



Pastor Paul A. Coats

Edgewood News

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January 31, 2012



Anger, despair, and separation from God—these are the root causes of violence according to the story of Cain and Abel. And we need to pay attention to each of these root causes as they undergird virtually every other story of the Bible.

Neither anger nor despair are pure emotions. They are *impure* in the sense of being (1) *tainted*—carrying something that is polluted and foreign to our true nature; and (2) *mixed*—being an amalgam of other, more essential, causes.

When someone behaves in a self-centered or self-serving way, we routinely call it human nature. When these behaviors lead to hurtful, destructive, and openly evil outcomes, we freely associate the results as also being part of human nature. This is a gross misrepresentation of the truth. We are, by nature, created as reflections of God and God's divine love. When we behave otherwise, we are—in fact—acting quite outside our true nature. Something outside our original design has literally *tainted* our true human nature. (More on that in a moment). Jesus Christ came both to save us from the destructive forces of sin that *tainted* this true human nature and to show us what *truly human* looks like.

Sin does not appear out of nowhere. Certain conditions serve as fertile soil in which it grows, like anger and despair. Other, more primal, causes provide the conditions for sin to flourish. Some of these are jealousy, pride, disappointment, frustration, sadness, shame, fear, grief, guilt, depression, envy, doubt, and hurt. When several of these emotions are *mixed* together, they make a powerful potion for anger and despair. When either of these grasp-hold of us, God teaches that "*sin is crouching at your door.*"

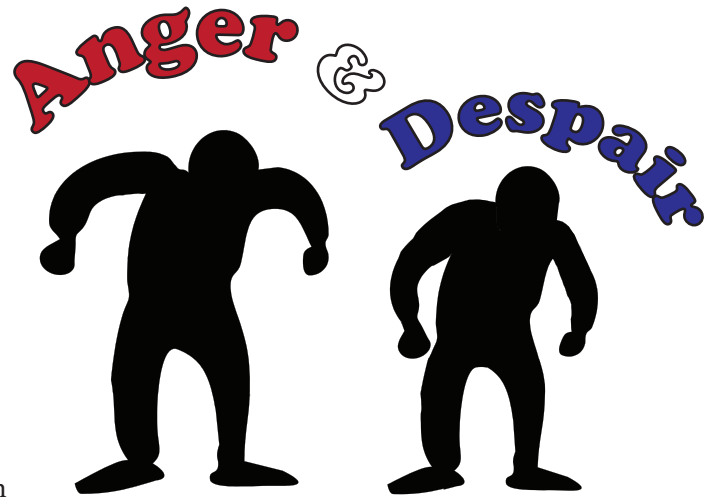
Anger is only one letter short of danger.

Eleanor Roosevelt

For everything that has been said about anger and despair, there is one all encompassing cause of every form of sin—separation from God. Quite literally, anything that stands between us and God places us in grave danger.

The phrase "*sin is crouching at your door*" conjures a vivid memory from my boyhood. I had a Siamese cat who went everywhere with me: upstairs, downstairs, in the kitchen, in the backyard, up the wild cherry tree with its massive arm that stretched halfway across the front yard. Every once in a while, he would get full of what Mom called "*the ole nick.*" I'm not sure where that phrase comes from, but I know what it means. It meant my cat would crouch behind the sofa, an open door, or anything else that proved a worthy hiding place and ready himself to pounce. His attacks always came suddenly and unexpectedly. Eventually, we got wise to his antics and learned to look in all his favorite hiding places before passing through a room to chase him away before he could pounce.

Sin is a lot like my cat, always hiding and ready to pounce. Not one of us is a stranger to sin's hiding places. And if we know where sin lurks, we know how to avoid being caught unaware. But it requires paying attention—constant vigilance. And exactly what is it that we need to be most vigilant about? Name this, to remember our true nature; and to live in a way that protects it. And lest we forget what that true nature is, remember these words of Scripture, "*God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him.*" 1 John 4:16-17



by
Pastor Paul A. Coats

Making Disciples
Every Person Counts

FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS FOR:

Kitchen	Patricia Banks
Sanctuary	Lee Hartline
Ushers	Walter Nesbitt & Karen Wetherell (CC); Rae Taylor; Theresa Kelly; Taylor Mills; Sheryl Wright
Visitor Greeter	Virginia Gilmore

