Unwrapping His Presence

Christmas is a time of wonder and celebration. It is a time to rejoice in the greatest gift of all time – Jesus the Christ. Emmanuel College’s campus pastor, Rev. Chris Maxwell, has released his latest book, entitled Unwrapping His Presence: What We Really Need for Christmas. In it he has captured both the celebration and the reflection that are Christmas. The book is filled with inspirational stories that will encourage the heart, yet while reading the pages, one will look inward for personal renewal. The central focus of the book is the gift given at Christmas, as well as the Giver.

Here are some opening words:

“Christmas is a time of wonder and celebration. It is a time to rejoice in the greatest gift of all time – Jesus the Christ.”

God, though, has a suggestion. He wants us to take time to take His Holy Presence, wrapped below our hurried flow of chores and choirs and dinners, and unwrap it. As we find Him, we find Him to be just what we need.

Though the season is packed, we can make room in our inns to find Him. He is revealed and unwrapped. God is ours for the taking. We are then His for the remaking.

That is truly the greatest gift of all.

Let us take Him. Let us be taken by Him.

This is an exciting season for Emmanuel College. Roberson Hall is going up, and the new Library Study Plaza is nearing completion. Most of all, there is a true spirit of Christ dwelling among us as we prepare young people to change the world. May your holiday season be filled with the presence of Christ!

Blessings!

Michael S. Stewart, President

Order information for Chris Maxwell’s book: http://chrismaxwellweb.com/books/unwrapping-his-presence
Mission Statement
Emmanuel College is a Christ-centered, liberal arts institution which strives to prepare students to become Christlike disciples who integrate faith, learning, and living for effective careers, scholarship, and service.

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Contributing Photographers
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Ginny Swails
The Whitlock Family

Design and Printing Services
Beth James Wansley, Designer
LifeSprings Resources, Inc.

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ATTENTION ALUMNI...
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Franklin Springs, GA 30639
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EC Alumna Performs at World Series

MOLLIE WALTON CORBETT SANG “GOD BLESS AMERICA” AT GAME 5 OF THE WORLD SERIES AT TEXAS RANGERS STADIUM.

—by Sara Ray

Emmanuel College alumna Mollie Walton Corbett (’95) sang “God Bless America” during the seventh-inning stretch of Game 5 of the World Series on Nov. 1. Her performance was viewed by more than 50,000 fans in Texas Rangers Stadium and broadcast to millions of television viewers.

Despite the massive crowds, Corbett says she found herself surprisingly calm when the big moment came.

“I felt absolutely electrified, as though I were stepping into a moment designed by God specifically for me. He met me at home plate and gave me an audience of millions to proclaim His blessing,” says Corbett, a Virginia Beach native who currently resides in Shreveport-Bossier, La.

The opportunity to sing at Texas Rangers Stadium came through Corbett’s husband, USAF TSgt Charles Corbett, who is stationed in nearby Arlington, Texas. He encouraged her to sing at various Air Force events, which led his squadron commander to recommend her to sing the National Anthem and “God Bless America” at Texas Rangers Stadium. Mollie had performed at two previous Rangers games before being invited to sing at the World Series. She has also performed several times for the AAA Minor League Norfolk Tides at Harbor Park in Norfolk, Va.

“The World Series is my largest audience to date, but it felt really quiet and intimate on the field. It’s not as loud on the ball field as it is in the stands. It really feels like two different geographical locations,” says Corbett.

Corbett’s performance was in honor of military service men and women and their families.

Corbett earned a B.A. in English with a minor in music (A.A.) from Emmanuel College, where she was a member of the Emmanuel Singers and took part in various campus musicals and productions. She went on to earn a master’s degree in theology from Regent University in 2006. Corbett says that many of her most meaningful relationships were formed during her time at Emmanuel and Regent.

“Those people in my life represent some of the greatest joy I’ve known in this life’s journey. I am incomplete without them, and I wouldn’t trade their presence in my life for anything,” says Corbett.

Corbett also has strong roots within the IPHC. She led worship at Centerville Christian Fellowship in Chesapeake, Va., from 1999 to 2002. Before that, she was a long-time camper and later a counselor in summer camps in the Eastern Virginia Conference (now Redemption Ministries). She fondly recalls working with Rev. Garry Bryant, current national field director of Acts2Day Ministries, as well as Pastor Danny Meads, who was music director at Norfolk First PHC in Norfolk, Va., (now Parkway Christian Center in Chesapeake, Va.), where Corbett attended as a child.

