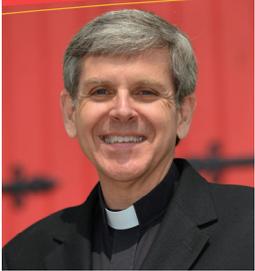




MESSENGER



From The Rector



All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”

God is with us. It is as simple and as complex as that. How often has someone prayed some version of this prayer: “I know you’re there, God. The problem is that I’m here.”

Emmanuel means that is not what we believe. Emmanuel means that God is here, too, *with us.*

During December we will be very busy anticipating and marking Christmas, the Feast of the God-with-us! Actually it won’t wait for December but starts with the First Sunday in Advent (November 30th) when the children of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd will make Advent Wreaths for their atria. I am looking forward to blessing these wreaths. On December 21st, the Fourth Sunday in Advent, our children’s pageant will recount the story of Mary and Joseph as they learn of what will be a blessed event in their lives and the defining moment in human history, the coming of Emmanuel. I have asked for some time with our children before the early Christmas Eve Eucharist. And, of course, on Christmas Day

Emmanuel will again open the red doors and invite the community to join us for Christmas dinner. I heard about this wonderful tradition long before you called me to be your rector and I look forward to experiencing it for myself.

In the midst of all the activities during December, Emmanuel will be the site of the ordination to the priesthood of Canon Kathy Kelly Dunagan at three o’clock on December 13th. She and I hope that everyone from Emmanuel will join us for this solemn and joyful occasion and that you will invite your friends.

See you Sunday if not before.



God willing and the people consenting

*The Right Reverend Mark Bourlakis
Bishop of Southwestern Virginia
will ordain*

Katherine Kelly Dunagan

*to the sacred order of priests
in Christ’s one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church*

*Saturday, the thirteenth day of December
in the year of our Lord two thousand fourteen
at three o’clock in the afternoon*

*Emmanuel Episcopal Church
700 Cumberland Street
Bristol, Virginia*

Your prayers and presence are requested

A reception will follow in the Parish Hall

Clergy: cassock, surplice, and red stoles

Children’s Pageant

We will once again celebrate an annual Christmas tradition with a delicious breakfast prepared by church members at **9 am on Sunday, December 21.** Afterwards, please stay for a Christmas Pageant during the **10:30 am service.** All children are invited to participate.. If anyone is interested in helping out with the breakfast or pageant, please contact Julia Rainero at jprainero@gmail.com or 423-340-0941.



DECEMBER 2014

BIRTHDAYS

2 Denise Rowe 3 Mary Curtin, Joyce Rodgers, Christina Zochowski 5 Louise Medley 6 Martha Litton 7 Mary Beth Rainero 10 Lint Ellington 11 Robyn Kealey, Ez Powers 12 Julie Hairston-Murdock 13 Melissa Taverner 15 Thelma Blair, Bob Bruce 16 Chad Couch, Ivy Daniels, Helen Moore 22 Loretta Trayer 23 Mary Lou Day 24 Mary Armstrong, Doris Hagey, Audra Jones, Elizabeth Oakley 25 Kira Adams 30 Robert Rodgers, Matt Wood 31 Mike Johnston

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

5 Mr. and Mrs. Archie Hubbard 9 Billie and Tyler Pearson 10 Audrey and Sarfraz Zaidi 17 Stephanie and Chris Yoder 20 Bettie and Jim Hite, Barbara Sue and Joe Kurre, Patty and Preston Mitchell 22 Louise and Jerry Medley 31 Tina and Ed Hitt

PRAYER REQUESTS

Alva, Mike Blair, Thelma Blair, Barbara Bunn, Arnell Byers, Winifred Campbell, Robert Dickert, Kathy Frey, Ann Gillenwater, Annette, Deirdre Grogan, Sharon Hatcher, Ann Holler, Emily Hubbard, Michael Johnston, John T. Kelly, Chris Mallin, Gayle Mallin, Louise Medley, Jill Mendiljian, Mildred Murphy, Elaine Parker, Joyce Rodgers, Robert Rodgers, Peggy Rogers, Katy Sikorski, Sharon Slaughter, Nikki Guest Thomas, Lamont Tidwell, Carla Vaughn, Emma, the families in Family Promise.

Deacon's Word

The Rev. Preston Mitchell



The word for this month is **watchful**.

How many of you all have been to the Triple Rock Baptist Church in Calumet City, Illinois? There is a preacher there, the Rev. Cleophus James, who in his sermons often reminds his flock "don't be lost when your time comes for the day of the Lord is coming as a thief in the night." Wake up, be alert, be **watchful** he reminds them, and then the choir and congregation break out into songs of alleluia and amen.

