

# EPistle

Monthly Publication of Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Annapolis  
July 2012



## *Living for Eternity*

by Pastor Bruce O'Neil

My father-in-law has been visiting with us this past month and he said something I wanted to share with you. We were talking about people we knew who stayed too long on the job. I told him that some people I know stayed on the job because they were afraid that if they stopped they would die. My father-in-law asked, "Why do Christians fear death?" If we believe death is but a door to eternity with God, why do we hold on to this life so tightly? My mother-in-law, his wife, passed away last August and this has shaped his perspective about this life. I know he loves us, but death is no longer a distant reality for him. He lives every day in light of eternity.

Steven Jobs, before his own death, spoke to the graduates at Stanford University. He told them, "Remembering that you are going to die is the best way I know to avoid the trap of thinking you have something to lose. You are already naked. There is no reason not to follow your heart." Jobs was imploring these re-

cent graduates to follow their dreams because we are all going to die. There is only so much time in this life and then it is over. I believe Steven Jobs followed his own advice. He lived his life in light of the temporal, this life. We have no idea how many days each of us has. A long life is one hundred years now, but that does not seem very long compared to the age of our country or our world. It seems so brief. And to live only in light of these few hours we spend on earth seems a waste and very selfish.

Is there an alternative? Is there another way to live? Amy and Ed Hartman were seminary friends. Kathy and Amy hung out together while Ed and I attended classes. Our children are about the same ages. After seminary Amy began having bad headaches. The doctors told her that she had a fist-size brain tumor and the prognosis was not good. Amy died a year later. Amy could have taken that final year and followed Steve Jobs

*(Continued on page 2)*

## *EP Homecoming Picnic & Praise Celebration*

by Tom Beall

God has blessed EP church for 48 years with Godly men and women who have worshiped and served Him here in this place. His people have been the impetus to start 12 different churches in and around Anne Arundel County to take the good news of the Gospel to thousands (over 3,000 worship each Sunday Morning in these 12 churches). Hundreds have gone from EP onto the mission field throughout the world.

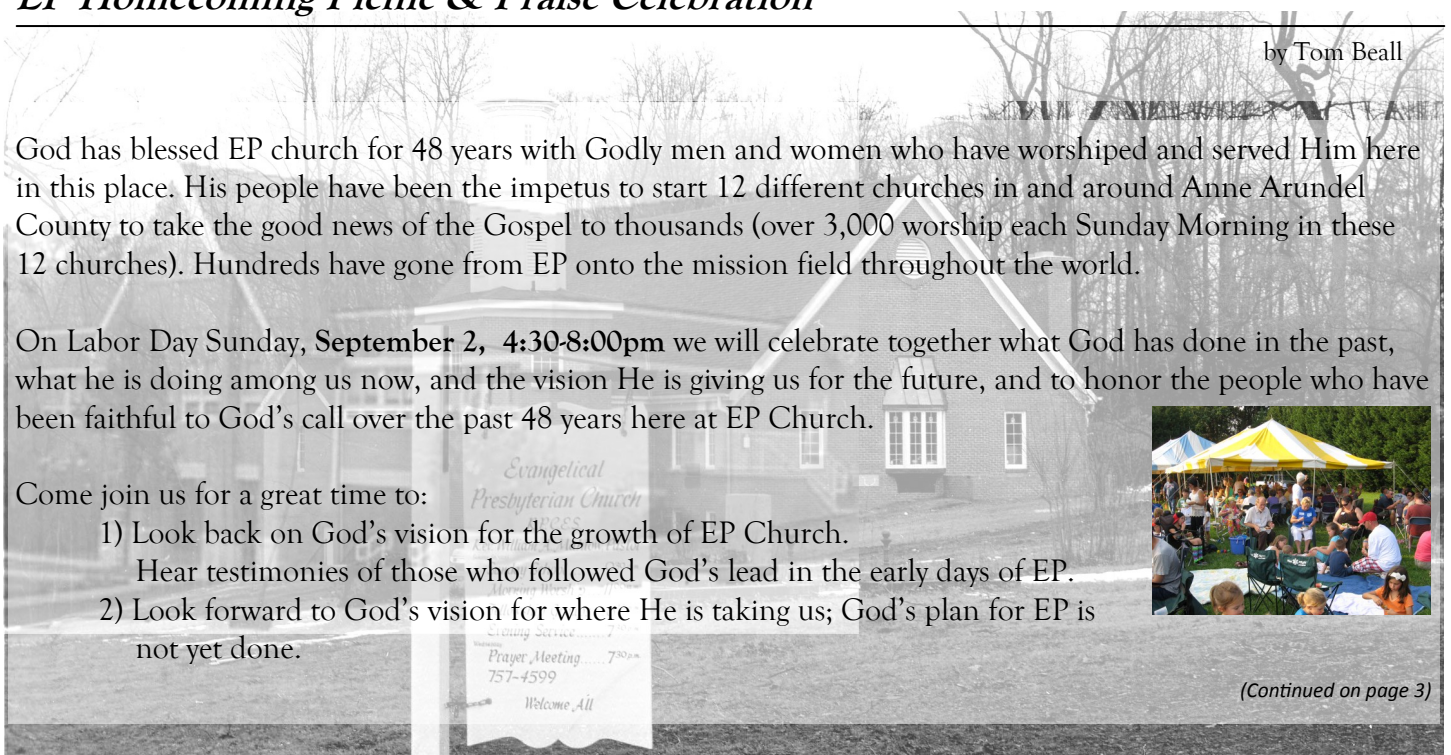
On Labor Day Sunday, **September 2, 4:30-8:00pm** we will celebrate together what God has done in the past, what he is doing among us now, and the vision He is giving us for the future, and to honor the people who have been faithful to God's call over the past 48 years here at EP Church.

