

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Saturday, December 1
7:30 AM Men’s Bible Study
5:30 PM Women’s Christmas Dinner
Sunday, December 2
8:00 AM Worship (Chapel)
9:15 AM Worship (Sanctuary)
11:00 AM Worship (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM Worship (Chapel)
Tuesday, December 4
9:30 AM Women’s Bible Study
6:30 PM ESL
6:45 PM Battalion
Wednesday, December 5
6:00 AM Men’s Bible Study
6:30 PM Women’s Bible Study
7:00 PM Prayer Meeting, Youth and Men’s Bible Study
Thursday, December 6
7:00 AM Men’s Bible Study
8:00 AM Women’s Bible Study
4:00 PM Cherub/ Junior Choir
Friday, December 7
9:00 AM Men’s Bible Study
6:00 PM Crossroads
Sunday, December 9
8:00 AM Worship (Chapel)
9:15 AM Worship (Sanctuary)
11:00 AM Worship (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM Worship (Chapel)
Tuesday, December 11
9:30 AM Women’s Bible Study
6:30 PM ESL
6:45 PM Battalion
Wednesday, December 12
6:00 AM Men’s Bible Study
6:30 PM Women’s Bible Study
7:00 PM Prayer Meeting, Youth and Men’s Bible Study
Thursday, December 13
7:00 AM Men’s Bible Study
8:00 AM Women’s Bible Study
4:00 PM Cherub/ Junior Choir
Friday, December 14
9:00 AM Men’s Bible Study
Saturday, December 15
7:30 AM Men’s Bible Study

Sunday, December 16
8:00 AM Worship (Chapel)
9:15 AM Worship (Sanctuary)
11:00 AM Worship (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM Worship (Chapel)
Tuesday, December 18
6:30 PM ESL
6:45 PM Battalion
Wednesday, December 19
6:00 AM Men’s Bible Study
7:00 PM Prayer Meeting, Youth and Men’s Bible Study
Thursday, December 20
7:00 AM Men’s Bible Study
Friday, December 21
9:00 AM Men’s Bible Study
Saturday, December 22
7:30 AM Men’s Bible Study
Sunday, December 23
8:00 AM Worship (Chapel)
9:15 AM Worship (Sanctuary)
11:00 AM Worship (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM Worship (Chapel)
Monday, December 24
Office Closed
Tuesday, December 25
Office Closed - Christmas
Wednesday, December 26
6:00 AM Men’s Bible Study
7:00 PM Prayer Meeting, Youth and Men’s Bible Study
Thursday, December 27
7:00 AM Men’s Bible Study
Friday, December 28
9:00 AM Men’s Bible Study
Saturday, December 29
7:30 AM Men’s Bible Study
Sunday, December 30
8:00 AM Worship (Chapel)
9:15 AM Worship (Sanctuary)
11:00 AM Worship (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM Worship (Chapel)

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, check the brochure rack in the Narthex .



“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). Matthew 1:23

Non-Profit
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 151
Annapolis, MD

Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Annapolis
710 Ridgely Ave
Annapolis, MD 21401
www.epannapolis.org

Epistle

Monthly Publication of Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Annapolis
December 2012



Living Between Two Advents

by Pastor Bruce O’Neil

“Advent” is Latin for “coming” and is typically associated with Christmas. The Advent Season is the period the Church has set aside for the celebration of the birth of Christ, the first Advent or coming. As John 1:14 tells us, *the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.* Jesus was born and God lived on earth with us, Emmanuel.

From the fall in Genesis 3 until that dark night in a manger, every mother and father prayed and hoped their son would be this Son, full of grace and truth, the Emmanuel. And every mother and father of a daughter hoped and prayed that their daughter would give birth someday to Emmanuel. This longing and its accompanied wait-ing is called “Advent.”

For centuries the Church did not observe the Advent Season for two reasons. First, no one really knows the date of Jesus’ birth. The Church did not settle on December 25th until the 4th century and it was hundreds of years later before Christians celebrated it with the Advent Season. Secondly, as important as the first Advent was to the world, it is not the last “coming” and therefore, it is not the last waiting or longing for God’s people.

