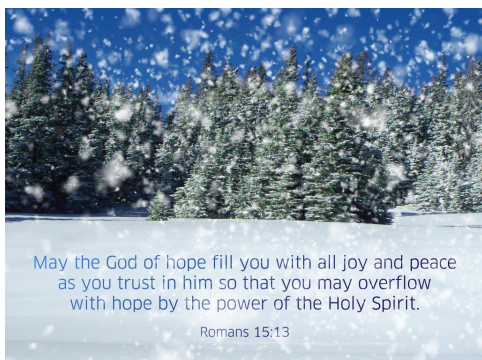


## THE MESSENGER



### UPCOMING EVENTS EMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Winter is almost here. With changing seasons in mind, there are quite a few events coming up at Emmanuel. We hope you will mark your calendars and plan to join us for any and all of the following:

**Looking ahead to Advent:** Sunday, December 2 at 8:45am during church school – an intergenerational Advent Workshop. That afternoon, join us in the sanctuary as we begin the Advent season. Gather at 4pm for a worship service in the round. The service will include scripture, song, and an interactive craft for all ages. The worship service will be followed by a Hot Cocoa/Cider Bar in the narthex. Please plan to attend.

**Christmas Party at Presbyterian Children's Home in Itasca** – Leave the church around noon and return by 5pm. Join as we share gifts with the children and adults of the Itasca Children's Home and as we celebrate this special season of giving.

**Community Christmas Dinner** - Sunday, December 9 from 5pm to 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. Join the fun as we welcome the community for an "all the trimmings" Christmas dinner. Bring your friends, your neighbors, and anyone that might need some extra encouragement this season. This event has continued to grow over the years, so let's continue the tradition and make it one of the best evenings yet!



### HAPPY HANDS DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING TO WOMEN'S HAVEN:

2 AFGHANS  
16 PILLOW CASES  
8 PERSONAL CARE BAGS FOR  
CHILDREN  
7 LAP/CRIB QUILTS  
1 QUILTED BEDSPREAD  
175 STUFFED ANIMALS

### December 2018

#### In This Issue:

- 1 Upcoming Events, Happy Hands
- 2 Fellowship Opportunities, Board and Committee Reports
- 3 Church School News
- 4 Children & Youth Events, Special Offering
- 5 Flowers, Christmas Dinner, Cantata
- 6 Itasca Christmas Party, Green Committee Tips
- 7 Lectionary, Birthdays, Circles

### Winter Sundays at EPC

8:45am Church School for Children, Youth and Adults

10:00am Worship  
**5:00pm & Christmas Eve  
11:00pm Services 12/24**

2701 Harwood Rd.  
Bedford, TX 76021  
817-545-0251

**The Church Office Will Be  
Closed:**

**Tuesday, December 25**

**Wednesday, December 26**





### Opportunities

#### Ruth Fellowship

Monday, December 17 - 7:00pm

Baker's Ribs  
1720 State Hwy. 26  
Grapevine, TX

For information contact  
Tonia Thompson:

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#### Lois Circle

Thursday, December 6, 1:00pm

Cheddar's  
1937 Airport Frwy.  
Bedford, TX

For more information contact:

Cheryl Dale  
817-576-3184

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### MEN'S DINNER

There will be no men's dinner for December. However, suggestions of restaurants are needed for 2019. Any suggestions can be sent to:

Andy LeCocq at [andy@lecocq.org](mailto:andy@lecocq.org) or call him at 817-268-4128.

## Board and Committee Reports

### Session:

1. Received an extensive update on the work done in the educational wing and work still to take place, noting with joy that BCAMP returned to the Emmanuel campus on November 26th. Session expressed appreciation to the members of Facilities and Finance who have worked so diligently on this time-sensitive project.
2. Learned that NEED volunteers are needed for November 30th and December 31st and that EPC workers donated 47.5 hours in October.
3. Noted that the Habitat for Humanity fundraiser Chili Cook-off dinner is set for Sunday, February 24th from 5-7 pm.
4. Was informed that Emmanuel's day to provide lunches for the Fort Worth Stock Show workers is Sunday, February 3rd and that collections will begin in January.
5. Learned that Missions sent the remainder of this year's budget and fund remaining from the 2015 yard sale fund to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for the California wildfire relief fund.
6. Received the proposed 2019 budget to date as information with a revised one to come to session in December.
7. Voted to dismiss Chris and Deb D'Angelo to First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth, which they joined on October 28th.
8. Learned that the December session meeting will include dinner at Jayne Johnson's home and that examination of new officers will likely take place in a called meeting on a Sunday.
9. Thanked Judy Curtis for securing Advent wreath candle lighters and readers for the Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols
10. Voted to schedule the congregational annual meeting for Sunday, January 27, 2019, noting that committee reports are due January 8th.
11. Heard that the deposit has been paid for the electronic sign and discussed plans for removal of the current sign.

### Deacons:

1. The Harvest Meal held on November 11 was a huge success serving over 70 people.
2. The Grace-To-Go cabinet is being regularly accessed for needy people coming to the church for aid and comfort. Any contributions of easy to open and easy to eat items will be welcomed. Bring them to the kitchen marked "Grace-To-Go".

### Finance:

October Income:	\$58,977.75
October Expense:	\$56,003.16

### Church School Class Updates



Advent Workshop participants will make an Advent Devotion Bag to use at home

### Church School Class Updates

**All ages are invited to an Advent Workshop on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> during the Church School hour.**

Adults, youth, and children will gather in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast starting at 8:15 AM and then at 8:45 AM will go to hands-on stations including making an Advent Devotion Bag to use at home to prepare for Christ's birth and working on a Mission project.

