

# Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

## Midweek Update – February 14, 2018

### LENT = REST

Today is the first day of Lent (also, Happy Valentine's Day!), which is the forty days leading up to Easter. I don't know if you have any connotations around Lent. Many people connect this season with Mardi Gras in New Orleans, suffering, and giving up chocolate (see *suffering*, above).

Here are a few simple points for how to think about Lent right now.

- The word Lent actually just means spring, as in the season of spring.
- The length of forty days comes from the story in Mark 1:12-13 where Jesus goes into the wilderness for forty days right after he is baptized.
- Giving up chocolate does bring you closer to God. Unless it does.

Now, here are three spiritual principles to think about, based on the above points.

- Spiritual Principle One: You can no more stop God's love from coming to you than you can stop springtime from coming to Minnesota (Thank goodness, right?)
- Spiritual Principle Two: After his baptism, Jesus took forty days off to recover and re-discover who he was. When was the last time you took off forty days to recover and rediscover who you are becoming? How about taking just one day a week off—Is that something you could try this Lent?
  - Spiritual Principle Three: Forcing yourself to suffer does not bring you closer to God. Now, suffering does not keep you away from God's love either; but there is nothing special or holy about suffering itself. If you want a spiritual discipline to try this Lenten season, try this one: rest. Rest is holy. God does it on last day of the Creation. Jesus does it after his baptism. We are losing the knack. Feel free to practice.

### BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER THIS LENT

As an act of rebellion against the creeping isolation of our age, Pastor Julie and I are suggesting a simple and fun challenge for our church community during Lent (now until Easter, April 1). Here's the challenge: On TWO separate occasions, share a meal with another individual / couple / family from EPC. That's it. You could play it safe and share a meal with someone you know well. Or you could be brave and set up a meal date with someone you don't know at all. You can invite someone over to your home or apartment, or meet at a restaurant, or share a picnic in a snow-covered park. You can be the invitee or the inviter. Get the idea? As Jesus said, Let us break bread together!

### **INVITATION FROM BRYAN KINGSRITER & ELAINE ALLEN**

Elaine and Bryan are inviting the EPC congregation to their home on February 18. They live at [1236 N. Victoria Street](#) in Saint Paul, just north of Lake Como. Their phone is [651.487.2292](#) and email is [kingsriter1@gmail.com](mailto:kingsriter1@gmail.com). Here is the invitation:

We would like to invite you to our home for food, and a celebration of our time with Edgumbe, on Sunday, February 18, after church. Please let us know if you can make it. There may even be a little hymn singing, (if I have any say in it)! Thanks to all, Bryan

### **PER CAPITA**

Each year we have the opportunity to support a wide variety of ministries that are provided by the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area and our denomination, the Presbyterian Church (USA). Edgumbe does this by paying \$34.50 per member to the local Presbytery. This year we will pay \$1,276.50 to cover the cost of our membership. The Session strongly encourages all members of EPC to pay their portion of per capita early in the year. As we combine our gifts with hundreds of other, we can have a powerful impact together. Please mark any offerings for this purpose as “per capita.” Thank you.

### **CHURCH DIRECTORY AVAILABLE**

The new directories are finished and will be in the narthex on Sunday. Please take the copy with your label on it. If you need an extra copy, we are happy to print you another one, just contact the church office.

### **PRAYERS AND PASTORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Ongoing prayers for the Barnes, Fett, and Pierce households, who all lost a parent and/or grandparent in past two to three weeks.
- A Celebration of Life for Montell Pierce will be held on Saturday, February 24, at First Presbyterian Church in [South St. Paul \(535 20th Ave North\)](#). 10 am visitation, 11 am service. The celebration will continue at Eleta's parent's [house \(468 Ohio St, St. Paul\)](#) following the service with food and drinks, stories and laughs.
- Pastor Phil is the last three weeks of his teacher training for the Enneagram Prison Project. (I'll write up an update about that process in the coming weeks.)

May God's peace surround you all today! Pastor Phil