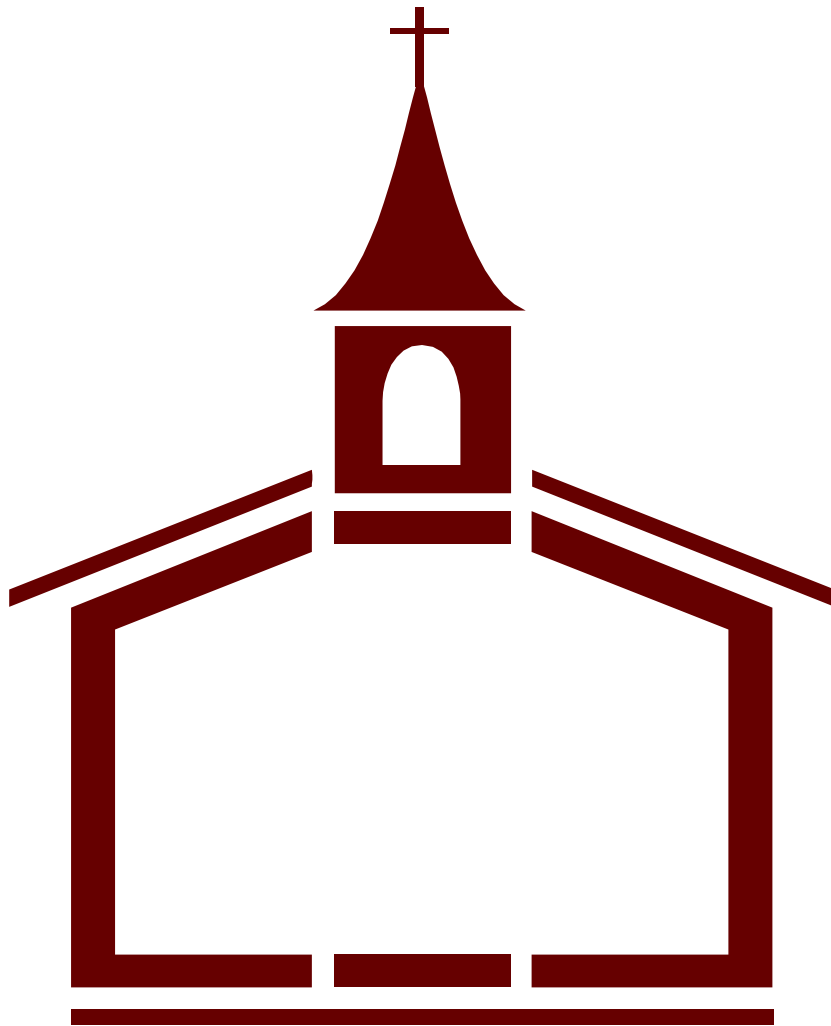


Chronicle of

Emmanuel Baptist Church

Norfolk, Massachusetts

1966 – 2010



*Except the Lord build the house,
they labor in vain who build it.*

Psalm 127:1

Lord, This House Is Yours

Unless the Lord has built this house
In vain the labor –
Mere stones and wood
Empty words
Empty hungry hearts –
Unless the Lord fill them
Change them
Love them.

Unless Christ died on Calvary's cross
In vain the sermons
Only sounding brass
Tinkling cymbals –
Unless we know He died
Because He loved us –
Proclaim it here
In living words.

Unless a life is changed
Made new – made His –
Man stands alone
Social action
Notwithstanding
Lonely, lost and empty
Unless He saves
Unless He reigns.

Lord, this house is Yours
Built with our love
For those
Who will come lost
To find You –
Empty, to be filled
With Your peace and joy –
Living stones!

Marie von B. Tolander

The following paragraph is the original introduction to the first 25 years. The past 15 years have recently been added to this history in honor of our 40th Anniversary Celebration.

This history is intended to give a summary of what Emmanuel Baptist Church has been for the past 25 years, with the hope that it may also indicate what it might be in the future. It was impossible to include all the events, but I have chosen some of the characteristic activities and have tried to give a sense of the strong continuity of faith which has accompanied the growth through the years.

Rebecca Center
1966 – 1991
The First 25 Years

1964 – 1966

“This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.”

Thousands of voices joined in this chorus at the 1964 Billy Graham Crusade in Boston. Among them was a group of Christians from the Norfolk-Medfield area who had been praying for the Crusade at the Tolander home in Norfolk.

In the fall after the Billy Graham Crusade, Hully and Marie Tolander felt led to hold Bible studies in their home. George Swanson, Chaplain of the New England Baptist Hospital, led those Bible studies for 25 to 30 men and women. In the spring of 1965 when the group broke up, Ellie Karlsson said, “I wish we had a church like this in Norfolk.” Marie Tolander replied, “Let’s pray about it.”

In the fall of 1965 Rev. Cliff Anderson, pastor of Evangelical Baptist Church of Norwood, felt led to consider forming a conservative gospel preaching church in Norfolk. Prayer and planning meetings supplemented the Bible study held alternately at the Tolander and Burgess homes. The subject for the fall was Basic Christian Doctrine and the spring subject was The Struggle for Peace. The Axbergs, Lewins and Palmborgs had moved to Norfolk in 1963 and were eager to have a church in Norfolk instead of going to Norwood. The Norwood church voted to support this group in starting a church. Pastor Anderson was invaluable in starting this work.

In December all who desired to join the church were asked to give their personal testimony and sign the preliminary form of the church charter. The testimony included statements of personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, details concerning one’s conversion experience, experience of or attitude toward believer’s baptism by immersion, desire to unite with the new church and any spiritual experiences one wished to share. The Charter read as follows:

“We, the undersigned, do hereby covenant together to organize a Norfolk-Medfield Baptist Fellowship in Norfolk, Massachusetts, in co-operation with the Baptist General Conference of New England and the Evangelical Baptist Church of Norwood, Massachusetts. We have received the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and sincerely desire to serve Him as our Lord. We have also been baptized according to the New Testament (or will be) prior to formal recognition of the church, if we are to receive regular membership in it. We have read the attached Statement of Faith and are in agreement with it. We have also read the attached Church Covenant and will endeavor by God’s help to lead a Christian life consistent with principles contained therein.”

CHARTER MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Halvar Tolander | 11. Arlene Palmborg | 21. Jeannette Hayes |
| 2. Marie Tolander | 12. Doris Evans | 22. Ellie Karlsson* |
| 3. Steven Tolander | 13. Eric Lewin | 23. Mae Maguire |
| 4. Gilbert Axberg | 14. Carol Lewin | 24. Albert Greene* |
| 5. Janice Axberg | 15. Priscilla Neale | |
| 6. Joseph Comeau | 16. Harry Neale | *Pending baptism |
| 7. Joy Comeau | 17. Malcom Greene * | |
| 8. Timothy Comeau | 18. Evert Burgess | |
| 9. Betty Jean Spragg | 19. Betty Burgess | |
| 10. Paul Palmborg | 20. Stanley Hayes | |

Affirmation of Faith

1. **THE WORD OF GOD.** We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct (II Pe. 1:21; II Ti. 3:16; Psalm 119:105; Psalm 19:7, 8).
2. **THE TRINITY.** We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons; that these are equal in every divine perfection; and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption (Mt. 28:19, Mark 1:10, 11; Heb. 1:8; II Co. 13:14).
3. **GOD THE FATHER.** We believe in God, the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ (John 4:24, 17:3; Psalm 147:5; I John 5:20).
4. **JESUS CHRIST.** We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His Virgin Birth, sinless life, miracles, and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth (Heb. 1:1-3; Mt. 1:22, 23; John 1:12-14; Gal. 3:13; I Pe. 2:24; I Co. 5:20; Acts 1:11; I Ti. 2:5).
5. **THE HOLY SPIRIT.** We believe in the Holy Spirit, who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ and that He is an abiding helper, teacher, and guide (John 16:7-11; Eph. 3:16; II Th. 2:13; John 3:5-8; I Co. 3:16; John 16:3).
6. **REGENERATION.** We believe that all men are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:12; Ro. 3:23; John 3:3; II Co. 5:17; Ro. 10:9, 10).
7. **THE CHURCH.** We believe in the universal church, a living, spiritual body, of which Christ is the head; and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, which consists of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith and associated for worship, work, and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world (Mt. 16:18; Col. 1:18; Acts 1:8; Heb. 10:24, 25).
8. **CHRISTIAN CONDUCT.** We believe that a Christian should live for the glory of God and the well-being of his fellowmen, that his conduct should be blameless before the world, that he should be a faithful steward of his possessions, and that he should seek to realize for himself and others the full stature of maturity in Christ (Col. 3:17; Php. 2:15,16; II Co. 6:17; I Co. 6:19,20; I Co. 16:1,2).

9. THE ORDINANCES. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church, baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water into the name of the triune God. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for the commemoration of His death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 8:37, 38, 16:31-34; Ro. 6:3-6; Col. 2:12; I Co. 11:27-29).

10. RELIGIOUS LIBERTY. We believe that every human being has direct relations with God and is responsible to God alone for all matters of faith; that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; and that, therefore, church and state must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation of patronage of the other (Heb. 10:19; II Co. 5:10; Luke 10:25; Ro. 13:1-5).

11. CHURCH COOPERATION. We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in a denominational organization. Such an organization, whether it be a regional or a district conference, is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. Churches may, likewise, cooperate with inter-denominational fellowships on a voluntary and independent basis (Col. 3:14,15; I Cor. 1:10, 12:12,13).

12. THE LAST THINGS. We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His Kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal felicity of the righteous and the endless suffering of the wicked (I Th. 4:16-18; Rev. 20:1-6; II Co. 5:8; Mt. 25:46; Rev. 21:3).

Church Covenant

Having been led by the Holy Spirit of God to receive Jesus Christ as Savior and to confess Him as Lord, and, on confession of this faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully covenant with one another, as one body in Christ, to lead a life worthy of the Lord fully pleasing to Him.

We promise, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to forsake the ways of sin and to walk together in Christian love and in the paths of righteousness. With this in view we engage to strive together for both the peace and the purity of this church to sustain its worship and, steadfastly, to cherish and hold its ordinances, discipline and doctrines and to contribute, as faithful stewards, such time, talent, and money in the measure that God prospers each of us that the responsibility for the work of the local church and the world-wide ministry of spreading the gospel be faithfully and effectively discharged.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions; to teach the Bible to our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to be just in our dealings and faithful in our engagements; to be exemplary in our deportment; to avoid unkind words and unrighteous anger; to combine zeal and knowledge in our efforts to advance the cause of our Savior; and to make Christ first in all things, both spiritual and temporal.

We further engage to give and receive admonition with meekness and affection; to remember one another in prayer and to aid others in case of sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feelings and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense but always ready for reconciliation and, mindful of the Scriptures, to seek it without delay; and to encourage one another in the blessed hope of our Lord's return.

We, moreover, engage that, when we move from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some local church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of the Word of God.

The group voted to align with the Baptist General Conference, and Rev. Robert Franzen, Field Service Director for New England, came to assist and be the first interim pastor.

The search began for a place to meet. The Legion Hall and the Freeman School were considered but were not made available to the group. The Rockville Chapel in Millis, rent free, was soon to be the temporary place of worship. A charming, quaint old chapel dating back one hundred years was once more to ring out the gospel. A real pot-bellied stove was to provide heat but soon was changed to a simple modern heating system. Chemical toilets were quickly installed.

Much prayer and discussion took place as a name for this church was considered. Emmanuel (God with us) seemed to describe how God had led His people. Thus Emmanuel Baptist Church was given a name.

March 5, 1966, was the first social event for the whole church family. A covered dish supper was held at the Evangelical Baptist Church in Norwood. Dr. Daniel Weiss from Gordon College was the special guest.

