EMMANUEL CHURCH



annual church report | 2020 - 2021

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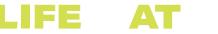
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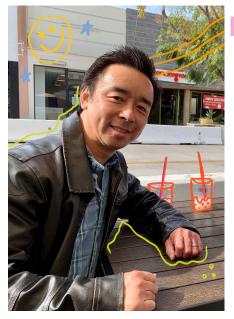








OPENING LETTERS & INTROS



DEAR EMMANUEL CHURCH,

What a year. I've heard many say the past year was a "throw-away." Well, in God's plans, there is no such thing as a throw-away year, because there is no moment where He is not working. No time is wasted with God. So then, what was the past year for Emmanuel?

What I can see – and I hope you can too – are strides in honoring God. Our tech and website developments took our impact beyond our walls to other cities and homes. Have you seen all our online content, from worship services and sermons to "Encouraging the Heart," "Bible with Bob," and creative pieces? We improved the worship space and updated the facility. We blessed our community by giving front-line workers care packages, making a generous donation to Burbank Temporary Aide Center, and hosting a fundraiser for the Armenian community during the crisis in Artsakh. We conducted a racial understanding forum to address anti-Asian hate. Our life groups are making a personal difference and new ones are on

the way! We congratulated and blessed several high school graduates. We welcomed Chris Schaeffer into God's kingdom. Paige Powell, Katy Schaeffer, and Chris Schaeffer got baptized!

But you know what's also special to me, having been your pandemic, online pastor more than I've been your in-person pastor? Haha! It's seeing us stand shoulder-to-shoulder in hard times. I look forward to elder board meetings twice a month, getting to see my fellow shepherds and stand in the trenches with them. I'm touched to see all the care packages we created and shared, while elders prayed for people in their vehicles. I'm moved by our core team in children's ministry, who have been devoted, skilled and loving warriors for our kids! I love how Koinonia cares for those in their Life Group. I love hearing from our life group facilitators tell about the deep relationships, conversations, and life changes taking place in their groups. Ellen and I love leading and hanging out with our co-facilitators, the McNutt's, in our Life Group! I love seeing our new Early childhood coordinator, Joy, take on her role and love our little ones with so much joy! I am moved to see our many youth workers care for and mentor our youth. Did you know our Lord's Kitchen team still served the homeless with packed food every month? I am moved by our hospitality team, which gifts each person with a genuine smile no matter what. And have you received an iced coffee on Sunday morning from our faithful barista, Dan Russo? Did you know that recipe was Kathy Lew's? I am moved to see our tech team show up regularly to troubleshoot and deliver a fantastic worship service to us in the sanctuary and online.

There are many more Emmanuelites I can talk about. When you're in the thick of a storm, there's nothing like those you lock arms with and brave the storm together. This is the Emmanuel family! So much goes on in our church and standing together in tough times is an honor. In these times, don't fear whether the storm will pass. Be more mindful about missing out on standing shoulder-to-shoulder with one another in times such as these.

What's ahead? It's hard to know for sure, these days. But the Emmanuel family is strong and no matter what comes, we get to stand together in it.

In His Creative Goodness.

Brian S. Chan

CORE VALUES

FLOURISHING



PERSONAL

through redemption in Jesus, transformation in the Spirit, and growth in the Word.



RELATIONAL

through transparent friendships and liferenewing fellowship.



COMMUNAL

through pouring God's goodness and grace on our city and beyond.



CULTURAL

through using Godgiven talents and ideas in our work and creations.



GLOBAL

through worldwide missionary efforts and support as a witness of Jesus Christ.

VISION STATEMENT

EMMANUEL IS HOME.

WE are a multi generational home of imperfect and beloved people, who strive to flourish in God's story of redemption.

WE strive for transformation from brokenness to beauty through redemption in Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. We see people flourishing as new creations.

WE strive for life-giving relationships that heal hurts and enrich us to grow. We see people flourishing in fellowship.

WE strive for building up our city with teachings of biblical truth and efforts of compassion and justice. We see our community flourishing as we bless it.

