

# EPistle

Knowing Christ...Loving Christ... Showing Christ.



January/February 2008



## Over our Shoulders and Up Ahead...

By Pastor Dan Smith

"Where there is no vision, the people perish..." Proverbs 29:18a (KJV)

When I was in college I learned a profound definition for the word "vision". Are you ready for it?... It's *the ability to see*. Pretty obvious, huh? But it's not simplistic! Vision can still be a metaphor for ideas like *understanding, perceiving, and perspective*. In fact, most of these words derive from the same root. The Scriptures tie vision to wisdom. Those who forget what the past "looked like" are characterized as "fools". And in passages like the one above, when we lack the perspective that can only come from the Lord, we are as those who are "blind". Put simply, real vision takes in the perspective of both where we've been and where we're going.

This issue of the EPistle is designed to help us "see" in both of these directions. Most of the articles printed herein will give a glance at some of what the Lord has

done in various ministries throughout the past year, and also give us a glimpse of what we sense the Lord is calling us to pursue. So we hope that, reading together, our collective vision will improve.

But while it is important to pursue this type of *seeing* with respect to particular ministries, there is also a good bit of *perceiving* that would help us as a broader church. As we look at the year in review, there is some reshaping that the Lord has been doing in the way that we are organized for ministry. For most of the last 40 years, we have had two (2) ordained Pastors at EP—and never more than three (3). But we will enter 2008 with five (5)! With the addition of Pastor Greg Doty as our Youth Pastor, the ordination of Tom Wenger as our Discipleship Pastor, we are also preparing to welcome Pastor Bob Borger as our Congregational Care Pastor. Bob and his wife, Jan, have been serving the Lord in pastoral ministry for over 25 years. Bob has abilities in most areas of ministry; but he is particularly passionate about caring for people who have needs that go beyond the scope of most of the

church's mainstream ministries. We are looking forward, with much enthusiasm, to the arrival of the Borgers later in January.

One of the reasons that we see for the increased number of pastors on our staff is the ministry dynamic that continues to develop in a church our size. We're certainly not the largest of churches. But we are large enough that more and more of our Staff must be equippers and mobilizers of God's people for ministry. We certainly desire to be a Staff with the hearts of servants. But we must also continue to see ourselves as "administrators" as much as ministers. The real ministers at EP are the members and regular partakers. And the roles of Staff and Officers must continue to grow in the process of helping others to find their gifts and calling as well. So we see this development as preparation for greater work that the Lord has ahead for us!

Another area of our Staff at EP that has undergone some renovation over the last

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## Ministry Campaign - Vision Notes Long Range Planning Committee

"Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained." Proverbs 29:18 NASB

"Vision" Hebrew *châzôwn*: a sight (mentally) i.e. a dream, revelation or oracle – vision; derived from *châzâh* – to gaze at; mentally to perceive, contemplate (with pleasure).

At the foundation of this new ministry campaign, this 'vision', is a desire to see an expansion of God's ministry through EP. From the total goal of \$1.5 million, a tithe of 15% is set apart for ministry through missions with

15% of each dollar, as received, dedicated as first fruits to God.

We all realize that not every dollar given to 'missions' directly funds the proclamation of the Gospel. Just as contributions to a missionary's support includes money for them to heat their homes or put another book on their shelves, God's work often includes – even requires – the mundane and common efforts that might seem extra or even unnecessary. It's not that buying fuel or books wastes missions' money, it's that the missionary is dedicated to God's uses and they steward that call-

ing as enabled by the support they receive.

Likewise, we at EP steward the dedicated things for which our leaders now envision improvement:

- Stewarding the one irreplaceable resource – time – by bringing the buildings to a condition for the efficient use by staff, the congregation and missionary families, whether because the offices are located together, the classrooms are more useful or the Missions House more comfortable.

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Evangelical Presbyterian  
CHURCH OF ANNAPOLIS

...Knowing Christ ...Loving Christ ...Showing Christ



**EP Church**...a community of God's people seeking to  
**Know Jesus Christ** as He is revealed to us in the Holy Scriptures  
**Love Jesus Christ** as the Holy Spirit has shown Him to us in the Gospel.  
**Show Jesus Christ** as we relate biblically in our circles of relationships to the Lord • to the Body of Christ  
• to the World...that Christ would be glorified, and that Annapolis and the world may know that God has sent His Son.