SERVING EPC WEEK OF FEBRUARY 5

Children's Church	Kristina Massey; Sheryl Wright
Communion	W. & S. Williams; S. & D. Pope; Mewbourne; Kinard; McNair; Banks
Counters	Amy Spear; Steve Lennon
Elder Prayer Partner	Patricia Banks
Greeters	Emily Coats; Barry Cosby
Greeting Cards	Wilda Betts
Lay Reader	Liz Allison
Nursery	Liz Allison
Security	Mac Johnson
Sound	Barry Cosby; Taylor Mills
Sunday after Church	P. Banks; T. Ford; L. Frey; C. Wike

EVANGELISM

Last Sunday's Attendance at EPC

Worship: 105 Sunday School: 50
Visitors at EPC: In town: 7 Out of town: 1



WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS....

To our wonderful Edgewood family,

We extend heartfelt thanks for your warm expressions of sympathy upon the death of my step-mother, Rose Kitchen. We have been so richly blessed to be a part of such a loving church family.

*With sincere gratitude,
Karen, Bob, and Daniel Wetherell*

AND

I wish to thank everyone for the cards, visits, and most of all their prayers during my recent stay in the hospital. It's really good to have a family like Edgewood Presbyterian Church.

*Thank you,
J. C. Bray*

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, February 5

9:30 am	Sunday School
10:30 am	Fellowship Time
11:00 am	Worship—Holy Communion
	Prayer in Parlor with elders
	Sunday after Church (Covered Dish Luncheon)

Monday, February 6

4:30 pm	Worship Meeting in Choir Room
6:00 pm	HOPE Life Group at Clearview BBQ; Wetherell's
6:30 pm	Life Group Meeting at Coats' home
7:00 pm	Transitions Life Group at Marianne Middleton's

Tuesday, February 7

7:00 pm	Bridge Club
7:00 pm	Boy Scouts

Wednesday, February 8

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, February 9

6:30 pm	Cub Pack 100
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Friday, February 10

6:00 pm	Kids Night In/Parents Night Out until 8:00 pm
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The Church Office is closed on Fridays.

CHILDREN

AND

YOUTH MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 5

Sunday after Church Luncheon after Worship
No Youth Group

February 10

Kids Night In/Parents Night Out
6-8 pm

Souper Bowl
of Caring

**(See separate page for more
Souper Bowl info.)**

FELLOWSHIP

PLEASE JOIN THE LIVELY ONES ON GROUNDHOG DAY...THURSDAY, FEBRUARY

2

We will be meeting at **10:00 am** in the BASIC classroom in Fellowship Hall, as always. Please note the time change. We will be going to the Bulloch House for lunch since we didn't go in December. We will carpool, and those who are passengers will follow our policy of giving the driver \$5 to help with the cost of gasoline.

and....

Please remember to bring two Valentine cards to the meeting so we have them to send to shut-ins and the sick.



SUNDAY AFTER CHURCH/SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

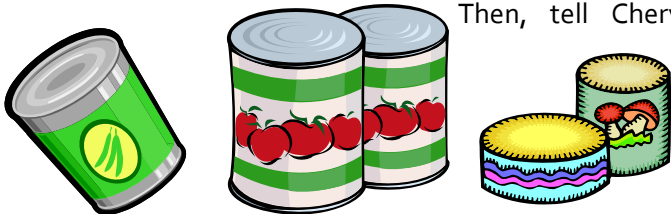
Sunday, February 5

Please plan to stay with your entire family for the covered dish lunch immediately following worship. Each family is asked to bring a large covered dish(es) prior to worship. Place it either in the Kitchen or Fellowship Hall. (The food should be ready to eat.) A team will place your dish on tables and food will be served buffet style. It's a great way to meet new people and to connect with folks you don't normally get a chance to talk to. Join us!

As part of the activities, you won't want to miss the opportunity to throw a pie in Pastor Paul's face. (He has agreed good naturedly to do so). The way to have a chance to throw the pie is shown in today's insert in the Souper Bowl of Caring page in this week's newsletter.

To still have a chance at the "pie throwing" and to help with building our pyramid of cans for the Feeding the Valley Food Bank, bring in ASAP at least 5 cans of food.