“He [Danny] gave me my first solo as a child and tried to teach me to play piano, but lost out to softball! He also introduced me to Junior and Teen Talent, and is still the teacher I consider my greatest defining influence on my talent as a singer,” says Corbett.

A self-professed Creative, Corbett has interests in a variety of artistic fields, particularly vocal performance and wedding/special event photography. She plans to sing at more Rangers games in 2011, and is exploring the possibility of releasing an album due to fan requests.

Mollie and Charles Corbett have been married since 2004. They have one son, Jackson, who is 3 years old.

You can learn more about Mollie Walton Corbett and her creative endeavors by visiting her Facebook music and business pages, or by following her on Twitter.

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EC VOLUNTEER CORPS LEADS...

“Shrub Attack”

—by Sherm Smith

Recently a small group of Emmanuel College alumni decided we could provide a valuable service to the college by simply volunteering to take on small projects at the college. We were aware of areas of the campus where giving our time and energy could offer needed assistance in making improvements for the further beautification of the campus. The Springs Pavilion, a location that is both historic and very nostalgic to all who have attended Emmanuel, was an area where we saw a need for landscape improvements and maintenance. It was a task we felt we could tackle with fairly immediate, visible results.

A few weeks before Homecoming Weekend, Jack Puckett, Gilbert Shaw, Vernon Synan and I starting cutting, trimming, and in general getting “down and dirty” at the pavilion area. It did not take long for the community service spirit to spread, and just after lunchtime of our first day of work, Tam (Fields) Tilley, Sheilah Shaw and Phyllis Synan also got into the action. We quickly realized we needed all the help we could get, as it was apparent that the selected task would not be completed in just one or two days. On our second and third selected workdays, others, including Keith Hearn, Levy Moore, Bert Synan and Eugene Dillard, joined the original crew. A posting placed on the EC student message board brought assistance from several individuals in student government, and a real boost came when Coach T. J. Rosene and the EC men’s basketball team showed up ready to work. Having the coach, the team and the student government volunteers with us actually made what was laborious become fun for all. It was very inspiring to have the students enthusiastically working beside the alumni volunteers.

In addition to more days at the Pavilion, there will also be future campus volunteer projects. If you are interested in being a part of the EC Volunteer Corps, please let us know by getting in touch with the EC Alumni Office or by sending an e-mail directly to me at usasherm@hotmail.com.
College is a time when young people ask a variety of questions, such as "Whom will I marry?" and "What should I do with my life?" Robert ("Bobby") Whitlock received answers to both of those questions while attending Emmanuel College.

The Florida native met Rebecca Bizzell in a freshman biology class and married her less than two years later during Christmas break. But it wasn’t until near the end of his junior year that Bobby found the answer to question number two. It came in the form of another question posed by Dr. G. Earl Beatty, who was then serving as academic dean.

“He asked if I had ever considered the military chaplaincy,” Bobby recalls. “I had always wanted to be in the military but didn’t think that was possible after I felt called into full-time ministry. Dean Beatty’s question opened a whole new world of possibilities for my future Christian service.”

Dr. Beatty did not stop by merely asking the question. He and his wife, Nancy, invited Bobby and Rebecca to Alabama to meet the endorsing agent for the Pentecostal Holiness Church. They even covered all of the younger couple’s expenses for the trip.

“I am convinced that God used Dean Beatty not only to plant the seed of our calling to military service, but also to water that seed and nurture it to maturity,” Bobby shares. “I am an Army chaplain today because of Dean Beatty and Nancy.”

Rebecca graduated from EC in 1983 with an A.A. in business administration, and Bobby followed in 1985 with a B.A. in Christian ministries. Today, Bobby serves as chaplain for the Army 3rd Infantry Division, based out of Fort Stewart, Ga. As a chaplain, Bobby says he is first and foremost a pastor. His congregation consists of the soldiers in his unit and their families.
“We do everything civilian pastors do; only we do it in uniform and in a multicultural/ecumenical environment. We preach, teach, provide counseling and crisis intervention, marry, bury and much more.”

Bobby explains that chaplains, in addition to being ministers in uniform, are military officers with the responsibility to advise the commander and help ensure the free exercise of religion. They also train and mentor junior chaplains.

