



1710 23rd Street  
 Parkersburg, West Virginia 26101  
 304-485-5171

## 2020 ANNUAL REPORTS

### PURPOSE STATEMENT

As an evangelistic church, we purpose to be disciples of Jesus Christ by:

- Attracting and leading the unsaved to Jesus
- Encouraging Christians to consecrate themselves to God’s purpose in their lives
- Providing a climate in which the worship of God, personal spiritual growth, and fellowship occur
- Equipping Christians for effective ministry to reach the Parkersburg area and beyond
- Challenging Christians to be faithful stewards of all God’s resources

### CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor .....	Dr. Kurt W. Busiek
Family Life Pastor.....	Mr. Jonathan Delgado
Director of Children’s Ministry .....	Mrs. Sarah Stephens
Director of Music Ministry .....	Mrs. Pam McClain
Organist .....	Mr. David Enoch
Pianists .....	Mrs. Pat Barnes, Mrs. Karen Cox
Secretary.....	Ms. Terri Fielder
Church Cook .....	Mrs. Jewel Lusk
Treasurer .....	Mr. Gary Beall
Assistant Treasurer.....	Mrs. Sara Taylor
Visual Worship Coordinator .....	Mrs. Bekah Brooks
Custodian.....	Ms. Tammy Hayes

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## **STAFF REPORTS**

**SENIOR PASTOR**

***Kurt W. Busiek, Sr.***

**My 2020 October / November Newsletter article was a good overview and summary of 2020:**

Someone posted a poster on Facebook that read: “The most worthless gift of 2020: a planning calendar.” I smiled when I saw the post because I could relate. My very professional 2020 calendar has been essentially unused since March. 2020 has been the year that feels like a decade... 2020 has been a year to remember or maybe it's the year we hope we can forget... The dominant emotions of this year have been fear, uncertainty, anxiety, despair and anger. Many of the people I talk to are struggling with loneliness as they try to keep themselves safe through social distancing. We feel unsettled and disoriented because we've lost our daily routine and our weekly connections.

**In one of my study groups this past year, we added up the major issues that our country is dealing with as we close out 2020.** We came up with **six significant crisis points:** the Covid virus, the economic downturn, the racial protests, the presidential election, a Supreme Court opening and significant weather events: hurricanes, floods and fires. Back in 2001, when 9/11 happened, it seemed that we came together as a country because we had one major crisis that we were all processing at the same time. The effect of six different crisis areas all playing out at the same time is a feeling of being overwhelmed and numb. **Jesus in Matthew 24**, in the midst of sharing the signs of the end times, makes an interesting observation in **verses 12-13**, “Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” **My prayer is that Emmanuel's love will remain strong and that we will continue to both model and share the gospel of Jesus in all we do.**

**I asked all our staff to reflect on the things they are thankful for as they look back over 2020.**

**Here is my “thankful list”:**

**I'm thankful for Emmanuel 's Resourcefulness.** When our regular services and ministries shut down in March, we have been open to new things, willing to change and resourceful in seeking new ways to stay connected and do ministry. Over the last few months, we have completely overhauled our AV/ audio visual equipment so that every Sunday we are able to stream our service on Facebook, Zoom and YouTube. We have moved our Bible studies, Staff, Support and Team meetings to Zoom. We have offered a series of Drive In services and encouraged home watch parties. We've been resourceful.

**I'm thankful for Emmanuel's Faithfulness...** Despite the disruption in our regular ministry routine, I've seen people step up and faithfully share their love, care, support and finances. When we stopped being able to meet in person, we faithfully found ways to share our love with others in creative ways.

**I'm thankful for Emmanuel's Vision...** In the middle of the uncertainty of the last seven months, Emmanuel approved an expanded package for a new children's director and then we approved the hiring of Sarah Stephens to fill this new position. In a time when many churches have pulled back into survival

mode, Emmanuel had the vision to look forward and outward and I believe God will bless the faith that allowed us to believe that God will supply if we seek His vision for ministry.

**Let's keep the words of Galatians 6:9-10 in our minds in the days to come:** “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

**Our giving has been encouraging. Here a summary of our 2020 Finances:**

**Total Giving to all ministry areas:** \$547, 187.09

**General Fund giving:** \$441, 574.25

**Long Term Maintenance (2% of every offering):** \$8831.49

**Building Fund:** \$ 24, 614

**Memorial Fund:** \$16, 845.00

**Building Fund:** \$24, 639.00

**Total Mission Giving:** \$93, 341.43

**Benevolence Help Fund:** \$22, 446.00

**(this is more than double what we usually collect for this fund and shows one way our church found to help people in practical ways during these difficult days we are experiencing)**

**Necessity Pantry:** \$5,200.00

**I decided a good way to get a picture of what Emmanuel did in 2020 is to look at the Praise Lists that we publish in our newsletter every two months.** The dates in the header represent the Newsletter and the praises below the header are the areas we praised God in the two previous months. **We were blessed in 2020 with many examples of God's love flowing in and through our church fellowship.**

### **February / March**

**Maridor Keck** is able to walk without her walker... we praise God for her progress

**Andy and Laura Jean Swearingen** were in church; we praise God for Laura Jean's recovery.

**Susan Stout** is building a church library that is a help and a blessing to many in our church.

**Tuesday Fellowship** had a nice meeting with a wonderful meal prepared by **Steve and Laraine Metheny**. We praise God for the 19 years of Tuesday Fellowship leadership that **Jan Ashwell and Carole Woody** (and others) have provided. **Carol Fryfogle** was welcomed as the new leader of our Tuesday Fellowship ministry.

**The Visitation Team** met in January for lunch and to discuss the various people in our church in need of visitation and encouragement. Thanks to **Barb Kirsch** for her leadership of the Visitation ministry.

The Memorial Service for **Tom Jamison** was a true celebration of his life.

**Mike Hayden** was inducted into the Big Reds Sports Hall of Fame.

### **April / May**

The memorial service for **Barb Ott** was a true celebration of her kind spirit and serving heart.

**Jim Work**, a Music and Youth Director at Emmanuel from 1966-1969, and his wife Nancy, were able to attend Barb Ott's memorial service. They currently live in Grafton, WV.

