



Dec/Jan/Feb 2009

Redemptive Relationships

The Elders are reading a book by Paul Tripp and Timothy Lane called *How People Change*. I cannot make a greater recommendation for you to buy it and read it. At the core of what we are hoping to see God do at EP is a “community of grace”, I cannot think of a better description than what lies in the pages of this book. Hence, this is the reason we are reading the book as the Elders of the church.

The writers make the observation that “change happens best, and primarily, within community, and that the key to the success of this type of community are dozens and dozens of redemptive relationships where people love another so much that they are involved in each other’s lives. Though there exists a tension we feel in these type of relationships, between what we gain by having them and what we must endure for these relationships to work, redemptive relationships are essential to the process of real change. It is a shame that often we avoid having these kind of relationships (and in some cases any meaningful relationships) simply because sometimes they are hard.

Showing Christ

Too often we communicate to those who are caught up in some sin, explicitly or implicitly, that “you have made your bed, now lie in it.” This attitude is anti-theological to the gospel and kills genuine community. The gospel tells us: “Yes, we have made our beds, but it was Christ who laid down in them for us and that we are forgiven.” The gospel does not excuse us from earthly consequences of sin, but it also does not condone self-righteousness either. We fail to get involved in the lives of others because it is “too messy,” but that reality did not stop Christ from coming into our messy lives and bring the change we needed. Redemptive relationships are brothers and sisters who, despite the messes, are willing and often do, walk beside those who are messy toward change. It is in these type of relationships we see friends who encourage us to repent and remind us to believe the gospel. The bottom line is that we all need redemptive friends and need to be redemptive friends to others. And when enough redemptive relationships exist, a community of grace exists, fostering an environment where real change

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PICTURE THIS! Connecting with and caring for each other. AEP will soon be publishing another pictorial church directory in cooperation with Olan Mills. Our last directory was published in March 2005 and many new families and ministry staff have been added since that time. Most of us are familiar with the basic aspects of how the process works: your family signs up for an appointment and is photographed. Each photographed family receives a church directory and a free 8x10 portrait. You are given a “no-pressure” opportunity to purchase additional photographs if you choose. The whole process occurs at no cost to the church.

But here’s what you probably don’t know – Olan Mills has captured some wonderful hi-tech resources so that our new pictorial directory is going to be a significant ministry tool which will help us connect with and care for each other. For starters, in addition to the printed directory, the whole directory, and more, will also be available online. This means when new families join the church, their picture can be updated to the online directory long

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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
Nursery & Preschool Coordinator
 Valerie Chick, ext 119
Elementary Coordinator
 Christy Lenham, ext 119
Organist
 Lois White
Interim Director of Worship Arts
 Ruth Burge, ext 106
Administrative Director
 Herb Conklin, ext 113
Ministerial Administrator
 Sue Sadlier, ext 111
Database Administrator
 Annette See, ext 125
Publications Administrator
 Melissa Drouin, ext 112
Maintenance Administrator
 Dannie Smith, ext 121
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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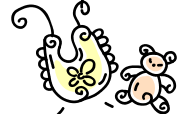
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 Message from the Staff

Jesus cherished the
 little children.



Elders for 2008

Tom Beall, Dan Billingsley, Jim Burge, Chuck Cochran, Floyd Gilkey, Bruce Holtzman, George Janvier, Pete Kaweck, 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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happens in the lives of people. Let me leave you with a couple of quotes from *How People Change* to ponder.

Yet this is not simple. Being involved with people is time-consuming, messy, and complicated. From our point of view it is inefficient, but from God's point of view it is the best way to encourage growth in grace. Our value system collides with God's, but his means for bringing about change in us is best. That means we will have to make time for these kinds of relationships to emerge and grow. We will have to be realistic, too. Close relationships make it more likely that you will sin against someone or that someone will sin against you. There will need to be times of confession and forgiveness. There will be times when you will need to serve someone, even though you feel you lack the resources. There will also be times when you will be served! That may not sound like a challenge, but if you are proud, it is the last thing you want. Living in community pushes us to die to ourselves.

As isolated individuals, we cannot reach the level of maturity God has designed for us. It only happens as we live in a loving, redemptive community . . . where we celebrate the many facets of the gospel [where faith and repentance is normal and celebrated rather than ignored or peripheral].



Pastor Bruce

Thank you

I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers,...Philemon 1:4

To the Church Family,
We are so grateful for your many kind expressions of sympathy following the death of Nancy's mother, Millie Troupe. Thank you so much for ministering the love of Christ to us through your card and notes as well as your gifts of service. We are so appreciative of the many ways you loved and cared for Mother when she moved to Annapolis 5 years ago and began regularly attending EP. You quickly helped her to feel at home here as you provided a supportive community around her. Watching many of you reach out to her was a clear picture to us and our family of how the Lord provides for our needs through His people. Thank you for being so responsive to His Spirit, as He guided you to meet the needs of Mother in her declining years. To God be the glory!