“It is my honor to serve the soldiers and families of the division and the 45 chaplains and assistants who serve with me. Together we have the privilege of caring for the more than 21,000 soldiers and their families.”

Military chaplaincy comes with a variety of challenges, both personal and professional.

“During my first 41 months of military service, I spent 23 months away from my family. Since that time I have been deployed multiple times for periods of up to a year. Being separated from family is very difficult,” Bobby shares.

The Whitlocks have moved 10 times in the past 20 years. With each move, it becomes increasingly difficult to ask their daughters, Brittany (21), Briana (19) and Bethany (17), to leave behind friends and familiar places. Bethany, a senior, is currently attending her third high school in three years.

In the field, challenges include being forced to watch those they pastor go into harm’s way. Chaplains must help others grieve the loss of a fellow soldier while they too are mourning. At home, they help soldiers reintegrate with their families and communities while going through the same process themselves.

But with these challenges come a great number of rewards.

“Hearing a congregation of soldiers lift up their voices to God in praise during worship services in a combat zone is the purest worship and the most beautiful praise music I have ever experienced,” Bobby says.

Bobby feels his time at Emmanuel prepared him well for his future service.

“More important than the quality education was the investment that so many people made in our lives. Rebecca and I were blessed by the spirit of service that we experienced at Emmanuel, and we have tried to share that same spirit wherever we have served.”

Bobby and his division were deployed to Iraq on September 5, 2010. He requests that his fellow graduates pray for our soldiers, who are spread thin and paying a significant price to defend our way of life. He also requests prayer for civilian leaders as they make decisions that impact the military.

“My hope is to introduce as many soldiers and family members as possible to the love of God through Jesus Christ. For me, this means meeting them where they are, caring for them as Christ calls us to do and helping them grow in faith. Other than this, I simply want to be found faithful.”

ALUMNI PROFILE

HOMETOWN: Hastings, Fla. (aka the “Potato Capital of Florida”)

CURRENT LOCATION: Iraq

YEARS AT EC: 1980-85

FAVORITE EC MEMORY: Meeting his wife, Rebecca. Says Bobby: “We became friends the first year when I asked her to be my biology lab partner. I thought it would be a good idea to have a lab partner who was both smart and attractive. We didn’t begin to date until our second year just before Christmas break. After Christmas, she avoided me because I failed to write her over the break. It took a lot of work, but I was finally able to convince her that I did write but had lost her contact information. After she forgave me, we were inseparable.”

FUNNIEST EC MEMORY: “Being roommates with Ron Butler my freshman year. I won’t go into details, but Ron and those who know him can imagine how often he had me rolling with laughter... not to mention how often he grossed me out. I will mention a large splatter of toothpaste that slowly grew on the sidewalk below our second-floor window.”

OTHER HOBBIES & INTERESTS: Reading, watching movies, computers, playing sports and “guarding my three beautiful daughters from knuckle-headed boys.”

INTERESTING FACT: The 3rd Infantry Division earned the nickname “Marne Division” on July 4, 1918, for the part they played during the Aisne-Marne Offensive of World War I. They stood rock solid while surrounding units retreated from the Germans on the banks of the Marne River and earned a reputation as the “Rock of the Marne.”
Homecoming 2010

Homecoming 2010 began with the 63rd annual Feast of Ingathering. Ladies from the International Pentecostal Holiness Church presented Emmanuel College with their generous gifts and then stayed for a luncheon hosted by President Stewart. Going on at the same time and then later into the afternoon were a golf luncheon and tournament held at Highland Walk Golf Course in Royston, Ga. Many alumni and friends participated in this event, which raised money for campus beautification. Friday evening, President Stewart hosted an alumni reception. This gathering allowed for homecoming participants to mix and mingle with each other and catch up with old friends.

Saturday morning was a busy time for this year’s homecoming. Not only was the annual Golden Graduates breakfast held in the Franklin Springs City Hall, but also a School of Christian Ministries breakfast took place in the newly remodeled dining hall, and the second annual Springs’ Sprint was in full swing outside. The class of 1960 was inducted as the newest “Golden Grads,” and those in attendance were able to share with each other their memories from 50-plus years ago. During the SCM breakfast, Dr. G. Earl Beatty was honored for his time and commitment to the mission of Emmanuel College. It was a special time for SCM alumni and students to honor the work that has come through the School of Christian Ministries.

