

22. INQUIRERS' CLASS - If you are interested in learning more about the Christian faith, what it means to follow Christ, or how to become a member of Elfinwild Presbyterian Church, this class is for you. We will meet for seven weeks at 9:45 AM, during the Sunday school hour, in the Peach Room. If interested, please call the church office at 412-486-5400.

23. ATTENTION MEN: There are several upcoming opportunities to strengthen your relationship with God as well as be His ambassador in the community.

*Jeff Weber will be leading a small group that will study C.S. Lewis' "Mere Christianity."

*The final Hammer Day will occur on Saturday, November 1.

* A new CLC group will be starting in November and will be meeting from 6:00 to 8:00 AM on Saturdays. Mike Gaydos and Mark Connelly will be the co-facilitators.

*Finally, Dirk will be leading a small group on fatherhood which will begin sometime in January.

If you are interested, please fill out the form on the tables outside of the Sanctuary and return to the office or place in the offering plate.

24. DID YOU KNOW that you can listen to the sermons on our website? Please go to www.elfinwildchurch.org and click on the link.

COMMUNITY NEWS

25. ANCHORPOINT COUNSELING MINISTRY will be sponsoring a series of parenting classes at various churches in the community. Elfinwild will be hosting a class on November 9th on *5 Parenting Tips to Avoid Overindulgence*. For more information and locations, please see the goldenrod flyers on the tables outside of the Sanctuary.

26. ELFINWILD VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY is in need of new members. If you're looking for a way to give something back to the community, this is a great opportunity! All training and equipment are provided either in-house or through local fire academies and schools. By making a commitment to the fire service, you can earn a FREE college degree through the FireVest program of the Community College of Allegheny County. For degrees offered or for more details, call 412-931-3158, ext. 5. Stop by the fire hall at 2807 Mt. Royal Blvd. on any Monday evening at 7:30 PM or call Dan at 412-377-5986.

Elfinwild Presbyterian Church Financial Statement August 31, 2014		
Proposed Budget	(Y.T.D.)	\$ 377,508
Actual Tithes & Gifts Given		\$425,247
Total Expenses	(Y.T.D.)	\$ 420,308
Favorable	(Y.T.D.)	\$ 4,939

Please use this form to register for church events. After filling it out, you may tear it off and place into the offering plate. Thank you!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Event: _____

Number of Registrants: Adults _____ Children _____

Ages of Children: _____

Other applicable information: _____

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR AT A GLANCE 10-19-14

TODAY Women's Retreat- Kearn's Spirituality Center
8:30 AM & 11:10 AM – Worship Service – SA
9:45 AM – Sunday School
10:00 AM – Inquirers' Class – PR
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM – Jr. High Club
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM – Sr. High Club – YH
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM – Anchorpoint Series- Hampton

MONDAY 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM –Preschool – CE
9:00 AM – 11:15 AM – Moms' Bible Study – PR, TR
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM – 6th Grd. Girls' Bible Study - Nursery
5:30 PM – 8:30 PM – Act I – FrH
6:30 PM – 9:30 PM – Perspectives Class – UGR
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM – Women's Connection - CCR
7:00 PM – Boy Scouts – FH

TUESDAY 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM –Preschool – CE
10:00 AM – Staff Mtg. – KL
6:30 PM – Weigh to Lose
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM – Financial Peace – YH

WEDNESDAY 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM – Preschool – CE
7:30 AM – 12:00 PM – Mom & Me – TR, PR
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM – Bible Lessons – UGR
7:00 PM – Nominating Committee Meeting – CCR
7:00 PM – Chancel Choir – CR
7:00 AM – Wolf Den- Red Room
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM – Confirmation Class – YH
8:05 PM – Music Ministry Bible Study – SA
8:25 PM – Praise Team – SA

THURSDAY 7:00 AM – Men's Bible Study – PS
7:00 AM – 5:00 PM – Preschool – CE
7:30 AM – 12:00 PM – Mom & Me – TR, PR
8:45 AM – 3:00 PM – Bible Lessons – UGR
9:15 AM – 11:30 AM – Women's Stretch & Study – YH
10:30 AM – Grace Manor Service
6:00 PM – Lions' Club – FH
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM – Girl Scouts- FrH Kitchen
6:30 PM – Girl Scouts Leaders' Meeting – CCR
7:00 PM – Bear Den 157 – PR
7:15 PM – Youth Choir – CR

