

Wednesday, February 1
9:00 AM Body & Soul
7:00 PM Youth Bible Study
Choir Practice,
Couples Bible Study Dinner
Friday, February 3
9:30 AM Daytime MOPS

Sunday, February 5
8:00 AM **Worship** (Chapel)
9:15 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)
11:00 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM **Worship Service**
with Communion
(Chapel)
Monday, February 6
6:55 PM BSF

Tuesday, February 7
7:00 PM ESL, Battalion
Wednesday, February 8
9:00 AM Body & Soul
7:00 PM Youth Bible Study
Choir Practice, GriefShare,
Couples Bible Study

Sunday, February 12
8:00 AM **Worship** (Chapel)
9:15 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)
11:00 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM **Worship Service**
with Communion
(Chapel)

Tuesday, February 14
7:00 PM ESL, Battalion
Wednesday, February 15
9:00 AM Body & Soul
7:00 PM Youth Bible Study
Choir Practice, GriefShare,
Couples Bible Study
Friday, February 17
9:30 AM Daytime MOPS

Sunday, February 19
8:00 AM **Worship** (Chapel)
9:15 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)
11:00 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM **Worship Service**
with Communion
(Chapel)

Monday, February 20
OFFICE CLOSED
Tuesday, February 21
7:00 PM ESL, Battalion
Wednesday, February 22
9:00 AM Body & Soul
7:00 PM Youth Bible Study
Choir Practice, GriefShare,
Couples Bible Study

Sunday, February 26
8:00 AM **Worship** (Chapel)
9:15 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)
11:00 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM **Worship Service**
with Communion
(Chapel)

Tuesday, February 28
7:00 PM ESL, Battalion
Wednesday, February 29
9:00 AM Body & Soul
7:00 PM Youth Bible Study
Choir Practice, GriefShare,
Couples Bible Study

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 .

Friday, February 24th, 7:30 til 9:30PM and
Saturday, February 25th, 8:30AM - 3:00PM.
Cost \$7.50 per person, includes continental
breakfast, lunch and material.



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Epistle

Monthly Publication of Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Annapolis
February 2012



A Gifted Community

by Bruce O’Neil

It happens all too often. We as a nation spend billions of dollars on high-tech equipment, strap it to a rocket and send it into outer space with the single hope to get back messages from the heavens. After a time the signal stops, as they all do eventually, and we no longer receive those wonderful pictures from Mars or some other distant planet. NASA is always afraid that the latest messenger will join other space junk, once worth billions, but now worthless because it does not transmit to earth the heavenly message for which is was designed.

We are witnessing an interesting sociological fact in the United States: evangelical churches are growing at an unprecedented rate while evangelical influence is diminishing. There is a strange silence from the evangelical church. The problems our nation and community face are met with little constructive engagement by the evangelical church. Few Christians have demonstrated in their words and work that the world is the Lord’s and Jesus has come to reclaim it for Himself.

Well, it is not completely accurate to say that we have been totally silent. We have made noise, but it has been mostly static, background noise. Our negative hand wringing over disturbing, and at times distressing,

trends in our culture has been clearly communicated. Rush Limbaugh does have a sort of outrageous charm, I have to admit, but conservative Christians and evangelical churches have been overly attracted to his method of cultural engagement. A method marked by negative rather than positive proclamation. The problem with the Limbaugh approach has been captured by Ken Myers, the author of *All God’s Children and Blue Suede Shoes*.

Rush Limbaugh and his clones will always be fighting a rear guard action. They rally the troops by building a cadre of compliant, but they never have long-term cultural influence for at least two reasons. First, they focus upon political issues when politics is really only a symptom of deeper cultural problems. Political policies are shaped by cultural values and cultural values are shaped by a variety of cultural experiences, not by arguments about politics and policies. And second, the principle appeal and approach of the Limbaugh offensive is negative and destructive. Of course if you are in a war it is a good thing to destroy the enemy, but wars are fought to defend positive things, not just to attack negative things.

(Continued on page 2)

Women’s In-Home Retreat

by Jenny Woodruff

Redemptive Relationships

Does what happens on Sundays just stay on Sundays? Where do you ‘walk’ during the week and who ‘walks’ with you? Does Jesus go to work with you? Does God care about how we spend our ‘free time’? Does the Holy Spirit sit at your table?

