

Evangelical Presbyterian
CHURCH OF ANNAPOLIS

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



Sept/Oct/Nov 2008



EP Hosts Ride Well Tour Team
By Pastor Dan Smith

In 2004, the Grammy Award-winning band, Jars of Clay, founded a non-profit organization called Blood:Water Mission to address the HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa. Blood:Water Mission exists to promote clean blood and clean water efforts in Africa, tangibly reducing the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic while addressing the underlying issues of poverty, injustice and oppression. Blood:Water Mission is building clean water wells, supporting medical facilities, and focusing on community and worldview transformation, both here in America and in Africa.

This past June 6th, a team of 17 bicyclists from 14 American states and Kenya set out from Santa Monica, CA to ride across the country to Washington, D.C. to promote awareness and raise financial resources for this



mission. Their goal was to raise \$150,000. To date, the Lord has raised over \$200,000. The group rode 6-days-a-week, spending all but 2 nights on the floors of local churches across the country (the other 2 were spent in tents, for the lack of a host church). On July 24th, the team completed their 7-week journey, arriving in Rehoboth Beach, DE. We had the privilege of hosting the team on the last night of their trip (Wednesday,

July 23), and sending them off for their last day's ride across the Eastern Shore.

Our involvement was truly a "last minute" development. The day before their arrival, we received a call from the tour's planner, informing us that previously-made arrangements in our area had fallen through, and that they were seeking a church that would be willing to allow them to sleep on the floor for the

night. Within 30 minutes we were the next stop on

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Update on Worship Minister Search

As most of you know, our Worship Search Committee has been seeking to find the person of God's choosing to fill the position vacated when the Lord called our previous Worship Director, Dan Beilman, to serve Him in Florida. The committee has not exhausted all possibilities; but does feel that they have touched most of the bases that would typically lead to conversations with those available candidates that fit the qualifications that we have sought to find. This does not mean that anyone is ready to give-up; but it has led to a decision to evaluate our current coverage of this role and to ensure that we continue to maintain the quality of coordination that we are experiencing and enjoying. The result of this consideration is that the Session has approved the hiring of Ruth

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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

Visitation Pastor

Jim Ferguson

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 116

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 Director of Worship Arts

Ruth Burge

Administrative Director

Herb Conklin, ext 113

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Sue Sadlier, ext 111

Database Administrator

Annette See, ext 125

Publications Administrator

Melissa Drouin, ext 112

Maintenance Administrator

Dannie Smith, ext 121

Manager of Plant Ops

Dean Rodgers, ext 104

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.

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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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their itinerary. The team arrived the next day at 6:30pm, ate Papa John's Pizza in our Youth Ministry's "Café", stowed their bikes in the downstairs of the "fishbowl" (entrance under the Chapel), and unloaded their sleeping bags into the "Cove". Two of the team members took all of their laundry to the Laundromat on Maryland Avenue, and the rest of

night in the Cove. They were off at 8:00 the next day, and seemed very grateful for our hospitality.

God has been very generous with us, entrusting us with wonderful facilities for ministry! This is obviously an unusual way that He has allowed us to use this building; but one that has blessed this group and, hopefully Africa as well!



Evangelical Presbyterian Church,
 We appreciate your help while we passed through Annapolis. You really went out of your way to make sure we got showers and were able to do our laundry. The Cove was amazing and comfortable. Thanks so much again for everything you did for us.
 ♥ The Ride:Well Team

the team headed to Gold's Gym for showers (a very generous and spontaneous provision by gym owners Eric and Susan Krieger). Then they settled-in for the

Thank you and New News

It Meant So Much...Thank You!

Dear "Family",
 I would like to thank you all for your support in praying, cards, calls, and visits while I was in the hospital. You can't know what a "lift" it was for me to know that you were "parakleeting" (coming along side) of me during this time. I am now at home recuperating, and can't wait until I can be back worshipping with you again! I also want to thank you for the prayers for our son, Brian, who had a terrible motorcycle accident. He, too, is at home and doing well, and now walks with crutches. Our God is a wonderful God and His mercy endures forever! Praise His name!!

In Him,
 Al Riley

The ANNAPOLIS FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN WRITERS

will meet Thursday, September 25th at 7:30PM in Room 155/156 (the corridor beyond Fellowship Hall). If God has given you a desire to write, join us as we share our writing, learn more about the craft of writing, and try to help each other improve what we write. For further information contact Jeri Sweany at 410-267-0924.



The Great Clothing Exchange is coming, October 25th, look in the Sunday This Week or the web site www.eannapolis.org for more details.

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Burge to continue in this role on a longer term basis. Her title will continue to be the Director of Worship Arts, without the “Interim” label.

What this means is that we will continue to approach our ministry as we have been for the past 2-3 years! But where Ruth has felt reticent to think in any new or different directions, due to the “eminent” arrival of someone else to do the job, we are encouraging her to go ahead and exercise her heart and gifts as if she were going to be in this role for a longer period of time. She will also be compensated at a level more consistent with someone occupying this position on a more permanent basis. Otherwise, we don’t expect that anything will feel any different for any of us as we serve the Lord in this ministry together. Ken Wolf’s input and participation, together with the Pastoral oversight and team approach to planning that Ruth has been employing, will continue as we go forward.

In the mean time, the search committee will continue its work to find a long-term person; but without a sense of urgency. We are comfortable with the idea that this process could possibly take us another 1-4 years—and not only is Ruth willing to serve for this range of time; but we think we’ll be blessed as she does! However, if the Lord should lead us to His long-term answer “sooner” than “later”, then Ruth will be in a wonderful place to help make the transition a smooth one.