FRIDAY 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM – Preschool – CE
7:30 AM – 12:00 PM – Mom & Me – TR, PR
8:45 AM – 3:00 PM – Bible Lessons – UGR
4:15 PM – 6:45 PM – Act I – FrH
7:00 PM – Webelos II – PR

SATURDAY 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM – Act I – FrH
11:30 AM – Youth Group Paintball – Meet at YH

SUNDAY Stewardship Commitment Sunday
(10-26-14) 8:30 AM & 11:10 AM – Worship Service – SA
9:45 AM – Sunday School
10:00 AM – Inquirers' Class – PR
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM – Jr. High Club
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM – Sr. High Club – YH
7:00 PM – Talent Show Scholarship Fundraiser – FH

THE FLOWERS ON THE CHANCEL THIS MORNING are given to the Glory of God.

THE ELDER OF THE WEEK is Sharon Griffin.

OUR ORGANIST THIS MORNING is Mike Hengelsberg, who has substituted for worship in the past. We are grateful for his ministry.

HEARING ENHANCING EQUIPMENT: If you have difficulty hearing during the worship service, please let one of the ushers know prior to the service, and you'll be given a hearing enhancer to use during the service.

8:30 AM USHERS

Donna Rea Thompson
Len Anderson
James Young
Tim Keenan
Jim Thompson

11:10 AM USHERS

Scott Muszynski
Kelly Simile
Jennifer Muszynski
Don Grau

SOUND TECHNICIANS

8:30 AM – Michael Beal
11:10 AM – Mike Dolan

UPCOMING SERVICE

Sunday, October 26, 2014
Dr. Dirk Lesnett preaching

CHILDREN'S & FAMILY MINISTRY

Birth – 6th Grade

For more information on these ministries, please contact Jeanine Arrigo, Interim Director of Children's Ministries at jeanine@elfinwildchurch.org or call 412-486-5400.

1. CRADLE ROLL ROOM FOR AGES BIRTH THROUGH

2 1/2. The Cradle Roll room is located past the church offices and choir room. The **TODDLER/PRESCHOOL ROOM** is open during the Sunday School time and 11:10 worship hour. This is a class for children who are 2 1/2 to 4yrs. of age.

2. SUNDAY SCHOOL –Our classes will begin @ 9:45 and end at 10:45 a.m. Children 4 years old (Pre-K) through 2nd grade will meet in the RED room of the C.E. for Kids of the Kingdom Music to start class at 9:45. Children in 3rd grade through 6th will meet in their classrooms. Thank you to the teachers for ministering to all of our children.

3. YOUNG CHILD IN WORSHIP – For ages Pre-K through 2nd grade during the 11:10 service. This week's lesson will be *The Ten Best Ways to Live* taught by Bethann Dolan, Beth Interthal, Bonnie DeMatteo, and Melissa Kutzer.

4. FAMILY ADVENT WREATH-MAKING – As we wait for the birth of Jesus, we wait knowing the hope, joy, and love that Christ brings into the world. Come make an advent wreath with your family on November 30th at 9:45 in Fellowship Hall to take home and use for the rest of advent, and join us as we light the first candle: the candle of hope. Please RSVP by November 23 to the church office 412-486-5400.

5. NEW! MOM'S BIBLE STUDY starting on October 20th. Join us once a month on Monday morning from 9:15-11:15 in the Peach Room. Child care will be provided in the Toddler Room. We will be studying *Value Packed Parenting: Raising Rock Solid Kids in a Pleasure-Driven World* by Dr. Kevin Lehman. Contact Jeanine Arrigo at 412-486-5400 ext. 106 or by email to: jeanine@elfinwildchurch.org.

MUSIC MINISTRIES

For more information on these ministries, please contact Jennifer Clayton at jennifer@elfinwildchurch.org or call 412-486-5400.