**Courtney and Davey Brooks** shared a beautiful piano duet of "Do Lord"

**Lauren Modesitt** shared about her February medical mission trip to Haiti. The **mission fellowship lunch** after church raised over \$1,300 to cover her travel costs.

**Pam McClain** led select choir singers in a concert of God and Country songs. These singers along with others are in NY this weekend to sing in a God and Country concert at Carnegie Hall directed by Joseph Martin.

**The Friday night Marriage Course** is going well for the 12 couples who have committed to the course.

**Logan Ezell**, Steve and Ginny Altmiller's grandson, was baptized.

**The Emmanuel choir and friends had a great trip to NY** where they were part of an inspiring choral concert at Carnegie Hall.

**The Chili Cook Off and Potato Bar fellowship lunch** was a success. **Abigail Davis and Christa Raitz** received awards for their chili recipes.

**The Children's Team** is making progress in developing a financial package and job description for a new Children's Ministry Director.

**The Emmanuel Capital Project Team** continues to meet and make progress in developing our upcoming **Capital Campaign**.

**Lyndall Jones and our Lawn Crew** team do a great job keeping our church grounds looking good.

**Rebekah Brooks offered this FB post...** "Our family got to watch a great message by **Jonathan Delgado** from home today: When, not if, but when we go through trials, God WILL be with us. Carry us. We will not be alone. 'In this world we will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world!' -**John 16:33**. One of my favorite verses that gives peace and comfort in my life!"

**The Board of Ministry** met on March 24 via Zoom video conference and approved the new **Children's Director position**.

**Judy Prater** is making protective face masks to send to **Vicky Prater** and her medical clinic in New York City. Please pray for those **health care workers** as they give themselves in service for others.

**Pam and Rodney Wharton** celebrated their 50th anniversary.

### June / July

**In June we returned to meeting together for worship in our sanctuary.** The 9:30 service was followed by a **Sunday School class at 10:30 a.m. facilitated by Randy Halterman.**

We brought back our **Wednesday night dinner at 5 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.

**Betsy Jefferson** wrote: "Emmanuel is so wonderful. Recently **Jacob Filozof** brought me a meal that **Eileen and Keith Mayer** made: Red lentil soup, corn pudding and some peaches. So good. So nice. So many helping. I got to thank him thru the storm door....What a wonderful mission."

**Pastor Jonathan** was able to meet with 15 of our youth on a zoom meeting.

**Maria Keen** is thankful for a new online Bible study with some other members in the church.

**We have received very positive feedback from our online services. Christian Gentry and Meghan Striker** have been very helpful with their filming and Facebook/ YouTube talents.

**Rhonda Johnston** completed and sent out the Easter Cards for our older members.

**We offered an Easter Drive In service** in the Emmanuel Parking Lot at 6:00 p.m. on Easter Sunday.

**Deb Fenton, Donna Shawver, Robbi Leonard and Rose Wood** continue to keep our Necessity Pantry open on the second and fourth Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon.

**Rose Wood** came to the office to copy and mail Awana lesson plans to her class.

**Brenda Wheeler** came by the office early April to help get our newsletter in the mail.

**Jordan Lallemond** was hired by Fiscal Resources/ Public Debt for a job in Human Resources.

**Our Women's Care Center Baby Bottle** fund drive raised \$813.

**Joann Boggs, Judy Prater and Judy Jones** are making protective masks to help medical personnel.

**Barb Kirsch** took lunch to **Betty Jo Wiseman** at the Colonial House and visited with her through her room window.

**Margaret Frees and the Seekers class** delivered bread and cookies (baked by Ruth Wharton) to five post offices last week to let them know they are appreciated. There are nearly 100 people total in these five locations.

**Bekah and David Brooks** gave birth to a healthy, beautiful baby girl named **Carly Rose**, on April 20.

**Mackenzie Sims**, David and Leslie Sims' daughter, was the student speaker at the West Liberty University Commencement.

**The Board of Ministry decided to purchase** a new camera/ recorder, a new digital soundboard and a new HD video projector, to help the church better broadcast our services online.

**Our Sunday night Mother's Day Drive In** service was well attended... the ladies all received a flower from the church and everyone got a tomato starter from **Steve and Laraine Metheny**.

**Alex Nicholson**, son of John and Lynn, started a new summer job as a wildfire fire-fighter in Moab, Utah.

**Sally Samolitis**, Tim's daughter, began Marine officer candidate training school in VA on June 9.

**Keith and Ruth Wharton** celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on May 16. They were married by Dr. Keck.

**Terri Day** is now watching her three small grandchildren in her home. Church members have been very helpful in getting her the baby supplies, clothes, food and the equipment she needs.

**Rich Shawver** officially retired from Chemours.

### August / September

**Starting Sunday August 2, we will have a Sunday School Class at 9:30 a.m. (instead of 10:45 a.m.) in the Fellowship Hall (with a zoom link) and a single worship service at 10:45 a.m. (on Facebook Live, Zoom and on posted on YouTube by Sunday afternoon)** The 10:45 service in August will be live, on Facebook live, not pre-recorded as we have been doing for the last four months.

**The Church Picnic was a Celebration of Jonathan Delgado's** completion of his Masters of Divinity Degree from Palmer Seminary.

**Rich and Donna Shawver** ordered supplies and helped clean the church and get the sanctuary ready for our reopening services and **Sue McCue** helped.

**Jerry Hamilton and Adam Evans** spent time preparing our new camera to provide a Zoom feed for our service in the sanctuary.

**Ray and Jewel Lusk, Jeanie Boyd, Jeff and Adam Evans, Kim and Dave Bollinger and Tim and Edy Jones** help us to prepare and deliver our **Wednesday evening meals**.

**Tammy Hayes** is thankful for the prayers and support during a challenging family situation.

**Brent and Destiny Duncan** are thankful that Emmanuel and some other groups raised the full \$12,000 that they had to spend on a plane trip home from Kenya.

**Randy and Suzanne Halterman** celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on June 26.

**Superintendent Blaine Hess**, who serves as Superintendent for Jackson County Schools, received the award of West Virginia's Superintendent of the Year! Blaine has been a teacher, assistant principal, principal, central office director, and is completing his 14th year as Superintendent of Jackson County.

