

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

October 18, 2023

In this issue: The Good, 2024 Budget, Session Report, Zoom Book Study, October Mission

The Good, the Good, & the Good

Most people are familiar with the classic Western, “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly” and its famous musical theme ([LINK here](#)). The title makes intuitive sense to most of us. Sometimes life feels pretty good, but it’s hard to miss all the violence and greed and suffering and injustice. Websites and newspapers right now are running articles with headlines like, “Tend to Wellness in the Barrage of Bad News.”

The Apostle Paul is not naive about “the Bad and the Ugly.” But he does propose a radical approach to life when he writes (in Philippians 4):

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice! Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

I’ve joked with complete seriousness in the past that Paul’s (and Jesus’!) approach to life is to see the Good, the Good, and the Good. In the big, big picture, choosing to see the good in every situation is saying to ourselves, “Life is not happening TO me, life is happening FOR me. Holy Spirit, I am open to whatever you are trying to teach me right now.” This stance is a radical departure from our more-typical responses to life’s challenges of hurt and shame and anger, leading to anxiety and internal spinning and the impulse to control. Todd Barnes said to me last week that he regularly uses this question in his own life, “What if all I see is the Good, and the Good, and the Good?” Then he added, “Pastor, not once has it let me down.” Give it a try today. Join Paul and Jesus and Todd and take any situation that is bringing you fear or shame or anger, and see if God’s good news is waiting to bless you right now.

2024 Budget Update

Silver Screen Classics Series
313 7th Street, Hoquiam WA 98550
www.7thstreettheatre.com
509 537-7400

The Good,
the Bad
and the Ugly

Clint Eastwood, Eli Wallach, Lee Van Cleef

Mar 2, 7:30 & Mar 3, 2:00

1969's original theatrical release

Tickets only \$6

Thanks to our Sponsors:
Advanced Heating & Air, Inc.,
Rick Anderson, Coleman Machinery, Inc.,
Jeff Cook and Becky Walsh, Estes Timber,
Phillip and Colleen Hull,
Lytle Seafoods, The Fasho Group,
Wonderland Childcare Centers,
Alpha Media Grays Harbor,
and Jodesha Broadcasting.

Tickets available at:
City Drug, Crown Drug,
Harbor Drug,
7thStreetTheatre.com,
and at our box office 1/2 hour
before the show.

Posters courtesy of Aberdeen Office Equipment
Designed by Ginger Akers (2019)

Thank you to everyone who turned in their pledges. With many members increasing their pledges and Highland AA increasing their rent, we now have a balanced budget for 2024. Thanks be to God. Copies of the budget will be available as always at the Annual Meeting early in 2024.

Do Not Be Anxious About Anything

October Session Report

Devotion: The October Session meeting began with devotions by Pastor Phil with a focus on Philippians 4:6-7 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." What should you be focusing on in the coming week that you can bring to God, by prayer and petition, in order to experience the un-understandable peace of God?

Building and Grounds: A meeting was held with AA leadership this past week and they have agreed to increase their monthly rent payment by \$300 a month starting in November. They also provided a one-time check to EPC from their reserve fund. "Do not be anxious ...". There are about 500 individual visits per month to our building for various AA meetings.

Worship and Arts: Lisa and Meredith are leading the Art Playce ministry that provides the wonderful artwork that is in the sanctuary and sometimes spreads into our hallways. Copies of the book "When Church Stops Working: The Church in a Time of Crisis" were distributed to Session members for reading and future discussion. See more about this book and a local book study group in the Midweek Updates.

Sunday worship will be in person (with zoom links) for all of the Sundays this Fall and Winter . Zoom-only services will only be used when the weather makes it difficult to get to the church building safely.

Christmas worship service will be on Sunday December 24th at 4 PM. There will be no Sunday morning service on December 24th.

Financial Report and 2024 Budget: Pledges made by all of you folks in the last few weeks have been tallied and our 2024 budget is sound. We appreciate how all folks stepped up to support EPC going into next year. A major budget shortfall was anticipated, as discussed in previous midweek updates, but this shortfall is no longer expected with your generous pledges. Thank you, thank you, thank you. "Do not be anxious about anything..."

Session is also looking into applying for some Grants from the Presbytery for special projects in the near future.

Pastor Reports: Phil and Luna will be attending the "Spiral Dynamics: An Integral Approach to Spiritual Development" retreat this coming Friday and Saturday (Oct 20 and 21). While they are gone, please contact an elder (Connie, Jay, Todd, Ingrid, Michelle, or Rich) for any pastoral matters.

Respectfully submitted by Rich

Zoom Book Study—When Church Stops Working

MULTIPLE EVENTS:

>Virtual Book Study with TE Libby Shannon, Oct 18, 2023 7:00pm-8:30pm

>Workshop & Dinner 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. 18 at 7:00pm - Register Here](#) Chapters 5-8 discussion

Once you register you will be sent a link to the book read.

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.](#)

October Mission – Peace and Global Witness

At Edgcumbe, 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're sharing stories of the many efforts here in the newsletter and with moments for mission in worship.



Doug Dicks: Associate for Ecumenical Partnerships in [Israel and Palestine](#), serving with St. Andrew's Scots Memorial Church in Jerusalem and other partners in the region

These past several weeks, our prayers and hearts have been focused on Palestine and Israel. Doug Dicks

{above} has been a facilitator for education, justice and peacemaking in Israel and Palestine. He is one of 15 international peacemakers currently supported by the Peace and Global Witness Offering. Doug's extensive experience in the region as a PC(USA) regional liaison for Israel, Palestine and Jordan, mission co-worker, and peacemaking consultant and facilitator furthers his capacity to educate PC(USA) groups on the realities of the churches' witness in the region.

The Israeli developments, have contributed to a large exodus of Christians from Palestine. In 1920, about a tenth of the Palestinian population was Christian, but now estimates place the Christian population at around 1 percent. Despite declining numbers, the Christians of Palestine contribute a significant voice to the cause of reconciliation and peace in the Middle East.

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 *epchurch.org* website. Thanks for your support!