



**SUMMER
2019**

THE ELK GROVE PRES PRESS

VOLUME 7

BLESSINGS FROM DEXTER

Dear Ones:

The Way Forward...that's the title I gave to this year's Easter Season sermon series for the weeks from the Sunday after Easter (April 23) through Trinity Sunday (June 16). This covers the period following the resurrection until Luke's account of the coming of the Spirit on Pentecost and then Trinity Sunday. For the modern church, this is the period in which we recall the appearances of Jesus to His disciples before he ascended in heaven, 40 days during which he helped them gain greater understanding about what the coming of the Kingdom meant for them then and what that would mean for them in the future. He promised them that after he was gone, the Holy Spirit would come to teach and guide them which we celebrate on Pentecost Sunday. We will conclude this season of the church year on Trinity Sunday, when we celebrate the mystery of the Triune God, the One God who is experienced as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Sunday after Trinity Sunday begins a different season -- June 23 designated as the Second Sunday after Pentecost or the 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time or Proper 7, depending on which designation system is used. That numbering will progress through

November 17. November 24th will be Christ the King Sunday and then December 1 will be the 1st Sunday of Advent -- the first Sunday of a new liturgical year. How's that for a mini-lesson on our church calendar?

But for me, and I hope for all of us, what all those designations represent is the fact that our faith keeps moving forward; that each new Sunday and each new season are opportunities to gain new insight and appreciation for this Amazing Grace of God that comes to us through Christ; and that each day of our lives the Spirit can nudge us toward more faithfully living in ways that shine forth God's light and love and hope.

As we move into summer, our schedules and our routines may change...vacation trips, perhaps seeing family and friends we haven't seen in some time, perhaps having to deal with new challenges. And though what we call the church season or what we call a particular Sunday will vary, what doesn't change is the assurance that the Holy God who has been with us through all our past seasons and days will be right with us through all or today's and all our tomorrows. Thanks be to God!

ELK GROVE REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION – TERRI BACON

This year our church gave our first scholarship through the Elk Grove Regional Scholarship Foundation.



Susie Lapachet and I attended the award presentation dinner and sat with our recipient, Toan Le.

He is a remarkable young man who will be attending UC Davis in the fall. We received this heartwarming thank you letter from him as soon as he heard he was our recipient.

THANK YOU * THANK YOU *** THANK YOU**

Dear Elk Grove Presbyterian Church:

I wanted to take some time to thank you for the scholarship. Many people



believe that if you work hard enough, you can accomplish anything you set out in life. I was one of those people. However, I have realized that is only half true. The reality is that the people in life that open doors for me and give me opportunities help me become who I am meant to be. Without my teachers, friends and financial support from the community, I would never have made it this far. The money you provided does help cover my tuition, but what is more important is the hope it gives me. It is

great to know that someone out there is willing to listen to my story and lend me a hand when I needed it the most. I thank you once again for the support. Sincerely, Toan Q. Le

City of Elk Grove Art Commission production of *Lost in the 50's* is now on You tube. It features Virginia Ayers -Dawson as well as other familiar faces from Vespers. The link is below.

Liz Irons

<https://youtu.be/MwUVogwv-k8>

Preview YouTube video *Lost in the*



MISSIONS – TERRI BACON



Someone asked me a few weeks ago when we will start requesting donations for one of their favorite mission projects. It got me thinking about two things: First -what a generous congregation we have! And then I wondered how many people know the process Session uses as we try to answer the call to serve others. So – for your generosity - Thank you!

The answer to the question about process begins when the congregation makes its pledges. Then a church budget is approved by Session. Part of that budget includes an amount designated for missions. The Mission Committee then considers the possibilities and allocates money to projects approved by Session. This year that amount is \$7,700.

As you can imagine, \$7,700 doesn't cover everything, so we prayerfully consider our choices. Money wings its way to Presbyterian World Missions, to Mission co-workers Jeff and Christi Boyd in Africa, and to the Elk Grove winter shelter program.

In other cases, we combine money from our pledged offerings with extra giving. We will give \$500 to the food bank this year and supplement that with our First Sunday gifts of bags of food. We have allocated \$1,000 for our high school under construction in Honduras. That will be supplemented with another \$2,000 from our Pick a Brick envelope giving and money received from the Triumphant Quartet concert. We have set aside \$250 for the Armenian Kindergarten and will combine that with money we retain from the Presbyterian Peace offering.

We will use money we retain from the Presbyterian Pentecost offering (40%) to buy school supplies. Some of you just can't help yourselves though and want to pitch in to help with that. At Christmas we will have set aside money to adopt a family, but once again, some of you get great pleasure out of shopping for the family. We welcome those contributions too.