**The Better Together LifeGroup** met in the Hulce's front yard. **Jonathan Delgado** shared the lesson.

**The Seekers Class** met in the church parking lot to catch up on family news.

**From Carol Braband:** "My brother (**Mark Berry**) had his 1 year post transplant bone marrow biopsy last week. No leukemia cells present. The Doctor said 100% of his cells are mine from transplant, zero from him!! Exactly what they want to see!! Woohoo!!!"

**Jewel Lusk** always prepares some wonderful Wednesday night meals.

**A long line of cars** passed through the church parking lot celebrating **Deanie Kendall's 88th birthday**. WTAP was there to do a story on Deanie's many years of community service.

**Dave McCue and Frank Dotson** have put numbers on all the church doors so that we navigate our facility better and they replace the sanctuary ceiling lights when needed.

**The Church Rummage Sale raised \$3100**. Thanks to **Debbie Fenton, Kim Bollinger and Jewel Lusk** and everyone else who gave of their time to make this event happen. \$1,000 will go to our **Wednesday night dinner fund** and \$2,100 will go to the **Herman James Mission Meal Fund**.

The memorial service this week for **Nora Gilchrist** was a true celebration of a life well lived.

**Evan Frees** had his final radiation treatment on Thursday Margaret, Lori and about 15 others had a celebration for Evan as he rang the bell to signify the end of his treatments.

### October / November

The memorial service for **Beverly Walkup** was a true celebration of her life and faith.

**Christian Gentry** helped us pre-record and produce our worship services from April – July.

The memorial service for **Jack Kirsch** was a true celebration of his life and faith.

**The 777 group (led by Keith and Eileen Mayer)** is meeting at 7pm at City Park near the band Shelter for 7 consecutive Sundays to study the 7 "I Am" statements of Jesus.

**Judy Prater** is praising God for her **Monday Bible Study** group that has met on her porch.

**Helen Hill** celebrated her **90th birthday on August 20**. She was very thankful for the cards and prayers; she has returned to Glenwood Care Facility.

**Charlie Matthews** was able to celebrate Betty's birthday with a zoom call to her room at Eagle Pointe.

**The Children's Director Search team has selected Sarah Stephens for our Director of Children's Ministry.**

**Carole Morgan** is thankful for another great-granddaughter, **Kennedy Rhyan**, born on Aug. 28 to Hunter and Heather Hamrick.

**Jackson Simmons**, Jennifer Lemley's son/ PHS student, has started his own candle business.

**Pastor Kurt** came through his surgery very well on **Sept. 10** and has a good prognosis.

**Sarah Stephens** started her new job as our **Director of Children's Ministry on September 9.**

**Glen, Veronica and Cameron Patterson** joined the Emmanuel family.

**Jan Ashwell, Beth Simpers, Terri Fielder, Sara Stephens, Ruth Wharton, Dave Bollinger and Tammy Hayes** provided a nice funeral reception and lunch for the family of **Suzanne Halterman at the passing of her father, Marvin McDonald.**

The church has been able to help many people who are struggling through our **Benevolence Fund**

**Gail Samolitis** is now seeing clients again through her New Day Counseling Ministry.

**Jeff and Adam Evans** built a fence for **Barb Malcomb.**

**Our Fellowship Team** provided a nice funeral reception and **lunch for Ann Beck and her family at the passing of Jim Beck.**

**Pastor Jonathan's Sunday evening class on Anger and Spiritual Disciplines** has been well attended and helpful.

### December / January

**The Mercy's Well gospel group** shared some inspiring and uplifting music in our Sunday service.

**Pastor Kurt** offered a **Drive In Communion Service** (with the help of **Earl Hulce, Larry Smith and Rich and Donna Shawver**).

**Jane Hulce** has provided cancer support bags to **Elizabeth Cremeans, Dee Campbell, Tammy Kelley and others.**

**Ken Barton, Karen Cox and Charlie Matthews** were involved in "Always Patsy Cline" which was offered through our Actor's Guild.

**Jean Beatty** was very thankful for the Sunday night Drive In service.

**Children's ministry (Sunday School and children's church) has resumed.**

**The following people were baptized in October: Terri Fielder (our secretary), Barbie Medford (mother of Brandon & Serenity), Dr. Gary Davenport (husband of Dr. Amelia McPeak) and Mark Sheppard (a friend of Fred and Deb Fenton).**

**Our Awana group** met in October and we had 24 children attend. Volunteers and children dressed up in costume and we had trick or treat/ game tables in the fellowship hall.

**The LifeGroup that Gary Beall facilitates** was able to meet in the church conference room.

**Jewel and Co.** served wonderful seasonal dinners for dine in and carry out for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**Gail Samolitis** offered a **Holiday Grief Support group** for seven people on November 14.

**Our Visitation Ministry (organized by Barb Kirsch & Sharon Beall)** continues to make weekly calls, cards, and visits to many in our church.

**Emmanuel put together and dedicated 165 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.**

**Emmanuel bought Christmas gifts for 45 long term clients at the Westbrook Health Center.**

**Rhonda Johnston** made 38 Veterans Day cards for our veterans, 48 Thanksgiving and Christmas Cards and handmade Christmas cards for the 110 residents of Eagle Pointe Care Facility and the residents of the Colonial House.

**JoAnn Boggs and Sharon Beall and their team (Joyce Ault, Beverly Hensley, Carolyn Holbert, Sue McCue, Rich and Donna Shawver)** decorated our sanctuary and main hallway for Christmas.

**We have a wonderful church. I enjoy serving the Lord with you,**  
Pastor Kurt Busiek

### **FAMILY LIFE MINISTER**

***Jonathan Delgado***

The unique challenges that arose during the year 2020 are well-known. Between civil unrest, political tensions and a world-wide health crisis, the way we lived, worked and worshiped as a society was dramatically altered. Few could have predicted the events that unfolded, and even fewer could have been adequately prepared with complete solutions to each new challenge. However, as I believe our church was reminded time and time again, God has had a plan all along to use and redeem each trial to push and mature us further into our calling as ambassadors for His Kingdom, and “lights” in a world of darkness.

