

Sunday, June 3
8:00 AM **Worship with Communion** (Chapel)
9:15 AM **Worship with Communion** (Sanctuary)
11:00 AM **Worship with Communion** (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM **Worship Service with Communion** (Chapel)

Wednesday, June 6
9:00 AM Body & Soul
7:00 PM Prayer Meeting

Sunday, June 10
8:00 AM **Worship** (Chapel)
9:15 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)
11:00 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM **Worship Service with Communion** (Chapel)

Wednesday, June 13
9:00 AM Body & Soul
7:00 PM Prayer Meeting

Sunday, June 17
8:00 AM **Worship** (Chapel)
9:15 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)
11:00 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM **Worship Service with Communion** (Chapel)
Wednesday, June 20
9:00 AM Body & Soul
7:00 PM Prayer Meeting

Sunday, June 24
8:00 AM **Worship** (Chapel)
9:15 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)
11:00 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM **Worship Service with Communion** (Chapel)
6:30 PM **VBS Opening Night** (Sanctuary)

Monday, June 25
VBS 8:45–12:00
Tuesday, June 26
VBS 8:45–12:00

Wednesday, June 27
VBS 8:45–12:00
9:00 AM Body & Soul
7:00 PM Prayer Meeting
Thursday, June 28
VBS 8:45–12:00
Friday, June 29
VBS 8:45–12:00



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 .

EPistle

Monthly Publication of Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Annapolis
June 2012



The Church Beautiful

by Pastor Bruce O’Neil

As we have been studying the book of Acts together on Sunday morning we have recognized two realities that affect the way we live as Christians. The first reality is that this world is a sorrowful place. Even if it is not for you personally, this world is a sorrowful place for so many people. Our newspapers and television newscasts are filled with the hurt and loss this world is quite capable of dishing out, especially to the weakest among us. Africa is filled with starving families and orphaned children. When war is not ravaging this world, disease and famine are willing to take up the cause of destroying hope and robbing humanity of its dignity. You and I cannot walk by a cemetery without realizing something has gone terribly wrong with this world and it is sorrowful.



first parents walked with God in the cool of the day, every day, and yet they wanted more. In a single act of rebellion Adam exerted his independence from God and all mankind lost. Adam sowed the wind, and we have reaped the whirlwind.

Yes, we know. We know that this is not the way things have always been. It is just as true that we know that this is not the way it will always be. Our world is destined for a re-creation. God promised that though this is now a sorrowful place, He will make this place new. He will heal the broken and restore the breaches of this world. The last picture given to us in the Bible is that of a new heaven and a new earth where there will be no more tears, nor sin, nor death. All will be made new again.

Can anyone stop all the pain and loss? Will anyone help us? We know. We know that this is not the way things always were. In the beginning God created a Garden for mankind to live and where death and decay were not known. I will never get over the fact that our

The second reality we learn from the book of Acts is that the church is the leading edge of this renewal. God has called out of this world a new community of people and has sent his Holy Spirit into the church

(Continued on page 2)

Olympion 2012 – Training Kids for Life and Godliness

by Linda Cate

This year’s Vacation Bible School, June 25-29, is an athletic theme from Reachout Adventures that brings the Old Testament book of Joshua to life. Kids will take a first-hand look at Joshua’s wholehearted commitment and faithful perseverance to God’s call. This years summer program includes in-depth Bible lessons, challenging Scripture memory, daily gospel presentation, maximum impact on church and un-churched families, meaningful service projects, along with high-energy and joyful teamwork among staff and volunteers.

We will be challenging young athletes to run the race of faith passionately committed to Jesus Christ and His Word. Plan now to invite your un-churched neighbors and friends! Reverend Alistair Begg, pastor of Parkside church in Chagrin, Ohio, says, “VBS is an annual highlight at Parkside Church. The content of the Reachout material allows us to make the Gospel attractive. Every year young lives are touched and changed.”



Pastor Bruce O’Neil says, “Our children absolutely love VBS at Annapolis EP. They can’t wait to get here in the morning and don’t want to leave when it ends...Reachout is all about the children and introducing them to Jesus Christ.” Register your child(ren) or volunteer online today www.epannapolis.org.

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(Continued from page 1)

to make it the place the world can come and see a picture of the renewal that is coming to the whole world. The way we worship, the way we share our lives with one another, the way we care for the poor and needy, the way we see the dignity of all human beings, shows the world a picture of the cosmic make-over God is bringing in the future.

The great Emperor Julian once wrote a letter to a friend about the spread of Christianity and his concern for his empire. He wrote, “We can’t stop these Christians. They are so popular among our people for they take care of the poor. The Jews take care of the Jewish poor. The Greeks take care of the Greek poor. The Romans take care of the Roman poor. And the Christians take care of them all. They give their money away. They live simple lifestyles.” Julian was not alone in noticing the amazing beauty of the early church. Many writers noted that the church was more inclusive than the surrounding culture because the church transcended race, class, gender and geography. In the church all were welcomed and valued. The greater culture was divided, but the church found their unity around a faith in Jesus Christ.