In Jesus’ last days on earth and before the cross he tells his disciples, *A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me* (John 16:16 ESV). His disciples are puzzled by this statement and so they asked Jesus, “What do you mean?” Jesus tells them that he is leaving to go to his Father in heaven, but he gives this hope, *you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you* (John 16:22 ESV). Jesus is speaking of his “Second Coming” or the Second Advent.

(Continued on page 2)

Mission News

by Al & Sue Kairys

The Mission House is now being occupied by Drew and Lindsey Wilkins, while they raise their support to serve for Mission to the World (MTW) as part of the Global Youth and Family Ministries. Drew, the son of Jim and Leslie Wilkins, is pursuing his ordination with the Chesapeake Presbytery, and Lindsey has been work-ing as an intern with Jenny Woodruff, the Director of Women’s Ministries at EP Annapolis. Drew and Lind-sey are expecting their first child in March.

As Drew grew up, he had the chance to experience liv-ing in many different places since he was the son of a Navy officer. He studied Psychology at the University of Maryland and earned his Master of Divinity Degree and a Master of Arts and Counseling at Covenant The-ological Seminary. Drew has been involved in youth ministry for over ten years, working in churches in Mar-yland, North Carolina, Colorado, and Missouri. Lind-

sey grew up in St. Louis, Missouri and attended Cove-nant College. While volunteering at Lookout Moun-tain Presbyterian Church, she fell in love with youth ministry. While serving as a summer youth intern at Peace Presbyterian Church in Cary, North Carolina, she met Drew, who was also working at Peace. After her graduation from Covenant, Drew and Lindsey married in 2005. They lived in Colorado Springs for two years, doing youth ministry and then moved to St. Louis to attend Covenant Seminary. Lindsey graduated in 2011 with a Master of Arts in Theological Studies and a Mas-ter of Arts in Counseling.

Drew and Lindsey’s love for working with youth led them to the Global Youth and Family Ministries. This ministry recruits those who will go as youth ministers

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 1)

Just as the early believers waited and longed with expectant hearts for the First Advent of Christ, now Christians wait and long with the same expectant hearts for the Second Advent. James tells the Christians of the 1st century *Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand* (James 5:7-8). Many Christians thought that Jesus would return in their lifetime and therefore, organized their lives around that hope. The truth is, as time passed and Jesus had not yet returned, Christian expectancy waned and they began to live for the here and now. This is always the temptation when we fail to live in light of Christ’s impending return. *They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation"* (2 Peter 3:4). And yet, we who believe are called to live in light of his return, the Second Advent. But how ought we to live?

I hope to answer that question for us in 2014, provided he does not return before the question is completely answered (In that case it will not matter will it?). This Advent Season, in worship we will be looking at the First and Second Advents: what was promised, what did or will happen, and what should our response be? I hope to make the argument that we, as Christians, ought to be hoping, praying and living in light of Christ’s second coming. The First Advent is important and was necessary for our salvation. We are to celebrate it. But we no longer wait for it or look expectantly for it. It happened. Now we are to long for Jesus to return. How are we as Christians and the Church supposed to live in light of his return?

I have chosen two books for us to study next year in worship. First, we will spend 14 weeks looking at the book of Daniel. The Book of Daniel describes the life of God’s people in exile in Babylon. They were no longer home. The country they lived in they lived as alien and strangers. As Christians, our citizenship is in the kingdom of God. They lived in Babylon as aliens and strangers. I want us to see how they lived in a foreign land and to see that the only thing they had of their own was a promise from God. This study will take us to Easter of next year.

The Sunday after Easter I hope to begin a study with you of the Gospel According to Matthew. Matthew is writing to a Jewish audience about the King and his kingdom. The Jews had no kingdom. They were an occupied country by a foreign king. But Matthew tells them about a new kingdom and about the quality of life in that kingdom. The book of Daniel and the Gospel of Matthew both tell us about living between the two Advents. It is a life with a different set of values and longings that transform the way we live as individuals, families, and as a church.

I hope these studies will be very practical for us, but I also pray that as a result, our hearts will long for Jesus to return and that we will begin to live life with that expectation. I want you to know that I am praying for you and I ask you to pray for me and for your brothers and sisters at EP. You and I live between the Advents of Christ, but not without hope or promise.

