



NOT A GOD OF MY CHOOSING

by Pastor Bruce

One of the great advantages of being a pastor is that I must stand before people week after week whose children have died, or worse, are spiritually dead; whose spouses are critically ill, or worse, are spiritually hard; whose health is failing; whose jobs are in jeopardy; whose finances are strapped; who battle depression or love someone who does; and who know from experience that the world—the real world where they live—is shot through with suffering and futility. I say it is a great advantage because I have the privilege to preach the Word of God into the context of real life full of joys and sorrows.

It is an advantage because I can't afford to play games. I can't endlessly suspend judgment on crucial teachings. I can't be neutral about great realities that matter in people's lives. There is too much at stake for us to entertain ourselves with trivialities or platitudes. Life is hard and you don't come to worship to hear me speculate, or give my opinion, or offer a pep talk to divert your attention from your real lives.

And it is an advantage because I have the privilege of speaking about the great truths of the gospel in the context of a covenant community of suffering people. The problem of pain and of evil and of the truth of God's sovereignty and mercy are never far away.

I could create a god who answers my call, who does my bidding and rescues me from my storms (or prevents them from ever coming into my life). But that god would not be the God of the Bible. He would simply be a small and weak god because any god I could fashion would not be able to contradict my wants, desires and thoughts. He would not be able to be independent of my demands. This god could not be sovereign over all things because one of the things is me.

I believe with all my heart in the sovereignty of God in all things. I believe that this view of God is not only biblically faithful, but also profoundly practical. I have seen the sheer absolute holiness and majesty and sovereignty of God over all evil and over all human will and action become an anchor for storm-tossed souls, a refuge for the frightened and a rock of stability when all else seems to give way. He is hope when the most precious

earthly things have been lost and a confidence that the worst miseries really will be turned to good. *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose* (Romans 8:28).

I know what it is like to have what is precious to me threatened and face the real possibility she could be taken

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INVESTING IN FUTURE WORSHIPERS AND WORSHIP LEADERS

by Ruth Burge

Among all the inescapable imperatives in the Bible, one stands out to me, "Sing to the Lord." That phrase occurs at least 15 times in the RSV. There is much that could be said about the heart issues of singing, things that qualify it or disqualify it as "true worship." That is not my focus here; rather, I want to address the skill side of singing and music making and how to better prepare people to carry out that command.

In singing there is a tension between "make a joyful noise to the Lord" (Psalm 98:4) and the description of the Levites worship leaders who were "**trained** in singing to the LORD, all who were **skillful**". (1 Chron. 25:7) How many of you feel inhibited in your worship because you are afraid your "joyful noise" might offend those around you or embarrass your-

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away from me. And though I wept, I am assured that God is sweetly sovereign. He had not abandoned me. He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. He knows how it is all going to come out because He is there already. He has promised never to leave or forsake. He is exactly where He was the day His Son, Jesus, was taken from Him. In the face of that great loss He was not weak or inactive. He raised Jesus from the dead to prove His promise was true; that all the evil, all the loss, all the pain will be stopped. If God can raise the dead and pay for cosmic sin through the death of His own Son, then He is able

and determined to deal with our pain too.

A sovereign God with a plan and a promise trumps the trivialities and platitudes we seek to grasp in the dark night of our souls. Seeing, believing, confessing and trusting a mighty and merciful God who is doing something about sorrows is far superior to the distractions we use to escape the realities of living in a fallen world. This God is not of my choosing and I am thankful.



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.**

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Elders for 2008

Tom Beall, Dan Billingsley, Jim Burge, Chuck Cochran, Floyd Gilkey, Bruce Holtzman, George Janvier, Pete Kawecki, Clif McClain, Bruce Miller, Rob Niewoehner, Adrian Park, Peter Polk, Dan Raspa, Don Rice, Bill Richardson, Frank Rouland, Ace Sarich, Tom Thompson, Jim Wilkins III.

