



## **A Note from our Interim Moderator**

The Season of Advent is upon us – a time of waiting and preparation for the Christmas event that is to come. If you think about it, here at Emmanuel we are in an extended season of Advent as we wait and prepare for the one God has chosen to lead this congregation as your new minister.

During this time of waiting and preparation, we are reminded to continually come to the Lord in prayer, seeking His continual guidance and encouragement. We are so thankful for the ministry of Terry denBok which allows worship, mission, and outreach to continue during this time of transition. With his leadership, this time can be one of healing and renewal for each one of us.

As you prepare your hearts to celebrate the advent of God among us, Jesus our Emmanuel, I encourage you to continue to pray for this congregation as we work together in partnership with God to reach out with His amazing good news of love and forgiveness to our community.

I am looking forward to worshipping with you on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> as we gather at the Lord's Table. I hope you will all come and "taste and see that the Lord is good."

May Christ's peace be with you all,

*Heather*

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## From the Pastor's Desk

Many scholars believe 1 Thessalonians to be the first epistle written by the Apostle Paul. It is very significant that in the first verse of his first epistle, Paul acknowledges Jesus Christ as Lord. He then continues in verse 2 to remind them that they were remembered in prayers with thanksgiving to God the Father. And in verse 3, Paul gets personal with these dear saints telling them that – well, listen to his writing – *“We continually remember before our God and Father your work provided by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

In my first written note to the dear people of Emmanuel, may I borrow from Paul's writings as I say “Grace be unto you all and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Donna and I give thanks to God for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering continually your work of faith, your labour of love, and your patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father.”

John writes in John 13:35 that the proof of being a disciple is that we have love one to another. Jesus states in verse 34 that this new commandment *“that we love one another”* was to be measured by *“as I (Jesus) have loved you.”* This is a tall order, however over my short time as Interim Pastor at Emmanuel I've witnessed first-hand your great love and tireless labour one toward another. More importantly, Hebrews 6:10 reminds us that our Heavenly Father is also a witness to your faithful service to which he says that he *“will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.”*

Each of you is a wonderful gift that God has given to Emmanuel Presbyterian Church. May God richly bless you over this Christmas season.

*Terry*

## **CONGREGATIONAL LINKS**

**The Board of Managers** remind you that volunteers are needed to keep the front and back entranceways clear of snow over the winter months. For safety and insurance reasons, it is important that both entrances are kept clear during the week as well as on Sunday. If you are able to help with this, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board indicating the week/s you can help out.

**The Ladies of Emmanuel** would like to thank everyone for donating baking, crafts and articles for the white elephant sale. Everyone working together helped to make our bazaar a success.

### **Keenagers**

The Keenagers Christmas Dinner will be held Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Hors d'oeuvres will be served at 6:15 p.m., with a turkey dinner at 6:45. Following dinner there will be entertainment by Ken Shaw.

*Looking ahead* – the Keenagers will be hosting a bowling and games night for the entire congregation on Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. Details to follow.

### **Family Christmas Event**

The Christian Education Team will be hosting a free Family Christmas Event on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:45 p.m. The evening will include a movie, music, crafts and snacks. Mark the date on your calendar and invite your friends and family to join us!

### **Holiday Schedule & Services**

Join us for our Christmas Eve service December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Worship services on Christmas Day and New Year's Day will be at 11:00 a.m. *Please note that there will be no kid's church and no fellowship hour on Christmas Day or New Year's Day.*

## **CONGREGATIONAL LINKS (continued)**

### **New Music Team**

We've united! Our band and choir have joined together to form a new music team, which will encompass instrumentals, choir and vocals. New members are welcome to join! Practice is held Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

### **Worship Planning Team**

A new team has been formed to assist with worship planning. This group will meet regularly to help plan programs and will co-ordinate with the pastor to pick themes, scripture, videos and drama for our services.

### **A Note from the Office...**

The Church Office will be closed from Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> through Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Regular hours will resume Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. Gloria is on holiday during this time. Pastor Terry will be 'in and out'. If you need access to the church, call before you come to be sure someone is here. For pastoral needs, call Pastor Terry at home.

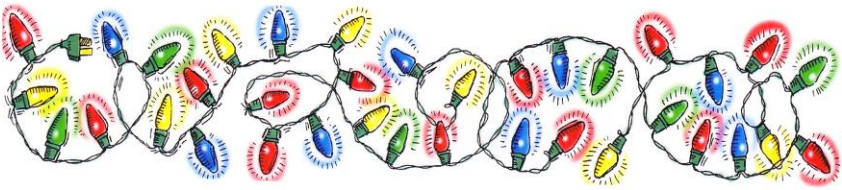
### **Christmas Mission Project**

This year at Emmanuel, in addition to our collection for the local foodbank, we have chosen to help educate children in Nigeria as a Christmas Mission and Outreach project.

Many Nigerian children do not go to school, as families who earn only \$2.00-\$3.00 per day cannot afford to pay \$45.00 per term to educate their children.

