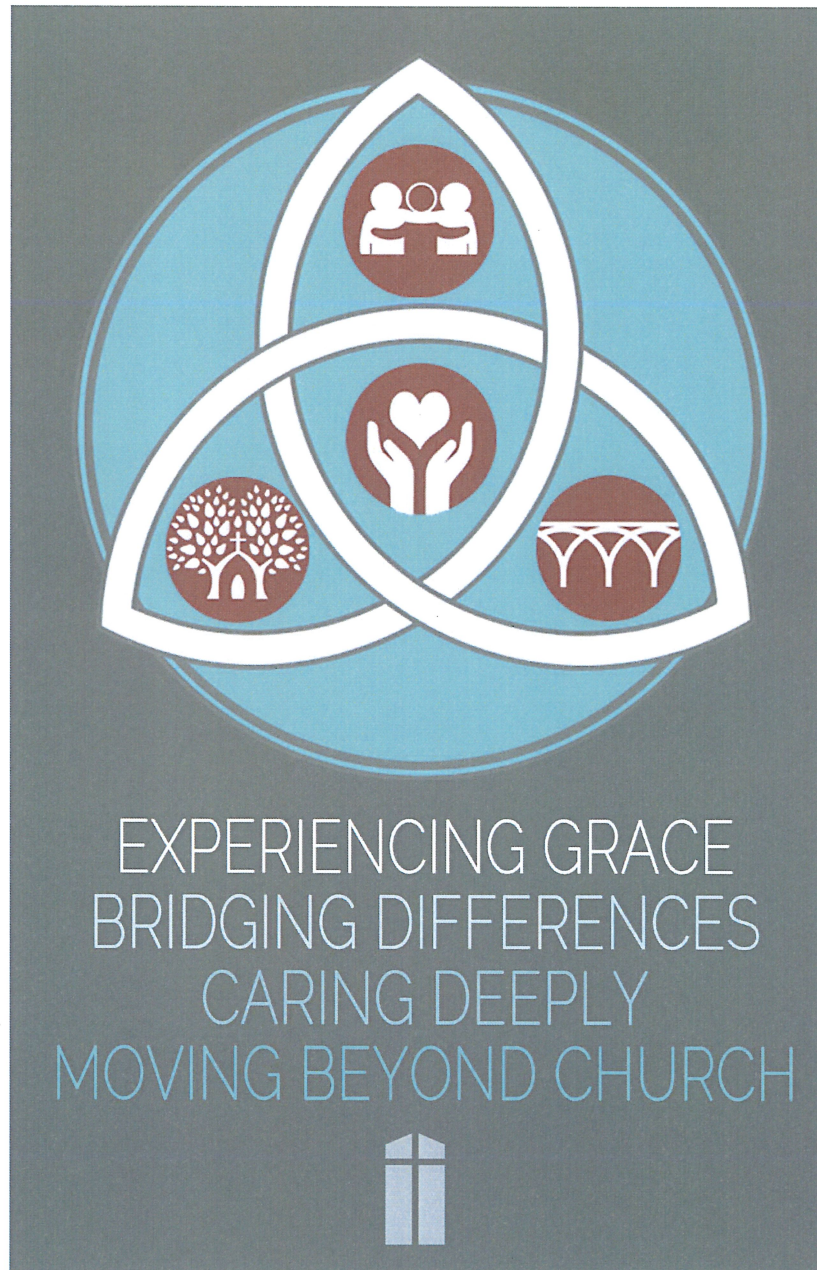


Emmanuel Presbyterian Church Annual Report 2018



2018 Annual Report

A year ago, we reported on the work of the congregation and your leadership in discerning the code of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church. What we reflected to you was what is on the cover of this report. In order for Emmanuel to be itself, to be who God has been shaping us to be over the years, we need to be a people: rooted in experiencing the grace of Jesus; caring deeply for others; bridging differences; and moving beyond church. 2018 has been a year of attempting to live into those values in a more intentional way.

In the pages that follow you will have reports that demonstrate those values, sometimes explicitly and sometimes not so explicit. There are countless stories that have not been told, that share the deep truth of God's work in and through this congregation. We have attempted to share a few of them.

I don't think there was a greater example of all these values coming together at once in our membership and staff than when we were confronted in November with the trauma of the Borderline shooting and the surrounding fear and displacement of the wildfires. To be hit as a community with both of these catastrophes at once was more than overwhelming. Thursday morning as news of the shooting unfolded, I saw our staff and the members of our church rise to the occasion with compassion and intelligence and a kind of calm that comes from preparation for such a time (even though they couldn't have foreseen events like this colliding in our midst.) The leadership was not reactionary, but responsive. We stood with the community and our adopted circus family to honor the sacrifice of the slain officer as the procession passed by the church. Some of us stood with students in the chapel at CLU and grieved. One of our members went to the Senior Center where she volunteered and answered phones, assisting families as they would hear the news of their child or friend or family member having been killed.

I left the church office at 2:15pm, believing we were considering how to comfort and accompany a church and community that was now the victim of a gun violence and a mass shooting. By 2:30, I was getting off the freeway and saw the smoke from the Hill fire begin. By the time I got Dee out to see it 15 minutes later, the fire had quadrupled in size. Within 30 more minutes we were being told to evacuate. We couldn't get back to Thousand Oaks until the next day. In that time the members and staff of this church welcomed people for shelter, breakfast, childcare and more. Each day of the fire, the question was asked, what can we do to help? Respite care for families was instituted quickly so they could get to work or shop while their 'unplanned-out-of-school' children would be cared for. All of this was possible because at our core we are people who practice these things in real time, in non-critical times. As a friend of mine reminds me – in crisis you don't rise to the occasion, you default to your training. Well done Emmanuel.

