



The Immanuel Light

For the Living of These Days

FEBRUARY 2022

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TN CBF 2022 General Assembly in April at Immanuel

Field Coordinator of Tennessee Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Rick Bennett, writes to update us on the 2022 Tennessee General Assembly, which will be held April 29 and 30 at Immanuel!

Congregation members Judy Skeen and Melanie Dover are part of the planning team for this event and Pastors Steven and Stephanie are aiding with logistical support. We all hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to hear from our distinguished speaker and to meet Baptists from across the state! You will have the opportunity to be involved in a variety of ways, including an invitation to participate in an All-State Choir.



Bill Leonard

I am delighted to announce that beloved Baptist historian Dr. Bill Leonard has agreed to guide our theme exploration *Through the Eyes of Jesus*. As you likely know, Dr. Leonard is founding dean and professor of Baptist studies and church history *emeritus* at Wake Forest University School of Divinity. The author or editor of 25 books, he is a native Texan, who now resides in Winston-Salem with his wife, Candyce, and

their daughter, Stephanie. Dr. Leonard is a frequent writer and contributor of articles to *Baptist News Global* and a highly respected perspective on the past, present, and future.

In an exploration of our theme *Through the Eyes of Jesus*, Dr. Leonard will guide us in thinking around several timely questions for CBF Tennessee, our partner churches and members. How did Jesus see the world? As his disciples, how has Jesus' vision shaped our ministry and outreach? Where have we struggled? Fallen short? How now shall we live? Dr. Leonard's leadership arrives amid CBF Tennessee's 30th anniversary, a threshold which invites us to consider how our vision needs adjusting so that we might enjoy a more faithful future. Plans are for Dr. Leonard to speak Friday evening, facilitate dialogue and learning on Saturday morning, and preach in worship late Saturday morning.

The General Assembly planning team also is delighted to announce that Bryan Anderson, minister of music at partner congregation First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, will craft and lead our times of shared worship during the General Assembly. A native of Nashville, Bryan is married to Lauren and is dad to three young children. A graduate of Carson-Newman University and the University of Kentucky (Master of Music, 2009), Bryan's giftedness will accentuate our fellowship and worship.

Registration opens February 15 online. Look for further details in a forthcoming email.



The Weather Report

On Monday, January 17, six youth and three adults from Immanuel Baptist Church spent the day in Mayfield, Kentucky (see photograph). On a day when our nation remembered the life and work of God's servant named Martin, we set out to be of use to others.

A priority of the trip was to deliver the items collected by the church for the relief effort since the severe weather of December 12. Tim Sharp and I compiled the list of items collected during an earlier trip to Mayfield after Christmas. The lead volunteer of the distribution center established at the Graves County Fairgrounds was specific with the things in high demand. Items collected included, laundry detergent, small size baby diapers, baby lotion, liquid body wash, coffee, and tea bags. The volunteer who greeted us Monday expressed his delight to see items they needed.

After unloading the van, the lead volunteer at the distribution center approached and asked, "Are you here to work?" "Absolutely," I replied. Within minutes, we formed an assembly line packing boxes with various food items. Food assistance is an ongoing need. Friends, you would be proud of our youth! Busy, they forgot about being cold and discovered the satisfaction that comes from submerging oneself in a task that serves others. By one estimate, this distribution center has served nearly 30,000 people since mid-December. Plans are to remain in operation indefinitely.

After a quick lunch, we drove to downtown Mayfield and walked the streets that were once the home to a vibrant business community. The historic courthouse, like many of the buildings around the square, now stands condemned. Heavy machinery worked loading and hauling off the detritus. Such a landscape is indescribable, humbling.

In addition to the items mentioned above and the volunteer hours of nine adults and youth from Immanuel, two checks totaling \$6450 were forwarded to First Baptist Church Mayfield and the CBF Kentucky, both at work on the ground. The recovery has just begun. Join me as we prayerfully discern opportunities to be of further use to God's people in dire need. —Steven



OUR TEAM: Pastor Steven, Maddie Vaughn, Jack Vaughn, Cliff Vaughn, Mary Vaughn, Jonah Wilkerson, Anna Kihlberg, Olivia Cooper, Vivian Vu.



Immanuel Baptist Church

The mission of Immanuel Baptist Church is to share the good news of Jesus Christ, to deepen our love for God and others, to fully engage our neighbor, and to wholeheartedly serve those on the margins of society.

God is calling Immanuel Baptist Church to practice the radical, compassionate discipleship taught by Jesus Christ.

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Our Trip to Mayfield



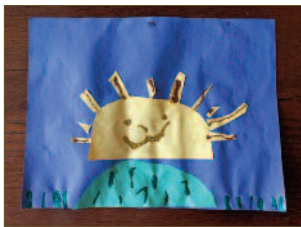
Call for Artists!