That being said, the structures of our family ministries/programming went through constant changes and reevaluations throughout the year. Many of our annual events and traditions had to be rethought or completely canceled. Camp Cowen was shut down for the summer and annual convention rallies and events were canceled by the state office. Our youth group met in-person through the month of March before switching to online/Zoom video meetings for much of the spring time. During the summer, the youth group was able to meet in-person again in the backyard of the Hope House where social distancing was easier to maintain. During the later fall and early winter months, we began meeting in the Hope House basement again before deciding to take the month of December and latter half of November off from in-person meetings due to rising concerns over the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Throughout these shifts in programming schedules, we refocused our energy and planning away from event-driven ministry and more into smaller, more personal encounters. The inability to gather in groups of significant size led us to take more time to make direct contacts with students via phone calls, one-on-one meetings, brief home visits and even online gaming time. This has resulted in deeper connections with a small group of specific students, but also a lessening of connection with several students on the “fringe” of the youth group community. In 2021 we must figure out effective ways to reestablish and build on those connections if we expect to have a significant student ministry moving forward.

The children’s ministry was similarly affected by the events of 2020. AWANA stopped meeting in mid-March and was never able to complete the 2019-2020 school year of programming and the children/families of our church likewise missed out on the usual ministries of Camp Cowen and state rallies we’ve come to expect. However, we saw many of our children’s workers and volunteers take upon themselves to go above and beyond their responsibilities and reach out to children and families in new and creative ways. Volunteers sent Bible studies and activity packets to children via snail-mail, an online VBS program was offered to families during the month of July, and our weekly Sunday morning children’s moment segment was strengthened by more intentional object lessons and the use of puppetry.

Most importantly, our children’s ministry was finally able to settle on and hire a new Children’s Ministry Director, Sarah Stephens, who has admirably guided the ministry through the last 3-4 months of 2020 and has already begun implementing new ideas for how we can effectively engage children and families in 2021. The fact that we were able to hire a minister of Sarah’s caliber in the midst of uncertain



economic times is a testament to the faithfulness and sovereignty of God, and EBC's commitment to obedience in faithful giving of financial resources.

Though we do not yet have a full picture of how 2021 will continue to change and re-shape how we do family ministry programming, we are well-equipped with competent staff and committed, loving volunteers who will provide a solid foundation to build new ministry ideas on. May God continue to lead and guide us by His Spirit, and for His glory.

### **DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

***Sarah Stephens***

During this most unusual year overshadowed by a global pandemic, children's programming came to a halt in mid-March. This included both Sunday morning activities, as well as our weekly AWANA program.

While the majority of the year did pass in a state of "dormancy", there are bright spots to report! Some of our AWANA leaders made a concerted effort to stay in touch with their kiddos through the end of the 2019-2020 school year by sending encouraging notes and lesson materials to help them continue their progression through the program.

Maria Delgado researched, put together, and offered to our families an "online" VBS, with some children taking part and participating.

Despite the discouraging circumstances of 2020, Emmanuel's church family continued efforts to search for and hire a new director of children's ministries, a process that had started long before the onset of covid. While the process was slowed due to the pandemic, the hiring search came to an end in September when Sarah Stephens was chosen for the position.

In October, Sunday morning children's programs began again, without the nursery out of an abundance of precaution.

AWANA took place once in October, featuring a fun and well-received indoor "trunk-or-treat". The evening was very well attended, with volunteers and children alike enjoying the night. We were grateful for the many volunteers over and above those that are normally involved that were happy and willing to take part in making the event possible.

AWANA also met once in November, featuring an Operation Christmas Child shoebox packing party facilitated by Brian Brown. While the number of children attending was less than that of the October evening, it was still a joy to see and minister to some of those kids we had been missing for so long.

As the number of covid cases in our county continued to increase, the decision was made to cancel the one December AWANA meeting that had been planned, which was to feature a fun Christmas craft to be facilitated by Kylie Lallemon.

In December, we put together and delivered "Christmas in a Box" to our kiddos as a special way of reaching out, saying "we're thinking about you", and blessing families. These boxes included an 'Advent Adventures' book which featured family advent devotionals, along with many other activities and ideas, all of which were intended to help families keep Christ the center of their Christmas celebrations. Also in the box, were many items needed and used for the different activities suggested in the book.

We are grateful for our children's volunteers who have been able, willing, and eager to continue serving our kiddos when and where possible. Given the circumstances, this is a testament of their dedication to being the hands and feet of Christ in the place God has called them too, children's ministry.

The end of the year saw us still in "limbo mode", as we wait for the covid situation to resolve. We look very much forward to being able to bring all children's programming not only back to up and running, but to flourishing in the year to come!

## **MUSIC MINISTRIES**

***Pam McClain***

The EBC Music Ministry program yielded much fruit to begin the year. Ministry highlights included:

Monthly Music Team Meeting...

In the months of January, February and March a group of 8 to 10 music department members, as well as church members who support the ministry, met over lunch to discuss budgetary items, music needs, improvement ideas and ways to grow membership.

Our chancel choir was extended the invitation to sing in Carnegie Hall, New York City, on February 17, 2020 under the direction of composer, Joseph Martin. Twenty-one singers and twelve guests traveled February 14 - 18, 2020 to take in the sites of the 'Big Apple' and perform in a 'once in a lifetime' concert entitled, "God and Country." Little did we know that our group would be one of the last to perform in Carnegie Hall before it closed due to the pandemic.

Seasonal Presentations...

David Enoch and Karen Cox played as substitute accompanists when needed. Tammy Reynolds Kelley regularly played for the 8:30 a.m. worship service until health concerns limited her playing. During this difficult time, we are appreciative of David Enoch who has agreed to be our long-term substitute organist.

When the pandemic hit, our chancel choir was rehearsing for its annual Easter presentation in spoken word and song. But all rehearsing abruptly stopped when it was determined that indoor choral singing was a super spreading activity. Various church choirs across the United States and Europe were reporting numerous choir members being infected following contact tracing research. As of this writing, there is no evidence saying that it is safe for choirs to sing in a choral formation indoors. When the all clear is given, our chancel choir will sing once again.

Thanks to...

Normally, the chancel choir would hold a quarterly, social reception following rehearsal to celebrate those who had a birthday that month. Choir members would exchange names as prayer partners. We were able to celebrate once in the new year.

