



## Who Can You Trust

by Pastor Bruce O'Neil

*For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you,  
Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes.*

*For all the promises of God find their Yes in him.*

2 Corinthians 1:19-20 ESV

On December 29<sup>th</sup>, my daughter will be married to her fiancé. I have the joy to both walk her down the aisle and then turn around and officiate the wedding service. I love my daughter and am growing in my love for my future son-in-law. There will be a point in the wedding where they will exchange vows with one another before God and witnesses to their faithfulness and love. This will be the greatest moment of the wedding service, as it is in every wedding, because I will then be able to pronounce them husband and wife.

But on that day I will tell this blissful couple that they cannot put their ultimate trust in their spouse, even though he or she makes a promise. Every husband and every wife fails to keep their promise. No bride or groom sets out to fail, but we all do. We all fail because we are all sinners. People fail and those people who are closest to us hurt us most when they fail. And if we have put our ultimate trust in a person we will be disappointed and crushed when they fail. No one on earth can bear the weight of your absolute and ultimate trust. They were not

*(Continued on page 2)*

## GriefShare...At Least

by Carolyn Woodie

At least ... you still have your mother, ... he isn't suffering anymore, ... she was a believer and she is with the Lord, ... you are young and can have other children, ... you were able to spend his last days with him. At least ... at least ... at least... How often have we said something like this to someone who has lost a loved one. We want so much to lift the person from despair so we try to find something positive to say. We have no idea that what we might be saying is often adding to their sadness.

At least ... you still have your mother. *But I miss my father and now I carry my grief and the grief of my mother, too.*

At least ... he isn't suffering anymore. *I'm glad he is not suffering, but I want him back with me. I don't want to be alone.*

At least ... she was a believer and she is with the Lord. *I must be a poor Christian, because that doesn't matter to me now. I just want her back with me.*

At least ... you are young and can have other children. *I can't even imagine having another child now. How insensitive to think that another child could ever replace the one I lost.*

At least ... you were able to spend his last days with him. *I didn't want his last days. I wanted more days with him.*

Our greatest desire is to see our grieving friend happy again. Often we try to fix them. We want them to get over it quickly and return back to "normal." Instead, the best thing we can do is to walk alongside of them and allow them to grieve. Zig Ziglar has said "Grief is the price we pay for loving someone." If you don't know what to say to a grieving friend, just tell them you are sorry for their loss and you will be there for them during their grief. This gives them permission to do the hard work of working through their grief with a caring friend at their side.

Copies of the brochure "How to Help a Grieving Friend" are in a holder on the GriefShare bulletin board across from the Church Office. Our next 13-week session of GriefShare, a Biblically-based grief support group, will begin on Wednesday, October 17. Contact Paul and Carolyn Woodie at carolyn.woodie@verizon.net or 410-626-8430 to reserve a spot.

made to carry that kind of weight.

In just three months you and I will go to the polls and vote for our leaders. Each candidate will be asking for your trust. He or she will make you promises. And if past performance is prescriptive of the future, they will all fail to keep their promises, no matter what party affiliation.

We all make promises. We all break some of those promises. All husbands, wives, teachers, politicians and yes, pastors fail. No one is exempt from this list of promise breakers. Does this mean we should not trust anyone? Certainly that is an option . . . it is just not a good one. In fact, it won't work. We cannot live in this world trusting no one. We just can't put ultimate trust in a mere human being. We cannot act as though they cannot fail. Living this way will leave us devastated and ultimately no basis upon which to forgive when they do fail us.

These two verses are from the Apostle Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. The context for these verses is Paul's failure to visit this church on his way back from Macedonia. In verse 16, Paul promises the Corinthian believers that he would visit their church on his way to Macedonia and on his way back from Macedonia. Paul did visit them on the way but did not on his way back. Paul explains that even though his yes was a yes, he did intend on returning to Corinth to give them a second experience of grace.

Paul tells them, and us, that our absolute and ultimate trust, though, cannot be placed in another mere human being. It can be placed in Jesus Christ. Paul asserts, *For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you ... was not Yes and No, but in Him it is always Yes. For all the promises of God find their Yes in Him.* Mere humans will always be a mixture of promises kept and promises broken on this side of heaven, but God has never broken a promise He has made.