In Christian Love,
Nancy & Al Strong

Dear Family in Christ,
We are deeply appreciative of your prayers, phone calls and cards during Bill's lengthy health issues. These are such encouragements, always bringing a smile and easing the pain. Thank you all so very much!

Love, Bill and Polly Digges

Dear EP Family,
This is our prayer for all of you as you have so graciously and generously supported Kendrick as God has called him to serve with InterVarsity Fellowship in Berlin, Germany. It has been a humbling experience to see God's hand in His magnificent provision nearly 100% funding in merely 5 months. The concern expressed for Kendrick's well-being by many of you demonstrates God's love for our son through you, His Body. We cannot adequately express our thanks for your continued prayers and support. Thank you for being a visible expression of the hand of God in our lives. "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you...in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now." Phil 1: 3, 5

Pat & Theresa Doolan

EP Family,
In times of sickness and adversity, it was a great comfort to know others were praying for ones well being. Prayers do help! Thanks for your prayers, visits, cards, etc. I should be back amongst you all in a very short time.

Charles McDonald



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after the printed directory is completed. In addition, the on-line resource is downloadable to a PDA, can be printed into your own user defined small directory (e.g. your Sunday School class, small group, or women's Bible study, etc.) Prayer requests, E-cards, and more are also available through this powerful software. Finally, your contact information is secure because it is backed by SSL Encryption and password protection. If you wish to view a demo log-on to <http://churchdirectories.olanmills.com/services/products/online.asp>

The dates for photography are listed below. There will be a sign up opportunity in the church Narthex and also online soon. All weekday shoots are between 3:00-9:30PM and Saturdays are 10:00AM - 5:00PM. December 29th-30th; January 2nd-3rd; January 22nd-24th; February 5th-7th.

If you have questions or suggestions about this project contact Pastor Bob Borger at 410-266-8090 ext. 118 or email bborger@epannapolis.org.

PrEParing for Marriage

The Wedding Day one day in your life.
The Marriage the rest of your life.

The Preparing for Marriage (PFM) ministry was started with the goal of helping couples build strong, healthy marriages that will go the distance. PFM includes a 12-week course with speakers and discussions on communication and conflict resolution, financial management, love and sexuality, gender differences and parenting. Couples take a relationship inventory called Prepare which helps pinpoint relationship strengths and unresolved issues. Each couple is paired with a trained mentor couple who guides them as they discuss the Preparing for Marriage results and explore their relationship.

The first 12-week PFM course took place in 1996, and there have been 22 courses since then. From the beginning PFM had a goal of reaching out to the community at large. Thus approximately 1/3 of the 145 couples who have participated in this ministry

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POINSETTIAS

Help Fill Our Sanctuary and Chapel
with the Beauty of Christmas
Orders must be placed by December 7th

Please do not take your flower(s) home until after the 11:00 service on December 23rd or after the Christmas Eve Service. If you will not be here, please have someone pick them up for you.
Thank You!

7" pots with 8-12 blooms \$10.50 each Red _____ White _____
8" pots with 13-18 blooms \$20.50 each Red _____ White _____
12" pots with 25+ blooms \$31.00 each Red _____ White _____

Name: _____

Given in Memory of _____
Please Print

Given in Honor of _____
Please Print

Make checks payable to EP Church - Order form may be placed in Offering Plate



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were not from EP church. In addition, approximately 1/3 of the couples had a prior marriage. Participants range in age from 19 to 62.

Following are comments from participating couples:

"Wonderful experience."

"Our mentor couple was a valuable source of advice, experience, and knowledge."

"Prepare improved our communication and prompted us to talk about things that needed to be discussed."

"I will highly recommend this class to all prospective marriages I come across."

"The speakers were all very good."

The next 12-week course will begin in February 2009. For further information or to register, call the Church Office or visit the website at www.eppanapolis.org/pfm.html.

Janet Collins

“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.” Matthew 1:23



**Deadline for the
March/April/May
Epistle is February 3rd**

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.

Administrative Notes

2008 Charitable Contributions:

In order for a contribution to be deductible in 2008, our church must have possession of the check on or before December 31st, or if the donation is mailed, the postmark on the envelope must be Dec. 31, 2008 or earlier. Please make your donations in a timely manner so that these Internal Revenue Service rules do not become a problem for you.

Our Church Budget for 2009:

The 2009 budgets will become available for distribution on Sunday, November 30th. Please only take one per family. Our Congregational Meeting will be held on Thursday, Dec. 11th at 7:30 PM, and this budget will be formally presented by our Treasurer, Scott Furniss, and the Chairman of the Stewardship Committee, Brian Miller, at that time. Please plan on attending this very important meeting.

