

From The Rector

Remember Casey Kasem's *American Top Forty*? I have happy memories of my college years and of living in the dorm. Things have changed and those changes are for the better.

We typed our term papers on typewriters, had to go to the library to research a topic, and never entertained the idea of calling a professor by his or her first name. We didn't know a lot about what was going on in the world beyond the campus. There was one television in our dorm which housed three hundred men. There were nine payphones but they and the TV were often broken. I don't remember that mattering to us very much. But we all had radios and on Saturdays we would listen to Casey Kasem count down the forty top songs that week.

It wasn't that we particularly cared what song was number one but he had a way of making it interesting. He would build up to "a brand new number one hit." When he finally got through the other thirty-nine to number one it was hardly a surprise. It was, after all, only number one because everyone was listening to it.

At the end of the *American Top Forty* broadcast, Casey Kasem always signed off with, "Keep your feet on the ground and keep reaching for the stars!"

Can our religion be characterized as a kind of feet on the ground reaching for the stars kind of faith? Is our faith grounded in reality and characterized by hope? I think it is fair to say that Christianity is exactly that. We do not shrink from the hard realities of life. In that sense our feet are on the ground. But we are filled with awe, expectation, hope, and joy as we reach for the reign of Christ in the world and in our individual lives.

Advent is when we prepare for the Feast of the Nativity on Christmas Eve and the twelve days of Christmas leading to the Feast of Epiphany. We will live out the drama of Christ coming to us as one of us—that's the feet on the ground part—and the spiritual aha moments of the visit of the magi, the baptism of our Lord, and the transfiguration. I invite you to keep the distractions at bay and focus on the spiritual this Advent.

See you Sunday if not before.



Joins us for the

36th Annual Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 25 • 4—6:00 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.

See Sharon Kyser or Fred Knickerbocker to volunteer.

36th Annual Community Christmas Dinner



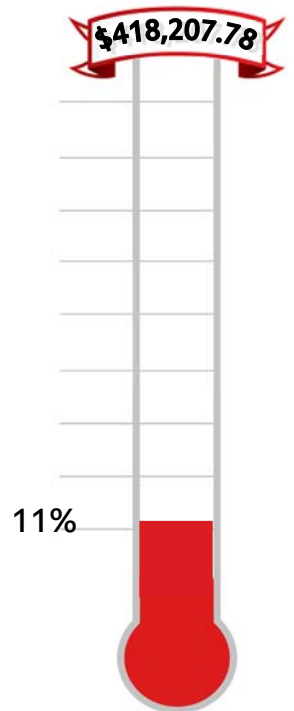
Make someone's Christmas merry—yours! Come join us Christmas Day for the 36th Annual Community Christmas Dinner. We need volunteers in many different capacities: set up, greeters, servers, kitchen help, ushers, carolers, clean up...and, of course, good cheer spreaders! Emmanuel is blessed to have many new members, and all are invited to participate. We hope to be able to pair new members with an experienced mentor so that serving at the Christmas Dinner will be a positive, rewarding experience. We will be posting sign-up sheets soon. Please consider being a part of this year's celebration.

2017 Stewardship Update

as of Tuesday, November 22
we have received

23 pledges totaling **\$48,010 (11%)**
of our needed

\$418,207.78



Want to make your 2017 pledge? Fill out the form below and mail it to:
Emmanuel Episcopal Church 700 Cumberland St. Bristol, VA 24201



Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

For more information about Emmanuel's budget or Endowment please call the parish office or the rector.

I will make my offering to Emmanuel Episcopal Church in the amount of \$ _____

My gift will be given:

Weekly

Monthly

Quarterly

Annually

My check, made payable to Emmanuel Episcopal Church is enclosed.



Reminder to Meals on Wheels Drivers

Meals on Wheels is the **1st Wednesday** every month

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| December 7 | January 4 | February 1 |
| March 1 | April 5 | May 3 |
| June 7 | July 5 | August 2 |
| September 6 | October 4 | November 1 |
| | December 6 | |

Thank you all for your ministry in our community.

Contact Sandra Rushing for more information.

Bristol Faith in Action



Bristol Faith in Action is currently seeking qualified applicants to fill two positions.

- Program Assistant
20 hours per week
- Client Services Coordinator,
25 hours per week.

For full job descriptions, please contact the Parish Office.

Thank you from Social Club

On December 6, the Social Club will host its last meal of 2016 at Emmanuel Episcopal Church. The Social Club is a mission of the church which provides dinner, fellowship and fun for our neighbors the first Tuesday of each month. We entered December having fed 592 meals to our participants, which already exceeds the number served in 2015.

