

When you look in the mirror what do you see? Hair that needs straightening, a shirt that doesn't quite match your pants, circles under your eyes, nose hair that needs trimming? And what the heck is that stuff between your upper teeth?

Most of us engage in this simple act of peering in the mirror at least daily. As we ready ourselves in the morning, we scrutinize what we see making whatever adjustments we deem necessary to project to the world what we want them to see. The trouble is, what we see in the mirror and our true image never match.

The two most common distortions in self perception are to either think too much of ourselves or too little of ourselves. Either way, we all fail to see ourselves as God sees us; and this is the greatest travesty of all. In the tug-of-war between self-aggrandizement and self-loathing, we rarely pause to reflect on what others perceive when they look upon us. I am not asking, "What do other people think of you?" There is too much ego wrapped up in that question. What I am asking is, "What do others see when they look at you?"

Hold that thought while we consider something far more important. For what purpose were any of us created? Genesis 1:26 says, "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the creatures of the earth.'" A careful reading of this text reveals the need to fundamentally rethink our entire perception of life. We are preoccupied with questions like: *Who am I? What is most important to me in life? Who do others think I am? What is the purpose of my life?*

Behavior is the mirror in which everyone shows their image.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

answer she was looking for. Consequently, she sought to destroy the one the mirror proclaimed to be the fairest of them all. Readers recognize the absurdity of her effort. The mirror has no ability to change the true image it reflects. Had the queen been less self-absorbed and truly believed the mirror's reflection to be in error, it would have made more sense to destroy the mirror.

This is precisely why God neither dismisses nor attempts to destroy humanity. Even on the occasion of the Great Flood, a righteous remnant was preserved. Why? Because nothing is wrong with the true image—only the reflection. Mirrors can be polished and their reflective qualities improved, but they have no power to change the true image—only our perception of it.

We need not worry about what other people think of us or wonder about our purpose in life. The only opinion that truly matters is what God thinks of us; and our purpose is clearly proclaimed in Scripture—to reflect the true image, the goodness of God. So, the question we should all be asking ourselves is this: "When people look at us, when they observe the kind of life we are living, are we reflecting the goodness of God?" Our desire to do good so we might be rewarded with heaven is as misguided as the Queen's desire to be the fairest of them all. Our only desire should be to truly reflect the goodness of God.

In the Eye of the Beholder



by
Pastor Paul A. Coats

JANUARY VOLUNTEERS FOR:

Kitchen	Shirley Williams
Sanctuary	Gail McNair
Ushers	Mac Johnson & Ed Gilmore (CC); Mary Johnson; Wendell Grainger; Ted Ford; Emily Coats
Visitor Greeter	Shirley Williams

SERVING EPC WEEK OF JANUARY 8

Children’s Church	Cheryl Betts; Sheryl Wright
Communion	B. & D. Wetherell; Posey; Wright; R. VanAmburg; Ramsey; Gilmore; Allison
Counters	Larry Mills; Jeff Ingram
Elder Prayer Partner	Daniel Wetherell
Greeters	Marge Welker; Bob Wells
Greeting Cards	Miranda Jones
Lay Reader	Lee Hartline
Nursery	Serena Mills
Security	Barry Cosby
Sound	Chris Posey

EVANGELISM

Last Sunday’s Attendance at EPC

Worship: 70 Sunday School: Visitors at EPC: In town: 2 Out of town: 3

THANKS

Herb Jones is back in Columbus and residing in Magnolia Manor Assisted Living on Warm Springs Road. He is in Room 13 and would love visitors. He is so thankful for all the cards he received when he was in Montgomery. Edgewoodians are so caring and loving!!

God bless you, Randy

And more thanks.....I would like to extend my warmest thanks and blessings to you for the kindness you displayed by the many gifts you prepared for the Muscogee County Department of Human Services Guardianship clients. The joy on the faces of the clients showed the true meaning of giving. Each client knew that someone thought of them as a special person on Christmas. These clients that are sometimes forgotten by society were able to know that someone remembered them. For your expression of God’s love, I will forever be grateful. May life bring you a reflection of the kindness you’ve shown to the clients.