Paul asserts that God is worthy of your absolute and ultimate trust. If He has promised, He will keep it. Paul also asserts that in Jesus Christ all God's promises are kept. God promised to save through Jesus, and on the cross, it was accomplished. The greatest assurance of your salvation is the resurrection of Jesus from the dead because His resurrection proved that your salvation was accomplished through the atonement (the payment) of His death; and once paid, death could not hold Him.

No matter what else goes on in your life, the joys and the losses, you can trust God to keep all that He has promised you because He kept that promise to you. And, if you put your ultimate trust in God, then you can place your trust in others because you know even when they fail you, He will not fail you. Even if your marriage ends and the promises of your spouse lay broken, God is faithful and all is not lost.

When we hear brides and grooms exchange vows without this ultimate trust in God it is like watching a NASCAR race waiting for a pile-up on the track. I am not saying that all non-Christians get divorced or that all Christian couples stay married. Statistics prove this statement false on both premises. But when a husband or a wife place their ultimate trust in their spouse, they will be hurt, sometimes profoundly so, when (notice I did not say "if") they fail them, Christians and non-Christians alike.

God calls us to place our ultimate trust in Him and that all His promises find their fulfillment in Jesus Christ, His Son. And if we will do that, then we place qualified trust in spouses, politicians, friends and pastors. I say qualified because it is not an absolute trust. It is a trust with the knowledge that even if they intend on never failing us, they will. It is a trust with a knowledge that though they will fail, God will not fail us and even their failure, God will use for His glory. And it is that trust, once broken, that can be forgiven because our failure to keep our promises to God have been forgiven by the Promise Keeper Himself.

## ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

GIVING THRU AUGUST 19, 2012

Operating Fund:	Year To Date
Budgeted Giving	\$ 1,596,000
Actual Giving	\$ 1,580,000
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ (16,000)



## *Help Divorce-proof Your Marriage*

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by Janet Collins

The national divorce rate is over 50%, and the divorce rate for couples participating in a marriage preparation course is less than 10%. Help divorce-proof your marriage and consider enrolling in this Fall's Preparing for Marriage class. This is a 13 week class recommended for seriously dating or engaged couples or for those married less than one year. Topics range from God's design for marriage, to finance, to communication. The dates for the Fall PFM class begins on September 9 and runs through December 2, excluding Thanksgiving weekend. For additional information visit our website [www.epannapolis.org](http://www.epannapolis.org) or call the Church Office.



## *Ballroom Dancing*

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by Tom Beall

LoriAnn Stagnaro will be teaching the basics of Ballroom Dancing. She has taught these classes for a number of years and offers a great format for learning how to dance and also winsomely present the Gospel. Come join us this Fall to learn the dance steps yourself, and invite your friends and neighbors to join you. This is a non-threatening way to bring others who do not know the Lord, build your relationship with them, and to have the Gospel presented. Our Fall classes will begin on Saturday, September 22, from 7:00-8:15PM and go for 7 weeks. The cost will be \$50 per person, or \$60 per couple/family. To register, contact LoriAnn Stagnaro at [VLstagnaro@comcast.net](mailto:VLstagnaro@comcast.net), 410-757-8331, or contact Tom Beall at [tbeall@epannapolis.org](mailto:tbeall@epannapolis.org), 410-266-8091 x 117.



## *Christmas in September?*

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by Dee Chalfant

It is unbelievable that I am already thinking about Christmas and Angel Tree. It seems like yesterday that I was setting up the tree and putting out "angel tags" for the Angel Tree project last December. For those of you who are not aware of the project, Angel Tree is a unique ministry which gives our church an opportunity to share Christ's love at Christmas locally by helping to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of families who have a loved one in prison. Each child receives \$40 in gifts, you can buy for an angel on your own, or with a friend or family member. I know that those of you who have participated in the past had the opportunity to experience first hand the blessing of this ministry. You may have even had the opportunity to read the book "Six Million Angels" located in our Church Library. I highly recommend it as it tells the stories of some of the volunteers and angels through 20 years of Angel Tree Ministry. Please be willing to take an Angel tag and jump into the Christmas crowds to shop for a little child who may find these are their only Christmas gifts from Mom or Dad who can't be there with them at this special time of year. Thanks for considering this project.