On Palm Sunday, April 3, 1966, seventy-three people met for the first worship service and forty were in Sunday School with classes for all ages. Priscilla Neale played the electric organ offered for free from a Catholic organ dealer, and Betty Jean Spragg sang a solo. Rev. George Swanson offered the morning prayer, and Pastor Robert Franzen preached the sermon, "Hosanna to the King". Emmanuel Baptist Church had begun in the Rockville Chapel in Millis! The Chapel was furnished with antique deacon's benches and had interesting stenciling decoration on the walls directly under the ceiling.

April 10, 1966, Easter Sunday began with a Sunrise Service at the Bristol-Blake Reservation on North Street in Norfolk. When deciding where to hold the service, Hully Tolander wanted it in a gully by a swamp and Gil Axberg wanted it on a hill. The chant was "Hully in the gully and Gil on the hill!" It was held on the hill. The weather was sunny and warm, and the ducks and geese swam in the open pond. Thirty-five people attended and had coffee and cocoa in the Nature Center after the service. Then on to the Chapel for Sunday School and worship service with Pastor Franzen preaching the

sermon, "Christ Is Risen". The following Wednesday evening, communion was served to these excited, enthusiastic Christians by deacons from the Norwood Evangelical Baptist Church. It was at this time that Thursday was chosen for Prayer Meeting.

The Property Committee was doing research for land on which to build a church. In July 1966 property was found on Rockwood Road (Route 115) with over 280 foot frontage. The brown eight room house could serve as the parsonage and could be rented until a full time pastor was hired. After a faith promise, it was voted to purchase the property previously owned by Elmer Gowen and 1 ½ acres from Clarence Fuller.

A committee worked on the Constitution and By-Laws, which included the Articles of Faith, Church Covenant, Purpose of Organization, Membership, Officers, Meetings, Pastoral Relations, Fiscal Year, Affiliations, Church Property, Amendments, Business Meetings, Elections, Duties and Discipline.

On October 8, 1966, the Recognition Council was held to present credentials:

1. To be recognized as a Baptist Church
2. To become members of the Baptist General Conference of America and New England.

The leader was Gil Axberg. The Council consisted of pastors and delegates from the 20 member churches in the area. It was at this service the Hammond organ was loaned to the church from Bethel Baptist Church of Worcester. It was given by them to the New England Conference to be loaned to churches in New England. Harold Palmberg, Paul's father, offered to donate the architectural plans for the new church building, and George Ruboy would handle the legal work free of charge.

This organization was incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on October 18, 1966, with 24 members as required by law. There seems to be a discrepancy in the exact number. Some records read 18, others 30, but the signatures of 24 people were found.

The first slate of officers was presented to the membership on October 27, 1966, and voted upon. The officers would serve until January 1968.

October 28, 1966, the first Old Fashioned Halloween Party was held at Robson's barn. Eating doughnuts on a string proved to be a popular game.

On November 20, 1966, the Recognition Service was held at the Evangelical Baptist Church in Norwood. Testimonies were given by the charter members. Greetings came from the "Mother Church" and the Baptist General Conference of New England. The offering taken at this service was used to buy hymnals.

The first Thanksgiving Eve Service was held on November 24, 1966, in the house on Rockwood Road, Norfolk. The house and property were dedicated to the Lord. Prayer, praise and testimonies centered around Emmanuel, God with us.

The Pulpit Committee, on December 1st, recommended Rev. Richard Schnorbus to become the part-time pastor for Emmanuel Baptist Church. Pastor Schnorbus lived in Wrentham and taught at Walpole High School. He graduated from Houghton College in New York and had a great love for singing. He was known in area-wide churches for leading singspirations. Emmanuel Baptist Church welcomed him as their pastor on December 11, 1966.

The Watch Night Service on December 31, 1966, would never be forgotten by those who attended. The Spirit of God was present as Christians fellowshiped together at the close of the old year and the start of the new year.

1967

January 13 – The congregation bade farewell to Rev. Robert Franzen, who had served as interim pastor since April 1966. The Franzens were presented with a silver platter and a purse. Plans were unveiled for the new church building.

January 15 – An evening service was started as well as a Young People’s Group under the leadership of Ben and Mary Brown.

February 6 – The first baby, David Allen, was born to church members, Gil and Janice Axberg.

In March the Missionary Conference, “March Forth to Missions”, was held. Dexter Emery, missionary to India, was one of the speakers. A baked bean supper was held in Legion Hall.

Easter Sunrise Service was again held at Bristol-Blake Reservation on the hill. The Deacons shoveled the snow to enable the people to stand on bare ground.

April 22 was Land Clearing Day at the property on Rockwood Road. Seventeen men and 15 different cutting tools cleared the brush. Malcolm Greene sharpened axes all day. At noon there was a family picnic for all helpers.

April 26 – Harold Palmborg presented the plans for the new Christian Education Building. It would be 30 feet by 72 feet and seat 180 people with a pastor’s study, cry room and kitchen. In detail, Harold told reasons for the design. He answered questions, and it was voted to accept the plans.

March 28 – Priscilla Neale was appointed Church Organist.

In March Vacation Bible School plans were started. On the Sharpe property in June, eighteen leaders and 80 children, from kindergarten to high school, enjoyed a unique experience. Every morning they made their way down the winding path, past Coleman burners, and over the rustic bridge to the pine grove for songs, Bible study and

crafts. An Overnighter and a Campfire Meeting were enjoyed immensely by the older children. However, there were secrets that only counselors could reveal. Did they ever find Pastor's whistle at the bottom of Mann's Pond? Does anyone have a picture of the king-sized mosquitoes that came uninvited to VBS? Mrs. Neale could be still looking for the boys from the volleyball game who went to play softball.

In the spring, Pastor Schnorbus consented to be full-time pastor during the summer with two weeks paid vacation.

The fellowship praised God that Ellie Karlsson was baptized at Camp Tispaquin during the Sunday School Picnic on June 17th.

On June 27th Ev Burgess reported on a loan concerning the Christian Education Building. He said that the interest rate was 6 ½% but that the bank would loan the money at 6% to the church, and if the interest rate dropped, the loan would be rewritten. Gil Axberg reported that the bids had been returned and recommended that the church accept the bid of Grossi-Maki of Carver, Massachusetts, for \$58,940. It was accepted and \$60,000 was borrowed from the Norwood Co-operative Bank at 6% for 20 years. Estimated date of occupancy was December 1st.

At the October 4th meeting Harold Palmberg told of extras that had been added for various reasons: leaching field, fill for road, underground cable and fire alarm system.

At the same meeting, the Tolanders presented the church with a piano, and Sandy McGlaflin was appointed the first choir director.

The construction of the building was watched eagerly:

August 3 – footings were in

August 17 – cement poured

September 5 – roof boards were on

October 15 – outside of building completed

As soon as the building was ready, many friends and members were busy painting, both inside and outside.

November 22 was a dedication service in the church. The weather was rainy, and the parking area was muddy – thus valet parking, thanks to Eric Lewin and Gil Axberg. The chandeliers were installed that afternoon and 60 blue Samsonite chairs (of the 200 ordered) and 20 juvenile chairs were delivered the day before. One hundred people praised and thanked the Lord for this beautiful place to worship in. Betty Jean Spragg sang “Bless This Church, Oh Lord, We Pray”, and the ladies trio (Joy Comeau, Janice Axberg, Priscilla Neale) sang “Only One Life to Offer” accompanied by Carol Lewin on the chord organ. Everyone was praising the Lord.

December 17th was the first official worship service held at Emmanuel Baptist Church on Rockwood Road. Pastor Schnorbus spoke on “Peace on Earth”, and the choir

sang for the first time. The pulpit in use was made of natural wood and was used at the VBS meetings in June.

Every month from January until June new members were added to the church membership. This smiling fellowship remembered how Stan Hayes' smile was contagious to all.

1968

Another milestone was reached on January 21st with the Service of Dedication of the church, symbolized by blessing the cornerstone. Nearly 300 people crowded the sanctuary upstairs and down, in order to hear the special messages and music. Appropriate remarks were made by the chairperson of the Board of Selectmen, Miss Helen Cleary. The pulpit was presented from the "Mother Church" by Rev. Cliff Anderson. Each minister who preaches from the pulpit is reminded that Emmanuel Baptist Church is a place where people expect to meet God, for attached to the speaker's side of the pulpit is a plaque that reads "We Would See Jesus" from John 12:21. The Sheldonville Baptist Church gave the three pulpit chairs and the communion table. A plaque on the table reads, "In memory of U.S.M.C. William Crawford Lally". The dedicatory sermon, given by Pastor Schnorbus, emphasized the fact that the service was a dedication of the congregation rather than the building. The nature and the history of the church is determined by the church members.

The Lord blessed this fellowship in many ways under the able guidance of Pastor Schnorbus. The people developed a deeper spiritual life through the sincere and enthusiastic worship services. The Sunday School expanded rapidly until expansion of the building needed to be discussed. Five special business meetings were held just to add new members. Christian Service Brigade and Girls Missionary Guild became very active with new boys and girls each week.

March 30th was a windy day, but the steeple was moved from Eric Lewin's cellar to the top of the church. With the help of a derrick, Gil, Eric, Stan and Harry secured the spire pointing to heaven.

VBS was held again at the Sharpe's property. Bus transportation was added. The Women's Missionary Society sponsored four missionary speakers. Prayer meeting was changed to Wednesdays. The organ and piano were played together for morning services. Sunrise Service was held without snow. The church was painted, sidewalks were put in and landscaping was finished on work days.

In April it was voted to seek another part time pastor. On October 2nd John Tempelhoff came to assist Pastor Schnorbus. He would be involved in visiting, counseling, and leading the young people. John was born in South Africa, worked in gold mines and came to Canada to study for the ministry, where he met Mary Jean, his wife. Later he studied at Gordon Seminary, and she was a student at Gordon College.

Under the Lord's leading the Tolanders moved to Henniker, New Hampshire, in June. They would continue to be lifetime charter members. "Part of us will always be with Emmanuel," they said as they left.

1969

The new year began with the Building Committee in full swing because the present building was too small. Surveys made by the state of Massachusetts indicated Norfolk was in the fastest growing area of the state. Projection for twenty years was used to decide the size of the sanctuary and office area. Every available space was being used for classes: stairways, kitchen and four classes in the main auditorium. Emmanuel was included in the Baptist General Conference's "Opportunity Campaign" to help raise money to build more facilities.

Agnes Palmborg, Paul's mother, was a favorite soloist who visited often. Sometimes Paul sang with his mother.

The church received an abundance of spiritual blessings from God, more than they ever expected. The Holy Spirit brought personal renewal to members and friends and numerous persons acknowledged Christ as Lord and Savior. Pastor Schnorbus and Pastor Tempelhoff urged people to witness and to make an impact on the community for Jesus Christ.

The church family was privileged to participate in the ordination service for Assistant Pastor John Tempelhoff. Dr. Nicole spoke on "Ye Have Not Chosen Me, but I Have Chosen You".

The Lord led in starting a Men's Fellowship, special Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Eve services, ten baptisms and 14 new members (total 74). The first Singspiration was most enjoyable with strawberry shortcake served afterward to 150 people. The Tally Family held special meetings with music and preaching. Special events included the Sunday School Picnic at Tispaquin, Scavenger Hunt, Covered Dish Supper, and a Halloween Hayride. Has Dick Arvidson gotten all the hay out of his sweater?

1970

The spiritual life was strengthened through preaching and teaching of the Word of God from both pastors. However, at the end of August, they were both called to other ministries by their Lord and Savior. The Lord was faithful in sending great men of God to preach each Sunday. The Pulpit Committee, with much prayer, searched through 75 possible candidates seeking the will of God.

