



Robert Grafton

Five years ago, I had to go on a sabbatical for two months to rest my voice from singing. I had developed a nodule on my vocal cord. I was still at Emmanuel each Sunday evening and playing the piano during Wednesday choir rehearsals. However, each Sunday morning I attended services at other churches to observe how they worshiped. I took detailed notes about their order of service, song selection, and instrumentation. Over 8 weeks, I attended 9 different churches, for a total of 13 services. That means on 5 Sundays, I attended 2 services those mornings. I picked up a few service ideas but concluded that we had a good thing going at Emmanuel. What we were doing fit Emmanuel and it was the right thing for us.

But there was one unusual thing about all those church services – I had to keep myself from singing (to rest my voice). It felt really strange to not participate in that form of worship. I would at least mouth the words to keep myself engaged in worship. I’m reminded of this experience each Sunday as I see some people not singing. I hope you are truly worshiping by at least reading the lyrics. Even if you don’t like to sing, I still encourage you to mouth the words to help you engage in corporate worship.

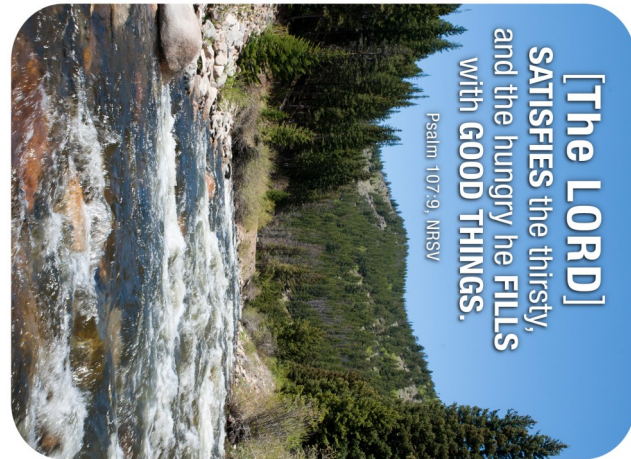
“Let them sing praise to Him.” Psalm 150:4



Adron Hart

Well it is little doubt that we are living in very strange times, where we can walk into convenient stores and banks wearing mask as a normal routine without a second glance from those around us. It reminds me of how we all wear some type of mask that hides who we are to other people. Some masks indicate that we are doing just fine when inside we may be hurting or dealing with struggles. I say all that to remind us that we should treat strangers and friends with kindness because we have no idea what is behind the mask that we are seeing. Which is a great way to say that we will be helping feed the **Homeless** on **Aug 8th**. I need people to bring bbq meat, buns, snack cakes, bbq chips and waters. We will need to meet at 10am that morning to put our sack lunches together.

On **August 22** we will have a **BACK-TO-SCHOOL LAKE DAY** on Claiborne. It will begin at 11am and stop at 3 pm. We will have a pontoon boat for rides, volleyball, corn hole, grilling hot dogs and hamburgers. Please invite your friends to join us! We can always use help cooking and serving our youth also! As always please continue to pray for us!



Emmanuel Baptist Church
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Ruston, LA 71270

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“A person’s heart plans his way, but the LORD determines his steps.” Proverbs 16:9

Uncertainty is always a part of life, but it has seemed to be the theme of recent months. We have, over the past two months, prayerfully considered which church services/activities are of greatest importance and slowly begun to implement these activities in a modified format. Corporate worship, prayer meetings, and small group Bible studies have begun again with risk mitigating measures. Please join us in giving praise and thanks to the Lord that we have been protected from any COVID transmission during these gatherings. We make plans, but He directs our steps.

Join us for worship...

Sundays

9:00 a.m.—Morning Worship

Adult 5, 6, 7

9:15 a.m.—Sunday School

**Preschool, Children,
Youth, College, Adult 2, 4**

10:15 a.m.—Sunday School

Adult 5, 6, 7

10:30 a.m.—Morning Worship

**Preschool, Children,
Youth, College, Adult 2, 4**

Wednesdays

6:00 p.m.

Bible Study &
Prayer Service

This Sunday evening at 6:00pm we will have a members’ meeting in our sanctuary. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss plans to prayerfully move forward in the Fall, communicate plans for our ministry departments, and answer questions from our membership regarding possible future steps and contingencies. I hope you will make every effort to attend. We need to be united and informed regarding the direction and health of our church.

My family and I are so blessed to be able to look back on our first two years here at Emmanuel with joy and to look forward with optimism to what the Lord is going to do among us in the years to come. God reminds me daily of the heaviness of the calling of the pastor. It is God’s will that we all be shepherded toward the image of our Lord Jesus. This means growing in holiness, knowledge, faith, and obedience. I have been so blessed by our church’s receptivity to shepherding through the authoritative preaching of the Word and concrete steps that refine our focus on the mission Christ gave us, to make disciples. I look forward to our resumption of progress in implementing our membership reconciliation plan so that we can take greater care to encourage, minister to, and hold every member accountable to progress in their sanctification. Let’s continue to aim for spiritual health, with the Word of God and the Holy Spirit as our metric and guide, respectively.

“Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as overseers, to shepherd the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood.” Acts 20:28



Chris Campbell

I want to thank the Emmanuel family for entrusting me to be the College/Adult 1 Minister. I've worked with this group over the years as a Sunday school teacher and as part of the college ministry team, and look forward to this role. Randy and Kittie Trail have done an amazing job with this ministry, and we (Stacy and I) will strive to carry on that work the Lord and His church have asked us to do – along with the help and guidance of the College Ministry Team. When starting a new job/position, it is not uncommon to make some goals, right? Some of us like to have a daily or weekly checklist to complete, and those things help drive our rituals and habits as we strive to accomplish them.

Luke 14:28 - “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?”

However, as pointed out by Neil Anderson in his book, **Victory Over Darkness**, there is a big difference between goals and desires:

“A godly goal is any specific orientation that reflects God’s purpose for your life and is not dependent on people or circumstances beyond your ability or right to control. Who do you have the ability and right to control? Virtually no one but yourself.”

“A godly desire is any specific result that depends on the cooperation of other people, the success of events or favorable circumstances you have no right or ability to control. You cannot base your success or sense of worth on your desires, no matter how godly they may be, because you cannot control their fulfillment.”

If we try to control things beyond our ability - no matter how much we desire it to be so – it can only result in anger, anxiety, and depression. And since I REALLY would like to avoid anger, anxiety, and depression by the way, here are my desires for these young men and women:

“For this is the will of God, **your sanctification**...” 1 Thessalonians 4:3a

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, **let us keep in step with the Spirit.**” Galatians 5:22-25

“**Do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord** or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.” 2 Timothy 1:8

“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. **Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.** But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.” 1 Peter 3:15-16

With these scriptures in mind, my goals are to provide sound doctrinal teaching with a focus on discipleship, helping our students share the Gospel message, and Biblical apologetics. My desire for them is to grow in the Lord and be sanctified (made holy) to work for His Kingdom, and I ask for your continued prayers for this ministry as we approach another school year.

No doubt this will be a challenging Fall quarter with the COVID-19 restrictions, but we will continue to meet – either in person or online – on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Pray that students coming to college will seek out a church home and that we will be there to minister and help meet their needs. Thanks again and God bless!



Stephen Nutt

It is an understatement to say, these past few months have been challenging. I have missed being able to gather in our regular ways, but I am so glad that we have been able to at least have Sunday School these past few weeks.

You have been so good in adapting to the changes that we have had to make. Some of you are even learning to navigate the internet and Facebook to stay connected with others! As our norms continue to be changed and challenged, it is good to know that our Lord is still the same no matter the circumstances (*Isaiah 40:8*).

As we are beginning to plan for the Fall months, (yes, I know, these plans may change), I want to make you aware of some ministry needs that you can help with.

1. We are adjusting the way we do children’s church and we will need more volunteers to help in this area. This is a great opportunity for you to have a positive impact on a child’s life and to minister to others at the same time.
2. We need more children’s Sunday School teachers. If you feel led to help in these areas, please contact me.

Continue to watch your email and Facebook to stay connected to what is happening at EBC. On a final note, I am glad to have Chris Campbell joining the staff as the Minister to College Students. I know he will continue the good work that has begun in that area.



Anyone interested in learning more about Emmanuel Baptist Church? Attend the “**Discovering Church Membership**” class on **August 23, 2020 at 9 a.m.** Call the church office to sign up to attend.



Dear Church Family,

July whizzed by for our preschoolers. They seem quite content to play—learn—eat—sleep—play and get up the next day to do it all over again. They don’t seem to care that it is 500 degrees out or that there is a crazy virus plaguing our country. They are Paul’s—content in whatsoever state they find themselves. Oh to live in their world!

Our summer is quickly coming to an end; it has certainly been a very different summer for us here at Emmanuel. Many challenges have come our way. We have not been allowed to go on any field trips and few visitors have been allowed in our center. Last week we faced a new mandate—older students must wear masks. This is the south—it is July—it is very hot—never the less **Psalms 34** says “*I will praise the Lord no matter what happens I will constantly speak of His glories and grace.*” So even though the heat has been brutal and the entertainment has been sparse all throughout our summer I have glimpsed puddles of awe. God sent us two phenomenal Bible Study teachers, Ms. Catherine and Ms. Mandy; the children love the stories and activities; it brings joy to my soul to know that so many seeds are being planted this summer. We have Bible Study every summer, but since we couldn’t go on field trips we have had so much more time to read, study, answer questions and talk to God. God is so good ya’ll. He also supplied us with the queen of crafts, I tell Ms. Robin often that I wish I had time to participate in arts and crafts time. Story time is brought to life each day by Ms. Emma and Ms. Rachel. It is such a rare treat for our children to be read to in our schools so I am so glad we are able to do this during the summer. As you can see we are having a wonderful summer, God always sends us just who we need when we need them. I want to thank each of you for supporting this ministry.

I am still working on the fall rolls, thank you for your prayers. So far I have registered about 50 new students to start in August. Please pray for our teachers and me as we prepare for our 20-21 school year.

“Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.”
Proverbs 19:21



Churches across the state are joining together again to help feed the children of the Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home with their annual **Fall Food Roundup**. Pickup date is Monday, September 21. There will be a box placed in the hallway for your donations. We have chosen the following for our church to collect:

Dishwasher Detergent, Freezer Bags (Quart and Gallon)

Paper Towels, Salad Dressings (Ranch/Italian/1000 Island)