

THE MESSENGER

A Note from Robin

Welcome, 2017....

All of us occasionally need to pause and think about the direction of our lives. It's so easy to bump along from one busy week to another without ever stopping to ponder where we're going and where we should be going. The beginning of a new year is an ideal time to stop, look up, and get our bearings. To that end, here are some questions to ask prayerfully in the presence of God.

- What's one thing you could do this year to increase your enjoyment of God?
- What's the most humanly impossible thing you will ask God to do this year?
- What's the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your family life this year?
- In which spiritual discipline do you most want to make progress this year, and what will you do about it?
- What is the single biggest time-waster in your life, and what will you do about it this year?
- What is the most helpful new way you could strengthen your church?
- What's the most important way you will, by God's grace, try to make this year different from last year?
- What one thing could you do to improve your prayer life this year?
- What single thing that you plan to do this year will matter most in 10 years? In eternity?
- Is God calling you to a new opportunity to serve this year? What might that be?

Wishing you and your loved ones an abundant and joyous 2017. May God bless you and keep you each and every day.

Blessings,
Robin ☺

January 2017

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Sunday Mornings at EPC

8:45am Church School
10:00am Worship

Emmanuel Presbyterian
2701 Harwood Rd.
Bedford, TX 76021

817-545-0251
emmanuelpc.org

Inquirer's Class to Begin in February

A new inquirer's class will begin on **Sunday, February 5 at 8:45am** and will meet in the church office. Perhaps you've been visiting the church for a while and have questions about membership, the Presbyterian Church (USA), or Emmanuel. Or, you might have been a part of the Emmanuel faith community for some time now, but want a refresher course in all things Presbyterian. Either way, you're invited to join us for our 4-week session. A few of the topics discussed:

- Presbyterian history
- The polity of the Presbyterian Church
- Book of Order/Book of Confessions
- Ministry and missions of the PC(USA)
- Emmanuel's ministry and mission
- How you can become involved in the life of the Emmanuel congregation
- Becoming a member at Emmanuel
- A bird's eye view from a variety of deacons and elders in the church

Have questions? Please feel free to contact Robin at the church office: 817.545.0251. See you on February 5!

Important Dates to Remember:

Saturday, January 7: All Officer Training from 9am-2pm

Thursday, January 12: Stock Show Sack Lunch Assembly 5pm

Sunday, January 22: Annual Meeting and Luncheon after worship



Greenway youth at the Armed Forces Bowl game

Thank you to December Outreach/ Mission volunteers!

Thank you to the many people who gave of their time during the busy December holiday season by helping others! The Mission Committee and 6:8 Project are particularly grateful to those who helped with these mission and outreach projects:

Traveling to the Presbyterian Children's Home in Itasca, Texas to deliver presents and spend time with the approximately 25 kids and house parents.

Making and serving lunch, caroling, and distributing presents at the Greenway Neighborhood Christmas party that was attended by 75-100 people.

Driving 13 kids plus adult sponsors from Greenway to TCU Campus to meet TCU students and attend the Armed Forces Bowl. Many thanks to Chris Cable and Lockheed Martin for making special guest tickets available to us. Big thanks to TCU students TeJay Johnson, Tim Ikabiken, and Marcus McGarity of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity for accompanying us to the game and talking with the kids about their interests and studies!

Sack Lunch Chuck Wagon Food Drive

We are still collecting items for the **Stock Show Chuck Wagon** sack lunches. Please bring your items by January 11 and then join us at 5pm on January 12 to assemble the lunches. All ages and abilities are welcome!

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| • Vienna Sausages | • Apple Sauce |
| • Pop-top Tuna | • Fruit Roll-ups |
| • Beef jerky | • Fruit Juice |
| • Peanut Butter Crackers | |
| • Cheese Crackers | Non-perishable, pre-packaged,
no-heat needed items only. No
homemade items, please. |
| • Fruit Cups | |

Upcoming Mission/Outreach Projects: When and Where You Can Serve

January 10, 7pm: Mission Committee meeting at EPC. Plan and carry out mission opportunities.