We believe that Ruth has been profoundly used by the Lord during this season to bless us and enable us to worship both deeply and well. And we not only trust that He will continue to use her in this way; but we also invite you to continue to pray that the Lord will empower her, and use us all for His glory. Ruth does not see a need for a party to commemorate this decision; but you are certainly welcome to encourage her in her labors! While Ruth has never claimed to be the most highly trained or talented of musicians, we think she is far more talented than she thinks—and she has been exceedingly faithful in all that she does, bringing excellence to the worship of God at EP!

How to Help a Grieving Friend

Often we hear “my co-worker lost her mother, how can I help her?” Or, “my neighbor lost his wife, how can I help him?”

When a loved one dies, there are no set rules on how others can help. Most of us bring food, but beyond that what can we do?

Here are a few suggestions. Some are from the book How to Help a Grieving Friend by Stephanie Grace Whitson, but others are from discussions or other books on grief.



1. Be slow to speak and long on listening. Death makes us all nervous and often we add to a person’s pain by the words we speak. Do not ask for details, but listen if the person needs to talk about the details even if they are difficult to hear.
2. Offer to do things, but be willing to do what the person wants done and *not* what you think should be done. Maybe the ragged wreath on the front door reminds them of the person who put it there and they may not want it “freshened up.” Don’t expect a thank-you note because the person probably doesn’t have the energy right then and later they may not even remember what you have done for them. Just know they are grateful.
3. Don’t compare that person’s loss with a loss that you have experienced, at least not yet. Every loss is different for every relationship is different. To compare or say that you know how they feel, is to mini-

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mize their feelings.

4. Walk along with the person as they adjust to a new normal without their loved one. Grief takes a long, long time for most people and most friends want them to have “microwave healing” – over quickly. A true friend listens and is there for the long haul.

Do not judge and expect them to be “over it” or to “move on” according to your timetable. Your timetable is irrelevant to your friend’s grieving.

Pray for wisdom, listen, and walk alongside your friend. God will bless your caring. Offer to bring them to GriefShare, a Biblically-based grief support group here at EP Church.

Our next GriefShare session will begin on Wednesday, October 1st. Brochures are in the church office. For more information, contact Paul and Carolyn Woodie, 410-626-8430 or carolyn.woodie@verizon.net.

by Carolyn Woodie

GIVING THRU AUGUST 17

Operating Fund:	Year To Date
Budgeted Giving	\$ 1,521,000
Actual Giving	\$ 1,495,000
Surplus or (Deficit)	(\$ 26,000)
Building (Campaign) Fund	
Amount Pledged to Date	\$ 646,000
Anticipated Giving to Date	\$ 137,000
Actual Giving to Date	\$ 120,000
Ahead or (Behind) Anticipated	(\$ 17,000)

**Deadline for the
Dec./Jan./Feb.**

Epistle is November 11th

The EPistle is published quarterly 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.

Healing Your Pain

Ladies, do you still carry hurts from your past that you wish could be healed? Well, Ebenezer may well be the ministry that can help you.

Ebenezer Ministry begins on September 9 this Fall, Ebenezer I and II will be held at Chapelgate Presbyterian Church in Marriottsville on Tuesdays, starting September 9th. The class is taught by Susie Conord and is 9:30-11:00am. Any Annapolis EP ladies that would like to join us are very welcome!

Wondering what Ebenezer is? Ebenezer is a ministry for women who grew up in severely dysfunctional/ impaired homes, where alcoholism or drug addiction, or incest or sexual abuse, physical or verbal abuse, trauma and neglect were a part of the family system.

I Samuel 7:12 says: “Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, ‘Thus far has the Lord helped us.’” We call ourselves Ebenezer because God is our rock and our help.

Ebenezer I is a series of ten classes.

The topics are:

- Our Stories and Our Traits
- Shame and Hiding
- Perfectionism
- Grieving and Mourning
- Forgiving and Letting Go
- New Identity and New Beginning

Ebenezer II (for graduates of Ebenezer I and held during the winter) is a deeper study in ten classes.

The topics are:

- Boundaries
- Loneliness, Trust and Control, and the Struggle for Intimacy
- Obsessive-Compulsive Behaviors
- How Our Past Affects Our Marriage
- Conflict and Intimacy in Marriage

These subjects are explored through God’s truth, focusing on who He says we are as women who struggle with the after-effects of our childhood. We seek to find our understanding and healing in our Great Physician.

Looking for this kind of healing? Call Susie Conord 410-721-4971 for questions or to sign up.

A Testimony of Your Love

In February of 1995 the devastation of separation and divorce hit my life. Though I was not a member at Annapolis EP at the time, I was fortunate to have a good friend of a friend who literally scooped me up and brought me here to the Ministry of New Vistas where it seemed I cried my way through many meetings. That fall I attended my first Fresh Start seminar and I was nervous about what was in store for me. From the time I walked in the door that first Friday night I was struck by *your* care for *me*. Some of you prayed for me and my children. Some gave cash donations, and though I didn't need them, I met some who did.

There were finger foods, sandwiches, cheese and cracker trays and brownies that you had made for me. Some of you rolled tables through the halls to set it all up. Some of you were facilitators, a sacrifice I'm forever grateful for. Then on Saturday morning, you fed me again. There were muffins, Danish and fruit, bagels and juice and coffee. The seminar is intense and filled with highs and lows and as my head was spinning with all that God could fit in there. I walked back into Fellowship Hall and was about brought to tears by what felt to me as the love of EP for *me*. It looked like a beautiful dining room with wonderful flower centerpieces and tables set. Some of you cooked for me and some of you served me and it was a blessing I will never forget.