The church cared better than anybody else. It was the Christians who walked the shorelines by the sea to pick up unwanted baby girls left to be washed out by the tide. The Christians took these babies into their homes and made them part of their families. It was the Christians who during the awful plagues of Europe stayed in the cities to care for the dying and give a dignified burial to the abandoned dead.

The Christians died better than anybody else. When they were put into the arena and the lions were coming after them, they were singing and praising God. While they faced their deaths they were encouraging one another. The world had never seen anyone face death like that. And though their deaths were tragic, they were also beautiful.

The church is beautiful. What made the church so beautiful? What made the church more inclusive than anybody else? What made the church care better than anybody else? What made the church die better than anybody else? The beautifier of the church is the work of the Holy Spirit. God is making His church His witness to the world about His intentions to make all things new. Paul makes an interesting comment in the letter to the Ephesians where he says, “so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 3:10 ESV). It seems that Paul is saying that the church’s beauty is even noticed by the “rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.” The church is God’s laser light show to the cosmos illuminating his wisdom and glory.

If the church’s calling is to be God’s witness in this world (and even to the heavens), then how we live matters. Let’s consider our lives together. How can we reflect the glories of the gospel in our midst and in Annapolis? What is God placing on your heart for us? Let’s begin to pray that God will show us how to be this new community He has formed and enable us to demonstrate new community values to Annapolis.

EPHEM

by Nancy Deibert

Are you homeschooling next year? Annapolis EP has an “umbrella group” called the Evangelical Presbyterian Home Education Ministry or EPHEM. Information about EPHEM and registration forms are available on the church’s website under “ministries”. New family registrations will be accepted for the 2012-2013 school year starting June 1. Registrations are accepted on a “first-come, first-served” basis, and the registration deadline is June 30. Contact Nancy Deibert for further information.

A Current Need

by Pastor Bruce O'Neil

I would like to share with you a need we have as a church. Over the last four months, we are running \$58,000 behind our ministry operating budget. Over the last five years, while the nation has experienced a difficult economic recession, our area has not suffered like so many places in the United States because our economy is so tied to the government. I think this is one of the reasons why we have been able to meet or exceed our budget over the last five years. And during ordinary economic times our people have had the resources to make up these kinds of deficits over time, but a number of our people are unemployed or underemployed because of the economy.

In comparison to the overall ministry budget of \$2.7 million our current deficit of \$58,000 does not seem like a lot, but the trend appears to communicate a larger deficit by the end of the year. As we seek to do all that has been planned ministry wise and take care of some of our people in need we believe we will need all that we have budgeted, and probably more.

It is important to let you know of your church’s need and to ask you to pray that God would provide for this need over the next two months. In fact, if every family and single person that attends EP would give an extra \$100 over the next two months the deficit would be erased. I understand some of you cannot give the church any more than you currently are giving, while others can give more than \$100 over the next two months. The fact is, all of us can pray and should. I thought it was important to communicate to you about our need now before the situation becomes a crisis and to ask for your help. You have made it a privilege and a great joy in my life to serve you as your pastor.



ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

GIVING THRU MAY 13, 2012

Operating Fund:	Year To Date
Budgeted Giving	\$ 979,000
Actual Giving	\$ 921,000
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ (58,000)

EP Care Net

by Pastor Bob Borger

Many are familiar with the name EP Care Net, but what exactly does it do? EP Care Net is a sub-committee of the Diaconate. The directors monitor needs and suggest policies and procedures to help meet these needs. The Care Net motto is: “Communicating and Coordinating Care for the Congregation of EP Church.”

One of the most exciting tools to help with these tasks that the directors have found is a website called Lotsa-helpinghands.com. This website allows us to describe a member’s needs, place those needs on an electronic calendar, and circulate these volunteer opportunities to as many people who have signed up to receive these emails. To date, 238 people are receiving these emails, but 478 folks have never verified their email address within the Lotsahelpinghands.com system. The enclosed letter from the EP Care Net Board is asking for your help in registering your email address. Please take the time to read the enclosed letter from EP Care Net and follow its instructions.

The great thing about this email system is that you do not have to feel guilty if you cannot help on any particular day. On the other hand, if the Lord lays it upon your heart that you can respond then this system gives you a way to get involved. But the key is communication! EP Care Net can’t contact you and let you know of needs if we don’t have your email registered. If you are already receiving emails from the church marked LHH (LotsaHelpingHands) you don’t need to do anything more. If you aren’t receiving those emails, please read the enclosed letter and sign-up.