Come join us for a great time to:

- 1) Look back on God's vision for the growth of EP Church.  
Hear testimonies of those who followed God's lead in the early days of EP.
- 2) Look forward to God's vision for where He is taking us; God's plan for EP is not yet done.



*(Continued on page 3)*



(Continued from page 1)

advice. She could have spent every waking moment with her four young children and loving husband knowing that she was dying and did not have long to be with them here on earth. Who would have faulted her for living this way? I don't think anyone would have.

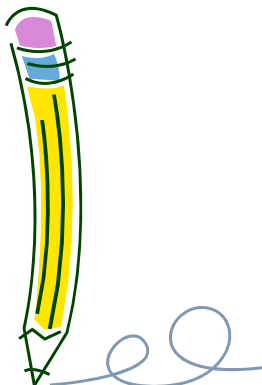
But Amy did not live those final days in light of life on earth, but in light of eternity. For those of us who knew Amy we were not surprised she chose this way to live. Amy lived in light of eternity before her fatal diagnosis. Amy turned her treatments into opportunities to love others and share her Savior with everyone with whom she came into contact. Doctors and nurses were amazed and moved by a dying woman's refusal to focus on her present struggle. Amy was concerned for them, and not herself. She particularly cared for those who faced a similar struggle. Amy often brought flowers to brighten the day of a fellow patient facing the same horrible treatments. When Amy passed away her funeral was attended by those same doctors, nurses and fellow patients she loved in those final days.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Thessalonica, *"For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? For you are our glory and joy"* (I Thessalonians 2:19-20 ESV). Paul was laboring in light of eternity. He was doing ministry, giving of himself, seeking to fulfill the redemptive plans of God within that congregation so that there would be souls safe in the arms of Jesus when He came again.

How about us? What would others say about the way we live? Would they say we lived for the here and now, in light of life on earth? This is how Steven Jobs lived and exhorted others to live. Or, would people say we lived in light of eternity, even while we lived here on earth? Would we live like Amy and Paul? Would we live doing ministry, giving of ourselves, being poured out like a drink offering to God for the souls of men? Would we live for the redemptive plans of God in our city so that there would be souls safe in the arms of Jesus when he returns?

Imagine what our church would look like if every member lived in light of eternity. Would not our hearts ache for more of Jesus? Would not our hearts ache to hear more souls saved? Would we not sacrifice everything temporal to see such a redemptive plan worked out here in our city? Some say, "You can be too heavenly minded to be earthly good." Quite frankly, I have never met such a person. If you are truly heavenly minded (living in light of eternity) you will be most earthly good. I have met people (and admittedly I am one) who are too earthly minded to be earthly good.

I don't think making a one-time commitment to live in light of eternity will work. I think it is daily struggle full of little decisions we make about our time, our treasure and our talents. How will you live?



