

Ten Reasons to Remain an Episcopalian

- 1) "You know why Episcopalians read so many prayers aloud in church"? – as the old joke goes,
 - *"Because speaking in unison makes people think that Episcopalians actually agree on something!"*
- 2) That's the Episcopal Via Media, the middle way between two extremes.
 - *Interpretation of Scripture - balanced with Tradition and Reason.... No snakes.*
- 3) Take Evolution, for example. Some Episcopalians believe in it. Some don't.
 - *Episcopalians seem to prefer thoughtful dialogue about the Role of Science in Religion. Maybe that's because certain issues exist today that were simply not around at the time of Jesus – like Stem Cell Research and Nuclear Warfare.*
- 4) Being an Episcopalian means having access to numerous learning opportunities for the whole family.
 - *parish youth groups and Episcopal camps and schools, the Episcopal Church Women, devotional organizations such as Daughters of the King, adult Bible seminars, retreats and many other educational programs.*
- 5) When an Episcopalian is asked, "Have you been saved?" and replies, "Yes, it took the first time."
 - *He or she isn't being sassy, just living according to the promise found in John 3:16-17 and the assurance of Jesus' second coming and fulfillment of the Kingdom of God.*
- 6) Ever hear, "Don't mix church and politics"? Well, Episcopalians do and seem happy to. In fact, their Baptismal Covenant demands that they:
 - *"...strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being."*
- 7) Most people talk about the future, but progressive Christians like Episcopalians live it.
 - *Consider the Civil Rights Movement and how many Episcopal priests led the way. Same for Women's Equality, and now Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered.*
- 8) Rooted in Anglicanism, yet, its governing body uniquely structured to mirror American democracy,
 - *The Episcopal Church will no doubt stay the course of "middle way", taking necessary risks at times, and showing the way. It's called Leadership.*
- 9) Some people speak of withdrawing from support systems offered by The Episcopal Church. Leadership in four dioceses (of 111 in TEC) and a scattering of parishes have severed ties, but TEC carries on. Its dioceses and parishes remain part of The Episcopal Church.
- 10) "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You" reads the popular car bumper sticker.
 - *Maybe it should read, "The Episcopal Church Welcomes Everyone," because it does, just like Jesus did.*

Use your head, not your feet, remain an Episcopalian

Dolores J. Miller, an Episcopalian living in the Diocese of South Carolina – October, 2009

About the Author: Dolores J. Miller is originally from New Jersey and is now a member of St. John's Episcopal Church in Florence, SC. She has as vestry member, junior warden, and senior warden and a Diocesan Convention delegate; she has chaired the Diocesan Council Department of Finance and served on the Camp St. Christopher Campaign Steering Committee. At the Provincial level she has been a long-time member and officer of the Altar Guild; nationally she has been a General Convention deputy from South Carolina, a member of the National Altar Guild Association and the Episcopal Women's Caucus. She is a Director of The Episcopal Forum of SC. Dolores attended Averett College in Danville, Virginia, and has held administrative positions at Salisbury State University, Salisbury, MD; Francis Marion University, Florence, SC.