The next three Sundays we met as a congregation united in our grief, our hope, and our resolve to make a difference in our community and receive the grace that makes that possible. We are still asking how we can help, how we can make a difference? These reports tell part of that story. Please read between the lines.

Looking forward and faithfully yours,

Craig

**CLERK OF SESSION
ANNUAL REPORT – JANUARY 1, 2018 – DECEMBER 31, 2018**

Emmanuel's membership was at **382** as of December 31, 2017.

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in the Conejo Valley received **15** new members. Following is the manner in which they were received:

2 by **Re-Instate**
10 by **Reaffirmation of Faith**
1 by **Profession of Faith**
2 by **Transfer**

During the same period Emmanuel lost **46** members in the following manners:

14 by **Death**
26 by **Deletion**
6 by **Transfer**

Emmanuel's membership stands at **351** as of December 31, 2018.

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper was administered in church on the first Sunday of each month, and at the following special services: **Maundy Thursday; Thanksgiving Eve; Christmas Eve**. The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper was taken to shut-ins as needed by the Deacon's.

There were and 2 Child Baptisms and 1 Adult Baptism during the year.

Jean de Vos
Clerk of Session

Annual Report
Adult Ministries Team (AMT)
January 2018-December 2018

The Mission (summarized from Emmanuel Session Notebook-Policy Book)

To equip adults in Emmanuel to grow in spiritual maturity and to become effective disciples

- A. Plan and oversee the Sunday morning classes for adults and other educational events for the adult population.
- B. Provide resources and encouragement for small group fellowships
- C. Maintain libraries of books, tapes, and videos.

Team membership:

Richard Deonier, Gary Hawisher, Joyce Maxwell (Chair), Pippa Phillips Bob Steenberge, Bill Tennant, David Anderson (pastor contact)

Educational Events

Climbing Higher--This is a Sunday school class scheduled concurrently with the second service. Regular leaders are Richard Deonier, Joyce Maxwell, Pippa Phillips, and Bill Tennant. We used the sermon companions as effective springboards for discussion. Average attendance is about 10, among a pool of 18 persons who attend at various times. Almost all persons who attend contribute thoughtful ideas and discussion. We are seeking other options to make available for adults attending the second service.

Challenges—Richard Deonier, Joyce Maxwell, Scott Roberson, Bob Steenberge and Bill Tennant led a small group that discussed, “Five Views of Biblical Inerrancy,” edited by J. Merrick and Stephen Garrett (Zondervan, 2013). Viewpoints varied from literal to liberal, which led to good participation among attendees.

Wilke Au led a Saturday workshop on spiritual growth that was well-attended and enjoyed by all.

Making America Civil Again – Terry Paulson, Tom Stephens and Dan Stevens presented two evening workshops to teach attendees how to have civil discussions with others with whom one disagrees. Attendees agreed this program was enjoyable and timely.

Small Groups:

At two sequential Sunday worship services the congregation was asked to identify the Bible study to which they belonged and its leader. This information was collated and identified fourteen Bible studies with a total of 83 participants.

Library

There is no change from previous report. Funding is minimal and leadership by Gail Ward and her helpers require little oversight.

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Property

Elder, Don Morgan

Property Committee.

This report is made on behalf of the Property Committee: Bob Hollingsworth - Chair, Dan Buckley, Sue Byrne, Mike Byrne, Nancy Lyon, Bob Steenberge, Gary Yomantas, Sharon Lounsberry, Office Manager, Don Morgan, Elder.

This group of volunteers has provided leadership throughout this year as we have together sought to responsibly maintain our church campus and plan for our future in these facilities.

Long Range Planning Committee.

Members: Becky Anderson, Andy Gappinger, Bob Hollingsworth, Nancy Lyon, MaryJane Morgan, Caroline Ross, Bob Steenberge, Elder Don Morgan, Pastor Craig Williams

In early spring 2018 this committee began the process of evaluating the utilization and functional adequacy of our current campus spaces. We have identified specific areas in which the campus is in need of maintenance, and areas in which the spaces might be more utilitarian. That work spawned the creation of a sub-committee to evaluate the worship spaces in which we hold the Traditional Worship Service at 9:00 am, and the Celebration Service at 10:30 am. The work of both of these committees will be on-going into 2019.

Sanctuary Sound System.

In Quarter 1 of this fiscal year Session approved and funded the acquisition and installation of a new sound system, including a hearing loop system for hearing aid wearers in the Sanctuary space.

Children's Ministry Project.

In Quarter 3 of this fiscal year a project to renovate certain of the classrooms and to transform the outdoor space of the south campus was undertaken (Growing in God's Love Campaign). As summarized in the Stewardship Report, members and friends of this church fully funded the \$75,000 budget to complete this project. Our children are currently enjoying the results of the renovation. We are grateful for the outpouring of financial support for this campaign.

Fall Campus Clean-up Day.

Saturday December 1, was this year's annual Campus Clean-up Day, at which 16 volunteers gave time, sweat and tools to the efforts to maintain our campus. Each year this day brings out the best in our church family to volunteer their considerable maintenance skills! Watch for your opportunity to join us for this day in 2019.

Finally, thanks to the Volunteer Wednesday Morning Get-er-Done Team: Bob Steenberge, Dan Buckley, Gary Yomantas, and Todd Christie (recently joined by Ray Biederman). Also thanks to Sue Byrne, resident arborist and irrigation guru. This team shows up each week to do the things that none of the rest of us will do to keep the doors open, the lights on, and the plants watered. I am grateful for their faithful service!

