

**PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE: "A New Year - A New Beginning"**

A few years ago, I saw a cartoon that had made its way online that described the main character's excitement at having been given an 800-word writing assignment by his teacher due the next day. His excitement grew and turned to near obsession as he gathered the brand new paper and a well-sharpened pencil.

But when the newness of preparing for the task wore off, getting started with actual writing turned out to be much harder than he thought. He found himself distracted by everything: the squeaking of his chair, his friends, the good weather outside, food, everything! But none of those things served to get the writing assignment done.

If our lives were books, each new year would lie before us like blank paper for a new chapter. And as above, the next chapter of your life will not write itself. **How much you will accomplish will be determined by your decisions and commitments and, unfortunately, your distractions.**

The year 2012 is setting both opportunities and obstacles before you, and your choices will determine what the year will look like to you in the aftermath of your having lived it. You can waste life's opportunities or we can make the most of them. You can complain about the obstacles or see them as mountains to be conquered. **I wonder: what will you choose to do with the next year of your life?** The responsibility for that rests with you!

As Christians, we have the presence and power of the Holy Spirit with us, guiding us in our journeys. But here comes the **Reality Check: your decisions are not made BY the Holy Spirit!**



**NOTE: ONE COMBINED  
WORSHIP SERVICE  
AT 11:00AM  
ON NEW YEAR'S DAY, JAN. 1ST!  
SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:45AM**

While the Word of God and the Holy Spirit should be your source of wisdom for direction in life, God never makes the choices for you. He points out to you, and shows you "this is the way, walk in it." But God leaves the exact choices up to you, and **you cannot blame God for the decisions and choices you make.**

Contrary to what many people think, God does not promise you a life of health and wealth, or a journey free from life's cares. He promises you His presence. What is that name again? *Emmanuel*,... "God WITH us!" God is faithful. Hallelujah!

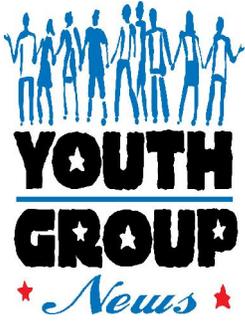
**Let us pray and plan to make 2012 "The Year Of Our Lord!"** Therefore, my prayer for you as you enter the new year is from I Thess. 5:23-24. *Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. God will make this happen, for He who calls you is faithful.*"



*Amen... and blessings!*

*Pastor Dan*

## FOCUS



With all the craziness of Christmas, trying to go shopping, Christmas programs to attend, spending time with friends & family, and many other things that go on during this time of year, it is easy to lose sight of the fact that Christ is the reason for the season. Here are some verses that help me to focus on God and what he has called us to do. I hope you find these verses as uplifting as I do.

**Philippians 4:19-20** - And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

**Philippians 4:13** - For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

**Matthew 21:21-22** - Then Jesus told them, *ō*I tell you the truth, if you have faith and don't doubt, you can do things like this and much more. You can even say to this mountain, *ō*May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,*ø*and it will happen. You can pray for anything, and if you have faith, you will receive it.*ø*

### **Psalm 68:19**

Praise the Lord; praise God our savior!  
For each day he carries us in his arms.

*Interlude*

Our God is a God who saves!  
The Sovereign LORD rescues us from death.

**2 Corinthians 5:20-21** - So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, *ø*Come back to God!*ø* For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.



### Youth Discovery Groups

Sunday, 5:15 - 6:15 pm

6, 7 & 8th Grade Boy's - The Curtis Home, 828 Yorktown Rd.

6, 7 & 8th Grade Girl's - The Farmers Home, 6 Saunders Rd.

9 & 10th Grade - The Dahls Home, 1 High Cedar Way

11 & 12th Grade - The Furst Home, 21 Dryden Dr.

Call Scott for details 868-9215

#### **Youth Fish**

(Fellowship in someones home)

January 20 - TBA

Please contact Scott at  
868-9215

#### **Soup Fundraiser**

January 22 at Noon

Youth Sponsored

Please contact Scott at  
868-9215

EBC  
KIDS  
Moment

I LOVE going to church on Christmas Eve. I can't remember the last time *ø*The Three of Us *ø*Brad, Andrew and I missed a Christmas Eve at church. I am more excited than usual this year. I will be reading my NEW favorite Christmas story at our service. It's called *ø*Song of the Stars *ø*written by Sally Lloyd *ø*Jones. It begins *ø*The world was about to change forever. And it almost went by unnoticed...

I've been thinking about the story of Jesus's birth differently this year. Let's concentrate on the fact that Jesus was in heaven reigning over Creation one day and the next day He was here on earth living as a baby!!!! Ruler over all to crying infant who couldn't even feed himself. Why? Why would he do such a thing?

The answer to that question changes history, changes lives, changes everything.

He came because He loves us more than we will ever understand. He came to save us, be with us, walk with us, grow with us, experience life with us. After all, He is Emmanuel *ø* God **WITH** us.

So, remember to include Him in all your Christmas celebrations. I would hate for Him to go unnoticed on His own birthday. Wouldn't you? *Susu*

### Children's Ministry Opportunities

#### Sunday Mornings

#### **Childrens Church**

8:30 & 11 am, Pre-K & K

#### **Sunday School**

9:45 - 10:45am

#### Sunday Evenings

#### **Music - Rock Stars**

5:00 - 6:00pm - Pre-K - K

#### **Creative Worship (CW)**

5:00 - 6:00pm - 1st - 5th grade

#### Wednesday Evenings

#### **Mission Friends**

Pre-K -K - 6:15 - 7:15pm

#### **Bible Superheroes**

1st - 5th grade - 6:15 -7:15pm

## Notes from the Music Director



I want to thank those who made òRejoice! An Advent Celebrationò a success:

Cathy French - costumes; Vivian Bryan - set design; Paul Bryan and Paul Morse - set construction.