### EP Staff and Officers

*Senior Pastor* - Bruce O'Neil, ext 111  
*Executive Pastor* - Dan Smith, ext 111  
*Congregational Care Pastor* - Bob Borger, ext 118  
*Congregational Life Minister* - Tom Beall, ext 117  
*Director of Women's Ministry* - Jenny Woodruff, ext 127  
*Discipleship Pastor* - Tom Wenger, ext 105  
*Community Outreach Coordinator* - Laurie Nelson, ext 125  
*Assistant Pastor of Youth Ministry* - Greg Doty, ext 123  
*Assistant Youth Director* - Rachel Collins, ext 128  
*Youth Intern* - Jeremy Tate, ext 122  
*Youth Intern* - Cortney Breitschwerdt, ext 128  
*Children's Ministry Coordinator* - Linda Cate, ext 126  
*Organist* - Lois White  
*Interim Choir Director* - Ruth Burge  
*Administrative Director* - Herb Conklin, ext 113  
*Ministerial Administrator* - Sue Sadlier, ext 111  
*Database Administrator* - Annette See, ext 125  
*Publications Administrator* - Melissa Drouin, ext 112  
*Maintenance Administrator* - Dannie Smith, ext 121

The staff can be reached at 410-266-8091 plus the extensions as noted. A voice mail message may be left at the same extension.

### Elders for 2008

Tom Beall, Jim Burge, Chuck Cochran, Floyd Gilkey, Bruce Miller, Rob Niewoehner, Adrian Park, Bill Richardson, Tom Thompson.

### Deacons for 2008

Walt Asplund, BJ Bigelow, Robin Burns, Jeff Donaldson, Dave Eby, Mike Hannigan, Mike Hoffman, Scott Howie, Al Kairys, Mark Lentz, Jay Mahaffey, Steve Marshall, Paul Mexcur Brian Miller, John Morris, Wayne Mueller, Robert Murphy, Paul Piccioni, Rob Robbins, Louis Smith, Glenn Woodruff.

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couple of years is our Children's Ministry. Deb Geis has faithfully loved our children and teachers over the past year. But Deb has sensed the Lord calling her to pursue training in the area of biblical counseling—a call that she will seek to follow in the year ahead. So please join us in prayer for Deb in her new pursuit. While we are sad to see Deb leave our Staff, we are pleased to welcome Linda Cate as our new Children's Ministry Coordinator. Linda and her husband, Tim, have been members at EP for over 20 years, and Linda has been involved with our ministry to children for much of that time; as well as teaching children vocationally. So please join us in prayer for Linda as she transitions from her part-time role as our Children's Ministry Assistant into this new full-time role.

We have also been seeking the Lord's provision of a replacement for Karyn Butler's vacated position, and are pleased to introduce Laurie Nelson as our new Community Outreach Coordinator. Laurie and her husband, Butch, met each other here at EP about 20 years ago, and Laurie has been very instrumental in establishing our M.O.P.S. (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) ministry, as well as our recent M.O.P.S. initiative in the community of Woodside Gardens. Please pray for Laurie as she assumes this role in January.

We continue to seek the Lord's provision for the interim musical roles that have so

aply been filled by Ruth and David Burge. Would that all of our mothers and sons (and Aunts—Lois White, our organist, is Ruth's sister!) could share such a rich ministry partnership! Please continue to pray, with us, for the people that the Lord has in mind for these roles.

So, what is the vision looking ahead? Well, it is much clearer than it was a year ago—but it is not as clear as we believe it will be a year from now. We have seen the Lord give progress in ministry areas that we have been pursuing. Yet we have also seen Him work in areas where we had not even been looking! Our God seems to be heightening our appreciation for the plight of those without Christ, and that of the needy and the poor. We desire to seek and embrace opportunities to minister with deeds of mercy to the community around us; while remaining devoted to the content of our faith—the Gospel of our salvation. And the call to faithful stewardship has us desiring to proceed carefully so that the foundation for our next steps will be firm in every way. This is why we believe that our current ministry campaign is so important. It isn't the case that we don't have a clear picture of the kind of ministry that the Lord has in store for us. But we are reluctant to declare what the future will hold because we believe that there are important foundational steps that we must not neglect. It is our perception that the Lord may very well be calling us to assist in the establishing of additional churches

within the Annapolis community. Every church that we have planted over the last 30 years has been outside of Annapolis. Perhaps the Lord is calling us to move "in". We can see the planting of a Latino ministry! We can see the establishment of an urban ministry center where the Gospel is proclaimed to the underprivileged in our town through a worshipping community that seeks to renew housing, strengthen urban families, and seek the peace and prosperity of our city. We see the need to become intentional about establishing ministry beach-heads with those who serve our state and study at our academic institutions. Much of this work can probably be done from our campus here at EP. But does the Lord want it all done from here? Or are there components that would be more effectively launched from locations closer to the need? These are questions to which we seek to find answers. We don't necessarily need to answer them all in order to take steps in these directions; but we recognize the value in focusing our efforts so that we might be effective in what we attempt for the Lord.

So we invite you to continue in this journey! Lift your eyes! The fields are ripe for the harvest! May the Lord mobilize each one of us to use the gifts that He has given, that the Gospel will bear fruit, and the Kingdom of God will come in its fullness!



God through His faith-full servants becomes the manifestation of His will; literally, His answer to those questions.

