

Tuesday, May 1
7:00 PM ESL, Battalion

Wednesday, May 2
9:00 AM Body & Soul
7:00 PM Youth Bible Study
Choir Practice, GriefShare,
Couples Bible Study

Thursday, May 3
3:30 PM Cherub and Junior
Choir Practice

Friday, May 4
9:30 AM Daytime MOPS

Saturday, May 5
4:00 PM Kids to Camp Dinner

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

Tuesday, May 8
7:00 PM Battalion

Wednesday, May 9
9:00 AM Body & Soul
7:00 PM Youth Bible Study
Choir Practice, GriefShare,
Couples Bible Study

Thursday, May 10
3:30 PM Cherub and Junior
Choir Practice

Friday, May 11
7:00 PM Crossroads

Sunday, May 13
8:00 AM **Worship** (*Chapel*)
9:15 AM **Worship** (*Sanctuary*)
11:00 AM **Worship** (*Sanctuary*)
5:00 PM **Worship Service with Communion** (*Chapel*)

Tuesday, May 15
7:00 PM Battalion

Wednesday, May 16
9:00 AM Body & Soul
7:00 PM Youth Bible Study
Choir Practice,
Couples Bible Study

Thursday, May 17
3:30 PM Cherub and Junior
Choir Practice

Sunday, May 20
8:00 AM **Worship** (*Chapel*)
9:15 AM **Worship** (*Sanctuary*)
11:00 AM **Worship** (*Sanctuary*)
5:00 PM **Worship Service with Communion** (*Chapel*)

Tuesday, May 22
7:00 PM Battalion

Wednesday, May 23
9:00 AM Body & Soul
7:00 PM Youth Bible Study
Choir Practice,
Couples Bible Study

Thursday, May 24
3:30 PM Cherub and Junior
Choir Practice

Sunday, May 27
8:00 AM **Worship** (*Chapel*)
9:15 AM **Worship** (*Sanctuary*)
11:00 AM **Worship** (*Sanctuary*)
5:00 PM **Worship Service with Communion** (*Chapel*)

Tuesday, May 29
7:00 PM Battalion

Wednesday, May 30
9:00 AM Body & Soul
7:00 PM Youth Bible Study
Choir Practice,
Couples Bible Study

Thursday, May 31
3:30 PM Cherub and Junior
Choir Practice



There will be Communion every Sunday
during the month of May.

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
May 2012



The Gospel Grid

by Pastor Bruce O’Neil

“The gospel” is a concept we use a lot at EP. There is not a sermon I give or a lesson I teach in which I fail to mention “the gospel.” I use it so frequently for two reasons. First, the Apostle Paul tells us in Romans 1:16 that the gospel is the *power of God for salvation*. For Paul, “salvation” usually means the totality of saving a person. He means that the gospel tells us how God makes us acceptable to Himself through the finished work of His Son, Jesus Christ. The Bible calls this justification. He also means that the gospel message is about how God transforms us into the image of His Son, and this is called sanctification. But the end of salvation is the completion of our transformation where sin and its effects are removed from us. Philippians 1:6 tells us, *He (God) who began a good work in you (justification) will bring (sanctification) it to completion (glorification)*.

The second reason for repeating the gospel so frequently is that we are so prone to forget it. The Apostle Peter teaches that a lack of ongoing transformation (sanctification) in our lives comes from forgetting the gospel. *For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins* (2 Peter 1:9). If we are to grow spiritually and

into maturity in Christ, then we must deepen and expand our understanding of the gospel.

For many people the gospel is merely the “door” into the Kingdom of God. That is, we see it as a way in or entrance to the “room,” rather than the room itself. We are not saved by one means and transformed by another way. The very message that justifies is the same message that sanctifies us. We are justified by faith and sanctified by faith in the same gospel. One writer wrote, “The gospel is what makes us right (justification) with God and it is also what frees us to delight in God (sanctification).”

A helpful illustration that I think explains what I am saying here sometimes has been called “the gospel grid.” When someone becomes a Christian it is often because they sense the gap between God’s holiness and their sinfulness. When they put their faith in Jesus their hope is being transferred from their “good works” to what Jesus has done for them on the cross. He bridges the gap. Jesus takes God’s wrath and judgment due our sin upon himself and gives us his righteous record

(Continued on page 2)

Christ for the World We Sing: The World to Christ We Bring

by Ruth Burge

Sunday, May 6 at 6:30 PM

Join the youth of EP on Sunday evening, May 6, as they present a program of scripture and music designed to help us appreciate the fact that God has always planned for some from every people group to worship and honor him. As we rejoice in God’s lavish love for the world, we are encouraged to share the good news of Jesus here in Annapolis, in Maryland, in the USA, and throughout the whole world. Groups participating are: Cherub Choir, Junior Choir, Handbells, Well Kids. Included will be music from other cultures and languages. Plan now to attend both to be encouraged yourself and to encourage the young people of EP. Questions: riburge@epannapolis.org.



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which makes us acceptable to God.

