Book of Exodus by Mary Alice Birdwhistell and Tyler D. Mayfield, ©2024. Currently on sale through the PCUSA Store, but also available on Amazon.

PCUSA's Lenten Guide to Various Books for Group and Individual Study: https://www.pcusastore.com/Content/Site119/Basics/13841LentGuidep_00000161546.pdf

Treasurer's Report

2023 TOTALS

Income

Worship/Sunday Sch./	
Loose Offering	\$100,701
Memorial Gifts	700
Special Offerings	<u>4524</u>
TOTAL Income	\$105,925

Expenses

Pastoral/Guest Ministers	\$13,364
Support Staff	14,731
Office/Building/Committee/ PCC/All Other Expenses	<u>39,406</u>
TOTAL Expense	\$67,501

Income/Expense **\$38,424.35**



Prayer Family of the Week

- 4 Jody & Kim McNeill & Family
- 11 Marty McNeill
- 18 Shelia McNeill
- 25 Jean, LeRoy & Trent McSwain

Head Usher for February

Teresa Mangum

NOTICE!

Our pastor has new contact information.

Email address:

sara.martin@edgewoodpres.org

Cell phone number: (919) 770-5791



Wishing
everyone born
in February a
**Happy
Birthday!**

For God

so loved the world,
that he gave his
only
begotten
Son,
that whosoever
believeth
in him should not perish,
but have everlasting life.



John 3:16

Membership in the Church, According to the *Book of Order*

Ministry of Members

G-1.0304 from our *Book of Order* states:

Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission. A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church. Such involvement includes:

- Proclaiming the good news in word and deed,
- Taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation,
- Lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support,
- Studying scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life,
- Supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,
- Demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,
- Responding to God's activity in the world through service to others,
- Living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life,
- Working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment,
- Caring for God's creation,
- Participating in the governing responsibilities of the church, and
- Reviewing and evaluating the integrity of one's membership and considering ways in which one's participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful.

~ Presbyterian Church, (USA). *Book of Order 2023-2025: The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Part II*. Louisville: Office of the General Assembly, 2023-2025.

God gave each of us gifts, skills, and talents to be used in service to our church for the glory of God. The mission and the work of this congregation needs participation from all of the members, not just the pastor or a handful of folks. You have gifts to share, even in small ways! Prayerfully consider how you can serve the church on one of our committees (listed on the following page). Let the chair and/or Sara know how you would like to serve

Installation of Elders



On January 21, Patsy McBryde and Jean McSwain were installed as Elders for the class of 2026. Patsy is beginning her 2nd consecutive 3-year term. Jean last served on the Session in 2019, and is beginning a new 3-year term.

The Session of Edgewood Presbyterian Church

Class of 2024

Teresa Mangum
Johnny Sellars
Jonathan Wester

Class of 2025

Debra Wall
Connie Wynn

Class of 2026

Patsy McBryde
Jean McSwain

Church Committees

Christian Education

Jean McSwain, Chair

Mary Lee Byrd, Teresa Mangum, Joyce McGehee, Nancy Mead, Stephanie Sellars, Beth Singer, Debra Wall

Communications

Connie Wynn, Chair

Patsy McBryde, Jerry Wynn

Congregational Care

Patsy McBryde, Chair

Jean McSwain, Debra Wall

Fellowship and Arrangements

Debra Wall, Chair

Sandy Dull, Jean Lyons, Darrell Matthews, Jean McSwain, Nancy Mead, Connie Wynn

Property and Grounds

Johnny Sellars, Chair

Trish Sellars, Harold Weathers

Stewardship and Finance

Jonathan Wester, Chair

Trish Sellars, Jerry Wynn

Worship and Music

Teresa Mangum, Chair

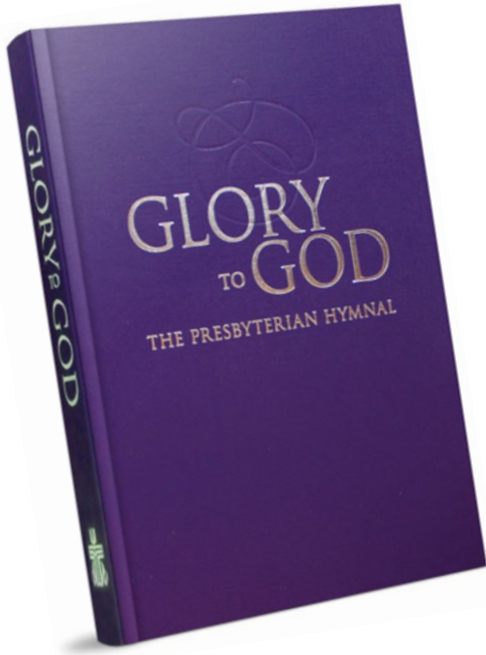
Leslie Hanna, Patsy McBryde, Jean McSwain, Nancy Mead, Connie Wynn

Mission and Outreach

Steve Womack, Chair

Jonathan Wester

Worship Committee



The Worship Committee has ordered new hymnals. The church paid for them, but we are offering members and friends the opportunity to make donations to offset the cost. If you would like to donate the cost of a hymnal, they are \$27.00 each. We will print labels to apply inside each hymnal designating the name of the donor. If you choose to name someone *"In Honor of"*, or *"In Memory of"*, those names will also be *printed on the label*. Hymnal Donation Forms are available for you to provide that information. Please submit payment with the completed forms. Fill out the forms **clearly** so that we can print the labels exactly as you desire.