Deacons for 2008

Walt Asplund, BJ Bigelow, Robin Burns, Glen Campbell, Herb Conklin, Jeff Donaldson, Dave Eby, Tim Geis, Mike Hannigan, Hector Hernandez, Mike Hoffman, Bill Hoover, Scott Howie, Jeff Hulting, Al Kairys, Mark Lentz, Jay Mahaffey, Steve Marshall, Gil McNew, Al Medeiros, Paul Mexcur, Brian Miller, John Morris, Wayne Mueller, Robert Murphy, Tom Olthoff, Paul Piccioni, Rob Robbins, Dean Rodgers, Louis Smith, Jim Taylor, Glenn Woodruff.

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self? No need for that! The Lord commands a joyful noise. Sing with all your heart to your precious Jesus! On the other hand, wouldn't you want to enable your children to more skillfully and freely participate in that singing? Don't we also want to encourage young people to be *skilled* and *trained* in music so that they might be the future worship leaders of the church? Skill doesn't make our worship acceptable, but it removes unnecessary barriers to worship participation. Skilled leadership enables the congregation to worship freely and without distraction. Let's look at the training of three groups of worshipers.

The average singing worshiper:

Since we *must* sing, it makes sense to enable our children to learn to sing in worship, regardless of their bent or talents. I have been teaching "non-singing" children to sing for over 10 years and haven't met one who can't learn to sing. Take advantage of all

singing opportunities, especially those that combine musical education with worship education, such as EP's children's choir program.

The ensemble member: With 4 years of regular lessons and practice on an instrument, ability to participate and understand the musical side of worship is greatly enhanced so that most could be a solid contributor in a choir or ensemble and learn new worship songs confidently.

The worship team member/leader: Finally there are some with special God-given musical ability which combined with a love for Christ can make worship leaders. If your child shows musical abilities, encourage and help him develop those gifts. Here are some suggestions:

1. Emphasize the value of solid musical training in reading music, counting rhythm, and interpreting the written page.
2. Encourage him to explore his natu-

ral gift of "playing by ear."

3. Give him a solid beginning on the piano which is the best preparation for every other instrument.

4. Invest in high quality teaching on his instrument of choice. Keep him going when he wants to quit. You have more wisdom than he does. [I would have quit piano early on without parental restraint, as would have all my children.]

Often we see a shortage of people able to lead in worship. Many are lacking the training that would have developed their musical gifts to the greatest level of usefulness in the body. When you prayerfully and purposefully invest in the musical training of your child, you may be investing in a future worship leader. We need *well-trained, skilled* pianists, singers, guitarists, drummers, violinists, etc. who love Jesus more than anything, who will lead the rest of us as we make "a joyful noise."



GRIEFSHARE

by Carolyn Woodie

Last week I read a blog recently written by a grieving young mother who lost her child at birth. She wrote, "God has taken me through an Extreme Makeover and I'm not quite sure how to be the same, but completely changed person."

Extreme Makeover ~ What a good description of the change that takes place in our lives as we, with God's help, become a new and different person after the death of a loved one. At first when a loved one dies, our greatest desire is to have life go back to normal, to go back to how life was *before* the death. It is too painful to think of life continuing without that person. However, life does go on.

The grieving journey takes us to the place where we realize we can't go

back. Life can never be quite the same. However, God continues to have a plan for us, for He has left us here on earth. As we seek out God and trust Him to work His extreme makeover in our lives, He is faithful to bring healing. Where there was once depression He can bring new hope. It does not mean that we stop missing our loved one. However, as we submit to God, He can and He will transform us to prepare us for our new normal.



But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, You are my God. My times are in your hands. Psalm 31:14-15

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar/support group for people grieving the death of someone close. It's a place where you can be around people who understand how you feel and the pain of your loss. At GriefShare, you'll learn valuable information that will help you through this difficult time in your life. GriefShare meets at EP Church on Wednesday evenings in The Parlor (Room 150) from 7:00-9:00PM till mid-May.

You may join GriefShare at any time during the 14-week session. For more information, contact Paul and Carolyn Woodie 410-626-8430 or email carolyn.woodie@verizon.net or Walt and Karen Asplund 410-923-3285 or email asplundmd@yahoo.com.



