

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update – March 22, 2017

Being Born Anew

Last Sunday Julie preached about Jesus' powerful invitation to become a whole new person in God's Spirit. In fact, Jesus says, "Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, it is not possible to enter God's Kingdom." Water not only washes us; water actually erodes and carries away our old self, while at the same moment giving us the elements we need to grow anew. The Spirit blows us here and there, but keeps us always in God's unfailing love. Does this sound appealing—being eroded away and regrown and then blown around by God's love? Apparently that is exactly the recipe God has in mind for us.

At our Bible Study on Monday, we had such an engaging conversation about

I Samuel 16:1-13 that the text has now become our preaching text for this coming Sunday. It is the story of how Samuel's close connection to God leads him through a frightening and sometimes humorous situation in the town of Bethlehem. I also need to recommend the former preaching text, which is another powerful and humorous story—the healing of the blind man in John 9.

Storytelling in the Community

We have two storytelling events coming up.

- Storytelling workshop at the Montreal Hi-Rise at 6pm on next Monday, March 27. Not only will this be super fun, but we could use some EPC treats and folks who are willing to participate for relationship building and support. If you can come or help out, please sign up in the narthex or email Phil (pastorphil@epchurch.org).
- Good Friday worship – a joint worship again with Humble Walk, this year on April 14 at Art House North, time to be determined. This year we will have music and hear congregational stories based on the theme, "Life-Death-Life, Repeat." We could use a couple more storytellers from EPC, so if this sounds like a possibility to you, please talk to Pastor Phil.

March FoodShare Campaign

This Sunday is the last day to give to the March Food Drive for our local food shelf, Francis Basket! If you haven't done so already, please give either a food or cash donation for this state-wide grassroots effort to fill our food shelves. Donations of money (cash or check) can be made out directly to our church with "food shelf" in the memo line, and the funds will be given to Neighborhood House's Francis Basket by our church.

Mission Team Mtg

Tentative Mission Committee meeting this Saturday morning, March 25, at 10 am at Eleta's house, but am still waiting to hear if that date and time work for those I asked. If you would like to be a part of the Mission Committee, please email me (eleta.pierce@gmail.com) and let me know if you can make that date and time. If that date/time does not work for your schedule but you would like to join the

committee, please also email me. Youth are especially invited to join this committee and help plan/implement mission and service projects for our congregation to be involved in. *—Eleta Pierce*

Bible Study Reboot

The EPC Bible Study had a wonderful new beginning last Monday with seven participants and lively conversation. Our next meeting will be on Monday, April 3, at 6:30pm again at the Eggert's home with food and scripture and fellowship.

EPC Youth & Parent Retreat

Elaine Allen and Bryan Kingsriter are talking about hosting an EPC youth retreat at their farmhouse sometime in the early summer of this year. Keep watch for more details soon, but check out dates on your schedules for June.

Church Directories

In the next few weeks, Lois will be printing some new directories. Please contact her if either of the following applies to you (secretary@epchurch.org or [651-698-8220](tel:651-698-8220)):

1. *You have any information to update in the directory.*
2. *You would like a copy of the new directory.*

Prayers

- For all who mourn, that we might provide space and companionship as the soul and body heal themselves through grief.
- For the next visitors of Edgcumbe Church—God, lead us into the community with power and love and an open heart.
- For the residents of Montreal Hi-Rise and the storytelling event next Monday.
- For Pastor Julie as she celebrates 25 years of sobriety with her retreat this week.
- For the youth and children of our church and community.
- For the courage and trust to be born anew each day.

People of God, may joy and gratitude fill your hearts, and may generosity lead your actions. Pastor Phil