



March/April/May 2009

A Different Kind of Article, For a Different Kind of Time

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.
Romans 12:10-13

Adversity is not new. But my life has been well-insulated enough that my experience of adversity has been episodic. Most of the adversity that I have seen in my life has been more like “events” than “seasons”. For this reason, my first thoughts about caring for others in adversity tend to orient toward “solutions” more than “survival”. If you chip your tooth, I can direct you to a great Dentist! If your car gives you trouble, I know a trustworthy mechanic! These are the kinds of responses that come most naturally to me. Intellectually, I know that these responses do not make for a very comforting friend to someone who knows “real” adversity... but I'm being honest.

The problem with my natural tendencies is that real adversity is not usually “solved”. Real adversity seldom involves one “piece” that simply needs to be put back in place. It is more often like a complex knot that only unbinds one “tangle” at a time...and very often, the relieving of one tangle creates another unforeseen tangle. It requires “going to sleep” knowing full-well that the adversity is far from over. In fact, it often leads to the creation of entirely new sleep patterns, because adversity soon “redefines” our sense of what is normal. What used to be “normal” is now distant; and what used to be far from anything that we anticipated now becomes what we're getting “used to”. For these reasons, real adversity is more like a storm that must be “weathered” than like a “problem” that must be fixed. Therefore, as Paul says above, adversity calls for devotion.

This is not a truth that I have yet grasped. I have disappointed more than a few people because I realized that I had no “solution” for their adversity... and because I had no solution, I concluded that I had nothing to offer. But this was the wrong conclusion. I may not have had a solution; but a solution was not what was needed anyway...what was needed was a brother—a devoted, faith-

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Expanding Our Borders

Back in 1994, as part of EP's Thirty (30) Year Anniversary celebration, our congregation adopted a long-range plan that included a strategy to acquire additional property around our facility to accommodate future expansion for our ministry facilities.



This plan anticipated the purchasing of 4-5 homes along Ridgely Avenue, East of Wilson Road. Over the last fifteen (15) years, the Lord has allowed us to purchase four pieces of property: The vacant corner lot across from our Cemetery; the adjacent “Blue House” on Wilson Road (where, until recently, Jeremy and Erin Tate have resided); the house and property on Ridgely Avenue that we call the “Mission House” (because we regularly host missionaries there); as well as the small house 2-doors-down (East) from the “Mission House”. This has left two (2) pieces of

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ful, patient, praying, walk-along-side friend.

There are many different kinds of adversity, so I don't want to oversimplify anything. Nor do I intend to suggest that caring for someone in the midst of adversity is anything close to easy. But Paul's words do give us some perspective that we can take to heart as we see an increasingly broader adversity at work around us. For the first time in a while, discussions about the economy are not just about the Dow-Jones Industrial Average or the price of gas. Virtually all of us have found ourselves discussing and wondering about the possibility of losing significant income. And many of us already know someone who is now experiencing such a struggle. This can be a frightening prospect.

But let me suggest that what we fear the most is not that we will starve or go without shelter; but that we could lose the sense of self-sufficiency that we have come to hold so dear. The "American Dream" is home ownership, predictable income, and a solid retirement. But in our pursuit of these (or should I say, "In our attainment of these"), we have effectively become our own "providers". We have not often worried about being warm and dry because we have never had to wonder where our warmth would come from. We have seldom lost sleep over our retirement because our homes have appreciated an average of 7% per year and our Mutual Funds have averaged 8% per year. In other words, our "provisions" have largely been in place. And therefore, we have seldom needed God to provide in ways that we cannot see. We've been able to "walk by sight".

