

# Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church, Midweek Update – August 30, 2017

## FAITH PRACTICE: READING MATTHEW

Our faith practice this week is the ongoing discipline of reading through the book of Matthew. If you haven't started yet, try this: Look up Matthew 1. Skip or skim the first 17 verses. Then just read the story of the birth of Jesus, Matthew 1:18-25. Tomorrow read a few more verses; the next day a few more. Keep it short and simple each day. Look for small connections between your life and what you read in the text, keeping your heart open to the possibilities of miracles.

## WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY, SEPT. 3 – OUTDOOR BRUNCH AND COMMUNION

Weather permitting, we will be outdoors this Sunday. Bring a dish to share, if you like, and maybe an extra chair if you are able!

## OUTDOOR PLANS UPDATE

We had a wonderful forum about the backyard plans with good questions, new ideas, a walking tour of the property and lots of general excitement. At this point, the only concrete step that is happening is ongoing buckthorn abatement and general clean-up. Look for details soon about a fall work day.

## MIDWIFERY NOTES FROM PASTOR JULIE

in this past sunday's text (ex. 1:8-2:10), we heard the story of 5 women who had life-saving roles in the life of young moses. two of those women were the midwives, shiphrah and puah, who respected god and went against the pharaoh's orders to kill all of the male hebrew babies.

i have experienced the power of midwives myself with the birth of all 3 of my children. these women were very well educated and skilled, but mostly, they sat with me, had confidence with me and my body, encouraged me in the times of transitions when things got intense, and simply were a grounded, sacred presence during the holy time of birthing.

i am starting to believe that pastoring is actually its own kind of midwifery. the church, both the church at large and specifically edgcumbe presbyterian itself, are shifting and evolving, and being born anew. and the job of the midwife is to keep the mother focused on the process, with love and joy, and trust that what is needed is already at hand. it can feel intense and uncertain at times, but i see how the holy spirit is powerfully moving within us. i'd love to hear from you how you are experiencing the spirit these days at epc!!

## ALL-CHURCH FUN DAY

Set aside Sunday, September 17, for a day of worship and games and getting to know each other! Fun brought to you by the EPC Deacons.

## PLASTER HOUSE FUNDRAISER

For several years this congregation has helped support the work of Plaster House in Arusha, Tanzania. Here is a note from the Eggerts:

Plaster House is having a fund raising event on Tuesday Sept 5th at 7PM at:  
First Christian Church  
Spring House Ministries  
610 W 28th St, Minneapolis, MN 55408

Plaster House director Sarah Rejman will talk about growth and change at Plaster House. All are welcome! For more information about The Plaster House, visit [www.theplasterhouse.org](http://www.theplasterhouse.org) or the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/events/1637309242948996??ti=ia>  
Thanks, Ingrid & Ron

## **ALL-CHURCH MISSION PROJECT**

### **Proposal for EPC All-Church Mission Project**

*“For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, ‘You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.’”  
Deuteronomy 15:11*

**What & Why:** We will be collecting items and assembling care packages for panhandlers & homeless on the street. Often as we are driving around town, we come across panhandlers on the side of the road, holding a sign and asking for help. As an alternative to giving out cash, handing the person a care package with items can go much further and can be just as useful to the receiver. The giver will gain a new connection to these people, likely have a good conversation, and will feel like they made a little difference in that person's life.

*“Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you”.  
Matthew 5:42*

**When:** Drive will run September 1- September 28, with assembly happening on World Communion Sunday, October 1.

#### **What is involved:**

The drive will be of specific toiletries and edibles distributed to the congregation (see page 2 for proposed list). We will solicit the members to donate the items needed and we will collect these items on the chancel area in the Sanctuary as a visual reminder to those coming into the Sanctuary throughout the month. Monetary donations will also be collected from those who would rather give that way, to purchase any additional items that we need. The goal will be to collect enough items to fill 50 bags.

The assembly will take place on World Communion Sunday, as part of our worship service. At the time of the offering, we will move downstairs (or possibly stay in the Sanctuary?), where tables will be set up with the items for the bags. We will give some instruction and form a sort of assembly line to fill the bags. Once the bags are all filled, we will pray over them to bless the people who will receive them, and then conclude the worship service with a song.

The distribution of the bags will happen by EPC members. People present will be encouraged to take some of the bags and keep them in their vehicles. When they come across a person with sign on the street corner, or any person who seems to be in need, they will give it to the person.

*‘What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?  
Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food,  
and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them  
the things needed for the body, what good is that?  
So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.’  
James 2:14-17*

#### **Item List**

1 gallon ziplock bags  
Bottled water  
Chapstick  
Small hand lotion  
Small package of kleenex

Bag of cough drops or hard candy  
Trail mix/mixed nuts  
Granola bar/trail mix bar/energy bar

A small card in each bag with a scripture quote, the church name and address.

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT AND WATCH THE VIDEO THAT TALKS ABOUT THE PROJECT.

[https://www.ugmtc.org/2015/01/ticket-of-hope/?\\_ga=2.208524882.1914431582.1503943080-830124251.1411486929](https://www.ugmtc.org/2015/01/ticket-of-hope/?_ga=2.208524882.1914431582.1503943080-830124251.1411486929) (We will be printing the Tickets of Hope and putting one in each bag)

Copies of this flyer and shopping lists will be available on Sunday morning at the Outdoor Worship Service.

## **STORYTELLING EVENT – SEPT. 11**

For several years our church has co-sponsored storytelling events with Humble Walk Lutheran community. Every one of these evenings of stories told by local folk has been moving and amazing. The next event, at 7pm on Monday, Sept. 11, will be at Edgumbe Church. The topic is: “What I Learned during Summer Vacation.” Does that make you think of a story? If you have any inkling or desire to share a story, please talk to Pastor Phil and we will explore the idea together.

## **CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER ON TUESDAYS**

Our meditative prayer group continues to meet each Tuesday at 3pm in the sanctuary. Feeling frazzled or overwhelmed or just in need of some quiet space? Join the circle of silence and support. Beginners are always welcome!

## **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

Happy Birthday to:

Tom Holt – 9/4  
9/4/2004  
Lorenze Fett – 9/10  
Otis Turnure – 9/16  
Jennie Reedquist – 9/19  
Bryan Kingsriter – 9/25

Happy Anniversary to:

Jim and Jennie Turnure –  
Brian and Faith Dietz – 9/9/1998

## **PRAYERS**

- Prayers for **Bob Ekstrand’s family** after a wonderful funeral service and reception today. Bob’s family was so grateful for all of the care and support they felt from the EPC community.
- Prayers of blessing on all the boxes of tissues and other supplies that are now in teacher’s classrooms at **Highland Park High School**.
- On Sunday we prayed for packing blessing for **Josh LeClair** as he prepared to leave for college in Winnipeg, Canada. Assuming he did get packed, we now pray for smooth transitions, engaging classes, and lasting friendships.