WE strive for shaping our culture with God-glorifying work, ideas, creations, and imagination. We see our culture flourishing for the good.

WE strive for building God's kingdom beyond our city by sending missionaries and supporting missional efforts. We see the world flourishing in a gospel movement.

A LETTER FROM RANDY,

CHAIRMAN OF THE ELDER BOARD

This past year one of the main goals of the Elder Board is to continue our path to become a group of men more committed to growing in the role of shepherds as outlined in Scripture. I am proud to be a part of a group of men that has taken this commitment very seriously. It is not an easy path as we have had some tough, heartfelt vulnerable conversations along the way, but it is exciting to see this bearing fruit.

With this idea of being a shepherd in mind, one of the great personal joys of the year is, I had the privilege along with another elder Darin Shea to lead a group of young men through a three-month discipleship group. Even though we met on Zoom it turned out to be a great experience for us all. Though not everyone knew each other, it was one of those God-given gifts where we just seem to "click" immediately.

The best way I can get across what this group meant is to share directly from the guys themselves:

"The discipleship group was great! We had deep meaningful conversations from our individual walks with God to our greater understanding of Scripture and the church. It was a great experience to fellowship despite the lock downs and

pray over each other and hear one another's stories. I think our generation and those younger than us in the church are hungry for more discipleship and mentorship exactly like this."

"It brought perspective from a biblical standpoint and as we shared our testimonies with one another it was a powerful way to recognize that we all are in the Church and a part of the Body of Christ for the most common reason, we are broken but redeemed by love and grace."

"This group was impactful because of the genuine connection formed. It helped me during the pandemic and the isolation and helped give me perspective in my daily life. The prayer support was amazing, and the impact of Christ-centered fellowship was displayed. The teaching was great and helpful."



PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

BY JOY HOWARD

One of my favorite things about working with the Emmanuel preschoolers is seeing them connect the dots in our bible stories. This summer we read a wonderful book (ACTS by Catherine Zoller) with them. We read about Jesus' ascension and about Pentecost. One child asked "when did Jesus go back to heaven," and "what does Pentecost mean"? "How does the Holy Spirit live with us if Jesus went back to God?"

In these moments I am reminded that we should not water down our faith when talking to our children. Rather we can walk alongside them as their Bible knowledge grows and their understanding of Jesus' love blossoms.















MINISTRY UPDATES & RE-CAPS





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BY RYAN JAY

Over the last 18 months, the Children's ministry has been through many COVID-imposed changes...a reality of our unprecedented situation facing down this pandemic. And while, in the grand scheme, the impact can often feel very temporary to us, it may feel much longer to a 5, 8, or 11-year old who has endured this strange reality for a larger percentage of their lives.

Certainly, we made the best of it – hosting Sunday school via zoom meeting and doing some fun activities virtually. Still...more screen-time for kids can seem restrictive and we (teachers) could sense the kids longed to get more energy out and simply play together.

This is why the ability for us to reunite this Summer has felt so invigorating. Because we knew a large event, like VBS, could still pose some complications in an ever-changing COVID environment, children's ministry opted for a VBS-styled theme of a "journey around the world," throughout the 11 weeks of Summer; we traveled somewhere different each Sunday, learning about the culture (foods, language, God's creatures native to the area) and what it is like to be a Christian in that country. The best part, by far, was the support from volunteers who went out of their way to share their familiarity with these cultures and really pour into the kid's lives for one session. I remember Carolyn Rowley patiently teaching the kids mancala, playing an entire game with everyone who wanted to learn. I watched the kids in awe as Alex Acevedo stretched himself as large as he could to mimic a bird native to Colombia that was twice as big as a person. I shared in the laughter as Anet Khachatori and Sarkis Kazaryan taught us games and dances from Iran and Armenia, respectively. And I saw the joy in the children's eyes when Tony Bancroft showed up in his traditional Chinese tunic, mimicking two of our girls who had also worn their Chinese-style dresses. A huge, huge thank-you to everyone that got involved (many of whom I've not mentioned here) but made such an impact this Summer. God's love is shared through us and among us. And it has surely shone brightly since we have returned to Emmanuel!

WORSHIP & MUSIC

BY BILLYE JOHNSTONE

We know in our heads that the church is not a building. We know that the church is those who name the Name of Jesus as their Lord and Savior, no matter where they are. We greatly appreciated the ability to worship as a church through the online streaming, due to the tireless efforts of our technical team, but our hearts missed each other. We missed what the Lord provides by giving us one another to gather in worship. I believe Hebrews 10:23-24 explains exactly what was happening to us by saying "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up

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meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." We still had the honor of worshiping God, we can do that anywhere anytime with everything we are and everything that we do. But we were missing the other piece, the encouraging, and spurring one another on. This sentiment rang true for so many in our church and I believe we all experienced a sort of awakening, a realization that we need each other and that we need to come to church to worship the Lord as a congregation.

Finally, March 2021 came along and for those who were able and felt it was safe for them, we were able to gather again on Sunday

mornings, this time outdoors. Our theme was "Welcome Home" and it really felt that way. What a joy to see each other again, even if we could only see half of our faces.



I know the time we had to be apart deeply changed me. I think it changed a lot of us. I hope and pray that we will not soon forget this awakening and we continue to carry the commitment and passion for congregational worship far into the future.





LIFE GROUPS BY RENÉ BANCROFT

Tony and I have the privilege of leading a Life Group for young adults who work in various avenues of the entertainment industry. At the beginning of the year, we suggested that we each share our testimony with a follow-up time of Q&A. Everyone had the opportunity to share and we felt honored that they all wanted to participate.

One of the young ladies shared with us that in early 2020, she was really struggling with her connection with the Lord and her future. Her plans were not working out like she thought they were going to because, as we all know, the world literally shut down. As the Lord would have it, her dad had gotten in contact with Tony so that she could ask some questions about the animation industry. By the end of their conversation, Tony invited her and her sister to join The Big Picture.

This young woman has a heart that so tenderly bends to the Lord and what He has for her. She consistently amazes me with her scriptural insights, her thought-provoking questions, her deep love for her family, and her genuine kindness towards everyone in our group. This is definitely one of the bonuses of meeting on Zoom during a worldwide pandemic. Had we been meeting in person last year, we might not have had the blessing of having her in our Life Group.

All in all, Tony and I feel we are the ones who are 'most blessed' by this Life Group. The camaraderie and genuine love for Jesus and each other is phenomenal! We are so grateful these amazing young people welcome us into their lives every week!







YOUTH MINISTRY BY ANDREA DI FRANCIA

"This is where my relationship with Jesus will be tested. This is where I will need Him and His Church more than ever. This is where Jesus will be my guide. This is where I need to trust Him. This is game time." These were the words that my good friend Nick shared the day before his spinal fusion surgery.

Throughout the years and to this day Nick attends, works, and serves at our Church and is involved in many different areas from helping with videos around the Church to Children's ministry. What many people don't know is that Nick has had a lot of back problems that have caused him a lot of pain. Nick was told by his doctor that major spinal fusion surgery was highly recommended because of the benefits that such a surgery would have meant for reliving his pain. However, the surgery was a complicated one and the recovery time was anywhere between 6 months to a year, with the first period of healing requiring almost complete bed rest.

A year ago, Nick underwent this very tough surgery, something that was painful on a physical, psychological, emotional, and spiritual level. But his heart was ready. In the many conversations prior to the surgery Nick was confident in the Lord and trusted that no matter what Jesus would not leave him alone.

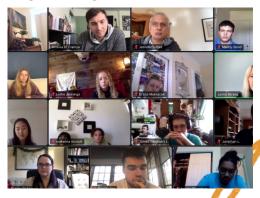
But the toughest part came after the surgery when Nick was confronted by the reality of the brokenness of our physical world. Immense pain, slow progress, and tough nights were ever-present in the conversations post-surgery. This is where I saw the power of the Holy Spirit overwhelm Nick with the love, compassion, and hope that can only come from God. I witnessed Nick's soul being lifted after prayer, his mind was filled with hope after a good conversation with another Christian, and his heart filled with confidence after reading His Bible.