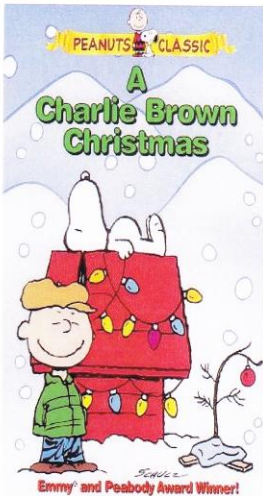
There is a jar in the foyer for loose change or bills, if you would like to donate to this worthwhile cause. Receipts can be issued for donations of \$10.00 or more. For details, please see Sandy Marritt.

# *Family Christmas Event*



Saturday, December 10, 2011

6:30 – 7:45 p.m.



**Movie:**

*'A Charlie Brown Christmas'*

**Music**

**Crafts**

**Snacks**

*This is a free event for the entire family!*

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church  
3521 County Road 124, 3 km. south of Nottawa

# Kid's Korner



[for the young and the young at heart]

## Christmas Word Scramble

The following words are all part of the Christmas story in the Bible. See how long it takes you to unscramble them.

imag / esiw nme \_\_\_\_\_

hpsseerhd \_\_\_\_\_

lgnase \_\_\_\_\_

hmltebehe \_\_\_\_\_

yamar \_\_\_\_\_

hesojp \_\_\_\_\_

susej \_\_\_\_\_

enykdo \_\_\_\_\_

elbtsa \_\_\_\_\_

lodg \_\_\_\_\_

esnricfneakn \_\_\_\_\_

hyhrm \_\_\_\_\_

gnaemr \_\_\_\_\_

aybb \_\_\_\_\_

ypgte \_\_\_\_\_

## December Ministry Schedule

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>

**Hosting** – Brenda McCarl, Kay McKean

**Ushers** – Bert & Marge Douglas, Arnold & Anne Morwood

**Nursery** – Dianne Gordon, *Karen Lemon*

**Kid's Church** – Faith Hughes, George Dodd

**Counter** – Donna denBok, Rod Johnston

**EasyWorship** – Ann McMaster

**Sound** – Garry Milne

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>

**Hosting** – Helen McLeod, Willeke Jagt

**Ushers** – Paul Arnill, June Graham, Doug & Kathy Lemon

**Nursery** – Anne Morwood, *Taylor Dodd*

**Kid's Church** – Steve Currie

**Counter** – Lynne Dodd, Rod Johnston

**EasyWorship** – Bob Marritt

**Sound** – Ann McMaster

### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>

**Hosting** – Marge Douglas, Frances McInnis

**Ushers** – Stan & Pat Gerynowicz, Dale & Pam Lewis

**Nursery** – Lorna Hockley

**Kid's Church** – Kathy Lemon, *Emily Lemon*

**Counter** – Faith Hughes, Rod Johnston

**EasyWorship** – Ann McMaster

**Sound** – Garry Milne

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>

**Hosting** – *no fellowship hour*

**Ushers** – Steve Currie, Donna Lowe,  
Rae & Lorna Hockley

**Nursery** – Karen Milne

**Kid's Church** – *kids remain upstairs*

**Counter** – Janet Ormiston, Rod Johnston

**EasyWorship** – Ann McMaster

**Sound** – Garry Milne



## *Birthdays & Anniversaries*

Dean Taylor – Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Gloria Phillips – Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Erin Currie – Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>  
Bob McKee – Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>  
Steve Collins – Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>  
Bill Okum – Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>  
Sheena Mathers – Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>  
Albert Jagt – Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>  
Garry Milne – Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>  
John Foley – Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>  
Faith Hughes – Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>  
Alf Leno – Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Maggie Arnold – Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Frances McInnis – Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
Dorothy McCarl – Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>  
Herb Klinck – Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>  
Abby Collins – Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup>  
*Paul & Lynne Arnill – Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup>*  
*Dean & Susie Taylor – Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup>*  
Hugh Ransier – Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup>

*Congratulations to Kathy Bloomfield for being selected as a Medal Bearer in the Rick Hansen 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Relay. Kathy will be part of the relay in Orangeville on Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.*

*Way to go, Kathy!*

## Taiwan Mission Trip

Can you imagine worshipping in a church where a murder has taken place? That's exactly what Ron Phillips and other members on the Taiwan Mission Trip did on their first Sunday in Taiwan!

In 1979, the Gi-Kong Presbyterian Church in Taipei was home to the Lin family. Mr. and Mrs. Lin lived there with their three daughters – seven year old twins Liang-chun and Ting-chun and nine-year-old Huan-chun – and Mr. Lin's mother Yu A-mei.

On December 10, 1979, a Human Rights Independence Day demonstration took place in Taiwan. The demonstration was an effort to promote democracy in a country that had been under martial law for 32 years.

When the government arrested demonstrators, they also arrested Mr. Lin – a lawyer who, although a member of the opposition party, did not take part in the demonstration. Mr. Lin was put in prison and held for four months before being given a military hearing.

On February 28, 1980, while Mrs. Lin was visiting her husband in jail, someone broke into their home and murdered Mr. Lin's mother and twin daughters. When 9-year-old Huan-chun came home from school, she was greeted at the door by a stranger. Unaware of what had taken place or the danger she was in, the young girl went into the house. There she was stabbed several times before being left for dead.