6. EVER WANTED TO PLAY THE HANDBELLS? Handbell practice will be held for four Tuesdays in November for adults and students in 6th grade and older. If you are interested, please contact Jennifer Clayton.

7. JAM WORKSHOP JAM (Jesus and Me) Music for pre-K through 6th grade workshop will be on November 1st from 10:00 AM – Noon. Please feel invited to come in costume! The kids will offer what they learn in worship the following day at the 11:10 service for All Saints' Sunday. Lunch will be included. No cost. Please contact Jennifer to sign up or to order your JAM shirts!

STUDENT MINISTRIES, Grades 6-12

For more information on these ministries, please contact Rev. Jason Rea at jason@elfinwildchurch.org or call 412-486-5400.

8. JR. & SR. HIGH CLUB – Jr. High (grades 6-8) from 4:30 – 6:00 PM and Sr. High (grades 9-12) from 6:30 – 8:00 PM. This club is a wonderful time for fellowship with other students. We meet in the Youth House and play different games, have some good food and spend time in worship and study together. Please join us!

9. LAURELVILLE WEEKENDS –JR. HIGH – NOVEMBER 7TH - 9TH AND SR. HIGH – NOVEMBER 21ST -23RD

These are both wonderful retreats for students. Students are welcome to invite friends to come along as well. They take place at Laurelville Camp and Conference Center and are run by the Pittsburgh Kids Foundation. Cost for each retreat is \$120 per student. Students can use their fund-raising accounts to pay for all or part of the retreat cost. To register for Laurelville students must sign up at club *and* turn in a \$25 nonrefundable deposit All checks should be made out to Elfinwild Presbyterian Church with the student's name and 'Laurelville' in the memo line.

ELFINWILD CHURCH NEWS

10. PRISM THANKSGIVING HOSTING: NOVEMBER 27, 2014

Do you have a space at your Thanksgiving table this year? Please consider hosting an international student or scholar to join your family. Believe it or not, most international students in Pittsburgh never enter an American home even after years of living here. Sharing thankfulness for God's blessings on this special American holiday can make a strong impression. It is a ministry of hospitality. Hosting includes picking up your student (if needed), having them to your home for a meal, and taking them home.

Simply include them in your family traditions on Thanksgiving! To register, pick up a flyer outside the sanctuary and return it to the church office. Questions? Contact Amy Meyer at littlepine@verizon.net or 412-492-9968. Organized by PRISM: Pittsburgh Region International Student Ministries.

11. CHRISTMAS BAZAAR - The Women's Ministry Committee is pleased to announce a Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 15, 2014 from 12:00 –4:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Vendors will be gathered together so you can do your Christmas shopping. There will be complimentary refreshments. If you would like to be a vendor, tables are \$30. Proceeds benefit the missions and ministry of Elfinwild Church. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS** for set-up/clean-up, and donations of cookies and beverages for the refreshment table. This event is open to the public, so please invite your friends and neighbors! Please contact Jennifer Clayton at the church for more information.

12. SAVE THE DATE! The Elfinwild All-Church Retreat will be held at Ligonier Camp and Conference Center on January 23-25, 2015. Reserve the weekend now!

13. CASTING CROWNS will be having a concert at 6 PM on Sunday, December 7th at Consol Energy Center. We have purchased a block of tickets. Each ticket is \$25.00. To purchase a ticket or for more information, please contact Lisa Nist at 412-799-0919.

14. WOMEN'S STRETCH AND STUDY – Please join us for Elfinwild's Women's Bible Study from 9:15- 11:30 AM at the Youth House. Please call the church office at 412-486-5400 for information.

15. FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY is a 9 week biblically based course teaching us God's ways in managing our financial affairs. This course, created and conducted by nationally syndicated radio host and bestselling author Dave Ramsey (1320 AM, M-F, 2-5 PM), has **helped over 2 million families!** Subjects include: how to save, dumping debt, budgeting, real estate, mortgages, the role of insurance, college planning, retirement and much more. The course will help you set goals that you can achieve. You will be challenged and motivated to make a plan for your money and change your family tree forever! Classes will meet on Tuesdays, beginning Oct. 21 from 7 to 9 P.M. in the Youth House. Cost for the course materials is \$77.50. You can order the materials through the church. Go to www.daveramsey.com for further program details. Please call Henry Tomer with any questions: 412-487-4437.

