

Sunday, April 1
8:00 AM **Worship** (Chapel)
9:15 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)
11:00 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM **Worship Service with Communion** (Chapel)
Tuesday, April 3
7:00 PM ESL, Battalion
Wednesday, April 4
9:00 AM Body & Soul
7:00 PM Youth Bible Study
Choir Practice, GriefShare, Couples Bible Study
Thursday, April 5
3:30 PM Cherub and Junior Choir Practice
7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service (Sanctuary)
Friday, April 6
7:00 PM Good Friday Service (Sanctuary)

Sunday, April 8 - HE HAS RISEN!
8:00 AM **Worship** (Chapel)
9:15 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)
11:00 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM **Worship Service with Communion** (Chapel)
Tuesday, April 10
7:00 PM ESL, Battalion
Wednesday, April 11
9:00 AM Body & Soul
7:00 PM Youth Bible Study
Choir Practice, GriefShare, Couples Bible Study
Thursday, April 12
3:30 PM Cherub and Junior Choir Practice
Friday, April 13
9:30 AM Daytime MOPS

Sunday, April 15
8:00 AM **Worship** (Chapel)
9:15 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)
11:00 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM **Worship Service with Communion** (Chapel)
Tuesday, April 17
7:00 PM ESL, Battalion
Wednesday, April 18
9:00 AM Body & Soul
7:00 PM Youth Bible Study
Choir Practice, GriefShare, Couples Bible Study
Thursday, April 19
3:30 PM Cherub and Junior Choir Practice

Sunday, April 22
8:00 AM **Worship** (Chapel)
9:15 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)
11:00 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM **Worship Service with Communion** (Chapel)
Tuesday, April 24
7:00 PM ESL, Battalion
Wednesday, April 25
9:00 AM Body & Soul
7:00 PM Youth Bible Study
Choir Practice, GriefShare, Couples Bible Study
Thursday, April 26
3:30 PM Cherub and Junior Choir Practice
Friday, April 27
9:30 AM Daytime MOPS

Saturday, April 7th, 10:00am–2:00pm
EASTER EGGSTRAORDINAIRE
Easter Egg Hunts, and Free Food and Activities
11:00am – Preschool; 11:30am – K-2nd
12:00pm – 3rd-5th
Activities will be held in the field and the playground behind the church building.



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 .



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Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Annapolis
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www.epannapolis.org



A Missional Community

by Bruce O’Neil

Beginning the week after Easter I will start a new sermon series out of the book of Acts. I have provisionally entitled the series, “The Missional Church” because I want us to see Annapolis as a mission field as the early Church saw their world. Before Jesus left His disciples after His resurrection He told them “but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” The book of Acts can be outlined following this fourfold division. The gospel first went to the city of Jerusalem and then to Judea and then to Samaria and lastly, to the known world of the first century as the Apostles became missionaries.

For centuries Americans have seen our country as a Christianized nation, that we are a missionary-sending nation to the unreached peoples of the earth. And for two hundred-plus years we were. But now the United States of America is as much a mission field as Asia Minor was in the first century. In fact, I think we have a

lot in common with the world the first missionaries faced back then. When the first missionaries struck out from Antioch they faced both a political and religious establishment hostile to the gospel. Paul and Barnabas faced a pluralistic world where all religions, except Christianity, were given equal footing and an equal hearing. Today, the United States is also pluralistic where you can believe anything and claim any authority.

In fact, I think it is becoming more difficult to preach the gospel in our country today than it was for the first century missionaries because the United States in many ways is post-Christian. I don’t mean that Christianity and its values have totally gone from our culture, but that many of those values have now been rejected and the culture has attributed those rejected values to Christianity, even becoming hostile to those who still hold them. I think we are seeing that in the current debate on the definition of marriage. Some are arguing that Christians are denying basic human rights to homosex-

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What NOT to Say to a Grieving Friend

by Carolyn Woodie

You have a close friend whose father just passed away after a long illness. Or, your neighbor lost a baby at birth. Or, your co-worker’s husband just died of a heart attack. What can you say or do? Sometimes we avoid grieving people because we feel we don’t know what to say or how to act.

Our tri-state GriefShare leaders group recently put together a brochure entitled “How to Help a Grieving Friend.” Although some of the following statements are very true, and unfortunately I’ve probably said some of them myself, here are some things that our GriefShare participants have told us that should not be said to a grieving friend...

“I understand exactly how you feel.” (You may have experienced a similar loss, but each relationship is unique, therefore, each grief experience is unique. You do not know exactly how they feel.)
“At least _____ isn’t suffering any more.” (If this is true, let them be the one to say this. Right now, they want their loved one back with them.)
“You are young, you can marry again.” or “You can have other children.” (It makes it sound like the person they lost is easily replaceable.)