Maybe you have a friend in need? It could be the friend of a friend or the friend in the mirror. The seminar is rich and insightful. The speakers are the best in the field. The experience can be life changing. For me there was a strengthening of my relationship with Christ and a reassurance of His love and care for me and your generosity was a big part of that. Many who grace our halls that weekend will be unchurched, many will be in a daze of pain and confusion. Whether you were left or did the leaving, the ripping apart of "one flesh" leaves a gaping wound in need of love, care and perspective.

This year's Fresh Start seminar will be held the weekend of September 26th & 27th. We begin Friday evening about 6:30 and reconvene Saturday from about 8:30-7:00. The cost is \$50.00 and it includes all meals. Some scholarship money is available. It will be followed up by our ongoing New Vistas Ministry that meets on the 1st & 3rd Friday nights, beginning in October, in the L-Room starting at 7:00PM.

We hope you pass this along to any who might benefit. We also hope many of you will sign up to help, like you did years ago. Most of our needs take very little time and really do go a long way. A brochure is available in the Church Office and information is on the web at <http://>

www.epannapolis.org/new_vistas.html.

I am grateful to be part of a church who takes seriously the mandate to love as we have been loved by Christ. We pray that God will use us in a mighty way. We desire to minister to those who respond to the invitation to come and begin healing. Fresh Start may be the first step in the healing process.

Cathy & Charlie Mahon
Coordinators



FRESH START SEMINAR SEPTEMBER 26-27, 2008

Call Sue Sadlier in the Church Office for registration and pre-registration information, 410-266-8090. Pre-registrations is preferred, but you can register at 6:30 Friday evening.

My Trip to India

Tonight was a cool night, probably 75 degrees. The first one I can remember in a long time. My skin rejoiced as it's pores ceased their seemingly endless cycle of perspiration. And although all other senses writhed under the bombardment which the streets of Calcutta ensue, for one evening, one sense could rest. The smell of urine and decaying life flooded my nostrils, and scenes of children picking through trash reflected a scene which my sunglasses could not deflect my lungs and mouth filled with pollution and smog from the days emissions. My eardrums threatened to cave in under the constant pressure of horns, cat calls, yelling and life. But one sense could rest tonight, and for me, that was quite enough.

One thing Calcutta has taught me to appreciate and rejoice in the simple things in life. I think in my life I had gotten to the point where it took a great deal to entertain me, ensue joy, ignite laughter, etc...I had experienced much in life and was no long simple. As much as I thought that I was.

When you eat spice food, the burning sensation you feel is your nerve ending burning. Therefore, after a while of eating spicy foods, it takes a greater amount of spice to evoke the same sensation of spiciness. Well, the nerve endings of my life had been quite burned by life and it took quite a great deal more than it used to evoke Life. However, after a month of no extra spices I have come to taste life again. Anywhere and everywhere I've found the richest of flavors within mankind or in him is the image of God. In bondage to the Prince of this world, no doubt, but no less the image of God.

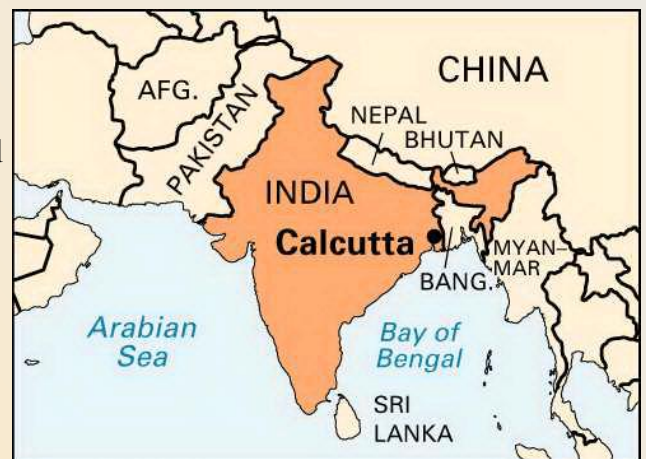
I didn't go to church on Sunday, but I experienced Jesus far more tangible than I ever have within the walls of a Sanctuary. I went on Sunday to wash, love, and feed street children. O what a picture of the Gospel, I saw as they stripped off their dirty rags and literally ran to become cleansed to stand under that steady stream of water which personified Sunday to them, bath day, a day of cleansing. And as they sat down on the pavement to be served a meal and cried out, "Pani! Pani!", which means, "Water! Water!"... "I thirst"... "Yes". Jesus was there.

Calcutta is the toughest classroom I've ever stepped foot in, and solitude is a ruthless teacher. I have felt emotions that I have never felt before. But the heart of the furnace can only be refining, I'm convinced. I cannot shake my fist at the Lord because quite honestly I prayed for this. Quite ignorantly, I did. And in His providence, I wrote that prayer down, so he points me back to it every now and again when the flames of Calcutta threaten utter consumption, but He is faithful, in every way.

If you were anticipating reading stories about poverty, orphans, and third world living, I have those, believe me. But not today. His glory is much more paramount. And what I do day to day pales compared to His acts.

To avoid coming across falsely, I am really quite a selfish girl. I want to go home nearly every day, India overwhelms me. But His grace abounds, deep, deep, deep, in the darkest parts. And somehow I get up every morning, because He is coming, and I want to be found faithful.

