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Special thanks to those who worked tirelessly, yet cheerfully on the yard sale. Over 10 people worked more than 60 hours over 5 days to set up, tidy up, and box up the remaining items. The volume of “stuff” was record-breaking and the weather dampened the spirits of many of our usual customers; still, our determined spirits prevailed and our total intake was **\$1,886.18** which will be donated to the Container Challenge.

Youth & Children's Underground Church



Children may invite their friends to their first Underground Church experience on **Friday, May 19, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.** This event is designed to heighten their understanding of how Christians must live in certain parts of the world where there is no religious freedom. We hope they will leave with a deeper sense of gratitude for the freedoms made possible for them to worship as they choose.

Youth will arrive at 9:00, just as the children are leaving. They will play a couple of rounds of Underground Church on a more “intense” level until midnight. Two adults are needed to help make this a safe and memorable event. **Please see Lisa if you can volunteer.**

Chuck's Column

Last Sunday I preached on the text in John's Gospel where Jesus says, “I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.” I write an article for Baptist News Global monthly that appears on their website. May's article will be posted May 17. In my piece I plan to talk about the way in which Jesus is the gate. Here's a couple of paragraphs:

“So what does it mean to enter into God's life through the gate that is Jesus? How do we enter through the gate of Jesus and is that the only way one can enter into God's (eternal) life? An American rabbi was once asked what he thought about the words in John 14:6 where John's Jesus says, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). The rabbi said, “Oh, I agree with these words.” The one who

asked that question was surprised by the reply. He asked, "But how can you as a rabbi believe that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life?" This gracious and wise rabbi said, "Because I believe that Jesus' way is the way of love that Jesus' truth is the truth of love, and that Jesus' life is the life of love. No one comes to the Father but through love."

In the prologue to John's Gospel we are told that Jesus as the Word made flesh is full of grace and truth (1:14). The way we enter into the life and will of God is by trusting in and being faithful to the grace and truth that Jesus incarnated, which is just another way of saying we enter through love. Consider this: Do you think God really cares that much about what we believe intellectually about Jesus? Or do you think God cares more about how we live like Jesus? How we express the grace and truth of Jesus? How we love like Jesus? I have a Down syndrome daughter who will never understand any sort of doctrine about Jesus, but she knows how to love, and that's what matters."

Baptist News Global is an excellent site for Baptist and religious news, as well as informative opinion pieces from mostly moderate to progressive Baptists. If you start to feel isolated thinking that we are the only Baptists around who tend toward a progressive understanding and practice of the kingdom of God, then you need to check out Baptist News Global. We are not alone folks. There's a sizeable and growing minority of Baptists who are advocates of social justice and a more inclusive faith. We are members of one such group – the Alliance of Baptists. Check out BNG at <https://www.baptistnews.com> and look for my article May 17.

Grace and peace, Pastor Chuck

ADOPT - A - ZONE!

The Administrative Team invites you to enjoy getting a little dirty with some good, clean fun and help keep our landscaping maintained and attractive.

Check out the diagram posted on the entryway wall and select a zone that is the size and location that's right for you! Some zones are small, and some zones are large!

Once you adopt your zone, you will be responsible for the landscaping. This includes planting, mulching, and weeding. You may plant flowers or bushes of your choice, however if you want to include any non-traditional plants, please consult with the Administrative Team first. You may plant your favorite flowers, your mother's favorite bush, perennials, or annual flowers.

You may work as a family, as a class, as a mission group, or as an individual.

We ask that you use IBC standard mulch – "Preen Mulch Plus" in midnight black.

The rock areas will only involve weeding and you may spray with your favorite weed killer. Rarely this area will require replacing or restacking the rocks.

We ask that you commit to your zone for one year and, if at the end of the year you feel it is too much, you may opt to surrender your zone.

Another option is for you to hire someone to care for your zone. "Snow Birds" needn't be reluctant to sign up for a zone. You can "subcontract" with someone to tend your zone in your absence (job swap).

Your purchases can be reimbursed by the church or added to your contribution record.

This is a great way for students to accrue "community service" hours in addition to serving your church family.

Grab a partner – or two – and claim your zone today!



Celebrate National Scrapbookers' Month with Us!

Bring your cutting tools, adhesive, and create a stunning two-page layout for your scrapbook! We'll meet at **6:00 on Friday, May 26th** and Wendy Ramey will facilitate our project. She'll have all the materials necessary to make two scrapbook pages. Cost is \$20. You must register for this, so let Lisa know if you'd like us to join us. Friends and snacks always welcome, but never required. Come for the creativity -

enjoy the fun and fellowship.



