



The PickWIC Papers

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Family Traditions

By Katy S.

Traditions create memories that can last a lifetime. When I think back to my childhood I have so many fond memories. Many of them were traditions, and now when my siblings and I get together we reminisce about all those fun times! The traditions helped build our relationships and gave us a sense of belonging.

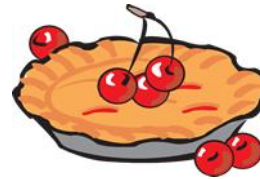
With our children, Robert and I have also started various traditions over the years. Not all of them started intentionally. It would just be something we would do, and then the next year the kids would ask if we could do it again. One of our favorite family traditions has been camp outs. Every winter we have an indoor camp out. We roast hot dogs in the fireplace and set up camp in the living room. At some point we make s'mores and have hot chocolate. Getting out the flashlights, telling stories, and singing together are highlights. In the summer we also camp out in our backyard. The kids especially enjoy sitting around the fire telling stories, looking at the stars, singing, and sleeping in the tent.

Now not all of these nights are picture perfect or smooth sailing. Life happens! But we can look back and remember the good times and laugh at the chaotic moments. We hope that we can strengthen our relationships with our children through family traditions, and it can be in a Christ-centered atmosphere that would show them that family is a unit that God Himself created and blesses.



An interview with Sally F., Part 2

Describe for us a typical family meal at your house. What is your favorite thing to cook?



Well, we usually do meat, potatoes, veggies or casseroles- nothing fancy, that is for sure.

I prefer to be making something sweet, and my kids, well, they seem to like the sweet part too!

What is the best part of the day for you?

The afternoon when all work is done and I have a few quiet moments before the kids come home and the supper needs to be made.

The worst?

Probably the morning, rushing the kids up and getting them fed and off to school.

What kind of work do you do besides keeping up with and caring for your family and home?

Not too much else besides cleaning a few businesses in town in the evenings, cleaning my oldest son's house, and helping with our *Yard Care* business.

Do you look forward to the summer when you are busy mowing yards, etc.?

Yes and no. I love to get outside and mow, but we do become really busy during the spring/summer, so I have kind of mixed feelings, I guess.

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Tell us about your work.

We mostly just mow grass. Some are bigger farm yards. We have a church and some businesses in Fairbury that we mow too. We also do three cemeteries, so the trimming is always fun at those places. ☺ Les does some other things, too, like roll yards, spread fertilizer on yards, till gardens, and spray weeds. In the spring we also have some yard clean up.

What is your favorite house-hold chore; what is your least favorite?

Well, I like a clean house, but I can't say I have a favorite one that I like to do; but, if I want a clean house, I've got to do it. ☺

Do you have a favorite passage from the Bible?

I have many, but this one seems to stand out to me:

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. - John 14:3

Why is it special to you?

It's just a verse that God has brought into my life, time and time again, when I'm struggling with doubting my salvation and if I really am saved. He has shored me up with it more than once. ♥♥

Tell us about your salvation experience. What is God doing in your life now?

Well, I believe I became a Christian back some years ago, though I'm not exactly sure when it was. I was going to the church I grew up in, and I thought I was saved. I never really understood the gospel fully, but I believe God in His amazing way moved me to more of an understanding through the preaching of the Word and through listening to Christian radio. By hearing preachers on the radio, I got a better understanding of justification. I was praying for Les, because I knew he needed to grow in his faith and wasn't really leading as a husband and father. God answered my prayers in a way I never expected. He changed Les so much and gave him a hunger for truth and an understanding which helped me to grow even more in my understanding. So much so that we had to leave our church, which is what brought us to Paxton. Les and I knew how we believed and sought out a church that was founded on the Apostolic doctrine.

Women need women,
to think biblically, live covenantally,
and pass the legacy on to the next generation.

"Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land." [...] A good wife will make her husband known, and add to his public reputation in various ways. Her prudent conduct in her domestic arrangements will enable him to leave home with confidence to attend to public business. She does not engross his company so as to prevent his becoming a public benefactor and blessing. By the happiness which she imparts to him at their own fireside she sends him abroad, not with a downcast look, as if he had left a heavy trouble at home, or carried it everywhere with him; but with a cheerful countenance, as though he had just come from the scene and seat of his chief earthly bliss. By her proper care of his personal appearance, in the elegance and neatness of his apparel, (which in ancient times was the work of her hands;) and especially by the force of her holy example sustaining and encouraging his excellence, she raises the honour and increases the respect of her husband. He is better known and more esteemed as the husband of such a wife. Can a woman rise to higher honour than to be so excellent and estimable as to augment the public respectability of her husband?*

Female Piety, A Young Woman's Friend and Guide

By John Angell James, Puritan author, 1860

* "Engross his company" in present day vernacular may be thought of as "demand his time."



John Broadus to Lottie Broadus

Wednesday, September 2, 1863

My dearest Lottie,

...Lottie, it is possible—of course it is—that I may not see you anymore. Four weeks, four weeks and I may have ceased to breathe. So I'll tell you right now, here in the still night, in the room where at this hour we have often fallen asleep together, in the house where I first won your timid consent to be my bride, that I love you more now than ever before, more and more every year of the five—that I love you as much as I ever loved any other, or ever could have learned to love anyone that lives. Lottie, won't you love me too—don't you? Won't you pour all the wealth of your woman's love, undoubting, without any reserve, into my bosom, and let it flood my soul with sweetness? Won't you unlock every recess of your heart, and let all its affections rush forth in one rich, full tide of love? Won't you forgive [me] if I have sometimes been exacting, apparently neglectful—won't you forget that you have ever yielded to one moment's skepticism about my love—won't you just surrender your whole heart to trustful and joyful affection for your lover and your husband?

True, I am a man of bare ambition, with fondly cherished hopes of doing some good, and of gaining the good opinion of men, but O my darling, the life of my life is bound up in your love. Tell me, tell me, that without reserve, from a full, overflowing heart, you love me—that you will always love me, with your whole heart—and I am happy, and there is nothing earth can give or take away that shall render me really unhappy—for are we not both trying, amid all our weakness, to trust in the yet loftier and richer love of our God and Saviour? Then love me, Lottie, love me—see how much more you can love me—I claim to deserve it only on one ground, that I love you—love me, dearest, love me, love me, love me, love me.

I am unwilling to cease writing. I want to keep begging you to love me. Not that I doubt you, dearest—O no!—fond, faithful, true, self-sacrificing, devoted wife—I know you love me dearly, and for that very reason I want you to love me more, dearest, more. But while I write, I feel not so far distant; and when I stop, the wires seem to be cut, and the blank, impassable space stretches out between us. Lottie, won't you love me?

Ever tenderly yours,
—John A. Broadus

The Christian Lover- The Sweetness of Love and Marriage in the Letters of Believers by Michael A.G. Haykin with Victoria J. Haykin

Getting to Know Bre

In response to my many questions, Bre candidly shares a bit of her life. ~Lani

Nathan proposed at Avanti's in Bloomington, IL in November 2015. That was the restaurant we had our first date at in July 2014. After he proposed, we met up with his siblings to do an "Escape Room" experience and went out to Olive Garden with them all. We got married in June 2016 and had a medium sized outdoor wedding at a horticultural center in Joliet, Illinois. It was a beautiful, but exceedingly HOT day! Madison was our flower girl, and my closest cousin, Jill, was my maid-of-honor. Two of my sisters-in-law and Nathan's sister were also my bridesmaids. Nathan's brothers and a brother-in-law were his groomsmen.



I grew up on the Illinois/Wisconsin border, in a town called Spring Grove (until junior high). We lived near a small ski hill, "Wilmon Mountain," where my mom and brother worked and we spent many afternoons skiing! When I was going into 7th grade we moved to Shorewood, IL until college.