When Mr. Lin's secretary came to the house and found the family, she called the police and reported the incident. The authorities said they would find the murderer quickly, but to this day they have not done so.

The Lin family, and most native Taiwanese, believe the murders to be an action of the government. There are many reasons behind this belief, including the fact that

at the time of the murders the Lin home was under 24-hour police surveillance.

Because the country was under martial law at the time and Mr. Lin was a political prisoner, people were afraid to get involved. No one wanted to be associated with the situation. The only ones willing to help were members of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, who bravely went to Mr. Lin's house and took his daughter to the hospital. Miraculously, she survived.

Mr. Lin was released from prison to make arrangements for the funerals then was taken back to prison, where he remained for several more years.

With her husband imprisoned, Mrs. Lin and her daughter had no income. They needed money to survive. Mrs. Lin tried to sell her house, but no one wanted to go against the government or to be associated with a ghost house (house of murder) so there were no offers to purchase the house.

After much prayer, members of the Presbyterian Church offered to buy the house and turn it into a church. Once the offer was made, donations began to come in to help with the purchase. Most donations were given anonymously or exchanged hands in the middle of night, as people were afraid to be associated with the project.

Today the Lin home is the Gi-Kong Presbyterian Church. The name, when translated, means "Light of Justice" Church – a fitting name considering the history of the building. Rev. Sidney Chang of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan stated "Only by the grace of God could a house of murder become a house of God."

The surviving daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lin is now a minister's wife. She is married to an American who lives and pastors in Taiwan.



## Winter Reminders

### **IF WORSHIP IS CANCELLED DUE TO BAD WEATHER:**

- we gather information from members who live in different locations, as weather patterns differ.
- the decision is made about 9:00 a.m.
- everyone is phoned by their TELEcare pastor or elder.
- If worship is cancelled we encourage you to make up your offering the following week.
- Our prime concern will always be your safety and we will always err on the side of caution.

### **DRIVEWAY**

*Please be aware of snowmobiles when entering and leaving our church property. Due to the snowmobile traffic, the turn off the highway and the turn into the church parking lot can often be slippery. Drive with care.*

### **OFFICE HOURS**

If the weather is stormy, please call before coming to the church. If it is unsafe to drive, the church will not be open.

## **The View from the Office**

It's *that* time of year! The stores are overflowing with goods and some are even playing Christmas music to help those of us not yet in the mood for shopping.

I don't particularly like shopping, but the other day I was in need of a few items so I went to Walmart on my way home from the church. It was the middle of the afternoon and I could hardly find a place to park! Inside, of course, was even busier than outside! I quickly picked up the things I needed and headed for the checkout.

As I waited in line behind people with full carts and listened to the 'beep, beep, beep' of bar codes being scanned, it was hard to imagine that there are people in our community that aren't able to put food on their table or pay their rent. A few weeks ago, I asked for prayer for one such person. A family member (who doesn't live in our community) was in danger of losing their home.

Last week I received an e-mail telling me that God had answered prayer. Along with the e-mail came a story about the difference three rolls of pennies made in this person's life.

This story was a powerful reminder to me that God can use whatever we give to bless others, regardless of the amount. I've asked permission to share the story, and I hope it will bless you as it did me.

*Gloria*

### **Three Rolls of Pennies**

I was given three rolls of pennies. Many would not consider them worth much. Many would ask, "What can you buy for \$1.50?" No one would realize the special message that these pennies brought.

Sometimes we feel so alone in life. We know that God is there. We have friends and relatives. Yet sometimes

when we go through hard times we forget that others care. This is how I felt when these three rolls of pennies taught me a lesson that I will never forget.

The day before the pennies came I was drowning in tears. My life was full of miracles but it was also filled with despair. I questioned God's timing instead of acknowledging his wisdom. I cried out asking God why.

God blesses me every day. He has given so much and continues to watch over me. He has led me to meet wonderful friends who have brought happiness into my life. One of these friends started a community appeal for me to keep my home. The wait for the approval of my disability had left me in danger of losing the one place where I feel safe.

Money was raised by churches through this appeal to pay for some of the rent that I owed. At a local church the appeal was heard by the congregation. One of the members came forth with three rolls of pennies which was all the money that he had.

I was given these three rolls of pennies. My friend had replaced them in the collection with her own money. She told me to always keep the pennies as a reminder of the sacrifice of a stranger who cared.

Sometimes we feel that our contribution may not be much. Often we do not see the results of what we have done. There are times when we make a sacrifice without knowing why. When God whispers in our ear and we listen great things happen. Every time that I see the pennies I will remember that I am never alone.

Many people would ask, "What can you buy for \$1.50?" When God whispers it only takes three rolls of pennies to change a life.

*- Marilyn McHaffie - November 18, 2011*



*Special*  
worship  
*Schedule*

**Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**

*Family Christmas Event*

*6:30 – 7:45 p.m.*

**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**

*Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.*

*Communion*

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

*Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m.*

**Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

*Christmas Day Service at 11:00 a.m.*

**Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**

*New Year's Day Service at 11:00 a.m.*