Following the past two months of prayerful consideration of our leadership's vision (developed through their prayer and reasoning together), we now await the congregation's response. At this writing in early December, the first 2 weeks of response have reaped 76 faith promises totalling \$552,000.00 and of that, 31 pledges from church officers for \$214,000.00. If that rate of response remains con-

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- The teaching communicated better through the sound board for edification of the believers (faith by 'hearing' of the Word may even require a working sound board in this day).
- Presenting a better witness to visitors by improving the Sanctuary lighting and removing the shadows from the cross above the pulpit.
- The "doors of the church flung wide open" because there's additional parking available between 9:00 and 11:00 on Sunday morning.
- The final pay-off of our mortgage to free additional funds from that payment for other ministry opportunities

(burning the mortgage used to be a major event in the life of a homeowner because of the liberty from debt it represented).

Each of the planned projects might seem to be mundane and common things to the world, but they are not wasted money. You may ask, "Is this the best use of the money and time I have?" "Is this worth the sacrificial giving on my fixed income?" "Is this what God would have me do with what He's given me?" Your answer to those questions is tantamount to God's answer, in one sense. If you're faithful (and without faith, there's simply no pleasing Him), then the work of

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stant (and consistent for everyone in the congregation), the Ministry Campaign responses will be complete in early January, 2008. All that is to say: "If you haven't yet responded with what you can give as an offering, please consider carefully what God would have you do."

*'And Abraham said to Issac "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering."* Genesis 22:8

As with everything for His people, God supplies to us what He requires from us - whether our professions of faith, His righteousness or His offerings. No one rightly presumes that it is our effort that has created wealth, any more than we author our own faith or righteousness.

We are stewards of what God gives and answer to Him only for our obedience or presumption. (It's only sometimes that it feels like we're giving up our first-born.) By the time you read this, the congregation has answered as to what we believe faith, obedience and stewardship require of us. But what is faith without the walking out? Listen carefully and you'll hear James' challenge of "Show me your faith and I'll show you my works."

What works are needed for walking out this vision to completion? Many different ones. Do you know which end of a hammer to hold? There will be nails with your name on them. Can you paint three strokes in the same direction and get more paint on the wall than on yourself? We have a color you're going to love. Do you want to earn the right to point to the Mission House in years to come and offer a witness to your children's children that you helped preserve it for the comfort and rejuvenation of missionary families in the advancement of the Kingdom? Sign up when the time comes in February and March.



## Service Opportunities in the Worship Ministry

By Ruth Burge

It is the prayer of the worship team that the Sunday services and special worship opportunities that we plan for you are a blessing to your life and that your soul is refreshed through them. We do hope that your satisfaction does not lead to believe that there are no opportunities for service in the Worship Ministry. In fact there are some very real needs, some of them pressing. A few of them are outlined below.

**Choir Members:** All of the choirs are in need of more singers. January is a wonderful time to start your choir participation as all the music will be new to returning members as well as you. The Sanctuary Choir needs more singers as we begin to make preparations for the Tenebrae service before Easter. Don't underestimate the contribution that you could make.

Sanctuary Choir (high school-adult):  
Wed evening from 7:00-8:30, sing most Sunday mornings  
Junior Choir (3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade): Thur afternoons from 3:30-4:45, sing once a month on Sun. AM  
Cherub Choir (3 yrs-2<sup>nd</sup> grade): Thur afternoons from 3:30-4:00, sing once a month on Sun. AM

**Instrumentalists:** We are always seeking to identify people skilled in a variety of instruments. We need string players, guitar players, set drummers, woodwind players, etc. Skilled piano players are always in demand. If you think you could contribute in some way, let us know. We would be glad to hear you play and let you know how you might fit in to the needs of the Worship Ministry.

**Trained Musicians:** Besides people who "do music for fun," we need

people who could be musical leaders for or in our ensembles. If you have a music degree or have been the beneficiary of many years of quality music lessons, let us know. There may be a place for you to serve.

To volunteer your services or to ask questions, contact Ruth Burge at 410-923-2338 or [riburge@epannapolis.org](mailto:riburge@epannapolis.org). Pray about how the Lord might use your musical ability to lead in worship.



## Men's Ministry Annual Report

By Tom Beall

2007 began with over 100 men attending the continued first year of Men's Fraternity. 105 attended the Men's Retreat in February where Daron Lawing led us in looking at the "Great War". Each month a fellowship/outreach event drew new men from the congregation and those from outside of EP as well.

These included fishing trips, a golf tournament, father/child picnics, Promise Keepers, a trip to an Orioles game. The core of the Men's Ministry is Small Group/Bible studies and over 150 men met in groups of 2-10 this year for Bible study, prayer, sharing, and to encourage each other to grow in Christ.

2008 begins with the Men's Retreat on February 22-24 at Camp Wabanna where we will explore what the "Community of Grace" looks like and how we fit as God uses us at EP. Monthly fellowship/outreach events, retreats, and most importantly Bible study/Small Groups will continue through the year. Come join us as we seek to encourage each other to grow in our love for our Lord Jesus Christ.





