

Edgewood Presbyterian Church

Newsletter—January 2025



Star Words - A Guiding Light

On January 6, the church celebrates Epiphany, twelve days after Christmas. On this day, we move the magi and camels to the crèche, the nativity scene, joining the shepherds looking in awe and wonder at the Messiah. At Epiphany, we celebrate the arrival of the wise ones from the East, symbolic of the good news proclaimed to the world. Prior to the magi's visit, the good news of Jesus' birth was a local, provincial, Jewish headline, which the magi then carried to the world.

In its most basic sense, epiphany refers to a moment of sudden revelation, insight, a "ta da!" or "eureka!" moment that reorients us, changing the way we see things. So, "light" which allows us to see more clearly is a symbol of Epiphany. The star, the guiding light, led the magi from the East to Judea, and then to Bethlehem. Jesus, the Light of the World, our Guiding Light, leads us to himself, to God; to faithful discipleship; to compassion for our neighbors in need.

As the new year begins, some people choose a word for the coming year, that they reflect on or work towards. My planner for 2025 has a spot on the first page to write in "My Word of the Year." When we celebrate Epiphany in worship on Sunday, January 5, we will be distributing "Star Words," a random or Spirit-guided gift, a word, written on star-shaped paper that can be hung on a refrigerator or mirror, used as a bookmark, or tucked in a visor. For some, a Star Word serves as a reminder – trust, joy. For some, a Star Word can be a challenge to work towards – patience, rest. Sometimes, the meaning of the Star Word for the individual becomes clear over the course of the year or upon reflection at year's end.*

Let the Star Word be a guiding light for you this year, leading you ever closer to the person God created you to be, drawing you further on the journey to find the source of all light in the Light of the World.

* If you did not receive a Star Word in worship and would like one, please call or email me, and I will gladly provide one.

In faith, hope, & love,

Sara

Pastor's Office Hours

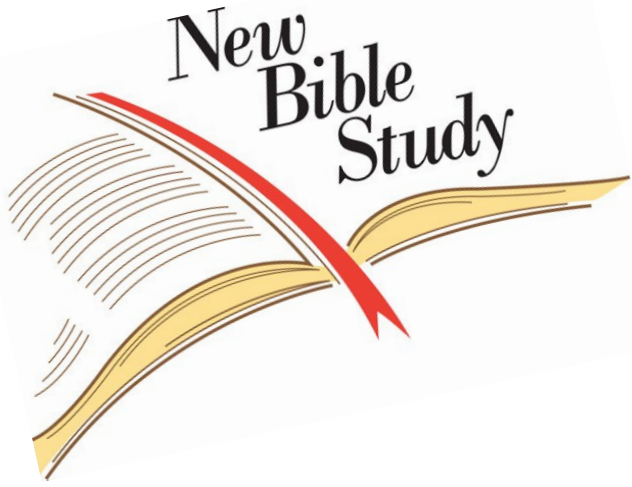
Sunday

Monday–Wednesday mornings

Saturday (various times)

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





IN THE BEGINNING

Exploring the Book of Genesis

January 14 - February 18, 2025
Tuesdays at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.

We will look at Genesis 1-24, the stories of creation through the stories of Abraham, considering who God is and who we are in relationship with God.

Just bring your Bible and yourself!

In the Beginning: Exploring the Book of Genesis

In the beginning, God created, relationships were broken, reconciliation offered and accepted. The Book of Genesis explores the themes of broken relationships between humans and God, between humans, and within families. God offered reconciliation through covenant promises with Noah and Abraham; familial relationships were also restored. What does this book of ancient stories tell us about God? About ourselves? About our relationships with God and one another?

For six weeks in January and February, we will explore Genesis, Chapters 1-24, focusing on the stories of creation and Abraham. Then we'll take a break for a Lenten Bible Study in March and April before resuming our study of Genesis in May and June, finishing out Chapters 25-50 and the stories of Jacob and Joseph.

Join us as we Explore the Book of Genesis to learn more about the beginnings of our faith tradition, rooted in the stories of the Hebrew people.

While preparation by reading the assigned chapters is recommended each week, it is not required! Though, if you want to be really prepared, check out *Interpretation Bible Studies: Genesis* by Celia Brewer Sinclair (Westminster John Knox Press, 1999) and *Genesis* by Walter Brueggemann, part of the *Interpretation Bible Series* (John Knox Press, 1982), on which the study is based.

Part I

Lesson 1 – In the Beginning January 14

Focus: Genesis 1-2 Preparation: Genesis 1-2

Lesson 2 – Temptation & Sin January 21

Focus: Genesis 3-4 Preparation: Genesis 3-4

Lesson 3 – An Ark & an Arc January 28

Focus: Genesis 9:1-17 Preparation: Genesis 6-9

Lesson 4 – There Once Was a Man from Ur February 4

Focus: Genesis 15:1-21 Preparation: Genesis 11-15

Lesson 5 – Indeed, You Laughed February 11

Focus: Genesis 18:1-33 Preparation: Genesis 16-19

Lesson 6 – God Will Provide February 18

Focus: Genesis 22:1-19 Preparation: Genesis 20-24

Upcoming Sundays

- 1/5/25 "Radiance"
Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12
Epiphany
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on January 5.
- 1/12/25 Guest Preacher – David Dudley
- 1/19/25 "What's in a Name?"
Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10
- 1/26/25 "The Word of God for the People of God"
Nehemiah 8:1-10; Luke 4:14-21
- 2/2/25 "Love Language"
Jeremiah 1:4-10; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Welcome Home!