It was incredible to witness the many years of investment in the growth of his spiritual faith, in the development of mentorship and friendships in the Church, in his tuning with the Holy Spirit, and in the development of his relationship with God come to fruition when it was necessary. It was humbling for me to see that God used us and the Youth Ministry as a tool to change, strengthen and develop the

spiritual life of a person that made himself available to experience the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit.

Nick continues to serve Jesus, to grow in His faith, and be a light in every situation he is in. Confident that his Lord and Savior Jesus is with him always to the very end of the age.







HELPING WHERE WE CAN



A KOINONIA STORY

BY CAREY & BEV McLEOD

Emmanuel recently said goodbye to Gordon and Ginger (Goudy) Hartman as they moved to Wisconsin to be close to children and grandchildren. The Hartman's served Emmanuel in numerous ways over the years. Ginger had been part of the Emmanuel family for nearly 70 years. Gordon and Ginger raised their two boys at Emmanuel and were one of the five founding families of Koinonia which began in 1971, three of which still remain.

Having settled into an apartment in Wisconsin while searching for permanent housing, Ginger provided an update to Emmanuel friends on August 17th which included the following:

We've watched Emmanuel on YouTube the last couple of weeks. We do miss Emmanuel and last Sunday when they scanned the congregation, we could see the backs of many of your heads and it made us miss you more. So far, we have watched services for two different churches. I

don't know when we will visit in person. The area in which we are looking for houses is fairly broad and we don't think we want to be half an hour away from the church, so where we land for a house will be part of determining where we plant ourselves in a new church home. We just keep praying that God will show us where he wants to plant us.

You are loved and missed, Ginger and Gordon



Couples like the Hartmans have been at the core of the dedicated families that have grown and worshipped together at Emmanuel for a half-century.

BLESSING OUR CONGREGATION







This past year, we went to the sky in loving our church family during a pandemic. We got creative! We created care packages, mostly led by Kathy Drummond. There were care packages for Christmas, that included an advent candle for each household (!), and for Valentine's to remind everyone that you are truly loved! It was a drive up occasion, where we







greeted each other in person and people received prayer at their vehicles. Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry made and delivered care packages, creating special moments outside people's homes. We gave extra care packages for Emmanuel members to love on their neighbors. Emmanuel elders wrote personal cards to each person during Christmas







time and made personal phone calls to check on people in the Spring. Our church engaged in another deep conversation about cultural unity, when we discussed anti-Asian Hate at our third Racial Understanding Forum led by Trevor Strang. In such times, to know that you are loved and, as Emmanuel's tagline says, "to be known," is honey to the soul. The ways we loved on one another, as the Emmanuel family, ought to be celebrated!



REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY







We got creative in loving our community. S.O.A.R. (Social Outreach And Redemption) supported hundreds of front line workers. Kim Johnson, Karen Russo, Brian Blazer, Darin Shea, and other volunteers created hundreds of care packages for hospital workers and mental health workers. Kym Blazer along with more volunteers created care packages for 140 Burbank police officers. We held a fundraiser for Burbank Temporary Aide Center and for







relief to the crisis in Artsakh, in support of our Armenian brothers and sisters. We continued to bless the homeless during this time of need through the Lord's Kitchen with packaged lunches that our guests took to go. Many businesses or restaurants from the community joined us in this effort with donations. During the holidays of Halloween and Christmas, we







even decorated the pathway between the sanctuary and garden rooms to create an immersive walk-through, in order to add holiday beauty and spirit to our neighborhood. We heard back from at least one neighbor that she appreciated so much what we did, while our city was shut down. We tried to creatively be a beacon of light in our city, when times were tough. The extent and creativity of our blessing to the community ought to be celebrated!

EXTRA EXTRA!! HALFWAY POINT RECIPE TREAT!



One of Emmanuel's elders, Darin Shea, shares one of his Midwest BBQ recipes with you! Try and enjoy!

