

Vox

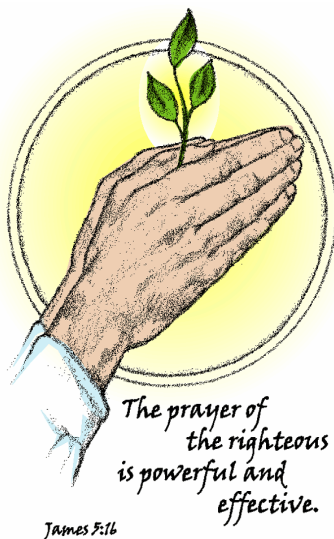
Voice of Emmanuel Baptist Church

Volume 4 Issue 1

January 2011

Praying Forward

Thomas Waters



Plans for the upcoming year are being made; however, we realize that making plans and the execution of said plans are not the same thing. As Thomas a Kempis wrote, "For the resolutions of the just depend rather on the grace of God than on their own wisdom; and in Him they always put their trust, whatever they take in hand. For man proposes, but God disposes; neither is the way of man in his own hands."

We make plans, but we realize that God is the Sovereign of all things. We pray and seek His guidance and blessings in the deliberations and in the carrying out of what is planned. The Scriptures declare our absolute dependence upon God and His absolute sovereignty in all our affairs. "The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord" (Proverbs 16:33). "Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that'" (James 4:15). Below are some of the plans for 2011. We propose them praying, "If the Lord wills."

JANUARY is Mission Month. Be mindful of missions and missionaries around the world.

- 6—Classes in Log College begin.
- 30—Gordon Taylor, Coordinator for ARBCA preaches in the morning service and in the evening service reports about ARBCA's global missionary work.

MARCH

- 13—Daylight Saving Time: Spring ahead one hour
- 17-19—EBC hosts the annual General Assembly (GA) of the Georgia Association of Confessional Baptist Churches (GACB).
- 20—Joe Hester, newly installed Elder at Redeemer Baptist in Macon, GA, gives his testimony during Sunday School and preaches for morning worship.

APRIL

- 5-7—Annual General Assembly of ARBCA meets at Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, La Mirada, CA. The theme is "The Means of Grace".
- 10—Jake Walls, newly installed elder at Redeemer Baptist in Macon, GA, gives his testimony during Sunday School and preaches at morning worship.
- 24—Easter: Sunrise Service 6:30 am, Sunday School 9:30 am, Worship 10:45 am, no evening service.

MAY is Family Month. Be especially prayerful for the family.

- 22—Planning to have a guest speaker preach on the family in the morning and evening services.



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Historically Log College was the name given to the school that William Tennent conducted from 1726 to 1745. Many of the graduates were key figures in the Great Awakening. Although the connection is debated, the Log College became or at least was influential in the founding of Princeton.

About twelve years ago the Log College was begun at Heritage Church in Fayetteville, GA, to train men entering the ministry. It has been modeled by some churches in Canada as well. The campus at Jesup is an effort to extend the excellent ministerial education available through the Log College to men in South Georgia and North Florida. For men who want to receive a degree from a State-certified institution, Reformed Baptist Seminary in Greenville, SC, has agreed to work with the Log College and accept men graduating from the Log College into their Master of Divinity program. The enrollment at the EBC campus stands at seven, and classes will begin January 6, 2011.

The word **epiphany** comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, which means appearance or manifestation. Epiphany is observed in some churches annually on January 6. It refers to the wise men, who were the first Gentiles to see the manifestation of God's appearance in the child Jesus. This probably occurred when Jesus was about two years old and not at His birth as is usually depicted.

The central significance of Epiphany is that Christ came as the Light of the World, not just for the Jews but for Gentiles as well. Christ's light is for all.

Praying Forward

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SEPTEMBER

25—Affirmation Sunday: Members of EBC reaffirm our commitment to God and to the Covenant, Confession, and Constitution of EBC.

OCTOBER

29-30—Reformation Weekend: Details to be determined.

Each month we plan to have an article on the family in the *Press Sentinel*. Pray that God would use these twelve articles

to raise awareness concerning the importance of family. Pray that the articles will biblically teach about the family. The articles will also give EBC a regular presence in our community.

Start the New Year with
Prayer

We believe these plans are God honoring and saint building. The carrying out and usefulness of each plan depend upon the Lord's good will. We pray therefore, "If the Lord wills." But let

us follow our prayers with actions. "In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good" (Ecclesiastes 11:6).