On June 30, 1970, the church voted to approve plans for the next phase of the Building Program. Robert Deon, architect, was chosen and the church signed preliminary construction contracts with Stanmar, Inc. Construction was not started because of a tight financial situation. "We are crowded" was the word from all.

Several Bible studies were started in homes; the youth activities expanded; greater interest was shown in missions; the people participated in LIFE Conferences; a college & career class began; Bible verses were memorized in order to go to camp; a news bulletin, "The Perennial", was started; and church news was sent to nine newspapers. The average attendance on Sunday morning was 147 and at evening services – 76.

"Christ, the Hope of the World" was the theme for the Emmanuel Baptist Church float in the Centennial Parade in Norfolk on April 18. The float held a globe 7 ½ feet in diameter. The frame was made at the prison. Quarter inch wire was put around it, and individual pieces of toilet paper were put in each hole. Various colors were used to outline the continents. Approximately 120 rolls were used; three hundred hours or more to finish the globe. People were dressed in all kinds of costumes from every country and rode on the float. The "Best Message" award was given to Emmanuel's float. That evening the church held a Centennial Supper with each person arriving in a costume.

1971

January 21st Emmanuel's fellowship was thrilled to be part of John and Mary Jean Tempelhoff's commissioning service. Dr. Nicole spoke on "In the Shadow of the Mountain". They left for training at Campus Crusade for Christ in California and then to their chosen field, South Africa. Their lives had made a great impact on the fellowship. A little of their life would always be at Emmanuel.

Space problems continued as more people came to Emmanuel. Classes were being held in closets, kitchen, hallways and camper buses outside. The new building would cost \$130,000 and the first building was not paid off yet. Growth was 38% for morning worship and 42% for Sunday School. A building program was launched June 15th on faith and hearing ample evidence of God's approval. This bond program was instituted with the feeling God's people could invest in God's work. Denominations of \$1000, \$500, and \$100 could be issued at 7% interest. This would begin June 1st and by December 31st, \$44,800 in bonds had been issued. (This is not legal as of 1990.)

Pastor Tyler Flynn and his wife, Letha, came July 21st to be the first full time pastor and family. Each one was given new visions of the character of God – His majesty, power, mercy, compassion and purpose. Pastor Flynn had completed his undergraduate work at Hamilton College and received his Master of Divinity degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois. The parsonage was renovated for Pastor Flynn, Letha and Allison.

The Constitution was revised; 12 children went to camp as a reward for memorizing Bible verses; Chuck McKay taught the adult Sunday School class on Spirit Controlled Temperament; and \$1000 per year was pledged to Campus Crusade for Christ for the Tempelhoff family.

The Forbes family (Letha's family) ministered at Christmas time; Jesus Rally (Arthur Blessitt) caused adults to be "turned on" to witnessing; Bob Hudson played the organ; and Bob Norris went to Dominican Republic as a short term summer missionary.

1972

When our need was the greatest, we saw the greatest riches of God. Ground was broken on October 20, 1971, and the new sanctuary began to become a reality. Each month the people prayed and each month there was money to pay the contractor. Because everyone was liberal with their love, prayers, time, talents and resources, the Lord did great things at Emmanuel. The fellowship never signed a contract with the builder, Stanmar, Inc. From December 1971 until April 1972 the builder was paid each month as bonds (\$157,000) were bought by Christians. Prayer worked! God was consistent as He was with the Israelites in the wilderness. December 31st – 103 members.

The church family had the privilege of being part of the ordination of Tyler Flynn on June 2, 1972. Ordination sermons were by Rev. Wesley Lindblom and Rev. Larry McGill with the ordination prayer by Pastor Flynn's father-in-law, Rev. Alan Forbes.

In September the sanctuary was ready for occupancy. Great rejoicing at the dedication service made the church family feel humble to see what the Lord had done. The grand Yamaha piano was given in memory of Doris Wheeler by Myrtle Rockwood, her twin sister. "This is the house that the Lord hath built" was the sign in the lobby of the sanctuary and was truly the way the fellowship felt as they rejoiced in the new building. The wooden cross was made by a prisoner who loved the Lord.

Pastor Flynn and Letha attended Bill Gothard's Pastors Seminar and Moody's Founders Week. The Sunday School began electives for adults; VBS was extended to 8 days at Sharpe's property. Boy's Brigade continued and the Pioneer Girls program (the sister program of Brigade) was started instead of GMG. A children's choir began under the able direction of Nancy Duchart.

Work days accomplished major jobs with the opening of the new sanctuary. The front and back areas of the church were graded to make more parking which was needed.

1973

Pastor Flynn and the fellowship were thrilled with the Christians the Lord was adding to Emmanuel (37, making the total 140). A great opportunity, Stadium Outreach,

developed to pass out 50,000 tracts at Schaeffer Stadium in Foxboro and for Pastor Flynn to pray before the game on national TV. A discipleship ministry at Norfolk Prison began with a core group of Christians. The church hosted the 74th Annual Meeting of the New England Conference in May with Warren Magnuson speaking. The physical plant enjoyed all bills paid to the contractor and architect, and the landscaping and paving began. An evening VBS for adults was held with lectures on Family Life conducted by Dr. Schauffle.

Along with growth benefits, there are dangers. As this fellowship grew larger, it became more difficult to provide effective spiritual parapets to prevent spiritual injury. The people needed to uphold each other and get to know each other in a truly Christian way.

Emmanuel's second couple left for a mission field – Ralph and Betty Jean Essery to Christian Service Brigade.

Selma Doerr began to direct the newest group of musicians, the Youth Choir. Three church members attended a music seminar in Weymouth led by the famous composer, John Peterson. A Talent Night spotlighted some latent talent in this fellowship.

Jeannette Hayes, church secretary, had volunteered her time and the fellowship voted that she should be paid.

1974

The fellowship continued to bring requests in prayer to God and waited for His leading. Morning service averaged 300 and evening service 225. Dr. Fee from Gordon College came each week to teach an adult Sunday School class on 1 Corinthians. In order to relieve the overcrowding, this class was held at the Freeman School. A men's Discipling Class was started on Saturday mornings. Emphasis on Missions was extended for a month. Flags were made by the talented ladies in the church under the direction of Letha Flynn.

The Christian Education Board recommended that we establish a Pulpit Committee to look for a Youth Pastor.

New cribs were purchased for the nursery and the property was re-evaluated for insurance purposes.

Bob Clinkscale, a channel 5 news reporter, was the guest speaker at the Adults' Christmas Party at Sandy's Restaurant.

Albertus (Bert) Greene went to be with the Lord on December 29th. The first charter member to die, he would be missed, as well as his chair in the last row. The

woven reed offering baskets and waste baskets would always be a reminder of his love for Emmanuel.

1975

Among the highlights was the arrival of the Associate Pastor, Barre Flynn, Tyler's brother. Barre's main emphasis was to minister and disciple the youth. He developed a program to meet the needs of the youth (ages 13-21). The goal was to give each one a desire for spiritual maturity by studying the fruits of the Spirit. A Support Band for those out of high school was started and Barre saw a need to continue Boys' Brigade as there was nothing for Junior High boys.

Jeanette Hayes, who had served the church office with tender loving care, felt the Lord guiding her to other work. Thus, the other new arrival was Connie Duchardt as the new Secretary.

In September and October a group met to pray about the possibility of launching a new church somewhere in the area, and as a result, the fellowship sensed that the time was not yet right. Finally, room for growth was made in the Sunday Morning Service by expanding to two services. Growth took place, good growth, but the close-knit fellowship, love and attention to personal needs was slipping away. Christians were urged to get to know each one that God sent to Emmanuel. Many lives were changed, many commitments made, many souls transformed by the love that flows freely among God's people.

The new church sign was made and erected by Bob Shields and Ben Brown. This was the third sign. The first one was put up May 24, 1967, stating that this land was for the future home of Emmanuel Baptist Church. The second one was metal with a glass front put up in the fall of 1968. A closet was made for the public address system equipment. Library shelves were put in and the Library was opened. The Associate Pastor's office was painted. Time-delay switches for the outside lights were added.

V.B.S was held in the evening allowing more adults to be workers. During the summer eight special Sunday School classes were prepared for the adults. This idea proved very successful. In the fall, Robert Geehan from Barrington College taught "Church History" to the adults.

Letha Flynn began directing the Adult Choir. A sacred concert by Johnny Hall was greatly enjoyed by all.

Pastor Flynn led a seminar on "Spiritual Gifts". Christians were pleased to know their gifts and wanted to work for the Lord in the right position.

1976

At the end of October, we praised God for the past and looked to the future. Emmanuel was ten years old and we celebrated with an anniversary week-end. Prayer meeting was held in the Millis Chapel. What memories we shared! Saturday was a Pops Concert, and on Sunday Pastor Schnorbus came to speak. A catered dinner followed the Morning Worship.

Emmanuel continued to have a turn over of people. Many of the members were transferred to other areas of the country. New people came to take their places.

Barre Flynn left in August after a year of developing a successful youth program. God quickly led Dave LaDeau to carry on this essential ministry.

New choir robes were purchased and the choir did a cantata, "No Greater Love". Letha's music ability was a great asset to the services.

The fellowship voted to have a Building Fund in order to retire the bonds. The Trustees spent much time looking for a bus, but the time was not right. Fans were installed in the sanctuary to try and keep everyone comfortable on hot Sundays.

The C.E. Board turned over the budget and leadership of youth programs to the Deacons since they were in charge of the pastors.

Shirley (Center) and Ken Kondratowski presented their ministry, High School Evangelism Fellowship (HIBA), to the church and the Missionary Committee voted to support them. She was the third from this fellowship to be in the Lord's work.

Holiday Festival of Music was presented by the choirs (adult, Letha Flynn; youth, Dave LaDeau; Jr. High, Selma Doerr; Children, Nancy Duchardt) and special numbers by individuals. The Music Committee did a superior job in planning this musical evening.

1977

September 11-17 was set aside to "Wait on God". The fellowship gained insight into God's will for Emmanuel. Many conversions and rededications evidenced the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

The Choir loft risers and pulpit extension were built in order to make a choir loft.

Dr. Fee came back to teach II Corinthians in adult Sunday School. V.B.S. was held in July with 150 attending. Shirley and Ken Kondratowski, Missionaries to High School students in Ohio, helped with Junior High students. New material, Sunday School Plus, a hands-on program, was introduced in March. The C.E. board was concerned over the drop in attendance in Sunday School. (1975:185 avg., 1977:133 avg.) Two Cantatas, "So Send I you" and "Ring The Bells" were musical highlights of the year.

In March Connie Duchardt moved to Maine and Helen Baker became the Church Secretary. Connie's love for the office and people were missed.

1978

Evening School of the Bible which offered two courses was well attended. That year was devoted to building people in a firm foundation in the Word. The church membership rose to 163. A Camp Fund was instituted to help more children go to camp. Pioneer Girls and Christian Service Brigade offered programs to captivate their living the true value of a Christ-centered life. Sue Bennett, the Librarian, reported readers were on the increase. Christian magazines were ordered and displayed on the new rack. Fellowship prayer groups were started and held in homes where new friendships were also made. Sixty-five people entered a prayer covenant for a month to open themselves daily to Christ.

1979

After eight years of ministry at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Pastor and Letha Flynn felt God's leading to move to Kensington Baptist Church in Connecticut. This was a great change for Emmanuel and both Pastor Flynn's and Letha's ministries were missed. God did bless the worship services by providing gifted men as speakers. Attendance remained high and there continued a good spirit of unity.

Doris Evans, a great prayer warrior, who supported and strengthened the fellowship suffered a stroke. Her ministrations were greatly missed.

