

Edgewood Presbyterian Church

2022 Annual Report



Glorifying God by Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

3617 Macon Road
Columbus, Georgia

A Message from Pastor Connie Happell

Dear Edgewood Presbyterian Friends,

These are challenging times to be followers of Jesus Christ. More and more, our culture has abandoned and is even hostile to our faith, and engagement with the church is decreasing nationwide. It is a good time to remember that while these times may be disconcerting to us, they are not to God. We are in territory familiar to saints of all time who have traveled through one wilderness or another. We remember God's words to Joshua as he prepared to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land: *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."* These days call for courage, faith and trust that the Lord is with us.

This year, your elders continued the courageous work of discerning the Lord's will for the next steps in faith for EPC. We read *The Sailboat Church* and sought the Lord together in 40 days of scripture and prayer. Many of the congregation also prayed through these scriptures during Lent. Throughout the year, the session has faithfully met to pray, discuss, and research opportunities. We recognize that the expense of maintaining our facility is a concern and in October the congregation agreed to the session's recommendation that all or part of the church property be made available for sale. Since then, the session has been exploring these possibilities. I thank each of you who have supported this work with your prayers and encouragement.

As I look back on 2022, I remember this as a year of worshiping the Lord with gladness, seeking the Lord persistently in prayer, and serving the Lord and one another with love and joy. As growing disciples of Jesus, many of you have regularly gathered in small groups for study and prayer. Often unseen, you visited members, cared for the facility, cleaned out closets and staffed the kitchen.

In our July "Great Giveaway," we passed along many valuable things we no longer need to anyone who wanted them free of charge. We joined God's good work in our community with hands-on participation and financial support for various local ministries. EPC also supported several international missionaries. Our monthly noisy offerings help keep George and Jeanne Haugen and their family in our thoughts and prayers. Read through the ministry team reports for details.

We enjoyed the presence of our three Scout troops in worship twice this year and we look forward to being more engaged with them in 2023. We continue to share our space with several other non-profit groups as well.

In February, we welcomed JoAnna Williams as our new Office Administrator. I am grateful to work with a devoted session and our very fine staff.

Grace and peace,

Connie Happell

"We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thessalonians 1:3

Clerk's Report

2022 was an eventful year in the life of Edgewood Presbyterian Church. Our members and our session spent much time in prayer and discernment as we examined our present situation and tried to diligently plan for the future of our beloved Edgewood. As we worked in this area, I think we all realized anew how important we are to each other and how dedicated we are to working within God's Holy plan for Edgewood and His Kingdom. Much valuable information was gathered, and everyone is looking forward to the new things God has planned for us in the coming year.

Members worked to clean out closets and files of old and unused "stuff". Other churches in the Presbytery took advantage of the opportunity to take some of our excess furniture and kitchen dishes. We gave 50 Bibles and 50 hymnbooks that we were not using to the Valley Rescue Mission and the Salvation Army.

We began this year with 87 members. Several of our members moved away or have begun attending other churches. Our membership at the end of 2022 is 75 members.

Susan Gilbert

Session, 2022

Class of 2022

Kris Jain
Amy Spear
Chris Posey

Class of 2023

Liz Allison
Stephanie Blackwell
Cynthia Frey

Class of 2024

Tiffany Ingram
Martha Jane Roark



Building and Grounds Team

2022 was our first full year back from the COVID pandemic. Our buildings were once again being utilized on a weekly basis by various outside groups as well as regular EPC groups. Our facilities did not have any major repairs completed this year, but we were able to make some minor repairs to keep the building functional for weekly operations.

One of our fellowship hall HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) units quit working in 2021 and it was decided by the session that we get that replaced to help relieve the strain of the operational one. This service was completed in October by Climate Control Heating & Air Company (CCHAC). Currently, the HVAC units in the nursery and kitchen are not pushing cold air and are only heat capable at this time and it was determined by session not to replace these at this time.

Our freezer in the kitchen that holds many of the meals for families and the Abbey went out in October. It had been going in and out and finally decided it had frozen its last meal. It was determined and approved by session to purchase a new freezer, from Daniel Appliance, that will be delivered in January 2023.

Our University Ave/Macon Road street sign is currently out of order. We have calls into various sign companies in town for estimates on repairs/replacement and will determine what steps to take at that point. It is imperative that we share with Columbus that we are alive and vibrant on the corner of Macon and University and that sign is a great example of that.