Annual Report 2018 – Communications

The year 2018 saw the formation of a new team structure that emerged with the aim to refine and re-envision the communication elements for both within the church as well as to the larger community around us. The team is made up of Merideth Sullivan, Torren Nanz, Brittany Lindsey, Eleana Nanz, the overseeing Elder, and both pastors, Craig and David.

DETERMINING THE NEED:

1. Publicity - Members of Emmanuel have often said they don't know what is going on, that the "left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing." Having dedicated people to thinking about communicating efficiently and effectively within and outwardly over time will help to close this gap.
2. Declining overall church attendance in America - According to the best data we have coming from church leaders, only about 23% to 25% of Americans show up to church at least three out of every eight Sundays. If present trends continue the percentage of the population that attends church in America in 2050 is estimated to be almost half of the attendance in the 1990s, a drop from 20.4% to 11.7%. According to Barna, 2 out of 10 millennials consider church attendance important. Currently that demographic is the largest demographic in the American workforce. They just don't consider church attendance that important. How are we going to reach those individuals and accomplish our mission if they're not coming to us?
3. The Community - How are we fulfilling and accomplishing our mission outside of a single one hour Sunday service? How would we accomplish our church's mission if our Sunday service didn't exist? What would we be known for? What does our church look like to the vast majority of our community, and even those in our church who are barely coming, not even every other week? For those people, what does our church look like? What do we look like to them? How are we reaching them?

WEBSITE:

While the new website itself has been live since 2017, the communications team has continued the process of making further changes and modifications to make it even more user-friendly and accessible to both staff and visitors. We are looking forward to continuing to improve and grow our website in the coming year. Keeping a website maintained and up to date is critical in its usefulness and in its ability to share information and first impressions with first time visitors. In the last month, we have had over nearly 700 unique visitors to our website with half of those visitors being new visitors! The most visited page after the home page is "Who We Are" which proves that people are eager to find out more about us.

BLOG:

One of the bigger projects for our team this year was the launch of the blog. An idea in the making for more than a year, we were thrilled to unveil it this past September. Under the coordination of Merideth Sullivan, the blog has allowed for a unique interactive experience with our staff and guest authors, and has reached many readers past those of our congregations due to the ease of sharing its link amidst various online platforms. Our church is brimming with inspirational voices, and we are delighted to have a place to share them!

ONLINE CALENDAR:

A recent focus, the online calendar is home for all of the upcoming events at Emmanuel along with their descriptions, locations and contacts. This has been a very popular page this month as it is the top page after our home page and "Who We Are." Any groups who meet off site who would like to welcome others will also be invited to have their group posted on the online calendar for publishing. Essentially, any event we would like people to come to or know about belongs on the calendar.

This allows our current members to get involved as well as for visitors to see the vibrancy and activity of our community and congregation.

WHY WEBSITE AND BLOG:

1. We want our church to be discoverable by an individual in our local area, and more often than not that discovery process is going to take place online.
 - 97% of consumers search for local organizations online
 - 46% of all searches on Google are local
 - 89% of surveyed participants admitted to searching for a local business on their smartphone once a week or more with 58% searching at least daily
 - 30% of people will not consider an organization without a website
 - The average American spends 23.6 hours online per week.
2. We control the content. (unlike social media which has ever changing algorithms that determine who is shown what and when) Our website and blog allow people in our community to see who we really are, to hear our stories, what we are up to, thinking about and doing.
3. First impressions happen only once - It takes about 50 milliseconds (that's 0.05 seconds) for users to form an opinion about a website and thus form an opinion about our church. How people perceive our church's website is how many people will perceive our entire church as a whole. Once a first impression is made, it usually sticks and it requires considerable effort to undo a poor first impression.
4. It is cost effective - considering just how important a website is to our church, it is quite inexpensive to build and maintain a great website. How much of our budget and creative resources do we spend on our weekly experience? How much of our budget and creative resources, volunteers, mental energy, are we spending on this one hour experience compared to the 23.6 hours a week the average American spends online per week.
5. Quick and easy to change - once something is printed it is permanent. Websites are easy to change with updates and program for recurring events.
6. Always accessible - The office closes, the bulletin ends up in the trash, the announcements are forgotten. The website works 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The porch light is always on welcoming people in and we never have to turn anyone away.
7. It's easy - Google processes more than 50,000 searches every single second. Finding answers by visiting websites online is easy and convenient to find information and get answers to questions.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Another new element introduced this year was the formation of Emmanuel's Instagram as well as the Facebook groups – both public and private. While Emmanuel has had a public Facebook page in the past, the communication team has cleaned it up this year to match our branding, and is working to consistently update it with our ongoing happenings in the church. The private group, however, was new ground. Limited to members/attendees of Emmanuel, it has been a great new way for our church family to communicate throughout the week, sharing photos, stories, and much more. This next year we hope to grow the group for more connection among our members as well as look for ways to grow with interactive videos and live streaming of services.

WHY SOCIAL MEDIA?

1. Attention is being paid less and less in our buildings where we are meeting on the weekends. All attention, young and old, is being paid online. When we reach people where they're at, they are more likely to come to where we are on Sundays.
The average American spends 23.6 hours online per week.
The average American spends 45 minutes a day on social media.
Generation X ages 35-49 spend the most time on social media with over 7 hours a week.
2. Social media might be the first place people find our church.
3. We can build relationships and community between members and with our congregation's friends.
4. It helps us be responsive in the moment. (see IMPACT)
5. It represents our church vitality publically, shares how we are interacting with the community.
6. It can help us to educate, inform, announce and get feedback.
7. It can help us to minister to those who can or will not come to the building.

