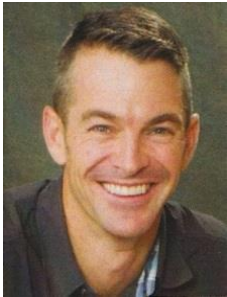




January 2021

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



“Give thanks to the LORD, for
He is good. His love endures
forever.”
Psalm 136:1

Just shy of twelve months ago, I sat at my desk pecking away at my keyboard preparing an article for the Voice. Erma’s anxiety was high as her deadline for submissions had come and gone, again. Judy was feverishly working to wrap up last minute fiscal matters. And I, well, I’d already been made aware that I was the cause of one secretary’s stress and so I was feeling a little tense myself.

As I mulled over what to write, I realized how our office’s pressure mirrored that in our nation’s highest office. Congress was in the midst of a push to impeach President Trump. The media was rabidly running story after story seeking to discredit his accomplishments and undermine his authority. And social media was simply a firestorm of opinions. It was hard to hear the angels on high or to find the peace on earth which they had so gloriously announced to the shepherds that night. So despite the season’s tinsel and mistletoe, laughter and carols, joy and celebration, I made my article a call to political engagement. I urged us to remember three things in the midst of the madness. (1) God is sovereign over our government (Rom 13:1). (2) We must pray for our leaders (Phil 4:6). And (3) we must vote and then submit to our elected officials (Rom 13:5). I thought that politics would dominate the conversation in the coming months. I was wrong.

Fast-forward twelve months. I am sitting at my desk pecking away at my keyboard preparing an article for the Voice. Only, I don’t hear Erma in the office stressing over my tardiness. The Tokyo Olympics, we’d all planned to watch were cancelled. And the elections, well they were about as enjoyable as we had anticipated. But the impact of these significant changes has been overshadowed by COVID-19.

2020 brought experiences for which none of us were prepared. “Unprecedented” has become the year’s watchword, explaining the indescribable turn of events that coronavirus has brought upon the world. The past twelve months have been marked by sadness, frustration, confusion, despair, anger, and suspicion. Yet, in the midst of the “unprecedented” there has remained the “precedented,” our God whose love endures forever! And He is still in the business of saving sinners, growing His church, and fulfilling His promises.

Immanuel, as we look back on all that has happened in 2020 and look forward to all that is promised in 2021, let us “give thanks to the LORD, for He is good. His love endures forever.” Praise God, He never changes!

Rejoice!
Pastor Andrew



**NEW office hours for next year**

MON: 9:00 to 1:00

WED: 9:30 to 1:30

THUR: 9:30 to 1:30

**Sunday Worship**

9:45 a.m. – Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – Worship

The 11:00 service will be available online at:
<https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelBaptistChurchSalisbury>

January 10 – Lord's Supper

January 13 – Resume Wednesday Night Activities

January 17 – Bread Bank Collection

Tuesday Morning

Everyone is invited to join us in prayer Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. in Immanuel's prayer room. If you would like to join by zoom, contact the pastor for an invitation e-mail.

**WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES**

6:30 – Youth Group, RAs, GA's & Bible Study



discipleship class

Walt Scarborough will be facilitating Sinclair Ferguson's "Who is the Holy Spirit?" Although the Holy Spirit is sometimes the forgotten Person of the Trinity, His presence and work is found throughout the redemptive history. Dr. Ferguson traces the work of the third person of the Trinity through Scripture. Along the way, he sheds light on the vital role the Holy Spirit serves.

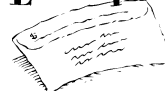
Women in the Word: Discipleship and Daily Reading Plan will continue in 2021! We welcome back the ladies who participated in 2020 and any ladies who want to join us in the upcoming year. Our focus continues to be a careful study of God's Word with time for meditation. There will also be a strong focus on accountability. We will have materials ready to hand out on January 24th and will **start on February 1st**.

If you will be participating in 2021 or if you have questions, please talk to Paula Law or Kristin Shockley.

Stay tuned for Zoom meeting plans!!

2021 BUDGET

The 2021 Budget was unanimously approved during our December 6th worship. Copies are available in the office.

Offering Envelopes

Have you picked up your envelopes for 2021? They're in the mailboxes. If you would like a box and didn't receive one, see Judy Harris or call the office. If you received a box and no longer use them, please notify the office.

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

LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS
OFFERING®

Offerings for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering supporting International Missions will be collected through the end of February. The amount given as of this writing is \$5,901.40. Please pray about your part in reaching our goal of \$7,800.

World Hunger

Bread Bank collection is on January 17th. If you do not have one, please consider joining this mission. It's so easy to just clean out your coin purse periodically and drop them in the bank. Remember that every cent goes directly to this gospel mission. Empty bread banks are available in the back of the sanctuary.

FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR

+

~ Heather

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

James & Sarah are thankful to be home with her family gathering for the holidays. They ask that we "Please pray for the Baniya people. The Baniya are a people numbering around 167,000 people. Our team is trying to find where the Baniya people are living to be able to share with them. Right now, we don't know of any believers among them. Pray that we'd be able to locate them and for open hearts as our team shares the Gospel with them. Please also be praying for teammates that are trying to get back into our country of service. Pray for favor with the government officials as all visa types are not being allowed back in yet."

Bible Collection with Mission Cry

Mike has been so encouraged by the recent news from Mission Cry as Bibles reach those in need. To learn more and rejoice with believers in Pakistan and China go to <https://missioncry.com/news-events/> and share with others the impact of donated literature. We are still collecting Bibles and looking for members to contact churches in the area.

The Christian Shelter

Thanks to all who contributed linens for the Christian Shelter for the holidays. They were delivered the week before Christmas and were gratefully received! Wanda, Heather, and Sara volunteered at the clothing ministry after the delivery. They hung newly donated clothing on hangers and cleaned out several bags of unwanted clothing and took them to HALO.

The Christian Shelter was approved by the church as a partner for 2021. We plan to use the money budgeted for this mission to provide much needed laundry detergent and cleaning supplies.

We ask for your prayers for the Christian Shelter and that God will show us how best we can embrace and equip this partner.

Youth Christmas Mission Project

The youth had a great opportunity this Christmas to participate in a local mission project. We met at Walmart to buy items to fill 14 stockings for boys and girls (ages 4-10) that are foster children in Sussex county.

The youth had a great time picking the child they wanted to shop for and walking around Walmart together to buy the items needed. We then headed back to the church, where we heard Heather van Brackel's testimony of her passion for missions and ate supper together. After filling the stockings, we wrote notes of encouragement to the foster parents and attached them to each stocking. Then we gathered around and had a time of prayer for the children and foster families that would receive them.

I am thrilled that we were able to serve and encourage others together! We will be looking for more opportunities next year, so please let me know if you know of a need that would be a good fit for our youth group. A special thank you to Heather van Brackel, Annie Dethloff, and Sara Baranowski for helping make the evening possible!

It is a joy to serve together! Melinda Morgan

WELCOME new members



James Moore (Historian)

James Moore has been a part of our church family since he was a young child, but we are so excited to welcome him officially as a member of Immanuel Baptist Church after hearing his testimony and witnessing his baptism in December. James is the 15-year-old son of Jay and Cheryl Moore and attends Holly Grove. He is an active participant in our church youth group and has often assisted his mom with children's worship. He loves anything to do with the Civil War and has traveled all over the area to visit battle grounds. James also enjoys playing video games, building Legos, and watching Star Wars.



Steve & Barbara Israel

Welcome the Israel's who have joined Immanuel by transfer of letter. Steve & Barbara have two children and two grandchildren.

Barbara is a special education instructional assistant at Fruitland Primary School. She enjoys reading, exercising, and creating mixed media arts. Steve works full-time in internet technology. He sings, plays guitar, and writes songs.

We are so happy to have them join this body and look forward to getting to know them!

thank you

Thank you for your prayers, food, cards, and calls.
They helped me make it through.

~Nancy Lambert

Thank you, Immanuel

Many, many thanks for your response to my retirement. I have never considered what I did work, for I enjoyed playing the piano with Eva, the organ with Sarah, and last but not least, the piano with Corky. Also, I looked forward every day to working in the office.

Thank you for the beautiful flowers, the many lovely cards, the monetary gift, and especially your prayers during the past few months.

Thank you for permitting me to work for the Lord here at Immanuel in these capacities for about fifty years. I love my church family.

God bless you,

~Erma Sheats



WITH DEEPEST
Sympathy



Immanuel's former member, Marge Straub, went to her heavenly home on Wednesday, December 16, 2020. Marge and her husband Bob, along with their children Steven and Kim, joined Immanuel in 1974. Bob passed away in March of 2014.

We pray for God's comfort of Steven and Kim's families as they grieve her passing. We will remember Marge's hospitality as she invited the WMU ladies to her home, WMU meetings and picnics, and providing delicious three-bean salads for our dinners. She sang in the choir and knitted gifts for missions and her Immanuel family. We will also remember her love of baseball and being the most loyal fan of the Shorebirds Baseball team. The Shorebird players were so loyal to her that they provided her with a special chair so she could enjoy her game watching with Bob. As Marge is a child of God, we rejoice that she is with Him now.



The deadline for submitting items of interest for the **February newsletter** is January 24. Please observe this deadline.



Erma Sheats
c/o Atria Salisbury
1110 Healthway Drive, Room 257
Salisbury, MD 21804

Herbert & Esther Nyoni
11730 Adventure Hill Lane
Chesterfield, VA 23838

Correction

Connie Jones
31445 Old Ocean City Road
Salisbury, MD 21804



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