## Women's Ministries

By Jenny Woodruff

**The Goal:** The goal of Women's Ministries is to see every woman become a mature worshipper of God; that she would know Him personally and be committed to extending His Kingdom in her life, church, community and throughout the world.

**The Purpose:** Women's Ministries exist to provide opportunities for women to be transformed by the Gospel through worship, prayer, study, fellowship, evangelism and service.

**The Framework:** The framework of Women's Ministries provides an opportunity for each woman to discern and exercise her gifts and abilities to the glory of God in the total work and worship of the church.

**The Structure:** Women's Ministries recognizes that all ministries and activities of the church are under the authority and guidance of the Session.

*"Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior, and my hope is in you all day long." Psalm 25:4-5*

**Joining our hearts on the Lord's path...**Some ponderings of Philippians Chapter 1 and some of Chapter 4 Jenny Woodruff, servant of Christ Jesus, Director of Women's Ministries

To all the Women at Annapolis EP:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day I started my job 6 years ago until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in us will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am chained to my desk doing paperwork, teaching the Gospel, taking the trash to the dumpster or rocking babies at a MOPS group, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I love all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.



And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Now I want you to know, sisters (and our brothers) that what has happened to us this past year has really served to advance the Gospel. As a result, it is becoming clear throughout the church and into Annapolis that we are serving Christ. Because of our service most of the sisters in the Lord have been encouraged in our MOPS groups, our Bible studies and Naomi's Sisters and friends, to speak the Word of God and serve more courageously and fearlessly. The important thing is that in every way, whether sitting around a room study-

ing the scripture, setting a table at the Christmas dinner, rocking babies during Bible studies or driving into Woodside Gardens, Christ is preached and the Gospel is lived out. And because of this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers, the prayers of our Women's Ministry Prayer team, the prayers of the Women's Ministry Advisory Council and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened will turn out for the glory of God and the advancement of His Gospel. I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in our body. I pray that for us, to live is Christ and to die is gain. We miss those the Lord has called home but as we go on living in our bodies, may we continue doing the job the Lord set before us.

I know that I will remain, as long as the Lord wants me here and I will continue to work with all of you for our progress and joy in the faith, so that through our being together our joy in Christ Jesus will overflow and be evident to a watching town.

Whatever happens, may we conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ. Then, I will know that we stand firm in one spirit, contending as one body for the faith of the Gospel without being frightened of what we might be asked to do. For it has been granted to us on behalf of Christ not only to believe on Him, but also to serve Him.

Therefore, my sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy, stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!

I plead with you all to agree with each other in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokewomen, help each woman

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## College & Career and the Young and Married

By Tom Wenger

As I have recently completed my ordination trials (that's the official word for it; so I guess it's pun *intended*!) the grace of the Lord as shown through all of you here at EP has never been clearer to me. Not only have I been given the incredible opportunity of working with such encouraging people, but I have also been blessed with the privilege of linking arms with you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, as we labor together to proclaim the truly amazing Gospel of Christ. The work the Lord has called more to at EP has been so rewarding and I'm eager to see what the future holds.

Ministering to people in the college and career stage of life can often be a challenge because of how transient it is. Some are here one semester and then they transfer; others graduate and move on; others are beginning the establishment in their careers and, without spouses and children, they are able to investigate all sorts of

possibilities which often move them from one location to another. However, we have been seriously blessed at EP with a group that is quite dedicated to this church and to serving within it. They have from day one sought to be a part of the larger body here and have no desire to quarter themselves off from the rest of the people who may not fall within their convenient age bracket.



As a result of this, you will find them involved in a lot of the service and ministry opportunities that go beyond what is specific to the C&C group. But what is specific to us has been very refreshing. Our class Sunday morning at 11:15 has continued to grow, and our Bible study on Thursday evening has stayed consistently strong. Each week I walk away from my interaction with them full of grati-

tude because their desire to study the Word and to know the Gospel and its implications for how we live are so insightful, humbling and inspiring. EP Church as a whole has a great deal to gain from reaching down to this group, not only to mentor them, but also to be encouraged by their passion to glorify the Lord because of Christ's work for us.

Another feature of working with those in this age bracket is that they often fall in love with one another and get married. We have been able to share this joy with at least four of our couples in the last year alone and as a result, there has been a new group spawned this fall. They took this initiative for this on themselves and have created not only a class which meets Sunday mornings at 9:30, but also a very active and strong small group. Our discussions Sunday mornings have been quite fruitful and challenging, and it is such an encouragement to see how strong the young families are that the Lord has called to be the next generation of leaders in His church.



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figure out where the Lord would have her serve.

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, no matter what the task is or who you want to reach, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Our God will meet all our needs (no matter what's in our budget) according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Greet each other with buckets of love and tons of hugs. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.