Part of the fun is the bingo games played, which featured prizes donated from parishioners. The church responded to our increased attendance with more door prizes than ever before. The Social Club Crew wishes to thank everyone who donated prizes this year. Your participation meant a great deal!

The first meal in 2017 will be in March. Thank you to all who cooked, served, participated with and waited on our guests this year!

Wednesday Young Adult Formation

Everyone is welcome
Wednesday evenings at 6.00 p.m. for
Bible Study and Fellowship
in the Parish Hall.

Childcare is provided.

Feel free to bring your dinner and eat
in the Parish Hall prior to Bible study.

Chair Lift

The new chair lift will be installed
the week of November 28 with
December 1 set as the completion date.

The total cost of replacement is **\$29,000**.

We have currently received **\$10,575** in
donations to offset the expense.

If you would like to contribute to this
project, please contact the Parish Office.

The Director of Formation Ministries



I want to share with you some wisdom, not my own, that I had the privilege of sharing with some of our young people at our meeting a couple of weeks ago. I told them that I wanted our little band of budding Christians to be in the habit of

sharing inspiration we'd found in our day-to-day lives. Inspiration (literally "give breath to") is a sure sign that the Holy Spirit is moving. By naming it and sharing it, we begin to open our eyes and hold each other accountable to where God is animating our gifts to respond in the world. The wisdom I shared comes from an introduction by John Swinton to a book, *Living Gently in a Violent World* by Stanley Hauerwas and Jean Vanier. It recounts story from a class on pastoral care that the author was teaching.

At one point in the class, people were sharing their various spiritual experiences. [A] woman who was deaf, Angela, began to tell us about a dream she'd had. In that dream she had met with Jesus in heaven. She and Jesus talked for some time, and she said she had never experienced such peace and joy. "Jesus was everything I had hoped he would be," she said. "And his signing was amazing!"

For Angela, heaven's perfection did not involve being "healed" of her deafness. Rather, it was a place where the social, relational, and communication barriers that restricted her life in the present no longer existed. What had been a "disability" no became the norm; that which led to exclusion, anxiety, separation and loss of opportunity now became the precise mode in which Jesus addressed her.

Earlier this month at an overnight in Roanoke as part of my discernment to Holy Orders, the topic of the Christian theology of death came up. Someone asserted something that I hadn't considered, namely that in heaven, we will not be perfect, omniscient, or omnipotent. We will not be God-like. What we will have though, where our eternal hope lies, is in a full understanding and experience of who God is, and who we are as his good creations. That which frustrates us and weighs us down now, our sin, brokenness, weakness, our cracks and knots, will be the surfaces through which God enters, dwells, and reveals himself to us.

Advent is a time of expectation and preparation, of remembering the birth of the Christ child and renewing our commitment to prepare his way here on Earth. For me, Angela's story is inspiration to use my spiritual disciplines (prayer, study, conversation, action, etc.) to experience Jesus the way Angela did, and to reflect that Jesus, to be that Jesus in the world around me, around family during the holidays, in my giving, in my receiving for that matter, in my encounters with strangers and neighbors. It's not clear to me now what that looks like, which means I have spiritual work to do. If you find inspiration in this, won't you join me?

Peace,
John Simpson

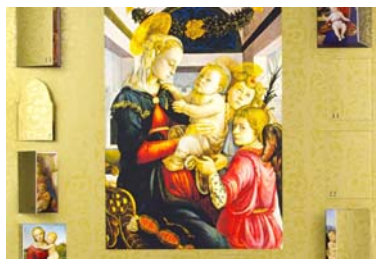
Need help getting started at home?
Consider these resources on the Advent page at buildingfaith.org

Four Options for Advent

Wreath Prayers at Home



Advent Calendars



Advent Discussion Spirals



Telling Time: Slowing down in Advent



Vestry News

The October 17, 2016 Vestry meeting of Emmanuel Episcopal Church was called to order at 5:15 p.m.

Members present: Fred Knickerbocker, Doug Mitchell, Tom Rogers, Barbara Sue Kurre, Greg Oakley, Jeremy McLaughlin, Sharon Kyser, Michael Webb, Audrey Zaidi, Maggie Green
Members Absent: Debbie Tidwell, Barbara Walling

Opening prayer

Minutes of the September 2016 Vestry meeting were approved after one change under new business. It was Michael Webb and Jeremy McLaughlin who are researching the cost of a new portable audio system.

