

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Monday, October 1 7:30 AM Men’s Bible Study	6:45 PM Battalion	9:00 AM Body & Soul	Thursday, October 25 7:00 AM Men’s Bible Study
Tuesday, October 2 6:30 PM ESL	Wednesday, October 10 6:00 AM Men’s Bible Study	7:00 PM Prayer Meeting Men’s Bible Study	8:00 AM Women’s Bible Study
6:45 PM Battalion	9:00 AM Body & Soul	Thursday, October 18 7:00 AM Men’s Bible Study	Friday, October 26 9:00 AM Men’s Bible Study
Wednesday, October 3 6:00 AM Men’s Bible Study	7:00 PM Prayer Meeting Men’s Bible Study	8:00 AM Women’s Bible Study	Saturday, October 27 7:30 AM Men’s Bible Study
9:00 AM Body & Soul	Thursday, October 11 7:00 AM Men’s Bible Study	Friday, September 19 9:00 AM Men’s Bible Study	Sunday, October 28 8:00 AM Worship (<i>Chapel</i>)
7:00 PM Prayer Meeting Men’s Bible Study	8:00 AM Women’s Bible Study	Saturday, September 20 7:30 AM Men’s Bible Study	9:15 AM Worship (<i>Sanctuary</i>)
Thursday, October 4 7:00 AM Men’s Bible Study	Friday, October 12 9:00 AM Men’s Bible Study	Sunday, September 21 8:00 AM Worship (<i>Chapel</i>)	11:00 AM Worship (<i>Sanctuary</i>)
8:00 AM Women’s Bible Study	Saturday, October 13 7:30 AM Men’s Bible Study	9:15 AM Worship (<i>Sanctuary</i>)	5:00 PM Worship Service with Communion (<i>Chapel</i>)
Friday, October 5 9:00 AM Men’s Bible Study	Sunday, October 14 8:00 AM Worship (<i>Chapel</i>)	11:00 AM Worship (<i>Sanctuary</i>)	Monday, October 29 7:30 AM Men’s Bible Study
Saturday, October 6 7:30 AM Men’s Bible Study	9:15 AM Worship (<i>Sanctuary</i>)	5:00 PM Worship Service with Communion (<i>Chapel</i>)	Tuesday, October 30 6:30 PM ESL
Sunday, October 7 8:00 AM Worship (<i>Chapel</i>)	11:00 AM Worship (<i>Sanctuary</i>)	Monday, October 22 7:30 AM Men’s Bible Study	6:45 PM Battalion
9:15 AM Worship (<i>Sanctuary</i>)	5:00 PM Worship Service with Communion (<i>Chapel</i>)	Tuesday, October 23 6:30 PM ESL	Wednesday, October 31 6:00 AM Men’s Bible Study
11:00 AM Worship (<i>Sanctuary</i>)	Monday, October 15 7:30 AM Men’s Bible Study	6:45 PM Battalion	9:00 AM Body & Soul
5:00 PM Worship Service with Communion (<i>Chapel</i>)	Tuesday, October 16 6:30 PM ESL	Wednesday, October 24 6:00 AM Men’s Bible Study	7:00 PM Prayer Meeting Men’s Bible Study
Monday, October 8	6:45 PM Battalion	9:00 AM Body & Soul	
Tuesday, October 9 6:30 PM ESL	Wednesday, October 17 6:00 AM Men’s Bible Study	7:00 PM Prayer Meeting Men’s 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 .



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The Centrality of the Gospel

by Pastor Bruce O’Neil

A couple of weeks ago I began a Men’s Leadership Study. The curriculum was originally developed to train our officer candidates, but we realized that it might be helpful training for others, too. We began by looking at the gospel. The gospel is the central doctrine, or truth, that influences everything we do at EP; and therefore, it would be good to have a common understanding by what is meant by the gospel.

