



SUMMER 2018

THE ELK GROVE PRES PRESS

VOLUME 4

BLESSINGS FROM DEXTER

“Living a Spirited Life” ... that’s the name I’ve given to our next sermon series starting June 3. That Sunday is designated as the 2nd Sunday after Pentecost and we will be into what’s called the Season of Pentecost which will run between June 3 and November 18 when we move into the Season of Advent. This season is also called “Ordinary Time” and is the longest season of the liturgical year.

“Ordinary Time.” Sounds rather routine doesn’t it? But wait. What’s “ordinary” about the season following the Holy Spirit having come on Pentecost, filling the disciples with God’s power and sending them out to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel? What’s “ordinary” about that Good News spreading around the world, bringing new life and hope to people who may have lived for generations in oppressive circumstances? What’s “ordinary” about people hearing that they are loved and valued by a Holy God -- people who may have been told for generations that they were of no inherent value, that their only value came from the use they were to others – the rich and powerful?

The Season of Pentecost -- is it really “Ordinary Time”? In one sense, of course not, because God’s love given to us and the world in Jesus Christ is absolutely extraordinary. But, in another sense, it is “ordinary”. Because understanding and living in that love of God only becomes meaningful and real and powerful for us as we allow it to be at work in our day-to-day lives. And, there are days we may feel filled with joy and peace, surrounded with love and seemingly touched by angels. But, there are also other days – often filled with difficulties and defeats, pain and loss. It can be those kind of hard days that can seem like the “ordinary”

And, it is only if we can be open and accepting of the message that God is present in all of that – both the wonderful highs and the painful lows – only then can “Living a Spirited Life” become more than a cute phrase. God wants us to know that His Holy Spirit – that gentle breeze and that howling wind – will be with us through it all. That’s the message of the Gospel. That’s our hope in all of life. Thanks be to God.

*EGPC reaches out to those who are “not yet followers” of Jesus as well as believers.
We are an open and accepting congregation.
ALL ARE WELCOME!*

WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT

On Sunday, March 4, 2018, EGPC celebrated the reception of new members into its community of faith. Sandy Matranga Brown joined us by Letter of Transfer. Joining through Reaffirmation of faith were: Janice Baze, Merrilee Engel and Doris Williams. Simon Engel was Baptized and joined through Profession of Faith.



EGPC'S NEWEST MEMBERS

SANDY MATRANGA BROWN:

Sandy previously attended another local church for about 9 months but said it never felt like a church home. She became disillusioned with their lack of inclusion for all people. Sandy discovered EGPC on "YELP" and found it to be very welcoming. She is a local girl – growing up in Sacramento and Orangevale where she enjoyed riding horses. Current hobbies include reading, light gardening and spending time with her grandson. She feels extra blessed when her 3 granddaughters visit from Washington. Sandy gives thanks for her amazing husband, children, grandchildren and the world they are growing up in.

JANICE BAZE: Janice moved to Elk Grove about 6 years ago to be closer to family. She was invited to visit EGPC by Lorna Uno. Janice and Lorna had attended the same church in Hanford, California. In fact, Lorna had been the Sunday school teacher for Janice's daughter many years earlier. Janice said she immediately felt comfortable in the EGPC congregation. Janice enjoys sewing, cross-stitching and spending time with her dog, Maggie. She feels so thankful for her faith as it has truly brought her through some difficult times. She gives thanks for her very loving and supportive family and friends.

NEWEST MEMBERS (Continued)

DORIS WILLIAMS: Doris was born and raised in Ghana in western Africa. She emigrated to the United States in 1985 and moved to Elk Grove in March of 2017. She discovered EGPC a week later while on a walk. She saw the church, went inside and had a chat with Pastor Dexter. She has felt welcomed ever since and finds EGPC to be a place of comfort. Doris enjoys dressmaking and pattern making, reading, visual art, as well as health and fitness activities. Priorities in her life currently include having a good understanding of scripture, friendship and learning new things.

SIMON AND MERRILEE ENGEL: Simon grew up in a Hungarian family, came to Canada for his education then moved to the USA in 1968. Merrilee was born in Utah and grew up in Indiana and Illinois. She graduated from the University of Illinois. They discovered EGPC

through Vespers. Simon was impressed with the friendly and energetic members of this congregation, the family atmosphere, the sermons and the **SUPER** minister. Merrilee stated the EGPC motto – “Thinking, Nurturing, Serving” struck a chord with her and continues to do so. Simon and Merrilee enjoy spending time outdoors -- especially at their property in the foothills. They both enjoy learning new things. Merrilee reads extensively (novels, history and archaeology). She utilizes the Great Courses when she is on the treadmill. Simon’s hobbies consist of photography, playing music, and ongoing learning about his technical specialty. He is also continuing his knowledge about Christian values and life. They both are focused on simplifying their life and de-stressing. EGPC has helped them rethink what is important and share it with others in our community.



