

The Immanuel *Light* Abridged

MAY 5, 2020



For the Living of These Days

I have found myself drawing a parallel or two between our life in a pandemic and the disruption Hurricane Katrina leveled on the littoral rim of the Gulf Coast in August, 2005. One likeness goes to congregational life.

The hurricane displaced the residents of New Orleans. Members of my church, St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church, resettled across the United States. Living in Baton Rouge for nearly six weeks, I set up shop in a sister Baptist church and began the process of connecting with the membership. I was on the road regularly making visits and ducking in and out of New Orleans to retrieve important documents. Temporarily, the church focused more on what our church could do and less on polity and procedure.

Recently, Immanuel Baptist Church has conducted church business all the while observing social distancing. Our parliamentarian (Jon Cooper) and alternate parliamentarian (Kenny Cooper) have been most helpful. The means by which we elected officers and deacons, and approved the recommendation of the Committee on Committees was a deviation from normal procedure. Likewise, we are presently voting on the proposed 2020-2021 budget using a combination of email and ballot. Our church bylaws do not make provisions for such methods of voting. The response has been strong and expeditious. Per the parliamentarian's request, we will ratify the votes when we do hold a business meeting at a future date.

We will continue in this innovative approach to making important decisions as a church. Soon, you will receive notification from the associate pastor search committee re their candidate. The coordinator, Laralee Page (formerly Huguley), will soon provide information on how this will unfold. In late May, there will be opportunity for the congregation to meet the candidate in person. For any preferring to practice social distancing, live-stream options will be avail-

able. In addition, we will use a combination of email and ballot for the vote in early June. Pending church approval, the new associate pastor could begin ministry with us by the middle of June.

In addition, we are beginning to discuss the reopening of the church. I have asked Jenny Wilson (chair of the deacons) and Larry Maxwell (president of the directors) to begin working with me to formulate a plan for resuming church gatherings. Input from other church leaders and membership will be sought and shared with the church at the appropriate time. Each member will use their best judgment in deciding how they will participate.

Anticipating the resumption of our life together I find myself looking forward to several things. For starters, a Wednesday night business meeting in the chapel. More importantly, hearing you sing the hymns of faith.

—Steven



Be on the lookout in next week's *Immanuel Light Abridged* for information about a new weekly live stream event which will include singing and hearing your favorite hymns!

Notes of Interest

- Remember to **VOTE** for the 2020-21 proposed budget by this Friday, May 8. You may email your vote to dmaxwell@ibcnashville.org.
- Please send information about any graduates at your house to IBC this week. We want the name, the school, and the degree of each graduate.
- The power is back on at church!

Our Virtual Lord's Supper Went Well . . .



Al and Patty Brown and Tim and Linda Fields shared their Lord's Supper Observances with us!

Here's What IS happening at Immanuel—



Larry Maxwell and Ed Wasserman have changed out the hall light fixtures.



We have replaced the compressor on the large McQuay chiller!

PRAYER LIST

- The Vu family
- Lynn Woodall
- Carolyn Campbell's mother, Betty

Vanderbilt Divinity School



JOIN THE VIRTUAL CELEBRATION

The Historic Class of 2020
 Friday • May 8, 2020, 1 PM
 VU.EDU/COMMENCEMENT
 FACEBOOK.COM/VANDYDIV

(Go online and watch Caroline Kimrey Talbert graduate, virtually, of course!)



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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