Jon Swedberg came as part-time Youth Pastor in June. The fellowship praised God for sending an experienced man who worked hard and enthusiastically in developing a successful ministry to the young people.

Donald Baker spent many hours painting the interior of the church property.

A Pulpit Committee was formed and the search for a new pastor began.

1980

This was the first full year without a pastor. For many, this opened the channel for direct dependency upon the Lord, demonstrating His faithfulness. For others, there was a loss of focus and of counsel.

An exciting reduction in the amount of the church's debt was due to bond retirements achieved. As the remaining bonds were retired, the financial resources were directed into the ministries of Emmanuel.

Jon Swedberg, Youth Director, was made full time in the fall. Jon did yeoman service that year by pitching in to help where a pastor would have, had he been available.

Consistency and new growth improved in missionary giving, thanks to a strong and enthusiastic committee who were an encouragement to all who came in contact with them.

The Pulpit Committee went through an anniversary with mixed feelings. They were faithful in their duties to find a new pastor. The way was not easy or clear. There were a number of “almosts”. They prayed for wisdom. The absence of a pastor did not give any believer the right to hide away until a day when Emmanuel again had a pastor. Each member of the fellowship was urged to take an active part in the ministry.

V.B.S. was again held in the evening, placing the emphasis on the family. Most activities centered around worshipping and praising the Lord together as a family. Husband and wife teams were used as teachers. Parents were challenged by Dr. Bowser from Barrington College.

Selma Doerr was the faithful director of the choir which presented a Christmas Cantata.

In April, a dear Christian friend and Charter Member, Ellie Karlsson, went to be with her Lord and Savior. She was missed for her love and concern for all the fellowship. Christians remember when the colors for the sanctuary were discussed. She felt they would remind her of heaven.

1981

The “no pastor” period ended in December with the arrival of Pastor Gary and Connie Morris and their son, Nathan. Pastor Gary came to the fellowship from Fort Wayne, Indiana. He received his Master’s Degree from Dallas Theological Seminary. Connie graduated from the University of Massachusetts. Pastor Gary’s goals were to develop effective evangelistic outreach, feed the flock and visit and care for the congregation. “Operation Preparation” caused people to give time, talent and treasure to prepare the parsonage for the new pastor and his family.

Dave Moreland, interim pastor, guided well the fellowship during the year before Pastor Morris came.

Jon Swedberg moved from the parsonage and the Youth Group lost its turf. Many new faces appeared at the weekly Youth Bible Study which maintained an average attendance of 28. Five new young people were born into the family of God.

The choirs (children, youth and adult) performed the cantata, “Hosanna”, at Easter under the direction of Selma Doerr. With deep regret and sadness, the fellowship said

farewell to Selma and Al Doerr when they moved to Pennsylvania. The feasibility of hiring a part-time music director was received positively but did not appear to have the right timing.

New hymn books, Hymns For The Family of God, were chosen after investigating many possibilities.

1982

The Morris family showed great love for the Emmanuel family. The Outreach Program was implemented along with Operation Andrew. A Growth Group and Caring Class were started to involve the fellowship in their gifted areas of service.

A new Junior High Group was started to show their own identity. The College and Career Group was formed for Bible study and fellowship. Parent meetings produced valuable feed-back.

The fellowship sponsored a concert, "Would You Believe", on Norfolk's Town Hill, which was enthusiastically enjoyed by the town's people.

"Hands That Speak" became part of our worship service with Joy Dougery. Her hands were her "voice" -- her adopted speech is sign language and her audience is the hearing impaired portion of the population that she serves as a deaf interpreter.

Mary Jean and John Tempelhoff and family arrived from South Africa to live in the Fox's cottage for the summer. They felt God leading them to the Lord's work in British Columbia under the Canadian Campus Crusade for Christ.

The morning worship time was changed to 10:00 AM during the summer, and Sunday School classes for lower grades were formed; two teachers alternated teaching each Sunday so that all volunteers had a vacation. It was well received.

Stockade (Christian Service Brigade) was maintained with a skeleton crew.

1983

The Outreach and Visitation Committee was formed. Letters were sent to Norfolk people telling them of the ministries of Emmanuel. On Friendship Sunday each person was asked to invite a friend to the morning service. One-minute spots were aired on WEZE, the Christian radio station in Boston.

Nine Neighborhood Bible Studies were started to help people grow and involve them in their gifted areas. The Growth Group continued with evidence of spiritual growth.

The Junior High Group was enthusiastic about meeting young people from other churches, so they were active in youth retreats for the first time at Lakeside Christian Camp in Pittsfield. Seventy-six high school students went to the Winter Retreat and had great fellowship with other churches. The College and Career Group grew to 23.

Sunday evening fellowship meetings were started on a quarterly basis in Deacons' homes. People got to know each other in a more intimate way.

A Building Committee was again formed for Phase III and IV with Trustee approval for searching-out an architect. Changes in the facilities needed to be made to better accommodate the Sunday school.

The proposal that the Missions Committee be changed to a Board was discussed at the Business Meeting. Some other changes were suggested for the Constitution.

1984

The Missions Committee was changed to the Mission Board. The Constitution and By Laws were revised to relate more specifically to the fellowship's needs.

Thirty-five new members were added to the church. The average attendance for the Sunday morning worship service was 195.

Architect, Robert Nicodemus, began to develop a facility master plan. Working with committees, he planned a building to help us better present the claims of Jesus Christ.

Jon Swedberg worked with the C.E. Board to coordinate a total educational outreach in Sunday school and youth programs. This began to bring the children to spiritual maturity with exciting events happening.

Betsy Gilbert and Mary Lou Brigman led the Children's Choir. Everyone enjoyed the children each time they sang.

Sixteen Home Bible Studies were growing in numbers and those attending were growing in spiritual maturity. One-on-one Bible studies had begun.

1985

The fellowship "burned" the last bond and paid off all existing mortgages, borrowing only to move ahead. A Faith Promise Program enabled the fellowship to move expeditiously toward Phase III while reducing the total indebtedness.

Pastor Gary and Connie were able to purchase their own home, making the White House available for offices.

That year God provided Jon Swedberg with a wonderful wife who supported and encouraged him in the youth ministry. Bible Study was the primary program for each of the three youth groups. Commitment was at a high level among those who attended regularly. The College and Career group reached a high average of forty from the influx of new people whose churches did not offer this ministry. Scott Kammerer served as a teen missionary with Teen Missions in England. Scott was involved in Canal Mission and spent time sharing the gospel in London.

Earl DeSaia and Faneuil Construction, Inc. accomplished the renovation of the CE building into Sunday school classrooms, and the White House for offices. The finances were available to accomplish the work without delay.

Music with a message through the power of the Holy Spirit continued to enhance the worship. Over fifty musicians helped to make the sanctuary ring at worship time. Charlie Blackman and Pam Knowles led the fantastic choir to new growth: not enough robes or chairs in the choir loft!

Malcolm Greene, Charter Member, at age 89 went to be with the Lord. Although he could not see, he did many deeds for the fellowship and was greatly missed.

1986

Jon Swedberg felt the leading of God to resign from leading our youth. His mark was left on many young people and their parents.

With the commission from the church, fifteen members sought to find a Youth Pastor. After a very unique survey of all the church fellowship, they proceeded to find someone to fit the job description. The Lord directed the committee to Joel Winchell at Denver Theological Seminary. Joel and his wife Terri, who had graduated from Columbia Bible College, had a deep love for young people. The Lord answered many prayers, and in December the Winchells began their ministry.

The Missions Board and the youth were involved in raising support for Chris Lewis so that he was able to go to Nepal for six weeks during the summer with Teen Missions.

The fellowship was pleased to be part of Gary Morris' ordination council and service. Rev. James Froehlig gave the address and Rev. Fred Swedberg gave the Charge to the Candidate.

“Operation Timothy”, under the leadership of Rick Williams, involved 25 people in discipleship.

On March 23, 1986 Emmanuel celebrated the 20th anniversary. “My house shall be called a house of prayer” was manifested in the history of the fellowship.

1987

Helen Baker, who served so well as Church Secretary for ten years, felt it time to retire. Helen’s love and concern for people and the church was immediately missed. Her skills were especially significant during the “no pastor” period.

Much prayer and time was spent to find Claire Hodgkins. The Lord led a committed Christian with administrative, organizational and interpersonal gifts to Emmanuel.

The year was a transition for the youth at Emmanuel. A Youth Core was made up of those who exhibited a desire and commitment to the group and its ministry. They planned, studied and fellowshiped together to make the Youth Ministry more effective.

The CE Board again instituted a Bible Memory Association program. Over twenty people memorized God’s Word.

A new group, Young Couples Fellowship, was formed and met for Bible study and fellowship.

The Deaconess Board planned, cooked and hosted a “Young at Heart” luncheon for the senior citizens and friends of the fellowship.

Bob Vernon propelled the Mission Board into the computer age by using his talents. The Board now could track the use of funds more efficiently and send the money out to missionaries in a more timely manner.

The first Couples’ Retreat at Lakeside was effective in building closer relationships in marriages. Those attending desired to make this an annual event.

1988

Another year – more expansion – more building. The new multi-purpose room and finished basement added 50% more floor space to our facility. The Trustee Board recognized that both Earl DiSaia and Gil Axberg, the contracting team, had the best interest for Emmanuel in mind. Many special donations made the completion of the kitchen with cabinets and appliances possible.

The “Operation Timothy” class had grown in numbers and a deeper spiritual life for those involved.

The youth studied the scriptures to be able to make wise decisions for their lives. Relevant issues were covered; peer-pressure, parents, crisis, AIDS, and abortion were a few of the subjects.

The Deacons shared in leading prayer meeting while Pastor Gary participated in Tree Climbers with his son.

Special prayer vigils were organized by the Deacons. A loving God measured the hearts and the prayers of the believers and God answered the prayers in His way.

October was a month with emphasis on Stewardship: Time, Treasure, Talent, Testimony. Many ears heard and many hearts responded.

The Christian Service Brigade program, Tree Climbers, was brought back to Emmanuel with the first and second-grade boys and their fathers participating.

1989

Discipleship ministry, with Pastor Gary leading, became a reality with a Navigators 2:7 class during the Sunday School hour. Fifteen people committed themselves to attend, praying that future leadership would come from this group.

Fourteen teens went on a Missions trip to Mexico to help the missionaries in Tijuana. The Serv '89 Team saw poverty like they had never seen before. Their lives were changed and some considered the Mission Field.

In April we lost a dear friend, Francis (Buddy) Zimmer. His sense of humor and his honesty is fondly remembered. We loved him and missed his effective ushering every Sunday.

The Mission Board sponsored a Worship Service and meal to the homeless people at Kingston House in Boston. The Serv '89 Team was involved in preparation for their Mexican trip.

The sound system was upgraded to address the needs when the new room was used for sanctuary overflow seating and Evening Services.

Guidelines and policies for requesting use of the church facilities by the fellowship were established.

On Easter Sunday 400 people were in attendance and both the main sanctuary and new room were full. Praises were given that we could seat everyone.

Jon Henderson took over directing the choir and leading the singing in the Morning Service. Tanya Hannon and Gerry Anderson used their musical ability to direct the Children's Choir. The fellowship was thrilled with each performance.

1990

The economic problems of our state and our country affected the financial condition at Emmanuel. Many cuts were made in the budget since the Sunday giving was considerably down. Most noticeable was that the Annual Report for 1990 only included the Pastor's, the Associate Pastor's, and the financial reports.

Serv '90 teens went to St Croix with Pastor Joel and Youth Pastor Dee Brown of Bethany Baptist Church of Gardner, MA. The twelve folks who went helped to build and repair buildings destroyed in hurricane "Hugo".

