



Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update **January 19, 2022**

In this issue: *Butterflies painting by Audrey Carlson*, Spiritual Gifts, Worship this Sunday, Annual Mtg, Backwood's team, January mission, Session Report, New Exhibit & Artist Statement by Audrey Carlson

Spiritual Gifts

As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12, "A demonstration of the Holy Spirit is given to each one for the common good." Notice the three main insights of that one sentence of scripture.

1. It is the Holy Spirit who is at work in us. We don't create our spiritual gifts—instead we receive (or reject) them from the Spirit.
2. Everyone is given the Holy Spirit! If we open our eyes and hearts, then we can see the Spirit's gifts everywhere—in the world, in every person we meet, and in ourselves.
3. The Spirit gives us gifts for the "common good." Am I using the gifts I have been given to support and bring goodness in every way that I can.

Finally, notice please that the way that God interacts with each one of us is not to judge us. It is to give us gifts, to give us life, to give us freedom. Holy Spirit, you be in my mind.

Worship THIS Sunday, January 23

Worship this week through at least Sunday, February 6, will be on Zoom for everyone. The link to the Zoom room is on the church website: www.epchurch.org.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held on two different Sundays, after the regular church service, both of which will be on Zoom. On **January 30, 2022**, the meeting will focus on the budget and the Pastor's Terms of Call and on **February 6, 2022**, the focus will be on the various committee reports and celebrating the life of the church. The Terms of Call portion will be guest moderated by Elder Jay McGregor with an assist from treasurer Ron Eggert.

We hope to have the 2021 Annual Report ready to send out to the congregation by the end of this week.

Backwood's Listening and Discernment team

we are moving into a new chapter with our backwoods as more interest is being generated in using the space. i would value gathering with people who will be willing to pray and listen for language for articulating the **purpose, intention, and mission** of the backwood spaces. maybe we'd even hear a name come for the spaces-who knows?!?! if this conversation holds interest for you, please speak with pastor luna by this sunday, january 23rd.

January Mission: Angelie Ryah

The January Mission Focus is the work that our own Angelie Ryah is involved with in Southern California. Belong Farms is an organization that works to provide gardens which produce fresh, organic produce for low income families at the Mexico/US border. Healing Hands Garden is Angelie's baby, and it's been created right in a food desert of a Southern California neighborhood. Besides providing healthy food, the garden has created community in the form of health education, cooking classes and Spanish/English practice groups.

Angelie will be joining our Zoom worship THIS SUNDAY, January 16, to provide more details and to explain about their need for funds. This is such a great cause; the mission group hopes you will feel generous in your January mission giving. You can donate online at the EPC website, or leave a check at the church. Thanks!!

January Session Report

From Elder Jay: Rich offered a devotion centered on his personal New Year's resolution, to better value and manage his time. Rich offered, as our example, the minimalist approach in which Jesus walked through life. Rich shared that his take was that spending time with others/with God would be the fruit of this work. Rich shared that he expects that time spent in prayer and praise would also result from being focused and intentional about the ways in which he spends his time, eliminating some of the passive ways in which his time is spent, i.e. television, watching sports etc. Very rich sharing resulted from Rich's devotional.

Ron Eggert presented the Final 2022 budget, Session approved the budget and it will be included in the Annual Report for the congregation. One highlight was illuminated by Pastor Phil, which was that we received more than we spent even though AA and Montessori rent was less due to Covid realities.

The Pastors' forthcoming sabbatical was discussed to include some early discussion of plans for financial support of their sabbatical and for the reimbursement of guest clergy.

The Congregational Roll was discussed and approved, reporting 32 active members, 15 Friends of EPC, and 5 baptized members.

2021 Annual Statistical Report was presented. Meredith has done wonderful work in compiling these statistics over the course of the year. This report was approved and it will be provided to the Office of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) on behalf of EPC.

During Pastors' report, Pastor Luna shared that she is still engaged in a year long practice in letting the Holy Spirit guide her. She invited Session to be thinking about how they want to be in service to the congregation during their sabbatical. She added that as the backwood is getting noticed more, there are opportunities for conversations about how we might further use the backwoods. Pastor Luna would like to invite folks into this conversation and prayer. Pastor Luna finished by reporting that Highland High will be doing their IB testing in our church again this year!