Teresa Mangum, Chair

Why New Hymnals?

Hymnals contain solid theology put to song and allow congregations to join their voices to proclaim the truth about God, the way that was made for our salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus, and the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in our lives that spurs us toward loving others as we share the gospel.

Singing is important to Edgewood and so we have purchased new hymnals entitled, ***Glory to God***, to support our worship as we glorify God together. Within our new hymnals, you will notice that the typeface is much easier to read, and the contrast between the print and the page is better than our current hymnals. You will also notice that the formatting is cleaner, allowing you to focus on singing rather than trying to figure out where your eyes are supposed to focus on the page.

Our new hymnals are filled with hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs and will add much to our corporate worship. It includes many songs from previous editions of the hymnal, other denominational songbooks, and individual authors and composers. The ***Glory to God*** hymnal will be a wonderful addition to worship at Edgewood, and we look forward to exploring its contents together as we worship the Lord in spirit and truth!

Leslie Hanna

Fellowship Committee

We would like to thank everyone for all your help and participation in 2023. The events would not be successful without your help and participation.

Our first luncheon for this year will be Sunday, February 18, 2024 at 12:00 pm in the fellowship hall. Soup and sandwiches, beverages and desserts will be available. A signup sheet is available in the hallway by the sanctuary. Sign up for what you would like to bring to share with everyone. If time gets away from you or you are not able to fix something, please come out and join everyone anyway for fellowship and a good meal.

We will post a list of events planned for 2024 in the March newsletter. We hope you will save the dates and join us.

Debra Wall, Chair

Soup Sandwich

Church Fellowship Luncheon
Everyone is Invited
February 18
(Immediately after church)



Communications Committee

Technology issues have been resolved, and the Sunday morning services are usually posted by late Sunday afternoon.

We post new photos on the bulletin board each week. Check it out, you may see someone you know. We printed 250 Valentine's cards to be distributed to the local long-term care facilities. We also printed signs and sign-up sheets for the Soup & Sandwich Luncheon.

Don't forget to checkout the Edgewood Facebook page and the church website at www.edgewood.org. The church schedule and the monthly newsletters are posted.

Connie Wynn, Chair

Christian Education Committee

The Christian Education Committee is eager to get started in February. Watch for updates in upcoming newsletters!

Jean McSwain, Chair

Congregational Care Committee

The "Shepard's List" was updated. The "Members and Friends List" having mailing addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers was updated and published.

Patsy McBryde, Chair

Missions Committee

As we continue to support Christian United Outreach Center (CUOC), who helps Lee County families in need, there has been a request for several clothing items: Toboggan hats, gloves, and children's socks.

We will have a basket at the communion table and in the narthex for anyone wishing to donate these items on February 4.

In addition, CUOC has expressed a need for canned meats, cereal, stuffed animals, and any basket that could be used as an Easter Basket.



These items can be placed in the same containers in the church.

Thank you,
Steve Womack, Chair

Blanket Sunday



For over 75 years, Church World Service (CWS) has been helping people of faith bring God's hope and healing to people in the U.S. and around the world. When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That's why the CWS Blankets program was created—to give a kind, loving, and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone.

On **February 11** we will take up a special offering for **Blanket Sunday**. You can use the white envelopes to list your donation in memory or honor of someone and pin a heart on the blanket. The Church World Service blankets are **\$10** each. They are used in disaster situations worldwide. If you write a check, please make it out to Edgewood.



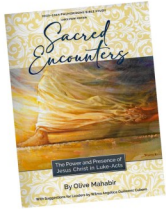
West Community Officer Training was held at White Hill Presbyterian Church January 20, 2024. Representing Edgewood Presbyterian Church was Sara, Teresa, Connie, Jean, Debra, and Patsy.



Officer Training

Five of our Elders and our Pastor attended the West Community Officer Training at White Hill Presbyterian Church on January 20. In addition to the basic training for new Elders, the group learned about changes in the current church culture, modern techniques in communication, and how to be effective leaders.

Edgewood Presbyterian Women

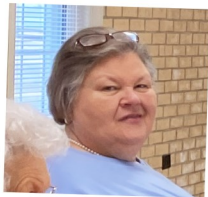


Lesson Four: Mary and
Martha Encounter Jesus

January 15, 2024



Food provided by Connie and Trish



Moderator:
Teresa



Devotion:
Trish



Program:
Connie



Presbyterian Women

Next meeting: Monday, February 12, 2024 at 2:00 PM.

Our program will be Lesson Five, "A Person with Leprosy Encounters Jesus". The scripture will be Luke 17:11-21. Circle hostesses will be Mary Holder and Patsy McBryde. Ladies, please come join us for fellowship and Bible Study. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**