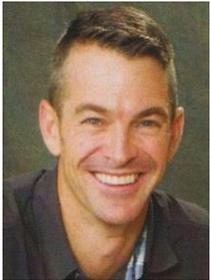




September 2019

*“We exalt God above all by evangelizing, equipping
and embracing all nations.”*



“You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.”

Psalm 16:11

Does joy define your life? And before you answer, let me provide the definition that I am using as I pose the question. Following Pastor/Theologian John Piper, I consider joy to be “a good feeling in the soul, produced by the Holy Spirit, as He causes us to see the beauty of Christ in the world.”¹ Far from being a self-induced emotion dependent upon circumstance joy, as we’re defining it, is a Spirit-inspired sentiment resulting from the reality of Christ’s presence in creation. So, let me ask the question again, does joy define your life?

For many in our world, a good feeling is itself a subjective reality because what is good? Right? Is good, in this instance, simply not feeling bad? Or is it an emotion marked by specific expressions such as a smile, laughter, and a gleam in your eye? If so, I would imagine, few could answer our question in the affirmative because life doesn’t lend itself to such sentiment. Oh, we may smile on occasion and laugh now and then, but it would be a stretch to say such expressions define our lives. There are far too many days where frowns feature on our faces and

¹John Piper, “How Do You Define Joy,” *Desiring God* (July 25, 2015, <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-eo-you-define-joy>).

grumbling governs our audible responses. What is a good feeling in the soul and where do we find it?

King David provides us with an answer to these questions in Psalm 16 as he acknowledged God to be his source of safety (vs. 1) and greatest good (vs. 2). While fellowship with God’s people was the king’s delight (vs. 3). Faced with life’s struggles, David recognized God’s sovereignty as he wrote, “you have assigned me my portion and my cup” (vs. 5). Therefore, regardless of circumstance, David rested in the knowledge that “the boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful [or beautiful] inheritance” (vs. 6).

The king’s life, in all its complexity, confusion, and uncertainty was not lived in the dark but rather in the light of God’s presence. Here, David could distinguish beginning from end, cause from effect, purpose from chance, thus, no matter the events of a day, he could see the beauty of his God as He made life’s path and purpose. This is what a good feeling in the soul looks like and it results, as David expressed, from God’s “fill[ing] me with joy in [His] presence” (vs.11).

Does joy define your life? It cannot unless you know the God who gives it. And if you do know Him but find your life deficient of joy, run to His presence and ask Him to fill you up!

Rejoice!

Pastor Andrew



Coffee is available in the Fellowship Hall before Sunday School every Sunday. Please join us!

GREETERS SCHEDULE

Jill Braungart (east)
Heather van Brackel (west)
Rory van Brackel (south)

NOTE: Feel free to change doors assigned.

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

There will be no meetings or activities at the church on Wednesday, September 4.

Dinner will be served at 5:30 beginning September 11. Be sure to sign up for the dinner and to take a turn in providing a dessert. The Discipleship class, Youth, RAs, GAs and Mission Friends will begin at 6:15.

Menus for the month are listed below:

Sept. 11 – Pork tenderloin, roasted potatoes
18 -- Chicken Alfredo, broccoli
25 – Baked ziti, salad



All men are invited to a breakfast on Saturday, September 21, at 8:00, followed by a discussion of the Discipline of Work.



The deadline for submitting items of interest for the **October newsletter** is September 19. Please observe this deadline.



The Fall discipleship program is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, September 11, with a new course on an important and relevant topic for all believers. The 11-week course, “Why We Believe the Bible,” features video messages by John Piper, a highly regarded pastor, scholar, writer, and teacher. Starting time is 6:15 p.m. each week.

The material is designed to help participants explore the truth that the Bible stands above all others as the book of books, pointing infallibly to the King of kings. Biblical texts, discussion, and questions will help students see why the Bible alone is worthy of our confidence.

John Piper is Chancellor of Bethlehem College and Seminary in Minnesota. Other Piper courses offered here in the past were “What Jesus Demands from the World” and “Jesus and the Journey into Joy.”

IMMANUEL ON MISSION

We are so thankful for the opportunities to reach our community with the Gospel this last month with prayer and training for ESL classes and food and games for East Salisbury Elementary’s Back to School event. This year we were asked to serve the whole school with all students and families invited to orientation at one time. We met many of our neighbors and encouraged the teachers and staff as their faith partner. God is doing much!

WMU

Ladies Event – Save the date of Saturday, **September 14**, from 11:00 to 2:00. All ladies are invited to a luncheon at the church with a dynamic speaker from the Congo, Laurel Morgan. It will be hosted by the WMU. Invite a friend. If you can help set up on Friday at 10:00, see Jill or Wanda F.

MD/DE State Missions Offering – Every year in September our convention unites to pray for and financially support ministries that reach people in unique ways. One hundred percent of funds collected support local evangelism projects such as collegiate outreach, disaster relief, church planting, and disabled outreach, to name a few.

Watch for further information on how we too can join in prayer for ministries and find out through our prayer guide how our contributions are supporting God's work in our bi-state ministries. The theme this year is "The Nations for Christ's Glory." Our goal set by the WMU of Immanuel for the 2019 offering is \$2,600.