Let us welcome each of these new members into our faith community and give thanks for the opportunities we will have to unite with them in worship and fellowship.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Ed and Elsie Sellman celebrated 68 years of marriage on April 1, 2018. Their love story began at a Sunday school picnic. Ed was in the Merchant Marines and after his ship returned from sea and was decommissioned, they were married in New York. They are the parents of 4 children, grandparents to 3 and have 2 great grandchildren. Many congratulations and continued blessings to this inspirational couple.



Beautiful alter flowers commemorated the 24th anniversary of Peter and Nancy Gaffney on April 29, 2018. This lovely couple met via a personal ad back in 1993. Their first date was at the Tower Café in Sacramento on an unforgettable Saturday morning. The rest, as they say, is history! Wishing this perfect pair many more memories together.



A WORD ABOUT WORSHIP – Diane Lowe

THE LORD'S SUPPER: After experiencing exceptional worship opportunities during the church seasons of Advent and Lent, we moved comfortably into our familiar worship services throughout the year. It's easy to slip into routine when it comes to attending church and receiving Holy Communion.

At EGPC, the Eucharist is offered on the first Sunday of each month during morning worship service. It can become routine: Stand, move forward by rows, not too closely to the person in front of you, take bread hearing the words "*The body of Christ given for you.*" Dip the bread in juice while hearing the words "*The blood of Christ given for you,*" return to your seat and watch others receive The Lord's Supper.

In a routine, we can often find our thoughts drifting away from what a blessing and joyful opportunity the Eucharist is and what a serious matter it is for us as Christ's followers. The worship liturgy moves us toward a posture of being prepared to receive Communion – from Confession and Absolution to a sermon equally filled with Law and Gospel.

What if we break the routine by intentionally concentrating on the profound privilege we are about to receive as we make our way toward the Communion Table? What if after reception we take a personal moment to meditate on the extraordinary event that has taken place?

May we always be immensely grateful for such an incredible privilege and not let it become just a customary habit.

EURCHARIST – BEHIND THE SCENES: Whether it is called The Lord's Supper, Eucharist, or Holy Communion, the event is an extraordinary privilege for Christians around the world and over the centuries. What preparation takes place at EGPC to bring the incomparable opportunity to us on the first Sunday of each month?

- Volunteers use the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to designate dates of their choice to serve as Communion Assistants.
- *Printed guidelines of detailed protocols are available to volunteers.*
- *On Saturday prior to Communion Sunday, Dale Chilcoat prepares the Communion Table and Mary Arnett takes care of worship set-up.*
- *A designated Deacon arranges the purchase and preparation of the elements of bread and juice.*
- *Early Sunday morning the elements are placed in special receptacles on the Communion Table.*
- *Lead Communion Assistant, Lorna Uno, confirms the Communion Assistants are in place.*
- *Pastor Dexter dons a clerical robe and stole to emphasize the importance of Holy Communion.*
- *The Worship liturgy includes our congregation stating The Apostles' Creed as our declaration of belief.*

All interested persons are encouraged to take a copy of *Communion Assistant Guidelines* to review procedures and sign-up as volunteers to assist with serving Communion. Speak to Lorna Uno about making Communion Assistant your personal ministry of service.

A MINUTE FOR MISSION – TERRI BACON

By now you have probably found a few treasures to donate to the church yard sale in support of our Honduras project. Thank you! We will happily receive your donations after church on Sunday, June 3rd or between 10:00 and 12:00 on Monday the 4th or Tuesday the 5th. Other times may be arranged. Want to help? Let me know by email baconazca@surewest.net or phone 916-670-7128. The sale runs from 8:00 AM -2:00 PM on Saturday, June 9th, at Elk Grove Presbyterian Church. Please fill your car with friends and neighbors and come enjoy the search for that perfect something!

Proceeds will be used to help build a school at Via Soleada in Honduras.

SHAVUOT – Judy Lewis

Shavuot means 5 weeks after Passover and Pentecost is the Greek word for the same celebration.



Shavuot was the second time Israelites were commanded to appear before God in the temple in Jerusalem. Passover being the first celebration to be honored in Jerusalem and Shavuot the second.

Shavuot was a two-fold celebration, the first part being agricultural and harvesting the first fruits or harvest of wheat. They made two wave loaves, brought to the temple for each family, grinding it to the finest flour and adding leaven back into the bread. The second part of the celebration was the giving of the law on Mount Sinai and

basically is the birthday of Judaism. Likewise, Pentecost is also celebrated as the birthday of the church when Peter and the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke to the people telling them of the wonderful news of the Gospel.

Community Outreach Thoughts – Mike Van De Pol

As our church logo displays, we are a thinking, seeking, nurturing and serving fellowship. We worship and praise God, and serve others in an environment of love, hope, peace, inclusiveness and acceptance. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives. We strive to reach out to others, by using God-given spirit, time, talents and resources. We strive to serve those who are challenged in life and need a helping hand from a friend. We reach out to local and global communities through a multitude of church programs and activities.