In defining the gospel we need to look at three seminal passages by the Apostle Paul. First, Romans 3:23-26 summarizes our need for the gospel by declaring: *all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God*. But as bad as this news is, the good news is that we are justified, made acceptable to God by grace through the redemption found only in Christ as our “propitiation” or payment for sin. He paid for sin by his own death and God, the Father, accepted this payment for us. This is what Paul means by Jesus being both the just and the justifier of those who have faith in Jesus.

The second passage written by Paul is found in Romans 5:6-10. Here Paul further defines the gospel as the news of our reconciliation with God through the death of his Son, Jesus. But here he goes further and says, *now we were reconciled to God by His death, shall we be saved by His life?* In order to be accepted by God, mere payment for sin only earns our forgiveness but does nothing about our record, we are still sinners. We need a new record earned by someone else’s righteousness.

Third, Paul goes on and explains in II Corinthians 5:21 that this righteousness comes to us through “imputation”. Imputation is a business term where monies are credited to an account. Paul is telling us that the gospel is the good news that our sins have been credited to Jesus’ account as if he had done them, *he who knew no sin became sin*; and his righteousness was credited to our account, *that we might become the righteousness of God*. We

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Good News in the Fall

by Tom Beall

Ah, the fall season is upon us. A time of going to kids soccer games, cheering for our favorite football team, and cleaning up the yard for winter. The fall brings great opportunities to tell our neighbors of the Good News of the Gospel. We spend a couple of hours on the sidelines of games, go to boat shows, touch base with neighbors across the fence, but so often I don’t know how to bring up the subject or what to say to them – maybe I need more training in evangelism. Jesus tells us in Mark 5:19 to simply “Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” We don’t need to know a systematic step by step presentation of how to become a Christian, though we should be learning and

equipping ourselves to give a proper defense for our faith. We don’t need to know the other person’s needs or their sin to speak to them. God knows exactly what they need to hear and will give us the right words. We don’t need a degree in theology or to complete a course in evangelism to be able to be a witness for Christ. We just need to tell them our story of how much the Lord has done for us up to this point in our lives, and how he has had mercy on us and brought us to where we are today. This is the Good News – God redeems and saves His people and has mercy on us. As you interact with your neighbors, coworkers, and friends ask God to give you the opportunity to “tell them what the Lord has done for me”.

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are accepted by God because our record has been expunged and replaced with the righteous obedience of another.

Who then needs to hear this gospel? The Bible says everyone, Christians and non-Christians alike. The gospel is not only the message we believe in order to be saved, but it is also the message we believe to grow as Christians. Paul tells the Roman Christians that he cannot wait until he sees them so that he can preach the gospel to them (Romans 1:15). A problem occurs in Antioch, where Peter has begun to enjoy his freedom in Christ only to deny such freedoms to himself and others when fellow Jewish Christians from Jerusalem show up. Paul tells Peter that he is not living in line (or step) with the gospel (Galatians 2:11-14). The Bible teaches that the gospel is not just how we become Christians, but it is also how we grow as Christians. The Christian life is a process of renewing every dimension of our life by thinking, praying, hoping and living out the “lines” of ramifications and implications of the gospel.

The gospel is not merely a message, but it is our motivation for our obedience to God. Paul declares in Galatians 2:20 that, *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.* Our motivation to obey God is not a fear that he might get us if we don’t, but a love for the One who loves me and gave his life for me. The work of Christ not only saves us, it becomes the motivation for living for him.

The gospel is also the power at work in those who believe it. Colossians 1:5-6 tells us, *because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing-as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth.* We are not left to obey God solely on our own discipline or determination. The gospel has taken root in our hearts and is empowering us to not just give us the will to obey, but also the ability to obey (Philippians 2:12-13).

The gospel has implications for the way we are to live. The gospel is not an end to itself. The gospel leads us back to a life honoring the One who loves us and gave up his life for us. The Bible is full of imperatives as to how Christians ought to live. But these imperatives are never far from the indicatives of what God has done for us so that the power is not separated from what we are commanded to do.