## A Few Administrative Notes

If you would like to have electronic donations made from your checking account to our church on a regular basis, we can do a weekly withdrawal or a monthly withdrawal which could take place on either the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month or the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Did you know that you could make direct stock donations to our church? You can avoid capital gain taxes and gain a full tax deduction for the value of the stock by using this method.

Please call the Church Office if you are interested in doing one of these transfers.

## Giving thru December 16

Operating Fund:	Year To Date
Budgeted Giving	\$ 2,151,000
Actual Giving	\$ 2,135,000
Surplus or (Deficit)	(\$ 16,000)
<b>Building Fund</b>	<b>\$ 54,500</b>

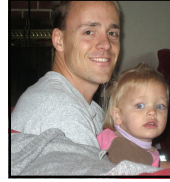
## Youth Ministry Update

By Greg Doty

2007: A Look Back

This past year has been one of transition for the Youth Ministry at EP. During the first part of 2007 Rachel Collins and Caleb Wolf performed an excellent job at continuing the ministry to our students while a search was conducted for a new Youth Minister. During this time, a new male two year intern was hired, that being Jeremy Tate. Shortly after Jeremy came on board, yours truly was hired as the Assistant Pastor for Youth Ministry, quickly followed by a new two year female intern, Cortney Breitschwerdt. Finally, Rachel Collins remained with staff and became the Assistant Youth Director in September. Throughout all of these staff transitions the ministry to our students has continued, not only due to our staff, but due to a wonderful group of adult leaders who give of themselves each week to teach, listen, and encourage our teenagers in their walk with Christ. I am so thankful that God has given this area of our church such talented and gifted peo-

ple who love the body of Christ.



2008: What Lies Ahead?

During the coming year our prayer is to continue to be a community of students who are molded and shaped by the Gospel. Our purpose, not just this year, but every year, is to see the Gospel transform the lives of students in our church, in our community, and throughout the world. As our pastor has been preaching to us over these past few months, the Gospel must and will be central in all that we do as a church and as a ministry. Therefore our Sunday school classes will be centered on God's Word and how it ap-

plies to our life. The "fun" activities are designed in order that students bring their friends to hear the good news of the Gospel so that seeds might be planted and that the Gospel might grow in the lives of others. As we live out the Gospel, we realize that it is not lived in isolation but rather in community, therefore much of what we do is designed to foster community with one another so that we might grow together in our understanding of the Gospel.

So, what lies ahead? Some new events and some not so new-some changes and some things that will remain the same. But above all, our ministry will continue to be centered on the Gospel-for in that is our salvation. And as we continue to plumb the depths of the Gospel we will find ourselves confronted with our sin, amazed again and again by God's grace, and renewed in our love for Christ day after day.



## The Central Goals of Children's Ministry

By Deb Geis

**That Our Children Will Know Christ** through sound Biblical teaching and discipleship. **That Our Children Will Love Christ** by developing a deepening relationship with Him through Scripture memorization and prayer. **That Our Children Will Show Christ** in evangelism, and the development of genuine relationships that honor Him.

While helping our children love Christ more, most of the teaching on prayer is done indirectly. We constantly model prayer with our children without always explaining the *who*, *what* and *whys* of prayer. Hopefully this article will help you as you develop a strong prayer life with your

children.

### What is prayer?

Prayer is talking to God. It is not something we have to do, but a privilege we get to do. Prayer brings us into the presence of the living God. In the Old Testament, only the High Priest could go into the presence of God and only in the Most Holy Place. He was not allowed to be in the presence of our Lord whenever he wished. He could only go into the Most Holy Place once a year. Through Jesus, we have the honor of going before God anytime and anyplace we wish.

### Who can pray and when do we pray?

Any one can pray - man, woman, young, old, rich, poor, black, or white. While anyone can pray, believers in Christ have the special gift of

the Holy Spirit praying for them.

*"In the Same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express."* Romans 8:26.

Paul tells us to always be in prayer.

*"...pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Christians are given the reward of a deepening fellowship with God through prayer.

### Why do we pray?

Sometimes we loose sight of why we pray. We know we pray to get something we want, to lift up a hurting friend, to seek guidance, or to complain to God. But prayer is really about spending time with God. Get-

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ting to know God better and understanding Him and His desires more. Prayer is not only about getting something from God; it is ultimately about deepening our relationship and love for Him.

**How do we pray?**

Jesus told us that when we pray, we should not heap up empty phrases.

*“And when you pray do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.”*

Matthew 6:7

Praying words with your mouth, but not really meaning them in your heart is a way of heaping up empty phrases. Prayer that comes from the heart can be hard work. We have to stop and think about what is truly in our hearts. We are to pray from our hearts in faith.

