

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

November 20, 2019

In this issue:

- Pastors at Conference
- Message from Elder Eleta
- Mission Project Opportunities
- Coming Up!
- New Member Exploration
- Baby Grand?
- Concert invites
- Session Update

PASTORS AT CONFERENCE

Thank you to Elder Eleta for leading worship last Sunday while Pastor Julie and Phil were at a conference. They will return to work tomorrow, Thursday.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

“It Takes a Village” was the topic of worship and my message this past Sunday. The African saying of “it takes a village to raise a child” doesn’t just apply to our children - all throughout the Bible and in our own experiences, it actually “takes a village [for all of us] to get through life.” The reading from Galatians 6 reminds us to “Carry each other’s burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ.” In the reading from Philippians 2, we are reminded that “Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others.” In times of hardship, and in times of joy, we are to lend those in our village a loving hand. We are also to accept that help from our village. And our village isn’t just those who live in our home, or who are part of our family, or who are in our church community, or who are in our social circles, or even just in the country in which we live. Our village is actually everyone in the world, those we know, and those we do not know. As you go about your week, take notice of the times that you see “the village” in work both in your life and the lives of those around you.

In recognizing that our village is greater than us, I introduced some special mission projects that we will participate in, starting now through Christmas, that will benefit the homeless families staying with Project Home, the mission of Interfaith Action who houses homeless families in the buildings of two faith communities each month, and who now runs the Day Center (read more about them below).

MISSIONS PROJECTS AND THEIR SPECIFICS:

Gently-used (or new) Twin Size Fitted Sheets and Warm Blankets Needed

Project Home is in desperate need of bedding for the children, parents and grandparents staying with them, specifically twin-sized fitted sheets (can be set of fitted and top sheet) and warm blankets (twin or full size). Please only this size as their cots and mattresses are all twin-size, so anything bigger won't fit. Bedding can be new or gently-used with no rips or stains. We will collect these items through December 15. Put the items into a paper bag and bring to the church.

Giving Tree – NEW Pajamas & Socks

Remember what it was like as a kid to get a new pair of pajamas and socks, especially at Christmas time? We would love to give that warm, fuzzy feeling to ALL of those staying with Project Home – children and adults alike. Now through December 15 we are collecting NEW pajamas and socks in hopes of providing a fresh, new set to each person staying in the program through the holiday. There are approximately 40 people, children from infant through teenagers, mothers, fathers and grandmothers. Scout the sales now, purchase what you can, and bring the unwrapped gifts to the Sanctuary to stick under the tree (or on the Sanctuary steps if the tree isn't up yet). (Please note – they DO NOT need gloves, mittens, hats or scarves as they already have an abundance that was recently donated, so stick to pajamas and socks.)

Christmas Eve Offering – Project Home Day Center

It has been our tradition to give all undesignated offerings from our Christmas Eve worship service to a non-profit who is doing good works. This year's offering will benefit Project Home's Day Center. In September 2019, Interfaith Action opened Project Home Day Center to serve families who are guests in Project Home shelters and who had been served during the day by The Family Place (which closed on August 31). The day center, located in First Baptist Church in downtown Saint Paul, provides breakfast, lunch and dinner plus an after-school snack for hungry children, a central location where children can meet buses to take them to their schools, lockers, showers, basic hygiene supplies and laundry facilities, education opportunities to build employment skills, and programming and support to help families find stable housing and employment. If you will not be here on Christmas Eve, you may make a donation by writing out a check to Edgumbe with "Christmas Eve Mission" in the memo line.

Serving a Meal at the Day Center

Although a date isn't set yet, it would be nice if we could organize this as a mission project for after the new year. The Day Center seeks volunteers to serve lunch or dinner on the weekends for the families at their new Project Home Day Center. Each team

creates the menu, provides the food, prepares the meal, dines with the families, and cleans up afterwards. If this is something that interests you, contact Eleta and let her know: eleta.pierce@gmail.com

To learn more about Project Home, the Day Center, and all that Interfaith Action does, visit this website: <https://interfaithaction.org/programs/projecthome/>

COMING UP

- **Nov. 24:** This is the date to get your Stewardship pledge cards into the offering or church office.
- **Nov. 28:** Thanksgiving Day Gratitude Meeting at 10am in the church sanctuary, sponsored by Highland AA. Ruth Anderson is organizing food hospitality of simple desserts, coffee & apple cider. If you can help host our AA friends on that day, please talk to Ruth.
- **Dec. 1:** Advent Brunch and Decorating. During worship on this Sunday, we will sit around tables for a potluck brunch, followed by decorating the sanctuary for the Christmas season.

NEW MEMBER EXPLORATION CLASS

If you are interested in attending a class to explore membership at Edgcumbe Church, please talk to either Pastor or any Elder (Eleta, Jay, Fred, Meredith, or Connie). The date for the class has not yet been set, but will probably be after worship on a Sunday morning.

BABY GRAND

We are now looking to upgrade our sanctuary piano from the current studio piano to a 5-7 foot, high quality baby grand piano. If you would be willing to help with this endeavor, or if you know of someone who is getting rid of or selling such a piano, please talk to our Music Director, Jenya Trubnikava (jenya.trubnikava@gmail.com)

TWO CONCERTS

Some folks from EPC have concerts coming up. Here are details:

Songs of the Season, sponsored by the Schubert Club

December 19 at 7pm at Central Presbyterian Church, 500 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55101

Featuring PETER MAYER (and Leslie Snow will be in the choir of back-up singers for Peter!)

Rebel Girls-highlighting amazing women throughout the ages, with the Twin Cities Women's Choir

November 23 at 7:00 pm at Roseville Lutheran Church, 1215 Roselawn Ave.

Tickets are on line at HervoiceProductions.org. Both Lisa and Shelley Holden sing with the TC Women's Choir

SESSION UPDATE

The November Session meeting opened with a reflection on community from Elder Fred. Referencing 1 Cor 12, verses 25-27, we looked at how community was not about uniformity or being homogenous, but more like a patchwork quilt. In the Body of Christ each part is honored and rejoiced in!

Church matters that were discussed were:

- Getting bids for new flooring for the kitchen and area leading into the kitchen as well as a hallway area. We have one bid and we need one or two more.
- Finalizing a new lease agreement for Highland AA, as their lease is up in 2019
- Ideas about putting our need for a piano on social media (Fred is on it) and the thought that people can have their pianos appraised and take a tax write off.
- Discussed proposed times for Christmas Eve Service, without conclusion
- Project Mission and Christmas Eve offering going to the Project Home Day Center
- Session talked about the possibility of adding the role of Facilities Manager, to help with getting bids for work to be done, coordination facilities improvements, etc.
- Pertaining to the Back Woods- we thought it might be good to have a more organized way for folks to volunteer to work come Spring
- We had some discussion about ways we as individuals can come together to get to know each other better. We have so much depth and integrity- how do we share this with each other and the larger community?
- Conversation about additional ways to involve Elders and others in the work of the church
- Per her request, Bonnie Lonbaken was removed from the Active Members list.
- Dan Froelich was also removed from the Active Members list
- We began a conversation about staff salaries