2009 Contributions to our Church:

Church giving envelopes for 2009 will be available in the Narthex on Sunday, November 23rd and several Sundays in December. If you presently have church envelopes for 2008, you will have new ones with the same number for 2009. These envelopes will be in alphabetical (not numerical) order in our Narthex. Please remember to pickup your envelopes.

If you presently don't have envelopes and you would like a set for 2009, please call the Church Office.

Herb Conkin



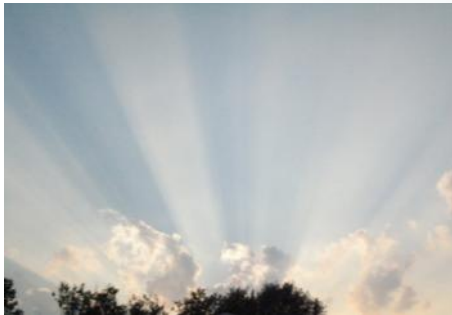
GIVING THRU NOVEMBER 16

Operating Fund:	Year To Date
Budgeted Giving	\$ 2,108,000
Actual Giving	\$ 2,039,000
Surplus or (Deficit)	(\$ 69,000)
Building (Campaign) Fund	
Amount Pledged to Date	\$ 646,000
Anticipated Giving to Date	\$ 194,000
Actual Giving to Date	\$ 151,000
Ahead or (Behind) Anticipated	(\$ 43,000)

Facing the Holidays After a Death

Thanksgiving and Christmas are usually special family times. Traditions and memories can stretch across many years and generations. We see the empty chair of the one who has died and that can make this time very difficult. Holidays have been called "emotional land mines" for those who are grieving. How can you help someone who is grieving during this time?

Remember that although the death may have taken place some time ago, holidays evoke special memories and may be difficult even if some time has passed since the loss. Don't expect or make comments that the person must let go and move on. That only adds additional hurt. Each person's journey of grief is individual and some are longer than others.



Invite the person to be included in some of your holiday plans. If the loss has been recent, give them the freedom to leave early or even not come at the last minute if they find the day is especially difficult. Social times can be stressing and especially tiring for those already exhausted by grief.

Encourage them to begin a new

tradition. Physically doing something in memory of the person they have lost is often helpful. A special donation or volunteering at a homeless shelter, helping with gifts for prison ministries, wrapping gifts for needy children are things that may bless the grieving person. Maybe you could volunteer to do something with them as an encouragement.

Helping a family grieve: Food often surrounds our holiday celebrations. Was there a special recipe that the person really enjoyed? Making the recipe with the family, while sharing happy memories of the loved one can help the healing process. Or, maybe the family can take the time to make a special ornament to remember and that ornament will adorn the tree for years to come.

The *anticipation* of the holiday without the loved one is usually worse than the actual holiday. Anyone can get through 18 hours. Reassure them that you will be there to help them and *that with the Lord's help, they will get through it.*

Ask the Lord to show you someone who is grieving this holiday season and reach out to them with Christ's love. As you and your family celebrate together, pray especially for those who have lost loved ones that they will be able to see again that the joy of the season is Christ.

GriefShare is a 13-week Biblically-based grief support group which meets at EP Church on Wednesday evenings at 7:30PM through January

14th and people may join at any time. Our next 13-week session will begin in February. For more information, please contact Paul & Carolyn Woodie 410-626-8430, carolyn.woodie@verizon.net or Walt & Karen Asplund 410-923-3285.

New Vistas

For 23 years now, EP Church has actively ministered, to those who are experiencing the pain of separation and divorce, in the ministry we call NEW VISTAS. Each year, we have reached out to hurting folks, both in the church and in the community, by offering a Fresh Start seminar, a weekend event in September. This past September, the 50 people who attended the seminar were blessed by the ways that you, as a congregation, once again, provided food, flowers and décor, food servers, kitchen help, registration workers, sound and video help, prayer support, publicity, and more.

The following note received from a man who attended the seminar for the first time, expresses what many others verbalized too.

"To the EP Church of Annapolis, Thank you so much for your generosity and your hospitality during the recent Fresh Start Divorce Recovery Seminar. Your love of God and of your brothers and sisters in Christ is very powerful and inspiring. God bless you all.

And a special thank you to the 'chefs' and the youth group for the beautiful dinner."

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STEPHEN MINISTRY Love One Another As I Have

Loved You . . .

