

Edgewood Presbyterian Church

Newsletter—December 2024



What a Difference a Year Makes!

The first of December marks my 1-year anniversary of serving Edgewood Presbyterian Church. It also marks my 1-year anniversary of being a full-time pastor, of doing ministry as my main focus and not just an add-on after work or on the weekends. And, I am grateful for this year!

Some folks have asked if it has been what I expected. Yes, it has, but my expectations were fairly low, manageable... I expected ministry to be hard, harder than I could imagine, and hard in ways that I couldn't fathom. And, yes, ministry has proved to be all of those things, but also so much more!

I have found joy in watching you learn, ask questions, and laugh during Bible Study. I love having the privilege to lead you in worship week after week. I have been blessed by walking alongside you in grief and sharing your struggles. I can now confidently walk into the hospital (at least CCH and Moore Regional) to visit you. My heart warms and I am filled with love when I think of you. It's like what I experienced when my children were born – I couldn't have imagined the love for them that was born when they were. But there it was, radiant, all-encompassing... love!

You, friends, have been more than I could have hoped for. You have been warm and generous, hospitable and caring, receptive and understanding. God truly led us together – a church in search of a pastor and a hope-to-be-pastor in search of a church, a church to call home.

What will the next year hold? I'm sure it will have its own difficulties and challenges, but I am equally sure that it will also be filled with God's love, grace, and abundant blessing!

What are your hopes for the future of Edgewood Presbyterian Church? What do you dream? What can you imagine? Let me know because we are on this journey together!

In faith, hope, & love,

Sara

Pastor's Office Hours

Sunday
Monday–Wednesday mornings
Saturday (various times)

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

The Church office will be closed December 25-27, and the Pastor will be on vacation December 28-January 3.



O God, we enter this season of Advent with expectation and wonder. Help us slow down so that we can see and feel the hope, peace, joy, and love that radiate through the season, bringing us to the moment when we celebrate the *Light of the World* breaking into our lives anew at Christmas!



Amen

Upcoming Sundays

- 12/1/24 "Behold!"
Jeremiah 33:14-16; Luke 21:25-36
1st Sunday of Advent –Hope
- 12/8/24 "The Messenger"
Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 3:1-6
2nd Sunday of Advent - Peace
- 12/15/24 "Shouts of Joy"
Zephaniah 3:14-20; Luke 3:7-18
3rd Sunday of Advent - Joy
- 12/22/24 "Oh... Little Town of Bethlehem"
Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:39-45
4th Sunday of Advent - Love
- 12/24/24 "Light of the World"
Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20
Christmas Eve
- 12/29/24 *Glory to God Sunday*
Colossians 3:12-17;
1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26;
Luke 2:41-52
- 1/5/24 "Radiance"
Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12
Epiphany



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Christmas Eve and on January 5.

TREASURER'S REPORT

OCTOBER TOTALS

Receipts	\$ 7,014
Expenses	\$ 16,047
Special Offerings:	
Cents-ability	\$ 76

Scheduled Special Offerings

- 12/1/24 – Cents-ability
12/22/24—Joy Gift Offering

Head Usher for December
Jean McSwain



Christmas Celebration!

Join the Presbyterian Women
of Edgewood Presbyterian
Church for a Christmas
Celebration!

Monday, December 9 at 2 pm
in the Fellowship Hall



Christmas Eve Service

a candlelight service with communion

Tuesday, December 24 at 4 P.M.

