

# Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church Midweek Update December 13, 2017

## REJOICE!

Our text for this coming Sunday, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, starts off with the words, “Rejoice always! Give thanks in every situation.” The Apostle Paul almost certainly wrote these words from a jail cell (Paul spent much of his adult life in prison), so we know he means it when he says, “in *every* situation.”

So here’s our question for today: How much of your time do you spend rejoicing? It is certainly easy and tempting even to fill up my time with complaining, judging, planning, worrying, day-dreaming or just zoning out. I received some great news earlier this week and spent some dedicated time to rejoicing—doing a little happy-dance around the house, calling others to rejoice with me, humming merrily, etc. But that is not my normal state. I do not “rejoice always.” Right at this moment, if I pay attention to myself, I am sitting here with knit brows in my office at church, trying to get the wording of this Update correct and intelligible. If I look to my right, I see my messy desk and my brow knits further and some self-disgust bubbles up—why can’t I keep my desk clean, for Pete’s sake? But if I look left, then I see the beautiful backwoods of EPC. I see the new benches and the spinning artwork in the meditation garden. The few remaining leaves on the maple trees give them a festive air; it’s gorgeous actually. It’s winter in Minnesota—Rejoice anyway!

Does it sound possible to give yourself permission to rejoice today, to notice the places of beauty and love in your life right now and celebrate them? I rejoice right now for each of you, for the community of faith at EPC, for winter beauty, for a great church staff, for Highland AA and the Montessori Preschool, for the goodness and faithfulness of God. Rejoice always!

## NEW ADDRESS

Angelie Ryah has a new address, which we are hoping means that she has arrived in San Diego. Prayers of blessing for Angelie as she starts her new life and ministry and unpacks all those boxes we helped her pack up! By the way, we hope to publish a new church directory in January (which will include this new address below). If you have updates for the directory, please let Lois know ASAP.

Angelie Ryah  
2504 A Street  
San Diego, CA 92102  
Phone: [651-329-2250](tel:651-329-2250) (same number)

## **CHRISTMAS GIVING AT EPC**

We have two wonderful opportunities to give this Advent Season!

### **Local Mission:**

We are collecting pajamas, socks & books on our Giving Tree in the narthex for the homeless families staying with Project Home over the holidays. All ages and genders. Donations can be left right on or under the tree through this Sunday, December 17.

### **Denominational Mission:**

This year we are supporting the Christmas Joy Offering through the Presbyterian Church (USA). This offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers in times of hardship and develops future leaders at Presbyterian racial-ethnic schools and colleges. You can give at any time this month or at the special offering on Christmas Eve.

## **SPECIAL JANUARY SUNDAY**

The EPC Deacons will be hosting a "Comfort & Joy" Sunday, January 14, 2018, during the worship service. The modified worship service will be held in the parlor area, with a potluck brunch during the service featuring comfort food or culinary delights that bring you joy. In an effort to add a burst of sunshine in our lives during the winter month of January, the service will be in-part facilitated by young people in our congregation and will focus on the many gifts in our life which bring us comfort and joy. So bring your blankets, an open heart, and a delicious dish to pass for our first "Comfort & Joy" Sunday! A Sign-Up Sheet for the potluck will be in the Narthex area beginning Sunday, December 17. For more information, please contact Belinda Clary, Ingrid Eggert, or Todd Barnes.

Don't forget to rest. And rejoice! Pastor Phil