16. THE STEWARDSHIP RETURN ADDRESS ENVELOPES were inadvertently omitted from the mailing. Envelopes are located in the pews for this use.

17. BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – Over the past years a faithful group of individuals has provided a light luncheon, at a small cost, for the family and friends of a deceased individual following the funeral service. This group has dwindled in size. We need your help and assistance in creating a new group of folks who can help with this ministry. If you are interested in assisting in or leading this ministry, please contact the church office at 412-486-5400 or Jim Giel, Jr. at 412-486-2774.

18. THE PRESBYTERIAN PROJECT (includes local Presbyterian churches, Calvert Memorial, Elfinwild, Fox Chapel, Glenshaw, John McMillan, Hiland and Parkwood) has two projects to which you can be part of in the fall and early winter months.

***October 27-November 1, 2014 – Work trip to Crestfield Camp and Conference Center in Slippery Rock, PA** Participants are welcome to stay the entire week or come up any amount of the time. The only cost would be the overnight accommodations at the camp. Please contact Ron Salisbury at (ronsalisbury@aol.com) if you have any questions or to reserve your spot.

***January 12-17, 2015 – Mission trip to Norman, Oklahoma** The Oklahoma City suburbs experienced tremendous loss of life and property from tornadoes that swept through the area in May 2013. Volunteers will work on new construction, and install in-ground storm shelters in existing homes. There are two options for cost: - Driving in the van - \$200/person includes 1 overnight each way; Flying - \$400/person Please contact Jeff Potter (revjeff@parkwoodchurch.org) or Penny Young (youngp@fcpc.us) if you have any questions or to reserve your spot.

19. TALENT SHOW – We will be holding a talent show on Sunday evening, October 26th. All proceeds will go directly to the Elfinwild Church Scholarship Fund. The show will be at 7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall with dessert following the performances. A free will offering will be taken at the doors. ALL AGES are encouraged to be part of the talent show! **ACTS ARE NEEDED!** Volunteers are also needed—please see Jennifer Clayton (show) or Diane Hart (dessert).

20. OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD, ELFINWILD AND THE POWER OF A SIMPLE GIFT! Over the past eight years, Elfinwild Church and Preschool have packed over 2,500 shoe boxes. That's over 2,500 boys and girls around the world that have experienced God's love through the power of a simple shoe box gift and the life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ. Please join us again in packing a shoe box for a needy child and help spread the love of Jesus by bringing it to either worship service on November 16th for our Shoe Box Dedication. In today's bulletin is a "Pack A Box" Guide to help get you started. You can use your own standard size cardboard or plastic shoe box or pick up a Samaritan's Purse red and green Gospel Opportunity Box outside the sanctuary. Thank you for allowing kids around the world to know that they are special and loved by giving these gift-filled shoe boxes that introduce them to God's greatest gift: salvation through Jesus Christ. Any questions or for information on how to get your workplace, organization or group involved in a shoe box drive, or to help out at our Collection Center, **please call Julie Panza at 412-492-0539.** Thank you for supporting this ministry for the last eight years!

21. P.R.I.S.M. PROJECT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for the preparation and serving of a meal to approximately 80 international students on Sunday, November 30th at Bellefield Church in Oakland from approximately 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM. You do not need to be there to help - you can bake cookies or prepare part of the meal at home that will be picked up and delivered to Bellefield Church. Contact Beth Meyer at froggypond.meyer@gmail.com or at 412-781-0207 for more information if interested!

Commitment Sunday

Next Sunday the 26th is Commitment Sunday. As in previous years, we are each asked to think about our financial commitment to the Ministry of our Church and to consider an estimate of giving for 2015. In response to this annual request, someone recently asked "Where does the money I give to the Church go?" and then came the question, "...and how far does it go?"

Every dollar given to Elfinwild intended by the giver for Mission work goes to Mission work. Our annual Mission budget is separate from our annual operating budget. In 2013 about \$100,000.00 was given to our Church earmarked for Missions. That entire sum went toward Mission programs here in the United States and abroad. 2014 will be the same— if a dollar is given for Mission work this year, that's where it will go.