When someone becomes a Christian they often have a very shallow view of both God’s holiness and their sinfulness. The more they grow and learn about God the more they become aware of just how holy God really is. And as they grow in their awareness of God’s holiness they become more aware of their sin. It is not that God is becoming more holy or that we are becoming more sinful, but my awareness of both is growing. I am seeing God and myself more accurately.

The reality is, the more I grow in my understanding of God’s holiness and of my sinfulness the more I also grow in my appreciation and love for Jesus. Paul tells us that *God demonstrates his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us* (Romans 5:8). The cross grows larger and more central in my life as I understand and appreciate what Jesus has done for me to bridge that gap and make me acceptable to God.

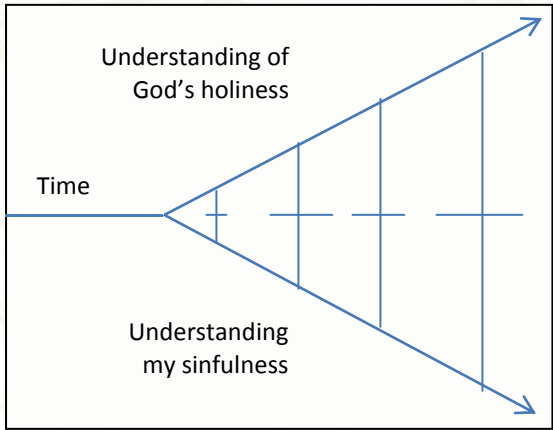
What complicates our spiritual growth is the indwelling sin that remains in us. You and I have a tendency to minimize the gospel and shrink the cross. This happens when we shrink God in our minds and hearts. We all have a tendency to make God smaller in our lives than He has declared Himself to be. But we also shrink the cross by thinking too highly of ourselves. We can diminish the need for the cross by simply thinking we have “got this.” That is, sometimes Christians have such self-confidence that they don’t rest in Christ’s work and look to their own efforts to be happy or fulfilled.

The antidote to shrinking the cross is to remember the gospel, to literally rehearse the truths of the gospel taught in the Bible. What does the Bible say about you apart from God’s grace? What does the Bible say God must do with sinners to meet His requirement for justice? What does the Bible say about God’s love for sinners? What does the Bible say God did to save sinners from his own wrath? We need to know the character of God. He is holy and righteous.

But we also need to see him as loving and full of grace. We need to see ourselves and admit the depth of our brokenness and sinfulness. This is not merely an academic exercise, but the way we are transformed by the Holy Spirit as we understand and appreciate these truths in our lives.

God wants our lives to be marked by joy, hope and love. In fact, God wants us to find our joy, hope and love in Him. Putting our joy, hope and love in anything less than God He warns us will result in disappointment, disillusionment and despair.

In fact, our brokenness is the result of putting our joy, hope and love in other things or people. And yet, we will continue to do this very thing until the transformation is completed in the life to come. God has not left us without an antidote to this brokenness. It is the very gospel we needed for our salvation, and we must continue to rehearse it and believe it.



A Saturday to Remember!

by Linda Cate

Saturday April 7, our church grounds were swarming with kids, parents, grandparents, neighbors and friends having a wonderful time! It was the first Annual EP Easter Eggstraordinaire! Over a thousand people enjoyed the sunshine and breezes while playing games, riding ponies (wearing cowboy hats), jumping in the moonbounces, doing the bake walk, listening to the live bands and climbing onto the fire truck. Of course, the egg hunt was very popular too! We had egg hunts for preschoolers, K - 5th graders on the hill behind the Sanctuary. The location was perfect because when one age group finished, we could hide the next batch of 2000 eggs without being seen by the children.

We had over a hundred EPers working hard for four hours on the event! It would not have been possible without all of our volunteers and coordinators. The variety and quality of the food was amazing! The grills were fired up at 6:00AM. The chefs grilled 700 hot dogs and 180 pounds of chicken! The home-made mac-and-cheese was a big hit also.



One of our Elders and our Biggest Kid in our congregation, Floyd Gilkey, enjoying a ride on the Bunny Bucket.

One of our volunteers said their favorite part was the Storytelling Tent where young people presented three different dramatic readings telling the Easter story. As guests filed out of the tent after each presentation they were given a Gideon New Testament. At the registration table, each guest was handed a customized church bag including a gospel tract, Easter church services postcard and a VBS postcard.



A special thank you belongs to Nancy Thomspson, the event chairman, whose dream became a reality this year. Praise the Lord for His help and His hand of blessing on our first family outreach Easter event! *Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Your name give glory because of your loving kindness, because of Your truth.* Psalm 115:1

On Loan From God

Name: Lillian Rose Kupfer

Born: March 30, 2012

6lb, 3oz

Parents: Bess and Morgan

Grandparents:

Debbie and Mark Kupfer

Martie and George Milliken



ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

GIVING THRU APRIL 15, 2012

Operating Fund:	Year To Date
Budgeted Giving	\$ 789,000
Actual Giving	\$ 767,000
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ (22,000)