By Jessica Miller



As the Summer Draws to a Close
I wanted to thank you for your incredible response, not only to the “Send a Kid to Camp” campaign but also “Project Backpack”. Because of your prayer and financial support, EP Church was able to send 25 children from Woodside Gardens, Iglesia del Dios and Angel Tree Ministry to Camp Wabanna the first week of July. When asked in a survey at the end of the week what they had learned about themselves during their week at camp, one camper responded, “That if I believe in Jesus I will go to heaven.”



We were also able to pack 200 backpacks with school supplies and Bibles for children in Woodside Gardens and Iglesia del Dios. Your contributions with filling these backpacks were overwhelming and so appreciated by the children and their families.

Finally, we had about 40 volunteers show up every Tuesday to provide a day of “summer camp” to our Woodside Garden neighbors. Everything from singing praise songs, playing Sharks and Minnows, learning how to crochet, listening to Bible stories, or a simple game of Uno with casual conversation were among the activities that were provided. **Thanks to everyone, young and younger, that made it possible.**

Outreach Opportunities available to you this fall consist of new and many choices. We are in the process of gathering a team that will be conducting a weekly, after school **Good News Club at Germantown Elementary School** in conjunction with Child Evangelism

Fellowship beginning in October. If you would like to be a part of this exciting new ministry that will allow us to minister to many children in our community, please contact Laurie Nelson.

Pregnancy Clinic Walk and 5K Run for Life will be held Saturday, **September 27th** at two locations: Bowie Walk -10am at Allen’s Pond and Severna Park Run at 8am or Walk at 9am – B&A Trail. For more information go to www.pregnacyclinicministry.org/event/walk.html or call 410-431-5000.

It’s that time again for Operation Christmas Child. We will continue to be a **Relay Center** for OCC this fall. We will need many volunteers to help receive shoeboxes the week of **November 16th to 23rd**.

Lighthouse Shelter still has dates available to prepare and serve dinner for the homeless in Annapolis on November 22nd and December 27th.

Gabriel Network is a maternity home located right down the street from our church. We are looking for women from our church that would be interested in being an “**Angel Friend**” to the young moms that reside at this home. As a church body, we have a wonderful opportunity to minister to them and share Christ through friendship, meals, yard work, babysitting and the list goes on.

MOPS at Woodside Gardens is looking for women who have a heart for this mission and are interested in either working with the moms or providing child care. They will be meeting on 9/11, 9/25, 10/9, 10/23, 11/6, 11/20, and 12/11. For more information on how to get involved please call Leigh Miller 410-798-1646.

Homework Haven at Woodside Gardens needs volunteers interested in helping children (ages 6 to 10) with

basic reading and math skills anytime Monday through Friday from 3:00pm to 6:00pm.

EP Church will again be participating in the **Angel Tree Project** this Christmas. Angel Tree gives our church an opportunity to share Christ’s love at Christmas by helping to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the families of prisoners. It involves “purchasing, wrapping and delivering gifts to prisoners’ children on their behalf which not only delivers a message of love from parent to child, but also the true meaning of Christmas – the Good News of Jesus Christ.”

In October a group of church ladies will be phoning caregivers to find out what the children would like for Christmas. In the beginning of December, a tree will be set up in the Fellowship Hall with Angel tags for members of the congregation to take to begin their shopping for their “angels”. Will you be willing to take an Angel Tag and jump into the Christmas crowds again this year to shop for a little child who will most probably find these are their only Christmas gifts from Mom or Dad who won’t be there with them at this special time of year?

Please begin to save your money now. It is \$40 per child or only \$20 if you go in with someone else. For more information contact Dee Chalfont at 410-674-5621.

To get involved or for more information contact Laurie Nelson at 410-266-8091 x 103 or go to the church website at www.epannapolis.org under Outreach/Local Mission.

by Laurie Nelson



Newborns Are Still In Need

You may have seen the story on Channel 2, July 29, evening news, about the operation done 'in the womb' on a pair of twin boys. Their lives were saved but they were born prematurely and very small.

The need of the hospital and these parents to be able to minister to and dress tiny ones like these is what **Newborns In Need** is all about. Hospitals must have garments which allow for tubes; tiny flannel blankets to cover babies in incubators, tiny diapers, preemie undershirts, night-gowns with feet or drawstrings (the kind with sleeve mitts built in are great) and, of course, blankets and knit hats for all. Did you know sized pacifiers are also available? I didn't. And little socks look like doll socks. So cute!

When this comes out, we will be thinking about fall again, but as I write this, the need continues. Yet over the Summer, when one can't be in the mountains, on a beach or around a pool, the indoor fan or air-conditioning beckons. Suddenly it is cool enough to knit, crochet, sit at the sewing machine or sew or quilt for the babies. It is fun just to get out of the house into the cool shops and browse among the infant items and very small, safe toys. As September approaches, most of us with children go through outgrown clothes. This time, include your infant garments and see what has been "gently used", as they say now, that you can pass on to NIN. They welcome these items and are grateful to accept sizes from Preemie to Newborn to 0-3 months. Newborn babies come in all sizes, don't they? Of course, they do!

Here is what you do:

1. Treat with all the love in your heart.
2. Launder in Seventh Generation or Dreft or something without perfumes, etc. but not Ivory.
3. Make sure you have tagged with the size any little hats or clothing you have made and that purchased ones are marked.
4. Put in a padded bag or a box.
5. Mail to...Newborns In Need
Southern MD Chapter
12801 Molly Berry Road
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

They thank you and I thank you for your caring and generous heart.

Blessings,

Polly Digges and Didi D'Hondt

If you have any questions email blythespirit2@gmail.com.

Steven Badorf is a campus minister for Reformed University Fellowship at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. RUF is the official campus ministry of the PCA, and one of the fastest growing campus ministries in the United States.

