

# Edgewood Presbyterian Church

Newsletter—October 2024



## Surprises

I'm generally not a huge fan of surprises, especially when I know that "something" is coming, but I don't know what it is. Not knowing the specifics of what something will be like or how I will feel, that's what brings me anxiety about surprises and the unknown. When I was a child and my brother had chicken pox, I felt worse while I was waiting to get them than when I actually broke out in the rash. "Hey, Mom! I've got a surprise for you!" could mean anything from "I dug a "swimming pool" with a hand trowel in the backyard" or "I built a blanket fort encompassing the living room" to "I can hop on one leg." But the surprise birthday party thrown by this congregation on September 22, took me completely by surprise! I had absolutely no idea that anything was coming... so I didn't fret over what it might be! Thank you all!!!



Even when we hope and pray for things – a baby, a new job, an actual diagnosis for assorted ailments – we are expecting "something," but we never truly know what to expect. I believe it was a Huggies commercial that said "Having a baby changes everything!" And it does. Despite all attempts to prepare for the changes, some things, *many* things are surprises when you welcome a baby into your family.

This applies to church growth and new members too. God gathers us into community as the church, as Edgewood Presbyterian Church. And while God's love, mercy, and grace are steadfast and sure, God surprises us. In the Presbyterian church, at least in seminary, we talk about the church as "reformed and always to be reformed according to the Word of God' in the power of the Spirit" (*PC(USA) Book of Order*, F-2.02). Change, particularly the unexpected and surprising kind, is an inevitable and necessary part of growth and development. Have you heard the saying "you can never step into the same river twice?" As the water flows, the river changes in various degrees, making it impossible to step in to the exact same place again.

So too with life and the church. We may hold on to traditions, but we will never be the same church as we once were. The world has changed, people have come and gone, the leaves fall from the trees. But as the trees remind us, the leaves must drop away so that new leaves, new growth, new flourishing, can grow come spring. As we plan, pray, and hope for church growth over the next few years, we *will* be surprised. We will be surprised by God's working in and among us to be "a church to call home" for new family members.

May we not anticipate such surprises with anxiety or obstructions; instead, may we be open to the Holy Spirit, to the new thing God is doing at Edgewood Presbyterian Church. May we be surprised and find joy in the unexpected!

In faith, hope, & love,

Sara

O God, as the trees shake loose their leaves, may we see it as a promise of the new life that is coming. Open our hearts and minds to the surprises you will bring us. May we anticipate the unknown of the future with joy and excitement, trusting in your steadfast love and mercy that sustain and guide us daily. Amen

# LOOK INTO LUKE BIBLE STUDY **Part 2**

Beginning Tuesday, October 15  
and ending Wednesday, November 20

The same class will be taught with two  
options to attend:

Tuesdays at 7 p.m. &  
Wednesdays at 11 a.m.

## Bible Study

*Just bring your Bible and yourself!*

Edgewood Presbyterian Church, Sanford, NC

### Look Into Luke – Part 2

In August and September, we looked at Luke, Chapters 1-10. Starting this month, we'll look at Chapters 11-24, as Jesus makes his way to Jerusalem.

Join us as we explore the Gospel of Luke this fall to learn more about who Jesus is... or at least who Luke thought Jesus is!

If you want to prepare, read the first chapter(s) listed; the second scripture is the focus-text for the lesson:

10/15 - Money	Chapter 11-12	Luke 12:13-34
10/22 - Tables	Chapter 13-14	Luke 14:1-24
10/29 - Parables	Chapters 15-18	Luke 15:1-32
11/5 - The Cross	Chapters 19-23	Luke 23:32-49
11/12 - Emmaus	Chapter 24	Luke 24:1-53
11/19 - Conclusion		

And if you really want to learn more, the study is based on *Interpretation Bible Studies: Luke* by Thomas W. Walker (Westminster John Knox Press, 2001) and *Luke* by Fred Craddock, part of the *Interpretation Bible Series* (John Knox Press, 1990).