A brunch was held Saturday morning for all alumni and friends of Emmanuel College. At this time, Bob and David Roberson were honored for their continuous support of Emmanuel College. Their generous gift allowed the idea of a new residence hall to become a reality, and ground was broken on Roberson Hall immediately following the brunch.

The conclusion of the 2010 Homecoming festivities took place Saturday evening in the John W. Swails Center with an informal dinner for those who were still in town. Lingering goodbyes and plans for attending Homecoming 2011 came to a close as Homecoming 2010 ended another success.
Roberson Residence Hall Groundbreaking

OCTOBER 2, 2010

—by Linda M. Thomas, Chairman
Emmanuel College Board of Trustees

Several years ago at one of our board meetings, Beulah Sturkie (our Board of Trustees’ prayer champion) challenged the board members to pray for a financial breakthrough for Emmanuel College. She said God had the money stored up and we needed to begin to pray for a breakthrough for that money to flow out to the school. I went home and wrote in my prayer journal, “Emmanuel College – Financial Breakthrough.” Since that time, I am sure other board members have also been praying that prayer.

When Dr. Stewart called to tell me of the $1 million gift from the Bob and David Roberson families, I said to him, “This is the beginning of the breakthrough.”

In thinking of this, I draw an analogy between this breakthrough and a dam. The dam is in place to hold water back, but when the water rises to a strong and powerful level, it begins to bring great force to the dam. Little cracks and crevices can begin to cause leaks in the dam. Little streams will leak through. If this goes on long enough, the dam will weaken and collapse, and danger and damage usually occurs.

However, there is a better option. The wise and best method of relief from the force of the flow is to unlock the floodgates. I want to express special thanks today to the Roberson family for unlocking the floodgates and allowing God to use them as the impetus to begin the breakthrough of financial blessing to Emmanuel College. I believe this is only the launch of the flow of resources God has stored up for the further development of this campus.

This Board of Trustees, at our meeting [in October], voted a commitment to an ambitious and grand Master Plan… a plan of growing forward. I do not believe this board would have voted as they did without faith to believe that the “water of blessing” has only just begun to flow. We believe the favor of God is on this institution and that it is His time for breakthrough here.

We are delighted as we gather here today to break ground for the addition of the beautiful Roberson Residence Hall. This is truly the day the Lord has made… a day for us to rejoice in His blessings to Emmanuel College.
1980s

DEBBIE (BOSWELL) HARDWICK ('81)
I married Jimmy Lee Hardwick ('81) in 1982. We both taught in Christian schools initially; then I returned to school to complete B.S. and M.A.Ed. degrees in special education with intensive research in autism. I taught in public schools before accepting a position as an autism consultant with UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, Division TEACCH. Jim and I have three beautiful children, Christine, Luke, and Katie. Jim suffered from juvenile diabetes his entire life. My family and I ask for your prayers.

2000s

SETH ('00) AND ASHLEY (BRADY) WHITE ('02)
We would like to announce the birth of our son, Jackson Brady White. He was born on July 5, 2010. He weighed 7 lbs. 6 oz. and was 20¼ in. long. He is a very happy and active baby and brings joy to both his parents and grandparents. Proud grandparents are Ron and Carol White of Columbia, S.C., and Don and Sue Brady of Franklin Springs, Ga. Both sets of grandparents are EC alumni. Seth is currently working full-time as the worship pastor at Fusion Church in Buford, Ga. Ashley is currently working as a middle school counselor in Gwinnett County. We would love to hear from old friends! Our address is 2543 Walnut Tree Lane, Buford, GA 30519, or you can e-mail us at white.seth@gmail.com.

2000s

CHRIS BUTLER ('03) I attended Emmanuel College from 2001-2003, receiving my A.A. before transferring to Georgia Southern. Since graduation from EC, I completed my B.S. at Georgia Southern in 2004. After graduation, I took a special events position in Madison, Ga. In 2006 I returned to Georgia Southern to complete a master’s degree in information systems. This time I stayed on full-time in a special events position within the Division of Student Affairs. In August of this year, I was promoted to assistant director for Marketing and Communications.