MINISTRY CAMPAIGN UPDATE

WE'VE STARTED! You may not be able to see all that has already been done in this Ministry Campaign, so this brief article will provide you an update on those activities.

WHAT'S BEEN ACCOMPLISHED ALREADY?

Missions Home Renovation

As promised, we tackled some of the problems with the Missions Home first. We've built some new steps, put on some new screen doors, rebuilt the back porch and re-screened it, the young men of our Brigade will soon tear down the extended deck, we've reinforced the pillars on the front porch, put up new gutters and gutter guards, and taken down some of the rotten sheds that were on the property. We have to yet complete the repairs of the ceilings, the laundry room, and to paint the property throughout.



WHAT'S NEXT? Our Deacons, who are now putting the Congregation approved plan into action, are simultaneously looking at the following activities.

Two New Offices

We are looking at building the offices for our new staff in two steps, building just two of them now and two of them later, as the staff arrive, using just one-half of the L-Room to do so. This allows us to retain the use of the one remaining section of the L-Room as classroom while we wait the arrival of the remaining personnel.

Youth Minister's House Upgrades

We are also examining the feasibility of winterizing the Youth Intern House immediately, as Jeremy Tate, our Youth Intern, would like to see this completed before their next child is born.

TEAMWORK WILL GET IT DONE! Our Deacons are organizing teams of individual men and women, Youth Groups, Sunday Schools, Small Groups and Bible Study Groups to get these projects completed. If you have the ability to get more paint on the wall than on yourself, to hit the nail more often than your thumb, to move piles of stuff (debris and construction materials) from one place to another and live to talk about it.

THEN WE NEED YOU! Contact Mr. Bill Hoover, Mr. Gil McNew or Mr. Dean Rodgers if you would like to participate. Every task we get done with volunteers reduces the out-of-pocket expenses we have to pay, and increases the benefit to us and those to whom we will minister by bringing these activities into reality.

Thank you to everyone who has already participated and pledged to the Campaign; if you have not yet done either, please prayerfully consider doing so, either by yourself or with your Small Group, Sunday School, or Bible Study. Also, whenever you can contribute financially, please be sure to designate your offering to "Ministry Campaign Fund" on the envelope and memo line of your check, so that it is properly recorded.



MISSIONS

by Sue Kairys

Mark and Marti Mylin serve with Greater Europe Mission in Montauban, France. Mark was installed as an Associate Pastor of Eglise Reformee Evangelique de Montauban in May 2006. Mark and Marti have lived and served in France since 1994. In 1992 Mark was ordained as a missionary by the Presbyterian Church of America.

Mark attended a Presbyterian Church when he was young, but he was influenced by the existential philosophy he heard in high school. At college he met students who had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and was intrigued by their lifestyle and beliefs. After a year, he gave his life to Christ. He became involved with Christian Fellowship and led this group the last two years that he was in college. He decided not to pursue a career in medicine, but to continue in minis-

try. He served 6 years as a university campus minister with Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship.

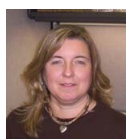
Marti grew up in a believing Presbyterian family. She has known God and trusted in Jesus Christ for as long as she can remember. Although she received a solid biblical background, it was at college that her faith matured. After graduation from college she joined the staff of IVCF, helping university students to share their faith and grow in Christ. Mark and Marti met and married while they were both serving with IVCF.

At the Montauban church Mark preaches periodically and helps Pastor Brienien with pastoral tasks. He, also, serves two home Bible study groups. The church is helping to establish a new church in St. Girons, a small city two hours south of Montauban where this is no Protestant church. Mark will be assisting the new pastor of this small congregation. Mark has been

asked to offer an English language worship service in St. Antonin, where many Dutch and British people have moved. They plan to begin in April. Marti works with the women in the church and a group of women in ministry from the Montauban area.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for good health and strength for the Mylins as they minister.
2. Pray for God to strengthen their three churches through the teaching and preaching of His Word.
3. Pray for the young people in the churches that God would give them a love for His Word and a desire to live for Him.
4. Pray that brochures being handed out about the St. Martial Church would spark interest in the church, its activities and its message.