Steven was born in Montana and raised in Missouri and Pennsylvania. He has been married to Beth for 15 years. They are the parents of 5 children, one of whom died in infancy. After graduating from college with a degree in Communication Design, he worked in the advertising industry for nearly four years. During this time, Steven was encouraged by his pastor to volunteer with students. During that year of doing Volunteer Campus Ministry, Steve sensed God calling him out of advertising and into Christian ministry. When Steve was laid off from his advertising job, he began doing campus ministry full time. After 6 years, Steve moved his family to Philadelphia, where he studied theology and pastoral ministry. He graduated in 2001 with a Masters in Divinity and accepted a call from the Chesapeake Presbytery of the PCA to come to Baltimore to minister to students at Towson University with RUF. After 6 years at Towson, Steven and his family are beginning a new ministry with RUF at



Johns Hopkins University.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for Steven as he leads RUF Hopkins family groups this fall. Each groups (small group Bible study) has about 6 students. Pray the groups will grow in the knowledge and grace of Jesus Christ and develop into authentic, caring communities of faith.
2. Pray for strength and good health for Steven and his family.
3. Pray for outreach efforts to be effective. Each Friday Steven and an intern offer free coffee and danishes to students. They serve about 100 students between 9 and 11 a.m. Pray that God would use this opportunity for His glory.
4. Pray that God would open the hearts of the students at Hopkins to hear the Gospel message.

Serving EP by Serving in the Library

What can you do to help the EP Library? The No. 1 thing you can do is use it. EP has made a significant investment in Christian materials for you to use and the best stewardship of those materials is for you to use them. Don't miss out a great resource available to you.

How else can I help the Library? Volunteer your time to help with the Library. Many hands make light work. Here are some ways for you to serve.

Sunday Morning Librarian: help check in and check out materials for patrons

Wednesday Evening Librarian: assist patrons once a month from 7:00-8:30

Library Cleaner: Plan and recruit volunteers to vacuum shelves and wipe off cases. This is a job that could be done twice a year.

CD and DVD Cleaner: Periodically go through and clean the play sides, every month or so.

CD Copier: Copy new CD's to make a circulation copy. Periodically as new material is bought

Cataloguing Jobs: If you have some blocks of time and an eye for detail and enjoy computer work related to books, there are a number of jobs involved with processing books that you could do.

Contact Ruth Burge: riburge@epannapolis.org or 410-923-2338.

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/Board Room in the corner of the hall behind the Sanctuary between the Choir Room and the Church Offices.

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.

Worship Ministry Opportunities

As the fall ministry season starts, prayerfully consider these opportunities in the Worship Ministry to serve the church family with your gifts.

Sanctuary Choir is a vocal choir for high school age singers and older. It meets every Wednesday night from 7:00-8:30pm. Some experience with choirs or reading music is helpful. The choir sings almost every Sunday during the school year. First practice: September 3.

Praise and Worship Band is a team of rotating musicians that practices on Thursday evenings and leads in worship the following Sunday morning. Vocalists, guitar players, bass players, and drummers are needed. A variety of fretted, string, and wind instruments are also used occasionally.

Junior Choir is a vocal choir for children in the 3rd-7th grades. Choir meets every Thursday afternoon during the school year from 3:30-4:45. The choir sings in the morning services approximately once a month during the school year, gives a Christmas and a spring concert, and ministers in nursing homes.

Besides preparing music, the choir is taught using a five year curriculum plan that covers information about music, worship, hymns, and the psalms. First practice: September 18.

Handbells-Handbell choir is open to musicians based on their musical experience and ability.

For more information on opportunities contact Ruth Burge, at riburge@epannapolis.org or 410-923-2338.



(Continued on page 11)

Despising Our Brothers in Our Hearts

2 Sam 6:14-16, 20-23 *And David danced before the LORD with all his might;...So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the horn. As the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.... And David returned to bless his household. But Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, "How the king of Israel honored himself today, uncovering himself today before the eyes of his servants' maids, as one of the vulgar fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!" And David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me above your father, and above all his house, to appoint me as prince over Israel, the people of the LORD - and I will make merry before the LORD. RSV*

I am sad to admit that I have more in common with Michal than I would like. Like her I have judged the motives of the hearts of my brothers and sisters in Christ as they worshiped the Lord. Not only have I done it in the past, but even recently, and I find it is a temptation of my heart continually.

How might this work? For me, I can err in two different directions. I can see someone enthusiastically involved in worship, perhaps expressing themselves physically in a way which seems too demonstrative to me. I can wonder if they really are feeling all that inspired spiritually and mentally accuse them of hypocrisy and trying to draw attention to themselves. On the other hand, I can observe people who appear to be uninvolved in worship because there seem to be no outward indications of that and conclude that they are spiritually dead and don't really love the Lord like I do. Both sins proceed from a prideful heart which is assuming that I am better than others and that somehow my way of expressing myself in worship is the standard by which to judge others.

What is the antidote to this prideful judging? I need to reconsider the Gospel. I am not a standard for the worship of others, nor are they for me. Only those who are holy dare approach the throne of God in worship, and none of us are that. Only because we are clothed in the righteousness of Christ dare we even begin to worship God. My demonstrative

brother, my reserved brother, and I all come to worship on the same basis, the finished work of Christ on the cross.