Rector's Report:

- The work on the Apostles window will be complete this week and the scaffolding will be removed. The final invoice will follow soon. All repairs were completed as needed and no additional costs are anticipated.
- If anyone is interested in becoming more involved at the Diocesan level, there is a convocation meeting the last Sunday of the month at 2:30 that you can attend. This is an important meeting because elections will be taking place. Father Joe would love to have new people nominated for the Standing Committee or other diocesan offices.
- Fr. Joe will be at an overnight retreat at Diocese this week. He will also take some personal time around November 3rd.
- Dr. Tom Day will be facilitating at the Vestry Retreat on December 3rd here at Emmanuel.
- Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, November 13, 2016. Four new vestry members will be elected that day and committee reports will be given to the congregation. We currently have three vestry nominees. The nominating committee will meet with Fr. Joe to finalize this list.

Director of Formation Ministries Report:

- John reported that the acolyte trip to Washington DC was a huge success. Everyone was grateful for the funds that were made available from previous fundraising. Plans are going forward for next year.
- Youth events will be held twice a month, one Sunday evening at the church and one Sunday at someone's home. This week they will be carving pumpkins and roasting marshmallows. Additional adults will be involved at every outing.
- New furniture has been donated for the youth room. Plans are continuing to update this room. The youth are encouraged to take ownership of this room.
- The young adult program on Wednesday evening is growing. They are currently doing a lectionary study of the week's lessons.

Senior Warden Report:

- Sharon Kyser and Fred Knickerbocker have taken the lead for the Christmas dinner. There will be a planning session after 8:00 service on Sunday, October 30. All are welcome.

- Sharon will take an inventory of gifts, ornaments, and kitchen supplies before re-ordering for this year.

Junior Warden Report:

- Jeremy McLaughlin and Tom Rogers finalized the 2015 audit report and submitted it to the Vestry. It is ready to be sent to the Diocese.
- The only significant change is that in 2015 checks had to be signed by two people. For 2016, the approval for checks goes through four people before the check is written. Only one signature is now needed.
- Tom Rogers brought up that Trustees need to be registered with the court. Right now there are four on record for Emmanuel, we only need three. King Rogers needs to be officially removed. Tom will follow up with Nell Bieger on this matter.
- Doors in the office wing are being completed in the next few days. The red dust will be cleaned up everywhere.
- The Junior Warden requested funds to complete the replacement of thermostats in the church, insulation, and to run wire for wireless access. The total funds required is \$1300.00. Jeremy made the motion to accept this, second by Sharon Kyser. This was approved unanimously by the vestry.
- Lift repairs should be completed in November. A request for funds for this project will be put in the Messenger.
- Backlighting for the stained glass windows was discussed. Jeremy will look into an estimates and bring it back to the Vestry.

Treasurer's Report:

- Greg reported there have been no significant changes from last month
 - Pledges are current
 - The only part of the budget that is behind are non-pledge revenues
 - Cash flow is strong
- The Finance committee brought two items to be approved by the Vestry.
- Rector's housing allowance needs to be approved every year. \$28,000 was approved for 2017.
 - The oven in the kitchen is not working properly. This needs to be repaired or replaced before the Christmas dinner. Tom Hairston has someone to come and look at it to determine if it can be fixed. A request for funds not to exceed \$5000.00 to repair/replace the stove was approved by the Vestry.

New business:

Catechesis

- Fr. Joe met with members of the Catechesis and discussed repairs needed in one of the Atria, security concerns, open houses, and communication with nursery.
- John has been asked to make sure there is something for children during the summer and other times when Catechesis is not meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Vestry Workshop

The Vestry invites all current and incoming Vestry members, as well as other ministry leaders, to attend a Leaders' Workshop on Saturday, December 3 at Emmanuel. Your attendance as leaders of our church is important not only for continuing to chart a course for Emmanuel, but also for your own spiritual development. The Rev. Dr. Tom Day will facilitate our time together. Fr. Day is a gifted and missions-minded leadership mentor. During this workshop, he will help us explore blending our sacramental life with our daily life; challenge us in our financial responsibilities; and uncover how we can continue to invite and develop new members in our church. There will be

plenty of time for group discussions and looking at possibilities for the upcoming year.

This is not just for the vestry, but also leaders of ministries, staff, and all those interested in the spiritual growth and development of our church. The workshop will start promptly at 8:00 am in the Parish Hall and close at 12:00 noon. A light breakfast and refreshments will be offered. If you would like to attend, please notify Sharon Kyser (email sharon.r.kyser@gmail.com, or phone 423-302-0825) or the Emmanuel office so we may have an accurate attendance count.