Then, tell Cheryl



WORSHIP

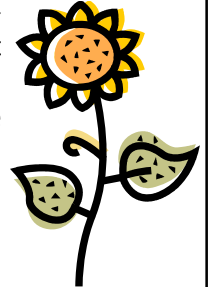
13 WEEK SERMON SERIES

Feb. 5 *A Watery Judgment* Genesis 6:11-22; Mark 1:14-20
Feb. 12 *Babel On* Genesis 11:1-9; Mark 1:21-18
Feb. 19 *Called by a Promise* Genesis 12:1-9; Hebrew 2:14-18

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary this Sunday are given by Miranda and Herbert Jones to the Glory of God and in memory of Miranda's niece Melanie Ruth Register.

"In the rising of the sun and its going down, we remember her."



NEW PRAYER GROUP

Do you have a desire to deepen your prayer life?

Do you feel led to answer Scripture's call to pray without ceasing - for those you love, the sick, those in need, for our church, community and country?

If so, there is an opportunity for you to become part of a group that will meet on a monthly basis to lift our hearts and voices to the Lord in prayer. If you are interested and would like more information, please call Julie Ligon at 706-565-9963 or 706-718-9405.

I'm looking forward to a new journey as we wait to see God's hand at work through prayer. We can make a difference, because **Every Prayer Counts!**

CELEBRATION OF FAITH WEEKEND OF MARCH 2-4, 2012

The Flint River Presbytery will host the 30th Annual Celebration of Faith at Norman Park, Georgia, March 2-4, 2012. Go to www.flintriverpresbytery.org and click on the link on the left hand column marked COF 2012. Sign up right away.

It is for children, youth and adults...the food is great and the time is packed with classes and activities...and for some free time as well.

Change your prayer life—Change Your World!



Making Disciples
where Every Person Counts

3617 Macon Road
Columbus, GA 31907



**Please prepare
your hearts and minds
to celebrate
Holy Communion
on
Sunday, February 5.**

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY TO:

Ravi Viswanadhapalli on February 7
Now at:
10200 Independence Pkwy. Apt. 302
Plano, TX 75025-8206

Caroline Kittrell February 13

Happy Birthday

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR CHURCH FAMILY

The following live in their residences:

Rachel Flournoy	Janie McClerkin	Bertrom Hunter	Wilma Meadows
Margaret Greene	Grace Robinson	Nell Swensen	J. C. Bray
Don Kinard	Mig Hanko		

Covenant Woods: Eva Lucille Roberts, PC 227

Gardens at Calvary: Lee Cook, Apt. 321

Magnolia Manor: Lillian McLeod, Rm 24; Herb Jones, Rm 13; Bette Schroeter, Rm 102

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 Wilson (Christine Brooks' granddaughter) undergoing tests
Joe Post (friend of Ligon's) stage 4 brain cancer
Charles Smith (Roark/Grainger relative) deployed to Afghanistan
Don Morrow (Ligon's friend) undergoing tests
Tina Singleton (Ligon's friend) unknown cause of illness
Rigsby Dixon (Mary Adams' premature great-granddaughter)
Reese Stansfield (baby girl with brain cancer)
Dorothy Cupples (Bob Ligon's sister) heart condition
Ron Weller (Ligon's friend) stroke rehabilitation
Jackie Jernigan (Tammy Mills' friend) widespread cancer

Kay Fouts (former member)
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 (former member)
Bobbie Marbut (former member)
Sue Poore (Janie McClerkin's sister)

Children & Youth Ministry

UPCOMING EVENTS



February 5th — SAC Luncheon at Noon
NO Youth Group.

February 10th—Kids Night In/Parents
Night Out 6—8 PM



Have you remembered your 5 cans of food? They can be dropped off during the week or you can donate cash to the Youth who will be at each of the doors leaving the Sanctuary on Sunday. **Don't miss the fun** at the luncheon on February 5th. Bring your covered dish and join us following church for a time of good food, fun and fellowship

Remember the winning ticket holder gets to throw a pie into Pastor Paul's face at the luncheon. Get your tickets from **Cheryl** for every 5 cans of food you donate. **You will want to be that lucky person.**