But now we are moving into a future that offers less predictability, and we are being called, perhaps more than many of us have ever experienced, to "walk by faith". And this puts us very much in a situation that is similar to that of the Romans, to which Paul wrote above. The future of the Roman Christians was uncertain. Tremendous persecution was ahead of them, and while they could "sense" its approach, they could not predict it or "solve" it. And Paul essentially offered two (2) exhortations to them. In chapters 1-10 he reasons with them to understand the magnitude of God's

love for them—arguing that if God has not spared His own Son in purchasing us to be His own; then how will He not also provide all that we need (Romans 8:32)? And then, in chapter 12, he encourages them to respond to God's amazing love for them (us) by loving one another, whatever comes. And while it is true that there were certainly times when believers gave one another money to help with needs, the physical means for caring for economic adversity that gets the prime position in Paul's words above is *Hospitality*.

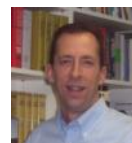
Most of what I know about the "Great Depression" and the first half of the 20th Century, I learned from my Grandparents. And what I learned from my Grandparents has only been confirmed as I have heard the stories of others in their generation. My

Grandparents were both raised in multiple-family homes. Their parents could not earn enough money to live independently, so they lived in shared-homes; with elder generations, or with sibling-families. As adults, my Grandparents owned their own home.

But from the time my Father was born to the day my Grandparents died, they had a family living in their basement (apartment) and another relative living in a room upstairs. The key to living through the Depression was not mailing a check to pay someone else's expenses; it was *Hospitality*, welcoming people into your home... not just for lunch, or for a party, but to "live out the storm". It required *devotion, patience, and faithfulness*.

I'm not trying to sound like an "alarmist". After all, I, as much as anyone, hope that this current economic situation can be FIXED! But if this "event" becomes a "season", then it will become even more urgent for us to preach Romans 1-10 to one another and to our own hearts (why wait?); and our devotion to one another in brotherly love will not be most profoundly seen through our Deacons Fund; but through our hospitality—sharing with one another as there is need. God has not promised that He will give us all the American Dream; but He knows our needs, and we can be confident that they will not go unmet.

Dan Smith



HOSPITALITY

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* -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. You may visit our web site at <http://www.epannapolis.org/staff.html> to send anyone on staff an email.

Elders for 2009

Tom Beall, Dan Billingsley, Jim Burge, Chuck Cochran, Floyd Gilkey, Bruce Holtzman, George Janvier, Clif McClain, Brian Miller, Bruce Miller, Rob Niewoehner, Adrian Park, Peter Polk, Don Rice, Bill Richardson, Ace Sarich, Glenn Schmincke, Al Strong, Tom Thompson, Jim Wilkins III.

Deacons for 2009

Walt Asplund, BJ Bigelow, Joshua Bird, Robin Burns, Jeff Donaldson, Dave Eby, Scott Furniss, Tim Geis, Mike Hannigan, Hector Hernandez, Mike Hoffman, Bill Hoover, Scott Howie, Jeff Hulting, Bob Hulting, Thomas Hughes, Al Kairys, Mark Lentz, Jay Mahaffey, Steve Marshall, Al Medeiros, Paul Mexcur, John Morris, Wayne Mueller, Robert Murphy, Tom Olthoff, Ritchie Park, Paul Piccioni, Mike Riith, Louis Smith, Jim Taylor, Jim Wilson, Glenn Woodruff.



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property in the midst of these houses that had yet to come available.

A little over a year ago, the owner of one of the remaining homes entered into discussions with us about the possibility of us purchasing their home. This is the house immediately adjacent to the vacant corner lot, along Ridgely Avenue. The Session brought this opportunity before the Congregation at the Congregational Meeting in December of 2007, where the Congregation authorized the Session to negotiate for the purchase of this property. At the time of our last Congregational Meeting in December, 2008, we had just reached an agreement to purchase the property, but had not gone to settlement.

We are writing now to let the Congregation know that this purchase has been completed, and that we (the church) now own this property known as 646 Ridgely Avenue! This is a very old home and, due to the risks that are present with this structure (bare wiring, failing boiler, to name a couple), we will be arranging for the “razing” of the house as soon as is permissible by the County. But this property allows us to now own a significant contiguous piece of property that we believe represents some very exciting options and opportunities.

