



December at Emmanuel

The Second Sunday of Advent–December 6
Commissioning of John Simpson as the new Director of Formation Ministries
during the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist.

Welcome luncheon in the Parish Hall after the 10:30 a.m. service for the Simpson Family

The Third Sunday of Advent–December 13

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. –*Philippians 4:4-7*

The Fourth Sunday of Advent–December 20

We will once again celebrate an annual Christmas tradition with a delicious breakfast prepared by church members at **9:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 20**. 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.

Christmas Eve–December 24

5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Emmanuel Choir will offer beautiful music by Byrd, Vaughan Williams, Powell, Forrest and Kirkby at the 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. We welcome guest musicians Claire and Peter Morison, who will share their vocal and instrumental talents.

"The Shepherd's Lamb" by Dan Forrest is a beautiful piece for choir with violin and oboe obbligato.



Joins us for the

34th Annual Christmas Dinner

Friday, December 25 • 4–7:00 p.m.

Bring your friends, family, and Christmas Spirit,
and enjoy a wonderful Christmas
dinner with turkey and all the traditional trimmings!

We look forward to sharing
this most blessed day with you.

Deacon's Word



The Rev. Preston Mitchell

Matthew 1: 20-33-An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 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."

It is the Christmas season. No wait, it is Advent. Good. For I tend to associate the Christmas season with the secular world: Black Friday, stringing lights, seeing who is naughty or nice, making sure all are accounted for in our cards and gifts. Many of you may enjoy this part of the season, but it has never had much appeal to me. The advent season though tells the story of the greatest gift God gave to humanity, God's very presence among us. Emmanuel, God is with us. The stories we read this lectionary season are from Luke's gospel speaking to the coming of Christ, including my favorite canticle *Mary's Song of Praise* or the *Magnificat* as many know it.

My favorite Christmas hymn is an advent hymn, *O Come O Come Emmanuel*. It is also my son's favorite seasonal hymn. He convinced his chorus teacher in elementary school to allow him to sing it at a Christmas chorale concert at the Flat Gap Missionary Baptist Church, an uncommon place for an advent song. The words are rich and deep and speak to the core of the hopes of the Jewish people.

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.*

My friend Willie Dodson played this first stanza on a banjo the other night and then added his own verses to the hymn:

*O come, O come, O God divine, deliver captive Palestine,
Author of all you set the pace of time, reconcile our bitter war-torn minds.
Rejoice, rejoice, Oh God divine will come to you O Palestine.*

*O come, O come, O people of good will, and gather on top of the Zion hill
Together we will work the dirt till, the olives grow and we get our bellies filled
Rejoice, rejoice, O people of good will, will gather on top of the Zion hill.*

When Christmas Eve come in all its pageantry and vitality here at Emmanuel we are ready for God to be with us. And not just with us as Christians, but with all people regardless of religion or ethnicity. May we embrace this incredible gift of love in our lives this season and pray and work to see God's love everywhere and always.



We welcome John, Barbara, Marshall, and Virginia Simpson to Emmanuel.

John will join the staff as Director of Formation Ministries effective December 1.

He will be commissioned for this ministry during the 10:30 Eucharist Sunday, December 6

There will be a soup luncheon afterward in the Parish Hall.

34TH Annual Christmas Dinner

Preparations for the 34th Annual Christmas Dinner are well underway! We anticipate another large turnout this year, and we need your help. For many of you, this is an annual tradition, and we look forward to your support again this year. For others, this may be your first experience with our Christmas Dinner, and we hope it leaves the same kind of positive lasting impression on you as it has on many others over the years.

The Emmanuel Christmas Day Dinner will be Friday, **December 25**, from **4:00 p.m.** until **7:00 p.m.** We ask all parishioners to provide the following prior to the dinner:

- Desserts that do not require refrigeration
- UNWRAPPED gifts for children ages 0-12.

We have numerous other assignments. You are welcome to participate in one or more of these activities, which may take place before, during, or after the dinner on Christmas Day. We also need people to answer the telephone, distribute children's gifts, serve eggnog, and wash dishes. Please contact the Parish Office 276-669-9488 or emmanuelbristol@gmail.com.