EMAIL:

Email remains the most effective online communication tool available. It is also the number one use of the internet across generations. This year we have switched from lengthy updates to simple one topic call to action emails or reminders. Look for more consistent, concise and personalized messaging in the coming year.

PUBLICITY REQUEST FORM:

As our team works to manage all of the many communication facets we now have, we realized pretty quickly that we needed to set up a process for those in the congregation that would like to utilize some of these publicity outlets. Our team put together a form, available both online and on paper in the office, that allows anyone to submit a request for publicity via our communication channels for their event. We will be continuing to evaluate and reform this process, but are glad to have something in place to be able to assist the congregation with their advertising needs.

IMPACT:

With the tragic events of this past fall, our work this year truly came into use. Several of our newly established communications elements allowed for our church to respond quickly, pass along critical information, and meet needs that may have remained unknown to over 5,600 people. We hope to keep strengthening these channels of communication in the coming years, hopefully in joy and fellowship rather than in response to sorrow, but in knowledge that if disaster strikes again, we will be better prepared to stand together.

Annual Report 2018 – Transformation Team

Team Members: David Ross, Eleana Nanz, Torren Nanz, Merideth Sullivan, Brittany Lindsey, Mike Savin, Bill Tennant, Craig Williams, David Anderson

In June 2017, as a culmination of The Way Forward workshops, Session appointed David Ross and Eleana Nanz as co-chairs of the Transformation Team committee, tasked with building a team and the following charter:

- a. Creating, encouraging, and leading missional experiments that reach into the community
- b. Fine-tuning Emmanuel's mission/purpose statement, and reporting their recommendation back to Session.
- c. Making recommendations regarding infrastructure and branding to align with Emmanuel's code identified during the consultation process.

Given that none of us had ever done anything like this before, we spent several months refining what exactly we were trying to accomplish. Eventually it became clear to us that we were focused on 3 main tasks.

- 1) Developing new external and internal communication processes & branding (ie website/social media, staff updates beyond the newsletter, the “code” icons/etc.)
- 2) Developing a discernment process aimed at helping parishioners find their passions/calling
- 3) Promoting and coordinating local “mission experiments”, ie new initiatives within the community based on those passions.

We decided to divide and conquer.

- Task 1. *Communication and branding* We spun off a separate Communication Team for the communication/branding work. Multiple members of the transformation team formed that roster.
- Task 3 *Mission experiments* We eventually realized that the Mission Council was perfectly positioned to handle the promotion/coordination of local mission initiatives. We met with their leaders, explained our rationale, what we had learned over the year and the progress we had made with multiple initial experiments and handed over the reigns. We remain available to the Mission council to advise them for a smooth transition.

Because the bulk of the team is heavily involved in the communications branding effort, it seemed best to us to dissolve the formal structure/meeting cadence of the transformation team. The area of discernment/passion remains a noted need for Emmanuel, and there are informal conversations happening as to how to carry this forward. As these conversations morph into a vision, we will make recommendations to the session on how to move forward.

With gratitude,
The Transformation Team



EMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MISSIONS ANNUAL REPORT 2018

2018 was a great year for missions at Emmanuel. We reached out to some new missionary groups both local and international as well as continuing the ongoing support of missions and missionaries we have supported in the past.

The following missionaries are supported by your regular offerings:

- Adam and Amy Baker-The Evangelical Alliance Mission
Adam and Amy are currently taking a sabbatical at Wheaton College where they are pursuing further education. We were blessed to have Adam and Amy visit one Sunday in July.
- Mike Dunkley-Missionary Maintenance Service
Maintenance of aircraft used by missionary organizations
- Ken Erickson-YWAM
Wheelchair ministry to disabled, support and care of disabled and their families through Kardeleen orphanage in Turkey.
- Nita Hansen-God's Hidden Treasures, Ukraine
Christian outreach to orphans, wheelchair ministry and medical care for disabled and others. Nita also visited Emmanuel this year and an Impact trip visited her this summer in Ukraine.
- Ken and Linda (Knipe) Morris-Church planting in Maine.
Establishment of Free Grace Church in Lewiston, Maine
- Gene and Sherry Pan-YWAM
Supporting the house church movement in China. Currently Gene and Sherry are on sabbatical in the United States. They have visited Emmanuel and have made us aware of the hardships for Christians in China
- Bill Randolph-Mission Emanuel in Dominican Republic
He works to improve lives in the Dominican Republic, including home and church building, schooling, employment opportunities and providing clean bottled water
- Paul Schmidt-Wycliffe Bible Translator
Bible translation and training seminars for church leaders abroad
- Rachel VanGent-The Esther School in Zambia
Teacher at a Christian school for orphans and other underprivileged children in Zambia. Rachel visited us this summer and at Christmas.