It will take time to figure out how to best utilize this property. It will require seeking the Lord's leading regarding what types of uses, planning and designing, loving the surrounding community, and managing God's resources. So while we are pleased and grateful to the Lord for His provision, we also recognize that with this opportunity also comes responsibility.

Please join us in giving thanks to the Lord for His generosity with us; and in prayerfully seeking His leading for how this property might serve to glorify the Lord and facilitate the Gospel ministry at EP!

Answering the “Why” Questions

by Carolyn Woodie

So often when we have lost a loved one to death, we wonder “Why?” Why did they die so young? We had so many more years planned ahead. Why did my loved one have to suffer? Why, God, did you take my child – my future? Why didn’t you save my loved one from that accident, God? Why...why...why?

We all have those “why” questions. However, if we had the answers to our questions, maybe it might change our perspective, but it wouldn’t take away the *pain* of our loss. As one of the participants on a GriefShare video states: “Even if Job knew the answers to his questions of why God took his family, he would still face the empty chairs at the breakfast table in the morning.”

Sometimes we have to let go of the why questions and ask God different questions such as “How can I grow closer to you through this pain?” Or, “How can you be glorified through this?”

We do not know God’s perfect plan for our lives. He tells us in His Word that some things are His secrets. We don’t know His thoughts and ways. However, we DO know that if we are His child, He wants the very best for us.

The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law. Deut. 29:29

My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. Isaiah 55:8



Grieving is hard work. Please don’t do it alone. GriefShare is a safe place to come and grow and work through your grief with others doing the same. We meet at EP Church on Wednesday evenings, 7:00-9:00PM from February 18th through May 13th.

If you are grieving, come join us or bring a grieving friend. For more information, contact Paul and Carolyn Woodie 410-626-8430 - carolyn.woodie@verizon.net or Walt and Karen Asplund 410-923-3285 - asplundmd@yahoo.com.

Men’s Ministry

*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.*

Bible Study Opportunities:

Join us in a small group Bible study with other men for spiritual growth, prayer, fellowship, and walking together through the everyday experiences of life with Christ.



There are lots of options including Men’s Fraternity on Tuesday mornings; Wednesday night Bible study during the Wednesday evening ministries at EP; and groups meeting every morning of the week throughout the county. See the Men’s Bulletin Board across from the Church Office for a list or call Tom Beall to get “plugged in”.

Upcoming Events:

Catch and release shad fishing on the Susquehanna at it’s best, April 17 & 24.

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These 2 Friday's in April, we will leave EP at 8:30AM and return around dinner time after a great day of fishing and fellowship. On a bad day, we usually catch 10-20 fish, on a good day each of us could catch 40-50 or more. Cost: money for fast food meals or bring your own food; split gas money; \$20 should cover your expenses. Bring chest waders, spinning rods, (fly rod opportunities depending on conditions), shad darts in various colors, a change of dry clothes, sunglasses, snacks, and water. We have extra waders, rods, and lures for those of you who do not have them and we will be glad to teach you how to use them.



Bring your friends, your sons, coworkers, and enjoy a great time together. Sign up by calling Tom Beall, 410-647-7985 or by email at tabeall@epannapolis.org. Also, watch the bulletin for Charter Rock Fish trip dates in April and May.



Deadline for the June/July/August Epistle is May 5th

The EPistle is published quarterly and distributed free of charge to members and friends of Annapolis EP 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.

If you would like to receive the EPistle electronically, please email Melissa Drouin, mdrouin@epannapolis.org.

On Loan From God



Griffin Carter Raspa
 Born: January 14, 2009
 Parents: Scott and Katie Raspa
 Grandparents: Dan and Jessica Raspa
 Bob and Lin Siddon

Ariana Grace Burge
 Born: November 4, 2008
 Parents: Tim and Mary Ruth Burge
 Grandparents: Dean and Page Putnam
 Jim and Ruth Burge

Dear Church Family.

Thank you so much for your cards, phone calls and most of all, your prayer support during my battle with cancer. Words cannot express how important and comforting these prayers are to me. So many times the power of prayer has gotten me through difficult days. I am most grateful to everyone of you who has prayed, called and sent cards. Although much progress has been made, your continued prayers are coveted.