Of course none of you all have been to the Triple Rock because it doesn't exist. It's the church Jake and Elwood Blues attend at the beginning of my favorite movie, the *Blues Brothers*, and the Rev. Cleophus James is the charismatic alter ego of the "Godfather of Soul", James Brown. But the message Rev. Cleophus imparts to his congregation is the same message Jesus imparts to his followers in Matthew's gospel when he says "Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming."

Just as the Rev. Cleophus in the early minutes of the movie reminds his flock", Jesus reminds his followers, and reminds us, to be ready, **watchful**, and alert. That brothers and sisters is what Advent is about.

Advent is the time to make our hearts and minds ready for Jesus to come into our life. In this holy season we are called to an intentional period of **watchfulness**, not only for the celebration of Jesus' birth, but also of the Day of the Lord, of Jesus' coming again to judge the living and the dead, which we proclaim weekly in our Nicene Creed. We are, after all living in the Second Advent, looking with eager expectation, hope and joy, to Jesus' return.

Curtis Mayfield, then with the Impressions wrote "People get ready there's a train a'comin, you don't need no ticket, you just get on board." That train has come once and will come again, and that train's conductor is Jesus Christ. And we proclaim that message in the Eucharist when we use Prayer A and proclaim the mystery of faith. Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. So as we begin our Advent journey, as we begin that walk to Bethlehem, let us be **watchful** for God's movement in our lives, let us be prepared and let us make a place in our hearts and lives for the Christ child to be born once again.

Family Promise Update

Thirty-nine volunteers worked our last host week, November 2-9, and much gratitude is extended. Thank you!

Emmanuel's next host weeks are January 25-February 1 and April 19-26.

Poinsettia Memorials

Poinsettias will be available this Christmas for those who wish to purchase them in honor or in memory of loved ones. Please contact the Parish Office with your information and donation no later than **December 16**.

Christmas Dinner

Plans are well under way for the 33rd Annual Community Christmas Dinner on **Thursday, December 25, 4:00 - 7:00 pm**. Volunteers are needed as kitchen workers, servers, cleanup crews, greeters, and individuals to run the elevator.

We are in need of gifts appropriate for a child age 0-12. Please bring a new wrapped gift with the description of the contents to the Parish Office anytime during the week. Non-perishable desserts are also needed and may be brought to church on **Sunday, December 21** and left in the Bledsoe Chapel. On that same day, after the **10:30 am** service, we are looking for some people to assist with decorating the Parish Hall and Christmas tree in the Library.

Want to volunteer? Contact Zane Myers at 916-752-0035 or email zanemyers@hotmail.com.

Senior Moment

It's A Journey.

As I'm driving toward Michigan, there's ample opportunity for enumeration; and this time of year lends itself to rear-view mirroring, and taking stock. This year I'll celebrate my 32nd Thanksgiving. There have been ample more years of being able to give thanks, but England doesn't have a day set aside for that type of gratitude. A suitable historical event notwithstanding, I wonder when the date would fall and indeed whether it could be celebrated properly without a heavy dose of snark. Such are the differences in national outlook that I sometimes perceive. (Most noticeable when I watch the crowds watching Premier League Soccer.)

My first Thanksgiving was as a newly-wed and a new immigrant. Thanksgiving was a novel tradition to me but I did get the day off work and it was off to Grandma's house for a meal that, to my mind, was English Christmas dinner moved forward to November: turkey, vegetables, gravy. But it was all different and new and sometimes puzzling: the stuffing was cooked outside the bird, which made me question its name 'stuffing'; pumpkin pie and cranberry sauce were novelties; and football wasn't really football. I had just started work at Radio Shack and, back in the 80's, Radio Shack was a leader in personal computers. My job was to instruct new owners how to make the most of their expensive new machines and so I got to experience 'Black Friday' from the retail perspective. I think back then it was just called 'the day after Thanksgiving.' Going back to work on the Friday didn't seem onerous, since my perspective then was that I had been given Thursday off and was therefore grateful. But I do remember the shock of having to work the day after Christmas to teach young brats how to use their new Radio Shack Color Computers. Coming from a land where the country shuts down for two weeks leading up to the New Year, having to work on Boxing Day adjusted my mindset from gratitude at being given a day off, to resenting the fact that I had to work on that day. My assimilation to grown-up life was beginning.

For the past 31 Thanksgivings we have made the same trip Grandma's house for a meal and a tradition that has become comfortable and normal and totally assimilated. More so than at other times, it's a recorder of memories, a mirror of times past: receding memories, lengthening timelines, events concluded; some outcomes still unknown.

Our 32nd Thanksgiving will be on the road going north ten hours, rather than three hours east. A new tradition wrapped inside an old tradition. It's a reflection of changing times but one where being thankful for what is - rather than ungrateful for what isn't - is something I try to learn from a newly-wed twenty-two year old. I have so much to be thankful for, north and east!