Outward expressions of worship are not an accurate indicator of what is going on in the heart, but what is going on in our hearts as we worship is very, very important. How do our hearts become engaged in worship? We need to study and meditate on the glories of the cross and the wonderful mercies of God to us in Christ. The more I see the depths of my sin and the glories of the Gospel, the better I will worship. As I focus my eyes on Christ, I will not be so inclined to judge the worship of others. Instead I will worship God out of the overflow of a grateful heart. If we all do that, it might even affect how we express ourselves physically. Some of us might just grasp our hymnals a little tighter as tears flow down our cheeks. Others of us might clap or raise our hands in worship or even jump up and down. If we keep our eyes on Jesus and the cross, it won't matter to me or you just how it looks on the outside. *O Lord, give us hearts that value you above all and long to worship you!*

By Ruth Burge

(Continued from page 10)

Welcome back and welcome newcomers to this year's **Cherub Choir**. This is a vocal choir for children who are 3 years old through the 2nd grade. We will begin September 18th from 3:30-4:15 and will meet every Thursday afternoon during the school year in the Choir Room. The choir sings in the morning services several times during the school year and participates in the Christmas and spring concerts.

Last year we had 29 children and had a lot of fun. Our aim is to give the boys and girls a joy of singing to the Lord and bless a heart that He has softened. Call with any questions and I'll see you in September. If you have any question please contact me, Lynn Sarich at 410-757-5836.

Dear Friends,

The prayer of our women's leaders is that with in our programs you will find opportunities for the Lord to feed your friendships and nourish your soul. Whether you are new to our fellowship or been involved for years, we all need to eat! This summer I have eaten much! The summer studies fed my soul. What a blessing it is to join with other women in the Word of God.



Recorded in John 6, Jesus says, "Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you." Where will you go to be fed? Where will you invest your time and energy this fall? Where will you go to exercise your faith and your gifts?

As Fall arrives, we have a full and varied menu for you to prayerfully consider. For a complete church wide menu check out the ministry fair on Sunday September 7th, during the Sunday School hours. The offerings in Women's Ministries include the following:

Appetizers

Opportunities to wet the appetites of others...

MOPS groups: We have three Mothers Of Preschoolers Groups: A daytime group that meets two Friday mornings a month and includes a Moppets program for children, an evening group that meets once a month on Thursday evenings and a MOPS group that meets at Woodside Gardens. **Naomi's Sisters and Friends:** This is a wonderful group of widows and their friends who gather together once a month for food and encouragement. Other opportunities to bring a friend: the **Body and Soul Fitness** class, the **Knitting** group and a group that loves to go **Sailing**.

Main Course

A full fare of nutritious food for the soul...

Our Women's Bible Studies begin the week of September 15th. There are 12 studies that meet different days of the week. You may register in the Fellowship Hall between services or contact the Women's Ministry Office.

Dessert

A sweet course at the end of the fall.

Join us for our annual Women's Ministry Christmas Dinner on December 6th. The evening is a wonderful opportunity to invite our neighbors and family members to come celebrate the birth of Jesus. We will enjoy a wonderful meal together. Our evening program will feature the Brethren Men's Choir.

Beverages

Unlimited refills with our Women's Ministry Prayer Team

For a complete listing with dates, times and contact number please pick up a Women's Ministry brochure or contact: the Women's Ministry Office 410-266-8091ext.127



Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35
Consider all our areas of ministry and come sit at the table;
may we all feast together on the bread of heaven.

In His Grace, Jenny Woodruff



Encouragement For Men

The Men's Ministry is here... *To encourage men to grow in their faith and love for Jesus Christ; To provide fellowship opportunities and growth in the Body of Christ; To provide opportunities for using spiritual gifts in ministry; To share the Good News of the Gospel to a dying world.*

Men's Small Groups regularly meet together in groups of 3-6 men, seems to be the best way for most men to grow in their faith. In small groups we study God's Word; pray together, get to know and care for each other; have fellowship; encourage each other to grow 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. If you are not already in a Small Group, now is a great time to get started. Come join us by calling Tom Beall 410-266-8090 ext. 117 or 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.

We will be doing a **Golf Tournament** at Bay Hills Golf Club in Arnold on October 2nd. The cost is \$65.00 per person which includes 18 holes of golf, golf cart usage, continental breakfast, buffet lunch, free round of golf to be used later. Start time will be around 7:00AM for breakfast with a 7:30AM tee time. Sign up individually or as a two-some and we will match you up into foursomes the morn-

ing of the tournament. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall beginning in September, watch the bulletin for the exact date, or call Don Russell for details or with questions. Bring your friends, sons, fathers, neighbors, business associates, and come join us for a great day of fellowship and golf.

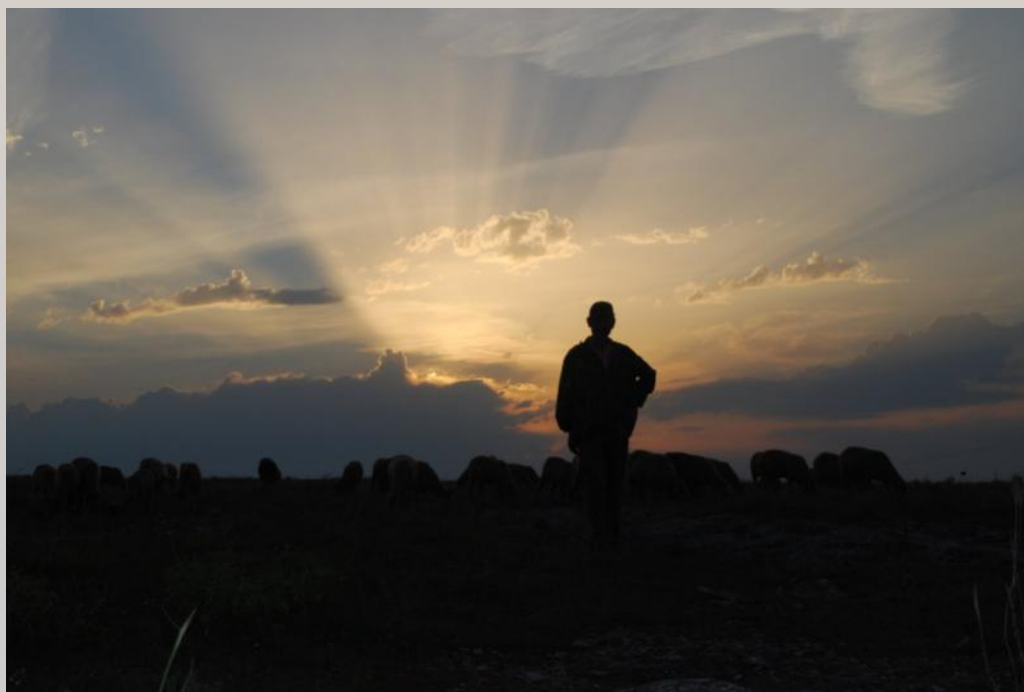
Men's Fraternity begins on Tuesday, September 16th, in the Cove from 6:00-7:30AM.

We will be studying *The Quest for Authentic Manhood*.

Bring your small group, non-believing friends and coworkers. Not a typical Bible study; we will look at God's design for men and are challenged to become who we were created to be. The topics we will be covering are *Seasons of a Man's Life, Uncovering a Man's Wounds, Defining Manhood, Deepening your Marriage, Raising Sons and Daughters, and Developing a Manhood Plan*. Come join your brothers in Christ for breakfast and a study of Biblical Manhood.

Donations will be collecting each week, to cover the cost of Breakfast, approximately \$5/week. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall beginning Sunday's in September so we will know how many books to order.

by Tom Beall



A Solemn Promise

We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power and the wonders He has done. Psalm 78:4b

Have you ever thought about the fact that our ministry to children at Annapolis EP begins when a covenant child is baptized and the pastor asks the members of the congregation this question:

“Do you as the congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting these parents in the Christian nurture of their children? If you do, please signify by raising your right hand.”

If you and I do raise our hands, that’s a solemn promise we are making before God. This fall our Children’s Ministry team is excited to offer you many opportunities to assist parents in the Christian nurture of their children.

On Sunday Mornings...

Our Nursery Ministry:

Infant Nursery at 9:15 & 11:00

Director - Suzette Bressler

Toddler Nursery at 9:15 & 11:00

Director - Mary Rouland

A place where loving caregivers provide a safe environment, pray for our children, teach them simple truths about God and tell them foundational Bible stories.

Our Noah’s Ark Preschool:

Nursery/Preschool Coordinator - Valerie Chick

Classes at 9:15 & 11:00

Children are welcome to come for one hour or stay for both hours.

Teachers and assistants share their own love for God and affection for His Word with the next generation of 2-5 year olds through play, song, Bible stories, scripture and catechism memorization. We will continue to use the curriculum from Great Commission Publications. We are also planning some special song and story times for all the Noah’s Ark children to attend together.

The Well:

Our EPKids Ministry for children in grades K-5

Elementary Coordinator: Christy Lenham

*With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.*

In that day you will say:

*"Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name;
make known among the nations what he has done,
and proclaim that his name is exalted. Isaiah 12:3-4*



Samaritan woman at the well. Our Lord tells her that he can give her water that will quench her thirst forever and will become a spring of water welling up into eternal life.

We want to see children come to our large group worship time, along with their teachers (parents are welcome too!), encounter the truths of Christ, then go tell others how God is changing them from the inside out.

Our motto is:

Come and meet Jesus
Drink and thirst no more
Tell of his wonderful works

Children grades K-5 and their teachers will gather at The Well at 11:00AM for a large group worship time (doors will open at 10:55), then be dismissed to go their individual classes where they will begin studying from the Children Desiring God curriculum which will include Bible study, scripture memorization and life application. Just follow the signs to The Well on Sunday, September 7th. That is also Promotion Sunday for all preschool and elementary children. New class lists will be posted on classroom doors and in the Chapel.

Midweek Activities...

Tuesday Morning:

Busy Bees Bible Club Director - Jill Furniss

This is held during our Women’s Mid-Week Bible Studies for children ages 6 months through Kindergarten, with a homeschool class for ages 6-12.

Wednesday Family Night Activities:

Pioneer Girls, Stockade Boys, Nursery for infants to 4 yrs.

Watch for news of special events throughout the year. Please pray that many children and their families will come to know Christ, love Christ and serve Christ and that we will glorify God in this ministry. Contact me with any questions or if you’d like to find a place to serve Jesus and the children.

In Christ’s Service,

By Linda Cate



In John 4, you can ready about Jesus’ encounter with the

Shepherding God's Flock

One of the simplest yet sweetest books that I have read over the years is "A shepherd looks at Psalm 23" by Phillip Keller. Psalm 23 is well known by many of us, but Phillip Keller was actually a sheep farmer and his insights into this psalm are very helpful. Keller explains the verse: "He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake" with the reminder that "sheep are notorious creatures of habit. If left to themselves they will follow the same trails until they become ruts; graze the same hills until they turn to desert wastes; pollute their own ground until it is corrupt with disease and parasites." This veteran sheep handler explains that the wise shepherd knows the way to counteract this tendency is to keep his flock "on the move", always leading them into what the Bible calls "paths of righteousness."