INGREDIENTS:

2 pounds baby back ribs **FOR THE RUB:**

1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper

1 teaspoon ground cumin

2 teaspoon paprika

1 teaspoon dry oregano

1 teaspoon sugar

1 teaspoon salt

25 grinds fresh black pepper

3 tablespoons vegetable oil

DIRECTIONS:

[1] Preheat oven to 300 degrees F.

[2] Mix the rub ingredients together well in a small bowl.

[3] Remove the membrane from the bone side of the ribs, then rub the vegetable oil onto the ribs. Pour the rub over the ribs and work the rub in, fully and evenly into the ribs. Spread the ribs out evenly on a foil-lined baking sheet.

[4] Bake until tender and juicy on the inside and crispy on the outside, about 2 to 2 & 1/2 hours.





THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE US



And of pr. cursing and lying which they speak.

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SPIRITUAL DISCIPLESHIP



BY CONNIE KARMAN

As I look back over the 2020-2021 ministry year two words come immediately to mind, 'be flexible.' That was my mantra. The Covid pandemic has taught us that life can change in a moment, and what has worked in the past must now be modified. Where once discipleship was strictly in person, we now had to find new ways to connect and grow, making Zoom a household name.

The word *challenge* can mean 'difficulty' or 'opportunity.' In this past year there were times when life and ministry took on some difficulty, but more often, we were able to encounter new opportunities for relating with one another and staying connected.

Prior to Covid, I had never videoed myself, but as I filmed the weekly vlog, 'Encouraging the Heart' I saw the opportunity to both encourage and challenge our church family. The result of this endeavor encouraged me as well, as I heard

from so many who appreciated this effort. One person wrote to me and said, 'Every week I come away from the video with something to think about that stays with me.'

I also enjoyed the privilege of meeting for discipleship with both groups and individuals. As we dug deep into the scriptures, week after week, lives were changed. We shared our struggles and victories with one another, and we grew in ways unimaginable. And though we met and saw one another on a screen, it made the day we were able to reunite in person much more special.







CONGREGATION

CELEBRATION









TO OUR INCREDIBLE VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to the many Christ-like servants at Emmanuel Church! Emmanuel could not have been what it was this past year without them.

The worship team with musicians like Billye Johnstone, Janessa Godwin-Austen, Dave Curry, Ron Suffredini, Steve Gregory, Christi Wright, Dave Johnstone, David Arana, Andrea DiFrancia, Matt Hiett, and Brian Hull, led us to the throne of grace each Sunday, whether on the screen, at the parking lot, or in the sanctuary.

The tech team with Rex Olson, Logan Shea, Harrison Johnstone, Drew Martenson, Al Padro, Michael-Paul Terranova, and others troubleshot during the week, arrived on Sundays before anyone else and remained until after everyone else left, to make the Sunday services visually and auditorially run with excellence.

Our hospitality ministry with Connie Karman, Karen Russo, Kim Johnson, Karen Voorhis, and Christi Wright always welcomed us on Sundays to a house of worship! Dan Russo never failed to serve an awakening drink at the coffee bar.

The Children's Ministry team, with Ryan Jay, Jennifer Bond, Susan Locke, Brian Hull, Nick Russo, Joy Howard, and many more helpers, have been amazing for our children. They kept coming up with creative ways to minister to the little souls God entrusts to us.

The Youth Ministry team has made such a difference to our youth during the pandemic, with Andrea DiFrancia, Matt Hiett, Trevor Strang, Kathy Drummond, Brian Blazer, Janessa Godwin-Austen, Lisa Hoffman, Lynne Strang, and Jatinder Sehmi to name a handful. Our teens were so blessed to have these folks in their lives during a pandemic.

Our Life Group facilitators, like Tony & René, Drew Martinson, Bev & Carey McLeod, Bob & Bonnie Jorgenson, Don & Debbie Ludwig, Kelly & Dan McNutt, Ingrid & Brian Ross, Ellen & Brian Chan, Kelly & Kevin Mokracek, Andrea DiFrancia, and Matt Hiett were part of the heart of Emmanuel as they cultivated genuine community and fellowship in the church. And how important this was during a pandemic lock down!

