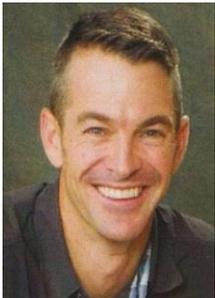




January 2020

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



“...for there is no authority except that which God has established.”

Romans 13:1

It may seem odd to be reading an article about divinely appointed authority in January. I must admit, it feels even stranger writing about it in December. Surrounded by the sights, sounds, and smells of Christmas, the furthest thing from my mind is politics. However, amidst the season’s tinsel and mistletoe, laughter and carols, joy and celebration, our nation’s political unrest is escalating.

In our country’s almost two-hundred-and-fifty-year history only two presidents have been impeached though neither of them was removed from office. Sadly, this course of action has become the fixation of our elected representatives in Congress in recent months. Revealing the turmoil in Washington during a season in which carols sing of “Peace on earth, goodwill to men,” “Joy to the world” appears to be the last thing on our leaders’ minds, at least as it pertains to that resulting from the Lord’s coming. For many, their hope rests in the removal of our sitting president not the Savior, while for others it lies in his remaining in office.

My purpose in drawing our attention to this unfortunate state of affairs is not to take sides condemning or condoning our Congress’s actions. Rather, I want to speak to the opinions I have heard voiced by Christians either tickled or troubled by the impeachment process.

As Americans, we have the great privilege of participation in government. Unlike many nations in our world, our democracy affords us each a say that is reflected by votes cast, not opinions tweeted. Unfortunately, many today opt for the latter because of the inconvenience of the former and its apparent ineffectiveness. However, as Christians, we cannot be contributing citizens if we do not involve ourselves in this arena, despite the fact that our citizenship is “in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ ...” (Phil 3:20). While we have breath, we must do all that we can to bring the gospel to bear on life’s every sphere. Therefore, Immanuel, as we look forward to 2020, a year that will be marked by much politicking, we must be prepared to be involved in at least three ways: praising, praying, and polling.

1. We must praise God for His sovereignty and rest in the knowledge that regardless of who is elected (or impeached), “there is no authority except that which [He] has established” (Rom 13:1).

2. We must pray for the political process, the participants, and most importantly for the Gospel to be clearly proclaimed that God would be glorified. (Phil 4:6)

3. We must vote and then submit to our elected officials. (Rom 13:5)

Remember, “the authorities that exist have been established by God,” (Rom 13:2) therefore, we have nothing to fear regardless of the outcome because we know that “in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose” (Rom 8:29).

Rejoice!
Pastor Andrew

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

GREETERS SCHEDULE

Jill Braungart
Judy Harris
Tommy Jarrett

NOTE: Please alternate door positions weekly.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

There will be a Men's Ministry Breakfast on Saturday, January 18, followed by a discussion on The discipline of Witness. All men are invited.

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

Dinner will be served at 5:30. 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:

- Jan. 8 – Chicken stir-fry, Asian veg., rice
- 15 – Ham, mac and cheese, veg. medley
- 22 – Beef stew, green beans
- 29 – Chili (classic and white), baked potatoes

There will be no activities at the church January 1.

The deadline for submitting items of interest for the **February newsletter** is January 20. Please observe this deadline.



2020 BUDGET

The 2020 Budget was unanimously approved during our December 1 worship.

WIDOW/WIDOWER DINNER

Our annual Elder-sponsored dinner in honor of Immanuel's widows and widowers was held on December 3. The beautiful decorations, delicious meal, good fellowship, singing of carols and the gift bags were greatly appreciated by the eleven widows and widowers who attended. Thank you!



Offering Envelopes



Have you picked up your envelopes for 2020? They're in the mailboxes. If you need a box, see Judy Harris or call the office.

SKYCROFT

The Youth Group will attend a Retreat at Skycroft the weekend of Friday, January 10–12. Pray for safe travel and that each one will return with a deeper understanding of the Gospel.

**COURSES SCHEDULED**

Familiar Psalms will be studied in two new discipleship courses scheduled to begin on Wednesday, January 8.

the courses will examine Psalm 23, while the other will cover Psalm 51. Both eight-week courses will begin at 6:15 and participants may choose between the two studies. Following the conclusion of the series, the courses will be repeated in order to provide students the opportunity to take the other study and benefit from both.

Both video-driven courses are led by highly respected Bible teachers, with Psalm 23 taught by Matt Chandler and Psalm 51 by R.C. Sproul.

Matt Chandler is pastor at The Village Church in Texas. He also is one of the primary leaders of the church planting organization titled “Acts 29,” and is a prolific writer.

R.C. Sproul, who died in late 2017, was a pastor-theologian in the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA); was founder and chairman of Ligonier Ministries, publishers of theological books and other writings; and hosted a daily radio broadcast.

