

Thursday, March 1
3:30 PM Cherub and Junior
Choir Practice
Friday, March 2
9:30 AM Daytime MOPS

Sunday, March 4
8:00 AM Worship (Chapel)
9:15 AM Worship (Sanctuary)
11:00 AM Worship (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM Worship Service
with Communion (Chapel)

Tuesday, March 6
7:00 PM ESL, Battalion
Wednesday, March 7
9:00 AM Body & Soul
7:00 PM Youth Bible Study
Choir Practice, GriefShare,
Couples Bible Study

Thursday, March 8
3:30 PM Cherub and Junior
Choir Practice

Friday, March 9
9:30 AM Daytime MOPS

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

Tuesday, March 13
7:00 PM ESL, Battalion

Wednesday, March 14
9:00 AM Body & Soul
7:00 PM Youth Bible Study
Choir Practice, GriefShare,
Couples Bible Study

Thursday, March 15
3:30 PM Cherub and Junior
Choir Practice

Sunday, March 18
8:00 AM Worship (Chapel)
9:15 AM Worship (Sanctuary)
11:00 AM Worship (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM Worship Service
with Communion (Chapel)

Tuesday, March 20
7:00 PM ESL, Battalion

Wednesday, March 21
9:00 AM Body & Soul
7:00 PM Youth Bible Study
Choir Practice, GriefShare,
Couples Bible Study

Thursday, March 22
3:30 PM Cherub and Junior
Choir Practice

Friday, March 23
9:30 AM Daytime MOPS

Sunday, March 25
8:00 AM Worship (Chapel)
9:15 AM Worship (Sanctuary)
11:00 AM Worship (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM Worship Service
with Communion (Chapel)

Tuesday, March 27
7:00 PM ESL, Battalion

Wednesday, March 28
9:00 AM Body & Soul
7:00 PM Youth Bible Study
Choir Practice, GriefShare,
Couples Bible Study

Thursday, March 29
3:30 PM Cherub and Junior
Choir Practice



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 .



Women's Ministry
In-Home Retreat
March 23 & 24

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Annapolis, MD

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710 Ridgely Ave
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www.epannapolis.org

Epistle

Monthly Publication of Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Annapolis
March 2012



A Loving Community

by Bruce O'Neil

I have been thinking lately about the power of motivation in our lives. Everything we do is the result of a motivation. I don't do anything that a motivation doesn't compel me to do. Have you ever thought how much fear motivates our actions?

Peter Slade wrote a book, *Friendship in a Closed Society*, about reconciliation in the state of Mississippi between whites and blacks. In the book, Slade contends that the Jim Crowe laws following the Civil War were a reaction by the majority whites who were afraid of the former slaves in their state. According to Slade this fear was fed because civil rights were given to blacks who had been disenfranchised as slaves. The whites of Mississippi felt that these new civil rights threatened their way of life. Many whites felt that if the "negro" can vote, then everything we hold dear would be lost.

In 1973, desegregation came to Jacksonville, Florida. I was entering sixth grade. The city of Jacksonville decided to bus some white children out of the suburbs into the urban, black schools and take some of the black children from the inner city and bus them out the suburban, white schools. I was one of the white kids. Every morning at six-thirty I caught a bus that came into our neighborhood and we would travel the forty-five minutes into the inner city to be dropped off for school at Susie E. Talbot Sixth Grade Center. We did not want to go and they did not want us to come. I remember for about a month, the bus driver did not want to drive onto the school grounds (he was white), so he dropped us off and we walked to the school.

This past week a pastor was explaining to a group of us in a meeting how fear breeds mistrust and mistrust breeds territorialism. When you are afraid of something or someone, you don't trust it or that person(s). And when you don't trust something or someone, you seek to protect what you perceive as being threatened. This

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Battalion

by Rob Niewoehner

What is Battalion?

Battalion provides a discipleship and leadership development program for young men in middle school and high school, where the gospel of Jesus Christ provides means and motive for our growth. We are a ministry of EP Church of Annapolis, and a chapter of the national Christian Service Brigade (CSB). Discipleship is the goal; the wilderness is the context. Middle school boys learn to care for themselves in wilderness settings, while under the shepherding of high school leaders who lead them in biblical discipleship. The high school guys run the ministry, mentored by dads. AEP's Battalion is intentionally reproductive with older boys seeking to model Christ for those in their charge, and the younger boys aspiring to imitate the example set for them as they

eventually assume the roles held by those they'd once followed (2 Timothy 2:2, 4:12).

Program Goals?

An experienced missionary noted that Christians need soft hearts and hard feet*, yet commonly go into the world with soft feet and hard hearts. Battalion seeks to harden feet and soften hearts by the Holy Spirit and the rigors of the backcountry. Hard feet are developed in the physical adversity posed by weather and mountains, preparing for a life at peace with effort and discomfort. Soft hearts are developed by the means of grace, particularly the agency of Scripture and the fellowship of older brothers committed to the welfare of their younger brothers.

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pastor was applying this thought to the Christians. He was saying much of our debates, both outside and inside the church, are motivated by fear and mistrust of others, particularly of those who we don't understand or who don't agree with us.

Rather than trying to understand someone or a group's point of view, we too often create a caricature of them. Democrats think Republicans are narrow-minded and intolerant of others. Republicans think Democrats are ruining this country and their way of life. Unions are destroying the businesses that employ their members. Business owners are getting wealthy on the backs of their employees. I can't tell how many times a theological purist has painted the views of a fellow brother in Christ as the slippery slope to liberalism or antinomianism or immorality.