Flower Orders

by Pam Jackson

Help fill our Sanctuary and Chapel with the Beauty of Christmas.
Orders are due by December 9.

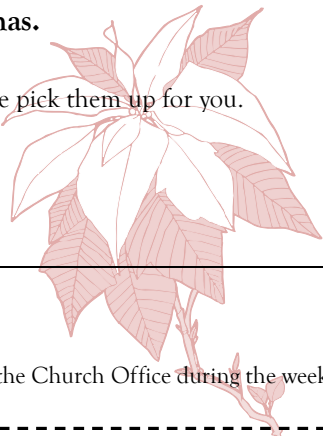
Please do not pick up till after Christmas Eve service, if you will not be here, please have someone pick them up for you.

- ☐ WHITE or ☐ RED -7 inch (18-20" tall, 8-10 blooms) \$11.25
- ☐ WHITE or ☐ RED -10 inch(24-28" tall, 16-20 blooms) \$23.00

Name: _____ Given in Memory of: _____
Given in Honor of: _____

Make check payable to EP Church. The order form may be placed on Sunday in the Offering Plate or dropped off at the Church Office during the week.

Tear Off



PrEParing for Marriage

by Janet Collins

This is what couples had to say about their experience in the Preparing for Marriage course: "Wonderful experience!" "Our mentor couple was a valuable source of advice, experience and knowledge." "Prepare improved our communication and prompted us to talk about things that needed to be discussed." **"I will highly recommend this class to all prospective marriages I come across."**

The spring semester of Preparing for Marriage is scheduled for Sunday, February 3, 2013. For further information or to register, call the Church Office or visit the website at www.epannapolis.org.

Delivering God’s Love

by Dee Chalfant

By the time you read this, the angel tree should be set up in the Fellowship Hall. You may have already chosen an Angel and have already shopped or begun to shop. If not, I hope that you will consider taking an angel. We were given 60 angels from Annapolis or nearby. Please pray for this ministry. If you feel led to choose an angel, come to the Fellowship Hall and visit our table. You will be given a packet with everything you ever wanted to know about the ministry and all of the steps to take in order to have a successful mission. Each child has a \$40 limit and in some cases may only want gift cards, so the task is not difficult. If you are unable to choose an angel at this time, please pray for this ministry and all of the families involved.

(Continued from page 1)



around the world, trains missionaries, national leaders, and local church leaders, sends individuals and teams to serve the global church, and helps to sustain leaders. Specifically, Drew and Lindsey want to focus on the children of missionaries. Missionary kids are important because they already have roots in strategic points around the world. Crossing cultures and living between two worlds is a normal experience for them. Supporting them supports the work their parents are already doing. They are planning to relocate to Chattanooga, Tennessee, where they will be near Covenant College. This is an important location because many of the missionary kids within the PCA (approximately 50) return to the United States to attend Covenant College. This will enable Drew and Lindsey to build relationships with these students so they can provide support for students who are adjusting to life in the United States, while their families are abroad. This location will allow the Wilkins to make trips internationally to build relationships with students and their families and to be involved in training events. They also look forward to working locally with youth in the Chattanooga area. One parent serving in East Asia states, “Part of the price of working overseas in missions is sacrificing time with our young adult children. Supporting the ministry of Drew and Lindsey as they desire to care for the children of missionaries is a hugely valuable and vital way to support your missionaries.” Drew and Lindsey consider EP Annapolis to be their home church. Their vision is to see a worldwide movement of young people who KNOW God’s love, GROW in relationship with Christ and His people, and GO as agents of His grace in Kingdom living. They feel that “whatever God has called you to do, do it for God’s glory”. If you would like to learn more about their ministry, you may contact them at thewilkins@gyfm.org.

Prayer Requests for them: For Drew and Lindsey to reach 100% support by next summer; budding relationships with churches in Annapolis; for the area retreat for Europe that they will attend in April; for them to build relationships with the students, who are there, for the gospel to spread globally to rising generations; and for a healthy baby and an easy delivery for Lindsey.