

<b>Sunday, January 1</b> 8:00 AM <b>Worship</b> (Chapel) 9:15 AM <b>Worship</b> (Sanctuary) 11:00 AM <b>Worship</b> (Sanctuary) 5:00 PM <b>Worship Service with Communion</b> (Chapel)	<b>Sunday, January 8</b> 8:00 AM <b>Worship</b> (Chapel) 9:15 AM <b>Worship</b> (Sanctuary) 11:00 AM <b>Worship</b> (Sanctuary) 5:00 PM <b>4<sup>th</sup> Worship with Communion</b> (Chapel)	<b>Tuesday, January 17</b> 7:00 PM ESL, Battalion <b>Wednesday, January 18</b> 9:00 AM Body & Soul 7:00 PM Youth Bible Study Choir Practice, GriefShare, Couples Bible Study	<b>Wednesday, January 25</b> 9:00 AM Body & Soul 7:00 PM Youth Bible Study Choir Practice, GriefShare, Couples Bible Study <b>Friday, January 27</b> 9:30 AM Daytime MOPS
<b>Monday, January 2</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>Tuesday, January 10</b> 7:00 PM ESL, Battalion <b>Wednesday, January 11</b> 9:00 AM Body & Soul 7:00 PM Youth Bible Study Choir Practice, GriefShare, Couples Bible Study	<b>Friday, January 20</b> 9:30 AM Daytime MOPS <b>Saturday, January 21</b>	<b>Sunday, January 29</b> 8:00 AM <b>Worship</b> (Chapel) 9:15 AM <b>Worship</b> (Sanctuary) 11:00 AM <b>Worship</b> (Sanctuary) 5:00 PM <b>Worship Service with Communion</b> (Chapel)
<b>Tuesday, January 3</b> 7:00 PM ESL	<b>Sunday, January 15</b> 8:00 AM <b>Worship</b> (Chapel) 9:15 AM <b>Worship</b> (Sanctuary) 11:00 AM <b>Worship</b> (Sanctuary) 5:00 PM <b>Worship Service with Communion</b> (Chapel)	<b>Sunday, January 22</b> 8:00 AM <b>Worship</b> (Chapel) 9:15 AM <b>Worship</b> (Sanctuary) 11:00 AM <b>Worship</b> (Sanctuary) 5:00 PM <b>Worship Service with Communion</b> (Chapel)	<b>Tuesday, January 31</b> 7:00 PM ESL, Battalion
<b>Wednesday, January 4</b> 7:00 PM Youth Bible Study Choir Practice, GriefShare, Couples Bible Study		<b>Tuesday, January 24</b> 7:00 PM ESL, Battalion	
<b>Friday, January 6</b> 9:30 AM Daytime MOPS			

Events that are open to the congregation to join at anytime are listed above. For a list of weekly Small Groups, Bible Studies, and Sunday School classes, call the Church Office or check the brochure rack in the Narthex.

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# EPistle

Monthly Publication of Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Annapolis  
 January 2012



## Church Consumerism

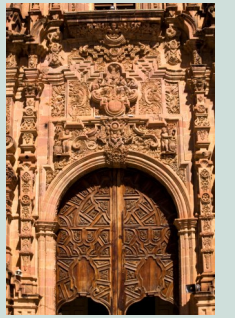
by Bruce O'Neil

Sometimes when we read about the early days of the Church in the Bible we develop an unrealistic view of the way the Church is supposed to be. The churches in the Bible all had their problems and conflicts. They were not perfect, and none of us really wants to go back to the days of outhouses and no refrigerators. And yet, we long for the community often described in these early churches. Luke describes the first church in Jerusalem in Acts 2.

*Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. (Acts 4:32-35 ESV)*

In 165 A.D. there was an epidemic of small pox and in 251 A.D., there was an equally devastating epidemic of measles. Large portions of Europe were wiped out in these two epidemics. During these outbreaks the wealthy fled to their vacation homes and those with no means to leave town stayed and many died. Yet, the Christians did not leave. Instead, inexplicably to those who watched the Christians cared compassionately for their own dying and the dying of the unbelievers, and at their own peril. Thyranus, a writer at this time wrote: "Heedless of the danger, they took charge of the sick, attending to their very need, ministering to them in Christ. And when they departed this life they did so joyfully; for they were infected by others who had the disease, drawing on themselves the sickness of their neighbors and cheerfully accepting their pain."

(Continued on page 2)



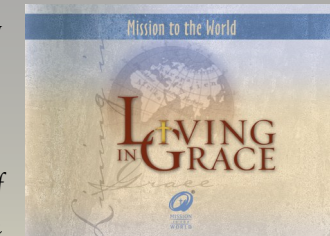
## Living in Grace Seminar

by Tom Beall

How are we being equipped to live the Gospel each day and being prepared to take that good news to the dying world around us?

*"What saved you in the first place needs to be the source of your life every day - God's Grace. Only Grace frees us from fearful preoccupation with ourselves, to live for the glory of God and the good of others. The more deeply we drink of Grace, the more deeply we are possessed by the love and grace of Christ, and the freer we are to give ourselves away."* This quote from the seminar, gives the essence of what *Living in Grace* will bring to us.

As we think about how to share the Gospel with the people in the world in which we live, this seminar is a great place to see how God would have us begin. It is only out of His Grace that we are able to live fruitful lives and to tell the story of salvation to those that need



it. Jerry Cross, long time missionary to Mexico, Brazil, and other South American countries, will be leading us to see God's Grace at work in our own lives and give us a vision for outreach. Jerry and his wife Peggy have been living out the Grace of God and sharing their faith in the midst of non-believers for over 40 years and have tremendous knowledge and experiences to share with us through this seminar.

