



Oct–Dec 2010

BETHANY UMC

KidsNews

The Importance of Traditions

Do you have certain memories from your childhood? I bet your fondest memories are centered on a holiday, special event or birthday. I would also bet a lot of the memories you retain stem from certain traditions your family observed. Have you carried those traditions on into your home and family? Why are traditions so important for families to have and to carry on through the generations, especially Holiday traditions?

This summer I saw the movie “Fiddler on the Roof”. At the beginning the main character says, “Traditions, traditions. Without our traditions, our lives would be as shaky as... as... as a fiddler on the roof!” I think that statement is true. Traditions help remind us of who we are and where we come from. They bring families together and provide a sense of family history. Traditions are something you can count on and look forward to. Holiday traditions represent stability and continuity for families.

My favorite traditions are around Christmas time. I think Christmas traditions can bring us closer to God. With the commercialization of Christmas, traditions help us remember we are celebrating the birth of Jesus. My favorite traditions are putting up the Nativity scene and singing Christmas carols while we decorate the tree. I love to attend Candlelight Christmas Eve service with my family. Do you have some traditions you share with your family? It’s not too late to start them now!

Here are some ideas for traditions you can try this year:

1. Attend Christmas Eve service. Bethany has a 3pm Children’s service.
2. Write thank you letters to Jesus. Collect them and make them available every Christmas. Keep adding new letters annually.
3. Come to the Live Nativity and Blessing of the Animals at Bethany on Dec. 9-11.
4. Bake and decorate homemade Christmas cookies.
5. Drive around neighborhoods and look at decorations.
6. Sing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus on Christmas Day.
7. Watch Christmas movies, such as *The Toy that Saved Christmas*, *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.
8. Have an Advent Wreath. Explain what the word “Advent” means and how we can prepare our hearts for Christmas. Explain the name and meaning of each candle.
9. Come to Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 4th.

My wish for you is that you have a memorable, tradition-filled holiday season!

-Susan Hinderliter, Director of Children’s Ministry

Children’s Christmas Eve Service

The Children’s Christmas Eve service is Friday, December 24th at 3:00. At this child-centered, candlelight service you will hear and see the story of Jesus’ birth. Bethany Children’s choirs perform and all children attending the service can participate in the story as either an angel, king or shepherd.

The following volunteers are needed for the service: A Holy family, families to wear costumes and guide our young guest during the service, adults to prepare and pass out halos, crowns, and head-dresses as children arrive and adults to put away costumes.

Contact Susan Hinderliter at 258-6017 ext. 269



Live Nativity

Bethany's *18th Annual Live Nativity & Blessing of the Animals* takes place *December 9th—11th, 6:00—8:30 pm*. For those who have participated in Live Nativity in the past, we hope you will continue to do so as one of your holiday traditions. If you have not participated in the past, there are many opportunities, both in the show and behind the scenes. If you and your family wish to be in the play, you can choose to be in one show or several. The show takes place every 20 minutes. There are no speaking parts or rehearsals. Simply arrive about 20 minutes prior to your performance time. A costume volunteer will help you put on your costume and then you will be given directions about what to do during the show. Children of all ages enjoy being a part of Live Nativity. Also, if you have friends who would like to be in the show, feel free to invite them.

Many people choose to participate behind the scenes. The roles include helping with refreshments, photography (of the play or Blessing of the Animals), costumes, stage directions and set-up and take-down of the Nativity set. In addition, people are needed to help sign in animals and owners at Blessing of the Animals.

Childcare is provided upon request.

Stop by the Ministry Center on Nov. 7, 14, 21 or Dec. 5 to sign up to be a part of Live Nativity and Blessing of the Animals. You may also call Robyn at 258-6017 ext. 233 or email robyn.steinhauser@bethany-umc.org. Be sure to invite your friends and family to experience the joy of Christmas and the birth of Jesus Christ!



The Holy Family during Live Nativity 2009

Children's Quarterly Mission: Libraries of Love

During November, Bethany children are collecting books and raising money for Libraries of Love. This mission offers several opportunities for your children to have a "hands-on" mission experience.

Libraries of Love is a non-profit that establishes libraries in Ugandan schools. The founder, Trudy Marshall, a librarian at Laurel Mountain Elementary and other volunteers spend their summers traveling to Uganda to establish libraries. Over the years, they have built 19 libraries. This summer they will build 4 more, and restock 5 of the existing ones. Please leave your donated books in the collection bins located throughout the children's building and in the Narthex. Children are also invited to help us count the books we receive. Counting donations excites even our youngest children!



Children who benefitted from last year's bake sale.