Joy Hughes

GIVING THRU FEBRUARY 8

Operating Fund:	Year To Date
Budgeted Giving	\$ 273,000
Actual Giving	\$ 276,000
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ 3,000
Building (Campaign) Fund	
Amount Pledged to Date	\$ 646,000
Anticipated Giving to Date	\$ 239,000
Actual Giving to Date	\$ 188,000
Ahead or (Behind) Anticipated	(\$ 51,000)

Women's Ministries Celebrations Of the Heart Women's (middle school and up) Spring In-Home Retreat Friday & Saturday March 27th & 28th, 2009

Time: Friday, 6:00 pm until Saturday, 3:00 pm
 Cost: \$ 20.00

Friday

6:00 pm Buffet Dinner, Fellowship Hall
 7:30 pm Opening Session with Anita, Sanctuary
 9:00 pm Adjourn overnight to individual homes. Enjoy a relaxing time of laughing, eating, sharing and studying God's Word together.

Saturday

8:00 am Devotions
 9:00 am Breakfast
 10:00am Discussion Time
 12:00 am Creative Activity and Lunch
 All retreats will finish by Saturday 3:00pm.

Dear Friends,
 As winter gives way to spring, albeit sometimes very slowly with fits and starts, eventually by God's design my yard will be full of beautiful daffodils and dogwoods. God makes things grow! How is your heart growth? I had a college professor who loved to say to us "The heart of the matter is the matter of the heart." Have you done a spring heart check...What concerns and thoughts fill your heart? What have you 'set your heart on'? Are you on a heart healthy diet of prayer and reading? Is your heart growing in beauty? Is your heart:

diligent or deceitful,
 broken, bountiful or burning,
 heavy or happy,

tender and truth filled, pure and patient?

Join us for our spring Celebrations of the Heart In-Home retreat as we study three women of the Bible. We will consider their 'heart conditions' and the positive and negative effect of beauty on their hearts. We pray that this retreat will offer fun, warm fellowship with old and new friends, as well as encouragement and challenge for our hearts from God's Word. May we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord.

If you have any questions about our Spring Retreat or about other areas within Women's Ministries, please give me a call or stop by the Office, 410-266-8091 ext.127.

In His Grace and Beauty,
 Jenny Woodruff, Director of Women's Ministries

"...See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.

Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these."

Matthew 6:28-29



Bathsheba

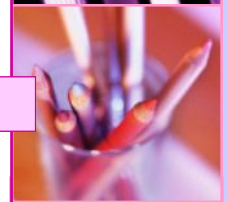
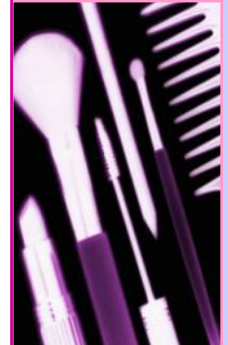


Abigail



Leah

**"Pretty is As Pretty Does"
 Friday Evening with
 Anita Gutschick**



YOUR HOME: GOD'S GREENHOUSE

One of my favorite places to visit is Brookside Gardens at Wheaton Regional Park in Wheaton, MD. As a child, my family would often spend a summer, Saturday in the Park, picnicking, riding the little train, and walking through the gardens. Even on a frigid February day, it was fun to go to the two glass-covered conservatories there and spend time enjoying the beautiful plants and birds in a tropical rain forest atmosphere. The conservatories are actually greenhouses "where the environment is controlled for the cultivation or protection of plants."¹ John Younts, in his book *Everyday Talk*, calls a Christian home God's greenhouse.



He says that the purpose of a greenhouse is similar to the purpose of our home. As a greenhouse is used for the cultivation of plants, my home and yours are used to cultivate faith in Christ for our children. Our homes should provide spiritual protection from the harsh storms of daily life.² The biblical home has always had the goal to protect, prepare and then send out. The message of Younts' book is that the most profound teaching our children receive in our "greenhouse" is the everyday talk that comes from our mouths. God wants us to talk to our children every day about Him. (Proverbs 6:20-24) I recommend that you check this book out and is available in the Women's Ministry Office.