In 2023 anyone who has a key to the building will be a part of the security/opening/closing team. Since we are not using all our facilities and rooms, if you are the first person to the church buildings, you can open the doors that you and your group will use. We will still dedicate someone week to week to be the contact and ensure that all doors are locked before leaving on Sunday after service.

Everyone at Edgewood is a part of the buildings and grounds team, whether you formally signed up or not. There will be trash in the parking lot or grass, lights will be left on, doors left unlocked, but each of us should take the initiative to be proactive and alert and take a few moments to correct these small things.

Chris Posey

Discipleship/Outreach Team

The Discipleship and Outreach Team consists of Liz Allison, Stephanie Blackwell, Lucile DuToit, Cynthia Frey, NaEisha Owens, Karen Wetherell, and Sheryl Wright with Pastor Connie Happell as a faithful ex officio member.

With profound gratitude for those who have spent their time and effort on behalf of the spiritual growth of Edgewood's members, here is a list of what has been done this year.

- In our team meetings, an exploration has been ongoing as to why, when, and how to elicit and listen to others' questions about the Lord and how to tell the Bible's and our own faith stories in relationship to where they are, with sensitivity and when the Holy Spirit nudges. We want to implement our church's stated mission: "To glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ".
- A survey of interest was conducted to find what members wanted to study and when. About twenty surveys were returned.
- Over the year, in the adult Sunday School program, with supplemental study guides from Karen Wetherell, Stephanie Blackwell, or Susan Gilbert, Jeff Ingram has been leading Right Now Media lessons on Jesus's life, land, and then a study based on the book "The Story," surveying all the books of the Old Testament. Jeff is uniquely able and willing to set up the video equipment and wrangle the internet every week to share what he finds for us. This study begins its study of the New Testament to be continued in 2023.
- A Bible study of Jesus's life, ministry, and followers was conducted over fifteen sessions in the home of Stephanie Blackwell by Stephanie and Cynthia Frey, using the series "The Chosen". A fellowship bring-your-own-lunch time was offered. Episodes in the first season were "I Have Called You by Name", "Shabbat", "Jesus Loves the Little Children", "The Rock on Which is Built", "The Wedding Gift", "Indescribable Compassion", and "I Am He". We are eager to see Season Three, which will be available soon.
- Pastor Connie Happell has led devotionals and times of prayer at the Wednesday evening Zoom meetings.
- The men's Wednesday morning Bible study by Zoom was set up by Karen Wetherell, then taken up by Lloyd Frey with Don Hoffman conducting the study, using episodes from Right Now Media. Topics were Heaven, the book of Romans, the Ten Most Misunderstood Questions of the Bible; and Jesus, the God Who Knows Your Name.
- Sheryl Wright continues to be on call for any child whose parent RSVPs for a Sunday School lesson by the day before and then she delivers it enthusiastically.
- Discipleship Team members are available to man the nursery during worship, if needed.
- Sheryl and NaEisha prepared "Bless the Backpack" labels for children and adults in education this Fall.
- Pastor Connie, Liz Allison, and NaEisha Owens have been contacting the scout groups who meet in our church, to build the relationship between them and our members. In

2023 we will make a notebook available stating ways members can make themselves available to help scouts with their merit badges.

Unfortunately, we don't have many regular attendees under middle age and are still at a loss as to how to reach and maintain groups of children, youth, and young adults to whom we can minister at Edgewood. We have been faithfully served by our staff member NaEisha Owens who beautifully delivers a Children's Message every week, has a Children's Church lesson well-prepared and ready, and has planned events for children, college-aged members, and young parents. We have volunteers who support the activities in Children's Church. Sheryl Wright, as a professional teacher and veteran of the Discipleship Team, serves as a sounding board and encourager for NaEisha.

Outside the traditional meetings at church, NaEisha Owens has arranged for these signs that we care and want to stay connected to the younger generations who attend or have attended Edgewood in the past:

- Care packages to children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of our members
- Construction of portable grief gardens by children who have lost a loved one
- An Annual Family Fun Day
- Meals out with our active and inactive college students, such as at Taste of Columbus
- Movie viewing with our college students
- Cards and emails to touch base
- Our Easter event
- Graduation recognition in the worship service, and graduation gifts for Michael Massey and Angel Rodriguez
- Service project logistics for our youth's participation, such as making beds in the Sleep in Heavenly Peace project, and encouraging participation in other service opportunities, including serving in Children's Church

The Discipleship Team of the church is responsible for helping to implement the stated mission of our church. Please pray that our team can indeed serve God in educating and encouraging each Edgewood member to glorify God by making disciples for Jesus Christ.