One-on-one Bible Studies on Sunday mornings found 104 people involved. The goal was that these people would stay to the Morning Worship Service and grow in the Lord.

A new ministry for singles over 30, Safe Harbour, was started at Emmanuel with Friday evening drop-ins and other Christian activities. Many new friendships were made. This group was eager to grow and reach out to Christians. They attended a Singles' Retreat at Monadnock and had a Beach Party in East Sandwich.

After much searching, Terry and Joel Winchell were able to buy their own home. The fellowship helped in many ways since this house needed much tender loving care.

This brings us to December 31, 1990, when I (Rebecca Center) must leave the chronicling of the present for some future historian. As I do so, we must not forget that this position in the present puts us squarely in a middle path: we have a heritage which in many ways can guide us and inspire us and teach us---and we have a future that will be shaped by the efforts and prayers and hopes and decisions we make now.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."
I Corinthians 15: 58

1991

Rebecca Center ably chaired the 25th Anniversary Committee for "Emmanuel, God with Us for 25 Years", as well as wrote the church history which Helen Baker typed so all could have a copy. Pastor Tyler and Letha Flynn, Pastor Schnorbus and Jon Swedburg returned for the April weekend. Dr. Grady Spires and Dr. Peter Stine were also

contacted to speak. Charter members were honored and testimonies given. 322 people were fed at the Silver Anniversary Banquet. Priscilla Neale was honored with a NIV Schofield Reference Bible for playing the organ at EBC for 25 years.

Marty Linnell headed the Vacation Bible School Committee for the week of July 29th; 148 children attended. Pioneer Girls continued with Mary Brown and Tree Climbers (the younger subset of Christian Service Brigade) began. MOPS (Mothers of Pre-School Children) was started for young moms at EBC but also as an outreach to the community. The children's Christmas program, "Hark, the Herald Angel", was led by Tanny Hannon and Betsy Hasselbeck.

Emmanuel supported 12 missionaries. Jim and Joan Harding (Rift Valley Academy in Kenya) visited us in June; Jim preached a sermon on the importance and power of prayer. The Tempelhoffs (Campus Crusade, South Africa) came in August and September, and John and Gail Hutchinson (Wycliffe in the Philippines) were here in November. The Mission Board made plans for a new ministry, the Food Pantry, to begin in 1991.

The Trustee Board oversaw the repainting of the sanctuary and the hanging of new draperies in preparation for the 25th anniversary celebrations.

Adult Fellowship sponsored several entertaining events: Emmanuel's Funniest Home Videos, the Valentine Banquet, a Scavenger Hunt, a fall hayride, the Thanksgiving Breakfast, and Homes for Holidays.

Bob Thompson and Sammy Poole blessed us with their voices in concerts.

1992

Small group Bible studies were still emphasized by Pastor Gary Morris resulting in 15 small groups and several one on ones. Pastor Gary completed his doctorate!

In January with the coordination efforts of Trina & Dave Rostron and Josette Geldreich, EBC introduced a Food Pantry Pilot Program to service the church family and anyone in the community in need. In February the Mission Board decided the time was right for a Missions Emphasis Week, October 18 - 25. Rev. Dave Owens, BGC church planter in New Hampshire preached at EBC while Pastor Gary spoke at the new church plant. Several of our missionaries sent slides for a presentation. The Morrisons (HIM in Ethiopia & Kenya), Ralph Essery (Christian Service Brigade), Ron Larson (NEBC) and Jerry Young (Elim Park) spoke during the special week. Dave Burdette (working with homeless in Mexico), David and Jonalee Comeau (New Tribes Mission in Bolivia), and Al and Jeanette Gustafson (Argentina) visited us at other times throughout the year. Two of our young people went on mission trips – Dana Vernon to Russia during the summer and Laurel Boettger for a year in Japan.

Jon Stenbuck oversaw VBS which was held the week of August 10th. The attendance for the week was 160 children. We had a combined junior choir and adult choir for the Christmas cantata under the direction of Tanny Hannon, Betsy Hasselbeck, and Eric Nelson. September saw the addition of Thom and Betsy Gilbert to work with our youth. Kent and Karen Warren continued to keep our church facilities spotless.

The Trustee Board re-roofed the white house garage and painted the nursery and first grade Sunday School room. Adult Fellowship provided several opportunities for fun such as a game night, bowling, a Heart to Heart to Heart Banquet, more Feast and Fellowship opportunities, and of course, the Thanksgiving Breakfast and Homes for the Holidays. The Hospitality Committee kept us very well fed on a regular basis.

1993

After 6 years of ministry at Emmanuel, Claire Corbiere's secretarial responsibilities were divided among Laura Hidden, Sue Botelho, and Helen Baker.

During the summer, Kathy Fox and Jon Stenbuck coordinated another successful Vacation Bible School during the week of August 9 with 120 children in attendance. Bill Fleck took on the responsibility of leading the boys in Stockade (4th – 6th grades, Christian Service Brigade).

The Mission Board reached out through the Food Pantry locally and also provided meals and worship services at Kingston House in Boston and assisted with the Angel Tree program of Prison Fellowship. Our Missions Emphasis Week began on October 31 with a "Christmas in October" worship service which included a time of prayer for our missionaries. John and Gail Hutchinson (Wycliffe) and Jim and Joan Harding (AIM in Kenya) were able to come that week.

The Music Committee brought the Continental Singers, Sammy Poole, Marianne Kesler, and Bob Thompson at various times to give concerts that were open to the community. Three Family Concerts with our own EBC talent happened as well.

The roof on the sanctuary was repaired, but the big news was the Great Flood of Emmanuel Baptist Church in the spring. The Echo Room (basement under Fellowship Hall) was flooded with 6 inches of water due to the pipe on the sump pump breaking. The Fire Department helped pump and shop vacs were used by the trustees. Clean-up and repairs were taken care of in one long night with soda and popcorn at 11 pm courtesy of Arthur Fox.

1994

Sue Botelho became the primary church office secretary (with Helen continuing to assist her) for Pastor Gary Morris in 1994. All sections of the Policy and Procedure

Manual were updated and completed, and infection control policies were developed by Roberta Converse and adopted. Dr. Jeff Dietrich spoke to us at a seminar entitled “Meeting the Needs of Volunteers in a Changing World”. Dave Rostron took over the maintenance of the church facilities once the Warrens were no longer continuing in that capacity.

We were once again blessed by visits from our missionaries: Ken and Erma Gullman (Cameroon), Leslie Bridge (Campus Crusade), Amy Malchiodi (short term in Kenya), and Rev. John and Karen Ames (Ivory Coast).

Outside guest concert artists were Sammy Poole, Marianne Kesler, and the Jacobs Brothers. Eric Nelson spent many, many hours preparing worship services and “fine-tuning” the sound system.

Kathy Fox led Vacation Bible School for the week of August 1st. A total of 163 children attended.

1995

1995 was a year of change for Emmanuel Baptist Church. After 12 years of service as Senior Pastor, Dr. Gary Morris resigned to respond to the Lord’s calling and accept a position of Principal and Assistant Pastor at New Testament School in Norton, MA. In the absence of a full time pastor, the Lord richly blessed us by bringing Dr. Paul Toms as interim pastor. A Pulpit Committee chaired by Eric Nelson was formed in May to search for our new pastor.

The Trustee Board reseeded the lawn and watered it throughout the summer months. They also resided the C.E. Building and had the trim painted.

Vacation Bible School was the week of July 31st with 160 children in attendance. The C.E. Board also revitalized the Library Committee – new books, audio cassettes, and videos were made available.

Chosen People representative, Rev. Jim Fox spoke to us on April 9 about the Jewish Feast of the Passover. Rev. John Ford of Kids Alive in Taiwan visited us in April as did Rev. John and Karen Ames (Ivory Coast) in May. Two EBC young people went on short term mission trips: Amy Warren to Barbados and Alison Hawkins to the Dominican Republic. The Tempelhoffs (South Africa) and the Comeaus (Bolivia) both came in October.

The Music Committee presented two multi-media worship experience/outreach events during the year – one prior to Easter and the other one prior to Christmas. Both featured the worshipful “God with Us” by Integrity Music. In addition to the Family Concerts, special outreach activities included a Bob Thompson Concert on the Green followed by an Ice Cream Social and the Jacobs Brothers Concert.

1996

The Pulpit Committee continued their diligent search for a Senior Pastor while Dr. Toms remained our interim pastor. Dawn Eldridge and Gil Axberg took over the cleaning of our facilities. In the absence of a full time senior pastor, the Deacons began to meet bi-monthly in an effort to better address issues.

Even though the town of Norfolk ran an all day, free supervised playground program during our week of VBS (July 29 – August 4), we still had a great crowd of children (132).

We were blessed with many missionary visits this year: Melvin and Nancy Isaac from Mission Aviation Fellowship, Ken and Erma Gullman (retired from BGC Africa after 40+ years), Ken and Debby Milhous from the Boston Japanese Christian Church, and Tony and Jennifer Lapore and Dennis and Linda Ryan from Campus Crusade for Christ. Our missions conference was held in October where we were blessed with the fellowship and testimonies of Ken Milhous, Joan Harding (AIM), Jerry and Ruth Swift (Campus Crusade), Mark Watkins (Lakeside Christian Camp), Cal Merritt (Executive Minister of the Northeast Baptist Conference), and Gary and Jayne Morrison (via video – Ethiopia).

Easter and Thanksgiving Breakfasts happened as usual, but a winter storm cancelled our much anticipated Homes for the Holidays in December.

1997

The Pulpit Committee still searched for a senior pastor, and Dr. and Mrs. Toms stayed with us through it all as we waited upon the Lord. Thom and Betsy Gilbert resigned in September as Youth Leaders after 5 years of dedicated service. Ken Light, Ron and Ramah Randall, Rick Eldridge and Trisha Barker kept the weekly youth gatherings going. Sue Botelho resigned in July as lead secretary after more than 4 years of service. Marty Linnell stepped into the position with able assistance from Helen Baker.

The Trustees were a very busy bunch! The parking lot was repaired; the sanctuary and hallway were painted; new carpet was installed in the sanctuary; pews were ordered; and plans were completed to build an audio room above the narthex.

Vacation Bible School (August 4-8) served 124 children, once again in competition with the free playground program in town. Christian Service Brigade and Pioneer Girls continued to be strong programs on Wednesday evenings.

The Lord faithfully saw us through another year of helping support His work here and abroad. Due to the faithful giving of the EBC family, all the missionaries were paid

on time all year long plus there was sacrificial giving to help distribute Bibles and expand some mission ministries.

Adult Fellowship brought back the ever popular Homes for the Holidays and the weather cooperated.

1998

Big changes at Emmanuel Baptist Church! We called Pastor Stephen Arnold (and wife, Ronna) as our Senior Pastor; and at year's end, Pastor Robb Ryerse (and wife, Vanessa) as our Minister of Youth & Outreach.

Missions Awareness Weekend was held on October 3 – 5. Missionaries present were the Isaacs, Hardings, Swifts, Tempelhoffs, Hutchinsons, and Maureen Lee.

A new audio room was constructed above the narthex, and a new sound system was purchased and installed. New pews were installed, also. The Norfolk Board of Health approved preliminary plans to convert the first floor of the white house into our church offices.

Lay leadership kept the Youth Group going for the year – Pastor Robb would begin leading in January 1999. VBS was the big event of the summer as usual.

Kristen Rogers, who led junior choir ministry for the past three years, directed “Psalty”, a children's choir production featuring John Burns. Janet Fleck became the next director of the children's choir. This year's guest musicians included Bob Thompson, Jim and Cheryl Sharrock, Sherry Allen, Nancy Tutunjian, and Jamie and Jennifer Lyons. Eric Nelson replaced John Burns (he got married!) as Adult Choir director. A new Allen Renaissance organ and new hymnals were purchased this year.