LOCAL, NATIONAL AND GLOBAL MISSION ORGANIZATIONS WERE ALSO SUPPORTED

- Conejo Pregnancy Center
Non-profit medical clinic and counseling and pregnancy resource center
- Dayspring School-Uganda
Christian school for local children established, built and administered by George and Stella Muzaale in Wanyange, Uganda
- Emmanuel Prison Ministry
Outreach to prison inmates providing pen pals, toiletries, books and encouragement as well as participating in other inmate programs such as Get on The Bus. This year the Women's Fire Camp helped with the fires that surrounded us in November.
- Front Porch-Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
Student Outreach in SLO which cultivates community among students with coffee and a place to study.
- IMPACT
Local ministry for training, preparation and sending of short-term missionaries
- Lifewater International
Providing clean water wells and maintenance training, as well as education on hygiene and sanitation in developing countries
- Lutheran Social Services Community Care Center
Assists vulnerable families in our community through programs, volunteer and advocacy
- Manna Food Bank
Providing emergency food assistance to those in need
- Ventura County Rescue Mission-Lighthouse
Provides a place for homeless women with children to live while training for employment

Local Mission Opportunities

Community Meal

Emmanuel hosts a dinner every Thursday during the spring, summer and fall. The meal is free to anyone in the community looking for a hot meal. Between 40 and 50 people regularly eat with us each week. During the winter, overnight accommodations are also provided as part of the program at the Chinese Christian Church, with Emmanuel still providing the food one Thursday each month. Opportunities exist for helping with hosting the dinner and occasionally preparing and serving food. Contact Phil Haik for more information.

Buddy Break Disability Ministry

The first Saturday of the month Buddy Break meets in the children's rooms and playground at Emmanuel. Volunteer trained Buddies take care of VIP kids with disabilities and their siblings to give their parents and care-givers a three hours break. Buddies and volunteers share the love of Christ with those most needed families. This ministry was first created by Nathaniel's Hope in Florida, by the parents of Nathaniel who was born with multiple disabilities and went home with the Lord. Please see Robert Luce for more information.

IMPACT Short-Term Mission Trips

IMPACT's Mission is to form, train and send teams, prepared to serve Christ and his Church through cross-cultural mission journeys that nurture the ministries of global partners and train participants to be missionaries at home. Emmanuel has supported IMPACT for many years, and Emmanuel members continue to go on short-term mission trips through the coordination and training of IMPACT. Contact Marilyn McHardy for more information.

Manna Food Bank

Manna Conejo Valley Food Bank has been providing food assistance to our friends and neighbors in need for more than 40 years;. Emmanuel has been a supporter since its beginning. All filled bags are collected in the Mission Room and volunteers deliver to the Manna House. Manna is currently in the midst of a capital campaign to raise money for relocating to its new location. Contact Julia Ladd for more information about the ongoing work of Manna or to get involved in the capital campaign.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

A dedicated group of Emmanuel members meet regularly to make prayer shawls that are distributed to friends who are sick or in need of comfort. The team prays over these shawls for the person receiving them and they are a tangible expression of God's presence and love. See Ethel Yim for more information.

Gideons

In addition to placing Bibles in hotels, the local work of the Gideons includes distributing thousands of Bibles near schools and colleges. See Warren Nelson for more information.

Thank You from your Prison Ministry Team

Once again, your support with both goods and financial contributions has allowed the Prison Ministry Team to render support to the inmates of Malibu Fire Camp #13. Our support of the Camp 13 inmates this past year was particularly important and meaningful to the inmates given the extraordinary duty demands that were made upon them by first the Thomas Fire and then the Woolsey Fire. And the Woolsey fire also impacted the Fire Camp grounds in that a portion of one of the dormitories was lost to the fire as well as the building that housed their physical exercise equipment and all of the equipment in it.

In 2018 your generous supply of toiletries and other sundries allowed us to prepare 100 large gift bags for the inmates of Fire Camp #13 which we delivered in December. These gift bags and the relatively short time we were able to spend with them provided a joyful reaction that can be appropriately appreciated only by being there.

Your financial support allowed us in 2018 to provide 2 large microwave ovens and a commercial grade clothes dryer to Fire Camp #13 which were identified by the staff and inmates as appliances for which there was a significant need. You may well imagine the elation when it was becoming known that a commercial grade dryer was being installed to replace the sole faulty household dryer that had to support the needs currently of at least 67 inmates.

We were also able to provide financial support to Crossroads, a halfway house in Claremont for women who have multi-layered needs having just been paroled from prison.

And finally, we want to thank you for the sending of postage stamps and the writing of letters to inmates who cherish hearing from people who care about them and their situation. Too often, inmates are seemingly abandoned and they place a great value on receiving personal communications from the outside.

If you are interested in learning more about prison ministry, please do not hesitate to talk with any of your Prison Ministry Team members.

The Emmanuel Prison Ministry Team:

Bob and Moira Fitch
Judy Knight
Ryan Needham

Nick and Susan Fotheringham
Ken and Dori Knipe
Gennie O'Toole

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Membership, Outreach, Stewardship, Placement

Megan Gappinger and Patti Yomantas, elders

Membership

Two “Meet up with Emmanuel” gatherings were hosted in winter and spring to help visitors get to know us better. Two membership classes—led by the pastors and coordinated by membership elders—were presented in the fall. A total of 13 individuals took membership vows during worship services, joining through profession or reaffirmation of faith, or transfer from another Presbyterian church. See the Jan. 27 bulletin insert for profiles on these newest members.

Outreach

The following activities helped extend our “Moving Beyond Church” goal:

MOPs – For six years, Megan has co-led our Mothers of Preschoolers’ program, which now includes a MOMSnext group for mothers with elementary-age kids. We currently have 42 registered moms and seven mentor moms. With increased needs for childcare during the MOPs’ year, the church created a new classroom! We now welcome 27 children in our nursery, toddler, and younger and older preschool rooms, and several infants who remain with their mothers. And who are the angels who lovingly cradle, teach, and care for these children during each MOPs session? More than 18 staff and church volunteers, including four Emmanuel grandpas!

Way Forward Initiatives – As part of Emmanuel’s Way Forward program, two outreach efforts were approved, funded, and launched in the fall of 2018:

Joy in the Journey, a small group for young moms, led by Cheryl Griffith; and **Safe Harbor**, a support group for parents of LGBTQ children, led by Lynn Foerster and Phil and Kathy Haik.

