

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update – November 2, 2016

Climbing a Tree

In Luke 19 Zacchaeus has a choice. He's short, so if he wants to see Jesus he can either stay in the crowd, grumbling and jumping for little glimpses, or he can get a new vantage point. Zacchaeus chooses the second option. He runs ahead and climbs a tree. From there he has a new perspective; from his branch he can see God and God can see him.

This last Sunday, Pastor Julie invited us to imagine ourselves caught in the grumbling crowd. What would we do? Are we happy in the grumbling crowd, where we can't see God and God can't see us? Are we afraid to climb the tree—what if Jesus see us and calls out to us?

The national elections next week guarantee plenty of grumbling and fearful crowds. Zacchaeus reminds us that every moment we have choices. In the past two days, I have started making choices like shutting off the internet or radio (or TV) when the grumbling crowd threatens to overwhelm my sense of peace. Or I take a deep breath and say to myself, "The nations rage and kingdoms totter, but God is still my refuge." Or I think, "If all the wrong people get elected, there is nothing preventing me from being a person of love and generosity and hopefulness." When I make choices like those, then suddenly I am on my tree branch, looking eye to eye with Jesus. Today, what choices do you want to make?

This Sunday, we will again read and integrate the exact same story: Luke 19:1-10. It is also All Saints Sunday and communion. This week we remember and honor the saints who have gone before us, including these folk from EPC: Alice Schanke, Sid Nelson, Dora Olsen, Marilyn Monson, Bruce McCall, and Pastor Emeritus Gary Hickok.

Chili / Soup Gathering on This Sunday, Nov. 6

After worship this Sunday, we will gather over soup/chili for a time of food and fellowship. Everyone is welcome – if you can bring something to share, that's great, but there will be plenty of food, so what we really want is YOU. Bring a friend and let us break bread and gather together. Thank you! Faith

Thanksgiving Meal at Montreal High-Rise

We will be cooking and serving Thanksgiving dinner at the Montreal Highrise again this year. If you would like to donate a turkey, there will be coupons in the papers closer to the date. We need 5 turkeys that are 14-17 lbs. each. The turkeys can be stored in the kitchen freezer. Please let Meredith know if you are buying a turkey so we don't have too many. We will also need donations for other food and incidentals. Please consider volunteering to help that day if you can from 11:00-1:00. Friends and relatives are welcome. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Meredith Holt. Thank you all.

Next Bible Study with Pastor Phil—November 21 & 28

After our first meeting this past Monday, the Monday Bible Study will take a short break before meeting twice in late November—the 21st and 28th. Hope to see you!

Pastors' Vacation: Nov. 7-20

Pastors Julie and Phil will be taking two weeks off in mid-November. If needs arise during this time, please contact the church office or one of the Elders: Bryan Kingsriter, Carol Schweickhardt, Fred Clary, or Eleta Pierce.

Stewardship Time

Stewardship letters, asking for pledges for the 2017 budget year, are being mailed today. Treasurer Ron Eggert has outlined both reasons for giving and the increased need in this coming year. If you have any questions about your own giving or the finances of EPC, please feel free to talk to Ron.

Looking Ahead (It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!)

Here are some dates to put on your calendars:

- **November 20 – Wassail Party and Hanging of the Greens after worship**
- **November 27 – 1st Sunday of Advent and communion**
- **December 11 – Christmas music sing-a-long**
- **December 24 – Christmas Eve worship at 4:00pm**
- **December 25 – Merry Christmas with no worship on Sunday morning!**

People of God, wise Zacchaeus tells us that our reality is not limited by the grumbling crowd. We have choice and we have freedom. As for me, I choose love, I choose openness, I choose peace, I choose rest, I choose generosity, I choose God.

Pastor Phil