Kathy Bridge put the Outreach and Visitation Committee into high gear as they created stationery packages for the church, a new EBC brochure, a database program to track visitors (Reynolds Lee, author), and friendship registers. Autumn Celebration was created to introduce EBC and Pastor Steve Arnold to the community. Attendance was estimated to be between 1,200 and 1,500 individuals.

1999

In 1999 we went through some growing pains and moved into a new area of worship by adding an additional Sunday morning service. It was our first full year with our two new pastors. Jim and Carol Cote joined the church staff to keep our church building clean and inviting.

Robb Ryerse, our Minister of Youth & Outreach, organized many events including the Youth Rally with Andrew Peterson and Rebecca Lobo and a trip to the

Inside Out Soul Festival in New Hampshire. In an effort to train people to share their faith, Pastor Robb taught *Becoming a Contagious Christian*. Outreach Committee hosted another Autumn Celebration on the church grounds for the community.

The Trustees repainted Fellowship Hall, replaced the sanctuary roof, and converted the white house garage into the new home of the Norfolk Food Pantry. Plans were made for the white house church office renovation.

Gayle Lewin assumed responsibilities as Children's Sunday School Superintendent following 10 years of service from Bobbie Strauss in that capacity. Todd Paetznick became the Adult Sunday School Superintendent. Christian Service Brigade and Pioneer Girls continued on Wednesday evenings. Vacation Bible Camp curriculum was put together by our own VBC staff: "WWJD, What Would Jesus Do?"

Our Missions Conference, October 16 & 17, had the theme "How to Support a Missionary". The Hardings, Milhouses, Reeds, Willemans, Stephens and John Ames were all able to attend. The Esserys, Maureen Lee and Leslie Bridge visited at other times during the year. We once again did the Angel Tree Project.

Musically, we had some special events. Bob Thompson came twice for concerts, and the choir performed "God for Us" in May and presented a cantata at Christmas. Homes for the Holidays had our largest crowd ever – 131.

2000

The Trustees completed the renovation of the Food Pantry and began the white house project for our administrative offices. The new sanctuary roof still leaked!

The Mission Board continued to operate the Norfolk Food Pantry and participated in the Angel Tree Program (gifts for 40 children of prisoners). Some of our youth went to Kingston House on a summer Saturday work project. The bulletin now included a Mission Corner insert to keep us better informed about the missionaries we support and better able to pray for them. We were fortunate to have several missionaries visit us throughout the year: John Ames (Ivory Coast), Boris Goldin (Chosen People), Gary and Ruth Stephens (Cameroon), John and Gail Hutchinson (Wycliffe), David Comeau (Bolivia), Thom and Ellen Schotanus (appointees to Cameroon). Two of our youth went on short term summer mission trips – Stephen Light to Australia with a group from Cedarville College and Stephanie Rogers to Mexico with Teen Mania Ministries.

Office news – Bobbie Strauss became the church secretary in July.

The Christian Education Board offered summer Sunday School for the first time in many years. Vacation Bible Camp was a fun event as usual.

The Music Committee was pleased to have Linda Rodeghiero as our adult choir director. Higher Call, a new men's quartet, began – wow! In August we presented a Concert on the Common in Norfolk. In November a Paula Dunn concert was sponsored. We caroled on the Common at the request of the town of Norfolk; and for Christmas we enjoyed a wonderful musical presentation, "Christmas, Up Close and Personal".

Ladies Fellowship completed its fourth year; its first year at Luciano's Lake Pearl in Wrentham. Four well attended events were held.

2001

EBC said good-bye to the Ryerse family as they departed for Michigan where Pastor Robb was called to be a senior pastor. By year's end we had called Jim Spellman to be our new youth pastor. Dave and Chris Derfelt and Trisha Barker faithfully led the youth during the interim months. In July seventeen teens and chaperones went on a mission trip to Ensenada, Mexico, with Youth with a Mission.

Missions Emphasis Weekend included the following missionaries: John Ames, Leslie Bridge (Campus Crusade, VA), Dave Burdette (Mexico), Dennis Gunderson (Philippines), John Hutchinson (JAARS), Mel and Nancy Isaac (MAF), Ken and Debby Milhous (Boston Japanese Christian Church), Thom and Ellen Schotanus (Cameroon), Don and Dori Willeman (church plant, NH). Elisabeth Elliot was the inspirational speaker for the weekend – very well received! In October we had the Harvest Is Plentiful Dinner to further emphasize missions. This year for Christmas we teamed with a local half-way house to have a Christmas party for moms and their children, complete with food, gifts and the Christmas story.

Vacation Bible Camp's theme this year was "Surfin' God's Word in Search of Truth" (Child Evangelism Fellowship).

The renovation of the Administration Building and landscaping came to a close thanks to the Trustees, Gerry Lorusso, and other dedicated servants. Praise the Lord!

Emmanuel had three family concerts this year as well as a concert by Higher Call (our men's quartet); drama by Rob Styler of 2nd Adam Performing Arts; a musical, "We Are United" (our own Kids of the Kingdom); gospel music with the Bullock Brothers; a concert with Rebekah Pratt McHoul; and the senior Girls Choir from Whitinsville Christian School.

Betty Burgess, one of our EBC charter members, went home to be with the Lord in July 2001.

2002

Rev. Stephen Arnold resigned in January as senior pastor at Emmanuel. Fifteen different men preached throughout the year, including retired ministers, missionaries, BGC executives, ministers from other churches, our own student ministries pastor, and laymen. A highlight of the year was the Prayer Weekend in May with Rev. Dana Olson. The messages were a challenge to all of us to revitalize our prayer lives.

“The best co-laborers in the world and the best students in the world” and Pastor Jim Spellman went to New England Frontier Camp in Maine for a service project weekend and to Tijuana, Mexico with Caravan Ministries to build houses all to the glory of God. EBC was privileged to send out John Ames, Karen Cunningham and Kathy Fox to Cameroon to do short term missions with the Stephens and Schotanus. We also sent a crew of 7 EBC (John Ames, John Cunningham, Bill Fleck, Carl Kristenson, Mark and Stephen Lukens, Jim Spellman) men to Mexico to help Dave Burdette with some construction work. We were so excited to have the following missionaries here for Mission Emphasis Weekend: John Ames, Leslie Bridge, Dave Burdette, Dave Comeau and family, Jim and Joan Harding, John and Gail Hutchinson, Mark and Kristen Lukens, Ken and Debby Milhous, Ed and Jennifer Reed, and Thom and Ellen Schotanus. The Saturday night guest speaker was John Austin of Campus Crusade for Christ, who brought us a message of hope. Timothy Tennant from Gordon College spoke on the “Extravagant Sower” for the Harvest Is Plentiful Dinner in October. In April Mission Board and Outreach Committee teamed up to bring a 911 Remembrance evening to Norfolk; Michael Mills was the featured speaker.

Pastor Jim proposed to Katie Fletcher during the worship service in June 2002. What a surprise! They were married in December in Florida and returned to us.

Shari Dunlap and Gayle Lewin led Vacation Bible Camp in a Bug Safari. The special project was to raise money for a school being built in Cameroon. On a sad note, C.E. Board cancelled Pioneer Girls and Stockade due to a lack of volunteers.

The Trustee Board, led by John Cunningham, replaced all the kitchen appliances and put in a tile floor. Three rooms on the second floor of the administration building were renovated for Sunday School classroom space. A new multi-media projection system for the sanctuary was planned, designed and installed. Very busy board!

Ladies Fellowship continued to plan amazing events, reaching out to hundreds of women in surrounding communities.

The Music Committee continued to seek creative ways to maintain a blended worship program – one that incorporated both traditional hymns and contemporary songs to glorify our Lord and edify His people. Highlights included Family Concerts organized by Priscilla Neale, a Higher Call concert, a dramatic presentation by Donny Woodbridge about the life of Jonah, “Colors of Grace” (our choir presentation centering around Christ’s passion and death), and “Stranger in the Manger” (a Christmas musical featuring our combined children and adult choirs).

Our faithful EBC prayer warrior and Deaconess Emeritus, Doris Evans, went home to be with the Lord in May.

2003

Rev. John C. Ames officially began his ministry as Senior Pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church in January. The vision statement for 2003: “With a continual emphasis on prayer; we desire to see Emmanuel Baptist Church growing together in Jesus Christ in the year 2003.” Over 200 people were in small groups for the 40 Days of Purpose campaign in the fall.

Pastor Jim once again took a crew of teens and adults for a work weekend at New England Frontier Camp. The senior high and college students along with Pastor Jim and chaperones did a summer Group WorkCamp mission trip to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, to serve the elderly and disabled.

Pastor John and the Deacons started us off in 2003 with a week of prayer, morning and evening sessions each day. In addition we had a morning prayer time the first Monday of each month. Pastor John and Bill Fleck led the Wednesday evening Prayer Meeting. The CE Board sponsored a Concert of Prayer in May in an effort to promote and support the 2003 vision. In September we hosted a Prayer Weekend with Dana Olson from the Baptist General Conference.

After a year of not offering Pioneer Girls and Christian Service Brigade, Wednesday evening programs (Girls Alive and Stockade) for children were reestablished by a subcommittee of the Christian Education Board. Eleanor Osborn and Jenni Cook were the program coordinators with several parents volunteering to help. Due to a lack of space the Wednesday club programs met at Freeman Centennial School in Norfolk. Vacation Bible Camp was “SCUBA”, coordinated by Shari Dunlap and Kathy Bridge; God supplied many volunteers and 150 came.

Mission Emphasis Weekend was held March 14-16. Rick Berry (Philippines) met with the youth on Friday night; Saturday’s speaker was Bob Jacks, the author of Divine Appointments. He shared some of his experiences of how God brings people into our lives everyday and how we should respond to those brief encounters. Rebekah Pratt McHoule provided some beautiful music. Dennis Gunderson (Philippines) spoke on Sunday morning. Sunday evening’s service was a time of commissioning those interested in a 2003 short term mission trip. Several from our congregation participated in short term mission trips: Stacey Binkowitz to Mexico, Joel Lee to Dominican Republic, Nicole Stott to Thailand, Christelle Ames to Minnesota, and the Martins to Zimbabwe.

The Trustees continued to deal with a condensation problem in the sanctuary roof and the fellowship hall was re-carpeted. Ben Brown was able to help us take care of

several items noted by the building inspector. The Hospitality Committee, led by Linda Burt, had another busy year with special breakfasts, Sunday morning coffee times, and special events.

Chris Burt once again led the Music Committee and the adult choir among other musical efforts. The musical highlights included: our Sunday evening Family Concerts, an all church Christmas program, the 40 Days of Purpose Celebration Sunday coordinated by Kent Scott, and lots of musically gifted people willing to give of their time and talent in serving the Lord and His church.

2004

A Red Sox World Series victory after 86 years! A definite reason for praise!
Another reason for praise – the mortgage on the church was paid off!

Pastor John Ames presented the vision statement for 2004: “Having been ‘Growing Together’ in Jesus Christ at Emmanuel, we are asking God to empower us to ‘Grow in Ministry’ as true ambassadors of Christ throughout the year 2004.” At noontime throughout the year, the office staff prayed through the church directory.

Pastor Jim Spellman resigned as Pastor of Student Ministries, but fortunately for us, he and Katie continued to be a part of the Emmanuel family.