Looking Ahead

Tuesday, December 2, 6:00 p.m. – Social Club

Saturday, December 5, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Vestry Retreat (Jubilee House in Abingdon)

Sunday, December 6 after the 10:30 Eucharist
Welcome luncheon for John Simpson & Family

Saturday, December 12
Decorating of the Chrismon Tree

Sunday, December 20, 9:45 a.m.
Children's Pageant Brunch

Sunday, December 20 during the 10:30 a.m. service
Children's Pageant

Sunday, December 20 after 10:30 a.m. Eucharist
Annual Greening of the Church

Tuesday, December 22 – Friday, December 25
Parish Office Closed

Thursday, December 24, 5:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 24, 10:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Service

Friday, December 25, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
34th Annual Community Christmas Dinner

Monday, December 28
Last day to submit reimbursements or 2015 offerings

Monday December 28 – Thursday, December 31
7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Parish Office Open

Friday, January 1
Parish Office Closed

Tuesday, January 5 – Epiphany

Parish Calendar and Prayer Requests

BIRTHDAYS

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

WEDDING

ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Gwen and Archie Hubbard
- 9 Billie and Tyler Pearson
- 10 Audrey and Sarfraz Zaidi
- 16 Stephanie and Chris Yoder
- 20 Bettie and Jim Hite, Barbara Sue and Joe Kurre, Patty and Preston Mitchell
- 31 Tina and Ed Hitt

PRAYER REQUESTS

Jim Barber, Ruby Barber, Sue Brickey, Barbara Bunn, Teresa Burkholder, Winifred Campbell, Ivy Daniels, Mark Dollar, Helyn Dougherty, Alva, Emma, Ann Gillenwater, Annette, Sharon Hatcher, James Heath, Tom Hurt, Michael Johnston, Bill Keith, Chris Mallin, Gayle Mallin, Jim McGlothlin, Mariana McLaughlin, Jill Mendiljian, Claire Miller, Dan Morgan, Mark Morgan, Rachael Morgan, Jim Rodgers, Joyce Rodgers, Robert Rodgers, Denise Rowe, Sharon Slaughter, Anna Stuart, Sarah Vaughn, Charlotte Vaughn, Reilly Vaughn, and the families in Family Promise

For the deceased: Carla Vaughn

December

2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>8. & 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist</p> <p>9:15 a.m. Faith formation Adult-(Library) Youth-Conf. Room Ages 3-12 Atria</p>		<p>1 6:00 p.m. Social Club</p>	<p>2 Meals on Wheels</p> <p>12:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Chancel choir</p>	<p>3 10:00 a.m. Lectionary Study</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Eucharist</p> <p>6:45 p.m. YAF</p>	4	<p>5 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Vestry Retreat at Jubilee House in Abingdon</p>
<p>6 8. & 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist</p> <p>9:15 a.m. Faith formation Adult-(Library) Youth-Conf. Room Ages 3-12 Atria</p> <p>After 10:30 Eucharist-luncheon for John Simpson</p> <p>2 p.m. Holy Eucharist at Brookdale</p>	7	5	<p>9 12:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist</p> <p>5:15 p.m. Finance Comm.</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Chancel choir</p>	<p>10 10:00 a.m. Lectionary Study</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Eucharist</p> <p>6:45 p.m. YAF</p>	<p>11 December Messenger Deadline</p>	<p>12 Decorating of the Chrismon Tree</p>
<p>13 8. & 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist</p> <p>9:15 a.m. Faith formation Adult-(Library) Youth-Conf. Room Ages 3-12 Atria</p>	14	15	<p>16 12:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Chancel choir</p>	<p>17 10:00 a.m. Lectionary Study</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Eucharist</p> <p>6:45 p.m. YAF</p>	18	19
<p>20 8. & 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist</p> <p>9:45 a.m. Children's Pageant Brunch</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Children's Pageant</p> <p>2 p.m. Holy Eucharist at Brookdale</p>	21	<p>22 Parish Office Closed</p>	<p>23 Parish Office Closed</p> <p>12:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Chancel choir</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve Parish Office Closed</p> <p>5 & 10:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist Music begins at 10:00 p.m.</p>	<p>25 Christmas Parish Office Closed</p> <p>4-7:00 p.m. Annual Community Christmas Dinner</p>	26
<p>27 8. & 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist</p> <p>9:15 a.m. Faith formation Adult-(Library) Youth-Conf. Room Ages 3-12 Atria</p>	<p>28 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Parish Office open</p>	<p>29 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Parish Office open</p>	<p>30 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Parish Office open</p> <p>12:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Chancel choir</p>	<p>31 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Parish Office open</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Lectionary Study</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Eucharist</p> <p>6:45 p.m. YAF</p>	<p>1 Parish Office Closed</p>	2

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Emily Hubbard

Given by

Mr. & Mrs. Leno Rainero
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rodgers
 H.D. & Mary Lynn Satterwhite

Elder Jones

Given by

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rodgers
 The Bridge Club
 Dr. & Mrs. Sarfraz Zaidi

Vestry Minutes

The October 19, 2015 Vestry meeting of Emmanuel Episcopal Church was called to order at 5:15 p.m.

Members Present: Doug Mitchell, Debbie Tidwell, Barbara Walling, David Taverner, Fred Knickerbocker, Greg Oakley, Denise Rowe, Jeremy McLaughlin and Barbara Sue Kurre.

Absent: Dan Bieger and Frank Goodpasture III

Guest: Loretta Trayer

Minutes of the September 2015 meeting were distributed. There were not corrections or additions.