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**LINCS- Ladies Intent on Nurturing,
Connecting and Serving**

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I have two older brothers. Matt is three years older than me and Brad is six years older than me. I am especially close with my parents. We typically see them once or twice a month now that we have moved an hour and forty-five minutes south of them. Until 2016, we were only eleven minutes from them and saw them at least three times a week. Thankfully, we have the telephone and Facetime to continue to feel close to them :-)

In college, I majored in chemistry with a minor in education (at U of I, Champaign). I was a teaching assistant for Chemistry 100 at U of I for one semester, then I taught chemistry at the high school I graduated from for 10 years until Nathan and I got married in 2016. Since then, on occasion, I have substitute taught a variety of grades and classes in Cissna Park. I enjoy the opportunities to sub, especially getting to see Madison at the school throughout the day! Now, I am part-time employee at CP Diesel, Inc.! Nathan and I opened a diesel repair shop in November 2017. He manages the shop and is a mechanic on medium and heavy duty semi-trucks. I work in the office on billing and I'm beginning to help with more of the "parts department." His brother, Thomas, works with us full-time, and Robert works with us part-time when he's not farming. It is WONDERFUL getting to see Nathan every day! I love being able to bring the kids out to say "hi" to Daddy or for us all to work together on odds and ends. I also LOVE that family is in and out of the shop on a regular basis! His parents stop by, siblings, cousins, uncles and friends, too! So many people have helped in so many different ways, and it's so wonderful to see all of the different "hands" that have played a role in where the business is today, just about 7 months from its start. It's a fun mix of being a working mom with some stay-at-home-mom benefits! At the same time, it is super different than being a full-

time high school chemistry teacher ;-)

For my favorite Bible verse, perhaps it would be Proverbs 3:5 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding." After the beautiful baby shower given for us at church last February, Pam shared with me several verses that she had found towards "pregnancy and labor & delivery" that she had shared some of during the shower. I posted them near the rocking chair where I nurse Nolan and have just loved having them there (with all the time spent in that chair, it's been wonderful to have God's word close in that way). I am so thankful to be able to trust in Him and know that I should do so with my whole heart! Especially during all of the changes and transitions that I have experienced over the last couple of years, I find myself remembering these words most often.

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You asked about Madison, she is so creative and descriptive! I can remember from when she was super young, she's been able to describe things in great detail! She is also creative in her play time (being the only child for 8.5 years helped with that, I'm sure!). It's hard to say what she may be when she grows up, but I think perhaps something where she uses her ability to teach or describe things to others (maybe teaching!?) or where she uses her creativity to develop new ideas. For now, I think she'll take those attributes and share them with her baby brother :-) Last summer she set out to teach him his ABC's ;-)

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They'll have a lot of time together this summer while we're all at the shop more, so I'm excited for that! One special story that I hold close to my heart about her is how she started calling Nathan "Daddy" from the day we were married. She gave the cutest toast (dance party start off, actually) at our wedding, sharing a few attributes about us each that she loves most. Her love towards Nathan and the special bond that they share melts my heart; we are so blessed to have one another and call each other FAMILY!



'PIC' A STORY

By Tracy M.

There is truth to the old saying "a picture is worth a thousand words." Pictures taken in a moment of time capture history, memories, events, and they speak of relationship. Placed within a family photo album, pictures preserve the past, they speak a story, and they remind us of the journey of God's unfolding plan in our lives. I am reminded of this reality when I watch Jori and Kellyn pull out the family photos. Through several laughing moments and hysterics directed at bad haircuts, missing teeth, and scary outfits, we get to the heart of what they are seeking. They are thinking about their journey and our journey as a family. They are visualizing 'the story' filled with grandparents, parents, cousins, pets, and friends along the way. There are pictures of Mom and Dad when they were babies in their years of growing up being raised by grandparents that they adore. Then in God's providence within history begins the story of them.