Our \$1,000 2019 EGPC Elk Grove Scholarship was funded entirely by extra gifts from the congregation last year. We anticipate the same thing will happen again next year. (continued next page)...

Missions (continued)

There are so many needs in the world today. I know we can't help with everything, but I also know our wonderful little congregation hears a call and responds with love. It's for that very reason that we try to let you know about ways you can help, and also why we sometimes just let your offerings do their good work quietly all around the world.



ISRAEL – AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE: SHARON CHILCOAT

What do you picture when you think of Israel? Dry deserts, flat terrain? I was amazed when we landed in Tel Aviv and it looked like we were back in California along the Monterey coast. It was beautiful and green. Now I fully understand why our climate is called Mediterranean.

There were 29 of us from the Elk Grove and University Presbyterian Churches. We started our trip in Tel Aviv and followed the Mediterranean coast northward and then turned inland to Lake Galilee also known as Tiberias. There we visited the sites where Jesus grew up and began his ministry. From there we traveled south following the River Jordan to the Dead Sea. These areas were drier and more desert like. From there we

went to Jerusalem where we stayed 5 days. Jerusalem is a very large city built on hills and heavily populated. Here and in the surrounding areas we visited the places where so much of Jesus' ministry took place including his birth, death and resurrection.

Seeing Israel and the places where Jesus lived and ministered has enriched my reading of the Bible. If you have the opportunity to go to Israel, go! It was an amazing experience.

In the weeks to come other members of our group will share with you their highlights of our trip during the Perspective time in worship.



WHY DO WE CONFESS OUR FAITH? – DIANE LOWE

Every Sunday, at EGPC, we reaffirm our faith using the *Apostles' Creed* or a brief statement of faith. The affirmation of faith is when we declare what it is we believe.

We have faith as a result of God's Word. As Paul writes, "*Faith comes by hearing the Word of God.*" This faith is not just our individual belief, but that of the community that nurtures faith. Thus the affirmation may be a creed of the ancient church or a modern statement of faith that is a consensus of what the church believes.

We stand as a way of saying, "*This is where I stand,*" and as a way of standing in continuity with the people of God of ages past, even if it means we're martyred like some of them were.



PROPERTY UPDATE – BOB HUGGETT

As we creep up upon our fifth year in suite 50, The Property team and Session will be making decisions on the future of the accommodations for Elk Grove Presbyterian Church. Our lease for suite 50 is up this year. At this time, it is determined that we are most likely going to stay in our current location.

It is also of concern that we are often near our capacity for Sunday morning services. Our attendance has slowly been creeping up which is a great thing. However, we are slowly running out of seats.

The Property team and Session has approved preliminary plans that Phoebe has drawn up to make some changes in our space that will increase the capacity from 73 to about 100. As we approach the summer months, we hope to be shoring up plans to make changes that will keep us comfortable in suite 50 for more years to come.

If you have questions or comments, please find me after church.

WOMEN’S MINISTRY – SHARON CHILCOAT

DATE	HOSTING		ACTIVITY
JUNE 22	Hironimus Home	FAMILY EVENT	Summer Solstice Picnic
JULY	OPEN		
AUGUST	Dale Chilcoat	OPEN TO ALL	Art History Lecture
SEPTEMBER	OPEN		
OCTOBER	Susan Morrison’s Home	Women’s Ministry	Fondue Lunch
NOVEMBER	OPEN		
DECEMBER	Susie Lapachet’s Home	Women’s Ministry	Christmas Tea

BOOK CLUB: The June book club selection is “Where the Crawdads Sing” by Delia Owens.



The book for July is “Two Old Women”, by Velma Wallis.

We meet the 4th Tuesday of each month at 11 AM at the church. Next meeting is June 25th. Please join us. Judy Lewis is the contact.

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.***

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!

CONTACT INFORMATION:

PASTOR: Dexter McNamara
LOCATION: 8153 Elk Grove Blvd., #50
Elk Grove, CA 95758
916-683-1435 (Church)
916-717-2995 (Cell)
dexmcna@yahoo.com
Website:
<http://elkgrovespresbyterian.com>
email: elkgrovespres@gmail.com



****YOUR LEADERSHIP TEAM****

ELDERS:

Bob Huggett
Liz Irons
Mike Van De Pol
Terri Bacon
Judy Lewis
Dale Chilcoat
Richard Bristow
Phoebe Hsu
Diane Lowe

DEACONS:

Doris Williams
Mary Arnett
Patty Huggett
Kathy Wong
Marie Galustian
Marlene Laufer