Sincerely, Dwan F. Grooms, Guardianship Case Manager, GA Dept. of Human Services

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, January 8

9:30 am	Sunday School
10:30 am	Fellowship Time
11:00 am	Worship-Holy Communion-Officer Installation Prayer in Parlor with elders Lunch after Church—Country’s, Mercury Drive

Monday, January 9

6:00 pm Life Group Meeting at Coats’ home

Tuesday, January 10

2:00 pm	2-2 Tu Book Club
7:00 pm	Boy Scouts

Wednesday, January 11

10:00 am	Crafty Crew in Education Center, Room 4
5:00 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, January 12

6:30 pm Cub Pack Meeting here

Friday, January 13

6:00 pm Family Game Night

YOUTH AND CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 1-31st Souper Bowl on Caring Food Collection

January 13-6 to 8 pm Family Game Night

January 15-MH/HS Youth Ice Skating, 4-5:30 pm

NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION CHALLENGE.....

As we begin the year of 2012, let’s make a New Year’s Resolution that we will invite friends to join us in Sunday School and Worship. In the new year we will strive to share the joy of knowing Jesus Christ with others. Invite them to Sunday School, Worship, Youth Group or Kids Club. You will be surprised how great it feels and how much fun it is to grow our congregation.

Are you willing to make that New Year’s Resolution? I sure hope so. We are already into the first week of the New Year so you better get busy. Things will be happening during January that you and your friends will not want to miss. See you at Edgewood Presbyterian Church where *Every Person Counts*.



Epiphany Quiz

1. When does Epiphany occur?
2. How did the Wise Men know the Christ child was born?
3. Matthew 2:1-12 tells the story of the journey of the Wise Men to Bethlehem to worship the Christ child and offer gifts. Is that what the Adoration of the Magi celebrates?
4. Are the Wise Men mentioned elsewhere in the Bible?
5. What names are given to the Wise Men?
6. Why are they referred to as Magi?
7. When the Wise Men saw the child, what did they do?
8. What gifts did they bring?

FELLOWSHIP

LUNCH AFTER CHURCH on Sunday, January 8, is at the Mercury Drive location of Country's, 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.

Lively Ones Meeting on Thursday, January 5, 10:30 am. Come and join us as we begin to celebrate the new year. Mary Adams will present the devotional and following our meeting, we will eat lunch together at O'Charley's.



Congratulations !

Amanda Posey has graduated magna cum laude from Green Mountain College in Poultney, Vermont with a bachelor's degree in Natural Resources Management.

(Amanda is Ellen and Allen Posey's daughter; sister of Brian and Chris; Fred and Sue Holt's granddaughter; niece of Amy and Rodney Spear; and cousin of Stephanie and Emily Spear.)

WORSHIP

5 WEEK SERMON SERIES

Jan. 8 *Expecting Company* Genesis 2:18-25; Isaiah 60:1-6
Jan. 15 *Tripped Up* Genesis 3:1-24; Mark 1:4-11

Adult Handbell Choir

Please note that there will be practice
Wednesday evening, January 4,
at 6:00 pm.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

We express Christian sympathy to
Bob, Karen and Daniel Wetherell and their family
upon the death of Karen's
stepmother, Rose McCranie Kitchen.

1. January 6th, 12 days after Christmas
2. They saw a star in the East which they knew told of the birth.
3. Yes, it is.
4. No, Matthew is the only place
5. Melchior, Balthazar and Gaspar
6. Magi were Persian priest-astrologers, men of wisdom. They studied the Scriptures and the stars.
7. They fell down and worshiped him and offered him gifts.
8. Gold for kingship; myrrh for humanity and bitterness of the crucifixion; frankincense for divinity

Hope Life Group Resumes Meetings.....