### **ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES**

GIVING THRU JUNE 17, 2012

Operating Fund:	Year To Date
Budgeted Giving	\$ 1,195,000
Actual Giving	\$ 1,151,000
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ (44,000)





(Continued from page 1)

- 3) Praise our Lord together at an “evening service” of Celebration and Praise led by Praise Band members from the past and present. Sing songs from the different generations of EPers.
- 4) Enjoy a picnic of fried chicken, potato salad, cole slaw, and biscuits. Each family bring a dessert to share.
- 5) Compete in the Dessert Bake-Off Contest – Bake your best dessert and submit it for judging.
- 6) Fellowship – Invite your Bible Study, Small Group, Sunday School class, Ministry team, and friends to join you. If you know folks who have moved out of the area or are currently attending another church, invite them to come back for the homecoming.
- 7) Meet some of the founders and early members of EP.

Cost: \$5.00/person or \$25/family.

Put this date on your calendar now to join us.

Sign-ups will begin in July in the Fellowship Hall, the Bulletin and the Website.

Call Tom Beall 410-266-8090 ext. 117 for more details.

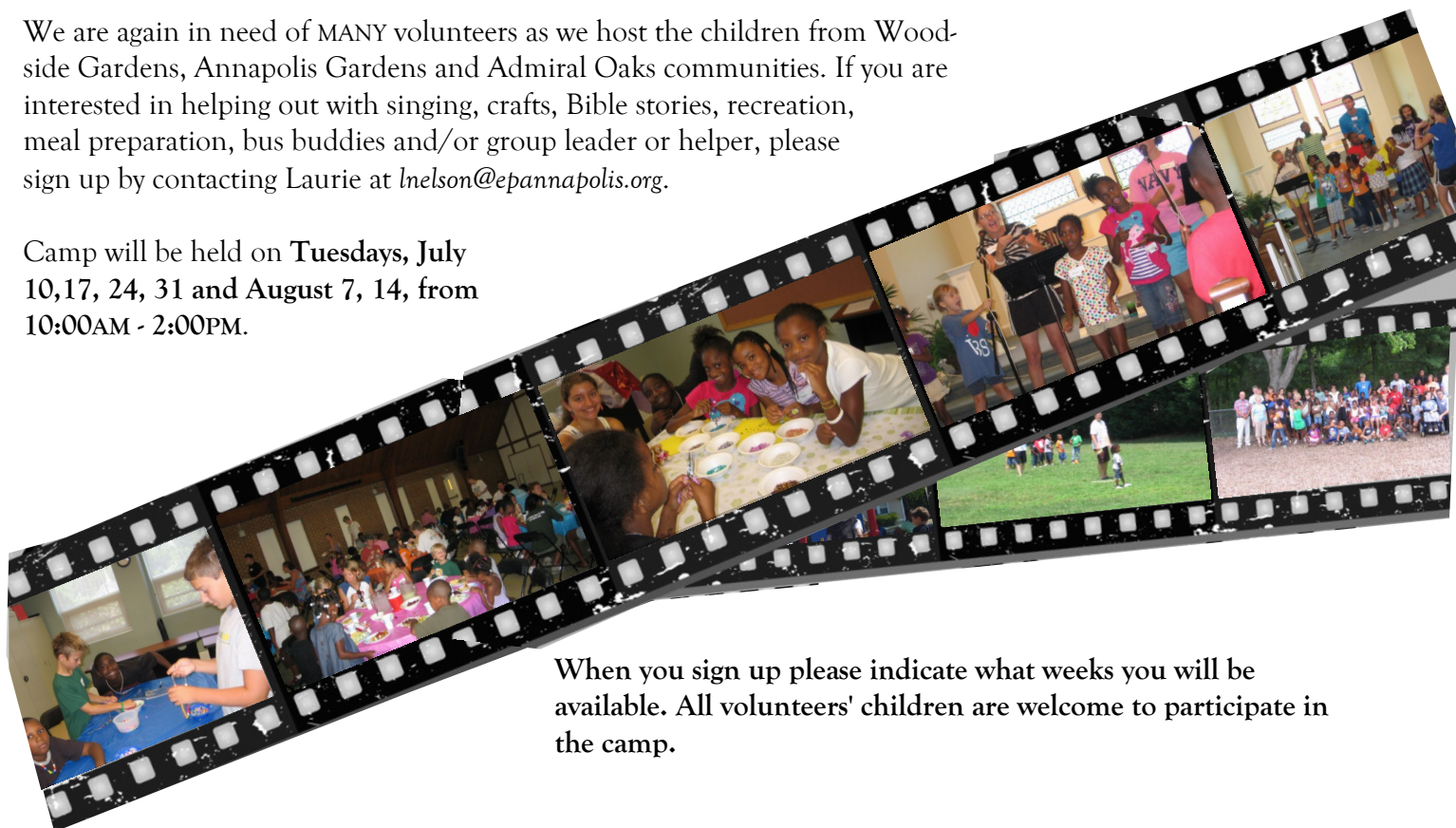


## ***Terrific Tuesday Summer Camp***

by Laurie Nelson

We are again in need of MANY volunteers as we host the children from Woodside Gardens, Annapolis Gardens and Admiral Oaks communities. If you are interested in helping out with singing, crafts, Bible stories, recreation, meal preparation, bus buddies and/or group leader or helper, please sign up by contacting Laurie at [lnelson@epannapolis.org](mailto:lnelson@epannapolis.org).

Camp will be held on **Tuesdays, July 10, 17, 24, 31 and August 7, 14**, from **10:00AM - 2:00PM**.



When you sign up please indicate what weeks you will be available. All volunteers' children are welcome to participate in the camp.

**Sunday, July 1**

8:00 AM **Worship** (Chapel)  
 9:15 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)  
 11:00 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)  
 5:00 PM **Worship Service**  
**with Communion** (Chapel)

**Monday, July 2**

7:30 PM Men's Bible Study

**Wednesday, July 4**

**Office Closed**

**Thursday, July 5**

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study

**Friday, July 6**

9:00 AM Men's Bible Study

**Saturday, July 7**

7:30 AM Men's Bible Study

**Sunday, July 8**

8:00 AM **Worship** (Chapel)  
 9:15 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)  
 11:00 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)  
