

# Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

## Midweek Update

January 17, 2018

### COMFORT & JOY!

I have two things to say about Comfort and Joy. One, the youth did such a fantastic job with worship last week. One visitor told me that the service was the perfect antidote to January in Minnesota for her. Great job, Youths!! I'm also noticing that we had three walk-in visitors.

Two, I am having a blast reading the Sports section of the Pioneer Press after the Vikings stunning last-second victory on Sunday. The play and the win are very exciting, of course; but the most interesting thing to me is the absolute, unalloyed JOY that is being expressed by fans and players and even the reporters. The usual sport metaphors aren't even working for this situation. Instead everyone is using spiritual language: "It's a miracle!" "The curse has turned into a blessing!" "I just give thanks to God; I don't even know what happened." I'm not making fun of this language. I'm noticing that Minnesotans are not usually this joyful or this spiritual in the way that they talk.

So here's your invitation today. Let yourself feel joy. Go ahead and jump and scream like a Viking's fan if you want, but at least let a smile creep over your face. Don't worry about whether something bad will happen or whether the Vikes will win next weekend. Just notice something that brings you joy and let that happiness go all the way into your heart and soul. It is harder than it sounds, but we are wired for joy by God so it is your birthright to feel it. You should feel free to turn this "Joy-noticing" into a daily practice.

### ANNUAL MEETING—FEBRUARY 4

On the day of that big athletic event that may or may not include the Vikings, EPC is having our Annual Meeting. We have one of these each year in late January or early February to check in about past year and give God thanks for the ministry of this congregation. We plan to share most of the reports during worship, followed by a short meeting to give the budget report and vote to renew the pastors' contract. That leaves plenty of time for nachos and the big athletic event (which starts at 5:30pm).

We hope to have the Annual Reports ready for preview this Sunday, Jan. 21, or for sure by the next week.

### ART SHOW OF EPC COMMUNITY ART –ART FROM HOME

Bring in a piece or two of your artwork or the work of a member of your family. Art work can be painting, photographs, drawings, fabric work, carving, etc. Anything along as it will hang on the wall.

This show will be up from January 21st through the end of February.

If you have questions please contact Carol at [cschweickhardt@gmail.com](mailto:cschweickhardt@gmail.com) 651 468-9888

## **MISSION TRIP TO LOUISIANA**

Our Presbytery is sponsoring a mission trip to the the Baton Rouge area to assist in disaster clean-up in early April. The total cost of the trip is only \$150. If this opportunity might interest you, see the letter copied at the bottom of this Update.

O People of God, rejoice and be glad! Since we can't mope about the Vikings, why not enjoy your life right now? The Presbytery mission trip letter is below. Pastor Phil

Dear Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area Members and Friends,

I am excited to announce a mission trip experience to Denham Spring, Louisiana (near Baton Rouge) to assist in disaster recovery, clean-up, and rebuilding from the major 2016 Louisiana flooding. This is in collaboration with the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Please see the details below and respond quickly as the date is rapidly approaching!

**Dates:** Saturday, April 7 through Saturday April 15, 2018

**Cost:** \$150 per person (does not include incidentals including food while traveling)

**Reservation and Deposit:** After talking with someone from the planning team: Ken Wooley: [715-222-1063](tel:715-222-1063), Brenda Alexander: [651-900-3119](tel:651-900-3119) or Corinne Freedman Ellis: [630-935-7041](tel:630-935-7041), please send a deposit of \$50 to the Presbytery Office by February 16, 2018 to reserve your spot. Check payable to: *Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, 2115 Cliff Drive, Eagan, MN 55122*. The remaining balance of \$100 will be paid online at the orientation meeting held on February 25. Bring a credit card to do this.

**Transportation:** One (or two) 12 passenger van/s will be reserved for travel to and from Baton Rouge. A second van is needed for tools and the team's belongings. To volunteer a van, please contact me ASAP. These vans will leave Saturday morning, April 7. Details will be discussed at the orientation meeting. However, you may choose to drive separately, carpool or fly and meet up with the group in Denham Springs, LA. (several miles from Baton Rouge.)

The goal will be to get to Memphis, Tennessee by Saturday night April 7. We will leave early Sunday morning and arrive for dinner and orientation by Sunday evening in Louisiana. After working until Friday about noon we will hit the road, have an overnight, and be home in the Twin Cities by Saturday evening.

For those who may want to fly, we can try to help with transportation to and from the airport however you will be responsible for the cost of the flight.

**Work Week:** We will begin our volunteer work on Monday, April 9 and end on Friday, April 13. There will be one partial day for some sightseeing, which will also include a meal at a restaurant in the area for your trip cost planning.

**Orientation Meeting:** Let's plan for an orientation and get acquainted time on Sunday, February 25, 2018 from 3:00 to 6:00 pm with conversation and a potluck dinner at Macalester Plymouth Church in St. Paul. This will give us an opportunity to meet with one another and make final arrangements. Attendance is required for team building and information sharing.

Please do not hesitate to call or email me. My cell is [651-900-3119](tel:651-900-3119), the landline is [651-748-1208](tel:651-748-1208) and my email is [bk.alexander@live.com](mailto:bk.alexander@live.com). Leadership for this trip is Ken Wooley (First Presbyterian Church, Hudson), and Brenda Alexander (Chair of Mission and Witness Com, PTCA and Honorably Retired.)

I trust Christ will be at work in us and through our mission trip experience.

With love in Christ, Rev. Brenda K. Alexander  
Mission and Witness Committee, PTCA