HOPE Life Group took a break in the Fall of 2011, but plans to re-gather this month. If you have been looking for a group, this might be the perfect time to join us. We have been meeting since Fall of 2005, and have "lost" one couple and added three others. We are primarily couples who found ourselves dealing with aging parents and twentysomething children; over six years we have lost many of our parents and our children have become thirtysomethings, many with families of their own - members of our group have strengthened in faith as we have prayed and sympathized with each other over sad events and rejoiced together on many occasions. We have been blessed with one younger couple for the last three years.

We eat together at 6:00 p.m. on Monday evenings, usually at a moderately priced restaurant, but sometimes we have a pot luck with the hosts providing the main dish. We try to be at our meeting place by 7:00 for our Bible study and prayer time, and try to finish by 8:30. We take turns hosting and leading the sessions, but the way we do things is flexible. Generally we meet September of one year through May of the next. This year we have been studying *Gospel in Life - Grace Changes Everything* by Timothy Keller, a deeper-than-usual study of what it means to live as a Christian.

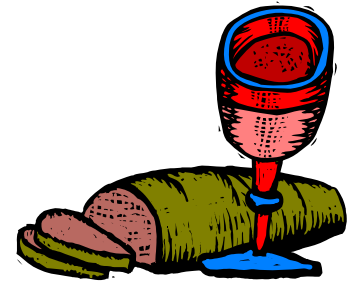
On **January 16**, we will meet at El Carizzo on Macon Road at 6:00, and at the Wells' home - 3403 Marriott Drive at 7:00 for our "re-gathering" meeting. That night we will review what we have studied in *Grace Changes Everything*. We skip fourth Mondays each month, so we will meet next on **January 30**, at Zaxby's in Phenix City at 6:00, and then go to the Frey's - 4309 Bridgewater Circle (PC) for our meeting. That night we will commit to a covenant, agreeing to meet with each other regularly through May of 2012.



Making Disciples
where Every Person Counts

3617 Macon Road
Columbus, GA 31907

Worship
Holy Communion
and
Installation of Officers
at 11:00 am
Sunday,
January 8



HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY TO:

Lucile DuToit 10
Lynne Robbins 10
James Robbins 12
Anthony Nesbitt 13
Kaylon Debardeleben 13

*Happy
Birthday!*



PRAYER REQUESTS FOR CHURCH FAMILY

Rachel Flournoy Janie McClerkin Don Kinard
Bette Schroeter: Regional rehab hospital, PC, AL, Room 210

Covenant Woods: Eva Lucille Roberts, PC 227
Gardens at Calvary: Lee Cook, Apt. 321
Magnolia Manor: Lillian McLeod, Room 24; Herb Jones, Room 13
Morningside Asst'd Living: Bob Gedroic, Room 142; David Anastasia, Room 108
Muscogee Manor: Lillie Register, East Wing 25B

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES

Ava (Christine Brooks' granddaughter) in Brunswick, GA hospital
Sandy Mason's niece and her family—niece's death is imminent
Joe Post (Ligons' friend) stage 4 brain cancer
Charles Smith (Roark/Grainger relative) deployed to Afghanistan
Don Morrow (Ligons' friend) difficult recovery after surgery
Tina Singleton (Ligons' friend) unknown cause of illness
Rigsby Dixon (Mary Adams' premature great-granddaughter)
now in hospital in Macon, GA.
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
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)

UPCOMING FUN EVENT
by Discipleship, Fellowship & Mission Teams
FOOD DRIVE CHALLENGE
January 1st thru January 31st



During the month of **January**, children, youth and adults are encouraged to bring canned goods to help us build a large pyramid in front of the stage in Fellowship Hall. For every 5 cans of canned goods you will receive a special ticket. See how many tickets you can accrue during the month of January.

Then on **February 5th**, we will hold our monthly SAC luncheon and will draw the winning ticket from all those distributed. Then the winning person gets to do something special at the luncheon. Won't tell you what you will get to do right now, but it will be fun for the winner and all in attendance to witness.

Start bringing your canned goods to Fellowship Hall or in plastic bags on the pew outside the sanctuary or leave them on the stage. Watch as our pyramid grows and grows. Then following the luncheon, we will contact ***Feeding the Valley*** to come and pick up all our donations. How many tickets can you collect?