It seems to me that as crucial as it is to talk freely and naturally with our children about God everyday, it is equally as important to be sure we talk *to* God *about* our children every day. Prayer is hard work, but it is worth it. Being disciplined to spend time daily in prayer for my children and my husband is a challenge for me. Here are some thoughts on prayer from a little booklet written by Sally Michael from Children Desiring God ministries.

"God has promised us great fruit from prayer, yet few often neglect it. One reason that praying is hard is that we are easily distracted. For this reason, I have found it very helpful to pray with an open Bible. Many scripture passages can easily be turned into prayers. By turning key ideas in a passage into prayer topics, prayer can become both focused and very powerful. As we pray scripture, we discover God's heart as revealed in His Word and can confidently pray for God's purposes."

Here are some resources that may be as helpful for you as they've been for me:

- Praying for the NEXT Generation by Sally Michael (available in the Children's Ministry office for \$5)
- Everyday Talk by John A. Younts (available in the Women's Ministry office for \$10)
- Face to Face volumes one and two: Praying the Scriptures for Spiritual Growth, by Kenneth Boa (available in the Women's Ministry office for \$9)
- The Power of a Praying Parent by Stormie Omatian, (available in our EP Church library)
- A Father's Guide to Blessing His Children by Sally Michael (available in the Children's Ministry Office for \$8) the above resources are from Children Desiring God Ministry
- A Father's Guide to Blessing His Children: booklet and 24 blessing card (Children Desiring God) \$8.50
- Praying for the Next Generation booklet \$4.50.
- Online Resource: Blog from Paul and Ted Tripp, Shepherding Press www.shepherdingtypepad.com

Let's purpose together to pray the Scriptures for our families, our friends, and our children's ministry at EP!



In His Service,
Linda Cate

Footnotes:

¹ American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 3rd edition

² John A. Younts, *Everyday Talk* (Shepherd Press, 2004), page 90

New Outreach Opportunities
Books, Bibles, Bikes & Shoes for Zambia - Recently men from AEP answered the call to serve God by building shelters and relationships at the All Kids Can Learn (AKCL) orphan care facility in Zambia Africa.



In a desire to build a long lasting relationship with the AKCL ministry, AEP is joining other churches in the gathering of Bibles, bicycles and boots (actually any type of shoes) for shipment to the Zambia orphanage. These items will either be used by the orphans or be sold at the orphanage run thrift shop with all proceeds going toward the care of the orphans.



We will be collecting the following items during **March 15th-20th**, Bibles, concordances, and dictionaries. (Our goal is to ship 2500 Bibles to Zambia)

- **Bicycles** (rugged bikes that are in good working condition. There is little in the way of repair parts in Zambia)

- **Shoes** (all ages, types and sizes – the people of Zambia do a lot of walking!)
- **Clothing** (mostly warm weather wear without logos or slogans)
- **Children’s Books** – reading levels up through 5th grade.

You will be hearing more about this ministry in the future, and hopefully will have an opportunity yourself to visit and get to know the wonderful people and children of Zambia. If you would like to know more about the AKCL ministry, please visit www.akcli.org or contact Brent Miller, 410-315-8449.



GO FISH CONCERT
 The Women’s, Children’s and Outreach ministries are excited to announce that we will be bringing **“GO FISH”** to our church, **Saturday, April 18, at 5:30PM**, doors open at 5:00, tailgate (fun events in the parking lot with food available) at 3:30. Admission is \$5 for children (2-12) and \$10 for adults, (\$10 for children and adults at the door), so get your tickets in advance.

