



by
Pastor Paul A. Coats

Tradition is a guide, not a jailer.
William Somerset Maugham

Traditions: are they Traps or Treasures? The truth is, they can be a little bit of both. Traditions are great when they create or maintain feelings of appreciation, comfort, security and happiness. But tradition solely for the sake of tradition can become cumbersome. Just because something has *"Always been done this way,"* doesn't mean it always should be.

You may recall something like the following story? A young, newly-married woman was preparing the Christmas ham. Just as her mother had always done, she cut off the end of the ham before placing it in the pan.

"Why do you cut off the end?" asked her new husband. *"I really don't know,"* his young bride replied. *"My mother has always done it this way and her hams are delicious."*

When her mother arrived for dinner, the young woman decided to ask why she always removed the end of the ham before baking it.

"Why, you know, I'm not at all sure of the reason," stated the mother. *"My mother, who is a wonderful cook always prepared her hams that way. It must enhance the flavor of the meat."*

Both women decided to ask grandmother her secret when she arrived at the young woman's house. Grandmother smiled when she heard their question and their guesses as to why she cut off the end of the ham.

"It is because," they older woman replied, *"I didn't have a pan big enough to fit the whole ham!"*

Do the traditions you've been observing still serve a purpose or meet a need for you and your family? Or are you still cutting off the end of the ham even though you bought a bigger pan years ago? It may be time to re-evaluate some of your traditions.

As you do your planning this year, include your family in the process. Find out which things they enjoy, which things they'd rather do without and what types of new activities they would like to begin to include. This way you can avoid being trapped in doing something simply because *"you've always done it that way."* Who knows, you might even rediscover what really makes a tradition a real treasure.

VALUE YOUR PRIORITIES

Much of the stress we experience, especially during the holidays, occurs when the way we are spending our time does not match our priorities. For instance, if you highly value family time, yet you find yourself having very little time to spend with your family, you will likely experience feelings of frustrations, disappointment and unhappiness. This internal conflict is your body's way of letting you know that something is "out of whack."

Perhaps you have a vague idea of the things that are important to you. However, if you have never taken the time to verbalize these values or to write them down, they can easily be lost in the shuffle.

Take a few minutes to think about the things in your life that are important to you. Write them down. Number them in their order of importance. Then compare this list to the activities that are actually taking most of your time. The more you are able to line up these lists, the happier you will be.

DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS FOR:

Kitchen: Martha Jane Roark; Sanctuary: Gail McNair; Ushers: Don Kinard & Fred Holt (CC); Kristina Massey; Bill Massey; Jeff Ingram; Noelia Knapp; and Visitor Greeter: Martha Jane Roark

SERVING EPC WEEK OF DECEMBER 25

Counters	Gail McNair; Pete Sanders-Nesbitt
Elder Prayer Partner	Walter Williams
Greeters	Don Kinard; Noelia Knapp
Greeting Cards	Tiffany Ingram
Lay Reader	Fred Holt
Nursery	Noelia Knapp
Security	Chris Posey
Sound	Barry Cosby

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 1

Children's Church	Cheryl Betts; Kathryn Rhodes-Reynolds
Counters	Susan Gilbert; Rita Irons
Elder Prayer Partner	Lloyd Frey
Greeters	Walter Nesbitt; Ruthel VanAmburg
Greeting Cards	Mary Johnson
Lay Reader	Ruthel VanAmburg
Nursery	Bill Massey
Security	Mac Johnson
Sound	David Knapp

EVANGELISM

Last Sunday's Attendance at EPC

Worship: 104 Sunday School: 39
Visitors at EPC: In town: 2 Out of town: 6

IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER CHANGE:

Beginning in January, the EPC newsletter 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.

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

If you wish to receive an e-mail alert when the latest newsletter is available, send in your email address if we don't have it. However, the newsletter can easily be accessed anytime without the alert, on our website: epclife.com. There is a link there to newsletter or access directly at www.epclife.com/newsletter.aspx.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, December 25

No Sunday School
No Fellowship Time
11:00 am Worship
Prayer in Parlor with elders
Lunch after Church—Ruby Tuesday, Peachtree Mall

Monday, December 26

Office Closed

Tuesday, December 27

No newsletter this week

Wednesday, December 28

No usual activities today

Sunday, January 1

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Fellowship Time
11:00 am Worship-no Holy Communion
Prayer in Parlor with elders
Lunch after Church—Houlihan's, Sidney Simons
No Youth Group