On Sunday afternoon, March 27 from 3pm to 5pm Immanuel will host *Celebrating the Arts of Immanuel*, an opportunity to showcase the unique gifts and talents of IBC members and friends.



If you draw, bake, craft, sew, play music, or otherwise create and are interested in showing your work, please register via this link:

<https://forms.gle/95UbuRB15zuxJYpr6>. Children are also invited to submit art for the children's portion of the art show.



Contact Pastor Stephanie at swyatt@ibcnashville.org or 615-297-5356 with questions.

We hope this will be an opportunity to see the incredible beauty and creativity that IBC members and friends offer. We anticipate the event will encourage conversation and perhaps even future collaboration.



ANNOUNCEMENT:

Help Again with Luke 14:12 Desserts

Help Immanuel provide 600 individually wrapped desserts for our ministry partners at Luke 14:12. Dessert options include cookies, brownies, pastries or other items. Our February collection date will be Sunday, February 27. Drop off your desserts in the church kitchen (or let us know if you need to bring them the week before.)

Thanks, Missions and Ministry Committee

Visit the library . . .



to stock up on some winter reading:

The Boys by Ron Howard & Clint Howard - a memoir of Hollywood and family.

A Sorrow Shared by Henri J.M. Nouwen – Nouwen writes of his grief upon the death of his mother and pens a letter of consolation to his father.

Circle of Grace by Jan Richardson – a book of blessings for the seasons.

Cokie: a Life Well Lived by Steven Roberts – biography of Cokie Roberts written by her husband.

Crossing to Safety by Wallace Stegner – a novel about two couples who move between Vermont and Wisconsin. It explores the private life of their friendship and marriages.

Practically Divine by Becca Stevens – the founder of Thistle Farms shares how she and the women she has helped have found healing love.

Wednesday Nights in February

February 2—Vespers:

"Singing the Hymns of Black Composers"

February 9—Cliff Vaughn

"Good Faith Media and The Raceless Gospel"

February 16—Pam Brown (Executive Director of Insight Counseling Center)

"Mental Fitness 2022"

February 23

Business Meeting

DEACON NOMINATION REMINDER!

Deacon nominations will be accepted until noon on Sunday, February 13. Ballots are available outside the office and across from the library.



Save the Date!

Celebrating the Arts at Immanuel Sunday, March 27, 3-5 PM



Speak to a member of the Planning Group for more information:
Charles Businaro, Georgina Businaro, Carolyn Campbell, Tim Sharp,
Steven Meriwether, and Stephanie Wyatt



Gifts of the Magi in Flowers

Gifts the Magi brought to the Christ child were depicted in the sanctuary flowers on January 2, the Sunday prior to Epiphany. These gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense are pictured in an adjacent photograph.

A chest of yellow spider mums with miniature croton leaves is reminiscent of the gift of gold. The curly willow is a reminder of the winding path of the Magi.

The pitcher of miniature orange roses along with red berries suggests the fragrant myrrh which was used in anointing oils.

Frankincense, used in the incense burned in the Holy of Holies, is represented in a fluted brass container of silver brunia balls with white tulips and cedar. Brunia has been discovered in archeological research in the southern tip of Africa and existed thousands of years ago.

Pastor Stephanie inspired these floral arrangements when she found the gold crown and star for this significant Sunday following Christmas. The grouping of three arrangements was designed by Charles Businaro with inspiration from Jack Inman's book, *Floral Art in the Church*, published in 1968. Mr. Inman was a member of Belle Meade Methodist Church. This excellent book of floral ideas for the liturgical year is available in the church library.

Church Family News

PRAYER LIST

Pat Vick
Myra Marshall
Paula Stephens, sister of Carol Stephens

Ike and Mina Harris
Brad Lewis

THANK YOU

Thank you for the cards, kind words, thoughts, prayers, phone calls, love and concern shown during the illness and death of my sister. Many thanks from a grateful heart. —Jean Sharpe

Dear Immanuel Family,
With heart-felt thanks we are so appreciative of all the prayers, cards, phone calls, and food you gave us during Pat's surgery. The surgery went well and the recovery is coming along. Love to all,
—Pat and Beryl Vick

To my lifelong Immanuel family:
The many years of your prayers have sustained my family in so many ways. The list of kind deeds is infinite. "Thank you" does not feel all-encompassing but it is meant in the most sincere and heartfelt way. The loss of Charlie, our most difficult chapter yet, was buffered by you, our village. Thank you and may God bless you and keep you all the days of your life.
—Lynn Sullivan Woodall and family

BEREAVEMENT

Sympathy is extended to Melanie Dover on the death of her mother, June McEwen, who died January 1, 2022, in Chattanooga.