Outreach

As we continued to face the challenges of another year dealing with more pandemic, our activities were limited in many ways; however, we were able to support various ministries throughout the world with prayer and gifts.

College ministry:

EPC donated \$1,000 to The Abbey, a Presbyterian College ministry. Meals were served to students on October 18th and November 15th. EPC began helping to supply the Pantry ministry at the Abbey.

Global ministries:

Antioch Partners	\$5,308.85	(Haugen ministry in Iraq)
<i>(Budgeted</i>	<i>\$1,000)</i>	
<i>(Noisy Offering</i>	<i>\$2,308.43)</i>	
<i>(Bal. Of Com. Outreach</i>	<i>\$2,000.00)</i>	

Bihar India House Church	\$1,000	(Chandan)
Egyptian Seminary	\$1,000	(Tharwat Wahba)

EPC participated in Rise Against Hunger held at First Presbyterian Church the first Sunday in October.

Community ministries:

Sleep in Heavenly Peace (A mission to make beds for children)

Members participated in making beds

Members made donations of bedding

\$500 was given from EPC Community Budget fund

Members donated gifts and money to Santa for Seniors project, making Christmas more joyful for 10 people in need.



Fellowship/Member Care Team

The Fellowship/Member Care planning team for the 2022 Church year included Mary Adams, Stephanie Blackwell (elder), Lucile DuToit, Connie Happell (pastor), Sandy Mason, Martha Jane Roark (elder), and Sheryl Wright. The team met on the first Friday of most months via Zoom. Thirty other EPC members worked on the team to visit the homebound, set up and clean up for fellowship events, send cards, cook and deliver meals, provide transportation, and participate on the prayer team.

At the beginning of the year, congregants were put into family groups and assigned an elder to shepherd them. Sheryl Wright revised and published the Church Directory and Prayer Calendar for all members.

There were many opportunities for EPC members to join in Fellowship. The “Lunch Bunch” met once a month in various restaurants. There was an average of 12 attenders each time. A dinnertime fellowship at Speakeasy was also well attended with 20 participants. Game Day and a Christmas luncheon and cookie swap were also well received. Other events included a dinner to honor the Haugens (home from the mission field for a visit), graduation recognition, “Lunch and Learn” with Deb Tregaskis and meals for our congregational “Town Meetings.”

Those in our numbers who were grieving, homebound, or with health concerns were provided services such as food, baby-sitting services, transportation, and plants or flowers. Those in our congregation with 90 plus birthdays were recognized and given flowers or plants.



Fellowship/Member Care, in conjunction with Pastor Connie Happell and administrative assistant JoAnna Williams, kept the Newsletter updated with congregational prayers, and lists of members with special prayer needs.

The Prayer team, an arm of Fellowship/Member Care had 14 participants. Prayers were shared through email and members met in person to pray once a month. Later in the year, Prayer Partners were available to pray with Sunday worship attenders. The National Day of Prayer was observed in May with a special service. During Lent, Pastor Connie adapted the 40 Days of Prayer section of the book *The Sailboat Church* into a booklet to guide us as we prayed for the future of EPC.

Stewardship Team

Team members: Lloyd Frey, Walter Williams, Amy Spear

The purpose of the Stewardship Team is to develop financial policies, monitor the operating budget of the church, and conduct the annual stewardship campaign during which members are encouraged to grow in the life of the church by pledging their time, talents and gifts to the mission and work of the church.

Our team continued to meet via Zoom or email in 2022.

Here are tasks and accomplishments for 2022:

- Completion of financial reviews of the 2020 and 2021 church books with Wayne Braddy and Gus Youmans (report pending as of the date of this summary).
- Counting teams resumed in 2022 after a period of suspension due to the pandemic.
- Stewardship season was a time of reflection on how the Edgewood saints from years past shared their time, talent, treasure in our ministry together. The congregation's response was wonderful and a responsible budget was created and approved by the session for 2023.
- Working with the Presbyterian Foundation in our Sailboat time of discernment, the stewardship team prepared various financial and statistical reports that were shared with the congregation.
- Opportunity lists for 2023 were compiled for use by the various session teams.
- Janet Peters, MBA was hired in June 2022 to replace Wayne Braddy. Janet has already automated the payroll process via our church accounting software and has done a great job overall.
- Year-end appreciation gifts were distributed to our church staff.