GAs

The Girls in Action group will meet Wednesday evenings beginning September 11 from 6:15 - 7:15 pm. We invite girls in grades 1 – 6 to join our all-star team for Bible studies, games and crafts.

Our group will learn about all-star Bible heroes and missionaries serving throughout the world with an unshakable faith. Our Bible verse for the year will be from Paul as he speaks in I Corinthians 15:58 (CEV): "My dear friends, stand firm and don't be shaken. Always keep busy working for the Lord. You know that everything you do for Him is worthwhile."

Join us as we pursue God – the real ALL-STAR.

Mali People Group

The Mali people are our church adopted people. Please pray for them to come to salvation through Jesus Christ!! Be sure to read James and Sarah's report to hear how this is happening.

Our Mission Partners

Paul and Laurel Morgan

Praise God for a good trip from Isiro to Bunia to Entebbe. God carried us along every step of the way. We got to look at a potential house on our way to the airport in Isiro, but we haven't had time to talk or even think about it. Just keep praying for God's guidance in this area.

In the last week we were so encouraged by several details that fell into place for October. First, Paul had submitted a paper to present at the Bible Translation Conference. At first, he was put on a backup list; then last week he was told that he could present. We're looking forward to this opportunity to share from our part of the world. Second, we had been discouraged that we were waitlisted for an event for furloughing missionaries at the Wycliffe headquarters. Then, just last week we were told that a spot had opened up for us. Third, we also found

out that the daughter of Canadian friends would be getting married in Florida and we will be able to attend.

We are so thankful and looking forward to all these things and praise God for paving the way.

James and Sarah Morgan

We got to witness the first known believer among the Mali people of NPL come to faith and be "dunked!" We just had a friend from a fellowship in AL come out and help us with trainings for about a week. The Mali man came to one of these trainings. After hearing the Good News, he repented and believed! He said he wanted to follow in baptism but wanted to share with his wife first. That same day, he came back to take baptism, unfortunately without his wife. Before being dunked, he pulled off all his charms from his neck and arms, putting his trust all in the one true God!

- Heavy monsoon rains have brought sickness, death, flooding and destruction. Pray for the people and relief efforts.
- Pray for our team, working together to see local ownership of the core M task.
- Pray for Dhanuk and Mali people groups, that we might be able to engage them with the Good News.

Free English Salisbury

Our all church prayer meeting was well attended on August 8. Thank you, Immanuel, for faithfully praying for this important ministry. There is a continued need to pray for this ministry throughout the year and especially when classes resume on September 12. If you would like to receive specific prayer needs and would be willing to pray, please let Paula know. She will make sure you are given updates on ways you can be praying.

Also, make sure to pick up a 'Free English Salisbury' card or bookmark in the back of the sanctuary to have in your wallet, pocket, or purse. They are small and easy to have on hand as you never know when you may run into someone who may need the assistance of this ministry.

Our Members on Mission

Mike Schofield began collecting Bibles in good condition for **Mission Cry**. He has shipped 108

Bibles for distribution where people are waiting for God's Word. Thank you to the many contributing gently used Bibles this summer.

Emely and the Cru team will be welcoming students to SU for the fall semester.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Medical Needs

- Bounds, Amy
- Baker, Penny (Walt's sister)
- Bratten, Bill
- Dohr, Maureen
- Jordan, Kevin – (Judy's b.-in-law)
- Jordan, Maryanne – (Judy's sister)
- Simpson, Joyce
- Stimson, Marlyn

Long-Term Needs

- Cheek, Virginia – Genesis
- Muenster, Cindy
- Powell, Missy
- Straub, Marge – Wicomico N. H.

(Please let the office know when someone should be added or removed from these lists.)



We extend our sincere sympathy to the family of Irving Schneider who died on August 14 after a lengthy illness. Our prayers are with the family.

Also, we extend our deepest sympathy to Mary and Mike Cox in the death of her brother, Tim Hughes, who passed away on August 26.

MEN'S RETREAT

There will be a Men's Ministry Retreat on October 4-5 at the Henson Scout Reservation near Sharptown. All men and sons or grandsons (8 yrs. and up) are invited. Information sheets are in the back of the church or you can talk with Mike Law.

Change of Address

Jake Baranowski
Oklahoma State University
South Commons, Rm. 529
Stillwater, OK 74077

EAST SALISBURY EVENT



Some of the 35 volunteers who helped to set up and serve the entire student body, teachers and staff on August 27. Their efforts were greatly appreciated.



The Back to School Night was a huge success, as evidenced by this crowd.

September

- 1 Alaine Shockley
- 3 Emily Van Zandt
- 4 Chloe Marshall
- 5 Kirsten Parsons
- 9 Jim Aurelio
- 10 Melissa Powell
- 16 Heather van Brackel,
- 18 Paul Braungart
- 21 Walter Scarborough
- 22 Jeff Lang
Emma Marshall
- 25 Mike Schofield
- 29 Faye Brittingham



Look Who's Having
a Birthday!