*“And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will.”* Romans 8:27

Nelson’s Bible Dictionary says, “The most meaningful prayer comes from a heart that places its trust in the God who has acted in the Jesus of history and the teachings of the Bible. God speaks to us through the Bible, and we in turn speak to Him in trustful, believing prayer.” There is no set formula for prayer, but the ACTS structure of prayer (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication) is helpful to

many adults. Yet these words may be difficult for children to grasp and use as a guide for prayer. The following words may be an easier guide for children to understand and thus make their own: praise and worship, telling God our sins and asking for forgiveness, praying for the needs of others, and finally sharing our needs, worries, fears and concerns. Most importantly we must pray with the right heart and in the name of Jesus. Our hearts should be full of faith that God will answer our prayers in ways that are always right and good. The following poem taken from *Crossways Children’s Bible ESV* states how perfectly God answers our prayers:

He answered prayer - not in the way I sought  
Nor in the way that I had thought he ought;  
But in his own good way; and I could see  
He answered in the fashion best for me.

Author Unknown

As you may have already read, God is calling me out of Children’s Ministry and into the field of study. He has gently been leading me towards counseling children for a very long time. So in January, I will be heading back to school to earn my degree in School Counseling. I praise God for the time I had to partner with you in teaching our children to know, love and, show Christ. This opportunity He provided in serving you and your children has been a blessing filled experience. I will continue to pray for all of you and ask that you pray for my family as we deal with Mom being a student too.



**Hope for the Future**

By Charles and Cathy Mahon

New Vistas is a Ministry we hope you will never be familiar with, but many of you will be effected by the pain in one way or another in your life time.

We exist to minister to all separated and divorced people, providing them a safe environment for healing and equipping them for recovery and future growth. In a confidential and supportive atmosphere we strive to fulfill our Christian mandate to "love one another" and to "carry each other's burdens" as we openly and honestly face problems using guest speakers and small group discussions.

New Vistas meets on the first and third Fridays of each month at EP at 7:00PM. in the L-Room. Each meeting starts with a time of food and fellowship. New Vistas adult Sunday School meets every week at 11:00 in the school library just off the Narthex.

Has God placed someone on your heart who may need a place for comfort? For specific questions or info., you can email: [catmahon77@aol.com](mailto:catmahon77@aol.com) or check out our web site at [epannapolis.org/New Vistas](http://epannapolis.org/New Vistas).



**DID YOU KNOW?**



**On Loan from God**

Carson Andrew Smith

19½”, 6 lbs. 15 oz.

Born to: Jason & Carrie Smith

Grandparents:

Dale and Joyce Linder

Tom and Sue Neiles

**DEADLINE FOR THE**

**MARCH/APRIL/MAY**

**EPISTLE IS FEBRUARY 12<sup>th</sup>**

The EPistle is published monthly and distributed free of charge to members and friends of Annapolis EP Church. Articles may be submitted for consideration by e-mail to [mdrouin@epannapolis.org](mailto:mdrouin@epannapolis.org), on disk or paper copy to the Church Office. Disk or e-mail is preferred.

Submissions may be edited for clarity and brevity.

## Nominations for the Office of Elder and Deacon

The Nominating Committee is soliciting names of Godly men from the Congregation to serve in the offices of Elder and Deacon for the Class of 2011 (Elected in December 2008 and to begin serving on January 1, 2009). The month of February 2008 will be the only opportunity that members of the congregation will have for recommending men to be candidates for the offices of Elder and Deacon for the Class of 2011.

To be eligible to recommend a name for consideration, the only requirement is that the sponsor must be a member of EP Church, currently on the membership roles as an active member in good standing.

Consider men in our congregation whom you think are spiritually mature and meet the standards outlined for Elders and Deacons in 1Timothy 3 and Titus 1. If they are of good reputation, well known to you, and are involved in ministry or other Spirit led activities and have a heart to serve the Lord. After prayerful contemplation and reflection, you are of the opinion that they would, if elected, use their gifts and talents to serve and minister to the body, refer their names to The Nominating Committee.

### Procedure for Recommending Candidates to the Nominating Committee for each referral:

- Use a single sheet of paper for each referral.
- Identify yourself by name.
- Name of the individual being recommended.
- Indicate the number of years you have personally known this person and his family.

**For the office of Elder:** The rationale for recommending a candidate for the office of Elder is; how is he demon-

strating a ministry of the Word and a caring for people?

**For the office of Deacon:** The rationale for recommending a candidate for the office of Deacon is; do you see an ongoing ministry of service or a desire to become involved in a ministry of service?

Characterize his family worship practices as best you can.

Place the referral(s) in a sealed envelope and address to The Nominating Committee c/o Don Rice. Mail or turn in to the office, Mon-Fri, Sue Sadlier or Annette See; Sunday, The Duty Deacon.

**The deadline for officer recommendations is Sunday, March 2. Recommendations received after Sunday, March 2 will not be considered.**



## A New Year of Opportunity

By Jack Gillikin

We have seen the year 2007 fly by. It's hard to believe that Bruce has been preaching over a year. It seems more like six months. As I watched November and December go by so quickly I was made more and more aware that Corum Deo is more applicable today than when R.C. Sproul brought it to our attention. We must "seize the day" today as it will be history tomorrow.