**Emmanuel's children and youth completed their second Worship Workshop** on November 11<sup>th</sup>, where they played games to learn about special places in the sanctuary and who does what in the worship service. They also practiced leading parts of the liturgy from the pulpit, with Keith Royal coaching them. Please encourage our children and youth as they begin assisting in leading the liturgy in Sunday worship services and at other gatherings.

**Three Adult Church School classes meet and welcome participants:**

**Keys to the Bible** meets in Room 5 and are studying King David.

**Spiritual Journeys** meets in Room 4 and will complete their overview of the Bible in the coming weeks.

**Thoughtful Christian** meets in Fellowship Hall. On December 9<sup>th</sup>, they begin a four-session Advent study from The Thoughtful Christian website to prepare for the coming of the birth of Jesus Christ.

**Emmanuel Children and Youth  
Events & Activities  
December 2018/January 2019**

Saturday, December 8

**Itasca Children's Home Christmas Party**

Families of children and youth are invited to  
help deliver presents to children and youth at Itasca.  
Meet at Emmanuel at Noon; return by 5 PM

Sunday, December 9

**Community Christmas Dinner**

5 PM—7 PM at Emmanuel  
Welcome the community and  
help with making s'mores and caroling after dinner

Wednesday, January 2

**Service Project and Fellowship**

Youth (6th—12th grade) will meet for lunch at noon and  
then work on a service project together



**Come prepared to give your  
Christmas Joy Gift Offering**

This offering will be collected Sunday, December 16. It supports racial ethnic education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, where students develop their gifts and find their calling. It also helps families of active and retired church workers meet unexpected needs through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. Please give generously. If you would like to give to this special offering at a later time, funds will be collected through **January 13, 2019.**



### Poinsettia Sign-Up

Our sanctuary will be decorated with red poinsettias for the December 16, 23, and Christmas Eve services. Sign-up for poinsettias will be in the Narthex before and after worship on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9th. Poinsettias can be designated in honor or memory of someone. The cost per poinsettia is \$10 to be paid at sign-up. Poinsettias may be taken home any time after the 11 PM Christmas Eve service.



***EPC FRIENDS, IT'S TIME TO SIGN UP FOR THE  
COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER.  
JOIN US FOR A FREE CHRISTMAS DINNER, CRAFTS, GAMES  
AND CHRISTMAS CARDS.***

SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX. Please indicate the number in your party, what you can help with (if able): set up or clean up, and a side dish that you will bring. Please note that ham, turkey,

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9  
5:00PM - 7:00PM**

### **2019 Flower Calendar**

The 2018 flower calendar will be posted in the narthex in December. Please sign up for a Sunday – include your name, phone number, and note if the flowers are in honor or in memory of a special person or occasion. Mid-Cities Florist will bill you after the flowers are displayed. The flower arrangements are \$35. Flowers may be taken to shut-ins on Monday if they are not taken home on Sunday.

### *Christmas Cantata*



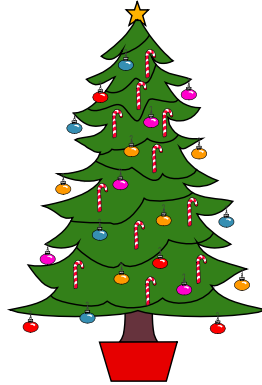
The Emmanuel Chancel Choir will present a Christmas Choral Cantata, Behold, A Savior - Songs and Stories of His Birth by Jay Rouse and Rose Aspinall on Sunday, December 16

**Come and join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ our Savior! There will be a reception after this special time of worship.**



## ITASCA CHILDRENS HOME CHRISTMAS PARTY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2018, 12 - 5PM



The Green Committee would like to offer the following tips for the holiday season:

- \* **Read the book Hundred Dollar Holiday: The Case for a More Joyful Christmas**, by Bill McKibben, and talk with loved ones about how together you can reign in spending and tap your creativity to honor each other in faith-filled ways.
- \* **Gifts of Giving:** Donating to a cause that is dear to a loved one honors God by supporting local, national or international ministries.
- \* **Trees, Plants, and Landscaping:** Providing seeds or cuttings from your own garden, teaching someone to garden, helping someone plan a garden, or planting a tree together are all great gifts.
- \* **Cook and Bake Responsibly:** Many baking items such as sugar, cocoa, vanilla, and spices are harvested under grueling conditions. The people who bear the brunt of hard work and low pay are the most vulnerable: women and children. Purchasing fair trade baking goods, as well as snacks, chocolate and beverages helps prevent child labor and oppressive working conditions and ensures workers a fair wage. Natural food stores in your area should sell products with the Fair Trade seal; if you don't find what you need ask the store manager to stock it.
- \* **Skills:** If you are gifted with crafts, music, dance, or other talents, give the gift of knowledge. Gifting a series of lessons empowers the people you love with new skills and abilities while passing on traditions and heritage.

## LECTIONARY

- 12/02:** Jer. 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thess. 3:9-13; Luke 21:35-36
- 12/09:** Mal. 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Phil. 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6
- 12/16:** Zeph. 3:14-20; Isa. 12:2-6; Phil. 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
- 12/23:** Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:47-55 or Psalm 80:1-7; Heb. 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)
- 12/30:** 1 Sam. 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Col. 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52



- 12/01** Richard Law
- 12/11** Katie Phillips
- 12/19** Shirley Brady
- 12/21** Gabrielle Philips
- 12/30** Alice Thompson

## CIRCLES

- Lois Circle will meet at 1:00pm on Thursday, December 6.
- Ruth Fellowship meeting is at 7:00pm on Monday, December 17.
- Esther Circle will meet Tuesday, December 11 at 9:30am.

## DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

Corrected Address:  
Shirley Martin  
Parkview Healthcare Community  
2700 Parkview Ln., Room 225  
Bedford, TX 76022