Madroña School Outreach – In an effort to support the “school next door,” Emmanuel members were encouraged to sign up as volunteers for special events that could use additional staffing. Madroña’s PTA reaches out via email when volunteers are needed.

Stewardship – Growing in God’s Love Campaign

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” *Matthew 19:14*

While operational needs were our 2017 priority, our 2018 quest was all about God’s children!

Our \$75,000 renovation/renewal campaign, launched August 12, sought funds for classroom resources, new fencing, doors, and gates, and a transformed playground. We eclipsed our goal in eight weeks and by November, 117 Emmanuel households had given \$81,842.73. Every item on our “Garden of Opportunities” wish list was funded. Thank you, Emmanuel!

Placement

As chair of the 2018 Church Officer Nominating Committee, Patti had the privilege of working with a dedicated team that included Jean DeVos, Andy Gappinger, Stacey Gessert, Suzanne Luce, Chris Meyer, and Dan Van Gent.

After several months of discernment, prayer, and meetings with potential officers, God blessed us with full classes of outstanding servant leaders. They were approved by the congregation and installed and ordained on Sunday, May 11, 2018.

Elder Class of 2021: Megan Gappinger, Carol O’Keefe, Bill Tennant, David Wing
Deacons: Betty Groen (2021), George Groen (2021), Sylvia Hawisher (2020),
(class year shown) Marian Lydick (2019), Craig Nielsen (2021), Lauren Nielsen (2021),
Caroline Ross (2021), Tina Van Gent (2019)

The congregation also approved four at-large members for the 2019 nominating committee:
Mike Byrne, Gary Hawisher, Marilyn McHardy, and Janet Thomsen.

Children and Family Ministries Annual Report 2018

Children's Ministry Spaces

The Children's ministry renovation project has been completed, and it was a great success. Over a year ago, the children's ministry team met to discuss goals for updating and improving the children's ministry spaces. The team decided to move towards more natural materials and home-based, nature-friendly environments. We added plants to the classrooms, began changing out plastic one-purpose toys for higher quality toys made from natural materials that encourage imagination and creativity in play, opened up classrooms with a door connecting the preschool rooms and a door to the playground area from one of the elementary classrooms, installed a friendlier looking fence, created a covered outdoor story area, and redid the outdoor play areas with new grass and plants, including edible plants and garden beds for vegetables that can be grown to share with others. The children and teachers are enjoying and benefiting from the updated spaces.

Fire Response

Our newly updated children's areas were well used when the schools were closed due to the fires in November. A good number of people volunteered to offer childcare for five days for families during the school closure time. We welcomed children from the church and community and gave them plenty of care, distraction, and fun experiences during that high-stress time. Children made play dough, baked loaves of bread, built forts and ice sculptures, created thank-you signs for firefighters, along with many other science and art activities.

Sewing Classes

Sara Sinclair has continued to offer periodic sewing classes for kids age 6 and up. Over the past year, children have made stuffed animals for the youth group to take to Mexico and bags for girls at the Esther School in Zambia.

Sunday School

We have a growing number of faithful volunteers working with all ages in Children's Ministry. This past year, we opened another class to better meet needs of the children in different age groups in elementary school. Once a month, our preteen class helps others by making snacks or doing other service projects. We are continuing to invite more people to volunteer at least once a month to love and care for our children and to share with them the good news of God's love for them.

Rachel Del Dosso

At the end of December, we said good-bye to Rachel, our Director of Early Childhood Ministry. She faithfully served the children and parents in the nursery and preschool over the past 5 years with compassion and creativity in everything she did. Rachel is moving into her full-time art therapy practice, and we will miss having her on staff at the church.

Camp Joy

98 children attended Camp Joy last summer, with 60 volunteer adults and teenagers. Children learned about God's amazing love and faithfulness through chemistry concepts and stories from Zambia. Children participated in chemistry experiments and color combinations, created a mural, played exciting games, and sang songs about God's love for them through Jesus.

Lenten Meals

During Lent, we offered a weekly soup and bread meal with a guided discussion time. Between 20 and 30 people participated each week. Others used the Lenten Guide at home as well.

Easter Week

Easter Week prayer stations in the narthex provided people with time and space to pray and reflect on the events of Holy Week.

The Easter Carnival was an awesome time this year! A petting zoo, games, face painting, music, and art activities made the carnival a fun time for everyone. A variety of groups of people helped to set up, decorate, and run different game booths. The carnival helped to wrap up Holy week with a true celebration of the resurrection that all ages could enjoy.

Youth Ministry Annual Report (6-12th Grade)

2018

Our students have lots of irons in the fire. After being at school all day, many of them also have an extracurricular activity through school, and homework on top of that. They have hobbies and dreams, along with their regular and daily responsibilities. The load students have to shoulder is so much more than what I had to in 6-12th grade. These students are a blast to work with, and we really feel honored that they would choose to invest in one another here at Emmanuel and in this church as a whole. Please continue to pray for our students and even ask them how they are. Their plates are so full, but they continue to be beautiful examples of Jesus to their peers and to the broader community.

Middle School:

Every three years with the Middle School students we teach through the Hebrew Bible, a Gospel, and Acts. 2018 had us finishing up the Hebrew Bible with the kings and the prophets, and since then we have been working through the Gospel of John. We love this rhythm. It allows us to communicate the large narrative of the Scriptures and then lean on their understanding of the foundation of the Christian worldview.

We attended Forest Home twice last year with our Middle School students. It is a gift to be able to work and play side-by-side, developing trusting relationships as we share our lives together. Similarly, our weekly Wednesday evening meeting is centered around the same thing. We seek to grow closer together and build deeper bonds.