OUTREACH NEWS

by Laurie Nelson

As I have settled into the Outreach Coordinator position over the last month, I continue to see God's handprint on the work He is accomplishing through our church family.

We continue to grow in our understanding of the challenges at **Woodside Gardens**, yet have experienced both God's encouragement and guidance as we seek His leading. Both the **Woodside MOPS group** and **Home-work Haven** continue to both encourage the residents of Woodside and give opportunities for members of our church to grow and serve.

We have begun a connection with the **Gabriel Project Home** and are looking for women who would be interested in mentoring young, single

Moms. We will also be hosting a baby shower in March for the women that are currently living in the home.

There are several women attending the **Severna Park Pregnancy Clinic** Volunteer Training Program. This partnership continues to be effective as our ministries intersect.

The **ESL (English as a Second Language)** class has been thriving under their leadership team. They have over 60 people attending and are always open for more volunteers.

I am encouraged by the response to continue our work at the **Lighthouse Shelter**. Some of the dates we have open are on Saturdays, May 24, June 28, July 26, and August 23. Grab another family in your small group, bible study or Sunday school and sign up. May will be Harvest month for the Lighthouse Shelter. We will be collect-

ing nonperishable items in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday.

As I look forward to the future, we are planning for summer outreach opportunities as well as plans for next fall with **Operation Christmas Child** and **Angel Tree** ministries. I urge you to continue to pray about where God

As we look forward to the future!

would have you spend the time and resources He has so generously given you. If anything mentioned above has struck a chord or you have other suggestions on how we can reach out to our community please contact me, Laurie Nelson, with your ideas. I can be reached at 410-266-8091 ext 103 or email lnelson@epannapolis.org. As God works through us, may He continue to mold our hearts and use us as salt and light for His glory.



ROMANIA 2008 OUTREACH

Psalm 115:1 "Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness."

EP Church has an ongoing multi-prong outreach to Romania which has a rich history of providing ministry to young and old alike within long standing relationships with multiple Baptist Churches in this developing country. The primary purposes of this outreach is to be partners in the gospel with these Churches, and to strengthen the faith of EP's student and adult missionaries.



Summer Missions Teams to Romania include:

VBS – This exciting EP ministry is conducted at two Baptist Churches in the small rural towns of Vicov and Radauti in the northern most parts of Romania very close to the Ukraine border. The VBS team is comprised of high school students and adults that conduct the VBS programs attended by 300-350 children. An excellent relationship has developed with both churches and the VBS program is a great opportunity to expose these Romanian children to how the gospel can work in their lives. Our EP students take responsibility for conducting portions of the program and it has become an excellent means of giving our young people an opportunity to exercise their faith and serve

the Lord in a cross culture situation.



Camp Ministry –The camp ministry is associated with the Targovista Baptist Church in Southern Romania. The EP Missions Team helps conduct a six day residential camp for 60 inter-city teenagers; half believers, half not. Our group of EP college students and young adults conduct daily Bible studies, give testimonies and messages at evening services, provide musical support and assist conduct games and other camp activities. The EP team also stays several days with families in Targovista and assists in the conduction of Church services on the Sundays before and after the camp.



Medical Clinics – EP's two medical teams conduct clinics at various locations in both the Targovista and Vicov/Radauti areas. In 2006 approximately 500 patients were seen in each location. Medical Teams typically consist of Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners and Nurses and others who help with patient control and pharmacy assistance. Pharmacy supplies are obtained from a number of different sources. We are thankful for your support in provid-

ing all types of over the counter Meds for distribution by the medical teams. An effort is made to complete a patient card for each person seen that indicates the medications given that person for later oversight can be provided to patients.

The Helping Hands Foundation, EP is participating with this not for profit organization and has provided free medical surgical care to patients in Sucevea. EP's own Dr. Tom Harries, has made several trips to Romania to perform corrective hand surgeries and train Romanian doctors.



