

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

June 14, 2023

In this issue: Change, Worship Schedule, Garlic Mustard help, Two Celebrations, June Mission, Session Report

Ch-ch-changes (with a nod to David Bowie)



In Genesis 12, God asks Abraham to leave his land and his family to go to a new land that God will show him. God suggests that God will bless Abraham so abundantly that he will become a blessing to “all the families of the earth.” The text then says, “Abraham left just as the Lord told him. Let’s reflect briefly on some nuggets of life wisdom in this simple text.

- **Change is inevitable.** In the David Bowie song referenced in the title, Bowie sings, “*Ch-ch-changes, pretty soon now you’re gonna get older. Time may change me, but I can’t trace time.*” Most of the time, we get amazingly little input on the changes that happen to us. What we do get to decide is how much we trust. Abraham trusted God and moved. That act of trust changed history. Change may be inevitable, but trust is optional. Am I willing to trust God to guide me through the changes I’m facing right now?
- **God blesses us so that we might be a blessing to others.** Two simple questions: 1) Am I noticing how much I am being blessed today, and 2) Do I allow these blessings to flow through me and bless the people around me? God will bless the world with or without my participation. But entering God’s cycle of blessings makes life so much yummier.
- This whole story in Genesis happens when Abraham is **75 years old**. God doesn’t say, “Abe, you have lived a long and faithful life. Good job, now take it easy.” Where we see retirement, God sees possibility. Where we see aging and slowing down, God sees blessings multiplying. Where we see dying, God sees new life.

Here’s a little exercise to do. Try finishing these sentences. You could even write down your answers.

1. I’m too old to...
2. Edgcumbe Church is too small to...
3. Our society is too messed up to...

Take a moment to look at your answers. Notice what you are feeling in your heart.

Now switch those same prompts around to something like this (feel free to let the Spirit guide your mind to new questions or prayers...):

- A. God, I want you to bless me so that I can be a blessing to others.
- B. Jesus, who do you want me to invite to Edgcumbe church this week? (Or: Jesus, exciting things do envision for our community and what is your assignment to me to help make it happen?)
- C. Spirit, show me how you are blessing every family on the earth right now.

Take another moment to repeat these simple prayers and invitations. Now what are you feeling in your heart? This simple reframing is exactly what Abraham did and what the Spirit offers to us with every change we experience.

*Holy Spirit, you be in charge, and we will follow you,
trusting that your direction leads to peace!!*

Summer Worship Schedule

The EPC session set our worship schedule for this summer. We will plan to meet outside on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Here are the specific dates:

- Outdoor Worship: June 25, July 9 & 23, August 13 & 27

We are getting close! Optimal Time to Harvest Invasive Garlic Mustard



Thank you to the garlic mustard angels Connie, Lisa, Ruth and Leslie this past week! We only have two sections of the backwoods left to harvest the ripening garlic mustard—behind the playground and the quadrant of the labyrinth (the ne section). These plants are continuing to ripen their seed pods, so we truly are at the optimal time to harvest and hope to mitigate their invasiveness. Pastor Luna will be pulling Thursday/tomorrow morning at 7a. If you have the time—please consider joining her. If Thursday morning is not good for you, please reach out to Pastor Luna with your availability!! Or, come on your own and check in with her about the next areas to focus on.....

So grateful for everyone's help!! 🙏

Two Upcoming Celebrations

● **GRADUATION PARTY FOR LILLY LECLAIR**

Lilly LeClair is graduating this year from Central High School, so Lilly and Fred and Belinda are inviting the congregation to her Graduation Celebration on **this Saturday, June 17, 2-5pm at Edgcumbe Church**. The whole congregation is welcome to attend! Lilly's plans for the fall include pursuing history, fine arts, and language studies at Concordia University St Paul. Congratulations Lilly!!

• CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR CAROL SCHWEICKHARDT

Carol's family has set the date for a gathering and celebration of her life. It will be on Friday, July 7, from 2-6pm, at Holman's Table, which is next to the Saint Paul airport. RSVPs are required, so if you would like to attend, please contact Carol's daughter Melissa at melissa.nilsen@gmail.com to receive an invitation.

June Mission

The June mission is Plaster House where the Eggerts volunteered for 7 years, Ingrid as a teacher and Ron as a doctor. Plaster House provides outreach, preoperative care, surgery and postoperative care and rehabilitation for children with cleft lip/palate, hydrocephalus, spina bifida, skeletal fluorosis, club foot, burn scar contracture and osteomyelitis. Over 1000 children were cared for in 2022 for free. Ingrid and Ron will talk about Plaster House on Sunday June 11 during worship.



The Plaster House

June Session Report

Report from Elder Connie:

On Thursday 6/8, elders sat in a circle in the colorful Adirondack chairs on the patio. Rich's devotion was: "When is the 'last time' you did something? When was the 'last time' you were with someone? Often we don't know when it will be 'the last time' (as with our Beloved Carol). Rich enlisted the help of Chat GPT to see what it might come up with from a Christian perspective. The results were beautiful and we had a great discussion! Chat GPT quoted James 4: 41-15 and advised us to Live with an Eternal Perspective by:

- Cherishing each moment
- Loving Deeply (letting go of grudges and forgive others)
- Seek God's Will and
- Make an eternal impact (showing kindness and compassion)

Other Session Business:

APPROVAL of Michelle as a New Elder!!!!

- We discussed what it means to be an elder and how we Trust, Grow, Learn, and Extend Love! Michelle shared that she has felt Welcomed in a genuine way by EPC. She shared that she is excited to share her gifts with this community. HOORAY! Ordination date to be announced. WE ARE BLESSED by Michelle.

FINANCES: Ron reported on our church's finances. Thoughts from elders on finances:

- "Money is Energy".
- Giving is a way of expressing our love and values.

Building and Grounds:

- We have a new Mower deck! No more bouncing around on the riding mower!
- New Trees are planted
- South St Paul Youth are coming to do service in our backwoods (may they be enriched and wood tick free!)
- PTCA clergy are coming to meet in our backyard

Outreach:

- If you are interested in being part of the Outreach Committee, please contact Connie or Todd. We need some folks with energy to help! We want to get the word out about the Love and Healing happening here!

RJAM:

- Phil shared the Presbyteries report on racism that was approved. The Presbytery will be scheduling meetings to talk about the report.

BACKWOODS:

- Come and help pull garlic mustard!!!! It is a joyful and wonderful way to spend some time in nature. If you need a tutorial, Luna can help you with id'ing the plant.

Pastor's Report:

- Phil reported that Lydia's art had been chosen in a competition through Heritage Humanities Fund and that her graduation brings BIG changes to the GebbenGreen household. Congratulations Lydia!!!!