<i>Giving Analysis</i>	<i>2020 Actual</i>	<i>2021 Actual</i>	<i>2022 Actual</i>	<i>2023 Budget</i>
Pledges	190,294	192,499	193,126	171,354
Non-Pledges	60	3,392	645	5,000
Loose Plate	1,211	3,364	2,852	5,000
Sunday School	89	7	8	100
	191,654	199,262	196,631	181,454

EPC - 2023 Budget (approved 1/1/23)

4004	Estimate of Giving (pledges)	171,354.00
4006	Non-Pledges	5,000.00
4010	Loose Plate	3,000.00
4012	Sunday School	100.00
4024	Miscellaneous Income	2,400.00
4064	Interest Income	45.00
4065	Dividend Income	5,800.00
	Total Income	187,699.00

5010	Salary Minister (Salary & Housing + 3.825% FICA)	37,677.50
5011	Minister Med/Pen/D&D Benefit	14,768.00
5020	Salary - Office Administrator	11,648.00
5035	Salary - Choir Director	11,700.00
5036	Salary - Pianist	5,850.00
5040	Salary - Financial Secretary	3,100.00
5045	Salary - Janitor	11,088.00
5051	Salary - Youth Director	5,600.00
5100	Payroll Taxes (7.65% of support staff salaries)	3,747.43
5101	Insurance - Workers Comp	1,234.00
5139	Mileage Reimbursement	-
5140	Pastor's Professional Expenses	3,000.00
5141	Pastor's Ministry fund	500.00
5142	Emergency Fund	700.00
5160	Supplies Paper	1,200.00
5165	Copier	1,385.88
5167	Computer/Technology	1,650.00
5170	Postage	300.00
5175	Staff Benevolent	400.00
5180	Misc Expense (Stewardship)	1,000.00
5185	Pres Mission Exchange Transaction Fees	1,560.00
5220	Presbytery Assessment (\$16.50 x 96 members)	1,584.00
		119,692.81

5310	Community Outreach	1,500.00
5311	Community Cleaning Supplies Project	1,000.00
5312	Sleep in Heavenly Peace	500.00
5320	Campus Ministry	1,000.00
5328	Egyptian Ministry	1,000.00
5331	Bihar House Church	1,000.00

5332	Antioch Partners - Haugen Iraq Mission	2,000.00
5470	Leadership Training	100.00
5481	Spiritual Development Fund	1,000.00
5550	Church-wide Retreats or Training	500.00
5561	Jesus' Commission Work	1,000.00
		10,600.00
5700	Tithe FRP Stewardship	16,000.00
5710	Building Maintenance	11,100.00
5720	Grounds Maintenance <i>(reflects 20% increase eff May 2022)</i>	8,520.00
5730	Janitorial Supplies	1,500.00
5740	Building/Commercial Insurance	11,732.00
5750	Utilities - Power	17,500.00
5760	Utilities - Gas	1,750.00
5770	Utilities - Water	3,600.00
5775	Utilities - Phone/Internet	4,750.00
5780	Pest Control	300.00
5781	Garbage Pickup	910.00
5790	Capital Improvements	10,000.00
		71,662.00
5805	Pulpit Supply	1,250.00
5807	Digital Disciples	2,000.00
5808	Adult Choir Needs	1,250.00
5810	Adult Bell Choir needs	200.00
5811	Music Leadership Training	1,000.00
5812	Worship Aids & Supplies	500.00
5815	Special Services	400.00
5820	Maintenance - Organ/Piano	750.00
5821	Licenses, Fees, Subscriptions	1,200.00
		8,550.00
5929	Kitchen Supply Expense	400.00
5934	Events	1,200.00
		1,600.00
	Total Expenses	228,104.81
	Projected Surplus/(Shortfall)	(40,405.81)

Worship Team

This year was full of joyful worship praising and glorifying our triune God!