No, we will not be playing cards. “Go Fish” is a group of 3 young fathers who have been singing together for nearly 10 years. Many of our MOPS moms have enjoyed their concerts while at the MOPS Convention over the past several years. Their desire is to make “great music for kids that won’t drive par-

ents bonkers”. Their target audience is children ages 2-12, but most adults that have their CD’s find themselves listening to it even when their kids are NOT in the car! We began selling tickets on February 15th and our prayer is that we can pack out the Sanctuary. This will be a wonderful outreach opportunity, so start spreading the word to friends, family, neighbors and co-workers. Seating is limited, so you will want to get your tickets early. For more information on the group go to www.gofishguys.com. We will need many volunteers to help make this happen. If you are interested please contact Laurie ext. 103 or Linda ext. 126.

Habitat for Humanity - Arundel Habitat will be taking part in the revitalization of the historic **“Clay Street”** in Annapolis. The College Terrace/Obery Court public housing communities are being rebuilt and Arundel Habitat will build **14 new townhouses**.

With ground-breaking beginning in a few months our prayer is that we will be able to join forces with some of our sister churches to create a group of volunteers willing to be a part of this endeavor. We are looking for men and women who desire to not only give back to our community but also allow God to place them where we can share the Gospel not only by word but especially by our actions. If you are interested in finding out more about this ministry please contact Laurie Nelson at ext. 103.



Missions

John and Sue Burch are missionaries with Mission to the World since 1989. They served in Brisbane, Australia until 2004 and have been part of the Spiritual Life Department Team since then. They now provide pastoral care for MTW missionaries in Asia and serve as part of the International Leadership Development Program (iLead) that is based in San Juan, Puerto Rico. This program trains individuals who feel called to the world-wide missions field. They gain experience in church planting, campus ministry, or community ministry while they are earning a certificate or masters in missiology.

John teaches seminary courses, and both John and Sue are involved in church planting. The next five months of classes are called Discover. This coming semester John will be teaching Foundations of the Christian Life. This course covers suffering and the sovereignty of God, marriage and singleness, living in grace, and finances. All of the iLEAD participants take some or all of the four courses offered and go on a Vision Trip to India or Thailand. John and Sue will be busy mentoring these students and preparing them to serve in mission fields around the world.

Prayer Requests:



- Pray for a smooth semester of classes.
- Pray for the Burches and the students as they travel to Thailand and India and become involved in the ministries there.
- Pray for good health and strength for the Burches.
- Ask God to bless their church planting work.

Romania Partnership In Missions

EP Church has had an ongoing relationship with Romanian Churches for about 20 years. Our desire is to continue this important outreach and to encourage others to be partners with us in the Romania ministry. You can pray for some of the specific needs by using the prayer calendar below. If you would like more information on how you can be a partner in the ministry to Romania, contact Bill Richardson, Cliff McClain, or Dick Skinner.

MARCH

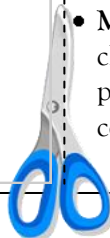
- **March 1st-7th:** Pray for Pastor John Parel, for his preaching and his health; and the other Romanian pastors would preach only the true Gospel of God.
- **March 8th-14th:** Pray for EP's missions trip to Romania in 2010. Pray that God would lead many to go, and many more to support this ministry.
- **March 15th-21st:** Pray for Pastor Lucien Dadueca as he ministers to the people of Bivolaria.
- **March 22nd-28th:** Pray for the teenagers who attended the camp in Targoviste, that the Gospel might transform their lives.
- **March 29th-April 4th:** Pray for the boys and girls who attended last year's VBS in Vicov, that the seeds of the Gospel which were planted in their hearts might grow into faith, and that God would use them for His glory.

APRIL

- **April 5th-11th:** Pray for Pastor Ionut (Johnnie) Amateiessei and his congregation in Bilca.
- **April 12th-18th:** Pray for those who went to the medical teams in Targoviste and Vicov last summer, and for those who heard the Gospel during that time.
- **April 19th-25th:** Pray for Pastor Marius Miclea and his work in Radauti.
- **April 26th-May 2nd:** Pray for the spiritual growth of the Romanian churches, and for unity among the members of each congregation.

