

THE PRINTS of PEACE

Emmanuel Baptist Church of Gambrills

Changing Lives with Christ

February, 2018

NO NAG!

It has never been my primary goal to get people attending church. While all people are welcome to attend our Sunday services, we should not expect all people in the community to attend. The church is a gathering of Christians.

So there is no reason for non-Christians to attend unless they have an interest in spiritual truth. Nowhere does God command non-Christians to attend Christian meetings.

We do bring our children with us, at least until they are old enough to watch themselves responsibly at home. But Jesus has not commanded us to have them here. Some of our members are now in a hard place by one or more of their unbelieving children balking at having to come.

The model in the Bible, from the Old Testament, is parents doing religious education in the home, not somewhere else. In the NT we see the Jews gathering together in synagogues, but that wasn't commanded under the old covenant. The synagogue gatherings were extra, in addition to what parents were expected to do at home (Deuteronomy 6:6-9).

We do encourage Christians to attend gatherings as a church for the spiritual benefits it brings. But I have never nagged people about doing so.

(continued next page)

EASTER IS SUNDAY APRIL 1

We need a family to host us for the Easter Evening supper. This is a potluck of finger foods, so the host family is not providing all the food and drinks. We start at 6 p.m., and can bring folding chairs from the church. If you are interested in hosting us, please let pastor Robin know. Thanks.

Y4JC GAME NIGHT!

(for middle and
high school students)

Saturday, February 3

6 - 8 p.m.

at the Church

Dinner Provided

THE CAP FOOD DRIVE

for February is Canned Soup.

e-mail: pastorrobin1@verizon.net

www.EBCGambrills.org

RECYCLE BINS

We have several recycle bins around the church building. There are three blue ones: in the kitchen room, by the piano in the large room of the west wing, and the children's SS class in the west wing. There is also a container in the church office. Please put paper, cans, and plastic bottles in these receptacles for recycling, and not in the regular trash cans.

Nag! (continued from page 1)

Never-the-less, there have been many times that I have visited a non-regular attending family of our church and almost immediately been given an excuse for lack of attendance at church. The assumption seems to be that the pastor has come to nag us about coming to church. Yet I have never, in those situations, said anything about church attendance.

My stated goal has never been to get people attending church. I am glad for all to come, but my primary concern as your pastor is that you are living each day in fellowship with Jesus. The New Testament picture is that you are walking (living) with Christ. If you are doing that, He will let you know what He wants you doing. If He wants you in church every Sunday, He will make it known by the Holy Spirit.

We have the Holy Spirit in us. It is the Spirit's job to communicate the will of Jesus to each of us. I don't have to nag anyone about church attendance because the Holy Spirit does a much better job of it. I don't have to hound people to contribute financially to the work of the church because the Holy Spirit can do that much more efficiently.

While I instruct on the benefits of participating in the church, your participation has never been my primary goal as your pastor. My primary goal is to help you walk with Jesus. Then Jesus will instruct you and move you to the doing of His will.

So what I try to do is encourage you to start each day in fellowship with Jesus by prayer and the reading of the Bible. A good way to begin is to give Jesus 15-20 minutes of

concentrated time as you begin your day. The only way for me to do this as a dad was to get up a half hour before everyone else. It worked for me, maybe not for you. Lunch might work better for you. Or the night before, before you get sleepy, pray in preparation for the next day.

Make this your daily habit. Write it into your calendar if necessary. Praise Him, Thank Him, confess sins, intercede in prayer for others, submit yourself to Him.

Participation in the church has many benefits that I don't want you to miss out on. But don't let church be a substitute for the life you are to be living with Jesus.

Praying weekly for you,

pastor Robin

*Don't let anyone look down on you
because you are young,
but set an example for the believers
in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in
purity.*

1 Timothy 4:12 (NIV)

PRAYING FOR CHURCHES

The Arundel Baptist Network has four churches without pastors: First Baptist Church of Eastport, Crossroads Church, Linthicum Baptist Church, and South County Community Church. Pray that they each finds the right person.