Sympathy is extended to Troy Clouse on the death of his father, Jim Clouse, who died January 7 in Kansas.

Sympathy is extended to Jack Shaw and family on the death of Faye.

Sanctuary Flowers

February 6- given by Ed and Betty Kay Wasserman "in grateful appreciation of our Immanuel Church Family."

February 13- given by Scott and Ellen Newman

February 20- given by Richard and Marilyn Shadinger

February 26 given by Jean Sharpe in loving memory of Dotty Shaw.

IN MEMORIAM

FAYE SHAW

24 September 1934 ~ 21 January 2022

Joined Immanuel

24 June 2015

happy birthday to you!

February 2

John Griswold

February 3

Nancy Huguley
Stephen Wilkerson

February 5

Scotty Dean
Tim Sharp

February 6

Susan Crownover

February 7

Meredith Crownover

February 10

Troy Clouse
Peggy George

February 11

Geneva Wilkerson

February 12

Kaelyn Newton

February 13

Matthew Atkinson

Jeanie Reynolds

February 16

Elaine Fleming

February 17

Linda Fields

February 20

Pat Vick

February 22

Ellen Mundy Ford
Stephanie Wyatt



Calendar of Events

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

9:30 PDO

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

5:00 Children's Choir

5:00 Church Family Supper

6:00 Vespers in the Chapel

-Handbells/Brass rehearsals

-Children on Mission

7:00 Adult Choir rehearsal

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3

9:30 PDO

6:00 RITI

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6

9:15 Sunday School All Ages

10:30 Worship/Lord's

Supper/Fellowship Offering

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7

9:30 PDO

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

9:30 PDO

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

5:00 Children's Choir

5:00 Church Family Supper

6:00 "Good Faith Media and the

Raceless Gospel"

-Handbells/Brass rehearsals

-Children on Mission

7:00 Adult Choir rehearsal

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10

9:30 PDO

6:30 Stewardship ZOOM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

9:15 Sunday School All Ages

10:30 Worship

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14

9:30 PDO

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

9:30 PDO

6:30 Deacons' Meeting

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

5:00 Children's Choir

5:00 Church Family Supper

6:00 "Mental Fitness 2022"

-Handbells/Brass rehearsals

-Children on Mission

7:00 Adult Choir rehearsal

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17

9:30 PDO

6:00 RITI

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

9:15 Sunday School All Ages

10:30 Worship

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

9:30 PDO

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

5:00 Children's Choir

5:00 Church Family Supper

6:00 Business Meeting

-Handbells/Brass rehearsals

-Children on Mission

7:00 Adult Choir rehearsal

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24

9:30 PDO

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

9:15 Sunday School All Ages

10:30 Worship/Children's Church

5:00 IBC Book Club

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28

9:30 PDO

Room in the Inn
February 3 and 17

Some Special Memories of Joining Immanuel . . . in 1951!

In November 1951 Virginia Neely and her mother, Ruth, joined Immanuel Baptist Church. At that time Immanuel was located at 17th and Broadway. It was just a few years before the church moved to its present location at 222 Belle Meade Boulevard. Below are some thoughts, both interesting, informative, and sometimes amusing, that Ruth Neely made during that time . . .

. . . *the first two people* to greet us (at Immanuel) were Mrs. and Mrs. Charles Zehnder. They shook our hands, called us sisters, and invited us to be their guests the following night at a very formal dinner, truly "a dinner at Belmont College." It had the same kind of food, service, look and waitresses as the Old Belmont.

. . . *One thing I noticed about the church* was that the pulpit was so high you had to hold your head back to see the preacher and the quartet. By the end of the service, your neck hurt! So I decided to try sitting on the back row. This was when I discovered Baptist churches were not built with enough back seats!

. . . *Now about that paid quartet*—I soon was hearing so much beautiful singing around me that I could see no reason to pay four people to sing when we had hundreds of heavenly voices in the congregation! The quartet was soon changed to a beautiful choir—even Dr. Mac could sing!

. . . *The air conditioning system worked fine* when the windows were raised and there was a breeze. The only problems were the bugs and bees. The fire engines and street cars all seemed to ring their bells loudest when they were in front of Immanuel, drowning out the preacher, the quartet, softening the cries of the babies and children whose papas or mamas had taken them outside for a spanking for misbehaving in church!

. . . *A short while after I came to Immanuel* Miss Mary Northington retired and went home to Clarksville to live. She asked me to take over her Sunday School Class of young women that she had taught for many years. This was one of the special events during my first year as a member of Immanuel.

—Ruth Neely
(1906-1998)