In John 15:12, Jesus says,
 "This is my commandment,

that you love one another as I have loved you." Loving and caring for one another is not just the pastor's job, it's something Jesus calls us all to do! **Stephen Ministry** is a ministry in which people with special gifts for caring ministry can put those gifts to use in an organized way, bringing Jesus' love and care to those who most need it. If you, or someone you know, are going through a difficult time contact one of our Stephen Ministries about Stephen Ministry. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide you with focused, confidential, one-to-one Christian care and to help you experience the healing power of Christ's love in your life.

What Do Stephen Ministers Do?

Stephen Ministers are members of Annapolis EP who have gone through 50 hours of training to provide confidential one-to-one Christian care to people who are facing a crisis or simply going through a difficult time. Your Stephen Minister will meet with you once a week for around an hour to listen to you, care for you, pray with and for you, and provide emotional and spiritual encouragement. Men are matched with male Stephen Ministers, women are matched with female Stephen Ministers. To find out more about how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders.

Are You Experiencing a "Winter" in Your Life?

In addition to the cold weather outside, many people experience "winters" in their personal lives. A recent

loss through death, divorce, or relocation may leave them feeling lonely. A hospitalization, cancer diagnosis, or ongoing medical problems may leave them feeling isolated. The loss of a job, the fear of layoffs, or a financial setback can devastate one's self-esteem. Family and personal struggles may leave them with nowhere to turn for support.

If you are going through a difficult time, our Stephen Ministers can bring God's warm love back into your life. They provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will meet with you privately on a weekly basis to listen, support, and encourage you, to pray with and for you, and to walk with you for the duration of your crisis.

To find out more about Stephen Ministry and how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with the leadership team. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

They Are among Us

No, we're not talking about angels or aliens. We're talking about individuals who care about others. The Scriptures describe their service well: "Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering" (Hebrews 13:3). If you or someone you know wants to do more as a Christian caregiver, consider Stephen Ministry. This is our congregation's one-to-one caregiving ministry. A training class is starting soon. Please contact Brenda Hulting or Jim Taylor for more information.



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New Vistas continues to meet throughout the year, in the L-Room, at 7:00PM, on the first and third Friday nights of the month, for on-going support and encouragement. There is rarely a New Vistas Friday night when we do not have at least one person attending for the first time. Often, those new folks are there because you have talked to people you know who are going through marital break-up, and you have encouraged them to come. Over the years, we have seen the love and compassion of Christ ministered, by His people, to the hurting. Many have heard the gospel for the first time and come to Him for His mercy and saving grace.

Thank you, EP Church, for your prayers and your support of the New Vistas Ministry.

What's Happening

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your incredible response to **Operation Christmas Child**. At the time of this newsletter printing I do not have the final count of how many shoeboxes were given but our prayer has been that we would reach our goal of 400 "gospel opportunities" (or shoeboxes) that will be sent to many children all over the world. Thank you also to the many volunteers that helped receive shoeboxes from people and organizations all over Annapolis. If Operation Christmas Child has caught your attention as a ministry you would like to serve in, there are many year round volunteer opportunities available in the area.

Good News Club at Germantown Elementary

(located near the Naval Academy stadium) began in October with 25 children signed up! What a blessing it has been to see not only volunteers from our church but also parents and teachers from the school participating in singing, teaching, discussion groups etc. The children have just finished up a series of Bible stories on Elijah and are headed into



learning about Elisha. Each week the Gospel is presented and chil-

dren have an opportunity to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Please continue to pray for the men and women that are serving and for the hearts of the children that hear God's Word each week that they would come to a saving knowledge of Jesus.

Homework Haven at Woodside Gardens continues to need volunteers interested in helping children (ages 6 to 10) with basic reading and math skills anytime Monday through Friday from 3:00 to 6:00 pm.

Lighthouse Shelter (located off of West Street) has a Wish List that we have posted on the church's website www.eppannapolis.org.

There are many opportunities to serve whether it be preparing 50-100 bag lunches, to stocking shelves, to answering phones. We as a church have committed to prepare and serve dinner the 4th Saturday of every month. The dates we have available are 12/27, 1/24, 2/28, and 3/28. This a great opportunity for your family, small group or Sunday school to serve those who need a little help to get back on their feet again.

To get involved or for more information contact Laurie Nelson at 410-266-8090 x103 or to the church website at www.eppannapolis.org under Outreach/Local Missions.

Angel Tree Mission: Sharing Christ's Love

Soon the Angel Tree will be set up in the Fellowship Hall. Please don't forget this unique ministry which gives our church an opportunity to

share Christ's love at Christmas. This project is done under the auspices of Prison Fellowship Ministries. Again this year our church has sponsored 60 "angels". These children have either a mom or dad



in prison and would like a gift from the one they love but can't see or hug. These children have done nothing wrong and often don't understand why their world is different. We have the opportunity to show them the love and mercy of Jesus Christ. On December 7 our tree will be set up, holding tags with the name of each child.