But missions are not just outside our Church. Elfinwild has the mission of being a beacon to our community as well. To do that our Church and our staff must operate day to day if we want to keep our doors open to the community in which we live. Tithes and offerings given toward Elfinwild's operating budget (separate from our Mission giving) support our Family and Children's Ministry, our Ministry to Youth and various other Ministries. Our contributions cover the annual per capita payments to the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly, various worship related expenses, communication costs, office equipment costs, expenses connected with our buildings and grounds such as utilities and repairs, and compensation for our full time and part time staff.

So this is *where* the dollars we give to our Church go, but how *far* do those dollars go? Some dollars may go very far – in ways we can't begin to know.....

A dollar spent to scholarship a teenager on a youth group trip will get that teenager there and back..... And it just might be the trip when that teenager makes a faith commitment to last a lifetime.

A dollar spent to pay the electric bill keeps the lights on..... And it might be a light in the sanctuary which reminds some passing driver with heavy burdens on his mind that the doors of the Church are always open.

And a dollar given to the ministry of health care workers in Africa will sustain those people in their work..... And it might be that work which brings some couple we'll never meet the hope that their child will recover from sickness, and with that hope, realization that the Good News of the Gospel is meant for them, and for their child.

So while we can say how the dollars we give are spent, we really don't know how *far* those dollars can go. But we do know who is ultimately in charge of those dollars. And it's not us. As the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, 2000 years ago.....

".....I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building. By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ."

When we contribute to the Church, in a way we plant seeds in a field and water those seeds. We may not see those seeds sprout to life, and we can't know how far our dollars will go, but we know the field belongs to God. And we know, for certain, God has a plan which will not fail.

STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Dirk Lesnett –
dirk@elfinwildchurch.org
Associate Pastor: The Rev. Jason Rea –
jason@elfinwildchurch.org
Director of Worship and Music: Jennifer Harris Clayton –
jennifer@elfinwildchurch.org
Organist: Ron Bernhardt –
ron@elfinwildchurch.org
Interim Director of Children's Ministries – Jeanine Arrigo –
jeanine@elfinwildchurch.org
Church Secretary: Cindy Neil – cindy@elfinwildchurch.org
John Steinmiller – Sexton
Bob Slahtovsky – Sexton
Jim Glaser – Sexton
Bob Kennedy – Financial Secretary – rgkmjk1@verizon.net
Jim Thompson – Parish Visitor
Amanda Gaydos – amandaga@consolidated.net–Web Page
Jeanine Arrigo – jeanine.arrigo@gmail.com – CALL Editor
Parish Associate: The Rev. Bethany Harbaugh –
harbaugh.bl1@gmail.com

Officers

Clerk of Session – Mark Riethmuller
President of Trustees – Steve Coco
President of Deacons – Tessa Connelly

MINISTRIES

Elfinwild Home Meals Ministry
Marian Berberich - 412-486-8000

Deacons' Hospitality Contact

Marilyn Colaizzi – 412-487-6071

Elfinwild Church Preschool

Carolyn Hervey, Director
Telephone – 412-486-2322

3200 Mt. Royal Boulevard, Glenshaw, Pennsylvania 15116
Telephone 412-486-5400 Fax 412-486-7080
Email: epchurch@elfinwildchurch.org

CHILD CARE DURING WORSHIP

8:30 and 11:10 A.M.

Cradle Roll (infants)

Location – end of hall from sanctuary.

11:10 AM ONLY

Toddlers (ages 2 - 4) are welcomed in the Toddler Room
located on the 1st floor of church building

Discipleship for Children

(ages 4 - 2nd grade) Location – Green Room, 1st floor C.E. Building
Children 3rd grade and up worship with their families.



WELCOME TO ELFINWILD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*We offer a warm welcome to every worshipper,
and a way to serve for all who are willing.*

**ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY
October 19, 2014
8:30 & 11:10 AM Worship**

*You are invited to use the following Scripture for reflection
as you prepare your hearts for worship.*

Praise the LORD!

