

THE WAY

APRIL 2022

Emmanuel Faith Quarterly Newsletter





A Year Later

A Personal Note From Ryan Paulson, Lead Pastor

It's hard to believe that it has been a year since we moved back into the newly remodeled Worship Center. I know that day was met with mixed emotions. Some lamented the fact that the Worship Center had changed. The pews were gone, the carpet was removed, and the place where God had met and spoken to many for years was markedly different. Others were excited because the remodel signified new possibilities and the hope of a future that would continue to build on the legacy of God's past faithfulness. Regardless of what feelings people felt, it was charged with emotion.

I can remember being so thankful driving home from church on April 25, 2021, after the grand reopening. What filled my heart was that amidst all of the mixed emotions, was that the thing most people were talking about was the cross. The new cross was built by Seth Mondragon out of the old pews that used to adorn the space. The central feature of our remodeled Worship Center is the central feature of our faith — a cross. The fact that it was the cross that everyone was talking about made my heart soar because it's the very thing that holds us together as a community of faith — the cross of our Lord Jesus.

As we have been journeying together through 1 Corinthians, I've once again been reminded of the centrality of the cross. In fact, Paul went so far as to write,

"For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (1 Cor. 1:18)

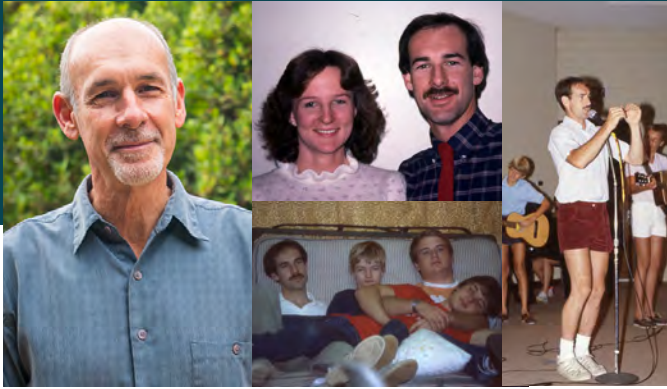
The cross is the power of God, and therefore, it's the power of Emmanuel Faith. It's what we have been about for the last 80+ years, and it's what we will be about for the next 80 years.

"What filled my heart was that amidst all of the mixed emotions, was that the thing most people were talking about was the cross."

So, let's not stop talking about the cross. You don't need to talk about the one that's hanging in the Worship Center, but let's keep talking about the one that was buried into the hillside outside of Jerusalem. Let's keep that cross central, and let's keep Jesus in focus. It's a joy to be on this cruciform journey with you and it's an honor to be one of your pastors.

Grace + Peace,
Ryan Paulson, Lead Pastor





A Legacy of Faithfulness

Longtime Emmanuel Faith Pastor Greg Lane to Retire in June

Contributed to by Emmanuel Faith Staff

On June 1, InterGen Pastor Greg Lane plans to follow the Lord again, as he says in his own words, to “wherever His plan leads” him and his family. This time, the leading of the Lord for Greg will see him retire from serving as a Pastor at Emmanuel Faith Community Church. In doing so, Greg was reminded yet again of one of his favorite verses, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Emmanuel Faith and other ministries have been blessed over the years by the many hats that Greg has worn. In all these roles, his faithful shepherding has been evident. After some initial work as a high school intern, Greg began working as EFCC’s High School Pastor full-time in 1984. Through his ministry, the Lord led many students to make decisions for Christ and guided them through His Word and into adulthood. In 1992, the Lord led Greg and his family to the mission field. They first studied a new language and culture in Costa Rica while also sharing the gospel there with Campus Crusade for Christ (now Cru).



Through humility and dependence on the Lord learned in Costa Rica, the Lane family began a stint with Greater Europe Mission in the Catalunya region of Spain in 1993. There Greg and wife Nancy worked as church planters and at L’Arcada Christian Camp, partnering with believers through Bible studies and outreach.

In 1996, Greg worked briefly while on a home assignment at Emmanuel Faith’s church plant, Faith Community Church by the Sea (FCC). Feeling the Lord’s call again for new direction, he was hired there full time in 1997. While at FCC, the Lord worked through Greg and he was blessed to serve in various roles. He helped lead the founding of the church, and later through a transition of senior pastoral leadership. Even then, God was preparing him for another such role several years down the road.

In 1999, the Lord led Greg back to Emmanuel Faith, where he took over the role of Adult Ministries Pastor. As

Emmanuel Faith entered the 2000s, the Lord worked through Greg and the church team on a new discipleship movement called LifeDesign. As LifeDesign Pastor, and head of a new department, the Lord guided the ministry team as it led a renewed, church-wide focus on membership, connecting in fellowship, growing through small groups and prayer, serving according to how God had shaped people, and sharing the gospel in both word and deed.