Emmanuel Baptist has many gifted musicians who are willing to praise our God through song. Therefore, our Music Ministry has successfully continued in a modified way throughout these trying months. Each Sunday from the middle of March through December, our church has been blessed with special music offerings by talented individuals.

Although we were unable to present a complete Sunday Christmas program, we improvised and offered The Puls strings trio, soloists Elena Delgado and Lauren Modesitt, Davey and Cortney Brooks, piano soloists, David Enoch, organist and Pam McClain, pianist.

The chancel choir led a drive-in carol sing featuring narrators and a live nativity on Sunday, December 20, 2020. Participants enjoyed hot chocolate, coffee and cookies as they sang.

Let us all continue to pray over the well-being of our music program. We stand ready at the call to return one bright morning.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pamela McClain, EBC Music Ministry Director

## **BOARD OF MINISTRY REPORTS**

### **MODERATOR**

***Joe Stephens***

Last year, I began my message to open this report with the statement that God has blessed us greatly at Emmanuel Baptist Church. This year, I want to emphasize how God has used this fellowship to be a blessing to the world. While so many congregations have had to close down ministries, Emmanuel has been a beacon of hope for our community through the generosity of its members and friends. I believe without doubt that generosity is inspired by the Holy Spirit. I have been beyond blessed to witness this as moderator of the Board of Ministry.

Through support of individual missionaries to contributing to ministry programs that reach across the globe, Operation Christmas Child and the World Mission Offering being just two of many examples, this church has continued its emphasis on the mission of spreading the love and righteousness of Christ to every corner of the Earth. All one need do is look at the Church's annual budget to see the astounding number of missionary endeavors, both near and far, Emmanuel supports.

A powerful statement on how well Emmanuel has weathered the storm of COVID-19 is the fact that we not only didn't have to cut ministry personnel or budgets, but we even stepped out in faith to hire Sarah Stephens to fill the vital role of Director of Children's Ministries. She joins a staff filled with wonderful people who are tremendous examples of servant leadership. But the ministry could not be done without a sea of volunteers. From visitation to AWANA to youth to music ministries—the list could go on nearly forever—this church grows and serves through the hands and feet and hearts of its members. I would especially like to thank the amazing people who have served alongside me on the Board of Ministry this year. I ask that you pray for all of the staff and volunteers here at EBC, especially as we look forward to 2021, anticipating that long-awaited day when we can once again fully open our doors and our arms to the world.

Let us look to James, brother of our savior, as we move into 2021. His words from James 1:2-4 feel more appropriate today than at any other time in my recollection. As we continue to battle this medical crisis that has such dire social and spiritual consequences, James reminds us how to respond when he says, "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

As we look to the coming year, let us allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives and help us to truly count all of the trials of 2020 as pure joy and look toward 2021 with faith, hope, and excitement.

In Christ, Joe Stephens  
Moderator

### **DIACONATE**

***Rich Shawver***

Dear fellow believers,

For all of us, 2020 was a year of learning to do things very differently.

Our charge as deacons is to work with our pastors in oversight of the spiritual leadership of the church.

We have tried to do that even as we dealt with the constant barrage of conflicting and ever changing information.

We worked with Pastor Kurt to implement many changes in our worship services.

The first thing was to stop having in-person services for a while. This allowed us time to implement some of the practices needed for our protection.

We marked off the sanctuary for proper distancing while seated. Along with our church secretary we ordered masks and gloves. We ordered hand sanitizer and prepackaged communion kits. We began a procedure of wiping down the sanctuary pews between services.

Our in-person visitation ministry was severely set back this year. But contacts continued to be made by way of phone calls and cards. This was headed by Barb Kirsch and Sharon Beall.

The sanctuary was beautifully decorated for Christmas under the leadership of Jo Ann Boggs and her team.

Mother's Day and Father's Day recognition was carried out by Jane and Earl Hulce.

Our Pastor Jonathan took over the responsibility of the Benevolence Fund, which helps many in both our church family and the community at large.

Pastor Kurt started the 8:30 service again during Advent. It seems well enough received that he plans to continue it on into the foreseeable future.

It is our privilege to serve the Lord as deacons at Emmanuel Baptist Church.

Together in the Lord's service,  
Rich Shawver

### **ADULT MINISTRIES**

***Judy Prater, Member at Large***

Congratulations to all who made it through 2020! And congratulations to those precious souls who have entered the gates of heaven during this past year. We will miss them greatly even as we acknowledge their new eternal life with our Lord.

A word that describes adult ministry in 2020 is "adjustments." The reality of COVID-19 and the many adjustments necessary to be safe gradually dawned on us as regular meetings and special events had to be adapted or cancelled. But that brought on the advent of zoom meetings, safely distanced and masked back porch worship and studies, Sunday morning watch parties, drive-by birthday celebrations, increased care cards, city park Bible Studies, and outdoor life groups.

Here is an overview of the programs in our adult ministry:

- The fourth annual Marriage Course successfully completed all seven sessions last February and March. Thanks to the Mayers & their helpers for careful & prayerful planning

- Tuesday Fellowship is under new leadership after Jan Ashwell and Carole Woody faithfully led the seniors of our EBC family for many years. We all appreciate you both! We welcomed Carol Fryfogle as our new leader. We were able to meet in February and November and December.
- The adult team joined forces with the youth team to plan and lead a wonderful Chili Cook-Off and Potato Bar on Feb 23. Besides fun and good food, joining forces across the generations was a wonderful opportunity to share God’s love with many ages and with excellent chefs!
- Seniorcize chair exercises & lunch met in the new year until COVID-19 halted our time together.
- Emmanuel Baptist Women met until March. They participated in the collection of Valentine goodies for the children at Weirton Christian Center.
- Divorce Care and Grief Share met until COVID-19 shut them down. Gail Samolitis continues to offer counseling.
- Women’s Bible Study was able to meet for a while, either outside or in Fellowship Hall, until our safety concerns caused us to shut down.
- Adult Sunday School classes, the Seekers, the Encouragers and the Conquerors continue to meet at the church and on zoom.
- Life Groups met occasionally in safe environments such as outdoors.
- Pastor Busiek continues his Bible Studies on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings on zoom and in person.
- Another Bible Study for teens and adults was held for 7 weeks this spring in the city park, led by the Mayers.