## *Parables: Stories that Teach*

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by Greg Doty

Why did Jesus speak in parables? Are they just illustrations or do they point to something deeper? What do the parables teach us about the kingdom or living in light of the Gospel? Beginning September 9th, at the 5:00PM service, Pastor Greg will be leading a study on the parables of Jesus to answer these and other questions that we often have about these stories. Please join us as we seek to grow in our knowledge and love for the Lord!

**Sunday, September 2**  
8:00 AM **Worship** (Chapel)  
9:15 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)  
11:00 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)  
4:30 PM **Homecoming Service**  
**Monday, September 3**  
LABOR DAY  
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  
**Tuesday, September 4**  
6:45 PM Battalion  
**Wednesday, September 5**  
6:00 AM Men's Bible Study  
9:00 AM Body & Soul  
7:00 PM Prayer Meeting  
Men's Bible Study  
**Thursday, September 6**  
7:00 AM Men's Bible Study  
**Friday, September 7**  
9:00 AM Men's Bible Study  
**Saturday, September 8**  
7:30 AM Men's Bible Study  
**Sunday, September 9**  
8:00 AM **Worship with Communion** (Chapel)  
9:15 AM **Worship with Communion** (Sanctuary)

11:00 AM **Worship with Communion** (Sanctuary)  
5:00 PM **Worship Service with Communion** (Chapel)  
**Monday, September 10**  
7:30 PM Men's Bible Study  
**Tuesday, September 11**  
6:45 PM Battalion  
**Wednesday, September 12**  
6:00 AM Men's Bible Study  
9:00 AM Body & Soul  
7:00 PM Prayer Meeting  
Men's Bible Study  
**Thursday, September 13**  
7:00 AM Men's Bible Study  
9:00 AM Women's Bible Study  
4:00 PM Junior Choir  
**Friday, September 14**  
9:00 AM Men's Bible Study  
**Saturday, September 15**  
7:30 AM Men's Bible Study  
**Sunday, September 16**  
8:00 AM **Worship** (Chapel)  
9:15 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)  
11:00 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)  
5:00 PM **Worship Service**

**with Communion** (Chapel)  
**Monday, September 17**  
7:30 PM Men's Bible Study  
**Tuesday, September 18**  
6:45 PM Battalion  
**Wednesday, September 19**  
6:00 AM Men's Bible Study  
9:00 AM Body & Soul  
7:00 PM Prayer Meeting  
Men's Bible Study  
**Thursday, September 20**  
7:00 AM Men's Bible Study  
9:00 AM Women's Bible Study  
3:30 PM Cherub Choir  
4:00 PM Junior Choir  
**Friday, September 21**  
9:00 AM Men's Bible Study  
**Saturday, September 22**  
7:30 AM Men's Bible Study  
**Sunday, September 23**  
8:00 AM **Worship** (Chapel)  
9:15 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)  
11:00 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)  
5:00 PM **Worship Service with Communion** (Chapel)

**Monday, September 24**  
7:30 PM Men's Bible Study  
**Tuesday, September 25**  
6:45 PM Battalion  
**Wednesday, September 26**  
6:00 AM Men's Bible Study  
9:00 AM Body & Soul  
7:00 PM Prayer Meeting  
Men's Bible Study  
**Thursday, September 27**  
7:00 AM Men's Bible Study  
9:00 AM Women's Bible Study  
3:30 PM Cherub Choir  
4:00 PM Junior Choir  
**Friday, September 28**  
9:00 AM Men's Bible Study  
**Saturday, September 29**  
7:30 AM Men's Bible Study  
**Sunday, September 30**  
8:00 AM **Worship** (Chapel)  
9:15 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)  
11:00 AM **Worship** (Sanctuary)  
5:00 PM **Worship Service with Communion** (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, call the Church Office or check the brochure rack in the Narthex .

Cherub Choir will begin Sept., 20th, at 3:30-4:15, for ages 3-7 years old. Contact Lynne Sarich.  
Junior Choir will begin September 13, at 4:00-5:00, for grades 3-7. Contact Jo Ann Mattson.

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