Later in the mid-2000s, Greg moved into the role of LifeStage Pastor. In this role, he had leadership oversight for children through senior adults. During this exciting time period, Emmanuel Faith saw its Mission Hills Church plant move to San Marcos (2007), partnered with Hillside Community Church in Julian, and later helped plant Orchard Community Church in Escondido.

Through the Lord’s faithful leading, Pastor Greg Lane has been on staff for many recent Emmanuel Faith milestones, including the building and opening of the Chapel in 2006, our church’s 75th anniversary in 2014, the starting of our Spanish-language ministry in 2015, the building of the Children’s Center in 2018-2019, the launch of our Preschool in fall of 2019, and the recent remodel of the Emmanuel Faith Worship Center, which reopened in April of 2021.

In 2019, Senior Pastor Dennis Keating announced his retirement from the pulpit at Emmanuel Faith. Once again, the Lord tabbed Pastor Greg, along with the Elder Board, to help lead the church through its leadership transition, which led us to current Lead Pastor, Ryan Paulson. As always, the church was blessed through Greg’s humble direction and leadership, and grateful for his guidance.

In response to his announcement to retire, Greg said to the staff, “I have finished what the Lord has had for me to do here in my role as a pastor at EFCC.” In his retirement, Greg looks forward to serving with some local organizations, spending more time with his family and grandchildren, and attending and serving in the future at Emmanuel Faith.

Our church staff and family will miss Greg’s daily presence and leadership here, but wish him the best with his future plans and endeavors. We look forward to seeing him around campus again soon.

A Word From Our Elder Board

By Zack Swinscoe
Chairman, Board of Elders

My wife Linda and I have been at EFCC since 1981 and we absolutely love it here; it is family. And it was all because of one simple thing — an invitation! We were invited to a young married adult fellowship. We connected there and the rest, as they say, is history. But it didn't stop there! As we grew in our faith and became more and more connected over the years, we've both had the chance to serve in various ways.

We've mentored, taught, thrown a Christmas dinner for the homeless, and cleaned a lot of tables. And in these years, we've seen a lot of fruit from God using our gifts and talents. You see, Jesus didn't say, "Go and make disciples when you are trained and ready!" No! He simply said, "Go and make disciples!" The beginning of discipleship may be a simple invitation



I will admit that even for me it sometimes doesn't seem simple. I have been praying for an opportunity to reach out to our neighbors who don't seem to have much interest in church. So when Christmas came I just assumed they would have no interest in coming to our Christmas concert. But much to my surprise as I mentioned it and said, "You're welcome to join us." They said "YES" and they came, and they loved it.

To your elders, discipleship is the foundation of everything else that happens, not only at EFCC, but in our communities and around the world. So whether it's a simple invite to one of our functions, or showing love to your neighbor with some fresh cookies, take a next step. Will you join us this year in widening the foundation of faith and love in the way of Jesus and with his heart?

Beyond Fund Update

By Jim North, Director of Campus and Facilities

The Beyond Fund provides for our continuing efforts to improve and update our campus and facilities. As we move into the spring and summer months, there are three major projects that are still in process:

Modification of the Worship Center — We're continuing our work on the exterior appearance of the Worship Center to both modernize and create more welcoming entrances. The main structures have been completed and we are waiting on materials so our roofing contractor can complete these areas. When completed the roof will be similar in appearance to that on the Children's Center and the Chapel. The anticipated completion for this project is in early May.

Photovoltaic (PV or solar generator) System — Construction of our PV (solar generator) system is in process with the three main solar-shade structures now complete. All 1,140 solar panels are now in place and the trenching to run the electrical lines will begin after Easter. When completed, this system will provide enough electrical energy to run our entire campus during most of the year, with an estimated monthly savings of around \$18,000. We anticipate completion of this project around June 1.

Courtyard Shade Canopies — To provide a more welcoming environment and usable space in our Courtyard, we will be installing shade canopies that will cover approximately 75% of the Courtyard. The permit for this project is still pending with hopes of having the canopies up by the middle of May to provide a nicely shaded area for everyone to enjoy.



2022 Winter Camp Roundup

Kids and Youth Find Jesus at Camp

Compiled by John Roberts, Communications Specialist

Elementary Winter Camp

This past February 25-27, Emmanuel Faith's FaithKids ministry took 102 3rd-5th graders to winter camp at Pine Valley Bible Conference Center. This was the ministry's first time to try this setting for a winter camp after many years at Palomar Mountain and also Julian. This location turned out to be a real blessing. The elementary students were challenged to live the full life that Jesus came to give them (John 10:10), by giving their lives to him and walking in his ways.