Cast for the 8:30 service: Brittney Carlton ó Mary; Shannon Reagan ó understudy for Mary;

Dean Lowery ó Father; Trent Reagan ó Son; Jacob Beacham ó Friend; Teresa Lowery ó Inn Keeper; Andrew Gardner-Joseph

Cast for the 11:00 service; Melanie Hux ó Mary; Kelli Kelley ó Mother ; Savannah Kelley ó Child; Nancy Wornom ó Friend; Jeff Lewis ó Inn Keeper; Sean Timmons ó Joseph

Many thanks to: Rusty Meissner ó Sound tech; Cathy French ó Camera

The Youth Praise Team under the direction of Chris Copeland; Pre K-K Rock Stars under the direction of Lisa Cromer, and Worship Choir it has been such a blessing working with you.

Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity.

*Kathy Heath*



Check Out Our  
New Website!

[www.emmausbaptistchurch.org](http://www.emmausbaptistchurch.org)



### Our New Email Addresses

ÉPastor@EmmausBaptistChurch.org

ÉWebmaster@EmmausBaptistChurch.org

ÉEmmaus@EmmausBaptistChurch.org

ÉUpward@EmmausBaptistChurch.org

ÉASCurtis@EmmausBaptistChurch.org

ÉSundaySchool@EmmausBaptistChurch.org

ÉSGardner@EmmausBaptistChurch.org

ÉEmmausMedia@EmmausBaptistChurch.org

### Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners



Adults & Youth: \$4.00  
Children thru 5th grade: \$2.00  
Maximum Per Family \$14.00  
No Carry Out Dinners

**January 4- Roast Beef**

**January 11- Oven Fried Chicken**

**January 18 - Spaghetti**

**January 25 - Covered Dish**

Please sign up in the Glass Foyer.



Join us for a  
**Soup Fundraiser**  
January 22 at Noon  
Come out and support  
Emmaus Youth.  
Please contact Scott at  
868-9215.  
More Info to come.

### Small Group Studies

Small groups will resume after New Year's.

**Mondays 6:30 pm**

at the Lowery home, 31 Moore Rd.

More info: [dgtel@cox.net](mailto:dgtel@cox.net)

**Thursdays 7:00 pm**

McFetridge's home, 924 Poquoson Ave.

More info: [kmcfetridge@mac.com](mailto:kmcfetridge@mac.com)



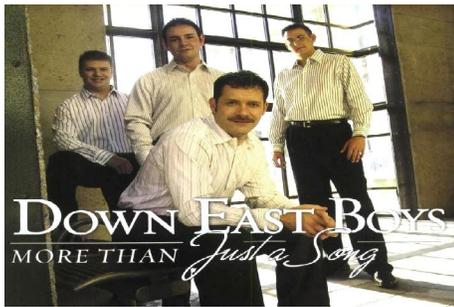
**CELEBRATE  
RECOVERY**

Sundays 7PM..

**Sunday Evenings, 5-7pm**

**beginning Jan. 8. Children & Youth  
Activities available from 5 to 6:15 pm**

**A Christ-Centered Recovery Program  
focusing on freedom from life's  
Hurts, Habits & Hang-ups**



**Down East Boys**  
**In Concert**  
**January 27th**  
**at 7:30 pm**



**Dear Emmaus Family,**

We are so thankful for all of you and what you mean to us. Thank you for the generous gifts that you presented to us on Nov. 27. They were very kind, and a great blessing to us and our families. As well, your words of affirmation and encouragement are the greatest blessings of all.

May Christ be born in you this Christmas.

- *Pastor Dan Cromer & Scott Curtis*

Philippians 3:15 - I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

**Wednesday Schedule**

Dinner 5:30 pm  
 Men of Promise,  
 Women's Bible Study,  
 Children's Ministries &  
 Youth Bible Study  
 6:15 to 7:15 pm  
 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm

**Sunday Schedule**

Sunday School 9:45 am  
 Praise Worship Service 8:30 am &  
 Traditional Worship Service 11:00 am  
 Nursery & Children's Church available.  
 2:00 pm Burmese Worship in Chapel  
 5:00 pm Kids Rock Stars & Creative Worship  
 5:00 pm Celebrate Recovery in Fellowship Hall  
 5:15 pm Youth Discovery Groups  
 6:30 pm Open Gym Middle/High School

**Business Meeting**

January 22  
 6:30 pm



WMU & the Church  
 are collecting the month of December for the  
 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering  
**Week of Emphasis:** December 4 -11  
 Our Church Goal: \$9,000.00  
 Received to date: \$2,295.00



**Join the Choir**  
 Every Wednesday  
 evening  
 7:30 to 8:30 pm  
 in the choir room.  
**Child care is  
 now available.**

**Church Staff**

Pastor.....Rev. Dan  
 Cromer  
 Minister of Youth & Recreation ..... Rev. Scott Curtis  
 Children's Minister .....Susie Gardner  
 Interim Music Director .....Kathy Heath  
 Secretary..... Lynne Bland

**Church Office Hours & Information**

Mon. - Fri. 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
 Phone # (757) 868-9215  
 Fax # (757) 868-9755  
 Email: emmaus@emmausbaptistchurchc.org  
 Website: www.emmausbaptist church.org

