

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update – January 18, 2017

### This Week's Mantra

The last line of the Lord's Prayer is:

*For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.*

In a week that we are thinking about shifts in power in our nation and a spirit of anxiety and uncertainty in our world, it seems like this prayer is an appropriate one to say over and over to yourself. With this prayer, let your faith in the supremacy of God give you comfort and hope and purpose.

### Worship Series: Gideon

Week 1: Gideon is called to lead God's people. Week 2: Gideon clears out the old idols in his town and replaces them with an altar dedicated to God. Week 3: Now Gideon calls for people to follow him into battle. As the troops arrive, Gideon's starts to get nervous about the daunting task before him. So he asks God for a sign. God responds. Then he asks for another sign (hoping God doesn't lose patience), and God responds again. [This week's text: Judges 6:33-40.] Have you ever asked God for a sign? Did you get it? Have you ever received a message from God that you didn't ask for? Quick story: When I was in grad school and feeling especially lost and alone, I took a walk through Berkeley. Far over the San Francisco Bay, I saw a thin crescent moon, and I had the clear thought this was a sign from God that God loved me and that I could rest in the gentle bowl of that moon. Immediately I relaxed and filled up with a sense of peace and love. Not only was that a powerful moment for me, but I have never forgotten it; and every time I see the moon, especially in crescent phase, I remember that night and that feeling, and I say a quick prayer of thanks to God. What signs has God put in your path?

### 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 ([eleta.pierce@gmail.com](mailto:eleta.pierce@gmail.com)) 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—

Elleta, Todd Barnes, or Lorenz. Annual Reports will be available at church this Sunday, Jan. 22, if you would like to preview a copy—or contact Lois in the church office.

### **Angelie Birthday Fundraiser—TODAY!**

Enjoy great Indian food, celebrate Angelie, and support her mission project in one great event! On Wednesday, January 18 (TODAY), proceeds from every meal purchased at Gandhi Mahal restaurant will be donated to Angelie's ministry account. Gandhi Mahal is at 3009 27<sup>th</sup> Ave S in Minneapolis, website = [gandhimahal.com](http://gandhimahal.com). Come to eat anytime between 5-10pm.

### **Confirmation / New Member Worship**

After a great new member class last Sunday, we have seven confirmands and two adults who plan to join the Body of Christ here at EPC. Yea! To fit everyone's schedule, we will celebrate these affirmations and reaffirmations of faith on two Sundays—February 12 and 19.

### **2016 Giving Statements / Per Capita for 2017**

2016 giving statements will be available to pick up at worship on Sunday, January 22. Please check your statement carefully and let Lois know if you have any questions or corrections. Per capita for 2017 is \$33.75 per person. Please try to pay in January so that we can submit our payment to Presbytery. Thank you!

This past Sunday during worship, a Dominoes delivery fellow delivered the pizzas for the New Member class. Instead of just taking his money and leaving, he sat in the back and listened to the sermon for about ten minutes, intent and absorbed. At the end of the sermon, he took the five dollar tip in his hand, asked several folk where to put it for an offering, and walked to the front. Like the Magi, he brought his gift and then left by another way. Like the shepherds, he rose up and followed. It was a quiet and simple moment. But it was a moment that left many of us in tears. It felt like a miracle. It felt like an angel had walked among us unawares. It felt like a blessing.

People of God, are you watching for miracles? Pastor Phil