

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

October 4, 2023

In this issue: Reflections, Phil gone, 2024 Pledges, Bible study, Pop Up Centering Prayer this Friday (note correction of day), Zoom Book Study, October Mission (photo: Bow Lake, Banff)



Reflections from Pastor Phil

On Luna's and my trip to Canada, I learned a few life lessons that I talked about this past Sunday.

- DON'T BE AFRAID TO BE A LITTLE CRAZY. We were trying to end up in Prince Albert Saskatchewan for an Enneagram Prison Project class. The day before we left, we decided to add an extra 1200 miles to our trip and go to the Canadian Rockies. Spending time in the mountains was so worth the extra time and driving. **Is there something in your life or in the life of EPC where you are being called to go beyond the reasonable expectation and dream bigger with God?**
- A LITTLE DISORIENTATION IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL. While in Canada we needed to adjust to dozens of small changes: Kilometers not miles, French on the signs, different people and languages and cultures. When things are different then we are invited to see new things, to notice different people, to be reminded that reality is not set in stone but is what we make of it. We can ask ourselves, **Am I being asked to change something in my daily routine or in my thinking to make room for something new?**
- SOMETIMES A LOT OF DISORIENTATION IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL. Teaching in the Pine Grove jail was hard and often disheartening. We had a great class, but the penal system in Canada is as stressed as the penal system here in the US—with epidemic staff shortages, overcrowding, legal hurdles, inhumane living conditions, rampant mental health and addiction issues, etc, affecting every inmate. In the midst of these profound structural challenges, the women in our class showed up with as much grace and willingness and hope as they could muster. It was truly inspiring. They reminded me that essential goodness in every human being goes deeper than any challenge or hurt or

injustice or trauma or story. Are you experiencing a profound reorientation right now—sickness, grief, injustice, change of circumstance, new insight, forgiveness opportunity? **Am I willing to surrender my anxiety to God and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, trusting that the Spirit's way leads to peace?**

Pastor Phil Returns to Pine Grove Jail

The Enneagram Prison Project course that Phil started at Pine Grove jail in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan two weeks ago finishes up this week. Phil will be flying to and from Saskatoon on Tuesday-Friday. Let us keep Phil, the co-guides and the women of the class in our hearts and prayers this week!

2024 Pledges - Please turn in as soon as possible

Thank you to everyone that has already turned in their pledge card. If you have not had a chance to turn in your pledge, please see the note below from Treasurer Ron Eggert and turn in the collection plate this Sunday. Thank you!

Session is asking our members to pledge early this year. EPC is facing a significant budget shortfall in the next calendar year. The shortfall comes about because the St. Paul Conservatory is moving into a permanent home elsewhere and because of reduced pledges due member deaths during this past year. If expenses and income in 2024 are equal to 2023, the shortfall will be around \$30,000 or about 1/6th of our total budget. The reason for the early pledge request is so Session will know how much income we will have and will have an extra month to consider alternatives. (We do have a small reserve fund but I think it would be imprudent to use it to fill a budget gap: it is meant for emergencies). If we do need to cut back next year, it will likely be in personnel as building costs are fixed. Pledge cards are in the back of the Sanctuary: Please fill one out and leave it in the collection plate by Sunday, October 1st. Call me 651-998-9450 or ask me at church if you have questions. Ron Eggert, Treasurer

Bible Study

The Bible Study Zoom continues this Sunday at 6:30 PM. If you want to be added (or removed) from the Bible Study email list to receive the texts on Sunday afternoon, then please write to Phil at pastorphilgg@gmail.com.

Centering Prayer: notice correction of date

Centering Prayer Pop up at EPC: The Tuesday Centering Prayer group will be hosting a Pop Up Centering Prayer Gathering in the backyard on **Friday, October 6th at 3:00p**. Please come (even if you have never done Centering Prayer)- ALL ARE WELCOME!

Zoom Book Study– When Church Stops Working: The Church in a Time of Crisis

MULTIPLE EVENTS:

Virtual Book Study with TE Libby Shannon, October 11 & 18, 2023 7:00pm-8:30pm
Workshop, Dinner & Conversation at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church,
Oct. 25, 2023

What if the solution for the decline of today's church isn't more money, people, programs, innovation, or busyness? What if the answer is to stop and wait on God? Using clear steps and practices, this book invites church leaders to stop the endless cycle of doing more and instead simply "be" in God's presence. The book offers affirmation, encouragement, and empowerment for leaders and churchgoers who may be feeling burned out or hopeless that church doesn't seem to "work" like it used to. Instead it invites a stance of receptivity to what God may do in and through us when the church stops working.

This book is available on Amazon [HERE](#)
or anywhere you buy books.

Presbytery-Wide Book Read hosted by Executive Presbyter Libby Shannon

Join us for a virtual book discussion on Zoom (please register for one or both.)

[Wednesday, Oct. 11 at 7:00pm - Register Here](#) Chapters 1-4 discussion

[Wednesday, Oct. 18 at 7:00pm - Register Here](#) Chapters 5-8 discussion

Once you register you will be sent a link to the book read. If you register for both, you will receive two different links.

Presbytery Event:

Workshop with Andy Root - "Church in a Time Crisis"

Wednesday, October 25, 5:30-8:30 pm. Dinner, Presentation by Andy Root and Conversation.

This will be a hybrid event, including Zoom availability. Reading the book ahead is NOT required for participation in the workshop.

[FIND OUT MORE AND RSVP FOR THIS EVENT.](#)

Please note that LNPC will also be hosting a book read for their members on the same dates as EP Libby Shannon; if you aren't an LNPC member do please sign up for the book read with Libby.

October Mission – Peace and Global Witness

October Mission: Peace and Global Witness Offering

At Edgumbe, the Mission Team for 2023 designated 100% of October's mission gifts to the international effort for peacemaking and reconciliation at PCUSA {Presbyterian Church USA}. We'll share stories of the many efforts here in the newsletter and with moments for mission in worship.

One focus this year is on the upheaval of climate change in the South Pacific Islands and the resulting forced migration from family farms in the low-lying islands. On some islands, as many as 45% of residents have been displaced. This migration means families that lived for generations on the islands are moving both inland and to other islands that increasingly have food and shelter shortages, as well as no way to grow sustaining crops.

The Mission Agency of PCUSA has international and domestic peacemakers {such as Maina Talia below} working with displaced islanders and their neighbors, who often resent the migration of those displaced. He is successful in securing early warning systems for cyclones, hurricanes and tsunamis, and working to increase food and shelter in the Islands.



Please consider a mission donation to support Peacemaking and Global Witness during October. You can indicate "Peacemaking" or "October Mission" on the memo line with a check, or on the Give Now application from www.epchurch.org website. Thanks for your support!