# pastor's *pen*

There are defining moments in history. Those who experienced September 11, 2001 will never forget that horrific day and how it changed America. I believe we will one day look back to September 11, 2016 and thank God for the step of faith we made in our business meeting. Please pray for wisdom and guidance as we begin the process of calling a Minister to Children and Families.

If you look at the enclosed calendar for October you will see a very full calendar. From the special presentation of Teen Challenge to the Trunk or Treat, we are going to be very busy in October. Please see these as opportunities to reach out to others and invite them to our church.

This coming Sunday, September 25, I will begin a sermon series from 1 John. Please pray for me as I prepare this series of messages. I hope you will join us in this very rich and rewarding study. (We are also starting a Wednesday night study on the Fruit of the Holy Spirit. We would love to see you at 6 p.m. this coming Wednesday!)

# ministry*spotlight*

Dear Emmanuel Family,

Words seem so inadequate to express all my heart and emotions are experiencing after Sunday. I was extremely humbled and felt immeasurably blessed by the special day you provided Patti and I on our 10th Anniversary on staff. It seems like yesterday that our journey began together, but it also feels like we have been part of this family for much longer. Thank you all so very much for the kind words, the beautiful cards, and the generous gifts you shared with us. You are truly a very special family to us and we are so very grateful to you all.

I want to remind all men and boys of the **fellowship breakfast** this coming Sunday, September 25 at 8 a.m. in the Family Life Center. I hope you are making plans to be here.

Brochures are still available for the trip to Eastern **Canada** and Niagara Falls next June. Also, the presentation from Collette which was scheduled for next Wednesday has been rescheduled to Wednesday, Oct. 12 at 1:00 p.m. It will be preceded by a light lunch. I apologize for the change, but the Collette representative had to make the schedule change.

Just a reminder that we are selling **"I Love My Church"** short sleeve and long sleeve t-shirts. Deadline to order is Wednesday, October 5.

Finally, **flu shots** will be available on Thursday, September 29, 2:30 p.m. in the "Oasis Room" off of Adult 7 Dept. Walgreens will be here to administer them. For certain insurances the shots are free of charge, but for some there will be a cost. Call the church office if you are interested in receiving the shot.

*See you Sunday!* **Bro. Sam**

## WITH *Gratitude*

*We want to express a special thanks to everyone who helped get the room ready for our Adult 2 Dept.: Ragan Edmistion, Todd Pyles, Roy Baker, Raymond Woodard, John Holloway, Keith Barnes, Michael Hawley, and Adron Hart. It's beautiful when you see God's people using their talents to serve the Lord! We are thankful for their labor of love!*

## BUDGET REPORT

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| YTD Budget Goal | $ | 357,048.00 |
| YTD Budget Gifts | $ | 309,409.53 |
| To Be Received | $ | 47,638.47 |
| YTD Expenses | $ | 327,463.60 |
| ***Georgia Barnette*** | ***$*** | ***1,271.00*** |

## student*ministry*

**Hello from CRASH** *(Christians Reaching A Students Heart)* **Student Ministry,**

It is always pleasing to hear so many of you thank me for the job I have been doing and indeed warms my soul to hear the compliments. However, I would like to take the opportunity to give credit where it is due. There are so many behind the scenes people that work very hard and that pray very hard for our youth ministry that never ask for any credit, but they deserve so much. For example, the youth ministry team members, Brad, my wife Renee, and all of my wonderful students that invite people every week. When I began at Emmanuel, one of the goals that I set was to double the size of our ministry within the year. I think most were laughing at such a lofty goal and I never blamed them. In fact, if the goals we set are easy, then "WE" can accomplish them without the need to call on the Lord. If we set "unrealistic" goals, then I believe we have to rely on God to make them possible. With God all things are possible. I have been praying and relying on God to make these things possible and He was faithful and we reached that goal. So I made new goals and that was to again double our ministry. Well we are on our way to seeing God work again and it is amazing how He works. One of the ways that God worked this year is that He made it clear to me that I could not do this alone (although I surely try, lol!). He revealed to me that I needed to start utilizing the people all around me at Emmanuel and to quit trying to HOG all the blessings and work. So, we began to meet every month as a Youth Ministry Team and I started to let go of some of the responsibility. I will say that it was hard at first, relying on others, but I have seen so many great things coming from this. We can see our goals coming close to where I set them. We are seeing new faces on almost a weekly basis and in fact, we have seen 30 new students in only 3 months. I believe that God is about to show out and laugh at my "small" goals and again prove why He is Lord.

Also I would like to thank the wonderful Adult 6 class for preparing sandwiches and snacks for our second **5th Quarter Fellowship** this Friday night in the Family Life Center. Emmanuel has so many caring people that I am always blown away by their generosity and willingness to pitch in whenever needed.

