

Edgumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

January 15, 2020

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WHY CHURCH?

One definition of church that I like is very simple: Church is the place where we practice love. We practice both receiving love and sharing love with each other. We practice being radically FOR each other because God is FOR each of us. As the Apostle Peter says in Acts 10: I am really learning that God does not show partiality to one group of people over another. Since so many voices in our world and in our heads push us to protect ourselves, to decide who is IN and who is OUT, then we need a place to practice non-partiality, a place to strengthen the muscles of Unconditional Positive Regard, a place to let down the guard around our own hearts and practice Christ-like love.

Because if we aren't practicing love, then we will be learning other habits. Habits like blame or shame or isolation or numbing or arguing or judging or pontificating or hoarding or avoiding. Habits like greed or pride or envy or lust or anger or hate or indifference or fear. Why Church? Because at church we take a moment to re-learn who we really are: God's beloved. And then we practice. Not with test dummies but with real live human beings. With ourselves, present and hungry for healing.

EPC EVENTS COMING UP

- Every Tuesday: **Contemplative Prayer** at 3pm in Sanctuary. Every meeting is open to Centering Prayer beginners, so consider giving it a try.
- Sunday, Jan. 19: **New Member Exploration Class** after worship—lunch included!
- Sunday, Jan. 26: **Bible Study** at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary.
- Sunday, Feb. 9: **Annual Meeting** with potluck brunch.

FLOORING

A note from Treasurer Ron Eggert: The asphalt tiled floor in the library, hallway, kitchen and nursery school sleep/play room is breaking up and needs to be renewed. The project includes new tiles and abatement of the asbestos mastic. We are taking bids and the approximate cost for both abatement and new flooring will be \$15-20,000. EPC has enough money in its rainy day Vanguard account to cover the cost, but I think it would be prudent to keep the Vanguard funds for a true emergency. All will be grateful to those willing to help. Please put 'tile flooring' on the memo line of your check. Thank you, Ron

JANUARY SESSION UPDATE

Hello Congregation! This is Elder Connie with info about the latest Session Meeting on January 9. The highlights were as follows:

- We began with a reflection from Elder Jay. He led us in readings from 1st and 2nd Corinthians and then gave us these questions to answer: "In what ways am I slave or free or feel separated from the Body of Christ?" and "In what ways do I recognize that I am being Transformed?" Beautiful sharing resulted.
- Phil and Ron filled us in on quotes from two flooring companies to replace old flooring. We will be going ahead with removal of old, cracked flooring and abatement of any asbestos along with the new flooring. More info will be provided as this takes shape.
- Our Treasurer Ron walked us through the budget. Things look financially positive both looking back at 2019 and ahead to 2020. We may ask for extra donations to help with the flooring project.
- The new member class is set for Jan 19th after worship service with lunch provided by Elders. If you would like to attend, please talk to Phil, Julie, or any Elder.
- We discussed a surprising and wonderful gift of \$500 from the Presbytery. This was a gift recognizing our commitment to living out Matthew 25's call to be a church of action and mercy in the world. They saw our work partnering with First Presbyterian Church of South St Paul in helping support the Project Home ministry as a way we respond to that Matthew 25 call to love and serve the community. The money will go to Project Home along with our Christmas Offering.
- We discussed the Annual Meeting coming up on Feb 9th and how it should be moderated this year. Also discussed was how to give information to the congregation about the Pastoral Terms of Call. We decided that we would hold the meeting after worship with a potluck lunch.
- Julie talked about the Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations program that she and Phil are involved in (a Board of Pensions program about fiscal health). There is a component where the congregation can participate--that will happen Tuesday Feb 25th from 6-9pm with a meal provided.

- Also discussed was Phil's desire to do a Game Night (or day!) with crafts and or handy projects where people could come together to do work around the church. With food. And laughter.

That is ALOT of information! I am so blessed to be a part of such a strong, vibrant, loving community! Connie