

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update – January 11, 2017

New Worship Series: Gideon

Last Sunday we started our series on the story of Gideon in Judges 6-8 by looking at the call of Gideon. Pastor Julie reminded us that even though God's call can be scary, we always have the option to hold our fear in an attitude of peace or an attitude of despair. Fear held in peace allows us to move forward with purpose and courage. Fear held in despair is paralyzing and disheartening. Gideon trusted God enough to move forward in God's peace, even though he was also scared. On Sunday, January 15, we will look at the next segment in the story in Judges 6:25-32; where Gideon is asked risk his own life to tear down the idols in his village. The question for us this week is: What things or beliefs in our lives keep us from trusting God completely? Is it time to get rid of something old to make room for something new?

Annual Meeting – Sunday, January 29

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be on the last Sunday of this month. We will gather at 10am around tables in the fellowship hall for brunch, worship, and our meeting. Elder Eleta is in charge of the food, so please contact her if you can help out with an egg bake or sausages or fruit or pancakes or anything else.

At this meeting, we will also be electing Elders for three open spots. If you have anyone to nominate for the Session of the church, please speak to either Pastor or to anyone on the Nominating Team—Eleta, Todd Barnes, or Lorenz.

New Member Class

We will have a New Member Exploration Class for both Confirmation youth and interested adults on this Sunday, January 15, after worship. Any interested participants should talk to Pastor Julie. We will be serving participants lunch. Contact Carol if you can help by bringing food. Carol = [651 468-9888](tel:6514689888) or cschweickhardt@gmail.com.

EPC Bible Study

Our twice-per-month Bible Study is exploring new times and the possibility of meeting in member homes. If you would like to participate, please talk to Pastor Phil or Ron Eggert about evenings you are available.

Angelie Birthday Fundraiser

Enjoy great Indian food, celebrate Angelie, and support her mission project in one great event! On Wednesday, January 18, proceeds from every meal purchased at Gandhi Mahal restaurant will be donated to Angelie's ministry account. Gandhi Mahal is at 3009 27th Ave S in Minneapolis. Come to eat anytime between 5-10pm.

Narthex Food Shelf

Sometimes our Food Shelf sits mostly unused for months at a time. Right now it is getting so much use that the shelves are almost empty! This is great time to bring in some food if you are able or called to share.

2016 Giving Statements / Per Capita for 2017

2016 Giving statements will be ready to pick up on January 22 or 29 in the Narthex. If you will not be here on either of those Sundays, your statement will be mailed on January 31. Per Capita for 2017 is \$33.75. Please try to pay in January so that we can send our donation to Presbytery this month. Thank you!

Session Notes

The Session of EPC met Thursday January 5th at the church. The team reviewed their personal views of how God impacted EPC in 2016 and expectations for 2017. It was enlightening to see that the Session had views that ranged from curiosity to excitement. An important item discussed that night was the budget. Considerable time has been put into the budget (thank you to Ron, Lois and Phil) and the budget as an agenda item has been analyzed and discussed for two Session meetings. The budget was slightly amended and a deficit budget (which has been done in the past historically) was passed. Much discussion about reaching out to the community and building new memberships was begun and will continue. The budget will be available for review before our annual meeting on January 29th. If there are any reports from any committees that need to be submitted, the next two weeks is the time to get them done. Speaking of the annual meeting, it will be a breakfast/brunch meeting at 10 am integrated right into the worship service. It should be wonderful and spirit filled. The Session also reviewed changing membership categories. The New Members Class is January 15; we are looking forward to those that finished confirmation attending and any interested congregant that wants more information on becoming a member. This church growth is always positive. Look for more information in the upcoming bulletins and emails.

Prayers

Prayers for Lorenz's mother, Bonnie, as she moves into a care facility for about a month to recuperate from some recent health issues.

The mercies of God are new every morning. God's mercies never come to an end.

Pastor Phil