In September the deacons organized a planning meeting for the ministry leaders of the church. While a wide variety of ideas were shared, there was a common theme in the obstacles and needed resources: additional staffing, expanded facilities, and especially, more volunteers. The deacons also created a task force this year to consider the establishment of an elder board at Emmanuel. We used our satellite dish to host several simulcast presentations: “The Case for Easter”, “Every Man’s Challenge”, “The Case for Creation”, and “We Have Overcome – A Christmas Celebration”. In December, EBC hosted the Christmas Walk in Norfolk participating with the Federated Church and St. Jude’s. Once again our pastor and deacons led us in an emphasis on prayer during the first week of the year and participated in the National Day of Prayer in May. To supplement the Wednesday evening Prayer Meeting, the deacons began an early morning first Wednesday prayer time.

The Mission Board held a Souper Bowl Dinner in January to raise awareness and funds for EBC short term mission trips. Pastor John led a group to Haiti in February in spite of some political uneasiness and tension in the country. God made their work fruitful and brought them back safely. Ten of our missionaries were able to be with us for the annual Mission Emphasis Weekend. The theme was “Let Every Tongue Confess” with keynote speaker Mike Flinchum, director of BGC’s program to unreached people. A team of 9 youth and 3 adults committed themselves to go to Tijuana, Mexico, in August to serve for a week building shelters with Dave Burdette and Caravan Ministries. Bob

and Connie Turner were speakers for the October Harvest Dinner, challenging us to seek opportunities to witness wherever God has placed us.

Kerri Smith and Paula Lupien led a great group of volunteers to provide “Lava, Lava Island” as the Vacation Bible Camp program during the summer. It was followed up in the fall with a harvest party for those from the community who had attended the summer program. Trisha Barker, Dave and Chris Derfelt, and Van and Lynn Latham assumed a larger role on the Youth Team since we were without a youth pastor.

The adult choir, under the leadership of Chris Burt, presented the musical, “God in Us”. The junior choir, under the direction of Nancy Wentling, combined with the adult choir to present “Kids’ Hymn Project”. After the musical, the usual Thanksgiving Breakfast became a Thanksgiving soup supper sponsored by the Adult Fellowship and Hospitality Committees. One of the highlights of the Christmas season was the Christmas Eve service, complete with brass accompaniment (led by Janet Fleck), choir, and several individual soloists.

Ladies Fellowship offered three events this year and was able to expand outreach through Bible Studies offered on site at Emmanuel.

Pat Hardy took over the church treasurer’s position, filling the big shoes left behind by Mike Flynn, who had done the job for a number of years.

Mae Maguire, one of the charter Emmanuel Baptist church members, went home to be with the Lord in October.

2005

Our vision statement for 2005 was: “We seek together to be faithful members in God’s household and seek to invite others to enter into God’s family. We will seek to develop, model, and nurture the earthly families God has given to each one of us for His glory.” Pastor John Ames continued to lead and shepherd our congregation. We had February and September planning sessions to celebrate and thank God for what he had done at Emmanuel and to reflect and plan for the future. Big news – We welcomed Pastor Michael McGarry and his wife, Tracy, in July. Pastor Mike became our Pastor of Student Ministries. Another item of praise was the purchase of additional land behind the church for future expansion.

Eleven youth and five adults went to Reading, Pennsylvania, with Group WorkCamps for a 5 day home repair assignment for a low income family in the city. The students also helped the Trustees paint the youth room; new carpet was installed, too – not by the youth. Some vocabulary changes: CrossWalk = junior and senior high youth group; CrossTraining = senior high mid-week Bible study.

We enjoyed the Ohio connection as we went through a day seminar on “Making Friends for Heaven’s Sake” with our guests, Rev. Tyler Flynn (former EBC pastor) and Bill Mowry. Diana Bennett from Vision New England came in April to lead us in a seminar on small group ministry. In May we committed to several days of prayer between the National Day of Prayer and the Global Day of Prayer. The *Fire and Reign* prayer and fasting began in October on the first Tuesdays of the month. The small groups for BGC’s *Fire and Reign* were scheduled to begin in January 2006. The Elder Board Task Force continues to make progress, albeit at an expected slow pace. The Deacon Board spent considerable time in prayer concerning the possibility of an Associate Pastor to oversee discipleship and evangelism. A Family Life Conference, featuring David and Denise Glenn, was held during a November weekend. The emphasis was on practical advice and biblical wisdom of how to build godly marriages and families.

In March the Mission Board hosted our annual Mission Emphasis Weekend with the theme of “For the Glory of His Name”. Many braved a late winter snowstorm to participate in Meals with Missionaries and services with special speaker, Dr. Gary Fagan, and 8 of our missionary families. Jeri Gunderson (Shirpah Birthing Center, Philippines) visited us in April. A major highlight for the church was the official appointment of EBC’s Bill and Kathy Martin as career BGC missionaries to Senegal, West Africa. John Tempelhoff arrived from South Africa for a short furlough time in late summer, later joined by his wife, Mary Jean. The Mission Board decided to try the Angel Tree Project this year due to some in our church becoming involved with Operation Starting Line, a prison ministries organization.

Kids’ Praise & Worship and Nancy Wentling and her crew blessed us with two wonderful music presentations: “The Perfect 10” and in December, “Fear Not Factor”, a heavenly perspective on the birth of Jesus, which the adult choir helped with as well. The Girls Alive and Stockade programs moved back to Emmanuel, instead of continuing to meet at the Freeman Centennial School. God gave us another good summer at Vacation Bible Camp, “Serengeti Trek” – lots of workers and lots of kids!

Thanks to our diligent Trustee Board, our sanctuary roof finally seemed to be repaired properly in the spring. Later in the year the roof over Fellowship Hall and the kitchen was replaced.

The Music Committee worked toward a balanced blend of contemporary and traditional music for worship. Chris Burt and Kent Scott worked with the pastor to plan and coordinate worship.

The EBC website was redesigned by Tedd Lupien with a new look and feel to it.

2006

The year is still young as this chronicle is finished and prepared for “publication” as a special treat in honor of Emmanuel Baptist Church’s 40th Anniversary Celebration. We appreciate Karen Peterson, Janice Axberg, Carol Lewin, and Carol Zimmer who volunteered to plan this celebration. Special thanks to

our volunteers who helped with all of the typing: Stanley Abbot, Jenni Cook, Dawn Eldridge, Jennifer Grafton, Pat Haggstrom, Betty Jean Spragg; and to those who proof read these pages: Janice Axberg, Kathy Fox, Carol Lewin, and Carol Zimmer. All information for the summaries of 1991 - 2005 was gleaned from past annual reports. I apologize for any information that may be inaccurate or incomplete. The intent is to look back on 40 years and thank God for blessing us so abundantly. Who knows where He will lead us next on this great adventure of faith? Let's look forward together in prayerful anticipation! Thank you!
Bobbie Strauss, EBC Office Manager (alias church secretary)

2006

We launched our 2006 year of ministry with the following statement:
As we focus on Worshiping Christ as Lord, Becoming His Disciples and Making Disciples of all nations, we will seek to be filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit and submitted to the Reign of Jesus Christ as we become “people of the book”.

Emmanuel participated in the BGC study of the first seven chapters of Acts, *Fire and Reign*, in 11 small groups of 130 people organized by Carl and Pat Hardy. Bill Fleck led us in prayer ministry such as first Tuesday Prayer and Fasting among other prayer initiatives. The annual Mission Emphasis Weekend with Lou Petrie in March was a fitting end to the *Fire and Reign* campaign. Missionaries Dave Burdette, Mel and Nancy Isaac, Leslie Bridge, and Bill and Kathy Martin were also here for MEW.

Pastor John and Karen celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary at a surprise party at the church hosted by their children. ☺

Besides CrossTraining (senior high) and CrossWalk (junior high), Pastor Mike led the student summer mission trip (15 youth, 5 adults) to Casa Bernabe in Guatemala. The 30 Hour Famine raised over \$1500 for World Vision to fight poverty in Kenya. A Youth Page insert became a weekly highlight of the Sunday bulletin providing upcoming event information and featuring one of our students.

A search committee was formed to seek an associate pastor of discipleship and evangelism. They received many resumes for the position. A Facilities Assessment team worked hard to address our expansion needs; more to be done in the future.

Vacation Bible Camp led by Paula Lupien and Tracy McGarry was once again well attended.

In October Ken and Debbie Milhous and family joined us for our Harvest Mission Dinner. Geoff and Nancy Chick also shared their experiences in serving international students in our local area. In November we had our second Family Life Conference featuring Dr. Mary Larson as the guest speaker on the theme of “Parents under Fire”. Marriages of 40 years or more were honored at the Saturday luncheon of that special weekend.

Prison outreach ministry through the leadership of Don Tomkinson and Ken Light began as well as a Men’s work ministry led by Carl Kristenson and Tedd Lupien meeting monthly to help our widows, single moms, and seniors with home repairs. Five members from Emmanuel (Beverly Campbell, Kathy Fox, Ritch Grafton, Debbie Henderson, Jason Mienscow) joined 15 from other NBC churches for training to present the Better Choices abstinence and Christian based AIDS education materials in Zulu schools in South Africa in August. Bill and Kathy Martin are halfway toward their goal of full support as BGC missionary appointees to Senegal.

The choir presented the musical, *Amazing Grace*, at Easter.

Ladies Fellowship planned 3 large well attended events at Luciano’s Lake Pearl in Wrentham. An evening Bible study of *Freedom for Mothers* by Denise Glenn brought out 45 ladies on Monday evenings at the beginning of the year.

Richard Baker, Edith Johnson, and Betty Jean Spragg went home to be with the Lord.

2007

2007 was another year of seeing God at work at Emmanuel Baptist Church. Our prayer for a third pastoral staff member was answered with the addition of Pete Hogle as Associate Pastor of Discipleship and Evangelism. He and his wife, Becky, and their 4 children (Noah, Elsa, Gretta, and Olivia) moved here from the Chicago area during the summer.

We celebrated Pastor Mike's ordination on March 11, 2007, so he became the Reverend Michael McGarry. He and Tracy also became parents-to-be. The youth group was split into Cross-Training (9th-12th) on Sunday evenings and CrossWalk (7th&8th) on Thursday evenings. Some of the highlights of the youth year were the summer service projects, winter camp at Berea, the 30 Hour Famine for World Vision, the all-nighter SuperBowl, and the fall kick-off Youth Carnival.

Our church was blessed by the presence of Jim and Joan Harding, Rick Berry, Bill and Kathy Martin, Ralph Essery, Dennis Gunderson, and Ron Larson at our annual weekend mission conference in March. This time spent with Dennis was especially precious when we received the news of his sudden passing soon after his return to the Philippines in May. Another of our missionaries, Derrick Manqele, lost his wife, Veronica, to TB in South Africa. Pastor John and Karen returned to West Africa in February where they served for 15 years. Manny Cerqueira traveled to Durban, South Africa in June on a team to teach Better Choices Aids prevention curriculum. A major highlight was the official commissioning of Bill and Kathy Martin in August to eventually serve in Senegal, West Africa. God miraculously provided the last of their support in time for them to enroll in their language program in Quebec and the children's schools for the fall semester. At our Harvest Dinner in October we were challenged by George McBride, speaking from his experiences in Thailand. On the International Day of Pray for the Persecuted Church (November 11), Darcie Gill (Voice of the Martyrs) shared with us her personal experiences with the persecuted church around the world.

Paula Lupien and Tracy McGarry led Vacation Bible Camp in July – fun was had by all!

Two special music programs were presented. The first was "Except a Grain of Sand" (the story of Christ's death and resurrection in song and drama) on Palm Sunday led by Chris Burt (adult choir) and Nancy Wentling (Kids Praise). A Christmas concert, "Who Could've Imagined?", was presented by the adult choir.