**Pastor's Office Hours**

Sunday  
Monday–Wednesday mornings  
Saturday (various times)  
919-770-5791 ~ sara.martin@edgewoodpres.org  
*Vacation – September 28-October 7*

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**AUGUST TOTALS**

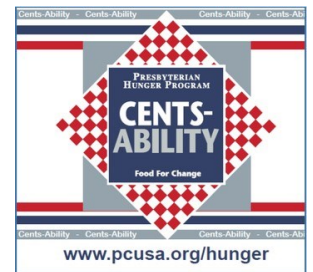
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 6,211</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 10,247</b>
<b>Special Offerings:</b>	
<b>Back Pack Pals</b>	<b>\$ 67</b>
<b>Wounded Warriors</b>	<b>\$ 217</b>
<b>Memorials</b>	<b>\$ 475</b>

***Upcoming Sundays***

- 10/6/24 *Guest Preacher – World Communion Sunday*
- 10/13/24 "A Problem with Wealth"  
Mark 10:17-21; Amos 5:6-15
- 10/20/24 "At Your Service"  
Mark 10:35-45; Hebrews 5:1-10
- 10/27/24 "From Captivity to Joy"  
Mark 10:46-52; Jeremiah 31:7-9
- 11/3/24 "Solidarity in Morning"  
Ruth 1:1-18; Mark 12:28-34

**Upcoming Special Offerings**

**October 6, 2024**  
First Sunday Offering  
**2 Cents a Meal**



**Head Usher for October**  
**Connie Wynn**

  
**Lord,**  
**Hear Our**  
**Prayer**

**Prayer Family of the Week**

- October 6 Cathy Johns
- 13 Anna & Stewart Elmore
- 20 Ronnie Kelly & Family
- 27 Jean Lyons



*To all who are celebrating birthdays this month!*



## Our New Music Director

We informed you in last month's newsletter that Dr. Erin Watson would become our new music director beginning September 8. We provided limited information about her. She lives in Sanford and just this year became a music teacher at Broadway Elementary School. Her husband David teaches at CCCC. However, we did not provide her education and work history. We asked her to summarize that for this newsletter.

**Dr. Erin Cooper Watson** is a native of Maryland and was raised in the Lutheran church. She earned her Bachelor of Music in Music Education from James Madison University in



Virginia, her Master of Music in Instrumental Conducting from the University of Delaware, and her Doctor of Musical Arts in Wind Conducting from the University of Alabama. In her twenty years of teaching, Erin has taught public high school in Maryland and Florida, instructed at the college level in Oklahoma, Missouri, Connecticut, and at UNC Chapel Hill, and she is now the music teacher at Broadway Elementary. Erin has served previous congregations as a music director with an emphasis on handbell choirs. She is married to her husband, David, and they live on Watsons Nursery Lane. They share a love of music, coffee, travel, and their four cats!

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Some information Erin did not provide is that she has a bubbly personality— if you have met her, you already know that. Her skill on the piano is beyond outstanding—if you have heard her play, you know that also. She is blending into our congregation rapidly. We are so blessed that she chose to work with our church.

## Worship Committee

Blessing of the quilts will be held **October 13**. The Edgewood Piece-Makers sewing group made about 35 quilts to be blessed before donating to the Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte.

The Nanny Monroe Sunday School Class is donating 30 receiving blankets to Levine also.

The Edgewood women have also made about 30 toboggans to be given to CUOC, and made stuffed animals to be donated to Central Carolina Hospital and Levine Children's Hospital.



Adelyn Byrd, a junior member of the Piece-Makers, made this beautiful quilt for the Levine project. ***GREAT JOB ADELYN!***

Teresa Mangum: Chair

## Communications Committee

We continue our routine activities with the bulletin boards, worship service videos on Facebook, newsletters, the church website, and support other committees with special requests for printed material.

Connie Wynn: Chair



## Stewardship & Finance Committee



Stewardship season is rapidly approaching. Please begin to prayerfully consider your financial commitment to our church so that we can continue to be a church we call home. More info will be coming in the next few weeks.

Jonathan Wester: Chair

## Missions Committee

The Salvation Army Angel Tree Program will begin distributing Christmas Angels near the end of October.



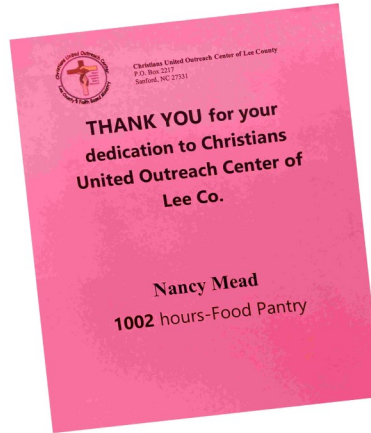
Our prayers go out to those who have been devastated by Hurricane Helene. You may make monetary donations through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Presbyterian Church (USA), PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700 or the N.C. Disaster Relief Fund at [nc.gov/donate](http://nc.gov/donate).