**COME!
CELEBRATE THIS
JOYOUS SEASON
WITH US!**

Prayer Family of the Week

- December 1 Chip & Patsy McBryde
8 Eddy & Alyssa McBryde
& Family
15 James & Joyce McGehee
& Family
22 Chris & Glen McNeill
29 Jody & Kim McNeill
& Family

All Saints' Sunday

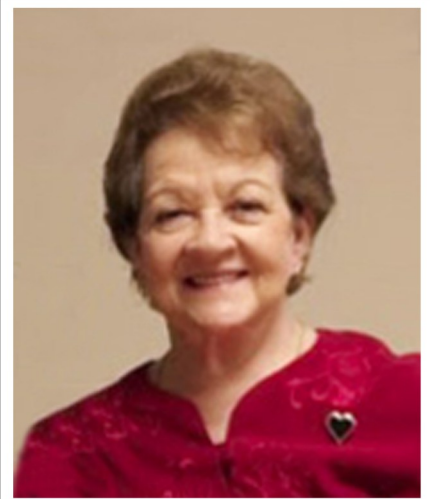
On November 3, we celebrated All Saints' Sunday. Chimes were rung and candles lit in remembrance of three members of our congregation who have gone to their eternal rest this year. The congregation was also invited to light candles in memory of others whose memories they hold dear.



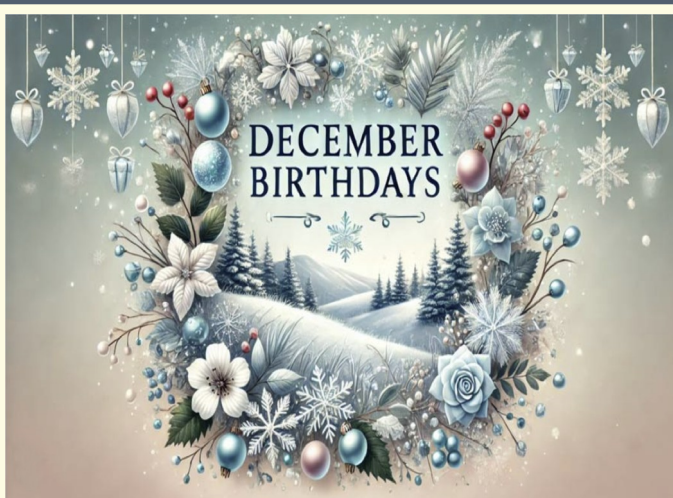
Faye (Beal) McNeill
June 8, 1945 - February 27, 2024



Janet (Dickens) McNeill
May 23, 1942 - May 12, 2024



Pat Morales
September 4, 1945 - September 10, 2024



*Happy Birthday to
all who were born
in December!*



Mary Holder - Great-grandmother
Atlas Benjamin Womble
August 28, 2024
7lbs, 11oz., 21in.

Missions Committee



ADOPT
AN ANGEL

We are approaching the deadline for our Salvation Army Christmas Angels. They are due to First Presbyterian Church December 2nd, 3rd or 4th. If you adopted an Angel, please have your donations placed in our Fellowship Hall no later than Wednesday, **December 4**.

Please be sure to firmly attach the Angel ID tag to the outside of the clear bag.

Marshall Presbyterian Church



We collected \$2085 to send to Marshall Presbyterian Church to aid with their recovery from Hurricane Helene.

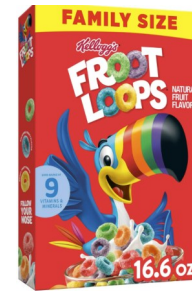
We also collected \$200 to donate to CUOC to purchase Thanksgiving turkeys for the clients.

Thanks to everyone for your generosity!

Steve Womack—Chair

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 December**, we ask you to donate **cereal**. It is in high demand by the clients.



Your donations of mostly pasta sauce and spaghetti sauce in the month of November totaled 112 pounds. Thank you for your generosity!

Winter Hats

scarves, mittens,
& gloves

Winter will soon be upon us! So, we are collecting winter hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves - handmade or store bought - to donate to the CUOC to help our neighbors in Lee County.

Communications Committee

We had a busy month recording the special events and projects that were taking place at Edgewood. We have posted lots of pictures on the bulletin boards. We also printed 260 "Thanksgiving Cards" requested by the PW for distribution to long care facilities. Of course, we continue to maintain the website and record the worship services.