A big thank you to Kris Jain for developing the schedules for ushers, greeters, Communion servers, monthly sanctuary duties, sound and screening (digital media) and to those who cheerfully volunteer and serve each year.

Our Scouts worshiped with us in February for Scout Sunday and participated in the worship service with pledges, scripture readings and collecting offerings. They also provided a pancake breakfast for us and participated in our worship service this year in November.

Lent was very meaningful with an Ash Wednesday service, Maundy Thursday service as well as the sanctuary opened for prayer on Good Friday. Lent included special prayers, scripture readings, distribution of "Sailboat Church" Lent devotions to congregants, choir anthems, and different Communion table dressings. The traditional decorated outside cross on Easter all added to a glorious Easter celebration and 40 days later we were dressed in red celebrating Pentecost.

Communion was observed the beginning of the year with individual pre-packaged units. We are now celebrating communion by intinction and are grateful for Lucile DuToit who so faithfully prepares the sacraments for each occasion.

A major church-wide clean up and give away occurred during the summer. The choir room, music closet, sacristy, narthex and sanctuary were all a part of this endeavor. The music was organized and much was given away including extra copies of anthems and special music. Choir director, Sue Ellen Williams reviewed each piece (over 500 anthems) to be more familiar with our inventory in working with our choir.



During the summer months, we went to a more casual style. The choir took a month off from weekly practices. Special music included duets, trios, and a men's choir during this time. We also asked the congregation to suggest their favorite songs we would sing during our worship services. This generated new energy, participation and joy. We are still including these songs from time to time in our worship service.

We moved forward contacting professionals to determine if the organ was repairable. On several occasions two gentlemen from Atlanta came to our church and finally after all efforts were exhausted, they advised the organ could not be repaired. The current status is Don Land (Atlanta) will get the organ parts and leave the wooden cabinet as requested from Chris Posey. Hopefully, after the organ is removed a platform will be installed where choir director may direct in center.

Edgewood is blessed with so much talent. Solos have been performed during the year by Sue Ellen Williams, Sean Linge, Rebecca Bush, Pete Sanders-Nesbitt, and many duets and trios have added praises in worship. This year we performed a Christmas cantata on December 11th which spotlighted each choir member in singing or narration. We have had talented musicians who often accompany our music including percussion instruments, flute, guitar and violin. On several occasions Rebecca Bush played the flute with pianist Walter Cornwall for beautiful duets. We are blessed and grateful to have a professional pianist, Walter Cornwall.

The Bell Choir directed by Susan Gilbert has accompanied the choir, started worship services with bell peals and has played beautifully directed preludes during the year. Thank you, Susan Gilbert, for faithfully leading and teaching handbell members.

The church was decorated for Advent December 3rd. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services were held as abbreviated services as these fell on Saturday and Sunday. The candlelight service on Christmas Eve included communion, hymns, scripture and a message. Christmas Day was a joyful celebration with hymns and scripture.

Filling the pulpit this year in Connie's absence included our own TREs Susan Gilbert, Pete Sanders-Nesbitt, and Walter Nesbitt. We also had the wonderful opportunity to welcome back Reverend George Haugen from the mission field and we were blessed to have Dr. Ron King visit and bring a message in June. What great messages and blessings were received!

Several tweaks and subtle changes were made during the year in our worship service from having announcements scroll on the screen before worship to moving noisy offering collections to the last Sundays, from adding special music spots to redefining praise songs, from opening with bell peals to begin worship to provide a more set alone prelude, all with the endeavor to Glorify God.

Our hearts overflow with blessings, including gratefulness each day for our Pastor Connie Happell, Choir Director Sue Ellen Williams, Pianist Walter Cornwall, Handbell Director Susan Gilbert and the faithful choir and handbell members. We are especially thankful for the DDM workers who pull all of this together for each worship service. They are the ones who make us look and sound good!

The Digital Disciple Ministry has been busy this year with social media engagements across all platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, and our website.

We applied for some technology grants through presbytery this year and were awarded just over \$7000. With this opportunity, we were able to expand our production opportunities to the congregation and reach much further outside the walls of EPC. With our grant funds, we were able to purchase a new computer for live streaming and our screens, a new camera, production software, and two locking rolltop desks to secure our assets.

We ask that everyone continue to engage across our social media platforms and LIKE, SHARE, and COMMENT on things you want to share with others.

Tiffany Ingram