

## preschoolministry

### Dear Church Family:

A brand new year! One of the things I love most about being an educator is that I get to start over two times each year, once in January and again in August. And believe me sometimes I need to start over more than that!

This new year is off to a tremendous start. We enjoyed learning about ice and snow, polar animals and modes of transportation. Our Bible stories were about Jesus' life as a boy. The children loved thinking of Jesus as a boy, they have many questions about the things he might have done in his childhood. If you would like to come and celebrate winter with us please know you are always invited.

Each new year I claim Philippians 3:13-14 as my own: *"Brethren I count not myself to have apprehended it: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ."*

It gives me hope when I think that even Paul did not feel he knew enough or did enough. It humbles me to know that we are able to forget those things which are behind and it excites me to think about pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ. I believe God has plans for our preschool ministry; please pray with me in the coming year that we honor Him in everything we do. May grace and peace be yours in abundance.

Kathy

Non-Profit Organization  
U. S. Postage Paid  
Ruston, LA 71270  
Permit No. 163



EMMANUEL  
BAPTIST  
1200 Farmerville Hwy.  
Ruston, LA 71270



# The Lighthouse

RUSTON, LOUISIANA

JANUARY 23, 2019

A graphic for the "Soup Bowl of Caring" event. The background is a green football field with white yard lines. In the center, there is a large, stylized logo that says "SOUP BOWL OF CARING" in yellow and green letters, with a bowl of soup and a spoon integrated into the design. Below the logo, the text "Sunday, February 3" is written in large, yellow, outlined letters. At the bottom, the text "Help us change the game and tackle hunger! Bring soup for CCA and cash donations for World Hunger." is written in white, bold letters.



## **pastor's***pen*

### **The Body, Bride and Kingdom**

I have enjoyed preparing and preaching my current Sunday morning series on covenant life within the church. The New Testament writers gave us several illustrations of the church which are helpful to us to gain a Biblical understanding of the church's purpose and our responsibility within it. Three that are used repeatedly are the Body, Bride, and Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**THE BODY** - *"Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function, in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another"* (Romans 12:4-5). We are all part of the Body of Christ, therefore, we are all connected. This is not a choice. This is a fact. There is a universal church body that includes all believers. We demonstrate our faith in this truth by coming into (under) a local church body that we might actually bear witness to Christ, minister to one another and be the physical presence of Christ in a community. "Body" is usually used when the Apostles are referring to responsibility to love one another and to do Christ's work.

**THE BRIDE** - This imagery is used throughout the Bible to refer to God and His people. They are wedded, or in covenant together. Israel was called an unfaithful wife in the Old Testament when they rebelled. At the second coming of Christ there will be the glorious Marriage Supper of the Lamb spoken of in Revelation 19. Paul spoke of our Lord Jesus giving Himself up for the Church in order to wash her that she might be holy and spotless when she is presented to Him. "Bride" is used when the writers are emphasizing the holiness and faithfulness of the church. We are to be growing in holiness and faithfulness.

**THE KINGDOM** - The Kingdom of God is a favorite proclamation of Jesus in His Incarnation. In Christ we see One who lived under the perfect rule of His heavenly Father. He was faithful even unto death. For this reason, He was exalted to the place of power and authority (Philippians 2). He rules and reigns until all of His enemies are put under His feet. The rule of Christ is to be observed through His church until it is realized universally. The "Kingdom" is used when writers are emphasizing the rule, sovereignty, or victory of Christ. We are to recognize that Christ is seated on the throne of our hearts, He is the Head of our church, and He is King over all of creation.

I pray each of us will embrace the power of these images and come humbly before our Lord and Christ in prayer. I pray we will all desire to serve in the Body, seek to be a holy, faithful Bride, and pray for His Kingdom's advance.

## **ministry***spotlight*

Dear Emmanuel Family,

I know you have heard that our pastor, Bro. Paul is planning on taking a mission trip to India from March 15-25. The cost of this mission trip will be \$2,500. I know many of you would like to be part of this evangelistic trip he is taking. If you would like to give toward the cost of his trip, please put your gift in an envelope marked **"Pastor's India Mission Trip"** and return it to the church office. Bro. Paul has not asked for us to do this, but I feel it would be a privilege for us to be a part of this effort to share the **"Good News"** with the people of India—a part of "the ends of the earth."

Also don't forget that our **Soup Bowl Sunday** is **February 3**. We will be receiving cans of soup for Christian Community Action and cash donations for the Southern Baptist World Hunger causes. Join us that day for gumbo, various soups, and desserts immediately following our morning worship.

**Bro. Sam**

## **college***ministry*

**Greetings Church Family!**

What a blessing it is to serve alongside the university students the Lord is sending our way. What a joy it is to know them! Please pray for our weekly discipleship study on Wednesday evenings, and for our retreat coming up February 26-28 in Mississippi. Also, we would like to welcome any young professionals (non-university students) who need a place to belong. We are a **college & career ministry**. Thank you for your prayers and constant encouragement. We love our church family!

**Randy & Kittie**

## **student***ministry*

**Hello from the Student Ministry!**

I was recently asked by a young student minister, *"What is the secret to growing a youth ministry?"* My response to him was a truth that I have learned after many years of trying programs and games and events. It was, "It will only grow if the Holy Spirit stirs up even just one student in the church and that one student becomes excited about the good news of Jesus and then decides to tell everyone they know and meet, where to find out about Jesus. The only things to help this along is for me and the church to be in prayer and to give the students Jesus at every opportunity." I believe this to be true in every aspect of church. Each person on the pews has to be the ones willing to obey and GO!

With those things being said, I have been working on the upcoming calendar for our student ministry so that I can better minister to the students that we have coming and for the ones that God will send us to love.

**Jan. 26** — Bowling in Shreveport. Leave the church at 5 p.m. and return at 9 p.m.

**Feb. 2** — Mission day in Monroe to help the homeless and hurting

**Feb. 7** — Ice cream night at Dairy Queen 6-7 p.m.

I will be planning more things to come including our 3rd annual **DiscipleNow** weekend in Branson at the end of March. The youth and I would like to say **THANK YOU** to Christina Watts for stepping up to help with the youth on Wednesday nights for the last couple of months. She will be missed as she teaches a women's Bible study.

Please continue to pray for me and the student ministry!

**Adron**