MAY

- **May 3rd-9th:** Pray for the town and church in Vicov, that the Gospel might go forth as they recover from this summer's flood and begin rebuilding. That they would have thankful hearts despite the flood, and be able to see God's many blessings.
- **May 10th-16th:** Pray for Pastor Stefan Moisiuc as he ministers in Marginea.
- **May 17th-23rd:** Pray for John Parel's son, John, who is studying to become a pastor, that God would work in his life and heart through his theological study.
- **May 24th-31st:** Pray that the elderly people in the Romanian churches would put all their hope in God. That the young people would have wisdom, everyone would be able to accept God's will for them, and thank Him for everything.



Preparing Well for Worship

"My heart I offer you Lord, promptly and sincerely"
John Calvin

This short article was prepared by the worship team to aid the congregation as we prepare for gathered worship each week.

Worship is:

Worship is the recognition of ultimate worth in some thing or in someone and then giving to it our affection as the real source of our joy. Man is by nature a worshiper. We were created to worship the living God and to enjoy Him and the good gifts He lavishes upon us. Our tendency, however, is to look elsewhere for our joy and satisfaction. Sunday worship is a time where we meet with our God as His gathered people and revel in His incredible love as it is expressed in the gospel. Its purpose is to pull our affections away from the idols we tend to worship—money, career, approval, and power, among other things— and have our hearts set aflame for Jesus Christ.



Before I come on Sunday morning:

I should review the gospel in my mind [I am a worse sinner than I can imagine. I am more loved in Christ than I dare believe. This was shown to me by His death on the cross for my sins and His righteousness given to me to be my own.]

I should ask God to send His Holy Spirit to speak to my heart and to enable me to be spiritually, mentally, and physically engaged in worship.



When I come on Sunday morning:

I should enter into worship whole-heartedly.

I should expect that God will meet me in real, tangible ways in all parts of the service.

I should be a Berean, looking at all through the lens of scripture.

I should look at my fellow worshipers through the lens of the gospel with mercy and love so that I

Reach out to others around me

Recognize that my tastes and preferences are not primary.

Church Library Information

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.

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

Selecting Songs for Worship

Since August of 2005 the worship ministry has been recording in a database all the congregational songs and hymns that we sing each week. To this point we have 270 entries. You may wonder what kind of thinking goes into selecting the music that we sing on Sunday morning. It is a significant choice because those who plan worship are putting words into the mouths of the people. Since music makes the words that are sung to it memorable, it is doubly important that those words meet some standards.

First of all, the words must be true. It is no good for us to sing falsehoods in worship. Recently on a CD of recommended new worship songs, I ran across a song which said, "You are the sunrise in the east; you are the ocean at our feet...You are the thunder in the sky...You are the wind that shakes the trees." This is a falsehood called pantheism, which says that God is in everything. We believe that God is present everywhere and that He made all things, but He is not those things. The tune was catchy and the author of the words probably was trying to say something like, "God, as the creator of all things, I see you everywhere in the world around me." But the fact is that he did not say that, and the song was theologically weak.

Additionally, we look to see if the song has any depth to it. Some worship songs say almost nothing besides expressing some general desire to praise God. Recently I reviewed a song which never mentioned the words, Christ, Jesus, or God, and it made only a passing reference to "the grace that has freed us". It could have been sung by almost anyone who believed in a God and in love for others. It is catchy musically, is done by a popular Christian artist, and expresses some proper desire to praise God, but it gives little expression to the reasons for praising God, who He is and what He has done.

Because the Gospel is so central to our ministry at EP, we look to see if the songs we sing have the Gospel in them. You will note that not every song or hymn we sing clearly articulates the Gospel, but a great many of them do. It is very important for the health of our souls that we frequently sing the Gospel truths. It is not that we just need to hear that Jesus died for us or that he forgives our sins, but these Gospel truths must be expressed in a way that shows that God is the initiator, that the Gospel is based on lavish mercy and grace, that the depth of our sin is immense, that the righteousness of Christ is imputed to us, that we are secure in God's love, that the Gospel gives power for overcoming sin.

