

FLORENCE BOULEVARD CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders

Steve Clark
Ken Vanhorn
Mark Willingham
Jake VanDyke

Deacons

Greg Allen
Justin Beckman
Kevin Clemons
Jeffrey Cox
Mike Davidson
Kyle Dickson
Gregg Elrod
Nate Fulmer
AJ Gooch
Jamey Medley
Ronnie Putnam
Dave Schmidt
Mark Vanhorn
Don Williams

Minister

Austin Johnson

Youth Minister John Birdwell

Secretary

Sonya Cox

Immanuel – More Than Just a Name

The angel came and spoke to Mary, the soon-to-be mother of Jesus, and told her that a child was going to be born and he is to be called Jesus, for he will save the people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). "So all of this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 'Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,' which is translated, 'God with us'" (Matthew 1:22–23).

Is there any significance to the name Immanuel? Is it even a name at all? Or is it a designation of Jesus' role as the coming of Divine presence to earth, that God may live among men? Here are a few of my thoughts:

- 1. Immanuel, meaning "God with us," has in one sense always been with us. God was with His people throughout the Old Testament (Exodus 3:12; 33:16; 1 Kings 8:57; Psalm 118:6; et al). As Jesus was from the beginning in heaven in fully divine form (John 1:1), He took part in creating all things (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16; Acts 17:28; 1 Cor 8:6; Job 33:4). Being fully part of the Godhead, He is credited for sustaining all things (Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3). So in some sense of the phrase, God has always been with us.
- 2. Immanuel is the fulfillment of prophecy. Isaiah prophesied on behalf of the Lord to King Ahaz, king of Judah, and the sign of the deliverance of Judah was going to be the birth of a child from a virgin. He was to be called Immanuel. Jesus was the fulfillment of this prophecy, even though it was hundreds of years after Ahaz's lifetime.
- 3. Immanuel is not simply a proper name, but an indication of His job—to bring God to man. How, you ask...?
- 4. Immanuel, In the fullness of time, came to earth through the seed of woman. The beginning of the seed promise from God was in Genesis 3:15 as God was smiting the devil—"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed, He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." So when the fullness of time had come (Galatians 4:4) God sent his son to be born of woman and live among men (John 1:14).
- 5. However, He chose to leave equally with God to make Himself into the form of a man (*Philippians* 2:5–11). This leaving was so that Immanuel would be able to sympathize with our weaknesses (*Rom* 8:3; *Hebrews* 4:15f) so He could die for us (2 Cor. 5:21; cf. 1 Pet. 2:24; 3:18; Rom. 5:8; Jn. 10:11; Mk. 10:45)—so He could leave us (*John* 16:8–11)—all for the purpose of returning again! Thus, Immanuel has become the name indicator of an eternal unity between saints and God in heaven. (1 Thess 4:16–17)

Immanuel, truly more than just a name! It is the New Covenant fulfillment of an Old Covenant promise. It is the designation of Jesus as God's divine presence among men. It is a one-word summation and explanation of the Gospel message, "That God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him would not die but has everlasting life." May the name, message, and reality of Immanuel fill you today!

Austin Johnson

2502 FLORENCE BOULEVARD

www.florenceblvd.org

PHONE (256) 766-3617 email: office@florenceblvd.org FAX (256) 766-3546

Worship: Sunday 9:00 am & 5:00 pm; Bible Class 10:15 am

Wednesday: 6:30 pm

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday AM: 263 / On Line Views: 121 Sunday School: 217 / On Line Views: 27 Sunday PM: 204 / On Line Views: 139 Wednesday: 162 / On Line Views: 70

Budget: \$13,300 Contribution: \$ 11,528

CONTRIBUTION

Beginning on Sunday, June 5th, we will begin passing the contribution trays again. We will not be passing the communion trays, so please make sure you get your communion when you walk in the door, like you have been doing.

MAY MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

Fred Asare
Village of Hope
PO Box 18169
Accra, Ghana
fredasare@gmail.com

CHURCH -EAT-CHURCH

We will be having "Church-Eat-Church" **TODAY**. This will be a pot luck meal. Chicken will be provided by the church. Fellowship Meal **Team #4** will set up. Fellowship Meal **Team #3** will clean up. Check your mail box or the bulletin board beside the shower room if you don't know which team you are on.

9 AM: Worship

10:15 AM: Sunday School

11:00 AM: Church wide fellowship meal

12:30 PM: Afternoon service

Dismiss for the day. NO 5:00 pm service

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CHURCH OFFICE

The church office will be closed tomorrow for the Memorial Day Holiday.

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 12th-15th; 6 pm-8 pm; Ages: 2-6th Grade; Adult Class

We are still in need of teachers for our upcoming VBS. Sign-up sheets are located on the table in the foyer.

If you would like a VBS t-shirt, please sign the sheet, on the table, in the foyer. This is for adults only! Cost is \$8.00

SUMMER CLASS SCHEDULE

Sunday:

Auditorium: Philippians-taught by Don Williams

49er's: Taught by Gregg Elrod

Ladies: Practical Passages from Proverbs-taught by Leisa Williams

Young Professionals: taught- Austin Johnson

Wednesday:

Summer Series

June 1st: Andy Kizer (Salem); The Bible-The Inspired & Inerrant

Word of God-"Can I Trust the Bible?"

June 8th: Ben Williams (Meridianville); Contemporary Lessons From The Book of Beginnings; Genesis "Does Genesis Apply To Today?"

52 WEEK BIBLE READING PLAN

Week 22

Sunday (Epistles) Galations 1-3

Monday (The Law) Exodus 33-36

Tuesday (History) 1 Kings 1-4

Wednesday (Psalms) Psalm 63-65

Thursday (Poetry) Proverbs 1

Friday (Prophecy) Jer. 47-52

Saturday (Gospels) Luke 7-8