Romania Mission Team 2008

This summer's team roster of about 30 people is currently being finalized for our July 17-29 mission trip to Romania. Please pray for the Team as they prepare to go. Team members will be sending out support letters and we invite your financial support. We will also provide the opportunity



for you to support the Team by contributing VBS and supplies to be used in our Medical Clinics.



ANGEL TREE MINISTRY

by Dee Chalfant

Giving and Receiving Joy

Another Christmas has come and gone. I believe it is the 7th Angel Tree Christmas I have participated in since joining EP Church and I never cease to be amazed at the generosity of our EP families and your willingness to go the extra mile. Thank you so much for the wonderful way in which you step up to the plate and take on this ministry at such a busy time of the year. We ministered to 23 Angel Tree families for a total of 59 children. I hope you were as blessed by it as I was. Please share any special stories you may have concerning the delivery of the gifts to our "Angels". I know you made many children happy this Christmas and perhaps even brought some of them closer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ or perhaps introduced Him to them for the first time.

It was heartbreaking to read some of the messages sent from Dad or Mom incarcerated in prisons. Some of these messages I would like to share: "Daddy loves you and misses you whole bunches; believe in God and you'll believe in miracles, believe in Jesus and you'll experience one. Even though I am not home, you are still close to me and I love you. Daddy will be home soon." To a child these words bring hope and love—two things every child needs.

In addition to supplying gifts, this year we also gave out some food certificates and, for the first time, we are sending the prisoners cards letting them know that their child(ren) were given gifts for Christmas. May it bring some of these prisoners closer to God.

Again, many thanks for your prayers and hard work and remember. Angel Tree Camping will be coming up this

summer! Look for more information in the bulletin. Have a blessed 2008!



LIBRARY LINES

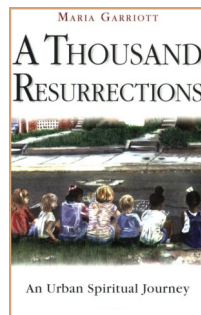
by Ruth Burge

Read about Gospel Mercy Ministry in our Own Back Yard

A Thousand Resurrections: An Urban Spiritual Journey, by Maria Garriott. CitySongs Publishing, 2006—a review by George Clemes

For anyone interested in ministry, church planting, and what God is doing through the PCA in one of the toughest urban areas in our region, *A Thousand Resurrections* is an enlightening and exciting book.

Written in the tradition of a classic missionary biography, this book chronicles the true story of a young white couple's experience and sacrifice in planting a multi-ethnic PCA church in urban Baltimore. The book is a vivid, transparent and personal account told from the perspective of Maria Garriott, wife of Pastor Craig Garriott. The book emphasizes the



personal challenges of urban ministry and the impact of this ministry on marriage and family life.

It also gives some background about race relations within the PCA. Maria Garriott is a gifted writer, and this

book will hold your attention. The title of the book refers to the many times God accomplishes something good out of dire circumstances. As I read the book, I sometimes found it hard to believe how the Garriotts lived from crisis to crisis over the years. There are moments of triumph, heartbreak, enlightenment and humor. It is encouraging to see how God brings the Garriotts through these experiences for His glory. This ministry continues to grow today. I have visited their church, Faith Christian Fellowship, and it is a blessing to see what God has accomplished.

A Thousand Resurrections is a paperback and can be ordered for \$15 from the links below, where you can also preview a section of the book online. I recommend this book to anyone interested in what God has done and is doing in our area. This book is available in the EP Library now.

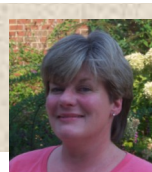
Library Hours: You may have access to the Library almost any time during the week, but Librarians are available to assist you on Sunday morning before and after all services and on Wednesday nights from 7:00-8:30PM.

Library Location: The Library is located in the Library/Boardroom in the corner of the hall behind the Sanctuary between the Choir Room and the Church Office.

Library Website: To browse our catalogue from your home computer, visit the Library website at www.libraryworld.net/opac. The Library name is EPA Church Library. Select the guest option. No password is needed. Then search by keyword, title, author, or subject.