Join us as we investigate God’s plan of redemptive relationships. As we worship, work, live and play together. “...so walk in him...” Colossians 2:6. Please come and

join us Friday, March 23rd, 6:00PM until Saturday March 24th, 3:00PM. Cost is \$20.00, and our guest speaker will be Christine Dow Rubino.

Sign-ups start the second week of February.

Hope to see you there.



(Continued from page 1)

Absent from much of the church is a thoughtful, positive engagement with the culture demonstrating in word and in life the values of the gospel. We must demonstrate to the culture around us what it means to have the gospel not only as a promise of the future, but as life in the present. Our community needs Christians to live with them and for them. Our presence and our work for the good of the greater community around us both demonstrates the power of the gospel to change lives, institutions and communities; but it also provides a better place to live. In Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus gives us a parable about talents where we are instructed to be wise and faithful with what has been entrusted to us. We are stewards of the blessings God has given us. This parable teaches us that one day, the Landowner will come back and ask, “What did you do with what I entrusted to you?”

So, much of the evangelical church will have to say, “Well Lord, I buried it.” God gives to us so that we might share it with others in His name. We immediately think about our checkbooks, and that truly is part of it, but we have been given something far more valuable than money. When the broken man at the temple asked Peter for money as they were entering, Peter said, “Silver and gold have I none, but what I do have I give to you.” We have been given time, which has become the currency of our culture.

As you look at the needs of our church and community, begin to think how God would have you respond. It is too easy to wring our hands and talk about how things are not perfect. The call is for investment and faithfulness. How would God have you influence the ministries of this church and reach our community with the hope of the gospel?

We are all very busy people, but busyness cannot be the excuse for a lack of investment or for a lack of faithfulness. One of the blessings of living in a community of grace like ours is the encouragement we receive from brothers and sisters to live from this gospel of grace. Investing our lives costs us and the only way we can risk what God has entrusted to us is if we live out of grace. Grace makes up for our weaknesses and mixed motives. Grace empowers our hope for a better church and a better community. Grace allows us not to rely on politics or policy or human effort.

Stuck in Grief

by Carolyn Woodie

This past fall there was a very good movie released in the theaters entitled “Courageous.” If you didn’t see it then, it is now available on cable networks for viewing at home. Although the movie centered around what makes a godly father, the change in the life of the father who had the lead part in the movie took place because of a loss – the death of his young daughter. One of the key quotations from the movie took place while the father’s pastor was counseling him during his family’s heavy time of grief. The pastor said, “You can be angry for the years you didn’t have with your daughter or you can be thankful for the time you did have with her.” There are some grieving people who remain in the world of the first statement, never working through their grief, never allowing God to comfort them because their anger towards God stands in the way. There are others whose only definition of healing is to have life return just as it was before their loved one died. Often, these people are described as being “stuck in grief.” Lois Rabey, one of our GriefShare speakers, states “God doesn’t move parked cars!” She also states that “time doesn’t heal all wounds, Jesus does that.” So, how does one get unstuck? One of the ways is to pray. If praying is difficult, pray the Psalms. Share with the authors their anguish as they pour out their pain to God seeking His answers. Reconnect with others – it is easy to isolate yourself in your pain. (GriefShare is a great way to reconnect.) Remember that God loves you and learn to trust Him again. Tell yourself the truth – Biblical truth. Your inner voices affect your feelings. There are other practical suggestions for moving forward that we discuss in GriefShare. GriefShare, a Bible-centered grief support group, will begin meeting again on February 15th at EP. If you are grieving, come join us or bring a grieving friend. Brochures are in the information racks and in the Church Office. To pre-register or 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.