Please talk it over with your family and decide to "adopt" an angel. We realize that there are many requests for your donations particularly at this time of the year. However, this is a community mission right in our own "backyard". Most of the children are from the Annapolis area. Please think about it and prayerfully consider taking a name, or going in with another

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family in taking a name. The price limit for each child is \$40.00 (\$20



for fun gift and \$20 for clothing). Not only will you get the joy of shopping for a child, you may have the privilege of taking the gift to the family. It is a wonderful minis-



try. Hope to see you at our tree in the Fellowship Hall. If you have a special request for age/gender, please call me, Dee Chalfant 410-674-5621 and I will see what I can do. If you cannot take a child this year, would you please pray for this mission?



Missions

Stanley and Donna Armes are missionaries serving with Mission to the World in South Africa. Stanley's parents were missionaries, and he graduated from Rift Valley Academy in Kenya in 1965. He then attended Covenant College and Covenant Seminary. Donna grew up in Springfield, Illinois where she received her nursing degree from Southern Illinois University and has worked at several hospitals in the U.S. and in community health in Kenya and has served as the director of a U.S. home health agency. Stanley and Donna married in 1973 and raised three daughters.

After Stan's ordination in 1973, the Armes served in Kenya for 10 years, but returned to the states in 1987 for health reasons. In 1997, God led them to Port Elizabeth, South Africa, where Stan became a teacher at the Bible Institute Eastern Cape. Donna is the HIV/AIDS training facilitator for MTW in Southern Africa. In the past year Stan has taught a number of classes, including Missions, Introduction to Ethics, Advanced Ethics, Old Testament Historical Books, and the Doctrines of Christ and Salvation. He, also, is in charge of a program that places students under the leadership of a local pastor in order for the students to receive training and experience. For the last 6 years he has been in charge of planning week-long mission outreaches for the entire college, one for each semester. Donna has taught counseling classes for the first semester and holding a weekly mentor class throughout the year.

The Armes will be returning to the United States in January for six months of home mission assign-

ment. They will be staying in Springfield, Ill. During that time, they would like to put together a basic course on the Biblical view of marriage. Divorce statistics for Port Elizabeth say that 70% of the marriages will end in divorce. The Armes feel that if they could help to get marriage and the family working on biblical principles, it would greatly affect the crime and HIV problems in South Africa.



Prayer Requests:

1. Preparation for their Home Mission Assignment as they pack all their belongings, find a place to stay, and make travel arrangements.
2. Protection as they travel within the United States, and for a reliable car during their HMA.
3. Finishing their work in South Africa, because they will leave a gap in the teaching when they go.
4. Preparation for the marriage training they want to be involved in when they return to South Africa.



Worship Questions You May Have

There may be some things about our worship

at EP which seem plain to those of us who plan worship but may not be clearly understood by the average person in the congregation. Below are some questions and answers about some of our practices which may be helpful to you as you seek to enter into worship each Sunday morning.

1. Why do we have full bulletins with the order of service in them?

We hope the bulletin will aid you in understanding the flow of morning worship so that you can see the purpose of each service element and how it relates to other elements. We also hope that you might take your bulletin home and use it in your personal devotions for meditation on the songs, readings or sermon notes you take.

2. Why do we project the words for congregational singing? We think this allows for a “heads-up”, “hands-free” kind of worship which can give you the freedom to clap or raise your hands or simply be less distracted while you sing.

3. Why do we print the words for band songs and not for hymns?

Some in the Sanctuary might not be able to see the screens. The words for the hymns may be found in the hymnals.

4. Why does the band use singers who face the congregation to lead the singing?

Most worship band songs are not as easy to sing as the typical hymn because they have more rhythmic variations and interludes. The singers are there to lead the congregation both visually and aurally so that the congregation can feel confident about when to sing.

Because of this leadership, we have been placing the singers in a more elevated position so that you can see them and follow their leading.

5. Why do we not have organ music on some Sundays? The church has agreed with our organist, Lois White, that she may take one Sunday a month off from playing. This allows her a break and more time with her family.

6. Why do we have a choir? We have a choir because composers (past and present) have written good worship music which can be used effectively in worship, but is hard for the congregations to sing. The choir is also a worship leader. We use the choir to teach the congregation songs, and their vocal and visual presence leads the congregation in worship in much the same way the band singers do.

7. Why do we have a children’s choir program? We have a children’s choir program to train future choir members, but more importantly to train children to sing and to know that worship involves participatory singing. We want our children to grow up to be able to express themselves in worship with their singing voices. We also want our children to learn the skills of music and the theology of worship.

If you want to get involved in the Worship Ministry contact Ruth Burge, 410-266-8091, ext. 106 or riburge@epannapolis.org.