Rector's Report.

1. The Vestry set the Rector's housing allowance at \$24,000 for 2016.
2. The average attendance for September was 101.
3. Emmanuel is scheduled to host Family Promise Sunday December 20 through December 27. Fr. Joe is currently working with Angie Sproles, the director of Family Promise regarding 2016.
4. Fr. Joe and Bob Bruce, treasurer, are discussing the Budget/Planning Cycle.
5. Fr. Joe will be in Kanuga October 23-24; will go to Georgia for Thanksgiving, and return Saturday (November 26-28).
6. The Annual Meeting is Sunday, November 8, 9:15 a.m. The Vestry will provide a continental breakfast.
7. The Vestry Orientation/Planning date is Saturday, December 5 from 9:00 to 4:00.
8. The Christmas Dinner still needs a chairman.
9. The new Parish Directory will be out soon.
10. The Parish Office will be closed November 25 after the noon service; Thursday, November 26, and Friday November 27. The Parish Office will be closed Tuesday, December 22 and reopen Monday, December 28. Kristie will be in the office December 28-31 from 7am-3pm finalizing year end financials. The Parish Office will be closed Friday, January 1.

Deacon's Report is attached.

Wardens' Reports/ Remarks

Senior Warden:

1. Supper Club meet at the Moore's and everyone had a great time.
2. Kristie and Don are doing a great job in the nursery. Anna Bondy will fill in when Kristie and Don are not able to keep the nursery.

Junior Warden:

1. New plants will be added to the existing landscaping in late February. There are plans to run a water line to these plants to keep them from dying.

Committee Reports:

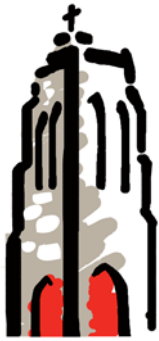
1. After the Fine Arts Committee report, the finance committee will move forward with an assessment plan concerning this report. Fr. Joe will check with the insurance company as to our coverage of the windows, needlepoint and wood in our church.

Old Business:

1. Teen Ministries – schedule for adults through November
November 1–Barbara Walling and Denise Rowe
November 15–David Taverner
November 22–Doug Mitchell
November 29–Greg Oakley and Debbie Tidwell

Treasurer's Report attached.

Prayer/Adjournment



DECEMBER 2015 MESSENGER

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
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www.emmanuelbristol.org
(276)669-9488
700 Cumberland Street
Bristol, VA 24201

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Return Service Requested

MESSENGER

The deadline to submit information for the January 2016 Messenger is December 11. Please be prompt.

Weekly Schedule

SUNDAY SERVICES
8 a.m. Rite I
10:30 a.m. Rite II

SUNDAY FAITH FORMATION
9:15 a.m. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Youth Formation
9:30 a.m.
Adult Forum (Library)

WEDNESDAY SERVICE
12:15 p.m.
Holy Eucharist & Prayers for Healing
Bledsoe Chapel

CHOIR REHEARSAL
Thursday 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY EUCHARIST & YAF
6 p.m. Bledsoe Chapel
6:45 p.m. YAF



BIBLE STUDY
10 a.m.
Thursday
Conf. Room

Sunday, December 6–The 2nd Sunday of Advent
Baruch 5:1–9; The Song of Zechariah; Philippians 1:3–11; Luke 3:1–6

8:00 a.m. Lector Seth Allen
10:30 a.m. Lector Janet Jayne
Intercessor Tom Rogers
Eucharistic Ministers Tom Rogers & Walt Bressler
Ushers Ann and Greg Oakley

Sunday, December 20–The 4th Sunday of Advent
Micah 5:2–5a; The Song of Mary; Hebrews 10:5–10; Luke 1:39–55

8:00 a.m. Lector Dave Zochowski
10:30 a.m. Lector Shauna Nefos-Webb
Intercessor Mary Beth Rainero
Eucharistic Ministers Seth Allen & Fred Knickerbocker
Ushers Ann Christ & Frank Goodpasture III

Sunday, December 27–The First Sunday after Christmas

Exodus 33:18–33; Psalm 92; 1 John 1:1–9; John 21: 19b–24
8:00 a.m. Lector Frank Goodpasture III
10:30 a.m. Lector Tom Rogers
Intercessor Sue Prill
Eucharistic Minister Tom Rogers
Ushers Debbie Tidwell & TBD

Sunday, December 13–The 3rd Sunday of Advent
Zephaniah 3:14–20; The Song of Isaiah; Philippians 4:4–47; Luke 3:7–18

8:00 a.m. Lector Harriett Harty
10:30 a.m. Lector Ashley McLaughlin
Intercessor Jeremy McLaughlin
Eucharistic Minister Tom Hairston
Ushers TBD

December 24–The Nativity of Our Lord

Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 5:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.
Music will begin at 10:00 p.m.