STEPHANIE (ASBURY) PHILLIPS ('06)
Dr. Stephanie Dawn Asbury Phillips graduated on May 29, 2010, from the Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va., with a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree (D.O.). While in medical school, Stephanie served as president of the VCOM chapter of the Christian Medical and Dental Association and traveled with International Christian Resource to several countries on medical mission trips, including disaster response in Haiti. She is also the medical missions coordinator for Spirit-Led Expeditions, Inc. Dr. Phillips now begins her medical residency, where she will specialize in family medicine and complete a global health track. Stephanie hopes to return to Bluefield to focus on underserved rural primary care and eventually serve as a full-time medical missionary. She lives in South Carolina with her husband, Jonathan, and two dogs, Josie and Millie.

We reserve the right to edit AlumNotes for content and space.
2000s

SERGIO AND KRISTI (HORNE) CASTRO ('08)
My wife, Kristi, and I met at Emmanuel College in 2005 though Emmanuel Singers. We became great friends and have been together since. Kristi and I were married on July 10, 2010. We exchanged vows in the Franklin Springs PHC, where I serve as the associate pastor. Rev. Harrison Lampley (pastor of the FSPHC) conducted the ceremony together with my father, Rev. Alvaro Castro. The reception was held at the John W. Swails Center on the campus of Emmanuel College. We were surrounded by our church, family and friends. Kristi and I graduated from EC in 2008 with degrees in early childhood education and Christian ministries. Kristi works as a second grade teacher in Madison County and is currently earning a master's from Walden University. We currently reside in Franklin Springs, Ga.

2000s

JOHN HERSHMAN ('08)
A lot has happened since my last real visit to EC. My sister’s wedding was the last time I saw many of my friends and classmates. Since then, I have joined the U.S. Army, graduated basic training at the top of my class, and am now in the process of becoming an intelligence analyst. While I was at basic training, my wife and I welcomed our first son into this world, Balian Alexander Hershman. I can’t wait to come back to EC and visit and introduce my son to my school and professors.

WE REMEMBER

REV. ROBERT C. STEWART ('52)
June 24, 1925 – April 17, 2010

Rev. Stewart was a member of the old Army Air Corps, where he served in Hawaii and Okinawa during World War II and was honorably discharged in 1947. He then moved to Hamlet, N.C., and began working for the Seaboard Railroad Company. He served for 42 years as a pastor in the South Carolina Conference and returned to Hamlet, N.C., with his wife after his retirement. Rev. Stewart is survived by his wife of 58 years, Eloise Swails Stewart, and many loving family members.
ALUMNI & FRIENDS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SCHEDULE

• THURSDAY, MAR. 24… Fort Moultrie and Gullah Dinner on Sullivan’s Island

• FRIDAY, MAR. 25… Morning Free (Golf for those desiring to play); Historic City Tour including historic home; Bus to famous Middleton Place Gardens with guide; Charleston Harbor Sunset Dinner Cruise with Captain Ping.

• SATURDAY, MAR 26… Off to the Islands; Lunch at Bohicket Marina at Seabrook Island; Visit 5-Star Sanctuary on Kiawah Island; Freshfield Village; Rosebank Farms produce stand; Angel Oak Tree on Johns Island; Charleston Tea Plantation on Wadmalaw Island, and then a Pig-Pickin’ at Charlotte’s home on Johns Island.

• SUNDAY, MAR 27… Chapel Service with Dr. Mike Stewart, followed by Ping’s Shrimp-and-Grits Sunday Brunch, at Charlotte’s Home on Johns Island.

March 24 – 27, 2011

Go to Charleston, S.C., by air, car, train, RV… but just go, and you will be glad you did. An exciting weekend has been planned just for EC Alumni and Friends by longtime Charleston residents Charlotte and Jan Humphries.

PLEASE CALL CHARLOTTE HUMPHRIES at (843) 729-3954, or e-mail humphriesC1@comcast.net for information on hotels. James Island Park Campground has Hookups/Spaces for RVs ($47.69 to $49.94/night). AND, the park has 10 cabins for up to 8 occupants per cabin available at $187.95/night; however, they must be reserved ASAP. This would be great for couples, families, or groups of single attendees to share.

PRICE for the SPRING 2011—“GATHERING” is only $250/single, or $499/couple. This fee includes bus transportation for special events and for above-listed site visits, lunches, dinners and activities. [Your travel to Charleston… hotels… and golf… are at your own expense.]

Send your RESERVATION & FEE in as soon as possible to guarantee your space, but NOT LATER THAN February 1, 2011. Send to: CHARLOTTE HUMPHRIES, 14 LOCKWOOD DRIVE, 12C, CHARLESTON, SC 29401