In addition to the book collection, Bethany children will host a bake sale on November 21st in the Ministry Center, from 9:00—12:15. Money raised at the bake sale is used to feed children at schools where Libraries of Love has a presence. Last year, 50 children were fed for their entire school term as a result of our bake sale. These are children who walk at least an hour to school, and can't go home at lunch...so they were walking in the dark, spending the day with no food and then walking home about 5:30. Many had given up and chosen not to do afternoon school. Money from our bake sale made it possible for them to spend the entire day at school! We hope to sponsor the same 50 children this year and add some as well. The cost to feed a child for one year is only \$11.

At a minimum, please stop by the Ministry Center with your children during the bake sale. Photos of the children who benefitted from last year's bake sale will be on display, as well as their thank you letters to the Bethany children who helped them! Please bring baked goods for the baked sale. The more baked goods we have, the more children we will be able to feed. You can drop baked goods off in the Ministry Center the morning of the sale. Children ages Kinder—5th grade are invited to work at the bake sale.

Contact Sara Solomon at (solozone@austin.rr.com or 258-6650) if your child would like to work at the bake sale. Shifts are 9:00-9:30, 10:25-11:00 and 12:00-12:15. Also, please let Sara know if you will bring a baked good. To help count the books that are donated, please contact Kate Hardin (250-0779 or klsAustin1@aol.com)

Nursery



25th Annual Christmas Tree Sale

All trees are freshly-cut Fraser Firs, and can be picked up at Bethany 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, December 4.

Stop by the table outside the Fellowship Hall on Sundays, November 7, 14 and 21, or in the church office during the week.

Questions? Contact Elizabeth Nettles at 636-0823 or elizabeth.nettles@bethany-umc.org.

Sponsored by Bethany Nursery. Proceeds go to support Bethany Nursery Ministries and childcare scholarships.

Order deadline: Sunday, November 21



Nursery Staff Changes

Meghan Jewett has resigned as Nursery and Mom Care Coordinator. She moved to Phoenix where she is closer to her parents and can continue pursuing her college degree and career in education. Meghan has been a valuable member of the Nursery team for almost four years, and has worked hard to ensure the excellence of care, quality of staff, and positive environment we strive for in the Nursery. Her bright, positive attitude and care for parents, staff and children will be greatly missed!



We are currently interviewing for Meghan's replacement and will have an announcement soon. Please keep Meghan and the whole Nursery staff in your prayers through this time of transition.

Calling All 2010 Babies:

We are currently making new baby ornaments for all the babies born from December 1, 2009, to November 30, 2010! Please contact Elizabeth Nettles at 258-6017 x270 or elizabeth.nettles@bethany-umc.org if you have had a baby born into your family this last year. Please give the child's name, gender, and Bethany relation. We will also be in the Ministry Center Sundays in November.



Do you have a baby in your family this year?

We need YOU to be the Holy Family for 1 of our 21 Live Nativity shows. No talking required, and you get to tell your child he/she was baby Jesus! Call Robyn at 258-6017 (robyn.steinhauser@bethany-umc.org).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

See inside for opportunities to volunteer for the following:

Children's Christmas Eve Service

-youth & adult volunteers, as well as a Holy Family

Live Nativity

-opportunities for children of all ages and adults

Libraries of Love Mission

-opportunities for children of all ages and adults

Sunday School

-adult volunteers needed

Children's Sabbath

-adults needed to help with planning

Human Sexuality Seminar

-adults needed to prepare lunch & snacks



10010 Anderson Mill Rd.,
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And your parents, too!

Children's Discipleship Team

Director of Children's Ministries
Pastor to Children

Susan Hinderliter
Rev. Charlotte Matzinger

Children's Program Asst.

CP Missions
CP Bulletin Boards

Robyn Steinhauser
Kate Hardin
Jennifer Beck
Jenn Griffith

Children's Program Leadership

Children's Choirs Flossie Young

Sunday School Leadership

SS Administrator
SS Database Administrators

SS Bins
SS Crafts
SS Coordinators

Christin Hakesley
Michele Weilemann
Jill Ritter
Jennifer Welsh
Bethany Benson
Michelle Cantrell

Nursery Leadership

Administrator Elizabeth Nettles
Nursery & Mom Care Open
Childcare Scheduler Cindi Wallace
Early Christian Awareness Open
M.O.M. Time Open
Cradle Cross Ministry Jenn Griffith

Children's Task Force

Robbie Seal
John Weilemann
Christin Hakesley

Randy Hall
Tammy Hargett
Kate Hardin

www.bethany-umc.org/children