Paul seems to oppose this kind of motivation for Christians. In 2 Timothy 1:7 Paul writes, *for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control*; and in Romans 8:15 Paul tells us, *for you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"* In the face of a declining culture evidenced by the rejection of our values, Christians are exhibiting fear and not love or power or self-control or adoption or even trust in a sovereign God who not only knows everything but controls everything.

The Bible speaks of a number of alternatives to fear for Christian action. Jesus and Paul both agree that love is the greatest motivator of all. In fact, Jesus tells us that *all people will know that we are his disciples by our love for one another* (John 13:35). We are also told that God's motivator for our salvation and Jesus' sacrifice on the cross was his love for the world (John 3:16). Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:14, *for the love of Christ controls us*. One translation says, for the love of Christ compels us. That is, love is a powerful motivator for the actions of Christians. Love does not breed mistrust and protection of what we fear to lose, but it breeds service, patience, and kindness, particularly with those we don't understand or who don't agree with us.

What would our church community look like if all fear was dispelled and the motivation of love controlled all our interactions? How would those outside the church view us if we loved them and our city well? What would they think of our God? We Presbyterians make much of the glory of God, that is, we want much made of God. One way our community will make much of God is when we love others well. I challenge us all to think about how to love each other well, and to love those outside our church well, to the glory of God.

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The ministry embraces the following affective goals: Selflessness is the core ministry value, contrasting a self-absorbed teen culture. Christ models absolute other-centeredness (Philippians 2). Care for others represents the highest purpose of a man's strength, contrasting a culture that portrays tenderness and strength as conflicted choices. Christ's tenderness expresses his strength (John 21:15-17). Moreover, leadership is a costly calling, particularly in the church, and a leader will spend themselves for the sake of those they lead. The Gospel simultaneously compels penitent self-reflection, joyful worship and hard physical play, con-

trasting a prevalent teen too-cool-for-Christ. "Where there is little joy, there is little religion" (Jonathan Edwards).

A young man who stays involved through high school should expect to responsibly lead the ministry, setting the pattern for those who will take their place. They will competently: lead small groups in Bible study and prayer, deliver devotionals, testimonies and short sermons to groups of Christians and non-Christians, organize small group activities, lead small teams in backcountry settings to include independent navigation and decision-making in adverse weather and terrain, carry younger boys' gear when they struggle, teach

basic wilderness skills, administer ministry equipment, trip rosters, speaker schedules, trip registrations, and trip finances, perform first aid for minor injuries, demonstrate progressive competence in each of four leadership roles, transferable to every future domain of their lives (family, church, school and work).

Self-leader
Active Follower
Peer Leader
Designated Leader

In short, they'll be equipped and expected to lead. And, we've found that when you call teen boys to lead, expecting them to be responsible men, addressing them as "men", they then crave further responsibility.

Program Elements - The program unfolds in three distinct venues, each of which uniquely yet mutually contribute to a young man's growth. Guys can participate in any/all of the three. Their mutual impact however is much greater than the sum of the parts, skills learned in one venue, practiced in others.



Weekly Meetings - The ministry meets most Tuesday nights during the academic year, at 6:45 PM, in the AEP gym. The meetings include wilderness/leadership skills instruction, game time, a squad time for discipleship training and prayer, and concludes with worship. The entire meeting is planned and run by the high school leaders. The message is prepared and delivered by the older boys, coached by elders.

Monthly Trips - Wilderness expeditions into the Appalachians are central to our program. Trips span a range of outdoor activities~caving, rock climbing, canoeing, backpacking, orienteering, and marksmanship. We camp near the cars for about half the trips; the remaining trips are backcountry, carrying our gear in backpacks or canoes. The woods teach older boys to lead and care for others, as they own the welfare of their young guys.

Summer Programs - The summer programs are administered by Hemlock Wilderness Brigade Camp, a ministry partner and CSB affiliate in Wardensville, WV. AEP's own Pastor Jim Ferguson was Hemlock's first camp director, several years ago. (www.camphemlock.org)

Elementary Programs are offered for father-son and parent-daughter, introducing kids to living in semi-rustic settings, and enjoying God in Hemlock's natural setting.

Week-long Camp Programs are available for middle-and high-school guys. The spiritual impact is principally traced to campers watching the older boys run the camp, and testify to their faith.

SALT - **Servant And Leadership Training** is an intensive three-week program to train future camp staff. Most "Saltines" are 14 or 15. We use SALT as the qualifying training program for our local high school leaders. We expect our SALT candidates have proven their competence caring for themselves in the woods on a long backpacking trip, and active followers (roles 1 and 2 in our leadership model). SALT builds on that competence moving them into peer leadership roles (3) and preparing a foundation for future service as designated leaders (4) SALT will be the most intensive team experience of their lives.

High School Staff - Annapolis has provided half the Hemlock Staff in recent years. Guys serve as counselors, kitchen support, skill instructors, camp maintenance, and life guards. This is a huge opportunity for growth, with 15 and 16 year-olds shouldering real responsibility, caring for campers and the camp facility, and actively sharing their faith. Service on Hemlock staff is instrumental to the older guys' effectiveness leading our school-year program after their return, and fosters love for the broader church as they knit with peers from other churches, and denominations.

College Staff - Our program's alumni annually serve as SALT instructors and camp program directors, leading and mentoring the high school staff. Their continued devotion to Hemlock reflects their gratitude for the camp's impact on their lives, and their embrace of 2 Timothy 2:2 as a lifestyle.

Note: Battalion is for guys, but Hemlock does offer programs and ministry opportunities for young ladies as well. Several Annapolis ladies worked both kitchen and program staffs in 2011.

**The soft heart, hard feet metaphor is attributed to Jackie Pullinger, who ministered for 50 years in Hong Kong slums.*