We have canceled the Magic Springs trip on Oct. 8 due to other events going on, but we will try to reschedule it later in the spring. On November 4 & 5 we will have a retreat at the OWL Center. We have named it **"Retreat Rewind"** and we are doing our best to make it similar to the *'old school'* camps and retreats. We will have some great outdoor activities planned that many of us did when we were young, and we will have Bible studies based on scriptures that we think of as *'old hat'* such as John 3:16. Of course I know that God's work never gets old and it will always reveal something new to us. We are very excited about this weekend and would love any and all help such as chaperones at night, cooks, donations of food and snacks, game set up and clean up, etc….***See you there!***

**Adron**

# preschool*ministry*

**Dear Church Family,**

I came across an article today on brilliant children - now who among us do not want our children to be brilliant? It talked about collaboration, communication, content, critical thinking, creative innovation and confidence. There is no doubt each of the 6 c's are very important to the success of our children, and it is critical every day that we offer children opportunities to collaborate, communicate and create with confidence.

I am excited that this has always been our philosophy here at Emmanuel; since we are a Christian preschool we are able not only to teach those 6 c's but to add the really important c's to it. C's like Caring—as in caring for someone other than ourselves, Concern—as in concern for something bigger than ourselves, Church—as in an important gathering place to learn God's word and the most important word, Christ—as in our Savior whom we pray that they will come to know as their own.

As our new school year begins, I want to thank you for supporting the preschool ministry and knowing the importance of the work done through this ministry. I would ask that you pray for each family, staff member and visitor who God leads through our doors this year that we might minister to each one in a way that will please God.

*May mercy and grace be yours,*
**Kathy Mitchell**

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# The Lighthouse

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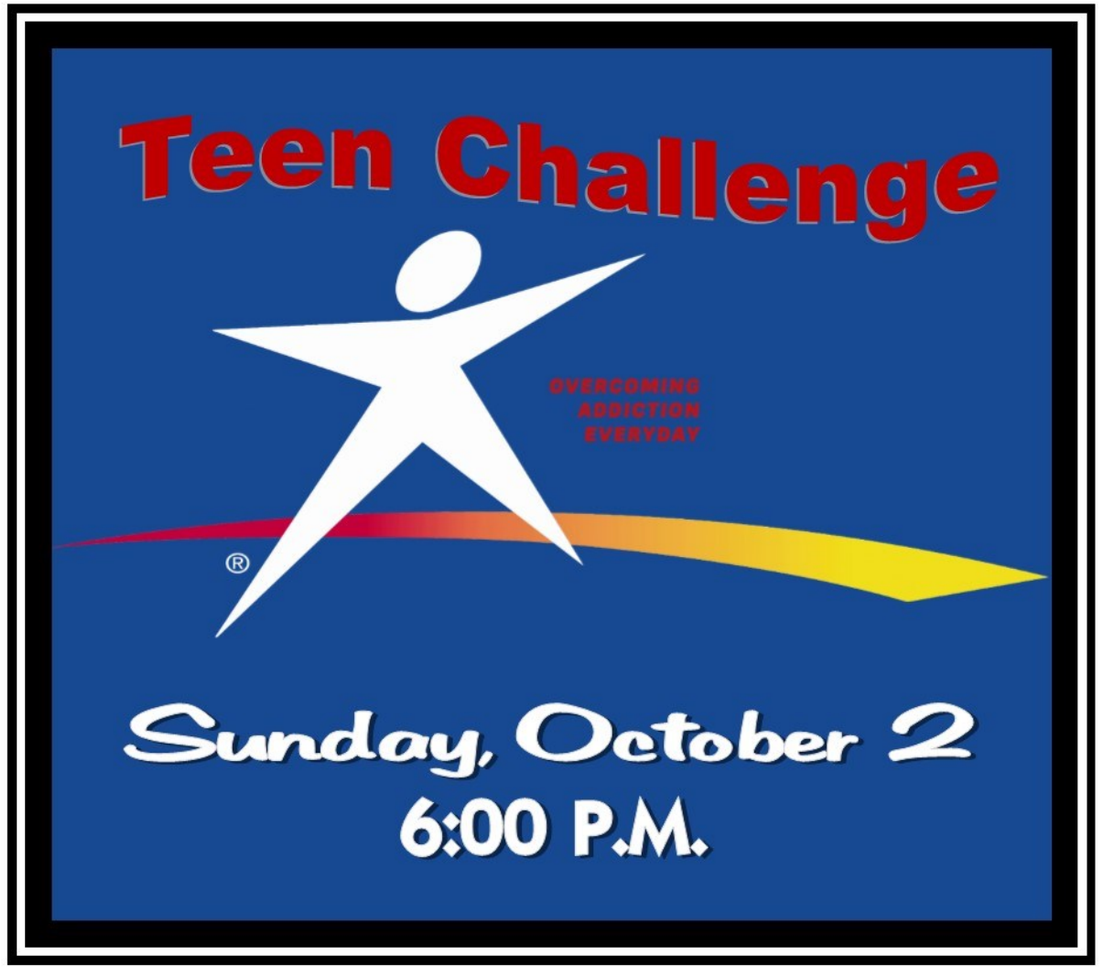
**SEPTEMBER 20, 2016**