Pastor Phil said that the past use of the backwoods has sparked added interest and connections, citing the example of the acting community in the twin cities. Pastor Phil said that he was personally touched with how we held and celebrated Dave Roush. He added that it was a beautiful mirroring of our congregation to hear the responses from Dave's family. Phil also offered an update on the pending tree work in the front of the church, which will include removal of the giant Basswood from the southwest corner of the sanctuary and trimming the Oaks in the south lawn. Pastor Phil was excited about the start of the Enneagram group, which included the entire GebbenGreen family!

New Art Exhibit at ArtPlayce: Audrey Carlson

We are super excited for the show just installed in ArtPlayce by Audrey Carlson. Audrey started connecting with Edgcumbe Presbyterian while her mother, Deb Carlson, was the Director of Music. Audrey, 22, is now an Elementary Education and Special Education Double Major at UW Eau Claire, and student teaching this spring. Her passion for painting exploded her senior year of highschool and has grown immensely since then! She reports: "I have so many canvases... sooo... many.... Canvases." She also says, "We have our 4 pet chickens whom I am attempting to raise as my mom did with our first round of girls; chicken meditation/therapy, lots cuddles, singalongs, you name it!!" The butterflies painting at the beginning of the Midweek Email is one of the paintings on exhibit. You are welcome to come to the church building at any time to enjoy her exhibit. Please take a moment to read her Artist's Statement included at the

end of the Midweek Email. Thank you to the ArtPlayce co-ordinators, Carol Schweickhardt and



Lisa Holden, for gifting us with amazing art in our community!

Artist Statement by Audrey Carlson

Please take a moment to read our ArtPlayce's Artist Audrey Carlson's Artist's Statement:

As a recovering perfectionist who is figuring out how to purposefully be less perfect, the act of painting shows me that the reason I pick up a brush is hardly ever about the final, tangible, complete work of art. Rather, the journey of creating *anything* allows for the practice of healing, reflection, trial and error, self forgiveness, and perseverance.

The biggest life lesson my artistic endeavors have revealed to me is that if I make a mistake on a painting, I know to wait for it to dry, reassess if it really was a mistake (or, maybe, strangely it was meant to be), and then paint over it. In this short life, mistakes and all, you are just as deserving of a life worth *living*. Not frozen, but alive and AWAKE. You are the canvas, the paint brush, the artist. Make those human mistakes. There's nothing in this world you do that can't be painted over, touched up, or simply just an accidental abstract stroke of genius.

My ideas for paintings come to me in visions and find me wherever I go; doodling in class, my windy walk to campus, as I drift off to sleep. Sometimes I'm called to create something based on a poem or the lyrics of a song. For example, In the gallery at EPC now sits a painting called the Old Churchyard, whose

inspiration is from The Wailin' Jenny's version of the traditional english folk song (give it a listen if you are in need of a good cry).

I create art because it brings me peace at the end of my worst days and nights. This is why I find it even more special when people find beauty and meaning in my own creations. This past Christmas Eve I was asked if I'd be interested in sharing my art on the walls of EPC. I was extremely touched, honored, and excited! This would be the first place I'd been able to share a physical collection of my art.

Immediately upon getting home, ideas swirled in my mind and I could see them all coming together. Over the next couple of weeks, I created five original works in which I try to reflect and represent my mom's ever present spirit in the walls of Edgumbe Presbyterian Church. I couldn't help but touch on her impact on so many lives.

Traveling through four canvases is a breath of wind that continues to sing, long after she is gone. Notice a hand, one that with every touch brings the beauty of new growth.

The wake of a life as powerful as hers has left memories to be stored and so many stories to be told. My art, my eyes, my spirit, my voice: this is how I keep her alive. I think this is something I will do forever. Thank you so much for the space to share about my work and the love I have for painting, and my mom, of course. Beyond just the physical pieces on the walls of EPC right now, my art instagram serves as a virtual gallery of sorts! My username is @artwondersbya if you'd like to see more or have an idea for a commission.

Love,
Audrey