Connie Wynn - Chair

Property & Grounds Committee

Our handicap access ramp has been completed and inspected. It is now in compliance with The Americans with Disabilities Act specifications. We hope those who need it will use it. The shallow slope makes entry and exit easier and safer.

The cost of the ramp was fully funded by a donation from an anonymous member. Their generosity is greatly appreciated and a blessing to the church.

Johnny Sellars—Chair



**OUR
NEW
RAMP**



Thank you Johnny for arranging for the construction of the ramp. The ribbon is cut - it is ready for use!



Fellowship Committee



On Sunday, November 17, we had our Thanksgiving luncheon. It was a big success. 48 people came out to eat and to enjoy the fellowship. We are very blessed to have the great cooks that took their time to prepare the large variety of food. No one should have gone home hungry.

Thanks to all of you who helped - the decorators, the cooks, those who helped put the food on the tables, and the clean-up crew. An event like this would not be possible without your support.

Debra Wall— Chair



Christian Education Committee

On Friday, December 20, at 6:30 pm, we will host a Christmas Cookie Extravaganza for our children and youth. We will be making and decorating cookies. Stephanie will continue the tradition of helping them make reindeer food. We will enjoy snacks and hot chocolate while watching the Christmas version of “A Coat of Many Colors”. We always have a wonderful time. ***Come join us!***

We look forward to the New Year. Please be in prayer for the church and your role in it. May you consider New Year’s resolutions to attend church and Sunday School and take part in the fellowship.

Jean McSwain—Chair



Teresa Mangum Honored

Edgewood Presbyterian Church presented a service award to Teresa Mangum on Sunday, November 17, 2024 in recognition for her commitment to Christ and the mission of the church. As chairman of the Worship Committee, she exhibited exceptional dedication and effort to successfully fill the pulpit during the 4-1/2 years when we had no fulltime pastor.

She was instrumental in hiring 2 interim pastors that served a total of 18 months during that period. When we had no interim, she managed to find guest speakers for 135 Sundays, utilizing 25 different individuals.

She also found guest piano players to fill in on 44 Sundays when we had no music director. She helped guide us through the COVID shutdown and then the restart of worship with outdoor services.

Teresa has been a longtime important contributor to the church and the community utilizing her sewing skill by quilting, making stuffed animals, making masks during COVID, and



other items for donation to members, hospitals, and the community. She has been a church leader for many years serving as an elder, Sunday School teacher, a key officer in the PW, organizer of the “Piece-makers” sewing group, and a true friend to everyone in the church.

THANK YOU TERESA!



November 11, 2024



Moderator: Teresa Mangum

Presbyterian Women



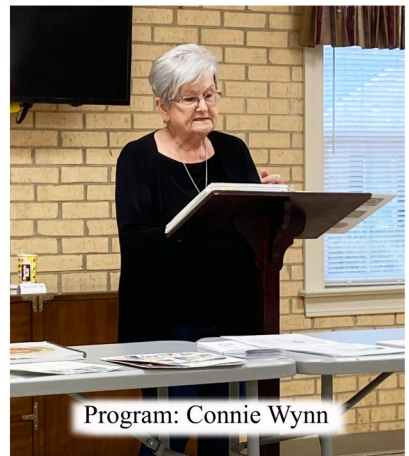
Next Meeting:
Christmas Party
2:00PM
December 9, 2024



Food: Trish Sellars & Connie Wynn



Devotion: Trish Sellars



Program: Connie Wynn

Join us at 2:00PM, Monday, December 9, 2024 for our Christmas party!

PW Missions Project

The PW “Breakfast Bags” project for the CUOC Backpack Pals program was a huge success. The collected items were sorted and bagged at the November 11 meeting. The bags will be passed along to the CUOC Backpack Pals Coordinator at the December 9 PW meeting. The food will be distributed to kids to provide meals during Christmas holidays.

Thanks to everyone who contributed items, money and time to this mission project.

