

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church, Midweek Update – September 6, 2017

FAITH PRACTICE: WHO AM I?

In worship last Sunday, we did an exercise where we explored who we are, by looking at the Fruits of the Spirit from Galatians 5. These fruits are:

**LOVE JOY PEACE PATIENCE KINDNESS GENEROSITY
FAITHFULNESS GENTLENESS SELF-CONTROL**

Look at this list again right now. Each one of these qualities is a gift to you from God. You already have all nine of these gifts available to you right in this moment. Now say the whole list out loud to yourself, using “I am” language, like this: “I am LOVE, I am JOY...” etc. Say it with the open-hearted desire to make these statements more true than anything else you think you know about yourself.

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY, SEPT. 10 – LEARNING TO BE AN HONEST COMMUNITY

In Matthew 18:15-20, Jesus gives a beautiful explanation of how to be an honest community together. Jesus suggests, when someone upsets you, that you go directly to that person for a conversation. If that doesn't go well, then you go with another person. Still no reconciliation? Then go together to the elders and pastors of the church. This seems so straight-forward and simple. Yet most of us never do it? In preparation for this week's worship, pay attention to your own responses and strategies when someone upsets you.

STORYTELLING EVENT – NEXT MONDAY!

We are hosting a storytelling event at our church next Monday, September 11 at 7pm with multiple stories and live music. The topic is: “What I Learned during Summer Vacation.” Three things for the congregation:

1. You should really come. These events are fantastic.
2. If anyone is willing to donate snacks to share, that would be great.
3. If anyone wants to tell a story, we still need TWO storytellers, so please talk to Pastor Phil right away if you thinking about a story.

THANKSGIVING DINNER SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Thanksgiving Dinner: It's early to think about Thanksgiving, but if you are planning a dinner for over 60 people it's necessary. Every year at the Montreal Highrise we need approximately 12 people to help set up, serve, carry food to tables, and clean up. The time involved is from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Please consider whether you would be able to participate this year. A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex at the end of September. Thank you, *Meredith Holt*

ALL-CHURCH FUN DAY

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

BACK WOODS MEDITATIVE PATHS

Plans to develop a prayer garden and meditative paths continue to move along. Besides the labyrinth and swing already up and running, we now have an Eagle Scout project emerging for mid-October. If you want to be involved in any way, please talk to Pastor Julie.

PLASTER HOUSE FUNDS

If you were inspired by the Eggert's story about the Plaster House, please know that you can donate to the Plaster House through EPC at any time, simply by writing a check to EPC with Plaster House in the memo line. For more information about The Plaster House, visit www.theplasterhouse.org or the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/events/1637309242948996??ti=ia>

ALL-CHURCH MISSION PROJECT – SHOPPING LIST IS ATTACHED FYI

From now until October 1, we are collecting items and will be 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 and a meal ticket 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.

The drive consists of specific toiletries and edibles (see separate "shopping" list) that are of use to a person on the street. We are asking you to donate the items needed and we will collect these items on the chancel area in the Sanctuary as a visual of this mission. Monetary donations can also be given to purchase any additional items that we need, please make checks out to EPC with "mission project" in the memo line. The goal is to collect enough items to fill 50 bags.

The assembly will take place when we celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 8, as part of our worship service. At the time of the offering, we will move to tables in the Sanctuary to assemble 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 you – members and friends of EPC. People present will be encouraged to take some of the bags and keep them in their vehicles. When you come across a person with sign on the street corner, or any person who seems to be in need, you will give a bag to the person.

GOOGLE REVIEWS

Congregation: if you search for Edgumbe Presbyterian Church on www.Google.com, you will see on the right-hand side a place to write a review of our church. Since most new folks will look us up online before visiting, it would be a great thing if our church had more reviews and more stars. If you are willing to write a Google review, that would be appreciated!

GRATITUDE FROM BOB EKSTRAND'S FAMILY

Bob's whole family was so grateful to EPC for hosting the funeral reception last Wednesday. The Ekstrand's felt our support and care and asked me to say Thank You on their behalf.

PRAYERS

- I just want to point out that Deacon Todd Barnes, in worship last Sunday, offered to stay after worship on any Sunday that he is here, to pray with anyone about anything on your heart or mind. Please feel free to use this wonderful offer!
- Prayers for Marlys Kingsriter who is back at Langton Place in Roseville after another stay in the hospital. Prayers to for Bryan and Elaine and the rest of Marlys' family as they look at post-recovery housing options for Marlys. May God grant peace and joy and clarity.

Peace to you all today! Pastor Phil