EBC

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Submit information to Chlo Dukes by the fifteenth of the month preceding publication by email, in person, or at the church office. The editor reserves the right to edit for content or space. *Soli Deo Gloria!*

About Our People: Dean and Gloria Strickland

Dean was born in Jesup, GA, to Lonnie and Beulah Strickland and was the baby of his eight brothers and sisters. Because his dad was crippled, times were difficult, but he always had a job and provided the best he could for his large family. He bought the Purina Feed and Seed Store when Dean was ten years old.

Gloria was born at Fort Benning, GA, to Barnette and Arrie Ates. She was the second of three children. Her dad was in the military service for over twenty years, so she says, "I guess I earned the title of an "army brat". They had little money in those days, but they always had plenty to eat and had parents who showered them with plenty of love. The family had relatives in Odum, and they often them visited them during the summer. The children also went to summer camp where Gloria first met Dean.

Dean started to school in 1939 and has fond memories of Mrs. Ida Carpenter, principal of the elementary school. He says that she was a godly woman who also knew how to effectively apply a paddle when needed. He graduated from Jesup High School in 1951 with strong life-long impressions from Principal Bill Fordham and his wife Carolyn who were also godly people.

Dean entered the Citadel Military School in Charleston, SC, in the fall of 1951 and later attended GA Military College, Middle GA College and graduated from Armstrong University with a BS Degree in criminal justice. There was a break in his schooling due to his being drafted. He served his country in the Army Engineer Corp in Japan and Korea.

When Gloria was fourteen years old and in the ninth grade, she moved to Jesup. She says that living on a farm with her grandparents was a real blessing. They worked hard, mostly in cotton and tobacco, sometimes helping Donzell Lewis' relatives.

Dean and Gloria began dating when they were in high school and were married by her pastor father in April, 1953, the year after she graduated Salutatorian. She worked at a bank and as secretary of Murphy Building Supply. After being married for only six months Dean

was drafted, so she went to Douglas to live with her parents and worked as a cashier at a Winn Dixie store.

When Dean returned home from military service they moved to Jesup, and he went back to work at the feed store. Two months later his father died, and his two brothers J. Hugh and Warren continued to operate the business. In 1968 they sold out to Gold Kist Corporation where it continues to operate in the same location on SW Broad Street. Dean managed a store in Alma, GA, for about a year, worked at Rayonier about six months, and then in 1970 began working with the State Board of Pardons and Paroles. He retired in 1995 as chief officer of the Jesup Parole district.



Dean says that his hobbies used to be hunting and fishing, but in retirement they rapidly changed to yard work, gardening and trying to accomplish a long "honey-do list" (which is still incomplete) prepared by his loving wife. Gloria says that they enjoyed water skiing and swimming in their earlier years and taught many people how to ski. She also enjoys fishing and working in the

yard, and although she is no longer able to do them, she has fond memories. Now she spends much of her spare time reading. Her most recent book was Jesus Loves the Church and So Should You. She loves reading the Bible. Philippians 4:13 and II Corinthians 5:21 are among her favorite verses. Dean also enjoys reading good literature and tries to read at least three God oriented books a month in addition to his Bible study.

A life-changing event in their lives came when they adopted a three-day-old daughter who "has been a true blessing." When Cheryl was four years old, Gloria went to work at Gibson-Mc Donald Furniture Company. After eight years she left the job to stay at home with her daughter.

Several years later Cheryl and her husband presented them with the most perfect gift they could receive, a grandson, and because they live directly behind Gloria and Dean, Gigi and Papa get to see Taran almost every day.

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Sanctity of Human Life Sunday January 23, 2011

Since 1983, Americans have observed Sanctity of Human Life Sunday (SOHLS) as a day to celebrate the intrinsic value of all human life. Emphasis is given to a broad range of life issues including abortion, euthanasia, genetic engineering, health care, child abuse, and eldercare. Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is held on the Sunday in January that falls closest to the day on which the *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions were handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court on January 22, 1973.



Life: love it, protect it

About Our People

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When she was twelve years old Gloria joined Altamaha Baptist Church. Twenty years later she received believer's baptism at Memorial Baptist Church, and since then her desire has been to serve Him faithfully.

Dean came to faith when he was twelve years old while attending the old First Baptist Church located on Macon Street. When his military duty was completed, he and Gloria moved their letters to Memorial Baptist Church where her father had become the first pastor. There Dean, Bobby Smith, and Gloria's brother-in-law Bill Keith were ordained deacons. Later, Dean and Gloria left Memorial Baptist to begin a new work at Baptist Tabernacle and Christian Park Academy. In 2000, Baptist Tabernacle merged with Jesup Primitive Baptist Church where he was ordained an elder. After a few years, Gloria and Dean were among the charter members of Emmanuel Baptist Church where they continue to be faithful servants of God.