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uals. They ask, “how can Christians be against basic human rights and insist on intolerant views?” When Christians assert the Bible’s teaching on marriage as being between one man and one woman, some see it as being narrow minded and hateful.

How can we see this trend change? Or are we doomed to watching our nation continue its downward trend to secularism and decay? The first step, I think, is to stop seeing our country as a Christian nation, but as the mission field it has become. What do I mean?

In 2005, according to George Barna, 47% of American adults attended church on a typical weekend. That would mean 140,000,000 Americans attend a church (any church) each week. However, numbers from actual counts of people in orthodox Christian churches (Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant churches) show that 17% of the population attended on any given weekend in 2007. In fact, according to The American Church organization, who keeps track of these statistics, church attendance has been declining in the United States for more than half a century and they estimate church attendance to any Christian church will be less than 11% by 2020. The American Church organization said, between 2000 and 2007, every state but Hawaii, has seen a decline in church attendance.

While the church attendance is declining, the country is still growing in population. What that means is that, even as fewer people are going to church, Christians are representing less and less of the American population. In fact, we are now seeing more churches close their doors than are new churches being started in the United States.



What does this mean for Maryland? Again, according to The American Church organization, 17% of the residents of Maryland attended church (any church in Maryland) on any given Sunday in 2000. In 2007, this organization recorded church attendance in Maryland had declined to 6.8%. In 2007, 14% of the residents of Anne Arundel County were in all the Christian churches in our county on any given Sunday.

Why am I using these statistics? I am making the argument we, those who attend EP, need to see our community as a mission field. We need to pray and strategize and work for the spread of the gospel in our city and surrounding area. We need to plant more churches. We need to meet our neighbors and spend time with our co-workers. We need to see ourselves as missionaries right here in Annapolis.

If you moved to Annapolis back in 1964 and you were an evangelical Christian looking for a church to attend you would have visited Annapolis Evangelical Presbyterian Church because there were not a lot of evangelical church options that taught the Bible as the Word of God. You would have found people in this church back then who saw themselves as missionaries trying to reach this area for Christ. You would have rejoiced to meet another Christian and worked alongside him or her, even if you could not see eye to eye over baptism or church government. The mission was always before their eyes because their number was few.

Brothers and sisters, though there are more evangelical churches and Christians in Anne Arundel County than in 1964, there is a smaller percentage of Christians now. The Church is not keeping up with the growth of people who need to hear the gospel. The challenge before us is daunting, but our God is great and gracious. He wants his name known and worshiped, even here in Anne Arundel County. May God use us and other Christians and churches to spread his renown here as He did in the first century. Amen.

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“This was God’s will.” or “God doesn’t make mistakes.” (Right now that person may be very angry at God for taking their loved one, they aren’t ready to hear that it was God’s will.)
“Let me know if there is anything I can do.” (This is too vague and meaningless.)
“The first year is the hardest. After that you will be fine.” (Each grief journey is unique and for some the 2nd or 3rd years are the hardest.)
“Time will heal.” (Although time can help, time alone does not heal. It is only God who does the healing.)
“It’s time to get on with your life.” (Your friend is adjusting to a whole new life without their loved one. How can you judge how long it should take?)

So, what should you say to a grieving friend? Pick up the brochure “How to Help A Grieving Friend” for information on what to expect, how to listen, what to say, and what you can do. Copies of this brochure are in a holder on the GriefShare bulletin board across from the Church Office or contact Carolyn Woodie, carolyn.woodie@verizon.net or 410-626-8430, and we will be happy to send you a copy.

Our current GriefShare session finishes up in mid-May and we will begin again in mid-October. We are excited to announce that Grace EP Church in Davidsonville will be holding GriefShare and will begin their first session the end of May. For more information on the GriefShare at Grace EP Church, please contact Jeff & Cathy Shields, 410-798-5884. For more information on GriefShare at Annapolis EP, please contact Paul and Carolyn Woodie at 410-626-8430 or carolyn.woodie@verizon.net or Walt and Karen Asplund at 410-923-3285 or asplundmd@yahoo.com.

The Great Clothing Giveaway

by Linda Hannigan

As you spring clean, please remember the Great Clothing Giveaway on April 20 - 21. This event encourages many people in our community to visit our church. We are looking for donations of clothing (all sizes) toys, baby equipment, books, and household items still in good condition. (Unfortunately, we have no place to store donations between now and April 20.) Questions? Please email or call me at mnlhannigan@gmail.com or 410-647-2071.



ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

GIVING THRU MARCH 11, 2012

Operating Fund:	Year To Date
Budgeted Giving	\$ 526,000
Actual Giving	\$ 491,000
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ (35,000)



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

by Ruth Burge



May 6th, Sunday at 6:30PM

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 that believers from every people group 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 encourage yourself and the young people of EP. Questions? riburge@epannapolis.org.