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# Edgewood Presbyterian Church

Newsletter—December 2023



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## Welcome our new PASTOR!

Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love!

I'd like to begin with a word of gratitude – for you, the members of Edgewood Presbyterian for calling me to serve and for welcoming into your lives; the diligent and faithful work of your Pastor Nominating Committee; the many churches that have supported me and taught me much; for my family and friends for their ongoing love and support; and, above all, for God's love and grace that have called me into ministry and to service at Edgewood. Thank you!

For a quick biography, I grew up in Michigan and was raised in a Presbyterian church. Throughout high school, I attended Montreat Youth Conferences, where I picked up a brochure for St. Andrews Presbyterian College. After four years of long holiday commutes, I graduated from SAPC with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Creative Writing and Religious Studies. From there I started a graduate program at Candler School of Theology at Emory University, but put that on hold to marry my college sweetheart, Adrian, and move to Mebane, NC, where he worked. When the opportunity arose, we moved back to the Atlanta area where I finished my Masters of Theological Studies in 2001. My plans for a PhD stalled, and I found work as



an administrative assistant, a role that I have filled for many years in a variety of settings. My husband and I welcomed one son in 2003 and four years later, a second. Micah is planning to finish his Associates Degree this spring, and Eli is a sophomore at Porter Ridge High School in Indian Trail. From Atlanta, we traveled to Athens, GA, and spent about six years there before relocating to the Charlotte area. A few more years and I finally accepted God's call to ministry. I've spent the last five years attending Saturday classes at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte while

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working full time. I graduated with a Masters of Divinity degree in June, and I began searching for, well, you! I am thrilled, delighted, a bit anxious, and so grateful for the call to serve here at Edgewood!

Now that I've outlined my life so far, I thought I would share a few of my favorite things as they correspond to the Sundays of Advent...

**Hope** – children's laughter; sunshine breaking through the clouds; butterflies; God's people gathered in service to their community; rainbows; large gatherings of youth at Montreat learning about and worshipping God; baptisms...

**Peace** – the sound of rain on the roof and thunder in the distance; George Winston's piano arrangements; cresting the mountains while driving to Montreat; gentle breezes on warm, sunny days; flickering candles in the darkness...

**Joy** – the aroma of apples; my children; the color navy; sewing, quilting, and creating; babies; singing; words; Christmas carols; learning; leading worship...

**Love** – family and friends; kitty snuggles; tulips and daisies; my son serving communion; calla lilies and irises; playing games with my family; memories of my mom...

These are just a few of the things that fill me with **Hope**, **Peace**, **Joy**, and **Love**. As we move through Advent, I invite and encourage you to share your favorite things with me and one another!

In faith, hope, and love,  
Sara



## Thank You PNC Committee

We offer our sincere gratitude to the PNC Committee for their diligence in finding just the right person to lead Edgewood. Sara Martin is faithful in Christ, very personable, and relatable, and who the committee is confident will be a good fit for our church. While this is her first church calling, she has years of experience actively serving churches in various capacities. We look forward a new era with Sara's leadership.

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### **Again, thank you PNC Committee:**

Maggie Wester (Chair), Patsy McBryde, Joyce McGehee, Johnny Sellars, Beth Singer, Brooke Singer, and Debra Wall.



## Congratulations Class of 2026 Elders!

The congregation voted to accept the recommendation of the Congregational Nominating Committee and elected **Patsy McBryde** and **Jean McSwain** to the elder class of 2026. Patsy is currently nearing the end of her 3-year term and will continue by serving a consecutive term in January. Jean has served as an elder in the past and will begin a new term in January. We thank Patsy and Jean for serving our church in this capacity.

# Treasurer's Report

## October 2023

Receipts . . . . . \$7704.00  
Expenses . . . . . \$4804.71  
Special Offerings:  
    Cents-ability . . . . . \$55.00

## December Worship

**On December 3, we will welcome our new pastor, Sara Martin.**



We celebrate Advent each Sunday this month. Special music/programs will be presented each Sunday this month. The tentative schedule is:

Dec. 3—Lauren Poe, guest pianist  
Dec. 10—Leslie Hanna  
Dec. 17—Antonin Muller & Zon Resueno  
Dec. 24—Kaitlyn Owle, Hanna family members including Joe playing his harp.

*Be sure to join us for these special performances!*

**Head Usher:** Debra Wall



## December

### Prayer Families of the Week

- 3 Teresa Mangum
- 10 Ernestine & Darrell Matthews
- 17 Chip & Patsy McBryde
- 24 Eddy & Alyssa McBryde
- 31 James & Joyce McGehee



*Happy Birthday  
to all who are  
celebrating  
December Birthdays.*

## Missions

A special offering on November 19, for the **CUOC Turkey** program, totaled \$266. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

Our church sponsored 12 Salvation Army Christmas Angles this year. Thank you for your generosity.

### **Special collections in December:**

3—Cents-Ability (Two-Cents-A-Meal)

24—Joy Gift

31—For support of February 2024 Puerto Rico Mission trip to repair hurricane damage

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## Communications Committee

We printed 250 Thanksgiving cards and 250 Christmas cards for distribution at local long-term care facilities.



Don't forget to checkout the Edgewood Facebook page and the church website . (Google "Edgewood Presbyterian Church Sanford NC".) You will find the church schedule and the monthly newsletters on the website.

## Christian Education

Remember to come Friday night, **December 15th at six o'clock** to join the youth in a fun time of Christmas Crafts, refreshments and viewing the movie Polar Express. Please invite those who may have lost touch. It will be an evening of fun and fellowship for all. The Lock-In part of the evening has been cancelled. Instead, we will end the event at **9:00PM.**

### ***THE POLAR EXPRESS MOVIE***



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## Property & Grounds

The outside doors of the church were cleaned and painted. The hand rails and fire escapes were painted.



## Fellowship Committee

Debra Wall and the Fellowship Committee organized another opportunity for our church members to enjoy good food and fellowship. Thirty-six people left the luncheon with full stomachs and smiles on their faces. Thank you Debra and your committee.



## CUOC

Please consider joining some of these volunteers at CUOC, helping people in need feed their families. See Connie or Nancy for information.



November 22, 2023

## Presbyterian Women

The Edgewood Presbyterian Women met Monday, November 13 and continued the lesson series—**“Sacred Encounters”**, The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ Luke-Acts by Olive Mahabir. Teresa Mangum lead the lesson.



## Talented Youth in Play

We are proud of 4 of our youth who participated in the play “Frozen, Jr.” at Lee County High School November 16-19. The production was part of the high school drama program directed by our Ron Coley. High school students organized this production under Ron’s supervision.

Cast members were all ages, recruited from all the county schools. They auditioned for the parts and once selected, rehearsed for 2 months. Kylie is the daughter of Maggie and Jonathan Wester, LeAnn is the daughter of Gary and Jennifer Harrison. Zon and Tony are foreign exchange students at LCCHS who are residing with Ron Coley for this school year.

The performance was outstanding, nothing short of a professional production.



Kylie, Zon, LeAnn, & Tony were cast members in the “Frozen Jr.” production at LCCHS.