Best wishes as we enter the holiday season for your own new journeys and traditions. 2014 has been a good one for our church and I look forward to all that awaits us in 2015.

David

David Taverner, Senior Warden

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, December 3

Meals on Wheels

Sunday, December 7, 5:00 pm

Advent Evensong

Wednesday, December 10, 5:00 pm

Finance Committee

Saturday, December 12, 10:00 am

Decorating of the Christmas Tree

Saturday, December 13, 3:00 pm

Ordination - Canon Kathy Kelly Dunagan

Monday, December 15, 5:15 pm

Vestry

Sunday, December 21, 9:00 am

Christmas Pageant Breakfast (Parish Hall)

Sunday, December 21 during 10:30 am service

Christmas Pageant

Tuesday, December 23 - Friday, December 26

Parish Office Closed for Christmas

Wednesday, December 24, 5:00 pm

Christmas Eve Eucharist

Wednesday, December 24, 10:00 pm

Christmas Eve Eucharist

Thursday, December 25, 4 - 7:00 pm

33rd Annual Community Christmas Dinner

Monday, December 29

Last to submit 2014 pledge payments or request reimbursements for 2014

Tuesday, December 30 - Thursday, January 1

Parish Office Closed

Sunday, January 11 Abingdon Convocation

Sunday, January 18, during the 10:30 am service

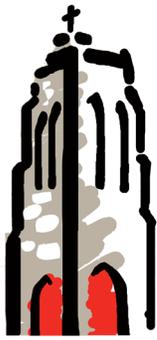
Commissioning of the Vestry

Sunday, January 25-31

Family Promise Host Week



On October 26, Donnie Wheatley, Executive Director of The Boys Home of Virginia, visited our parish with several of his students. St. Elizabeth's Guild provided lunch for Mr. Wheatley and the boys.



DECEMBER 2014
MESSENGER

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
emmanuelbristol@gmail.com
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(276)669-9488
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P.O. Box 1376
Bristol, VA 24203

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MESSENGER

The deadline to submit information for the Jan./Feb. 2015 Messenger is December 12. Please be prompt.

Weekly Schedule

SUNDAY SERVICES

8 am Rite I
10:30 am Rite II
(with choir)

MORNING PRAYER

9 am
Tues, Wed, Thurs
Bledsoe Chapel

SUNDAY

FAITH FORMATION

9:15 am Catechesis
9:15 am Rector's
Forum (Library)

WEDNESDAY

SERVICE

12:15 pm
Holy Eucharist &
Prayers for Healing
Bledsoe Chapel

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Wednesday,
7 pm Adult Choir

BIBLE STUDY

10 am Thursday
2nd Floor
Conf. Room

Sunday, December 7

The Second Sunday of Advent

*Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a;
Mark 1:1-8*

8:00 am Lector..... John Harty
10:30 am Lector Barbara Bunn
Intercessor..... Seth Allen
Eucharistic Ministers Sue Prill and David Taverner
Ushers..... Ann and Greg Oakley
Acolytes..... TBD

Sunday, December 21

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

*2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Canticle 3; Romans 16:25-27;
Luke 1:26-38*

8:00 am Lector..... Harriett Harty
10:30 am Lector Tom Rogers
Intercessor..... Walt Bressler
Eucharistic Ministers Walt Bressler and Tom Rogers
Ushers..... Margaret and Greg Roberts
Acolytes..... TBD

Sunday, December 28

The First Sunday after Christmas

*Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 147; Galatians 3:23-25;
John 1:1-18*

8:00 am Lector..... Dave Zochowski
10:30 am Lector Mary Beth Rainero
Intercessor..... Greg Oakley
Eucharistic Ministers .. Harriett Harty and David Taverner
Ushers..... TBD
Acolytes..... TBD

Sunday, December 14

The Third Sunday of Advent

*Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126;
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-18, 19-28*

8:00 am Lector Fred Knickerbocker
10:30 am Lector Frank Goodpasture III
Intercessor Mary Beth Rainero
Eucharistic Ministers N/A (Bishop's Visit)
Ushers Margaret and Greg Roberts
Acolytes TBD

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

5:00 pm Lector TBD
10:30 pm Lector TBD
Intercessor TBD
Eucharistic Ministers TBD
Ushers TBD
Acolytes TBD

Sunday, January 4

The Second Sunday after Christmas

*Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 85; Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a;
Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23*

8:00 am Lector Frank Goodpasture III
10:30 am Lector Bob Hardee
Intercessor Barbara Bunn
Eucharistic Ministers John Harty and Tom Rogers
Ushers TBD
Acolytes TBD

