



If you don't leap, you'll never know what it's like to fly.

Guy Finley

When I was a boy we had a dog named Blackjack. He was a pure bred Labrador retriever who was unregistered because, at 95 lbs., he was too large for the breed. I loved that brute of a dog, but was under no delusions as to the depth of his loyalty. If you had food, he was there. The moment the last morsel was gone, so was Blackjack.

You may know people like that. So long as they are receiving what they desire out of a relationship, they are there. Yet, relationships that are build solely on what one gets out of it are fragile, fickle, and ultimately unfulfilling. Love and loyalty are such a part of one another as to be virtually indistinguishable. Adding credence to that view, my Hebrew teacher now translates the word *hesed* (used in the Old Testament to express God's love for his covenant people) as *fierce loyalty*. The depth of our love and loyalty is only revealed in trials and tribulation.

In the last days of my parents' lives, I witnessed the true face of love and loyalty. It was not in walking together hand-in-hand or sharing a park bench as I had imagined. Instead, I saw a man spend day after day at the bedside, pushing a wheelchair, or feeding a woman who no longer resembled my mother and who was incapable of returning any degree of affection. One day someone said, "You know, most days your wife shows no indication that she cares you are even here."

My dad looked at the man and said, "I care."

Making Disciples
Every Person Counts where

He later said of the encounter, "How could anyone be so ignorant?" I thought he was commenting on his insensitivity. In fact, he was marveling at how little the man knew about love.

Love and loyalty are not the means to some greater reward. They *are* the reward. Those who never discover the beauty of this truth we can only pity. Many marriages fail for want of this understanding. I hear many people describe love as something we grow into. Perhaps. But in my experience, love is something we jump into not half knowing what we are doing and then decide whether we will sink or swim, one stroke at a time. Sometimes keeping our heads above water requires great effort. Other times we float. Some people are afraid of the water or see no value to being in it. Consequently, they only look from a distance at what others drink in and enjoy.

Taking a leap of faith is much more than simply taking a risk. A genuine leap of faith is nothing short of jumping into love with God. Notice I say jumping and not falling. We fall by accident; we jump on purpose. I am talking about casting your lot with God. That is not so much a risk as it is a total commitment. And with total commitment comes unwavering loyalty. This is what I long for people to understand about faith and their relationship with God. Far too many people love God for what God can do for them: heal them, forgive them, give their life meaning and purpose, give them eternal life. But where is the loyalty in that—the commitment, devotion, faithfulness, or love? When the food is gone, the dog goes away. If we stay with God only when our desires are fulfilled, what does that make us? I tell you the truth, until we recognize that walking with God *is* the reward, our present and future are precarious and our past, meaningless.

Loyalty and love are their own rewards. Being with God, for those wise enough to see, is the joy of life. Take the leap. Jump into the arms of God; and enjoy the embrace.

This Sunday is

Dedication Sunday

Bring your Pledge Card & Opportunity List.

"Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God, my Savior."

Habakkuk 3:18

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS FOR:

Kitchen Gail McNair
Sanctuary Shirley Williams
Ushers Ben Ramsey & Larry Mills (CC); Tammy Mills;
Serena Mills; Taylor Mills; Charlie Wike
Visitor Greeter Walter Nesbitt

SERVING EPC WEEK OF NOVEMBER 13

Children's Church Cheryl Betts; Sandy Jowers
Counters Larry Mills; Jeff Ingram
Elder Prayer Partner Martha Jane Roark
Greeters Shirley Williams; Sheryl Wright
Greeting Cards Claudia Wells
Lay Reader Walter Nesbitt
Nursery Kathryn Rhodes-Reynolds
Security Fred Holt
Sound David Knapp

EVANGELISM

Last Sunday's Attendance at EPC

Worship: 111 Sunday School: 48
Visitors at EPC: In town: 14 Out of town: 0

STEWARDSHIP SEASON

Just a reminder that Stewardship Season is drawing to a close. Dedication Sunday is November 13. During Sunday worship there will be an opportunity for members of the congregation to come forward and leave their pledge cards and Opportunity Lists on the altar. Please continue to give careful consideration as to how you may share your talents and financial resources for God's work.