Friday night, February 24 beginning at 7:30PM and ending Saturday, February 25 at 3:00PM at EP. The cost will be minimal to cover food and material. Sign-ups will begin in January, so put these dates on your calendar now. For more information, please call Tom Beall x 117 or email at [tbeall@epannapolis.org](mailto:tbeall@epannapolis.org).

(Continued from page 1)

As late as 364 A.D., this described the Church as it expanded into the Roman Empire. Julian the Apostate, I am sure this was not the name his mother gave him, said of the Church in his day, "These impious Galileans (that is the name Christians were often called in the early days of the Church) support not only their poor, but our poor as well; and everyone can see that our people lack help from us." Julian was trying to lead a revival of Paganism as Christianity was taking root in the Roman Empire and he was bemoaning the Church's success and his failure.

A healthy church is filled with men and women who understand that their time, energy, resources, talents and gifts are given to them by God for His glory and the furtherance of His Kingdom. The church acts like the church when they realize all that they have is not for their personal consumption, but for Him. The church is an open-handed community that freely gives their money, freely gives their time, and freely gives their lives for the sake of Christ and His gospel.

What is the alternative to a church like this? The alternative is the consumer church like we see in the United States. Here is what I mean. Instead of a church full of people who understand that the church exists for the glory of God and the furtherance of His Kingdom, we see men and women who believe the church exists to give me a pleasant experience. So I want the church to be easy to get into and to be as long as my attention span (which is about nine minutes according to some experts). I want a fresh latte mocha as I enter the facility and to sit down in a comfortable chair that vibrates, thank you.

I want the music to pop and move me. I would like fog and a laser to outline a cross on the screens as the pastor is lifted from beneath the floor onto the platform. I want you to sing while I sit comfortably in my aforementioned chair. I would like the message to last anywhere from twenty to twenty-five minutes in length. And don't make me feel uncomfortable about my life. The messages need to make me feel good about my life. In fact, let's not even talk about Jesus. Let's talk about something we all have an issue with. Let's talk about how bad the recession is and how all of us need to be in this together and encourage one another. Don't talk about sin. Don't talk about the cross. Don't talk about anything that might require me to repent or live differently.



And then, dismiss me in a timely manner. Get me out and in my car and on my way home quickly. You can retina scan me in the nursery as I pick up my children who are delivered to me on a slide. I would like my children to have face paint on, a new t-shirt each week emphasizing the theme of the week and for SpongeBob SquarePants to have actually taught my kids how not to lie to me and to obey me.

I have given you two radically opposed pictures of the Church, granted the later was a bit melodramatic, but in many ways it is becoming more and more a real picture of the American Evangelical Church. It is where nothing is required of its members and is where nothing is ever asked of them. Nothing is required but their attendance. Fortunately, this is not Church. It is something, but it is not the Church. This is unhealthy. It is Christless. It expounds nothing and offers no gospel. It is the alternative to the openhanded community that freely gives their money, freely gives their time, and freely gives their lives for the sake of Christ and His gospel.

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## Administration

by Herb Conklin

### End of Year Giving

We're coming up on the end of the year. As I write these notes, we have only two Sundays left, December 18<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup>. On Christmas Day we are only having two services, the 9:15AM and the 11:00AM. In order for our church to be able to count a contribution as being received in 2011, we must have received it by December 31<sup>st</sup> or it must be postmarked on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>. We will keep our books open for the first few days in 2012 to make sure that we get all of our mail that is postmarked December 31<sup>st</sup> or before, and at that point, we will close our books and run off the 2011 giving statements for all of our donors. You should receive your 2011 giving statement on or before January 14, 2012. If you have any questions, please give our office a call.

### 2012 Church Giving Envelopes

The new giving envelopes for next year are available in our Narthex or just outside our Chapel for those that attend the 8:00AM service. If you have never used our envelopes and would like a set, please call our Church Office. The use of these envelopes simplifies our accounting work, and it allows us to give you an accurate statement at the end of the year for tax purposes.

### Progress on Office Construction

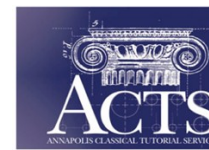
Slowly but surely, the new offices for Tom Wenger and Jenny Woodruff are getting completed. Both of them should be in their offices on or before the end of the year. Greg Doty, in his new Executive Pastor position, will be moving to Jenny's present office as soon as we get Jenny moved. At this point, we will finally have all of our pastors along the one hallway.

The next project which will be done in early 2012 will be to add sound deadening material in the Fellowship Hall to allow this large area to be used more effectively in our various ministries. With the elimination of our old "L-Room", we need another large meeting area to be available. This improved area will fill that need.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES	
GIVING THRU DECEMBER 11	
Operating Fund:	Year To Date
Budgeted Giving	\$ 2,368,000
Actual Giving	\$ 2,355,000
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ (13,000)

## ACTS

by Theresa Doolan



Assisting Homeschooling Families in the Classical Education of their Children



Considering homeschooling? Wondering if a tutorial might be helpful?

ACTS, a classical tutorial for Grades 2-10, is hosting two events for parents interested in homeschooling.

**January 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Drop In Day from 9-11:30 for all classes, Upper Level Science until 1:00PM.

**February 27<sup>th</sup>** - Open House from 9-11:30 with curriculum, information, and the opportunity to talk with the ACTS parents and staff.

Please consider stopping by, introduce yourself, and seeing if ACTS might be a benefit to you and your family.