

## Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update – September 21, 2016

### Pastor Continuing Education

From next Monday, Sept. 26, through Oct. 2, Pastor Julie and I are taking time off for continuing education. Here is Julie's description of what she is doing:

*i am very excited to attend my continuing education opportunity next week which is a 7-day centering prayer meditation silent retreat. this is being held at the retreat house at st. benedict's monastery in snow mass, colorado. st. benedict's is a cistercian (trappist) community, where father thomas keating is in residence. The two most important aspects of the retreat are the prayer and the silence. We will have some teachings by father keating (DVDs and/or CDs), but the primary community time will be in centering prayer meditation circles 3 times a day. and between those times....silence.....silence to let the holy spirit have her way with me. silence to both talk to and listen for god. please hold me in prayer during my time away, and also for phil who will be single parenting the kids during their full lives of middle school and high school!*

I don't know if the idea of seven days of silence (broken up with some silent prayer and silent walks in the mountains) is appealing or scary to you. What I do know is that we all need time to reconnect to ourselves and to God. Pastor Julie needs this time to reconnect, I need this time, we need this time. What are you doing to cultivate silence and prayer in your own life? I had a confirmation student tell me this week that he takes time every night to pray to God and to thank God for all the good things in his life. Need a place to start your own prayer life? How about a simple gratitude prayer each night? Kneeling is optional.

Our text for this coming Sunday is 1 John 4: 7-12, 16b-21, which is a favorite of both Pastor Julie and myself—revealing the heart of God and faith in simple and powerful words. Sunday, October 2 is World Communion Sunday and will be led by retired Presbyterian pastor Rick Mills.

### Memorial Services

Marilyn Monson's memorial service will be on this Friday, September 23, at 11:00am at church followed by a luncheon reception. The family is providing the main food, but we could use bars, if you would like to contribute. Marilyn's family is inviting everyone to wear colorful clothing and wild earrings to celebrate the vibrancy of Marilyn's life. Bruce McCall's service will be on Saturday, October 15, at church in the early afternoon, followed by an off-site reception.

### Outdoor Work-Day Gratitude

Thank you to everyone who helped with our workday last Saturday—to Brian Dietz, Kathy Young, the whole GebbenGreen family, and Meredith, Tom, and groom-to-be Jared Holt. Brush was cleared, buckthorn pulled, and woodchips spread. Now we can only hope for clear skies for the wedding this Saturday.

### Confirmation Students

It is now time to finish up your faith statements and set up a time to meet with Pastor Phil, if you have not already done so. Please send the next draft of your statement to your mentor and to Pastor Phil.

## Lectionary Bible Study with Pastor Phil

Let's plan on an initial meeting of this group on Monday evening, October 10, at 6:30pm in the church parlor.

## Coming Up

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

- **Wednesday, Sept. 21 – Crescent Cove task force meeting at 6:45pm**
- **Friday, Sept. 23 – Marilyn Monson service at 11am**
- **Sept. 26-Oct. 2 – Pastors Julie & Phil on continuing education with Julie attending a contemplative retreat at Snowmass, Colorado.**
- **Sunday, Oct. 2 – World Communion Sunday**
- **Sunday, Oct. 9 – Pastor Review Process forum after worship**
- **Monday, Oct. 10 – Lectionary Bible Study at 6:30pm**
- **Saturday, Oct. 15 – Bruce McCall service in afternoon**

## Prayers

- **For the families of both Bruce McCall and Marilyn Monson as they prepare for their up-coming memorial services.**
- **For Jared and the whole Holt family as he gets married this weekend (with extra prayers for a clear Saturday!)**

**We love because God loves us! Because God loves us, we have nothing to fear, nothing to hide. Love actually casts out fear and makes us considerably more pleasant people besides. Taking our inspiration from Marilyn and Bruce, who were two unquenchably positive people, let us give thanks to God and smile at a stranger today.**

**Pastor Phil**