

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update - January 30, 2019

TALKING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

This past Sunday, we talked about having an open conversation with the Holy Spirit anytime and all the time. When something in our life seems uncertain or creates anxiety, we ask: "Holy Spirit, what do you want me to know (or do)?" Or, "Holy Spirit, you lead the way and I will follow." Or, "Holy Spirit, I trust in you completely. Help me rest in your love right now."

How is this going for you? If you try it right now, what happens?

ANNUAL MEETING: FEBRUARY 3

Each year we gather on one Sunday early in the year to review the previous year, take stock of our life together, approve pastors' call and salaries for the coming year, eat and celebrate together. Our Annual Meeting this year will be on THIS SUNDAY, February 3, both during and after worship with a potluck brunch!

CANOEING THE MOUNTAINS

Last week, four of us attended this conference (Ruth Anderson, Carol Schweickhardt, and Pastors Phil and Julie) that was helpful to articulate the dynamics of church and servant leadership which we are currently in. The main idea is that the church (the "canoe" of the Lewis and Clark expedition) was formed and shaped to move through an American Christian culture. As Lewis and Clark needed to transition from a water passage to the crossing the Rocky Mountains, the church needs to adapt to a different terrain as well. Tod Bolsinger's key idea that what is now required for this transition are not technical changes (seeking advice from experts and creating programs), but rather adaptive changes which impact the entire system of church. The fading of a dominant Christian culture requires that religious leaders (which is all of us in the church) learn how to lead anew. We are in a missional context now, which means that everyone is bringing the heart of church out as they live their lives. The adaptive changes mean that we are leading in uncharted territory and requires learning, which will result in loss, and leads to a lifetime of transformation. One way that the church will experience difficulty in this transition can be with unresolved grief--that as the system/structures/expectations of church change, it is helpful to be intentional and care-filled to working through the grief which comes with the transformation.

Your pastors and the elders plan to continue talking with the congregation about what it means to be Edgcumbe church over the coming months, including at this Sunday's annual meeting.

—Pastor Julie

CHURCH DIRECTORIES

A printed church directory will be available and labeled for every household this Sunday at the Annual Meeting. If you want more than one copy, OR if you want a digital PDF version emailed to you, please contact Krysta in the office (office@epchurch.org or 651-698-8220).

PRAYERS

- Today in the office we are sending Deb Carlson's final W-2 form to her home. So we remember with care and gentleness Bob and Chet and Audrey and all of us who continue to mourn Deb's death this past year.
- Prayers again for Todd Barnes on the death of his mother, whose memorial service will be at The House of Hope Presbyterian Church on Friday, February 15, at 11:00am.