Teachers like Bob Drummond, David Hoffman, Connie Karman, and Brian Chan continued to build up Emmanuel with truth and encouragement from the Word. Workshop leaders like Amy Di Francia and Connie Karman edified our bodies mentally and emotionally in a hard time when healing is needed.

SOAR ministry with Kim Johnson, Karen Russo, Darin Shea, Brian Blazer, and Kym Blazer researched and facilitated ways for our church to bless the community in the pandemic. The Lord's Kitchen with Rex Olson, Darin Shea, Jatinder Sehmi, Pat Weyrauch, and Kathy Lew gave food and their love to the homeless every first Saturday.

Our elders – Randy Karman, Brian Blazer, Tony Bancroft, Drew Martenson, Darin Shea, Jatinder Sehmi, Key Payton, and Dan Osti – poured in countless hours to help shepherd our church. Members of the stewardship committee, missions committee, Christian care committee, tithing counters, and many more kept crucial areas of the church running well.

I know I can't name off every person who has made a difference, but this is a sampling of those who serve. It's a sample of the many individuals to be grateful for and to celebrate! They administer God's goodness to us in the way they serve the church family. Thank you to you all!

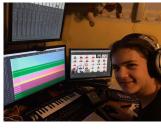
If you're looking for a way to be a part of serving, you can get in on it! Let us know. We'll find a place for you.

-Brian S. Chan















SUPPORTING GLOBAL MISSIONS

GLOBAL FLOURISHING THROUGH WORLDWIDE MISSIONARY EFFORTS & SUPPORT AS A WITNESS OF JESUS CHRIST

Thanks to our Faith Promise missions budget, this year Emmanuel Church supported 27 missionaries from 13 missions organizations, on five continents, in 10 countries.

Don & Cathy Allsman Completion Global, Texas

Reaching far through urban evangelism and missions

training for all believers

Savannah Bancroft Youth With A Mission, Hawaii

Reaching far through equipping missionaries in worship and prayer, plus short-term missions

Phil & Doris Hess Cornerstone, California

Reaching far through videorecording and editing of seminary training, and shortterm mission trips

Mel & Linda Loucks

GTN, California

Reaching far through traveling to teach indigenous pastors and seminary professors worldwide

Jack McCullars Frontiers, Spain

Reaching far through training people in "vocational" missions that can go into "closed" countries



Training pastors, church-planting, and community development in Peruvian-jungle villages

Bruce & Sue Camp DualReach, California

Training churches and missionaries to optimize effectiveness, and training trips to South Asia



Shige & Luann Nakazawa ReachGlobal, Japan

Reaching far with a team, shepherding the small-church-multiplication movement in central Tokyo

Ben & Leslie Chambers

Teaching, discipling, and training of leaders for YoungLife at the University of Arizona

Dave & Bekah Rutledge TEAM, Africa

Seminary teaching, pastor training, and healthcare ministering in eSwatini

YoungLife, Arizona



Steve & Liz Spellman Reach Global, Brazil/Haiti

Training pastors, church-planting, and aiding in poor communities' development and leadership

Mike & Michelle Chapman

CRU, Florida

Reaching far through print and video, prison ministry, discipling, and staff encouragement

Jason & Susi Jensen

InterVarsity, Wisconsin

Coordinating and enhancing the "spiritual-foundations" efforts for all of InterVarsity ministries

Alan & Sue Starling Global Recordings, California

Editing numerous translations of the gospel-on-audio for worldwide distribution

Monty & Ibolya Taylor Entrust, Hungary

Pastoring, training pastors, and publishing Christian materials across Central Europe

Kevin DeVera GTN, Hawaii

Reaching far through traveling to teach indigenous pastors and seminary students worldwide

LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS



"BIBLE WITH BOB"

BY BOB DRUMMOND

One of my biggest blessings, but also challenges this year, was teaching Bible with Bob – my first recorded, online Bible studies. It started with a Facebook Live study that never actually went live. When the big "live moment" occurred, many things with the technology did not work. I remember teaching, but not really knowing if I was actually "live". I had people texting me that they could not see me.

