

## **Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church**

**Midweek Update – August 31, 2016**

### **Invitation Vs. Welcome**

Pastor Julie pointed out last Sunday that there is a difference between welcome and invitation. It is the difference between putting a welcome mat in front of your door and going out to verbally ask someone to join you inside. It is the difference between mentioning that you go to church and asking multiple times for someone to join you in attending. At EPC, we are generally good at helping people to feel welcome if they show up. What would it take for us to be a place that goes out and INVITES others into our community? What would it take for you to invite someone to church?

Next Sunday, we plan to worship in our parking lot, under the big and beautiful cottonwood trees. We'll sing together, take communion together, and walk around our wonder-filled property. Our text is from Psalm 139, where we are reminded that God knew us before we were born, God knows every moment of our lives, and even in our dying, God is there holding us and loving us.

### **Church Finances**

It is that time of year when our church checking account runs low if giving has been down over the summer. Guess what? Our checking account is low. If this is a time when you could give generously to EPC, that would be helpful and appreciated. Thank you!

### **EPC Building Team**

After the building tour on Sunday, both Lorenz Fett and Ron Eggert stepped up to help out with decisions and projects on our building, joining Kathy Young and Pastor Phil. We already met once this week and have several projects underway.

### **Lectionary Bible Study with Pastor Phil**

The top time slot for a new Bible Study is Monday evenings at 6:15pm. We hope to start up in late September or early October after the conclusion of the Confirmation process.

### **Confirmation: This I Believe**

The Confirmands have finished their summer course work and are now working with their mentors to compose a faith statement to share with the Session. This is a wonderful opportunity to support our young people as they step toward full membership in the Body of Christ, and also an opportunity to think about what you believe. What do you believe? What is it that you put your trust in? If you can, write down a couple of statements about God or yourself or the universe that feel true and make life worth living for you. Need help getting started? Here are a few phrases that come to my mind and heart right at this moment:

- God is love and only love.
- Gratitude changes every situation.
- God gives me everything I need in every moment.
- I can relax into the grace and love of God and the people around me.

See how easy that is? We will take time during worship services in September to share our deepest beliefs with each other and with our Confirmands. So bring your own faith statements or come and listen to others' and let the trust of the community lift you up and nurture your soul.

### Crescent Cove Task Force Update

The CC task force is meeting again this evening (Aug. 31), with a focus on land appraisals that will help us determine the worth of our property for leasing, and the ongoing process of trying to hire affordable legal counsel. Another conversation we are having is how to coordinate communication about this possibility with neighbors, neighborhood leaders, the city, Crescent Cove stakeholders, and the Presbytery.

Also, Crescent Cove is hosting a Pediatric Palliative Care Symposium this October 14-15 that is free of charge and open to our congregation to attend. If you are interested, please check out this web page:

<http://crescentcove.org/mission/symposium/>

### Coming Up

Here are some events coming up in the life our congregation:

- This Sunday, Sept. 4 – Outdoor worship and communion and hymnsing!
- Thursday, Sept. 22 – Session meets
- Sept. 26-Oct. 2 – Pastors Julie & Phil on continuing education with Julie attending a contemplative retreat at Snowmass, Colorado.
- Sunday, Oct. 9 – Pastor Review Process forum after worship
- Some Saturday this fall – All-Church workday
- Dec. 24-25 – Christmas Eve is on Saturday this year, so start thinking about what you want to do: worship on Dec. 24 and not 25, worship on both, etc.

### Birthdays and Anniversaries in September

#### *Happy Birthday to:*

Tom Holt – 9/4

Lorenz Fett – 9/10

Otis Turnure – 9/16

Bryan Kingsriter – 9/25

#### *Happy Anniversary to:*

Jim and Jenny Turnure – 9/4/2004

Brian and Faith Dietz – 9/19/2000

### Prayers

- Marilyn Monson's health deteriorated this past weekend and she is now in St. Joseph's hospital for care and tests. Prayers for Marilyn and daughter Carol Schweickhardt.
- Bruce McCall, in the Alton Memory Care facility, was put on hospice care this week for extra care and services. Our thoughts and prayers go with Bruce and his family.
- Prayers for the Clary/LeClair family as they travel to Baltimore this week. People of God—being people of trust and faith will change your life.

Living in trust in the present moment brings peace and gratitude and generosity. I believe it. May the Holy Spirit make it real for you today! In Jesus, Pastor Phil