For questions about the Library contact Ruth Burge at riburge@epannapolis.org or 410-923-2338.





**CHILDRENS
MINISTRY**
by Linda Cate

It is a privilege to be submitting my first article for the Epistle as the Children's Ministry Coordinator here at EP. I thank God for the opportunity to come alongside the parents of our church and partner with you to know Christ, love Christ, and show Christ to our children. What a high calling God has given us to minister to our children for they are the future of the Kingdom!

I'd like to share with you some excerpts from an article by John Piper entitled "Jesus and the Children" (June 22, 2005 - Fresh Words Edition):

When Jesus saw that his disciples were arguing over which of them was greatest, "He sat down and called the twelve,...And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me, but him who sent me." (Mark 9:34-37)

Receiving a child in your arms in the name of Jesus is a way to receive Jesus. And receiving Jesus is a way to receive God. Therefore, how we deal with children is a signal of our fellowship with God. Something is deeply amiss in the soul that does not descend (or is it *ascend?*) to love and hold a child.

Therefore it may be good to call to mind the ways Jesus related to children. Ponder these and let them stir in you the longings of Christ. What could be more significant than receiving Christ and receiving God the Creator in him? Amazingly, Jesus says we may do this in ministry to children.

May the Lord teach us this profound

truth - that loving children in the name of Christ is loving God the Son and God the Father. Indeed it is more: It is communing with God. Nursery work (Sunday School work) "in the name of Christ" is no small wonder. - Pastor John Piper

Please mark your calendar for one of the year's most exciting events in Children's Ministries: VBS Olympion June 23-27. If you already know where you'd like to help, contact me @410-266-8091 ext. 126.



YOUTH MINISTRY
by Greg Doty

Recently, I was flipping thorough one of the junk mail magazines that seem to fill our mail box each week when one particular advertisement caught my eye. The advertisement is for a local private school and features a young man with a stack of books in one hand, a saxophone in the other, a golf bag over one shoulder, and a hockey stick behind the opposite shoulder. Next too this young man reads these words: "Expect Excellence - in the classroom, at the rink, from the tee, in the jazz band." This ad caught my attention because as a relatively young parent, I want my daughters to be excellent in many things, if not everything. So why not send my children there-after all, based on their claim if I send my child there I can expect them to excel at everything.

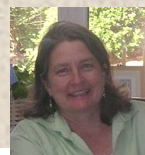
However, think of this ad not from a parent's perspective but from the young man's perspective. He is expected to excel not only in one area, but in four. This advertisement exemplifies what far too many teenagers face in our society today-being over programmed. While twenty years ago the average high school student was

involved in one or two extracurricular activities, today the average student is involved in five or more. These activities are often not simply local, but require extensive travel, particularly on weekends and during the summer placing the family in the position of having to choose between church and our children's activities.

Far too often, in the name of providing a better life for our kids, parents have chosen to travel and have their children over committed. In our effort to give them more than we had, we have somehow forgotten their greatest need, their need for Christ. If my child is an expert musician, student, and athlete but has no relationship with Christ because they have been too busy to go to church and be exposed to the gospel, then I have failed in my calling as a parent. "What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?" (Matthew 16:26)

The same can be said of our ministry to middle and high school students for if we create a program with fun and exciting activities that bring in thousands of kids, but we fail to point them to Christ, then we have failed in our calling. Therefore, I believe that it is of the utmost importance for us, in every event that we do, to present Christ and the good news of the gospel. This is part of our coming alongside of you parents, and assisting you in ministering Christ to the next generation. Our desire is not to create just another activity; rather we earnestly pray that each middle and high school student who walks into this building will be changed as they encounter the lover of their souls.





**WOMEN'S
MINISTRY**
by Jenny Woodruff

One day when I was shopping, I saw a plaque that said "I can only please one person a day; today is not your day and tomorrow is not looking



good either." For the group of us, mothers, wives, and career women, the statement had a ring of truth; we laughed. As I contemplate the veracity of the

refrigerator art statement, I thought of these verses in Ephesians 4:

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit- Just as you were called to one hope when you were called- one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, Who is over all and through all and in all.