High School:

We do a few more off-campus activities with the High School students. We participated in two demonstrations in 2018, March for Our Lives in Los Angeles and Families Belong Together in Westlake. Both events really captured what we felt Jesus is all about: caring for the vulnerable, leveraging privilege for the well-being of those with no voice, and publicly and prophetically calling the community to lean into the love of God.

I am very open that I put more emphasis in the long-term impact on the students than the short-term. They will likely spend way more time away from Emmanuel and out of the youth programming than in it, and I am always trying to assess if they are being gifted anything to take with them as they go. What sort of Christianity are they encountering here? How is Jesus being presented? What is this Jesus about? It delights me that, when the students look back, say in two or three decades, and they think about the issues that were relevant to them and to the country in their teenage years, they will also remember events where they stood with their sisters and brothers from Emmanuel, both other teenagers and adults from the broader church, and stood on the right side of history, understanding that Jesus was on that side too.

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Transformation Team and Personnel

Bill Tennant, elder

Transformation Team

Two primary activities were accomplished in 2019:

1. Safe Harbor, a support group for parents of LGBTQ children was designed and proposed. It will be staffed with volunteers Lynn Foerster and Kathy and Phil Haik. This group will have accepting Christian focus designed to help parents of LGBTQ children work through their relationships to their children and community (including both church and neighborhood) in a loving, professional and confidential manner. Session approved the proposal and Patti Yomantas, Rachel Del Dosso, and Meredith Sullivan have helped to design a brochure for distribution and to promote the group on line. First meetings are intended to start in the winter of 2019.

This initiative was created in reaction to the concern that many LGBTQ children attempt suicide (estimated 40%), and we felt that part of these attempts may arise from parents having difficulty in knowing how to love and help their children in their unique lives. This group addresses all the EPC core values of experiencing grace, caring deeply, bridging differences, and going outside the church.

2. A method of preparing initiative proposal for EPC experiments in fulfilling our mission in accordance with our DNA was developed. It involved identifying key proponents of the initiative and having them (with designated Session member feedback as needed) write a proposal for review. The key structure of the proposal was based on two lists used in defining projects by various agencies, including the US Government. These are the Heilmeier Catechism used by DARPA, and the five-paragraph order used by military agencies. The proponents consider these lists (adapting them to their own project) to help them consider all the things likely to be needed for the project to be successful. The Safe Harbor project above was the first application of this proposal approach, and it appears to have been successful to get started. Time will tell what further refinements may be needed.

Human Resources

Two activities were engaged in this area in 2019

1. Develop an up-to-date Employee Handbook for EPC that reflects our procedures and requirements (consistent and compliant with federal and state law) for employees. This work is ongoing, and will be based on Handbooks developed recently and in use by other Churches, adapted as needed to EPC. We have obtained reference handbooks from other churches and are reviewing them in the process of developing this handbook
2. Help design and participate in Employee annual reviews. An input questionnaire was developed and given to employees to provide inputs for review. Reviews were conducted by the Pastor (or Pastors, as appropriate to the situation), the Treasurer and the Secretary.

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

- Worship -

David Wing, elder

Since becoming the elder for Worship in June 2018, I have been learning what this role is responsible for and definitely feel like a freshman member. I'm thankful that the move to a calendar year for session class offers me the opportunity to still serve for 3 years after having a half a year to be introduced to being on Session.

I would like to start off with a heartfelt thanks from Session to all the volunteers who assist in the many facets of Worship at Emmanuel. I believe that the gifts of service given by our volunteers contribute greatly to our sense of family at Emmanuel.

Volunteers are an essential part of Emmanuel and the volunteers supporting Worship are no exception. Please consider volunteering with the groups listed. Feel free to reach out to the team leaders listed or to David Wing.

New Sound System

Probably the most significant improvement in 2018 was the new sound system and audio loop. Leading the charge on this project was pastor Craig along with input and help from John Pace, Dale Berry and Ingmar Pettersson with Don Morgan lending his expertise and passion for the audio loop system that allows hearing aids to receive an amplified signal from the sound system. There was a tremendous amount of work and logistics to complete this project and it has been a great improvement over the old and failing equipment it replaced. More fine tuning on the system will be done in 2019.

Chancel Guild

Pat Hufschmidt continues to chair this committee, responsible for the artistic workings and décor of the sanctuary.

Communion

Sarah Steenberge continues to serve as Communion Coordinator, drawing servers first from those currently serving on Session and as Deacons, but also from the larger pool of ordained elders and deacons not currently serving. Sue Byrne continues to serve as the chair person for the team that prepares the elements for each communion service.

Choir

Our choir is an integral part of Worship at Emmanuel and is becoming more and more of a rare thing as choirs dissolve and disappear from churches all over the US. Lance Merrill provides passionate and inspired leadership to the choir and he is assisted with gifted accompaniment from Daniel Manoiu. The choir itself is a friendly and passionate group who enjoy serving with their voices, giving praise to our Lord and Father. If you like to sing, talk to Lance...he would love to have you sing with the choir.

Ushers

Fred Arnold continues to serve as Head Usher coordinating ushers and ensuring that they are equipped for all the duties that fall to the usher team (welcoming congregants to the sanctuary, assisting in the sanctuary with seating and logistics, taking offering, counting attendance, handling emergency situations, etc.). If you can serve in this area, please contact Fred Arnold.

Greeters

Our greeters are the smile and outstretched hand of our church and Tina Van Gent continues to serve as coordinator. In addition to extending a welcoming smile and greeting, our Greeters have also been trained in emergency procedures and are always alert for problem situations or individuals in distress.

