



Beautiful in Blue: An English Tea

English Tea is a long tradition in the British Isles for women in the middle and upper classes. It includes a break in the mid-afternoon from the work of the day, time to visit with friends, enjoying refreshing and sustaining hot tea and light food in preparation for the remainder of the day.

At Easley Presbyterian, the tradition has become a large fellowship event for the women, usually in Springtime. It has been enjoyed, by now, for nearly 20 years! Rosemary Holtzendorff, of English birth but a longtime American, shared the tradition with friends in her Easley home for many years. During her years in leadership with the Easley Presbyterian Women she was convinced to share the Tea traditions on a larger scale with all the women of EPC. Friends outside of the church were invited and the EPW English Teas became a popular event.

Rosemary chose a small committee of good cooks, planners and workers to present a differently themed Tea each year. The group tried to keep the event as “by women, for women and with proceeds to assist women.” Of course, there were always some very appreciated husbands and volunteers who assisted. But the event has remained primarily for the fellowship of women, both in working and attending the Tea.

The planning team for the “*Beautiful in Blue*” 2024 English Tea is sorely missing the calm, persistent, humble, faith-filled, and thoughtful leadership which Rosemary brought to many EPW events and offerings. But we are carrying on, remembering her guidance, under the able leadership of Joan Groome who has been an integral planning team member of all our previous EPC Teas.

We are planning to serve a full, four course tea menu with all the traditional offerings. Each table will, as usual, be adorned with a tier of sweets.



There will be scones!



There will be shortbread!



There will be those magical cucumber sandwiches!



There will be lemon curd! Yes, tarts!

And there will be so many other delicious, home-made sweets and savories that you will not want any dinner! There will be special music and fanciful decorations!

We are hoping that all the women attending this Tea will wear something blue (Rosemary’s favorite color) to add to the décor. While hats, gloves and other finery are always encouraged and enjoyed, festive and fun attire is all that is required. (Well, you could also practice up on your table manners.)

Tickets are on sale now! Invite your friends.





If you would like to volunteer to help with the Tea, please contact Joan Groome at 855-9944. Assisting with the tearoom set-up or clean-up, serving as a “waitress” or as kitchen help during the tea are all appreciated.



If you would like to share your china for use during the Tea, please contact Joan Groome. If you would like to be a seated Table Hostess, please contact Joan Groome or Janice Pritchett (979-9356) to discuss the several options for this role.



The very first EPW Tea gave its proceeds to the very beginnings of rape crisis support in Pickens County. This year, the Tea Planners have chosen to donate Tea proceeds to the Pickens County Advocacy Center. Is it only coincidence that this new non-profit is the final result, over all these years, of several iterations and much work by people in our county trying to give good help to those who are victims of sexual violence? The Pickens County Advocacy Center describes itself as follows:

Our vision is a safe and supportive community for all individuals.

Our mission is to prevent sexual violence and support survivors by providing trauma-informed services, education, and collaboration within Pickens County.

There will be more information about the Advocacy Center available at the Tea.

We ask that you only purchase tickets if you plan to attend the Tea each year. This is because most of the food is made as individual items, and the Tea cooks make enough to cover the number of women they anticipate attending. Nearly all of the food is donated by the cooks: both the ingredients and the labor. So your ticket purchase is one portion of what we are, all together, able to donate to the organization or cause chosen each year. The decorations used to create the Tea Room atmosphere we all enjoy are usually either lent for the Tea, donated or available for sale. The always-creative decoration itself is organized, overseen, or made as donation. This year Lori Brock is coordinating or creating the Tea Room decoration.

There will be other options for donating while you are attending the Tea this year. There will be a raffle of at least three generous parcels of tea-related items. The plants used to decorate the Tea Room and both the Tea Recipe booklet and the EPW Cookbook will all be on sale. There will be, additionally, some items which Rosemary collected or knitted, over many years, available for purchase. If you wish to make a separate donation, either at the Tea or during ticket sales, please make a note with it that it is “donation” and not for any purchase.



The Tea planning Team is looking forward to sharing food, tea and fellowship, all with touches of Beautiful Blue, with you on May 4th !