Monday, January 2

Office Closed

Wednesday, January 4

No Crafty Crew in Education Center, Room 4
5:00 pm Joyful Ringers
6:00 pm Adult Bell Choir
No Tai Chi Class
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 5

10:30 am Lively Ones Meeting; lunch at O'Charley's
7:00 pm Children's Planning Team Meeting



YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 25 No Sunday School or Children's Church
January 1 No Youth Group
January 13-6 to 8 pm Family Game Night

Thank You

A huge thank you goes to our Boy Scout Troop 98 for their generous giving of 13 pairs of socks; 24 pairs of gloves; 1 three piece set; 3 hats; and 4 hat & glove sets. By the addition of their general gift we were able to donate a total of **180 items** to Valley Rescue Mission and they were so excited to receive our gifts. Thank you one and all for your generous giving to those in need in the Columbus area.



FELLOWSHIP

LUNCH AFTER CHURCH on Sunday, December 25, is at Ruby Tuesday, Peachtree Mall, and on Sunday, January 1, it is at Houlihan's, Sidney Simons Blvd., 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.

WORSHIP

5 WEEK SERMON SERIES

Dec. 24 *Jesus' Wish List* Phil. 4:4-7; Matthew 25:31-46
Dec. 25 *By a Different Road* Matthew 2:1-12
Jan. 1 *Image Is Everything* Genesis 1:26-2:3; Psalm 8:1-9

*On both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day,
Cheryl Betts will be
the reader for "The Angels Speak."*

STEWARDSHIP SEASON

If you have not turned in your Pledge Card and Opportunity List, please do so as soon as possible. These may be put in the offering plate on any Sunday or brought to or sent to the Church Office.

Sale of the Shavor Home

It has been brought to my attention that many members of the congregation are unaware that we finally sold the Shavor Home. The closing was last month. After commission and other related expenses, we received a check for \$91,817.12. We spent \$19,846.32 from our church operating fund for repairs, refurbishing, painting, water and electric bills, grass cutting services, etc. After the church is reimbursed for these expenses we will realize a net of \$71,970.80 from the sale of the house. The Session appointed a committee to study and make a recommendation as to how we want to use those funds. You will hear more later.
Walter Williams, Treasurer

With grateful hearts.....

Dear Church family,

Thank you so much for your prayers, your cards, your visits. Thanks for the Christmas goodies and thanks to the children for their gifts too.

Love to my church family, Janie McClerkin

Pastor Paul, members and friends of Edgewood Presbyterian Church, Thank you for all the prayers, visits, cards, food and the lovely bag of things made by the children. Molly Summers brought it to me which was so nice. I love you....and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Lucille Roberts

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR EDGEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

	November, 2011	Year to Date	Budget to Date
Receipts	\$19,786.43	\$263,685.75	\$282,062.00
Disbursements	(17,584.18)	(295,296.73)	(286,044.33)
Differences	(2,202.25)	(31,610.98)	(3,982.33)

Our income exceeded our expenditures last month for the first time in several months. If pledges and giving are caught up this month maybe our deficit for the year will be much smaller. Actually, it is about \$20,000 less than shown because we spent approximately that much on the Shavor House for which we will be reimbursed.

Walter K. Williams, Treasurer

2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES BOXES ARE NOW AVAILABLE.....

Please look in the narthex of the sanctuary Sunday for your family's box of envelopes. If you do not find one and wish to have one, please contact the Church Office and one will be prepared for you.

Don't forget to throw away any old offering envelopes you may still have on hand. Numbering may vary from year to year and it is important that you use only your newest envelopes so your contribution will be sure to be correctly noted.

Thanks....





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

**Christmas Eve
Worship and
Holy Communion
5:00 pm**

**Christmas Day Worship
11:00 am
(No Sunday School or
Children's Church)**



HAPPY DEC.-JAN. BIRTHDAY TO:

- Molly Summers 27
- Scarlett Linton 31
- Elizabeth Kuechenmeister 1
- Betty Greer 3
- Kristi LaFortune 3
- Lloyd Mewbourne 7
- Robert Warren 7
- Charlie Wike 9

Found in Parlor: adult eyeglasses

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR CHURCH FAMILY

- Rachel Flournoy and Janie McClerkin—at their residences
- Herb Jones temporarily at Capitol Hill Healthcare, Room 375B, Montgomery, AL
- 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

- Sandy Mason's niece and her family—niece's death is imminent
- Joe Post (friend of Ligons) stage 4 brain cancer
- 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
- Rigsby Dixon (Mary Adams' premature great-granddaughter)
- 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)