O Great God

Based on *The Valley of Vision* prayer "Regeneration"

Bob Kauflin

I was blinded by my sin, had no ears to hear your voice,
did not know your love within, had no taste for heaven's joys.
Then your Spirit gave me life, opened up your Word to me,
through the gospel of your Son gave me endless hope and peace.

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Grace Unmeasured

Bob Kauflin

Grace unmeasured, vast and free that knew me from eternity,
that called me out before my birth to bring you glory on this earth.
Grace amazing, pure and deep that saw me in my misery,
that took my curse and owned my blame so I could bear your righteous name. © 2005 Sovereign Grace Praise (BMI)

My Heart Is Filled with Thankfulness

Keith Getty, Stuart Townend

My heart is filled with thankfulness to him who bore my pain,
who plumbed the depths of my disgrace and gave me life again,
who crushed my curse of sinfulness and clothed me in his light,
and wrote his law of righteousness with power upon my heart.

©2003 Thankyou Music/MCPS

Jesus, My Only Hope

Mark Altrogge

I will not fear your judgment;
for me, no wrath I dread,
for it was spent on Jesus,
poured out upon his head.
When Satan's accusations
make my poor heart afraid,
I hear my King declaring
"Father, that debt is paid."

Jesus, my only hope, my only plea,
my righteousness, my Great High Priest,
who intercedes for me before the throne.

Jesus, I trust in you alone.

Though I am poor and naked,
your prodigal come home,
you place your robe upon me,
your holiness alone.

Though I be dry and barren,
by grace this love springs forth,
love for you and your kingdom,
joy in your glory, Lord.

© 2002 Sovereign Grace Praise (BMI).

Another consideration is the literary quality of the expressions in the song. Keith Getty and Stuart Townend really excel in this area, giving us beautiful artistically crafted lyrics that open windows for us into Gospel truths.

Besides lyrical considerations, there are musical questions: Is the congregational able to learn this song? (Some songs are clearly only solos and too complex for congregational singing.) Does the song show musical merit and craftsmanship? How are we doing in balancing fast and slow songs and in including a variety of musical styles?

Included in the text boxes are soul-feeding lyrics we sing. Pray for those who make musical selections for worship that God would give them songs whose lyrics and music serve the congregation well in expressing acceptable worship to our great God.



Ruth Burge
Director of Worship Arts

Worship Ministry

In Concert at Annapolis EP

Saturday, April 18

5:30-7:00PM

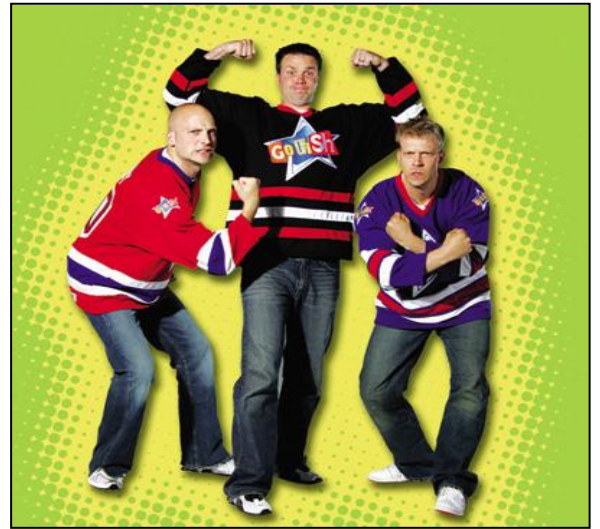
Doors open at 5:00, Tailgate at 3:30- food and fun

\$10 Adults

\$5 Children (ages 2-12)

\$10 at the door (for Adults and Children)

Tickets available in February @ EPChurch



Annapolis Evangelical Presbyterian Church

710 Ridgely Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21401

Contact Laurie 410-266-8090 ext. 103

www.gofishguys.com

www.epannapolis.org

Tickets are Limited

General Admission

No Refunds!



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