The Community Outreach team is composed of congregation members like you, with different life experiences. We have all been on different faith journeys to our church and our Lord. We feel that we can use these life and spiritual experiences and resources, to help others with their challenges.

The Community Outreach Team works with the church Mission, Worship and Nurturing teams to touch as many people as possible in our community. Our mission and vision is to reach out, touch and serve our community, share the joy and spirit of Jesus Christ with others and make our church's presence known, so that others may join us as a fellowship in Christ.

The outreach team has been involved with many important church programs and activities. Some of these include community service and outreach events, community festivals and parades, student and family assistance programs, food distribution programs, homeless assistance programs and partnerships with other churches.

We have tried to make our church known in the community through advertising, flyer and brochure distributions, special event promotions and chamber of commerce participation. For our church to continue to reach out to the community in a positive and valuable way, while making our presence known as a church, we need your assistance. We need your spirit, thoughts, ideas and commitment. Please consider helping this valuable ministry team. No matter what your experiences, resources and talents are, God can inspire you to use those to serve Him, by helping others. Please contact Mike Van De Pol if you wish to Participate. All are welcome. Thank you and God bless.

MAY FESTIVAL FUN

Fellowship, music, food, fun, family and goats! What images we will cherish from this special day. Kudos are extended to Merrilee and Simon Engel for hosting the first-ever May Festival for EGPC. And, special thanks goes to Virginia Ayers-Dawson and the amazingly talented musicians for sharing their musical and choreographic gifts. Simon indicated that he and Merrilee felt blessed to host this event and spend time with their EGPC family. Those feelings and blessings are multiplied many times over from all who attended.



**UPCOMING SUMMER EVENTS –
MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB: On the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, beginning June 12th, we will be studying James Michener's book, *THE SOURCE*. Michener will transport us back thousands of years to the Holy Land. The first chapter will be discussed at the June 12th gathering. Please contact Judy Lewis for more details on this new opportunity for study.

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC: Saturday, June 23

At the home of Judy and Gene Hironimus.

A head count is needed so please sign-up!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY: JULY 31 (TUESDAY) – 5:30 Pot Luck Dinner – Sue Bristow's Home.

EVENING OF ART AUGUST 24, 2018 – Hosted by Dale Chilcoat

Did you know that a medieval artist could lose his head for painting the Virgin Mary showing any suggestion of a female body under the robes she wore? Or, that Vincent Van Gogh, one of the world's most beloved painters, studied to be a pastor. It's impossible to study the history of European art without a discussion of the Bible. Dale will share the history of religion in art and show examples of the work of artists like Michelangelo, Leonardo de Vinci and more contemporary painters like Van Gogh and Gauguin.



Dale will share some of his adventures as an art student in Florence, Italy and as a young man experiencing the art museums and galleries of New York City. He will show the works of major European and American artists and will discuss why a painting might sell for more than 100 million dollars when one you love goes for far less. Come join the discussion, see great art and enjoy hors 'd' oeuvres, desserts and beverages.

Dale has won recognition for his Art History and Appreciation curriculum from the California Art Teachers Association and has taught art in New York and California schools. So mark your calendars for **August 24, 7 PM at the church**. Please bring friends. Sign-up sheet will be available as the date draws near. **THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO ALL.**

EGPC FINANCIAL CORNER – MAY 2018 -- RICHARD BRISTOW

Our financial picture is looking pretty good so far this year. With the first quarter under our belts, I am happy to say income is significantly ahead of budget projections. Pledge income has come in at \$37,595, which is \$7,036 or 23% ahead of projections. Good job everyone! Our total general fund income is \$39,522 which is \$5,893 or 21% ahead of projections. When you add special mission giving of \$1,560 to the total, a grand total of \$41,082 was contributed to EGPC for the first quarter.

Our expenditures for the first quarter, while greater than the income generated, are significantly below budget projections. Actual expenditures for the first quarter totaled \$43,570, which is \$4,048 greater than the income for the same period. However, it is less than the projected budget deficit of \$8,752 by over half.

We are getting closer to moving into the black with our budget. We need to collect approximately an additional \$2,500 per month in pledge, general and cash income to break even. If we keep working together, we should make it!

ABOUT OUR CHURCH:

Elk Grove Presbyterian Church is a faith community striving to follow Christ by:

- *Supporting each person on their own unique journey with God.*
- *Joining together for joyful and meaningful worship, education and fellowship.*
- *Working together to help build a better community and world.*

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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*The best
vitamin
for a Christian
is
B1*

*****LEADERSHIP TEAM*****

ELDERS:

Bob Huggett -- Property
Liz Irons --Admin/Clerk of Session
Mike Van De Pol -- Outreach
Terri Bacon--Mission & Evangelism
Judy Lewis-- Education
Sharon Chilcoat--Communication
Phoebe Hsu--Nurture
Diane Lowe--Worship
Richard Bristow--Budget

DEACONS:

Cheri Bowermaster
Larry Bowermaster
Patty Huggett
Kathy Wong
Marie Galustian
Marlene Laufer