My nature is to have the 'one person I please each day' be myself. But I know there is only one Lord, one God and Father of all, one person each day to whom I am ultimately responsible; it is by grace I have been saved by Him and it is by grace that I serve Him. As I grow in grace and lean into God's Spirit, my prayer is that the Lord will always be the number one person on my list and *To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me. Colossians 1:29.*

Thanks for putting up with me!

This Spring we are looking forward to our combined retreat, April 4-6, with our sister churches at the Princess Royale Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland. Please be praying that God's Spirit would be at work in the hearts of the women who attend as we consider with our speaker Ellen Dykas

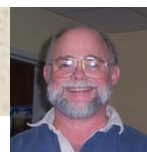
what it means for the Lord to redeem the relationships in our lives.

Thank You to all the women who cooked, bagged and delivered cookies to the State Legislature. We combined with Bay Area Church and Mid-Atlantic Church to take gift bags of cookies to all who are serving in Annapolis this Legislative Session. Please continue to pray for those the Lord has put in positions of authority and decision making.

Thinking of a warmer time. If you are interested in having a summer Bible Study in your home, please contact Jenny Woodruff or Cheryl Mullis. We're praying for opportunities to have several evangelistically oriented studies in homes throughout Annapolis. If you are interested in this type of

outreach to your neighbors give us a call.

Three MOPS groups and growing
Our MOPS groups continue to draw in women from the greater Annapolis area. They are providing opportunities to build relationships and experience God's love through His people. The Daytime, Evening and Woodside MOPS groups will continue to meet this spring through May. We are also praying for God's guidance in starting a Military MOPS outreach sometime this spring or summer. If you are interested in attending or serving with any of our MOPS groups please call the Women's Ministry Office.



MEN'S MINISTRY
by Tom Beall

Jacob's son Joseph was hated by his brothers, sold into slavery, falsely accused of adultery by his boss, thrown into prison for something he did not do, forgotten, exiled in a foreign country for most of his life and yet lived a Godly life of integrity through each circumstance. Because of the Godly integrity of his life, he became Pharaoh's second in command of all of Egypt, a light in a dark world. He was so well respected, that when his father Jacob died, Egypt mourned for 70 days and all the dignitaries of Egypt traveled 3 weeks to attend the funeral.

What kind of an impact do we have on the world we live in? Are we respected for our faith and the integrity of our lives at home, in the work place, in our neighborhoods? In Matthew 5:16 God says "...let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Fa-

ther in heaven".

Our Men's Ministry encourages men that attend EP to become a man of Godly integrity in every aspect of our lives. We have found that ***small groups*** of 2-8 men are the best place for men to grow in their faith. In small groups we get to know other Godly men, care for each other, pray for each other, study God's Word together, have fellowship, encourage each other's growth in Christ, and become involved in ministry together.

The small group setting is where it is easiest to see God's Hand at work in the body of Christ and to build the kind of relationships that allow us to really address the struggles, hurts, and successes of life with other believers. There are lots of opportunities to "plug in" to an already existing group or to start new ones that are convenient to your work and home schedule.

If you are not already in a Small

(Continued on page 10)



WHO'S ON STAFF

by Bob Berger

“What about Bob?” For those who share that deepest of existential questions from my favorite movie, perhaps you are wondering who is this new Congregational Care Pastor

wandering our halls? The answer: a proud man whom God loves to keep humbling in order to show forth his grace. (Cf. James 4:6) God has shown me time and again through the path of affliction that His grace is best made known in our weakness.

He first reminded me of this truth in the tragic death of my first wife and years later when I needed a refresher course he continued my pastoral call yet without income. Which leads to our question: Can EP become a community of grace who care for one another because we know that God cares for us? (Cf. 1 Peter 5:7)

I believe one of the reasons God has sent afflictions my way is so that I might be more helpful to His Church for such a time as this. Along the way, God has shown me incredible mercy: He has given me a faithful marriage partner in my wife, Jan, and blessed us with four adult children and three grandchildren.