Library Lines

by Ruth Burge

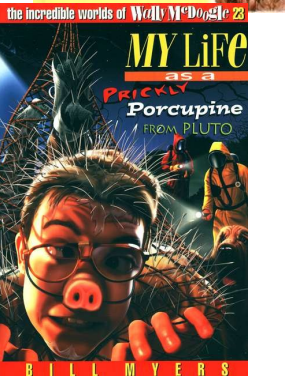
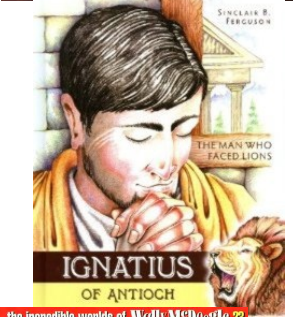
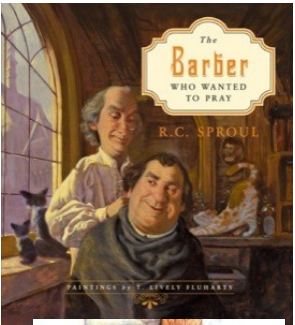
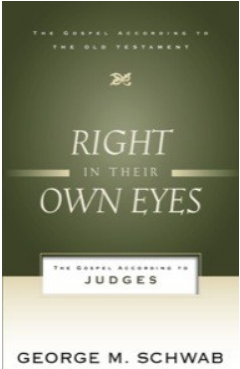
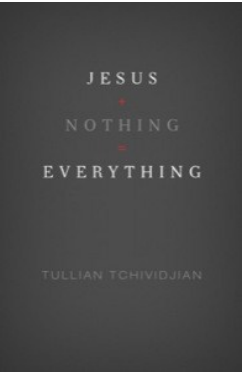
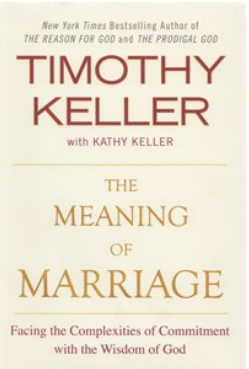
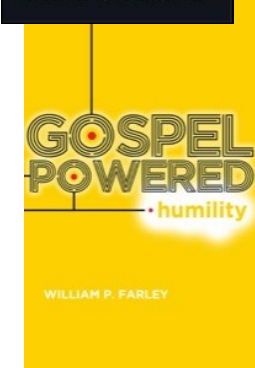
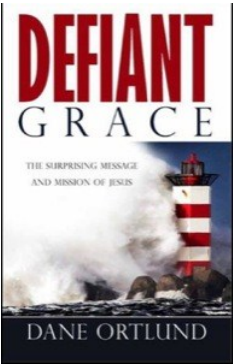
Recently over 155 pieces of material have been added to the Library. These include kids’ chapter books, Bible commentaries, kids’ CD story sets, kids’ picture books, Christian living books, and marriage books. Come on in and check us out. **“Like Us” on Facebook:** Search for EP Annapolis Church Library and click the “like” button to receive regular updates about material in the Library.

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. When the new member class is not in session, the Library is free during the 11:00 hour for leisurely browsing of material.

Library Location: The Library is located in the Library/Boardroom 129 in the corner of the hall behind the Sanctuary, down from the Church Office.

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.

Librarian: Ruth Burge, riburge@epannapolis.org.



Angel Tree

by Dee Chalfant

This Christmas we helped 65 “Angels” and 29 families receive Christmas gifts, some also received food coupons. This is the most we have ever assisted. All of these “Angels” were in the general vicinity of Annapolis, with several deliveries to Glen Burnie. Many of the families we have worked with before, and some call me before Christmas to see if we will be helping again this year. For the first time, I received a call from a mother who was not part of the Prison Fellowship Ministry, had gone to our Mercy Committee in a previous year, and needed gifts for her girls for this Christmas. After seeking information from the Mercy Committee and prayerful guidance, we did give gifts for her children. We were able to fulfill the Prison Fellowship Ministry needs and take care of this mother’s request. After the holiday, notes were sent to all of the prisoners letting them know that their children were given gifts. I would like to thank all who made calls, took names, bought or gave money, delivered, and/or prayed. Because of you, the ministry was successful.

I wish I could tell you of the stories I hear and see that affect not only our local ministry, but also the Angel Tree Ministry around the country. The gospel is being spread. Because I feel this ministry is such a good one, I would like to see it continue in our church. I really need someone (or even a small group) to step up and learn what makes the Angel Tree Ministry such a success. I will do most of the work next year if I am able, but I need someone to learn what to do to continue the ministry in the future. You can reach me at 410-674-5621 or call Laurie Nelson ext. 103. Thank you again for all you have done and please consider being that someone to eventually take over this important ministry.