We have great reason for hope as 2021 dawns and the population is vaccinated. Let us hang on to lessons learned while we keep the old and embrace the new. God is always there.

### **CHILDREN’S MINISTRY**

***Leslie Sims, Member at Large***

2020 began with Maria Delgado serving part-time in an interim capacity to help lead EBC’s children’s ministry. As the Children’s team began considering a children’s Easter party and possible summer VBS material in February, we soon learned that there was a PANDEMIC and we needed to suspend in-person church activities (Sunday morning groups and AWANA groups on Wednesday evening) to offer better protection – for our children, families and volunteers – from COVID-19.

The Children’s Ministry Team presented a proposal to increase the hours and salary of the Director of Children’s Ministry position, which the Board of Ministry and church members approved. Tammy Hayes, Jennifer Schoenhut, Bekah Brooks, Will Cosby and Suzanne Halterman continued to serve as members of the search committee, completing several interviews and recommending the hiring of Sarah Stephens. The church members approved Sarah’s hiring and the Children’s Team happily welcomed Sarah to lead our team in September 2020.

The Children’s Ministry Team appreciates Maria Delgado’s commitment to serving, loving and supporting the children, their families and the ministry volunteers during her time as interim Director. Maria was instrumental in EBC offering a “VBS at home” program during three weeks in July 2020. We hope the children and their families participated and enjoyed that program.

Despite the pandemic and suspending in-person children's groups for much of 2020, the Children's Ministry Team offered VBS at home; provided encouragement and support for a child dedication; assisted with the purchases of Camp-in-a-Box (summer camps at Camp Cowen were canceled for 2020); hosted a Trunk or Treat during an October AWANA event; sponsored the November AWANA event of packing shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child; assisted with the purchases of Christmas-in-a-box (Advent adventures book with activity items/supplies) that were delivered by Sarah and Joe Stephens.

October 25, 2020 began the return of limited in-person Sunday morning children's programming for preschoolers and kindergarten through 5th grade groups. We appreciate the volunteers that have fulfilled the commitment to serve so that we can continue offering these programs to Emmanuel's children.

While only a small group attends the monthly team meetings (which have been virtual/zoom meetings), we rely on faithful volunteers to be the hands and feet of our ministry. We encourage YOU to prayerfully consider how YOU (with God's help) might fulfill a need within EBC's Children's Ministry in 2021!

### **FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

***Charlie Matthews, Member at Large***

Emmanuel Baptist Church is truly blessed to have a congregation that is so supportive. The church giving is a testimony to our faith and generosity. Our 2020 giving including General Fund, Missions and Special Funds was \$ 527,233. Our 2020 Total Expenses were \$ 500,993. Total Giving minus Total Expenses in 2020 was \$ 26,240. The Building Fund giving in 2020 was \$ 24,614.

As Emmanuel looks forward to 2021, our approved annual budget projects Total General Fund Expected Giving of \$ 465,000. Total General Fund Giving Needed for Expenses is \$ 485,000.

The Financial Team consisting of Randy Halterman, Ann Beck, Dale Lowther, Jim Backus, Jan Ashwell, Gary Beall, Bill Gainer, Sally Beckwith, Brian Simperts, Jeff Evans, Brian Raitz, Sara Taylor, Cheryl Winkler, Jonathan Delgado, Kurt Busiek and me ask for your prayers and the Lord's guidance as we continue to administer Emmanuel's assets and seek to become better stewards of God's gifts to us.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Charlie Matthews Member at Large

### **MISSION EDUCATION/MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT**

***Brian Brown, Member at Large***

The members of the 2020 Mission Education & Ministry Development Team were: Brian Brown, Jeff Evans, Margaret Frees, Kim Jackson, Maria Keen, Dee Lallemon, Keith & Eileen Mayer and Ruth Wharton.

### **Annual Special Offerings:**

The **America for Christ Offering** was collected in March. This offering is divided between the West Virginia Baptist Convention and National Ministries. The 2020 giving to the AFC offering totaled **\$1,367.00**.

In June we collected the **One Great Hour of Sharing**. This offering helped to provide for hunger and disaster relief around the world. The total giving to OGHS was **\$2,800.00**.

During August the **Mountain State Ministries** offering was collected. 100% of the gifts given to this offering support the mission and ministries of the West Virginia Baptist Convention. The 2020 MSM offering totaled **\$1,080.00**.

We received the **World Mission Offering** in October. This offering supports the work of International Ministries and the total collected was **\$780.00**.

The **Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering** is collected in December. Contributions to this offering meet emergency needs of retired American Baptist pastors, missionaries and their widowed spouses and also provide a “thank you” check near the end of the year. The total collected was **\$1,455.**

### **Mission Giving:**

In 2020 10.30% of the General Fund giving was designated for missions. The breakdown of that amount for the first four months of 2020 was the same as for 2019. However, beginning May 1 we discontinued support of Debbie Mulneix due to her retirement the previous October. Her percentage was redistributed among some of the other missionaries we support based upon their need.

We continued to directly support missionaries with ties to WVBC and EBC: JD & Rhonda Reed in Bolivia, Madeline Flores in Dominican Republic, Anita & Rick Gutierrez in South Africa, Mike & Marcy Brown in Peru, Keith & Debbie Myers in Mexico, Juan & Denise Aragon in Mexico, and Brent & Destiny Duncan in Kenya.

Due to COVID restrictions only one mission lunch was held in January 2020, which raised \$1,300 for Lauren Modesitt’s mission trip to Haiti.

### **Dominican Republic Mission Trip:**

A mission trip to the Dominican Republic was originally being planned for 2020 but was cancelled due to the pandemic.

### **Duncans’ Return from Kenya:**

In May EBC helped cover the Duncans’ temporary return to Parkersburg from Kenya due to COVID. They plan to return to Kenya in December to resume their work.