The gospel provides us a motivation and a power to live the lines of its implications (the law). The order is crucial for the believer. If we talk about the implications without first providing the right motivation, we will err on legalism and base our obedience on fear. Or if we talk about the power of the gospel without talking about the implications of the gospel, we will err toward antinomianism that teaches “let go and let God.”

It was Tertullian, centuries ago, that taught that the gospel was crucified between two thieves. One a moralist, or legalist, that seeks to rob the gospel of its motivation because he thinks that he obeys in order to be accepted by God. The second thief is the relativist, or antinomian, who seeks to rob the gospel of its implications because he thinks because he is already accepted by God, he does not need to obey him.

Our ministry is to preach and teach the gospel to both Christians and non-Christians alike. We want to work out the lines or implications as a community of grace. Therefore, it is essential for us to remember what Jesus has done for us and that he continues to work in us as we seek to obey him together.



ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

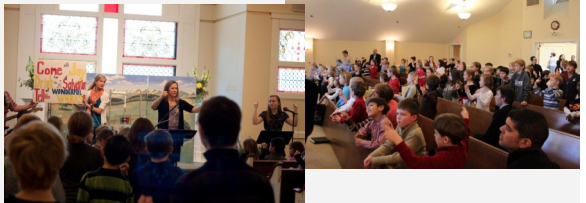
GIVING THRU AUGUST 19, 2012

Operating Fund:	Year To Date
Budgeted Giving	\$ 1,785,000
Actual Giving	\$ 1,760,000
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ (25,000)

From the Wells of Salvation

by Linda Cate

On September 9th The Well opened its doors for a new school year, and we ushered in 135 children in grades K-5! We had a wonderful time of praise and worship led by Mrs. Sandy and The Well Band. Each Sunday we will meet at The Well to sing, pray, hear testimonies and special lessons from guests like Mrs. Jan and Pokey. It’s a great place to have our visiting missionaries give us a report of what God is doing in their work. There are rumors that we may have a visit from that Thirsty Guy looking for the living water, too! You are invited to join us any Sunday morning at 11:00 as we “Come with joy, drink of the living water and tell others of His wonderful works!”



Harvest Sunday LightHouse Shelter Pantry Wish List

by Laurie Nelson

“The Light House has the capacity to house 45 individuals and five families, providing food and shelter and perhaps more importantly, life-changing programs that help clients reclaim hope and independence in their lives. We manage transitional housing for families and permanent supportive housing for women. The Light House also supports the City's commitment that no one freeze on the streets during severe weather with our Annapolis Winter Shelter program. We are a case management-centered model with needs assessment, client service plans, on-site programs and professional referral processes in place. Our belief is that with the love and compassion of staff and volunteers we can make a huge difference in the lives of so many.”

For more information, visit their website annapolislighthouse.org. Bring your non-perishable food items to the Fellowship Hall on Sundays or the Church Office during the week of October 7. Their wish list is on our website, epannapolis.org.

Sharing God’s Love

by Dee Chalfant

As I write this, the weather outside has finally cooled down to temperatures where we can take midday walks. Fall is around the corner, and with fall comes thoughts of the holidays. I am already gearing up for Christmas! I have received posters for Angel Tree Christmas from Prison Fellowship Ministry, and I am anxiously awaiting the list of 60 “angels” our church will minister to this Christmas.

For those who may not already know, the Angel Tree Project is a ministry where families in our church purchase gifts for local children who have a mother or father in prison. EP Church families choose an “angel” and purchase gifts in the name of Mom or Dad. Forty dollars will buy both a toy and clothing. You have the joy of shopping for the gifts and hopefully the chance to deliver them! What a glorious experience! What a wonderful way to share God’s love! Won’t you consider participating in this wonderful project again this year? Please begin saving now to help an “angel”. Even if you are unable to buy gifts, I would really appreciate your prayers. Remember, the place to begin evangelism is always with prayer, and Angel Tree Ministry is evangelism.

“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.”
Colossians 4:5