

pastor's *pen*

Not only is this time of year busy because of the holidays, but it is also a time of preparation for the new year. Several committees have been busy preparing for our December business meeting, which will be held at the end of morning worship on the 11th! Please lift up those giving leadership to our church body.

One of our traditions at EBC is our Thanksgiving Fellowship, to be held this coming Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. As a part of this year's time of thanks will be a time of recognition of the Miller Family for their many years of service to our church. I hope you will come out and express your thanks to God and the Millers!

I want to express my thanks to all of you for your expressions of love and support during Pastor Appreciation Month. It has been my privilege to serve as your Pastor all these years. Please pray for Maryjane and me as we seek to do God's will in our daily lives!

BUDGET REPORT

YTD Budget Goal	\$ 432,216.00
YTD Budget Gifts	\$ 372,558.01
To Be Received	\$ 59,657.99
YTD Expenses	\$ 406,693.51

student *ministry*

Hello from **CRASH** student ministries!

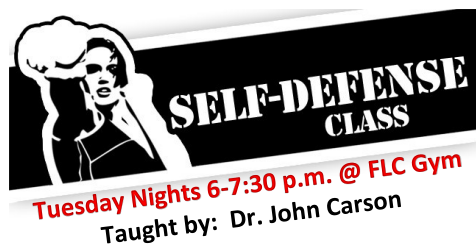
We are super excited to be heading back to **YEC** in Lafayette this year. The speaker is Ed Newton, who is a great speaker, and we will have a concert by the Newsboys. Pray for us as we travel, and pray that our students' lives will be changed forever as a result of this amazing weekend.

Our **Christmas Party** this year is on Dec. 10 and we plan to have a hayride and bonfire (if the burn ban is lifted). We of course will have food, fun, and fellowship.

I am personally looking forward to my first ever **Live Nativity**. Brad approached me with the idea and I immediately jumped on board. I am glad to see that so many of our church members have signed up to help out with this. I know that Brad has some ideas to share with you and will be having some meetings very soon. Our first meeting is scheduled for November 27th at 3 p.m. Then we have a dress rehearsal on Dec. 12th at 7 p.m. He will probably meet again some time in between those times. The **Nativity** will be held on December 15, 16, & 17. The times on each night are 7-8:30 p.m. and we would love for you to either participate, invite friends, enjoy, or all of the above. See ya there.

Please remember to pray for our students, leaders, myself, and all of our visitors.

Adron



Thank you to the EBC fall mission helpers for the BCM Soul Food and CCA Soup for the Soul – cooks, kitchen help, servers, and especially to Bro. Sam for his leadership.

music *notes*

It's about that time. The time of year that our calendars get full of events celebrating Christmas. Although most people get really excited about Christmas, Christians have the most reason to celebrate. It is the birth of our Savior. To help you celebrate, our season will be filled with lots of Christmas music. First, Emmanuel's children's choir will join with the daycare children to present **"Christmas & Children 2016"** on December 4 at 6 p.m. Then our Sanctuary Choir will join with the Celebration Choir of FBC, Ruston to present our Christmas musical **"Almost There"** at Emmanuel on Sunday, December 11 at 6 p.m. and at FBC, Ruston on Wednesday, December 14 at 6:15 p.m. Be sure to use these opportunities to help you celebrate the Christ of Christmas.

Happy Thanksgiving & Merry Christmas,

Robert

ministry *spotlight*

Dear Emmanuel Family,

It doesn't seem possible that we are just over 5 weeks from Christmas!! And with that soon coming holiday, our church calendar is brimming with many activities. But we need to stop and hit the pause button long enough to express our thankfulness to God for His faithfulness and love to us. And that is what we will do this coming Sunday. We will have our annual Church-wide **Thanksgiving Celebration** in the Family Life Center at 6:00 p.m. The turkey and dressing, ham, rolls and drinks will be provided, you just need to bring your favorite sides and desserts. As part of this special time of thanks, we will also be expressing our gratitude to Bobby & Paulette Miller for their 20+ years of service as our church custodians. We will have a special table set up for you to leave your notes, gifts, or money on the money tree. All of this to wish them well in their retirement.

For our **JOY** members, this Sunday is the deadline to sign up and pay for the **Jefferson Candlelight Tour** on December 1. We have also begun sign-up for our annual **Christmas Party** which is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 5 at 5:30 p.m. The cost for the meal is \$15 and will be catered by Linda Peavy. Our entertainment will be the singing group **"Deacons of Light"** from Temple Baptist Church. The deadline to sign up is Nov. 28.

For December, every Sunday will provide very special worship experiences and church family fellowship. **Dec. 4** will feature our children and preschool's Christmas program at 6 p.m.; **Dec. 11** will feature our joint Christmas musical **"Almost There"** as our choir and the choir of FBC, Ruston join together to sing at our church at 6:00 p.m. (will be repeated **Wed., Dec. 14** at 6:15 p.m. at FBC), and on **Dec. 18**, we will have our **Candlelight Lord's Supper** at 6:00 p.m. followed by our church-wide **Christmas Fellowship**. Please mark your calendar for all these special events.

See you Sunday! **Bro. Sam**

preschool^{ministry}

Dear Church Family,

By the time you receive this note October will be gone and November will be in full swing!

We have had a tremendous October; our children loved the Trike-A-Thon and going to the pumpkin patch. The days have gotten a little cooler so we have been able to stay outside a little longer—that's always a fun time. Ms. Stacey came and took our pictures among the hay bales and pumpkins and we can't wait to get them back. Trunk or Treat is always a roaring success and we are already planning next year's.

November is providing us with some beautiful days; our children are looking forward to casting their vote in the upcoming "election" and enjoying turkey for our Thanksgiving Feast. I mean who doesn't want to feast with pilgrims and American Indians.

We are already practicing our Christmas songs and Bible verses for our **"Christmas and Children 2016"** program. I would really like to talk to you more about the program and remind you of how much I hope you will come out and support the preschool choir along with Emmanuel's children's choir on that night, but I am going to refrain from that this month!

I feel that so many times by the time we get finished with Halloween and get to Thanksgiving we have already moved on to Christmas. I hope this year you will be able to take some time to fully appreciate the blessings that our great God gives us each day. Some of my fondest memories are of Thanksgivings spent around my Grandma's table, my Mom's table and now my table. It is always so special to visit with aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. The food was always delicious and I adore celebrating the lives of those dining with us as well as the ones who are there in spirit.

Friends and Family...what a blessing our Father has given us. They remind us of who we were, love us for who we are and support us on our journey to whomever we want to be.

May we always take the time to thank Him for the blessings in our lives.

Kathy Mitchell

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The Lighthouse

RUSTON, LOUISIANA

NOVEMBER 15, 2016