### **Christmas Projects:**

EBC collected 165 shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child ministry. Unfortunately, the annual trip to the Charlotte OCC Processing Center was cancelled due to COVID concerns. Instead the group took a few shifts ringing the bell for Salvation Army’s red kettle drive. Gifts were bought for clients at Westbrook, children in rural counties served by Catholic Charities & residents of Eagle Pointe. Items were also bought for clients of the Gustke Shelter.

### **Other Projects:**

We collected items for House to Home in February & March.

The Salvation Army Sunday Meal Ministry continues. We now have 10 teams (including 5 outside of EBC) on a 10-week rotation.

As always the Mission Education & Ministry Development Team continues to be open to ideas for future projects.



## **OTHER MINISTRIES**

### **GUEST MINISTRY**

***Kim Bollinger***

Greeters were available before church until church services were suspended in March 2020 due to Covid-19. When church resumed, greeters were not needed as we were trying to keep contact to an absolute minimum. Church bulletins are placed on a table in the narthex for people to pick up on their way into church.

There are green guest bags available at the Guest Table that include the book “What on Earth Am I Here For?” written by Pastor Rick Warren. Also an Emmanuel Baptist inscribed pen is included.

The quarterly guest lunches were cancelled for the year due to the pandemic.

Kim Bollinger, Guest Coordinator

### **NECESSITY CLOSET**

***Debbie Fenton***

One of our many outreach ministries at EBC is our Necessity Closet. We provide household cleaning products and personal hygiene items that are not covered by the food stamp program. We have partnered with Community Resources to screen their referral to us so we do not duplicate services. We are open on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 10:00 to 12:00. We are currently able to help an average of 15-20 families a month. Our goal is to reach as many families as possible in our community. None of this would be possible without the support of our church, our volunteers and God’s blessings.

### **TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP**

***Carol Fryfogle***

This year Tuesday Fellowship celebrates its 20th year. Originating in 2001 by Jan Ashwell and Carole Woody, I was proud to take over this labor of love January 2020.

This monthly gathering is Emmanuel’s way to honor our folks who have given of their time, energy and stewardship to serve God and community over the years.

We serve our Seniors, 55 and older, meeting monthly on the second Tuesday from 11:00 am to 1:00. There is a monthly “theme with fun décor.

There is no charge for the lunch/dessert/beverages, games, favors and door prizes.

Although January 2020 started out wonderfully with January’s “Blizzard Bingo”, February’s “It’s about LOVE” and March’s “Aren’t we Lucky”, COVID-19 brought challenging set-backs to our group. Laraine and Steve Metheny are no longer able to cook for our group, we were not able to gather together in September or October for lack of participation. We met in November and again in December for our Christmas party.

Group members have stayed in touch with me and responded kindly to why they will not go out in public until a future date. I’ve assured all members by mail that they will be happily welcomed back any time they feel comfortable.

In the meantime, I’ve recruited several new members. Our group is excited to move forward in 2021 with our first Fellowship scheduled for January 12, 2021.

## **DIVORCECARE**

***Melanie Whited***

What can I say about 2020? I feel like I am trapped in some awful movie about the killer virus that will wipe out our world. In every area of our lives there is so much loss. Ministries like Divorce Care are no different.

In the 2020 winter-spring session, we were cut short by Covid-19. No one really knew what we were up against, so it seemed wise to stop and wait for more information.

In the Fall, we began a new session with a brand new program with fresh, new materials. I only had two participants. We tried Zoom meetings, but people seemed reluctant to use that method for meeting. Even though there were only two people, it was a great session and ended with some real seeds of hope being planted. Steve Grissom, the founder of Divorce Care left a message for the ministry leaders on Facebook. He challenged us to renew our commitment to the broken people who need our help. Pain does not stop because of the pandemic. I resolve to keep reaching out and continue asking God to send me the hurting hearts who need Him.

I will step out in faith, trust God, and be a source of hope for the hurting.

## **GRIEF SHARE**

***Gail Samolitis***

GRIEF SHARE began in February 2020 with 9 members when we were interrupted by the COVID pandemic.

As the group leader, I was encouraged to conduct the group online but strongly felt this “support” group would be more beneficial in person. During this break I continued phone contact with each group member.

In September 2020, we began to meet in person again, abiding with COVID regulations. There were five group participants beginning the group and 3 finished the group with an average attendance each week of three.

No money was spent for GRIEF SHARE in 2020 because we had books remaining from previous sessions.

Surviving the Holidays was conducted in November with 7 participants attending.

We pray GRIEF SHARE in 2021 stays vital and on track. It is our prayer to begin with the LOSS OF A SPOUSE seminar in February to be followed by GRIEF SHARE beginning on February 24<sup>th</sup>. This cycle will end May 19<sup>th</sup>. A second session will be scheduled to begin at the end of August and we will plan to offer SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS at the beginning of November.

To reach out to participants, we plan to purchase “PRAYER BEARS” to give to each participant so they will feel God’s presence even when they are home alone and feeling lonely. These bears will most likely be purchased by the end of January.

Books will also be purchased for GRIEF SHARE in 2021.

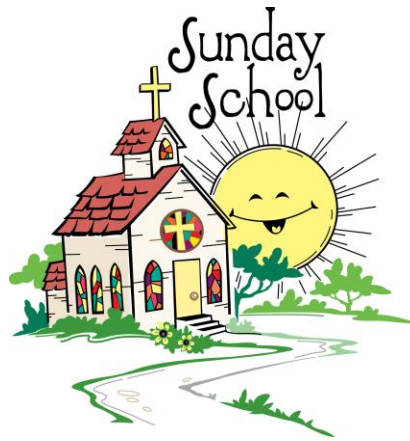
**VISITATION TEAM**

***Barbara Kirsch***

The Visitation Team continued to reach out to church members in 2020. As a team, there are various methods of caring for individuals in our church. There are many personal calls, Birthday and Get Well cards sent and personal visits. Also at time, we take people to doctors, dentists and hair appointments or pick up prescriptions and get groceries.

We pray that our efforts in 2020 were pleasing to our Heavenly Father, but we know there is a need for even more members to join our team. There are still many others who could benefit from a friendly call or visit showing them that God loves them and they have not been forgotten.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Kirsch



## **SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORTS**

### **THE ENCOURAGERS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**

***Brian Brown, President***

President.....Brian Brown  
Treasurer.....Dee Lallemond  
Teacher.....Randy Halterman

The Encouragers Class began the year with an in-depth study of the book of John. We made it to chapter 3 before classes were cancelled due to COVID in March. When services resumed with the combined class on June 7, Randy agreed to be the teacher. His lessons have been from the book of Genesis. The Encouragers have decided to remain with the combined class, while conducting business via email.