Both courses cover very familiar Psalms. These are writings of David, with Psalm 23 known as the Shepherd Psalm, and 51 expressing David’s repentance following his adulterous affair with Bathsheba.

*****IMMANUEL ON MISSION*****

In this New Year may we continue to join our many hands and share our many gifts shared as

we serve together on mission with good news and much to be thankful for as redeemed people. I’ve been reading from a book by my son’s pastor, Brady Boyd, that revisits the letters to the Corinthian church and challenges us today in a very similar culture to respond in love with “Christ’s encouraging words ... as extensions of Christ’s outstretched arms ... as his feet that are eager to serve... Jesus’ joy, his hope, his liberation, his grace, ... staying tender toward all he came to serve”. (Remarkable, Living a Faith Worth Talking About) I am so thankful for the much God is doing in and through and among as we pray and learn and grow in a faith that saves and changes lives now and forever. As we love one another, there is no limit to the remarkable grace of God at work at Immanuel so I’m more excited than ever about missions this next year.

WMU**Mali People Group**

The Mali people are our church adopted unreached people. Please pray for them to come to salvation through Jesus Christ!!

World Hunger

Bread Banks will be turned in on January.12. If you do not have one, consider joining this mission. It’s so easy to just clean out your coin purse periodically and drop them in the bank. And remember that every cent goes to this gospel mission. Empty bread banks are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Lottie Moon Offering

Any offerings designated for Missions will be given to International Missions through February. The amount given as of this writing is \$6,593.66. Please pray about your part in reaching our goal of \$7,800.

Ladies Luncheon

SAVE THE DATE

There will be a Ladies Luncheon on Saturday, January 25, from 11:00 – 2:00. Paula Law will present “Women in the Word.” (Hosted by WMU)

Our Mission Partners**James and Sarah Morgan (IMB)**

Pray this month for all of the sharing that will be going on in South Asia. Also, pray for leader R and his churches as they do gospel outreach programs in the villages around where their members live. And for January, you can pray for all the follow up in these areas that needs to happen and the believers who will be doing that. We are so grateful, James and Sarah, that you were able to travel a very long way to be with family here for Christmas.

Paul and Laurel Morgan (Wycliffe)

The family is currently on furlough in the states. Pray for their stay at a mission house in Ohio available this month and that they continue to be refreshed and strengthened as a family. Continue to pray for direction in their next assignment and suitable housing for a return to Congo this Spring. Give thanks for several projects publishing New Testaments and celebrations taking place with the distribution of thousands of Bibles!

East Salisbury School

Shown below are some of our members who helped at the East Salisbury School's Holiday Store. They wrapped and tagged items chosen by the children with credits earned as gifts for their families. Thank you to them and all members who donated items.

***From East Salisbury School—***

Dear Church Family,

We are so blessed to have such a wonderful faith-based partner. We greatly appreciate your generosity.

Free English Salisbury (ESL)

The fall semester came to an end with a well-attended and really fun Christmas part. Over 180 were in attendance Thursday evening December 3. Every class shared something they learned during the semester, sang, and recited Bible verses. It was a really special time together with the students and their families.

The ESL staff met Thursday evening December 12th and we would love to ask you to pray for – Wisdom! Please pray for the leadership and staff as they make decisions about registration, childcare, and the great need for more space.

More hands! We need teachers, helpers, and volunteers. We had the largest number of students register and attend this past semester. We thank the Lord for this but now we need more folks to help us with this ministry. Students! For those who will register and start class in January. Many thanks for your support and prayer for this important ministry. Pray for our many members serving as classes resume this month.

Our Members on Mission

Many cheerfully wrapping gifts at East Salisbury
Jonathan and George trimming the cross with new lights for Advent
Rose and Shirley recycling materials to fashion dresses and shorts, woven mats and bags
Mike as PRMC Chaplain

Mission Opportunities

East Salisbury Christmas Shop
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
Serving at ESL on Thursday nights, children's workers and conversation facilitators needed

Mission Team

Prayer for International Missions for a day to focus on the many unengaged and unreached people groups.

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.

WHAT OF TOMORROW?

I do not know what still awaits,
Or what the morrow brings;
But with the glad salute of faith,
I hail its opening wings!

For this I know—that in my Lord
Shall all my needs be met;
And I can trust the heart of him
Who has not failed me yet.

--Author unknown



JANUARY

10 Macie Shockley
12 Barbara Brittingham
13 Brian Shockley
15 Carolyn Aurelio
Zenden Wieland
17 Rose Shahid
18 Sara Baranowski
20 Bill Nibblett
23 Edward Dohr
25 Paula Law
27 Gerald Christiana
28 Isabell Banks