If you are unable to attend church this Sunday, please bring or mail in your pledge card and Opportunity Lists as soon as possible. If you did not receive a letter containing a pledge card and Opportunity List, please contact the church office. Extra copies will be available on November 13.

Dedication Sunday is November 13



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, November 13—Dedication Sunday

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Fellowship Time
11:00 am Worship
Prayer in Parlor with elders
Lunch after Church—Red Lobster, 13th Street

Monday, November 14

6:30 pm Life Group Mtg. at Coats' home

Tuesday, November 15

10:00 am Psalms Bible Study
7:00 pm Bridge Club
7:00 pm Boy Scouts

Wednesday, November 16

10:00 am Crafty Crew in Education Center, Room 4
5:15 pm Joyful Ringers
6:00 pm Adult Bell Choir
6:00 pm Tai Chi Class in Fellowship Hall, stage area
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 17

6:00 pm Sundowners Toastmasters Meeting

Please note that the Church Office is closed each Friday.

You have already received, in previous newsletters/bulletins, complete listings of needed items for the following:

Operation Christmas Child (Samaritan's Purse)—Deadline for bringing your items and shoeboxes here to EPC is this coming Sunday, November 13. This is for children all over the world. Don't forget the \$7.00 to cover shipping costs.

Santa Claus Express—items for Georgia Presbyterian Homes residents. Collection ends here on November 27. Marked boxes are in narthex and Life Center hallway for your unwrapped items.

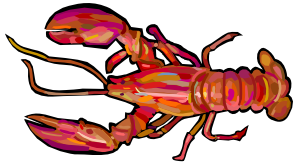
Christmas SOC (Serving Our Community) A marked box is just inside the double doors leading into the Life Center for your items to fill shoeboxes for fourteen local elderly, extremely needy residents under guardianship. Shoeboxes need to be filled and wrapped no later than Sunday, December 4.

See list to your right for another collection sponsored by the Children and Youth Ministry for **new socks, gloves/mittens, hats and scarves** for needy children. That deadline for those items to be placed on Christmas trees in the Fellowship Hall is December 11.

*Matthew 25:44-45 They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did **not** do for one of the least of these, **you did not do for me.**'*

FELLOWSHIP

LUNCH AFTER CHURCH on Sunday, November 13, is at the 13th Street Red Lobster, and you are invited to join us (Dutch treat). Please sign the notebook on the credenza in the narthex before worship for a seating count.



ADVENT

DEVOTIONALS

To those of you who signed up to write a 300 word or less devotional, it is due this Sunday, November 13. Please email or give yours to Cheryl Betts for compilation so the 2011 Advent booklet will be ready by November 20.



WORSHIP

11 WEEK SERMON SERIES

- Nov. 13 *A Spirit-led Journey*
Matthew 4:1-4; Acts 16:6-15
Nov. 20 *Speaking Culturally*
Psalm 19:1-4; Acts 17:16-34

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers this Sunday are given to the glory of God by Lynne McLaughlin.

THE POTTER AND THE CLAY

Thanks to Martha Jane Roark who portrayed the potter in Sunday's skit and to Lloyd Frey who was the voice of the clay.

NEEDED:

One boar's head for the evening of December 11. If you know of someone who would loan us a boar's head for the Madrigal Dinner, please call Rose Slonaker at 706-569-6105. (See insert for Madrigal Dinner invitation.)



YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 13

Deadline for Devotionals to Cheryl

Sunday, November 20, 4-6 pm

Our EPC MH/HS Youth hosting Edgewood UMC here

Sunday, December 4

Old Fashioned Christmas Party 5-7 pm



CHILDREN & YOUTH CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Bring NEW socks, gloves/mittens, hats and scarves that we will use to decorate Christmas trees in the Fellowship Hall. Let's see if we can fill the trees and provide warm socks, glove/mittens or hats and scarves for those less fortunate. Collections can be brought to church starting **now through December 11th**. Place your items on the credenza in the sanctuary narthex or in the clear plastic box on the desk in the hallway of the Education Center.

NEEDED FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:

EMPTY PLASTIC ICING CONTAINERS

Please leave them in Cheryl's office or on the credenza in the narthex.





Making Disciples
where Every Person Counts

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #124
COLUMBUS, GA 31908

3617 Macon Road
Columbus, GA 31907

Return Service Requested

**Sunday,
November 13, is
Dedication
Sunday.**

**Please bring
your completed
Pledge Card and
Opportunity
Lists.**

HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:

Sandy Mason 15
Walter Nesbitt 16
Andrew Massey 16
Barbara McInnis 18



PRAYER REQUESTS FOR CHURCH FAMILY

Mark Blackwell Susan Knight Lillie Register
Rachel Flournoy Bob & Julie Ligon Pete Sanders-Nesbitt
Sue Hearn Janie McClerkin David Slonaker
Ann Pratcher Rae Taylor

Covenant Woods: Eva Lucille Roberts, PC 227
Gardens at Calvary: Lee Cook, Apt. 321
Magnolia Manor: Lillian McLeod, 24
Morningside Asst'd Living: Bob Gedroic, Room 142;
David Anastasia, Room 108
Muscogee Manor: Lillie Register, East Wing 25B
The Veranda: Bette Schroeter, Room 205

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES

Charles Smith (Roark/Grainger relative) deployed to Afghanistan
Nita Butler (Pat Kinar's sister) surgery
Don Morrow (Ligons' friend) difficult recovery after surgery
Tina Singleton (Ligons' friend) unknown cause of illness
Lacy Dixon (Mary Adams' granddaug.) pregnancy complications
Reese Stansfield (6 mos. old baby girl with brain cancer)
Dorothy Cupples (Bob Ligon's sister) heart condition
Ron Weller (Ligons' friend) stroke rehabilitation
Jackie Jernigan (Tammy Mills' friend) widespread cancer
Kathy Windham (EPC Financial Secretary) seizures
Cathy Cushman (Jed Robbins' Mom) cancer & Lyme disease
Kay Fouts (former member)
Tracy Connor (friend of Joneses & Marge Welker) cancer
Miranda Erwin (daughter of Walter & Shirley Williams)
Al McCullough (Pete Sanders-Nesbitt's Dad) cancer
Bradley Brooks (Gigi Lennon's friend's toddler) seizures
Joe Jones (Marge Welker's friend)
Robert McCart (Frances Long's brother) throat cancer
Bill Blakely, recovering from stroke
Bobbie Marbut (former member)
Sue Poore (Janie McClerkin's sister)

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (SAMARITAN'S PURSE)

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14 NIV.

We are ready to start collecting items for **Operation Christmas Child** (Samaritan's Purse). This is a participatory event for the **entire** congregation where we provide a listing of items needed in order to fill shoeboxes for children. Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations worldwide through simple, gift-filled shoeboxes and evangelistic materials that tell the Good News of God's love. You may pack your own shoebox if you'd like, but we suggest that you might want to just bring in the items. We plan to have a "shoebox packing party" – date and time will follow. Here is a listing of items needed for **each** shoebox.

School supplies:

Pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

Toys:

Small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky, etc.

Hygiene Items:

Toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.

A personal note:

You may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. (if you include your name and address, the child may write back.)

Shipping:

If possible, please include \$7.00 to ship the shoebox.

Important: do not include:

Used or damaged items, war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures, chocolate or food, out-of-date candy, liquids or lotions, medications or vitamins, breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers or aerosol cans.