What opportunities lie ahead for the ReEPers in 2008? Bruce explained that we are the "builders" generation, those born before 1946. The highway infrastructure; the various dams, coal and oil fueled electric generating plants, automatic shift cars, huge earth-moving equipment, airplanes that would fly at speeds beyond 200 miles per hour and have a range of more than 500 miles, and a multitude of others things we take for granted did

not exist. We built them.

We not only built all of this, but we helped populate it with what is now called the "baby boomers" those born between 1946 and 1964. We also went to war and saw new parts of the world. For us Christians, it gave a new impetus to win that world as well as our own for Christ so that today over a billion people carry the title "Christian."

The "baby boomers" are beginning to reach the age of 60 and the "busters" are already passing forty years of age. So what does all this have to do with us as ReEPers? Bruce explained this to us at our Ocean City Retreat. Simply put, we need to pass on to each generation the values, knowledge, wisdom that had been passed on to us. We need to share this because we read and hear in newspaper, TV and other media how America is losing the Christian vision that has made America what it is today. We do it by modeling it in our daily lives. We do it by taking time to tell others what Christ has done for us and teach them how to live lives that glorify God and enjoy Him. In some cases we will mentor individuals, in others encourage them in groups.

One of the greatest blessings I have had recently is looking at the booklet of men and women who are willing to be Elders, Deacon, Trustees or members of the Nominating Committee. In past years we have struggled to get people to fill these positions. It gives me hope for 2008 being a year when we do become a Community of Grace and impact the Annapolis Area for Jesus Christ. We all have a ministry that if used will help to accomplish this through the working of the Holy Spirit in the lives we impact. I hope we will lead the charge and "fight the good fight." We can then say, "To God be the glory" and mean it.



## What Can the Church Library Do for Me?

By Ruth Burge

The Library at EP exists to serve you. There are some opportunities for people to serve in the Library ministry, but primarily you can think of the Library as something that is meant to serve you. You may barely know that EP has a Library and may be wondering how the Library could serve you. Here are some of those ways:

**Leading Bible studies:** You are leading a Bible study and you need to do research for that work. You may need commentaries on a Bible book you are studying. Our Library has an every-growing set of commentaries on all the books of the Bible. We have commentaries written by older theologians like Calvin and Luther, and we have newer ones written by people like Boice and Ryken. There are also Old and New Testament surveys, as well as Bible encyclopedias and dictionaries.

**Your child reads:** Do you have a child that would put you into bankruptcy should you buy him or her every Christian book he was desirous of reading? We can help you here, at least for a while. We have a whole cart full of Christian fiction and biographies aimed at kids in later elementary or middle school.

**Your child watches TV:** Can't afford to own all the Veggie Tales or Odyssey DVD's or CD's? We have a very popular and ever growing collection of these, as well as the whole classic set of Moody science DVD's.

**You have a long commute:** We have a large supply of audio tapes and a growing collection of audio CD's containing teaching messages from many famous pastors and teachers like R.C. Sproul, John Piper, John MacArthur, and others. Redeem the

time by feeding your soul.

**You are a parent and don't know it all:** That would be all of us. We have a whole section of books about parenting. One of the best is *Shepherding a Child's Heart* by Ted Tripp. Try the CD from C.J. Mahaney, *Gospel-centered Parenting. The Five Love Languages of Children* by Gary Chapman might help you express your love to your kids. Come on in to see many others.

**Your budget is tight, but you love Christian fiction:** We have a section and a half of Christian fiction by popular authors including Karon, Kingsbury, Rivers, Oke, Peretti, Thoene, and others. Save some money; check out your next novel with us. Save us some money; buy a fiction series and read it. Then donate it to the Library.

**You want to know more about missions:** We have a missions section containing many missionary biographies as well as books on the theory and "how-to" of missions. We also have several DVD's about the Auca Indian massacre in the 50's and the recent new films about that.

This list could go on and on. At the Library you can find material that will help you to understand the Bible, apply it to your life, become a better prayer warrior, help others with their problems, understand science in relationship to scripture, apply scripture to culture, manage your finances, and learn more about the persecuted church.

Stop in today and register to be able to use barcode check-out. The Library is staffed every Sunday morning before and after all services as well as on Wednesday nights during from 7:00-8:30. To access our catalog on the web go to [www.libraryworld.net/](http://www.libraryworld.net/)

opac. The Library name is: EPA Church Library. No password is needed. We recommend searching by keyword to find material. Questions: See Ruth Burge, 410-923-2338 or [riburge@epannapolis.org](mailto:riburge@epannapolis.org).



## Angel Tree Update

By Dee Chalfant

As I sit here writing this article, I know many of you are either out shopping or are busy wrapping the presents for our "Angels". I have been making phone calls to coordinate delivery of the gifts before Christmas and trying to answer questions which come my way.