Being Baptists we continued to eat well and often thanks to our Hospitality Committee led by Jenni Cook. Besides numerous receptions, coffee times, and fellowship times, we also enjoyed Easter Breakfast and Thanksgiving Breakfast as a church family.

Ladies Fellowship sponsored a sold-out, all day Beth Moore live satellite simulcast event in February at Emmanuel. In May and December events were held as usual at Luciano's Lake Pearl in Wrentham.

Adult Fellowship planned fun events for us with the highlights being the Colt State Park (RI) all church picnic in August and the traditionally elegant Homes for the Holidays in December.

The EBC Men's Work Ministry led by Carl Kristenson grew in numbers as men gathered on the second Saturday of each month for Bible study followed by work at the homes of widows, single moms, elderly members, and the disabled.

2008

We celebrated the birth of Pastor Mike and Tracy McGarry's first child, Matthew, in January. January was also our Annual Meeting/Celebration Dinner where we looked back at the past year of ministry and looked ahead to the future.

Pastor Pete Hoglund encouraged us to meet corporately for prayer. Wednesday evening continued as Community Prayer, but also people volunteered to pray for the Sunday morning services during the Sunday morning services. Three times we participated in 24 Hours of Prayer (February 15 & 16, June 6 & 7, September 26 & 27).

The Young Adult Ministry took off this year, and the group has grown spiritually as well as in numbers attending. The Junior and Senior High Youth groups under Pastor Mike's leadership had a busy year including a mission trip to Mississippi to help repair storm damage from Hurricane Katrina. The teens made a shift to the small group style of Christian Education classes on Sunday morning which involves more adults as leaders.

The Cornerstone Committee was established to review the work of the facilities expansion team and develop a proposal for facilities expansion. The deacons continued to work on an eldership model for church government.

In early April we welcomed Craig & Mell Jones, John Tempelhoff, Brian & Belinda Issac, Mel & Nancy Isaac, Withny Pierre, John Papirio, and Ken & Debby Milhous to our Mission Emphasis Weekend. Jeri Gunderson visited us from the Philippines on Mother's Day to give an update on ministry. In May Pastor John Ames, Ron Hornung, and Carol Zimmer went on a mission trip to Maissaide, Haiti. We sent a team to the Boston Rescue Mission in July to prepare and serve a meal; hopefully this will become a regular outreach. Our Harvest Mission Dinner in October was well attended so many were able to enjoy a phone call to the Martins in Senegal. With the economy looking bleaker as the year went on, the Norfolk Food Pantry experienced a rise in usage. Many have given food and money generously at this time of greater need.

Paula Lupien, Tracy McGarry, and crew managed another successful Vacation Bible Camp.

The trustees worked diligently throughout the year to keep the church property in good repair, and hospitality committee made sure we were all well fed at all times.

Back to Bethlehem, a Christmas program directed by Chris Burt, was performed three times by a stellar EBC cast. Even a Friday snowstorm didn't dampen their spirits!

Adult Fellowship brought us out for three events: a game night in April; the annual all church picnic at Colt State Park with Geoff Chick treating us to rides in his antique boat; and the always elegant, Homes for the Holidays progressive dinner. Ladies Fellowship began the year with an outreach Bible study (Beth Moore's *A Woman's Heart – God's Dwelling Place*) on Monday evenings. Kathy Bridge came as featured speaker for the April 7th event, Eric Nelson sang; the Christmas event on November 17th featured Jean Fast, a life coach, and the music was provided by the EBC Men's Quartet.

Although Don Tomkinson moved to Florida, the prison ministry continues locally with Ken Light and Carl Kristenson.

2009

In this year of hard economic times, Emmanuel finished the year \$60,000 ahead of budget – praise the Lord! Pastor John and Karen became grandparents upon the birth of their grandson, Tristan. We experienced the joy of weddings: Janet Fleck and Adam Lundgren, Erin Strauss and Chris Hardy, and Stephanie Spencer and Nathan Schneider; of the birth of babies; and of several baptisms. There were moments of sorrow as well as the Lord called home Jim Gardner, Bernie Angliss, and Priscilla Neale (one of EBC charter members).

January: Pastor Pete brought Dr. Alex McFarland here for the Confident Witness Apologetics Conference. More teens than ever went with Pastor Mike to the winter retreat at Camp Berea.

March: EBC sponsored the Love and Respect Marriage Video Conference. Bob Long came to EBC to conduct a Youth Workers Seminar. Our Mission Board organized our Reach Your World Mission Conference with Ralph Essery, Leslie Bridge, Gary and Ruth Stephens, Bob and Lisa Elster, Joel Lee and Withny Pierre.

The trustees continued to make repairs and take care of maintenance issues. They worked with NSTAR to install energy efficient lights at no cost to the church. The Cathedral Room was refurbished with new conference style tables, chairs and window treatments as well as media equipment. The 35 year old boiler/burner unit was replaced.

May: Linda Streeter traveled to Maissaide, Haiti for a week as part of the Converge Northeast mission team. Ladies Fellowship sponsored an event for just the EBC ladies; we enjoyed the Chocolate Boutique.

Summer: Cindy Jamieson and Judy Rayburg led a couple of teams to Kingston House in Boston to prepare and serve meals (also at other times of the year). EBC participated in Norfolk Community Day by having a free sno-cone booth manned by EBC volunteers. Claudette Chander served on a short term mission team to Durban, South Africa to work with the Tempelhoffs in the Better Choices AIDS prevention program. Joel Lee went with The Navigators to the Philippines. Vacation Bible School, led by Paula Lupien and a large staff of enthusiastic volunteers, had 200 children in attendance. Will Martin, son of EBC missionaries, Bill and Kathy, came from Senegal and was the special missions spotlight each day of VBS; the children raised \$2600 for missions. Pastor Mike participated with some of our teens for a week with the Boston Project. Our annual church picnic was once again held at Colt State Park in Rhode Island.

Fall: Toby Travis, a Christian illusionist, came in September and performed his show at the King Philip Middle School auditorium to a full house. In October EBC hosted the Worldwide Converge Missionary Assessment Center for a week. Dr. Mary Larson, Converge Northeast, spoke to Emmanuel parents also in October, and Jim and Joan Harding (long time missionaries) came for a visit. November was the youth Word of Life all-nighter which had almost double the attendance from EBC as the year before. Dr. Jeff Winter and Pastor Brad Grammer led our first conference on the topic of facing the sexual challenges in our culture.

December: Nancy Wentling, Dawn Eldridge and Amy McKeown led children and Chris Burt led the adults in the Christmas musical program, “The Fear Not Factor”. Ladies Fellowship hosted a crowd at the Christmas event at Luciano’s Lake Pearl with

featured speaker, Jan Carlberg. Rick and Myla Berry visited us from the Philippines; they were presented with a money tree as a wedding gift from us. Christmas bags containing a New Testament and an invitation to our Christmas Eve service were distributed by EBC people door to door in local neighborhoods.

God did amazing things in 2009, and we were blessed to be used by Him!

2010

Once again God provided financially for Emmanuel as we finished the year in the black. Pastor John and Karen welcomed another grandchild; Pastor Pete and Becky sent off their first-born to college; and Pastor Mike, Tracy, and Matthew celebrated the birth of their newest family member, Hannah – plus Pastor Mike begin work on his DMin degree at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. We had weddings, memorial services, baptisms, and new members at EBC. Emmanuel continued to pray on Wednesday evening, at 24 Hours of Prayer events, at concerts of prayer during the Christian Education hour. Pastor Pete was ordained on June 13 – congratulations, Rev!

ECHO (young adults) continues to thrive and branch out doing service projects and social activities in addition to their weekly meetings. The Junior and Senior High Youth groups had a busy year including a senior high girls small group meeting on Tuesday evenings, the winter retreat at Camp Berea, the 30 Hour Famine (raised over \$2500), Superbowl All-Nighter, the Toronto Mission Trip, and the beginning of a student ministry team. Adults have stepped up to assist in the youth ministry, and it is greatly appreciated.

The deacons and other leaders continue to explore the idea of transitioning from a Pastor/Deacon and congregational governed model to an Elder-led congregational governed model. Pastor Pete brought in Stand Strength for a 3 day community outreach event at the public schools and at our church. Many heard the Gospel message; we hope to have them back again at some point in the future. A lot of work, great fun, and hopefully much fruit pleasing to the Lord.

In early April we welcomed Dave Burdette, Thom and Ellen Schotanus, Mel and Nancy Isaac and John and Gail Hutchinson to our Mission Emphasis Weekend: God's Plan – Our Purpose. John Beers, Gospel for Asia, visited us in May. Linda Streeter from our Mission Board headed to Haiti for a short term mission trip at the end of May and was disappointed to see the slow progress in relief efforts following January's massive earthquake. Janice Axberg (Mission Board) traveled in May to South Africa and visited all 3 of our supported missionaries there. Jeri Gunderson (Philippines) and her daughter came in early summer; Kathy, Will and Caleb Martin (CW – Senegal) visited EBC in late July; John & Mary Jean Tempelhoff (South Africa) were here in the fall Cindy Jamieson and Judy Rayburg continued to organize a group to prepare and serve meals to the homeless at Kingston House in Boston. Pastor John traveled to Haiti in November with a team from NE Converge to train area pastors. Ken Light continues to serve The Protestant Church in MI-Norfolk; Carl Kristenson leads Bible studies there, and Kent Scott has been helping with music at the prison church services.

Paula Lupien, Becky Hogle, and crew organized and implemented another well received and well attended Vacation Bible Camp with 120 volunteers, 200 children!

The trustees worked above and beyond expectation! They dealt with MAJOR flooding in the spring due to unusually heavy rains – sump pumps were altered, leaks were repaired, and carpets removed and tiles installed. The trustees saved the church thousands of dollars by doing the work themselves. Work was also done on the overflow parking area with the help of local businesses who donated items or gave discounted pricing. Special thanks to Ray Thompson, Brian Dangelo, and Gil Axberg for regularly coming to EBC on Tuesday to do projects benefitting the church plant.

Nancy Wentling and Chris Burt pulled together another great Christmas concert with adults and children participating together.

Hospitality and Adult Fellowship Committees continue to provide much in the way of food and fellowship for us. Ladies Fellowship began the transition to Women's Ministries. (Thank you to Karen Peterson and her committee for the years of love and service they poured into Ladies Fellowship events to see others come to know the Lord!) Sunday morning coffee times, Easter Breakfast, picnics, cookouts, Homes for the Holidays, fall ladies retreat at Lakeside – don't we have fun?

Senior Pastors:

Robert Franzen	April 1966 – December 1966
Richard Schnorbus	December 1966 – August 1970
John Tempelhoff (Assistant Pastor)	October 1968 – August 1970
Tyler Flynn	July 1971 – June 1979
David Moreland (interim)	April 1981 – December 1981
Dr. Gary Morris	December 1981 – July 1995
Dr. Paul Toms (interim)	August 1995 – August 1998
Rev. Stephen Arnold	September 1998 – February 2002
Rev. John C. Ames	January 2003 –

Assistant or Associate Pastors:

John Tempelhoff (Assistant Pastor)	October 1968 – August 1970
Rev. Peter Høglund (Associate Pastor of Discipleship & Evangelism)	July 2007 –

Youth Pastors:

Barre Flynn	August 1975 – September 1976
David LaDeau	November 1976 – July 1977
Jon Swedberg	June 1979 – March 1986
Joel Winchell	December 1986 – October 1991
Thom & Betsy Gilbert (Youth Leaders)	September 1992 – September 1997
Robb Ryerse (Minister of Youth & Outreach)	January 1999 – January 2001
James Spellman (Pastor of Student Ministries)	January 2002 – February 2004
Rev. Michael McGarry (Pastor of Student Ministries)	July 2005 –