 5:00 PM **Worship Service**  
**with Communion** (Chapel)

**Monday, July 9**

7:30 PM Men's Bible Study

**Tuesday, July 10**

9:00 AM **Terrific Tuesdays**

**Wednesday, July 11**

6:00 AM Men's Bible Study  
 9:00 AM Body & Soul  
 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting  
 Men's Bible Study

**Thursday, July 12**

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study  
 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study

**Friday, July 13**

9:00 AM Men's Bible Study

**Saturday, July 14**

7:30 AM Men's Bible Study

**Sunday, July 15**

8:00 AM **Worship** (Chapel)  
 9:15 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)  
 11:00 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)  
 5:00 PM **Worship Service**  
**with Communion** (Chapel)

**Monday, July 16**

7:30 PM Men's Bible Study

**Tuesday, July 17**

9:00 AM **Terrific Tuesdays**

**Wednesday, July 18**

6:00 AM Men's Bible Study  
 9:00 AM Body & Soul  
 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting  
 Men's Bible Study

**Thursday, July 19**

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study  
 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study

**Friday, July 20**

9:00 AM Men's Bible Study

**Saturday, July 21**

7:30 AM Men's Bible Study

**Sunday, July 22**

8:00 AM **Worship** (Chapel)  
 9:15 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)  
 11:00 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)  
 5:00 PM **Worship Service**  
**with Communion** (Chapel)

**Monday, July 23**

7:30 PM Men's Bible Study

**Tuesday, July 24**

9:00 AM **Terrific Tuesdays**

**Wednesday, July 25**

6:00 AM Men's Bible Study

9:00 AM Body & Soul  
 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting  
 Men's Bible Study

**Thursday, July 26**

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study  
 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study

**Friday, July 27**

9:00 AM Men's Bible Study

**Saturday, July 28**

7:30 AM Men's Bible Study

**Sunday, July 29**

8:00 AM **Worship** (Chapel)  
 9:15 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)  
 11:00 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)  
 5:00 PM **Worship Service**  
**with Communion** (Chapel)

**Monday, July 30**

7:30 PM Men's Bible Study

**Tuesday, July 31**

9:00 AM **Terrific Tuesdays**

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 .

**Summer Vacation**

Non-Profit  
 US Postage Paid  
 Permit No. 151  
 Annapolis, MD

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