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.
Who can utter the mighty doings of the LORD,
or declare all his praise?
Happy are those who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times.

Psalm 106

PRELUDE

Mike Hengelsberg

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH

Please sign the blue Friendship Pad in the pew near the center aisle.

MOMENT FOR MISSION: OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
Gifts in Shoeboxes for Children All Around the World

Leader: We will celebrate and praise you, Lord!

All: Our Lord, you are King!
You rule from your throne from above.
You are praised in Zion,
and you control all nations.
Only you are God!
And your power alone, is worthy of praise.
You are our mighty King, a lover of fairness,
who sees that justice is done everywhere.
Our Lord and our God, we praise you
and kneel down to worship you,
the God of holiness!

*HYMN OF PRAISE No. 138

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION

(11:10)
 SONG OF PRAISE

Kids of the Kingdom

MOMENT FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Daniel 9

O Lord, great and holy God, Father, most gracious,
filled with mercy and steadfast love,
incline your ear to our confession.

Hear us when we pour out our hearts before you.

Silent Confession

Forgive us, not on the basis of our own righteousness,
but because of your great mercy,
shown in the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, this is the Good News of the Gospel

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Becky Winek

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever,
Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Timothy 6: 6:19
 (page 1117 in the pew Bible)

SERMON

“Life That is Truly Life”

Rev. Jason Rea

*HYMN OF SENDING

“Lord, You Give the Great Commission”

Lord, you give the great commission:
"Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the Church neglect its mission
and the Gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose
with renewed integrity;
with the Spirit's gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.

Lord, you call us to your service:
"In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise,
life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor,
draw us closer in community;
with the Spirit's gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.

Lord, you make the common holy:
"This my body, this my blood."
Let your priests, for earth's true glory,
daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us
share your children's liberty;
with the Spirit's gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.

Lord, you show us love's true measure:
"Father, what they do, forgive."
Yet we hoard as private treasure
all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us
to a just society;
with the Spirit's gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.

POSTLUDE

Mike Hengelsberg

Special thanks to our liturgist:
Becky Winek

Dear Friends,

It is another time of transition for the people of God called Elfinwild Church. Last week we sent our brother and friend Ron Bernhardt off to serve Christ as the new Director of Music for the Sharon Community Presbyterian Church. We will be searching for organist and accompanist leadership to meet our needs in the next weeks. Please pray for our process and be patient and grateful for those who will be subbing in the meantime.

Tomorrow our new Business Manager, Karen Dorsey, will officially be in the office and begin her employment and service with us. Karen is an administrator and very familiar with the Church as the wife of a pastor. She will have regular office hours of 11 am- 4 pm Monday through Friday. The learning curve for her will be steep and take time. Please stop by to meet her and welcome her to the staff. Be patient as she gets up to speed with the accounting programs, the property issues and the overall way we do things around here over the next several months.

Last Sunday the Session received, with regret, the resignation of Jeannine Arrigo as the Interim Director of Children's Ministries, effective October 31, 2014. Jeanine has been a servant of Christ, helping us in this transition. We are so grateful for her heart for kids and the good leadership she has offered. The Session continues to pray about and discuss our staffing needs for our particular ministry. In the meantime the Children's Ministry Team, led by Elders Bethann Dolan and Patty Robinson will handle the responsibilities associated with our children and outreach programs. All programs will continue and be staffed with the help of volunteers with servant hearts. Please support them and once again be patient with us as we move forward with intention regarding our staffing.

The Session has embarked on discussions about what God is doing in and through Elfinwild Church, what new opportunities God is giving us to live out the Gospel in our communities and what it means to grow as a community of faith. I covet your prayers for us as our conversation will lead us to understand better how we should be staffed for not only what is going on now but what God might be calling us to be and do.

I must share with you all that I left our last Session meeting humbled by the presence of God in this congregation and specifically within the elders whom God has called through your election to serve Christ. I looked around the table and had such a comforting confidence in the collective gifts, wisdom, compassion, maturity and hearts for Christ and love for all God's people. We are blessed in many ways. It is a privilege to share in life and ministry with you. I am humbled.

Peace,