The weekend took a very exciting turn as four kids made brand new decisions to trust Christ as their Savior. In addition, many students were moved to recommit their lives to following the Lord. One girl wrote that her decision was to "fully follow" God. A counselor shared about one especially meaningful cabin discussion where all of the kids agreed that the Holy Spirit was clearly at work that weekend.



Sixth Grade Camp

Emmanuel Faith's annual Sixth Grade Camp was held at Indian Hills in Jamul just a week later from March 4-6. Held in a smaller setting, 33 of the 6th graders enjoyed a fun and challenging weekend together.

EFCC's Junior High Pastor, John Riley, handled the role of camp speaker, and several Junior High ministry leaders served as counselors. Each year, this camp serves as a wonderful introduction for those in 6th grade who are about to transition from EFCC's FaithKids children's ministry to Junior High in the summer.



Junior High Winter Camp

For its winter camp, February 4-6, the Junior High ministry also ventured to a new camp location, Hume SoCal at Green Valley Lake near Big Bear. A total of 83 students attended camp and group leaders were excited to see seven students make new decisions to receive Christ as their Savior.

During this winter camp, a student attended who initially did not want to go to camp. This student won a free trip to camp and was strongly encouraged to attend. After only one night at camp, she told the staff she had never felt more welcomed or at home with a group of people before. The girls in her cabin worked hard to make her feel like she fit in and had a safe space to be herself. In addition, this student questioned why God would have her go to a camp where she had no friends. Because of her great experience, she now saw why God had her there. "He brought me to camp to make friends and help me finally feel like I fit in somewhere."

The student told our staff that her camp experience had been "life-changing" for her.

Additionally, another new student attended camp even though she had been coming to the Junior High group for only a few weeks. At camp, this student made the decision to follow Christ! Not only did she give her life to Christ, but since then she has made some wonderful new friends in the youth group. This student is continuing to talk about her new faith and how excited she is to know Jesus.

Lastly, another girl who was invited to camp by a friend also received Jesus as her Savior. However, her parents are not believers. Please pray that God will continue to provide support for her as she continues on this amazing life-change journey.





High School Winter Camp

On the weekend of January 14-16, the Collide High School ministry held its winter retreat at Camp Maranatha in Idyllwild. Of the 111 students who attended, 31 of them indicated a decision to recommit their lives to living for Jesus. In addition, 27 students made the decision to serve somewhere within Collide.

According to Youth Worship Leader, Jeremy Park, the biggest camp highlight was the leadership of the students. "One of my favorite memories from camp this year is the way our senior student leaders stepped up to plan and run all the games," Jeremy said. "They just oozed with passion and confidence and created a fun environment. Watching them take control and get everyone to participate was amazing, and they still had fun in the

process. We really could not have had winter camp without them!"

Pray for Our New Believers

Please be praying for the many new Christians, for those who recommitted their lives to remain faithful Christ-followers, for any students from non-Christian homes to continue to be able to attend,

and for those who want to serve more, that they would find just the right place to do so.



Staff in the Spotlight

By Cheri Wright, Communications Director



Jen Throop, Holy Grounds Café Coordinator

Have you ever just really wanted a cup of coffee and a donut on a Sunday morning but weren't sure where to go? Well, Jen Throop has you covered at the Holy Grounds Café (HGC)! The whole church was excited to reopen the Café last year, and bringing in Jen to head its operations is just what was needed.

Jen and her family have attended Emmanuel Faith for about five years. They have three adorable children who Jen homeschools for 10-20 hours a week when they're not attending the Heritage Flex program. She received Christ in 4th grade at Pine Valley Bible Camp and was married in 2009. She and Steve lived for a time in Indonesia where Steve taught at a Christian school. In fact, her older kids, twins, were born there 10 years ago! We feel so blessed to have Jen as part of our staff and look forward to the special treats she'll be offering in the HGC!

The Holy Grounds Café is open Sunday mornings from 8:30am to 12:30pm and currently serves donuts and pastries, muffins, breakfast burritos, burrito bowls, and gluten-free strata, as well as lattes and periodically, salads.

Additionally, the Café is open the first Sunday night of each month for the Family Feast, immediately following the 5pm service.



Ministry Department Highlights



Emmanuel Faith Preschool — Since opening in 2019, the Preschool has expanded in amazing ways, despite the tight restrictions from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. During its first year, the school started with just three classrooms serving 60 kids aged from two to five years old. This past year saw huge growth as the school now has seven classrooms serving approximately 110 kids from two to five years old. As the number of kids has grown, so has the staff which has more than doubled from 10 at the start to 22 today. We pray this ministry will continue to impact the lives of not only the children but their families as well.