The shepherding elders of EP likewise struggle with the continual challenge of how to lead this flock, knowing our shared unfortunate tendency to stray from the good. As Isaiah 53:6 puts it: "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way." This was never more painfully felt than recently when the Session had to discipline one of our members with the censure of excommunication.

What is church discipline and how does it function at EP Church? Our PCA Book of Church Order 27-3 (which can be found online at <http://www.pcaac.org/BCO.htm>) reminds us that the proper use of church discipline maintains three important things: a/ the glory of God, b/ the purity of His Church, and c/ the keeping and reclaiming of disobedient sinners. Church discipline is something we all should behold with awe, as it attempts to "put flesh" on what is essentially a spiritual battle. In other words, unlike a policeman, an elder carries no physical gun, only the "sword of the Spirit", the Word of God. In the PCA, church discipline is only pronounced after a formal judicial process by one of the church courts (the "courts" of the PCA are the local Session, the regional presbytery and the national General Assembly). There is a well defined appeals process that seeks to help all involved to fully understand the human and spiritual issues involved. At the end of this formal judicial process, a decision to exercise discipline can be pronounced with increasing levels of seriousness, namely, admonition, suspension from the Sacraments, excommunication, and if an officer, suspension or deposition from office. The purpose of church discipline is to restore the member or church officer to fellowship and the rebalancing of their spiritual priorities, but if there is no repentance, discipline (in any of its forms) is necessary to protect the purity of the Church.

Recently, the Session has found it helpful to erect small sub-groups of elders delegated with the responsibility and authority of dealing with a straying member or church offi-

cer, called a "Commission of Session." The Commission then investigates the matter at hand, and reports back to the full Session for final approval of their work. This approach protects the member by the investment of more time and sensitivity by a smaller group of elders. Two or three ruling elders are asked to join a particular commission along with the Congregational Care Pastor who is normally tasked by the Session to serve as chairman. The subject of church discipline is foreign to the thinking of many people today as we live in a culture that worships individualism. But submission to "the government and discipline of the Church" as well as the promise to "study its purity and peace" is one of the five membership vows that every member of EP (and the PCA) has publicly pledged. Our church vows, just like our marriage vows, are made to help guide us during times of crisis. We rarely need the reminder to do the right thing when times are going well in our lives, as when we follow the shepherd through each crisis and into the next pasture. Yet it is precisely for times of trouble (when our trails become ruts, and our waters become polluted) that we make a public vow before the Lord so that we will carry through with our commitments. As Ps. 15:4 puts it the righteous man keeps his promise even when it hurts.

So what should you do if you find yourself straying from biblical standards? Don't run away from the church body or church leaders! Rather seek out your Care Group Shepherding Elder (identifiable through your church directory) or one of the Pastors and ask for their assistance in being led in paths of righteousness. After all, they are sinners just like you and they know how to be gentle. Likewise, if you are approached by an elder with some concern on their part, please understand that they haven't "gone to meddling" rather they are coming alongside to help you live a life pleasing to the Lord. For remember we have a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who had our iniquity laid on him (Is. 53:6) so that we could be a community of grace that gives glory to His name.

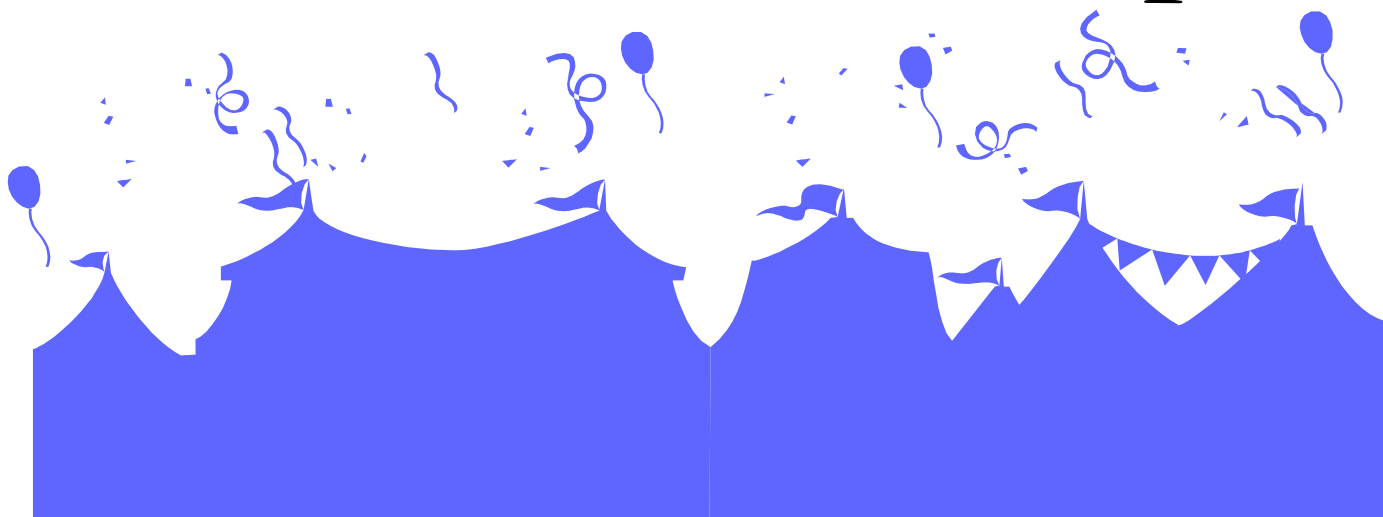
By Pastor Bob Borger



Ministry Fair

September 7th

9:00am to 12:30pm



Annapolis EP Church
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