Library Lines Commentaries and Systematic Theology



Most people cannot afford to buy commentaries on every book of the Bible, let alone several commentaries on each one. Here is where the Library at EP can be of assistance to

you in your personal Bible study, your preparations to lead Bible studies or teach Sunday school classes. In the past year we have made a number of good additions to the commentary section of the Library and we will continue to do so. In addition to many single volume commentaries, we have the complete commentary sets by Matthew Henry, John Calvin, Keil and Delitsch, Barnes, William Hendriksen, and Jim Boice.

As you do Bible study it is often helpful to read authors who have compiled what the Bible teaches in a systematic way. This kind of study can give the big picture of the themes and teachings of the Bible. We have systematic theology books by Hodge, Strong, Dabney, Robert Reymond, Wayne Grudem and John Frame. Look in the 230 section of the Library for books on theology and books that specifically outline Reformed Theology.

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.com/opac. The Library name is EPA Church Library. Select the guest option. No password is needed. Then search by keyword, title, author, or subject. **Questions:** Contact Ruth Burge 410-266-8090 ext. 106.



Christmas Candlelight Service ***Sunday, December 14th - 6:30PM***

*A time to reflect on and rejoice in the gift of God's Son,
 Jesus Christ, to a dark and dying world*

Gather for a special time of evening worship as we rejoice in Christ, the light of the world. As we light a series of candles, we will use scripture readings, congregational singing, choirs and soloists to focus on the prophecies of the Messiah and their fulfillment in his birth. Nursery available for babies and toddlers.

Family Christmas Eve Matinee Service - 4:30PM

This one hour service is sponsored by the Children's Preschool Ministry and will be held in the Chapel.

Christmas Eve Services ***7:00PM and 11:00PM***

Join us as we celebrate the reconciliation of God and sinful man—our Lord's birth! We will hold two worship services on Christmas Eve. Our first service is our Family Service and will take place at 7:00PM. We will have a volunteer young-adult choir (Middle School age to adult) to lead this service, directed by Sandy Smith. Anyone interested in participating in this choir should call Sandy at 410-849-3366.

The second service will be our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. It is a "Nine Lessons and Carols" service, a service used in thousands of churches all over the world since it was first used in Truro, England in 1880. If you would like to be a part of the choir that leads this time of worship, call Ruth Burge at 410-266-8090, ext. 106 or simply show up at our Wednesday night rehearsals, December 17th and 23rd, at 7:00PM.



Worship Ministry

Cindy and Todd Bauchspies Christmas Concert ***December 4th and December 5th, 7:30PM***

Doors open at 7:00

Concert is free and open to the public

Kerr Center for the Arts

Annapolis Area Christian School

109 Burns Crossing Rd, Severn, MD

You're invited to join in the celebration of the advent season. Bring the family to hear a wide variety of carols, other seasonal songs, and original music. Joining Cindy and Todd will be The AACC Madrigal Singers and other special guests.

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

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

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

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

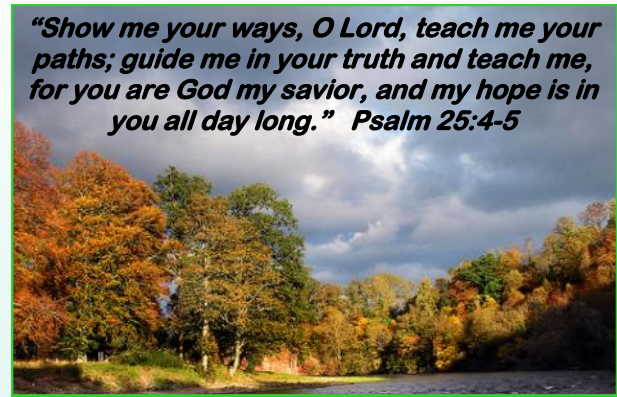
Dear Friends,

As the fall gives way to winter and the air turns crisp, I get lots of opportunities for leaf raking ponderances. My newly raked clean grass was covered completely again the morning after. As I raked across the yard I looked back to check my progress only to see leaves already encroaching on my freshly cleaned territory with many more still clinging to the branches up above just waiting their turn to join their fellow leaves on the ground in their efforts to overwhelm me. I really think they were laughing at me. But I don't care, its all about the exercise and the quiet time to think and rake (as long as the neighborhood leaf blowers are on silent mode). So here are my thoughts....