FaithKids — In April 2021, FaithKids reopened the doors of the Children's Center to relaunch Sunday morning KidsChurch. Families also were excited when Wednesday night KidsClubs made a comeback for kids aged from four years old to 6th grade. Throughout 2021-22 many fun activities have been held, including movie night, an escape room event, and winter camps (see article in this magazine). This summer, watch for a fun vacation Bible school (VBS) week for elementary-aged kids.

Junior High — Junior High students were excited to get back to meeting together on campus, both on Sunday mornings, now at 10:45am, and on Wednesday nights. In addition to winter camp (see article in this magazine), they also attended Extreme Retreat last November where the students created their own personal "statement of faith" and got to dive deeper into their relationship with God. They also were excited to attend a Junior High tradition, SPLAMM, which is the annual trip to Magic Mountain in the fall.

High School — The High School ministry (Collide) experienced a change this year as Seth Redden left his position as High School Pastor. In addition to a return to Sunday and Wednesday night group times, students also were able to enjoy various group events, and attend winter camp at Camp Maranatha (see article in this magazine). Recently, Collide held its big kickoff event to

begin registrations for Hume Lake Summer Camp. Over 200 students attended and the staff are praying for a great turnout for camp.

Young Adults Ministry — There's always something exciting happening with Young Adults and this past year saw many programs take new directions. At the 5pm Sunday service, this group is encouraged to attend and serve as a way to create intergenerational relationships, and provide a place where they can be raised up to leadership. The first Sunday of each month, Young Adults hosts Family Feast, where all who attend the service are invited to join together for an intergenerational meal in the Holy Grounds Café. Through smaller life groups, and many gatherings and retreats, this ministry is working to build up the next generation of leaders in our church.

InterGen (55+) — In October, our InterGen ministry offered two well-attended events, starting with the Ladies & Gents luncheon for widows and widowers, where attendees were treated to a message from Mary Strauss. Also in October, a Grandparenting Summit was held to encourage sharing Jesus' love with grandchildren. Sunday morning Adult Bible Fellowships (ABF) continue to grow in membership. This June a special ABF fair will be held which will offer anyone interested in connecting with an opportunity to join a class.



Women's Ministry — Women's Ministry saw some big changes this year as Bonnie Nichols joined the team as the new Women's Ministry Specialist. Bonnie brought her infectious enthusiasm to several fun events, including Sip & Savor and Ladies' Games & Grub Night. Bonnie also started many new ways for the women of Emmanuel Faith to connect. The ministry now offers The Word of the Month Scriptures with cards and stickers, opportunities to walk together, weekly devotionals, and even an audio podcast.

Men's Ministry — The men of Emmanuel Faith returned as well with several events and group meetings throughout the week. There were BBQs, a Spaghetti Summit, a Cars & Coffee meet and greet, and even a fun day to connect and play some games together on the field.

Connections and Growth — Throughout the past year, many congregants have returned to meeting on a regular basis with others and our life groups now bring 740 people together for spiritual growth, loving care, and godly relationships. In addition, many people have chosen to declare their faith publicly as 60 people have been baptized, and another 84 have become new members of Emmanuel Faith over the past year.

Care and Counseling — The Care and Counseling ministry experienced some changes this year as long-time Coordinator Cherryl Early retired, and Adaly Tapia was brought onto the team. Seeing a rise in the need for emotional, mental, relational, and spiritual care over the last two years, this ministry has worked hard to expand both its Care Teams and team of lay counselors. Currently, 37 people are attending the Lay Counseling Class with at least 25 interested in becoming lay counselors with the department. We look forward to seeing how God works through each of these caring people.



Financial Update

<u>2021/2022</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
All Church			
Revenues	\$8,803,029	\$8,221,640	\$581,389
Expenses	<u>\$7,764,756</u>	<u>\$7,316,793</u>	<u>(\$447,963)</u>
Net (-/+)	\$1,038,273	\$904,847	\$133,426
General Fund			
Tithes & Offerings	\$6,538,323	\$6,100,000	\$438,323
Expenses	<u>\$6,573,331</u>	<u>\$6,168,594</u>	<u>(\$404,737)</u>
Net (-/+)	(\$35,009)	(\$68,594)	\$33,585
Fund Summary	Revenue	Expenses	Variance
Beyond Fund	\$863,404	\$2,277,037	(\$1,413,633)
Care Fund	\$175,989	\$115,879	\$60,110
Outreach Fund	\$1,001,375	\$944,815	\$56,559
Maintenance Fund	\$140,552	\$130,730	\$9,822





Join us through the month of May for any of our opportunities to serve the Escondido community. From helping plant gardens, filling bags for the homeless, helping set up at a street fair, or showing appreciation for our teachers, you'll find many ways to share the love of Jesus throughout our city and community.

For more info, visit loveesco.org

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How to Stay Connected

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God's doing at Emmanuel Faith

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