"Thank God for his wonderful promise that He will never leave us or forsake His covenant people."

Larry and I were both coaching at Illinois Wesleyan University when we first met, and in 1994 tied the knot in a ceremony in a lovely chapel on campus. We both continued to coach, but when Jori was born I knew God was leading me to resign from a career I loved to be a stay-at-home mom and focus my time and energy on family. Larry had an opportunity to be a head football coach and we moved to Eureka where we would spend 3 years. During this time we were blessed with the birth of Kellyn in 1998, and a year later another coaching opportunity brought us to Paxton.

There are times in life that you pray for God's leading and guidance in making decisions and you walk through the steps with peace only to find the picture wasn't as you anticipated or expected. Just because God is orchestrating the steps doesn't mean He is going to make the journey easy. And so we learned. Our first few years in Paxton were filled with adversity, struggle, and disappointment. Although we never wavered in our faith in God and His plan within our lives, it caused us to question ourselves, our motives, and all those places you go when things are not working out as you expect. Now looking back, these pictures within our young lives were times that God was refining us. He was teaching us to be more dependent upon Him and not ourselves and helping us to trust Him more fully.

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After almost 20 years of living in this little community, God has continued to bless our family with wonderful moments of watching our kids grow and develop through their many opportunities within church, school, athletics, college, and the many people that would greatly influence their lives. He has used Larry's gift of servant leadership within his family, church, and schools. Now after years of commitment of staying home to raise kids, He has provided and blessed me with a job where I am thriving. God is good!

When our family reflects upon our journey to this community and our many years here, there is no doubt in our minds that He was calling us to be involved in a covenant family that we love and have been blessed with. Learning God's word through the lens of reformed theology has enriched and deepened our faith and has motivated us to want to learn more. Fellowship within church family has been nothing short of amazing.

As I reflect upon the verse from Jeremiah 29:11 that God spoke to His people living in exile, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future," I am reminded that God never promised the Israelites an easy road but his covenant promise remained. They needed to trust God and His plan. To grow and thrive where they were, even in exile. In simply trusting God there would be blessing and they would bless those around them. Thank God for his wonderful promise that He will never leave us or forsake His covenant people. He is with us in the good times and the adversities and challenges of life, and He is faithful.

"When holy, hopeful women live covenantally by sharing the gospel and their lives, they disciple other women to be holy and hopeful." *Transformed, Life-taker to life-giver* by Karen Hodge & Susan Hunt

Alice Thomas' Chocolate Chip Cookies

From the kitchen of Annie J.

Ingredients

- 2 eggs (at room temperature is OPTIONAL)
- 2 sticks salted butter (15 seconds in the microwave)
- $\frac{3}{4}$ c. white sugar
- $\frac{3}{4}$ c. light brown sugar, packed
- 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ c. all-purpose flour
- 1 c. quick oats
- 1 bag semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. vanilla

One summer when I was interested in going to culinary school, my sister Kami arranged for me to go learn baking skills from a lady she knew. I got this recipe from her. Best cookies ever!

To make

- Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Add all ingredients to the bowl of a Kitchen-Aid mixer. (Measure the flour by sprinkling it into a cup and leveling it with a knife. Do not pack.) With mixer on medium speed, incorporate all ingredients. When no dry patches remain, turn off mixer. Use a knife to spread any patches of butter left in the dough. Scoop batter with a $\frac{1}{4}$ -cup measuring cup; level with knife. Spoon onto an ungreased cookie sheet.
- Stagger cookie dough 2-1-2-1 (for a total of 6 cookies per sheet.)
- Bake for 8 minutes. After baking, use a plastic spatula to scoot cookie dough edges into circles. Leave on the cookie sheet for 8 minutes while another batch bakes. After 8 minutes, place on cookie rack to cool. May be frozen.