When we are in the winter times of life, troubles seem to multiply and fall down on us one right after the other. It's time to pray for God's grace to meet the pile and keep raking. Someday it will stop and I will be with my Savior in person. A related thought came as I was driving down to south county last week in the early evening. The sky had big black clouds piled on the horizon and against them the yellow, orange and red leaves glittered and shimmered with the wetness of a recent shower. They look so much brighter and stronger against the black sky, similarly we see our Lord's love and compassion more clearly and brightly against the storms in our lives. I pray that God will continue His work through the women in our women's ministries, that they will be an encouragement and haven for those whose lives are being blown around like leaves before a leaf blower. I pray that when the time comes and God turns off the leaf blower, we will be able to look back and see His handiwork in our lives, and His encouragement through fellow groundskeepers.

Women' Bible Studies have many opportunities for women to join each other around God's Word. Look for the Winter/Spring brochure to come out the end of December. **Women's Ministry Fellowship Group** are in the planning stages of putting together a Women's Fellowship Group on Sunday mornings during the 9:15 service. Check the bulletin for more information as we are planning to start this class with the new semester of Sunday school classes after the holidays. **In-Home Re-**

treat: Make sure you reserve Friday and Saturday, March 27-28, for our **Women's In-Home Retreat**. We will start with dinner and a program at church Friday night. Our program will include Anita Gutschik's dramatic presentation of Women in the Bible, *Pretty Is as Pretty Does*. After the program we will split up to various houses in the area for the rest of our time together. If you are in-



terested in having a group at your home, please contact me in the Women's Ministry Office.

Women's Ministry Prayer Team: We continue to pray that the Lord will add more women to this team that we can cover every woman in our directory with regular prayers. Please contact the Women's Ministry Office if you are interested in joining our team in 2009.

Naomi's Sisters and Friends: We continue to meet each month for a meal and encouragement. If you would like to be on the mailing list contact the office, and check the bulletin for upcoming meetings. New friends are always welcome!

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers): God continues to bless and grow our three MOPS groups; Daytime, Evening and Woodside Gardens. We have been encouraged by our recognition from MOPS International with the Every Mom Award...it's hanging in the Women's Ministry Office! We continue to pray for the Lord's leading with future groups and opportunities. Teen MOPS and a MOPS group for women incarcerated at Jessup are both on our radar. If you would be interested in helping with a MOPS group please contact me in the Women's Ministry Office.

We look forward to serving together in the coming year...time now to head back to the leaves, there's another thick crop snickering on my lawn!

In His Grace,
Jenny Woodruff



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 Retreat

How to Take the Good News of the Gospel to the Workplace, Neighborhood, Sports Field, My Family, and Community. Cortez Cooper (Corti) will be leading us through the Scriptures to seek out God's plan for taking His Love into the world in which each of us lives. How do I "winsomely" talk to my neighbor or coworker about my God? I want to be a good witness for Christ, but don't know how to approach the non-believers in my life. The Scriptures give us answers and we will be finding them together on the weekend. Come prepared for



great fellowship but also to be challenged and to receive some tools to use when you return home. The retreat is February 27 - March 1, 2009 at Camp Wabanna and the cost is \$115 per person. Put this date on your calendar now and plan to join us.



Men's Fraternity

The Quest for Authentic Manhood is in the Cove from 6:00-7:30AM on Tuesday mornings. Come join your brothers in Christ for breakfast and a study of Biblical Manhood. Not a typical Bible study; we will look at God's design for men and be challenged to become who we were created to be. The topics are:

- Seasons of a Man's Life*
- Uncovering a Man's Wounds*
- Defining Manhood*
- Deepening your Marriage*
- Raising Sons and Daughters*
- Developing a Manhood Plan*



Contact Brian Saxman and the cost is \$10 registration fee to cover your Men's Fraternity workbook. Donations will be collected each week to cover the cost of Breakfast (cost - approx \$5/week)

Men's Small Groups

Regularly meeting together in Small Groups of 3-6 men, seems to be the best way for most men to grow in their faith. In small groups men 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. 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.

Upcoming 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 at 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.

- December 6 - Help serve the Women's Christmas Dinner
- January - Bowling/Lazer Tag
- February 27 thru March - Men's Retreat
- April 1 - Serve Wednesday Fellowship Dinner
- April 17 - Shad Fishing
- April 24 - Shad Fishing
- June - Water Skiing



Watch the bulletin for details or pick up a schedule on the Men's Bulletin Board and then 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.



Come and meet Jesus Drink, and thirst no more Tell of His wonderful works!



EP Kids are reaching out through two missions projects this fall and winter 2008! We have been so blessed here at EP with gifted children's leaders from infants through 5th grade who are telling the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord including the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord!

And we want to share that Good News with children all around the world. Here are some of the opportunities God has given us to do just that.

Since September we have been collecting offerings to support our denomination's Mission to the World 2008 Children's Project. "Come With Me to the Well" highlights the need for clean water at the Bhogpur Children's Home in Northern India. Our donations to this project will fund an urgently needed new well that will serve the boys' dormitory of this home for children of leprosy-affected parents. You can learn more at www.home4children.com.

This Christmas season we are also participating in the Latvian Candy Cane Outreach with our missionaries David and Elaine Lloyd, and their son Kristopher. They are MTW missionaries working in Latvia, a country in Eastern Europe bordering the Baltic Sea. Elaine writes, "We are so happy to hear about your interest in helping with the candy cane outreach. It has grown from giving out a few hundred in 1997 to giving out over 12,000 last year. Every time the candy canes are given out, there is either a card with the gospel story attached, or a live gospel presentation."

Because the Lloyds need the candy canes by Thanksgiving, we have already mailed 3 boxes containing almost 500 candy canes to Latvia the last week in October. Our children's offerings total from September 7 through November 9 is \$344.97.

In keeping with our candy cane missions project overseas, we are also offering a candy cane outreach idea for families right here in our neighborhoods. We are calling it the "Candy Cane Gospel Party in a Bag." All the ideas and information you need to host your own neighborhood party will be provided

in a festive bag. Invite your children's friends and share Jesus, the sweetest gift, with them this Christmas season. They will be available beginning Sunday, November 30, at a table in the Fellowship Hall and in the Children's Ministry Office. There is a beautiful children's storybook called "The Legend of the Candy Cane" by Lori Walburg, which would be a great resource for your candy cane party.

Another holiday event to mark on your calendar is the New Year's Eve Family Skating Party at the new ice rink next to the Naval Academy golf course. Dec. 31 from 6-8 pm. Stay tuned for more details in the bulletin insert, This Week at EP. Sponsored by Children's Ministries and the Pioneer Clubs.

Noah's Ark Preschool classes have an immediate need for Sunday morning substitutes. There is also an opening in January for teachers in Mod 2 at 9:15. Call Valerie Chick to join the ministry team at 443-203-0287.

In Christ's Service,
Linda Cate



Newborns In Need

Jesus cherished the little children. Some references in the New Testament are Luke 18:16; Luke 9:42-43, 48; Luke 8:41-42, 49; Mark 9:36-37; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-16 and Psalm 127:3.

The most heartbreaking need that we must provide, is for the beautiful, tiny burial layettes for the babies who die and only need one last outfit and blanket to be snuggled in." A major hospital writes:

We want to thank you for your kind donation of burial layettes, they are so beautiful. The colors are so pretty, you can certainly tell a lot of love and effort went into the creation of these lovely outfits. We make every effort to make the grieving process as painless as possible. The beauty and caring workmanship of the outfits are a comfort to the bereaved family."

Who we are, is a non profit 501(c) 3 charity that donates baby items to hospitals, sheriff offices, county health units, homeless shelters and any organization who provides for the needs of premature and newborn babies that are sick, born of impoverished par-

(Continued on page 15)

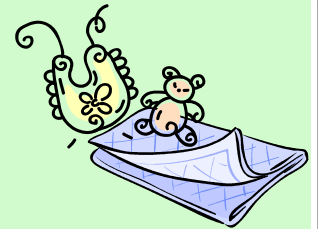
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ents, born prematurely, and so forth. We are a national all-volunteer organization providing clothing, blankets, quilts, afghans, and entire layettes free of charge.

WE NEED YOU: WILL YOU HELP? You may work out of your own home and mail the finished or purchased items without attending any meetings or you may want to get together with a friend for knitting, crocheting, sewing, quilting, or smocking. Materials to make items are needed as well. The mailing address is:

Newborn in Need, Inc.
 Southern Maryland Chapter
 12801 Molly Berry Road
 Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772

Blessing,
 Polly Digges Didi D'Hondt
 410-266-5884 410-286-8006



Newborns in Need

Merry Christmas from the Staff

*Bruce O'Neil
 Dan Smith
 Bob Borger
 Jim Ferguson
 Tom Beall
 Jenny Woodruff
 Tom Wenger
 Laurie Nelson
 Greg Doty
 Rachel Collins
 Jeremy Tate
 Cortney Breitschwerdt*

*Linda Cate
 Valerie Chick
 Christy Lenham
 Lois White
 Ruth Burge
 Herb Conklin
 Sue Sadlier
 Annette See
 Melissa Drouin
 Dannie Smith
 Dean Rodgers*



Christ:

The Light of the World

Christmas Candlelight Service

**Sunday, December 14
6:30 PM
Evangelical Presbyterian Church**

***A time to reflect on and rejoice in the gift of God's
Son, Jesus Christ, to a dark and dying world***

Jesus said:

***"I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life." John 8:12***



Nursery for babies and toddlers

Annapolis EP Church
710 Ridgely Ave
Annapolis, MD 21401
www.eannapolis.org

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