From the Table of the Lord

People are hungry in our community and our Lord calls us by word and example to feed them. **The Emergency Community Food Pantry** of Franklin County (**The Pantry**) continues to experience high demand. The Pantry served 3,198 families over nine thousand individuals, including 3,681 children in 2014. We at Immanuel will join in the Ecumenical Food Drive on Sunday, May 21. **"We are all the earthly hands of God caring for God's people. If we don't do this earthly work, who will?"**

Recommended contributions include the following (cash donations are accepted):

Peanut Butter
Boxed Cereal
Canned Vegetables
Canned Beef Stew
Canned Fruits
Boxed Cake and Brownie Mixes
Canned Cake Frosting
Boxed Oatmeal
Jiffy Corn Meal Mix
Canned Tuna
Canned Chicken

Canned Soups
Boxed Meals
Boxed Mac & Cheese
Instant Potatoes
Rice
Crackers
Cookies
Canned Meat
Pasta/Pasta Sauces
Dried White/Pinto Beans
Pork and Beans

Deacon of the Week Schedule:

May 14 Pat Bailey 254-366-0653
May 21 Gabrielle Gayheart 502-220-7014
May 28 Tom Hewlett 859-613-2754

WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

6:00 p.m.

Adults: \$4.00 Children: \$3.00

Maximum per family \$10.00

May 17: Lasagna, fixings and dessert
May 24: Tacos, fixings and dessert
May 31: Pizza, fixings and dessert

Bus Ministry



*May 14 Rob Laurenson
502-382-8579
*May 21 Bruce Dungan
502-320-1687
*May 28 Greg Lawson
502-487-1091

Pentecost Sunday, June 4th



Pentecost is just around the corner. As part of our observance this year, we would like to have scripture read in several different languages during our worship service. **If you know of someone (perhaps yourself?) who is able to read/speak a language other than English, please let Naomi know soon.**



GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY

We will be celebrating with our church's high school and college graduates on **Sunday, June 4**, at a breakfast for them **and their families** at **9:15** in Fellowship Hall. If you have a child who has graduated in the past year, please call the church office and let us know so we can include their name in the Connection and plan to recognize them in the worship service that with a gift from the church.

XYZ May Outing

We will visit the American on Thursday, **May 18th**. We



Dollhouse Museum in Danville (\$6.95) followed by lunch in Danville will meet at the church at **10:00 am**.

Join us for

The Gathering

Sunday, May 21, 9:15 a.m.

in Fellowship Hall

Come join the Immanuel family as we "gather" just before Bible Study. A light breakfast will be served.

M.A.D. Camp 2017



This year's M.A.D. Camp is scheduled for June 26 – 30. In addition to the **M**usic, **A**rt, & **D**rama, we'll enjoy recreation, interpretive movement, and KICK (Kids In the Church Kitchen), plus all the excitement and fun of being together for a week. Each day begins at 9:00 a.m., ends at 3:00 p.m. and on Friday we'll host a picnic supper and performance showcase. Registration forms are available in the church office.

Update on the Container Challenge and The Tangier Church Furniture Project

We have raised close to \$8500 for the Container Challenge towards our goal of \$25,000. Thanks for your generosity and support. This does not include monies given directly to Lonnie and Fran's Partners in Development when they were in the states over the winter. It also does not yet include the funds raised in the recent church yard sale. As Lonnie noted when he last spoke at IBC, the Container has been purchased and sits in Elizabethtown at the New Fellowship Baptist Church. Funds being raised will be used to ship the container to Munyanya village in Zambia. You can continue to help by contributing funds and/or donate items to fill the container. Copies of the list of needed items is in the church office. Donated items can be brought to the church and the mission team will make sure they are delivered to the container. The goal is to fill the container and ship it before the end of the year.

Thanks also for your support of our partner church in Tangiers and their furniture project. If you remember much of their congregational seating and pulpit furniture is worn, broken, and dated. Funds raised for this project will be used to purchase replacement worship seating and furniture. They are working to raise one half of the funds and have asked us and others to raise the other half. To date you have contributed almost \$1000 towards our goal of \$2500. We hope to meet this goal by the end of the summer.

If you wish to donate to the container challenge write your check to the church and mark the notes line with Project Samuel - The Container Challenge. To donate to the Tangiers Church effort, write your check to the church and mark the notes line with Tangiers Church Furniture Project. Thanks again for your generosity and support of these mission projects. If you have any questions about these projects, **see Steve Dooley or Raymond Bailey.**

Opportunities at IBC

Sunday, May 14

9:15 am Bible Study

10:30 am Worship/Communion

Monday, May 15

9:30 am CCRTA

6:00 pm Cub Scouts

Wednesday, May 17

11:00 am *It's Your Story, Too*

5:30 pm Rainbow Ringers

6:00 pm Fellowship Meal

6:30 pm Business Meeting,
Prayer meeting
& Children's Choir

7:00 pm Children's Formation

7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir

Friday, May 19

7:00 pm Children's Underground Church

9:00 pm Youth Underground Church

Sunday, May 21

9:15 am The Gathering followed by
Bible Study

10:30 am Worship

Monday, May 22

6:00 pm Cub Scouts

6:00 pm BMW Picnic with Sherri Henley

Wednesday May 24

11:00 am *It's Your Story, Too*

5:30 pm Rainbow Ringers

6:00 pm Fellowship Meal

6:30 pm Prayer meeting & Children's Choir

6:40 pm *It's Your Story, Too*

7:00 pm *Children's Formation*

7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir