



The Immanuel Light

For the Living of These Days

AUGUST, 2020

Pastor Stephanie's Reflections on

Making a Home for Faith: Nurturing the Spiritual Life of Your Children

By Elizabeth F. Caldwell

I came across this wonderful book a few years ago while browsing the free bin outside McKay's Bookstore in Knoxville. I couldn't believe my luck because Elizabeth Caldwell spoke so beautifully to areas of Christian education that I had been pondering. The premise of this book is that parents and other loved ones are the primary theological educators of children.

While we professionals (including Caldwell herself) coordinate, guide, and inspire, many of the most important moments of spiritual formation will take place in the midst of family and home life.

Caldwell draws her scriptural inspiration from Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (NRSV), the first portion of which Jesus also invokes in his teachings (Matt 22:37; Mk 12:30; Lk 10:27): Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Caldwell shares some of the tools that she has used over the years to help parents become more comfortable with their own faith so that they, in turn, will be prepared to have important spiritual conversations with their children as they arise in everyday life. These tools include crafting a personal faith statement (Chapters 2-3; Appendix 1 & 2); learning to be storytellers (Appendix 3); becoming comfortable with questions and basic theological concepts (Chapter 4); and creating a spiritual environ-

ment within one's home so that faith formation takes place as part of daily living (Chapter 5). She concludes her book with a categorized bibliography of resources for addressing these areas of discussion further (Chapter 6).

Caldwell helps her readers understand what kinds of questions will emerge at each stage of a child's development and what a child is searching for with his or her questions. She illuminates how faith questions contribute to a child's burgeoning sense of self and the development of her or his autonomy. Furthermore, she views narrative as central to a child's identity formation, "Identity comes from hearing stories and finding a place in them" (p. 51). Thus, hearing biblical stories as well as family stories help situate children in their world and help them determine what contribution they will make to it.

One of the most powerful ways to connect children with the stories of the Bible and their Christian faith is through celebrating and observing traditions connected to the liturgical year. Caldwell gives a broad overview of how recognizing the Christian seasons in your home (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost, Ordinary Time) helps both parents/caregivers and children find continual meaning in the story of Jesus and in the story of the church all year long. Finding ways to inhabit each of these seasons is (in part) an anecdote to the letdown many in the U.S. feel at the end of Christmas Day. When we can see the extraordinary in every season, we spread out the excitement and the memorable rituals throughout the year, lessening the pressure of making Christmas carry so much of our need to create "perfect" family memories.

—Continued on page 2

Youth Activities!!



August 16, 5-7 PM

Meet at Elmington Park, bring your own food and wear clothes to play in!! Questions? Contact Andrew at atonks@ibcnashville.org.



Fun on Wednesday Nights!

The kids had great fun with each other and Pastor Stephanie on Wednesday evening! Join the group each Wednesday night in August from 5:00-7:00 PM. Bring your own dinner.

—Continued from page 1

I highly recommend this book. If you want to get to the heart of the matter quickly, go straight to chapters 4–5 and then peruse the resources in chapter 6 and the appendix materials. You can check Caldwell’s wonderful book out of the Immanuel library.

Remember, you can visit Immanuel’s library during church office hours 9am–4pm Monday–Thursday. To make sure someone is here to let you in the building (in case we are out visiting or getting lunch), please contact Pastor Stephanie via email (swyatt@ibcnashville.org) or phone (865) 406–7154 to arrange a time to drop by. You can also call the main church office number 615–297–5356 to determine a time to visit.



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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Church Family News

PRAYER LIST

Remember in prayer all those among our family of faith who are facing moments of crisis and celebration.

BEREAVEMENT

Sympathy is extended to Stephanie Wyatt on the death of her grandmother, Deola Trent Wyatt, who died August 3 in Knoxville.

IN MEMORIAM

FLORA (FLO) CLARK

August 1, 2020

Joined Immanuel February 1, 1998

Welcome, New Members!



Stephanie Wyatt and Adam DJ Brett. Stephanie is Immanuel's new Associate Pastor. Adam is a Ph.D. candidate in religion. They join Immanuel from West Baptist Church in Oswego, New York. Their deacon is Melanie Dover.

Sanctuary Flowers

August 2: given by Bill and Penni Gregg "in loving memory of our dear friends, Duard and Susan Sullivan."

August 9: given by John Blackman in loving memory of his parents, Eleanor and John Blackman, Sr. and his cousin, Sabrina Anne Pearce.

August 16: given by the Grigsby Sunday School Class in loving memory of Sue Senter.

August 23: given to welcome Stephanie and Adam.

August 30: given by Laddie Neil in loving memory of her sisters-in-law, Josephine Neil Jones and Jane Neil Jackson.

To My Immanuel Family . . .

I am most grateful for the contacts, cards and prayers that have supported me over the past two months after my back surgery. My recovery is progressing well, "right on schedule," according to those following my recovery. (From my viewpoint, the recovery seems to be progressing at the speed of a glacier.)

However, I am a good patient and following my given instructions to the letter. Spinal fusion recovery is a slow process, and I do not want to repeat the surgery—ever. It appears that my severe scoliosis has been almost completely corrected! I do anticipate a good result at the end of the process.

I feel a palpable support of prayer from my Immanuel Family, and I appreciate it more than I can relate. Many thanks!
—Steve Tate

LABOR DAY PICNIC UPDATE . . .

Every year we look forward to coming together for the IBC Labor Day Picnic. Out of concern for the health and safety of our church family, the deacon body has made the difficult decision to cancel this year's picnic. We know that these short-term sacrifices are necessary as we do our part to reduce the spread of the virus. Take care of yourself and each other.

*In Christ,
Jenny Wilson*

Immanuel Baptist Church Education Faculty

August 2020 – July 2021

The Education Enlistment Committee began its work soon after the Pandemic quarantine began, so our work was completed through phone calls, emails and texts. We were aware from the start that it would probably be quite a few months before we could get back to our educational programs. With that in mind, we thought it would give continuity to have as many as possible of our workers to remain in their present teaching positions. We were pleased with the positive response from our current workers, and our list shows few changes from last year. These names will be voted on at the August business meeting. I want to express appreciation to the committee for their work: Georgina Businaro, Sherry Cooper, Jim Hawkins, Felix Montgomery, Shirley Montgomery, Ellen Mundy and Dwight Wagner. When the time comes in the future when it is safe to begin our Sunday School classes, our teachers will be in place and ready to serve. (And we'll all sing "Hallelujah"!

Richard Shadinger, Coordinator

20-21 Education Enlistment Committee

Grigsby Class (Room 1320/Heritage Room)

Teachers: Marie Burr, Lerma Hearn,

Barbara Lutz, substitute

Outreach: Judy Parker

Mills Class (Room 2308)

Director: Suzanne Brandon

Teachers: David George (1st Sunday), Tim Reynolds

Friendship II Class (Room 2207)

Teacher: Kenny Cooper

Outreach: Georgina Businaro, Susan Hawkins, and

Betty Kay Wasserman

Young Professionals Class (Room 2205)

Teachers: Steve and Miriam Tate

Outreach: Ellen Mundy

Young Families Class (Room 2209)

Teacher: Craig Self

Outreach: Lissa Jarnigan

Greeters

Susan Hawkins (upstairs)

Felix Montgomery (Honeywood door)

Ed Wasserman (office entrance)

IBC Bookclub Coordinator

Richard Shadinger

Library Coordinator

Georgina Businaro

Kay Johnson, Team Member

7th - 12th Grade (Room 2320)

Sunday School Teacher: Andrew Tonks

4th - 6th Grade (Room 2313)

Director: Patty Littlejohn

Teachers: Jeanie Reynolds and Carol Boozer

1st – 3rd Grade (Room 2311)

Teachers: Melanie Dover and Grover Baker

Fours – Kindergarten (Room 2402)

Director: Debbie Maxwell

Teacher: Jill Cooper

Babies – Three (Rooms 2403 and 2401)

Director: Betty Kay Wasserman

Rotating Teachers: Cindy Lutz and Laurie Woods

Extended Session Facilitator

Patty Brown

Nursery Coordinator

Laralee Page

Children and Music (Choir Room)

Lauren Baker and Marilyn Shadinger

Children on Mission (Room 2314)

Leaders: To be determined

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

10:30 Worship

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

5:00 Outdoor Family Fun

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

10:30 Worship

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

6:30 Stewardship Committee
(ZOOM)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

5:00 Outdoor Family Fun

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

10:30 Worship

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

6:30 Deacons' (ZOOM)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

YOUTH ACTIVITY

5:00 Outdoor Family Fun

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

10:30 Worship

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

5:00 Outdoor Family Fun

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

10:30 Worship

11:30 Business Meeting (following
Worship Service)

ACTIONS APPROVED AT JULY BUSINESS MEETING

At the July business meeting following the worship service on Sunday, July 26, Pastor Steven recognized Ed Wasserman who read a motion, prepared by Jon Cooper, Parliamentarian. The motion called for ratification of the following votes previously taken by written ballots sent via U.S. mail or email as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, all of which were properly noticed in accordance with the Immanuel Baptist Church bylaws:

1. The election of the deacons and church officers pursuant to Article V, Section 1 of the bylaws;
2. The approval of the membership of the standing committees pursuant to Article IV of the bylaws;
3. The approval of the 2020-2021 budget pursuant to Article VIII, Section 10 of the bylaws; and
4. The calling of Stephanie Wyatt as Associate Pastor pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the bylaws.