A Look Inside the Church

Sunday, January 26 & February 2

10 a.m. in the Pastor's Study

Interested in learning more about the Church or more about Edgewood Presbyterian Church? Wondering what it means to be a member?

Join us for this introductory class to explore these questions.



TREASURER'S REPORT

NOVEMBER TOTALS

Receipts	\$ 11,237
Expenses	\$ 14,458
Special Offerings:	
Cents-ability	\$ 76
Marshall Presbyterian Church	\$ 2,195
CUOC—Turkey Offering	\$ 200
Thank Offering	\$ 157

Scheduled Special Offerings

- 1/5/25 – Marshall Presbyterian Church
Hurricane Relief
- 2/2/25 – 2 ¢ a Meal
- 2/9/25 – Blanket Sunday

Head Usher for January
Johnny Sellars

JANUARY Birthdays

- 5 Ava Williams
6 Darrell Matthews
6 Dave Mead
11 Shelia McNeill
16 Willis McNeill
21 Jim Owle
29 Michael Edwards



January Prayer Family of the Week

- 5 Marty McNeill
12 Shelia McNeill
19 Willis McNeill
26 Jean McSwain,
LeRoy & Trent

Missions Committee



ADOPT
AN ANGEL

The Salvation Army Christmas Angel Program provided help for 1060 children in Lee County this year. Thank you Edgewood for contributing to this success. And, thank you Steve for spearheading the collection for our church.

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 January**, we ask you to donate **canned soup**. Tab opened cans are preferred.



Your donations of cereal in December totaled 42 pounds. Thank you for your generosity!

Deliveries to CUOC

Your generosity in donating hats, gloves, socks and scarves to CUOC has been amazing. In December alone, we have delivered 286 hats, 51 pairs of gloves, 17 pairs of socks, and a scarf. ***The clients have been thrilled with the items.*** A tag having “Edgewood Presbyterian Church” printed on it was attached to each item.

Just some of the items delivered to CUOC



Winter Hats scarves, gloves, and socks



Winter is here! We are still collecting winter hats, gloves and socks - handmade or store bought - to donate to CUOC to help our neighbors in Lee County



Animals for Hospitalized Children

This little red wagon is filled with stuffed animals, that were made by the women of the church. Each patient at Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte gets to chose “a friend” from the wagon as a keepsake.



Christian Education Committee

Christmas Cookie Extravaganza

The Christian Education Committee hosted a party on Friday, December 20, for children, youth, and those young at heart. We had 27 participants. Pizza and assorted snacks were served. We had a birthday cake for Jesus. The youngsters made cookies and reindeer food. Dolly Pardon's movie, "Christmas of Many Colors, Circle of Love" was enjoyed by all.

Jean McSwain—Chair





Moderator: Teresa Mangum



PW Christmas Party

December 9, 2024

Next Circle Meeting: 2:00 PM,
Monday, January 13, 2025
Lesson Four: "Water Justice"
Bible Moderator: Rev. Sara Martin
Hostesses: Jean McSwain
& Patsy McBryde



Food: Refreshment Committee



Devotion:
Trish Sellars



Guest Speaker: Tammy Martin
CUOC Backpack Pals Coordinator

PW Vice-Moderator:
Joyce McGehee



Christmas with Helen and Dawn



December 13, 2024



Breakfast Bags for CUOC Backpack Pals Program were assembled at the November 11, 2024 PW meeting.



A total of 227 Breakfast Bags, weighing 199 Lbs., was donated to the CUOC Backpack Pals Program on December 9, 2024.

The CUOC Backpack Pals Program currently serves **479 kids each week** during the school year and approximately **500 kids each week** during the summer.

Edgewood PW Missions Project



Tammy Martin was the guest speaker at the December 9, 2024 PW Circle meeting. She is a CUOC volunteer who coordinates the Backpack Pals Program.



Communications Committee

We printed 260 “Christmas Cards” for distribution to long term care facilities. We have printed over 500 “Edgewood tags” that were attached to hats, socks, stuffed animals and other items our members donated to CUOC and other organizations.

We maintained the church website. All six December worship services were recorded, edited, and the videos posted on Facebook. We posted 17 sheets of pictures on bulletin boards in the church in December. Special events kept us busy. *Check out the bulletin boards, upstairs, in the hallway, and in the Fellowship Hall!*

Of course, we also put this newsletter together.

Connie Wynn - Chair

Property and Grounds

Repairs have been made to the upstairs restrooms.

We are having problems with electrical outlets in the Fellowship Hall. Search for the source of the problem is ongoing.

Johnny Sellars—Chair



Christmas Eve Service

Our Christmas Eve Worship Service was special. In addition to the Christmas message by our pastor, we sang Christmas carols and enjoyed special music featuring, a solo by Liesl Owle, a flute and guitar duet by Erin and David Watson, and of course the usual beautiful piano performance by Erin. We then celebrated with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.



Thank you Decorating Committee

You prepare the church for special occasions when no one else is around. You take down the decorations after the festivities are over, again without fanfare. Thank you for preparing the church for Christmas.