Sound and Visuals Team

In addition to the teams listed above, we would not be able to get by without the Sound and Visuals crew and the musicians. With the new sound system this year, it has been challenging and at times frustrating as new systems have been learned. We greatly appreciate the efforts and patience of this team of volunteers.

Attendance

Average worship attendance per Sunday for 2018 was 187 including both services...Classic Service was 132 and Contemporary Service was 71. Compared to 2017, this represented a 2% decline in the Classic Service and a 10% decline in the Contemporary Service.

DEACON ANNUAL REPORT Jan - Dec 2018

Introduction and Overview

2018 continued to be a year of transition for the Deacons. Seven new Deacons joined the board in May, and the Board began utilizing the Parish Model more fully, introducing the congregation to their parish members and giving the Parishes an opportunity for parishioners to gather and get to know one another in a more meaningful way. In addition, the church decided to change the terms of call to match the church's fiscal year, meaning instead of the Deacon terms running from May to April, they will now run from January to December. Throughout these changes, the Deacons have consistently demonstrated how they Care Deeply for the members of Emmanuel.

In May 2018, George Groen, Betty Groen, Craig Nielsen, Lauren Nielsen, Tina VanGent, Sylvia Hawisher and Caroline Ross joined the Board of Deacons, and Marian Lydick agreed to stay on another year as treasurer, through April 2019. Mary Jane Morgan, Don Christie and Marcia Sheffield went off the board. Shortly after the new year started, Linda Christensen and Maria Nelsen also left the board. No new Deacons were called to replace them.

When the Terms of Call were changed to calendar year, all Deacons whose terms end in April 2019 were asked to consider staying on after their term is up in April 2019 through the end of December 2019. So far, Marian Lydick agreed to stay on through the end of 2019, and Elizabeth Gannfors and Karen Peters decided to go off in April 2019. No new Deacons will be called to fill the empty positions until January 2020.

The Executive Committee also changed positions for 2019. Torren Nanz stepped down as moderator, and Andy Gappinger took over as moderator for 2019. Marian Lydick stepped down as secretary at the end of 2018, and George Groen will take over for 2019. Marian Lydick will continue on as treasurer through December 2019. In December 2018, it was announced that Andy Gappinger and his family will be moving to Texas sometime in 2019, so a new moderator will need to be appointed.

Secretary / Treasurer Report

The Board of Deacons met most months in 2018, except for February, July and November (due to the wildfires). Detailed minutes were taken each month by the Secretary. Congregation giving totaled \$5,981 from January 2018 through December 2018. Expenses totaled \$1,024 during that same timeframe. Checks for special needs were written throughout the year, totaling \$5,288, helping out several members of the Emmanuel Family.

Service Ministries

Special/Emergency Needs - Several special needs were made known to the Deacons throughout the year. In accordance with Deacons Handbook procedures to maintain a high level of confidentiality, they were all reviewed by the Deacons' Executive Committee.

Care for Shut-Ins - The Deacons Care for Shut-Ins program provided off-campus communion each month to home-bound members of our Emmanuel family. People who participated found the service and the fellowship with both the shut-ins and the other servers very rewarding. Many of our shut-ins also received poinsettias before Christmas.

Memorial Services - The Deacons provided setup, food, ushering and cleanup for numerous memorial services/receptions in 2018, including Mary Meyers, John McHardy, Hale Larsen, Harry Reid, Jordan Greer, Helen West, John Fowler and Dottie Tucker. The families expressed their gratitude for all of the help the Deacons provided.

Other Care Ministries – Senior Concerns continued to host the Senior Luncheon each month, and the Caregivers Support Group and Grief Support Group also continued to meet and offer support to those at Emmanuel going through painful seasons of their lives due to loss. Hospitality was offered throughout the year for various occasions, including Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, staff appreciation lunch, and the launching of the Parishes by Color on September 2 with cupcakes iced in all the various colors of the parishes.

Transportation and meals continued to be offered to those who needed it, and the card ministry continued to thrive as well offering encouragement, sympathy, prayers for healing, safe travels, perseverance, life transitions and praises for good news. However, as time went on, those ministries began to transition to the parishes.

Parish Ministries

When 2018 began, each of the Deacon Pairs emailed or mailed their parishioners a letter wishing their parishioners a Happy New Year and asking how the Deacons can pray for them. (At this time, there are seven parishes at Emmanuel, grouped geographically, and two Deacons are assigned to oversee each parish.) Andy Gappinger and Tabitha Nelson-Bane held a gathering for their parish in February, which became the prototype for the other parishes to model. On May 6, the Deacons were introduced to the congregation and asked to host a table for their parishes at the all-church BBQ. That was the first gathering where the parishes were identified.

The parishes needed a way to be identified other than by their Deacons, so the Executive Committee decided to use colors as the names for the parishes, and they became known as the Red, Yellow, Orange, Green, Blue, Pink and Purple parishes. In the fall, all Deacons were asked to have gatherings with their parishes, and by the end of October, all the Parishes had met, either at the church or at a parishioner’s home and had the opportunity to get to know one another better.

Conclusion

As we move into 2019, the Board of Deacons wishes to thank the congregation for their continued support, making it possible to serve our Emmanuel family. The congregation’s generous giving to the deacon fund enables us to help those who are facing difficult financial times. The new Parish model will both challenge and enable us all to Care Deeply for each other and to rely on each other and on God for support.

We strive to serve with compassion and wisdom in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Submitted by: The Executive Committee,
Torren Nanz, Moderator 2018