Soon after, I converted to filming Bible with Bob on my iPhone and posting it to our YouTube channel and Facebook group. This opened a whole new world of tripods, background settings, lighting, and pushing the right buttons on my phone to actually record. It was a rough start but it got better.

However, thanks to the HD technology of our phones and cameras, each time I taught a Bible with Bob or preached a sermon, I had the unfortunate experience of looking at myself, in HD, exposing every scar and skin flaw on my face. Yikes!

This started a practice I had never done, or even considered, for over 60 years – a skincare regiment. This opened a whole new world of creams and lotions and scrubs and masks. After practicing this regiment for several weeks, I still did not look any better in HD. While complaining to my wife that my regiment was "not working", she observed that "I was not going to change 40 years of sun damage in a few weeks." She was right, so I quit my skincare regiment and learned to love myself as I am.

Regardless of these personal challenges, I was able to teach several series in Bible with Bob: The Parables of Matthew; Jesus Teaches on Prayer; Understanding Your Spiritual Gifts; Discovering God's Will. These studies are

still available on YouTube/ EmmanuelBurbank/Bible Studies.

Unfortunately, the studies are not posted in chronological order, but it will be easy to see in what order to watch them by noticing how my COVID hair gets longer each series. The price of vanity is high....



STEPPING FORWARD INTO A NEW YEAR...



Having looked at this past year, we can see all the good that was sewn into it. It was a tough year for all of us, but so much goodness was also in it. Through tough times, God remained good. There is so much to celebrate and to praise God for! Let's recount the year as one of God's faithfulness and of fruitfulness in various ways. Let the evidence of a good God soak into you as you recollect the year we've been through.

If there are two words that can describe what to look forward to in the new year, it's "hope" and "redemption." There is hope for our future, individually and together as a church, because there is redemption in God's hands. At Emmanuel, we will pursue redemption on the

personal, relational, communal, cultural, and global levels. I believe this is the plan God has for us, a path of redemption, of seeing beauty forged out of brokenness, and of wearing crowns raised from the ashes.

The near future may still not look like what we were used to before the pandemic. In some cases, things are permanently different for the better, like an improved sanctuary and a more developed online presence. In other cases,

things are temporarily different and part of the gradual process of redeveloping from the pandemic. And, some things are still being sorted out. In any of the cases, change in some form is instrumental for growth and progress.

So the key is to step forward into the new year by being watchful of God's leading. What is He doing? How is He speaking? In what ways is He bringing about redemption from our situations? We begin with a foundation of worship because God is good. Then as parts of redemption, we will proceed on a path of *healing* and *rebuilding*. There is hope for the future we are walking toward. Let's take a step forward.



SERVING AS ELDERS IN 2020-2021



ELDER NOMINATIONS FOR 2021-2022

Though two candidates were invited into the elder nomination process this year, both declined to have their names forwarded as elder nominees this year.

THE EMMANUEL STAFF

FULL TIME

Pastor Brian S. Chan Lead Pastor	x102	brian.chan@emmanuelburbank.org
Pastor Bob Drummond Executive Pastor	x103	bob@emmanuelbubank.org
Billye Johnstone Worship & Music Minister, Choir	x101	billye@emmanuelburbank.org
Director, Welcome & Integration		
Andrea Di Francia Director of Youth Ministries	x128	andrea@emmanuelburbank.org
Matt Hiett Facility Manager	x129	matt@emmanuelburbank.org
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PART TIME

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Trevor Strang Middle School Director	x126	trevor@emmanuelburbank.org
Joy Howard Nursery/Preschool Coordinator	x107	joy@emmanuelburbank.org
Matt Curry, Dan Russo, Nick Russo Custodians	x113	



Left to Right (Top): Billye Johnstone, Brian Chan, Cheri Payton (Middle): Bob Drummond, Connie Karman, Andrea Di Francia (Bottom): Kathy Lew, Matt Hiett, Donna Rotella, & Kathy Drummond

Special thanks to Donna Rotella, who served as the Nursery/Preschool Coordinator, and Cheri Payton, Communication and Design Manager during this year.

EMMANUEL CHURCH

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