Steve Womack: Chair

Food Donations are always appreciated at CUOC.



## Congratulations Nancy!



Nancy Mead was recently recognized by CUOC for her service to the organization. Thank you Nancy for your dedication to helping our community.



## Property & Grounds

A new light was installed outside, over the Fellowship Hall door for improved visibility on the walkway toward the parking lot.

**Our new wheelchair ramp is under construction! The more shallow slope will comply with current building standards. The effort required to go up the incline will be less strenuous and the downhill exit less dangerous.**

Johnny Sellars: Chair





## Fellowship Committee

The September 14 Church Picnic was a huge success! We counted 34 attendees, including 3 firemen from the Woodland Ave. Station. Johnny and Chip, with a few helpers, grilled hot dogs and hamburgers. We had a lot of delicious side dishes, drinks and desserts.

Thank you Jimmy and Jeannie for introducing us to “Music BINGO”. Instead of having numbers on the cards, there were names of hymns in the rows and columns. Jeannie played hymns on the piano and we marked the name of the hymn on our cards. Thanks to Rev. Sara who assisted Jeannie by locating the songs in the hymnals and leading the

B	I	N	G	O
What a friend we have in Jesus	Power in the blood	Jesus Loves me	Amazing Grace	Because He lives
Ill fly away	Sweet By and By	Are you washed with the blood	Count your blessings	He walks with me
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot	Precious Lord take my hand	<b>Free!</b>	When the roll is called	How beautiful heaven must be
Church in the Wildwood	Rock of Ages	Oh happy day	Blessed Assurance	Will the circle be unbroken
When we all get to Heaven	The old Rugged Cross	He touched me	To God be the glory	Shall we gather at the river

singing. Everyone enjoyed hearing the old familiar hymns.

Later, we played the conventional BINGO, with Dave calling the numbers. We used “Jumbo Slide Shot” cards.



**Thank you Teresa** for donating the cards. Everyone loved them. Lots of prizes were awarded.

A special “Thank You” to everyone for your contribution of food, prizes and help in setting up and cleaning up.

Our next scheduled event is [Thanksgiving Luncheon on Sunday, November 17.](#) Details will be posted later.

Debra Wall: Chair



**Church Picnic** September 14, 2024



**Editor’s Note:** Debra did a wonderful job organizing this event, and with the help of her committee, made it very special for everyone. **Thank you Debra!**





Moderator:  
Teresa Mangum



Bible Moderator:  
Jean McSwain



Least Coin  
Dedication:  
Trish Sellars



Treasurer's  
Report:  
Debra Wall

### Installation of 2024-2025 PW Officers by Joyce McGehee

Moderator: Teresa Mangum  
 Vice Moderator: Joyce McGehee  
 Secretary: Connie Wynn  
 Treasurer: Debra Wall  
 Historian: Teresa Mangum  
 Search Committee Chair: Connie Wynn  
 Birthday Chair: Nancy Mead (May)  
 Thank Offering Chair: Trish Sellars (Nov)  
 Advent Chair: Jean McSwain (Dec)  
 Least Coin: Trish Sellars  
 Sunshine: Debra Wall

**Presbyterian  
Women**  
 First Meeting of the Year  
 Luncheon  
 September 9, 2024




Devotion and  
Blessing by  
Connie Wynn



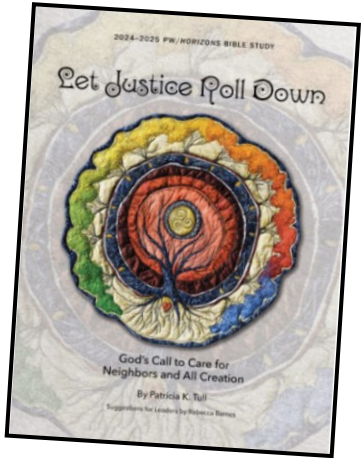
Hostesses: Teresa Mangum, Debra Wall, Joyce  
McGehee, Connie Wynn & Jean McSwain

## Presbyterian Women Next Meeting

Ladies of all ages are invited to the PW Meeting at 2:00 PM, Monday, October 14, 2024.

Dail Dowdy will be the Bible Moderator for Lesson Two in the 2024-2025 PW/Horizons Bible Study, *“Let Justice Roll Down—God’s Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation”*.

Ladies, please come and enjoy this time of fellowship and Bible Study!







# Happy Birthday Sara!

*We surprised Rev. Sara with a 50th birthday celebration on Sunday, September 22 after worship service!*