Monthly fellowship activities continue to be an important part of the life of the class. Before the restrictions we had a gathering at the Nicholsons' home in January. We had two other smaller meetings on November 7 & December 12 at EBC.

In addition, the Encouragers are supportive of projects in the local community and around the world. Each month we deliver canned fruit to the Old Man Rivers mission. We have continued our sponsorship of a child through Compassion International. We participated in the rotation of groups serving Sunday lunch at the Salvation Army. And as in past years, we bought Christmas gifts for children in need, which we wrapped at the December meeting.

### **THE SEEKERS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**

***Margaret Frees, Facilitator***

The Seekers is a multi-generational class participating in in-depth study and discussion of God's Word. In late 2019 we started a study on the book of Judges. We use an in-depth discussion format and have no prescribed time-line for completing studies, so Judges continued to be our topic in 2020. This type of format gives us opportunity to see how scripture applies to current circumstances. It has been especially helpful this year since our in-class time has been so broken up and limited.

In February, we gathered for a class dinner party at Shoney's followed by an evening of family fun at Scohy's Arcade in Vienna. Since we could not have regular class outings the rest of the year, twice we met for an evening with our lawn chairs in the church parking lot to visit and fellowship with one another.

Our community outreaches have involved showing our support for those who were initially bearing the burden of work when the coronavirus first impacted our area by taking refreshments to five area postal hubs to show our appreciation for their diligence. We have also contributed to meals served at the Salvation Army, donated to Habitat for Humanity, the Women's Care Center and Samaritan's Purse.

**THE LIFE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**

***Pastor Kurt Busiek, Facilitator***

The LIFE Sunday School class is taught by Pastor Kurt Busiek and is geared to be a starting point for people who are newer to the church although we have a base group of older members. Our class name comes from our Church vision, "offering LIFE to the world." We experience life when we: Love God, Include others, find a Fellowship group and when Everyone finds a place to serve. The LIFE class focuses on teaching and discussing the foundational truths of the Christian's life. We often use a video series followed by Bible study and discussion. The class has not met since March due to the covid virus but hope to resume meeting in March of 2021.

Pastor Kurt Busiek

*In  
Loving  
Memory  
of*

**2020 Memorials**

*Tom Jamison*

*Barbara Ott*

*Terry Barnette*

*Brenda Headley\* ~ Clara Howard's Daughter*

*Thomas Davis\* ~ Richard Davis' Father*

*Arbutus Peters\* ~ David Sims' Mother*

*Cheryl Brannon\**

*Patty Shawver\* ~ Christine Redmond's Mother*

*Jeannie Quinn\* ~ Jack Kirsch's Sister*

*Ray Whitlatch\* ~ Scott Whitlatch's Father*

*Carolyn Mulcay\* ~ John Mulcay's Mother*

*Ed Beary\* ~ John Beary's Father*

*Betty Canterbury*

*Nora Gilchrist (Leslie McHenry & Jenny Hannan's Mother)*

*Beverly Walkup*

*Jack Kirsch*

*Michelle Dailey\* ~ Bruce Goody's Daughter*

*Marvin McDonald\* ~ Suzanne Halterman's Father*

*Jim Beck\* ~ Ann Beck's Husband*

*Derrell Brown\* ~ Candy Lindstrom's Father*

*Judy Pfalzgraf\* ~ Dale Lowther's Wife*

*Robert Weimer, Jr.*

*Joseph Howard*

*Opal Hensley\* ~ Beverly Hensley & Opal Paul's Mother*

*Beulah Brown\* ~ Candy Lindstrom's Mother*

*Jack Florence\* ~ Calvin Florence's brother*

*Dorothy Satterfield*

*Clarence Lallemond\* ~ Brian Lallemond's Father*

*\*non-member*



**2020 NEW MEMBERS**

*We welcome to our Emmanuel family:*

- Glen Patterson
- Veronica Patterson
- Cameron Patterson
- Sarah Stephens
- Terri Fielder
- Barbara Medford
- Mark Sheppard
- Gary Davenport

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Increase: By Baptism	4	Decrease: By Death	10
By Other	4	By Other	1

Resident Membership December 31, 2019	578
Non-resident Membership December 31, 2019	50
Total Membership December 31, 2019	628

Average Attendance: Early Service	
Pre-Pandemic: 29.7	Post-Pandemic: 18.6
	26.3

Average Attendance: Morning Worship	
Pre-Pandemic: 186.7	Post-Pandemic: 65.0
	94.7

Average Attendance: Sunday School (Pre-Pandemic)	105.2*
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\*Sunday School Attendance has not been tracked since the pandemic

***Emmanuel Baptist Church  
2021 Board of Ministry***

**Officers**

Moderator	Joe Stephens
Vice Moderator	Charles Matthews
Church Clerk	Terri Fielder
Treasurer	Gary Beall
Assistant Treasurer	Sara Taylor
Financial Secretary	Jane Hulce
Assistant Financial Secretary	Randy Halterman
Sunday School Superintendent	Maria Keen

**Member At Large**

Adult Ministry	Judy Prater
Children's Ministry	Leslie Sims
Facilities	Jeff Evans
Fellowship	Debbie Fenton
Financial Development	Charles Matthews
Leader Development/Enlistment	Lynn Nicholson
Mission Education/Ministry Development	Eileen Mayer
Music	Ken Barton
Youth Ministry	David Brooks
Diaconate Representative	Earl Hulce

**Diaconate**

Christa Raitz	Dave McCue
JoAnn Boggs	Delbert Casto
Martha Walker	John Shreeves
Jane Hulce	Jon Cox
Barbara Kirsch	Rich Shawver
Donna Shawver	Earl Hulce
Kim Bollinger	David Brooks
Melissa Davis	Ken Barton
Maria Keen	Bob Winkler

**Staff Relations Committee**

Brian Raitz

John Shreeves

Joan Lemley