

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update April 26, 2023

In this issue: Seeing Jesus, Future Planning, Backwoods Workdays, April Mission, Prayers

Willing to See Jesus

Our text from last Sunday, Luke 24, tells the story of two people traveling from Jerusalem to Emmaus the evening after Jesus' resurrection. When Jesus himself joins them on their pilgrimage, they don't recognize him. On the one hand, this is completely understandable. They are distraught and disheartened and depressed. Also, Jesus is dead, right?

On the other hand, this story invites us to reimagine our own lives. How willing am I to see Jesus walking alongside me? What is my willingness to see differently, especially when I'm distraught, disheartened, or depressed? Is it possible that this situation in my life that feels like death is actually a story of resurrection?

Our limits are not God's limits. Our judgment and seeing is not God's judgment and seeing. Take a look outside of your window right now. Is your eye drawn to what is wrong, what is dirty, what is unkempt? Or is your eye drawn to the beautiful, the becoming, the miraculous? When God's eye is drawn to you, what is it that you imagine that God sees? What if, when God looks at you, God sees something beautiful, something becoming, someone who is a miracle.

Consider the Future

Since Carol died a couple of weeks ago, I (Phil) have been thinking about how prepared I am, and all of us are, for end of life issues. Here are some reflection questions that come to my mind and heart as I consider my own mortality. Feel free to use or disregard these, as the Spirit leads you.

- ❖ Am I living the life I want to be living right now? Am I ready to let go of anything that is preventing me from following the Spirit into the fullness of my life?
- ❖ Have I talked to my children / loved ones / pastors / whoever-I-need-to about...
 - Medical directives and desires
 - Financial and password details
 - What I want for a memorial service, burial plans, etc
- ❖ Have I put Edgcumbe Church in my estate plans, why or why not?
- ❖ Is there something I would like to say to someone, amends to make, forgiveness to pass along, appreciation to share, love to treasure and acknowledge? Again, am I willing to let go of anything that is preventing me from having such conversations?

You could take a moment to sense within yourself if these questions are bringing up any other questions or wonderings or clarity for you. Please know that Luna and I and the EPC community are here for you. Not just for bowling, but also matters of life and death and passwords. Would it help to have Luna or I present for an end-of-life conversation with your kids (or any kind of conversation with anyone)? That is completely doable. Would it help to hear what other people at church are doing for their end-of-life planning? We can have that conversation.

If you would like to talk about any of these topics or anything at all really, please feel free to contact me or Pastor Luna anytime.

Pastor Phil Away

Pastor Phil's sister, Kathy, is graduating with her MBA from Davenport University in Grand Rapids, Michigan, this coming Sunday, April 30, and Phil is flying to Michigan to celebrate his big sister. This means that Phil will not be present for worship or Bible study this Sunday. It also means that Phil will no longer be the highest educated person in the Gebben family. =)

Get Ready for Our May Mission

In May our mission will be our own Backwoods. We have two workdays scheduled:

- **Monday, May 9, 1:30-4:30**
- **Saturday, May 20, 1-4**

What will we be doing, you ask? Having fun doing Spring clean-up, beginning the removal of invasive species, and hopefully planting a few trees. After last year's badly needed tree removal and trimming, Phil has identified three spots for trees and the kinds of trees we will plant. Which brings us to the second part of the mission. Financial donations will go toward tree purchases. We hope to get trees on the bigger side, which tend to be costly - \$300+ per tree. After that, we will need helpers to water the trees on a regular basis. So lots of opportunities to hang out in the Backwoods coming your way!

Voices of Hope - April Mission

Our April Mission will be Voices of Hope. During April, EPC will collect funds for Voices of Hope so they can continue to bring music and the choral experience to the women at Shakopee and Stillwater.

We had a wonderful visit with Voices of Hope staff during and after worship on April 2, hearing about this moving and exciting work.

Voices of Hope Mission:

To provide accessible music-making opportunities within justice-involved populations that foster individual growth and bridge unlikely communities through song.

Prayers for....

- Lynn Wolf, who has moved into the memory care unit at Presbyterian Homes
Johanna Shores

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

Vincent Hogen	5/5
Pastor Phil	5/7
Belinda Clary	5/9

Happy Anniversary to:

Naomi & Mel Houle	5/21
-------------------	------