He has given me experience and education in counseling and a heart for world missions and stateside mercy ministry. In addition to over 27 years as a teaching elder, I've worked for Right to Life of Michigan (political referendum to stop Medicaid abortions) and the State of Georgia as a child protective services social worker for brief periods.

In the movie “What about Bob?” the main character keeps lamenting “I need, I need!” How intensely we all feel those deep needs, but I'm here to remind my own heart and yours that “God supplies! God supplies!” May our need and his provision lead EP and many more in Annapolis and the world to worship the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...the God of all comfort! (Cf. 2 Cor. 1:3)



Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.
2 Corinthians 1:3-4

MEN'S MNISTRY

(Continued from page 9)

Group, now is a great time to get started. Pick up a list of Small Groups on the Men's Ministry bulletin board across from the church office. Join a current group or let us help you start your own with one or two other men in your neighborhood or at work.

EVENTS: Are you fairly new to the church, don't know how to find your place, or just don't know anyone? Then come join us and bring a friend to the monthly times of fellowship and service. Each month there is an opportunity to get to know other men, fellowship, serve, and bring your friends from work or your neighborhood. This spring we will go on 3 different fishing trips in April and May, cook dinner for the whole church in May, and attend an Orioles game in June. Watch the bulletin for details or pick up a schedule on the Men's Bulletin Board and come join us.

Contact Tom Beall at 410-266-8090 ext 117 or email at tabeall@epannapolis.org for more information or to help you get started.



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in the body of Christ
and to build relationships.**

**DEADLINE FOR THE
JUNE/JULY/AUGUST
EPISTLE IS MAY 13th**

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, on disk or paper copy to the Church Office. Disk or e-mail is preferred. Submissions may be edited for clarity and brevity.

Passion Week Services

Palm Sunday, March 16, remembers Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Our Sunday services will be held at their usual times.

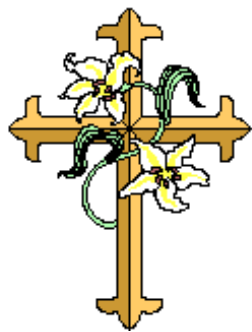
Maundy Thursday, March 20 remembers the night that Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with his disciples. "Maundy" is a word derived from the Latin "Dies Mandatum," that is, "the day of the New Commandment." We remember Christ's institution of Communion, his command to his disciples, "love one another as I have loved you," and his example of servanthood when he washed his disciples' feet. Our Maundy Thursday service will be held at 7:30 pm in the Chapel.

Good Friday, March 21, commemorates the trial and execution of Christ. The Tenebrae-"Service of Shadows"-commemorates Christ's death as candles are extinguished and the Sanctuary gradually dims to darkness. Our Tenebrae service will be held at 8:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

Easter Morning, March 23, celebrates the morning of Christ's resurrection. Our Sunday services will be held at the usual times. This is one of two seasons when we can expect many more guests than average to enter our doors. Consider these things as Passion Week approaches:

- Invite your neighbors and friends who question the reality of God and Christ. Pray for them and for their salvation. Consider this an opportunity to share Christ with them.
- The 9:15 service is already near capacity. Praise God! However, this means that there is little room for guests during the Easter season. If you regularly attend the 9:15 service, please consider attending the 11:00 service to make room for newcomers at 9:15.
- The parking lot is also at capacity. Families, please consider bringing only one car for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday and park off-site at the missions house.

Passion Week Services at EP



Palm Sunday: March 16 8:00, 9:15, 11:00 AM

Services celebrating the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem shortly before his suffering and death.

Maundy Thursday: March 20, 7:30 PM

A communion service commemorating the last supper Jesus had with the disciples before his death.

Tenebrae-Good Friday: March 21, 8:00 PM

A somber service of darkness focusing on the work of Christ on the cross., one of EP's most meaningful celebrations of the Gospel.

Easter: March 23 8:00, 9:15, 11:00 AM

Services of rejoicing in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the tomb and his triumph over sin and death.



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