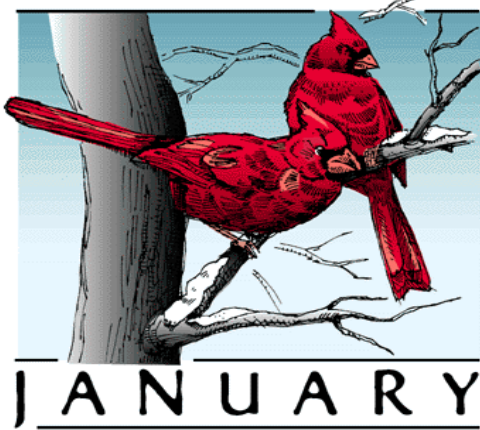
In addition to serving EBC as an elder, Dean leads the singing for the worship services, and both participate in choir activities. Among Dean's favorite hymns are "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God", "It Is Well With My Soul", and "To God Be the Glory". At the top of Gloria's list are "To God Be the Glory" and "Saved By Grace".

When Baxley Children's Home was seeking a home for a young girl, the Stricklands graciously welcomed her. She stayed for about a year.

Another time when a young girl from Baxley wanted to attend Christian Park Academy, she stayed with them from Monday until Friday for a year. Gloria says that she and Dean learned much from those two experiences.

Another interesting fact is they are known as "Aunt Gloria and Uncle Dean" by a large number of people in Wayne County and as far away as Dothan, AL, and Somerset, KY. Dean also has had two children named after him which he considers quite an honor.

EBC is blessed by these good people. Gloria says, "We are thankful for our pastor and all of our EBC family, and we covet each of your prayers."



Service Opportunities and Events

COMING EVENTS

- Annual Business Conference**—January 5, 7:00 pm, at EBC;
 vote on proposed budget for 2011
WIC—Tuesday, January 4, 6:30 pm
LOG College Jesup Satellite—Classes begin January 6, at EBC
BIC—Tuesday, January 11, 6:30 pm
Sanctity of Human Life Sunday—January 23
Gordon Taylor Speaks at EBC—Sunday, January 30

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 01 Stewart Brooks
- 17 Ella Brooks
- 20 Robert Mikell
- 22 Donzell Lewis
- 24 Dean Strickland
- 25 Annabeth Mikell
- 30 David Pate

- 02 am—Ann Lane & Rebekah Sumrow
 pm—Fran McElveen & Megan Groover
- 09 am—JoAnn Lewis & Gail Waters
 pm—Katie & Will Brooks
- 16 am—Maxine & Tony Sumrow
 pm—Lynne Groover & Jean York
- 23 am—Bobbie Browning & Staci O’Quinn
 pm—Melissa Gonzales & Candice Yawn
- 31 am—Freda Smith & Joann Westberry
 pm—Pat Shepherd & Fran McElveen

FLOWERS

- 02 Need a volunteer
- 09 Chlo Dukes
- 16 Ann & Carl Lane
- 23 Gail Waters
- 30 Freda Smith

USHERS

- 05 Carl Yarbrough & Tony Sumrow
- 12 Phillip Sumrow & Colt Yawn
- 19 Carl Lane & Gary Shepherd
- 26 Matt Yawn & Ben Sumrow
- 30 Donzell Lewis & Fred Browning

Coat and tie requested or your best Sunday attire. Please contact one of the deacons prior to the scheduled date if you are unable to serve.

*We know, O Lord,
 that our times are in your hands.
 While we live on Earth, enable us to
 please you in all things. Especially
 now, as we enter a new year, we
 pray for strengthened spirits that we
 may praise you properly by our
 thoughts, words and deeds.
 Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*





Our first loyalty

The beginning of a new year is a good time to consider our compelling, and sometimes competing, loyalties. Our first loyalty must always be to our loving Creator. "You shall have no other gods before me," says the first commandment (Exodus 20:3, NRSV). Although other loyalties are important (family, country, work), God is the top priority.

The brilliant Christian statesman Thomas More tried to serve King Henry VIII well. But when the tyrant king made unethical demands on More that conflicted with God's standards, More refused to obey.

The terrible consequence was More's beheading. In 1535, just before the sharp blade fell on his neck, More proclaimed, "The king's good servant, but God's first."

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