I have also been praying that you will be blessed by this ministry and that God will work in the lives of our Angel families. Several of you have told me of Bibles or other Christian materials you have included either for your child or for the family. We must continually pray that the Gospel message would fall upon open ears.

We have helped 24 families with a total of 59 children (Yes, the numbers DID change— we just received a request from Prison Fellowship Ministry for a child in West Virginia). I will give you an update after the holidays about how things went with all of our deliveries. Please let me know any stories or special moments you encountered with your Angel family and I will try to include some of them in the next update.

Remember there is a book in the our church Library entitled Six Million Angels with stories of some of the volunteers and angels through 20 years of Angel Tree so perhaps this winter when it is cold outside you can sit by a warm fire and read these amazing stories.



## A New Beginning - GriefShare

By Carolyn Woodie

A new year often signals new beginnings in our lives. We start with a clean calendar and usually look forward to what the next year will bring. However, someone grieving the loss of a loved one may view the new year with dread. It may be very difficult for a grieving person to begin a new year lonely, without the relationship with the one that they lost.

The new year may be a good time for us to open our hearts to the healing that the Lord can bring. Do we hold on to our grief and refuse to move forward? As one of our GriefShare experts states, "If healing means that God has to resurrect our loved one,

then it is time to redefine healing." There is a new year ahead. There is a *new normal* without our loved one ahead. Life will never be the same, but we can adjust to this new life and with the Lord's help. We will adjust, if we are open to His healing. Although God took our loved one, He has more for us to do on this earth. What will He have YOU to do this new year?

Are you grieving? Come to GriefShare and meet with others who are adjusting to their *new normal* and seeking to find out what the Lord has for them to do. The next session of GriefShare will begin on Wednesday, February 20, 2008 at 7:00-9:00PM in The Parlor.

For more information, contact Paul and Carolyn Woodie 410-626-8430 - carolyn.woodie@verizon.net or Walt and Karen Asplund 410-923-3285 - asplundmd@yahoo.com.

Did you know that there are over 5600 GriefShare groups held in over 15 countries? If you know of someone who could use a GriefShare group, just go to [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org) and you can find the group closest to their location.



## Local Missionary

Chase Wood works with the Good News Jail and Prison Ministry as the Senior Chaplain at the Jennifer Road Detention Center and Ordinance Road Correctional Center. Chase was born in Annapolis and graduated from Southern High School. He was raised in a Christian family and accepted Christ at an early age.



After graduation Chase worked in the electrical field. It was not until later in life that he committed his life to the Lord's service. In 1993 he began his biblical education at Washington Bible College. While working on his degree, he fulfilled his Christian Service Requirement by working with the Senior Chaplain at the Jennifer Road Detention Center. He obtained his associate arts degree in 1997 and a BA in Christian Counseling later. In

September of 2002 Chase became the Senior Chaplain at the Jennifer Road Detention Center. Chase lives in Deale, MD, with his wife, Trish, and their three children.

When Chase was first invited by Chaplain Herman Fletcher to minister at the Jennifer Road Detention Center, he was hesitant, but the first night he went to the jail, he felt incredible peace from God that he was where God wanted him to be. As he walked farther into the facility and door after door opened and closed securely behind him, he felt the Lord comforting him with His peace and presence.

His first assignment was with a one on one Bible study with an inmate. The hour passed quickly, and Chase realized what a blessing the opportunity to be in that study had been. Shortly after that Chase was appointed the facility Assistant Chaplain. In the fall of 1999 Chaplain Fletcher went home to be with the Lord, and Chase was hired by the Good News Jail and Prison Ministry to serve in the Anne Arundel County Department of Detention Facilities.

Each month the Good News Mission staff and volunteers conduct Bible studies, counseling sessions, and church services and hand out Bibles and Bible studies to the inmates.

Chase states, "During my time here we have seen hundreds of men and women make professions of faith in Christ or recommitments to Him. A vast majority of these new believers have begun new lives in Christ and by God's grace have broken the cycle of crime."

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for the safety and protection of the Good News Mission staff and volunteers as they minister to the inmates.
2. Pray for the hearts of the inmates to be softened and that they would be open to hearing God's word.
3. Pray that God would send the volunteers and funds necessary to continue the work with inmates.



## Missions Conference 2008

The Good News for All People in Every Part of the World.

“As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” John 20:21 (ESV)

It is the desire of God that all should come to know Him, and that every believer should be involved in the evangelization of the world, both near and far. To help us better focus on this mandate, the 2008 Missions Conference will be held the week of March 2 through March 9, 2008. The speakers at the plenary sessions will be Bruce O’Neil, Mike Kozlarek, Dominic Aquilla and Paul Taylor. A number of other missionaries will also be with us for participation in Sunday School classes of all ages and Bible studies throughout the week. The banquet will be held on the night of March 8, with Dominic Aquilla as the banquet speaker. Make your plans now to avail yourselves of every opportunity to be enlightened and encouraged by these servants of our Lord throughout that week.



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