Please note on your bag of items, if 1) BOY OR GIRL and 2) Age category – 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14.

You may turn these items into the church office or place them on the credenza in the narthex **no later than the deadline of Sunday, November 13, 2011**. Thank you in advance for your generosity and for making many children very happy!

Yours in Christ, Outreach Team

Keep this list of items with you when you are out shopping.

Remember that the Dollar Stores have many of these items.

Deadline for turning in your items is Sunday, November 13, 2011.



Christmas SOC

Serving Our Community

Muscogee County has 14 elderly people who are all in dire situations. These six men and eight women are under the guardianship of Mr. Grooms of the Division of Aging Services. We would like to make this Christmas special for these dear people by decorating shoe boxes and filling them with small items that would be useful and special. Mr. Grooms has made a list of specific items each person could use. He visits each client monthly, and will be happy to deliver our gifts for us.

How can you help?

- Send in shoeboxes to be filled. (Wrap your box if you wish.) We need 14.
- Bring items to place in shoeboxes to church and place in the **Christmas SOC** box in the entrance to the Life Center. Items needed include: socks, toiletries, snacks and other items/treats an elderly person could use.
- Shop for special items requested by Mr. Grooms. They are as follows:

Pedro	-	male	twin blanket or throw
Mickey	-	male	shoes size 7 ½, medium shirt
Ronald	-	male	classic TV show DVD's
Carl	-	male	medium shirt, socks
Robert	-	male	tennis shoes size 11, large shirt, candy bars
Jerry	-	male	jazz music CD's, large shirt, socks
Lavada	-	female	kid's clothing size 10 or kids XL, socks
Andy	-	female	movie tickets
Gloria	-	female	twin blanket or throw
Ethel	-	female	twin blanket or throw
Delores	-	female	small pajamas
Shirley	-	female	blanket or throw, stuffed animals
- Instead of bringing items, give money to help purchase gifts, and we will purchase items on the list. Please be sure to clearly mark your check to EPC for "Christmas SOC" so that the money will be set aside for this purpose specifically.

We would like to have all boxes wrapped and filled by Sunday, December 4. Let's work together to make Christmas special for these Wards of the State in our area.

If you have other questions, please call Susan Gilbert or Tiffany Ingram. *Thank you for your help, EPC.*



IMPORTANT Newsletter Change

Beginning in January, 2012, the EPC newsletter, "Edgewood News," will no longer be routinely mailed to our members, friends, and former members. The newsletter is already available on-line, but this on-line access will become the primary means of distribution.

Church members who do not have internet access may continue to receive a printed copy of the newsletter. Those who do not have access to the internet should contact the church office so that a printed copy may be mailed.

Those with listed e-mail addresses will receive a weekly e-mail announcing that the newsletter is ready for viewing on our website. A link to the newsletter will be in the e-mail so it can be brought up without any further steps. If you have internet access but your e-mail address is not listed in the directory, please call or e-mail the church office so that you may receive this weekly e-mail alert.

Former members and friends who receive the newsletter—please contact the church office so that your e-mail address can be added to those receiving the notice that the newsletter is ready. The newsletter can easily be accessed, however, at any time without the e-mail alert, on our website. The link is being updated and the new link will appear in the newsletter as soon as possible.

As you probably know, our church is facing a serious financial challenge, and we are making every effort to implement cost-cutting measures. Not mailing the newsletter to most people will save money on paper, copier costs (our contract is based on a per-copy fee) and hopefully a small savings in postage. Because we are using bulk mail rates for the newsletter, and will need to use regular postage for the newsletters we do mail, the savings will not be huge. Every dollar matters, however, and we need to be good stewards of our resources.

The session approved this change in October, and it was presented for consideration by the Stewardship Team.

There will probably be some fine-tuning required in this transition. Please contact the church office with your suggestions. These can then be routed to the proper person.

Kathy Mewbourne, Stewardship Team