January 12, 5pm: Work Party to assemble sack lunches in Fellowship Hall. People of all ages and abilities are invited to help put donated food items into sack lunch bags that will be provided for Fort Worth Stock Show workers. We will also include notes of encouragement. Our goal is 150 lunches; come join the fun!

January 16, 8:30am-1 pm: MLK Day of Service at The 6:8 Project House, 1912 Portland, Fort Worth. Volunteers (children and youth included!) needed to help with minor repair projects around the neighborhood. The day begins with a worship service at Baker Chapel AME Church and ends with lunch and conversation at Broadway Baptist Church. Sign up at church or email Ken (k.richardson@tcu.edu) to help/attend.

January 19, 7pm: Family Promise meeting at Airport Freeway Church of Christ. Congregations working together to assist homeless families in the Mid-Cities. They currently need help fundraising and recruiting other congregations to become involved.

January 24: Happy Hands, 9:30am at Emmanuel. Work on handcraft projects for outreach and mission.

January 30 and 31: Volunteer at NorthEast Emergency Distribution, 422 Bedford-Eules Road, 10am-3pm. Volunteers needed for two shifts to shelve and bag groceries for clients. Call or email Donna (dkreeder@gmail.com) if you can help.

February 6, 6:30pm: 6:8 Project meeting at 1912 Portland. Working on educational and community-building projects with Greenway residents.

Take-home project for January: Write short notes of encouragement to go in sack lunches for Fort Worth Stock Show workers. Note supplies available outside the church office or use your own.

Fellowship Opportunities

Ruth Fellowship

Tuesday, January 17
Back Forty
8021 Main Street, NRH
For info contact Sue Pranke
682-225-0407

Lois Circle

Thursday, January 5 at 1pm
Applebee's
2400 Airport Freeway, Bedford

Men's Dinner

Dixie House Café
Thursday, January 19, 2017
7:00 PM

Dixie House Café is one of our favorites. Our Men's Group had our Tuesday Morning Breakfasts there for years. We also had a Thursday night dinner there once since they re-opened. Their advertising states, "Best Home Cooking in Town" and their prices are reasonable. It is located near the southeast corner of Airport Freeway and Westpark Parkway on the access road, just east of the QT. The private room has been reserved for our group.

Board and Committee Reports

Deacons

- The fellowship committee hosted a reception for the congregation in honor of the music ministry on December 18.
- The congregational care committee continues to send cards and give prayer shawls to those needing special thoughts and prayers.

Session

- Approved the special offerings schedule for 2017.
- Voted to approve the proposed budget for 2017.
- Received a report on the December 10th meeting of Grace Presbytery at Westminster Church, Fort Worth.
- Learned that an all officer training is scheduled for Saturday, January 7th, from 9-2.
- Learned that ordination/installation of new officers is scheduled for Sunday, January 15th.
- Learned that Evangelism will be hosting Back to School coffee, hot chocolate and donuts on Monday, January 2nd, from 6:30-8:30 a.m.
- Discussed the possibility of having a clothing drive and setting up a food pantry to help those who come to the church in emergency situations.
- Voted to approve Social Justice Committee's book study of Slow Kingdom Coming by Kent Annan, published by Intervarsity Press.

Finance

November Deposits: \$20,542.54 November Withdrawals: \$28,055.37



**Removal of the Greens
after worship January 1**

JANUARY LECTONARY

1/1: Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148, Hebrews 2:10-18, Matthew 2:13-23

1/8: Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17

1/15: Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

1/22: Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

1/29: Micah 6:1-8, Psalm 15, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12

CIRCLES

Esther Circle

Tuesday, January 17, 9:30am

Happy Hands

Tuesday, January 24, 9:30am

BIRTHDAYS

1/1: John Field

1/19: Libby Prather

1/27: Neal Morris

1/27: Val Hannasch

1/29: Barbara Field

1/29: Claire Morris

1/29: Sabrina d'Angelo

YOUTH CALENDAR

Jan 1: Happy New Year! No youth.

Jan 8: Ushering and lunch

Jan 12: All ages making lunch for stock show workers at 5pm

Jan 15: Youth 3:30-5pm @ EPC

Jan 22: Annual Meeting and Lunch (no afternoon activities)

Jan 27-29: SHYC @ Austin College

Jan 29: No Youth

Feb 5: Souper Bowl of Caring