Parish Calendar

DECEMBER

2016

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| 8. & 10:30am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Faith Formation | | | 12:15pm Holy Eucharist 6pm Young Adults 7pm Choir | 1 10:00am Lectionary Study | 2 | 3 9:00am Vestry Workshop 5:00pm Holy Eucharist |
| 4 8. & 10:30am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Faith Formation | 5 | 6 6:00pm Social Club | 7 Meals on Wheels 12:15pm Holy Eucharist Chrismon Tree Del. 6pm Young Adults 7pm Choir | 8 10:00am Lectionary Study | 9 December Messenger Deadline | 10 5:00pm Holy Eucharist |
| 11 8. & 10:30am Holy Eucharist | 12 | 13 | 14 12:15pm Holy Eucharist 5:15pm Finance Committee 6pm Young Adults 7pm Choir | 15 10:00am Lectionary Study | 16 | 17 5:00pm Holy Eucharist |
| 18 8. & 10:30am Holy Eucharist 9:am Pageant Breakfast 10:30 am Children's Pageant Greening of the Church after 10:30 service | 19 | 20 | 21 12:15pm Holy Eucharist 6pm Young Adults 7pm Choir | 22 | 23 Parish Office Closed Christmas | 24 5:00pm & 10pm Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist |
| 25 10:30am Christmas Day Holy Eucharist 4-6 pm 35 th Annual Community Christmas Dinner | 26 Parish Office Closed Christmas | 27 | 28 12:15pm Holy Eucharist 6pm Young Adults 7pm Choir | 29 LAST DAY to submit 2016 Contributions turn in before noon 10:00am Lectionary Study | 30 Parish Office Closed | 31 Vestry Retreat 5:00pm Holy Eucharist Bledsoe Chapel |

Birthdays, Anniversaries & Prayers

PRAYER REQUESTS

Jim Barber, Ruby Barber, Richard Barnes, Diane Bedwell, Carol Biegler, Walt Bressler, Sue Brickey, Barbara Bunn, Winifred Campbell, Ben Crenshaw, Sharon Cross, Ivy Daniels, Alva, Emma, Alan Kurre Elliott, Paul Fennick, Ham Fuller, Paul Giesey, Ann Gillenwater, Annette, Sharon Hatcher, David Haynes, Will Haynes, Tom Hurt, Margaret Hutson, Michael Johnston, Chris Mallin, Gayle Mallin, Ann Martin-Thomas, Gordon McLarty, Jill Mendiljian, Claire Miller, George Miller, Frank Molteni, Dan Morgan, Mark Morgan, Rachael Morgan, Jack Presnell, Tony Morrell, Gerry Muncie, Jan Ransom, Rick Rimer, Jim Rodgers, Joyce Rodgers, Robert Rodgers, Denise Rowe, Norma Shew, Sharon Slaughter, Mary Jo Thomas

Lay Minister Schedule & Propers

Sunday, December 4–Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

8:00 am Lector..... David Taverner
 10:30 am LectorJanet Jayne
 Intercessor..... Michael Webb
 Lay Eucharistic Minister..... Tom Rogers
 Acolytes..... David, Grace, Lola, Lana, Hagan, and Adilyn
 Ushers..... Maggie Green and Barbara Sue Kurre

Sunday December 11–Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

8:00 am Lector..... Fred Knickerbocker
 10:30 am LectorSharon Kyser
 Intercessor..... Ashley McLaughlin
 Lay Eucharistic Minister..... Tom Hairston
 Acolytes..... Jack, Mayne, Elayna, Millie, Judson, and Amelia
 Ushers..... Lisa and Doug Mitchell

Sunday, December 18–Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

8:00 am Lector..... Frank Goodpasture III
 10:30 am LectorJeremy McLaughlin
 Intercessor..... Bob Hardee
 Lay Eucharistic Minister..... Jeremy McLaughlin
 Acolytes..... Tucker, Grace, Adilyn, Kira, Hagan, and Lana
 Ushers..... Nell and Dan Bieger

Saturday, December 24–Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11–14; Luke 3 2:1–20

5:00 p.m.

Lector..... Mary Beth Rainero
 IntercessorDave Zochowski
 Lay Eucharistic MinisterChris Yoder
 Acolytes Hagan, Lola, Millie,
 Elayna, Judson, and Mayne
 Ushers TBD

10:00 p.m.

Lector.....Debbie Tidwell
 Intercessor.....John Simpson
 Lay Eucharistic Minister..... Tom Rogers
 Acolytes.....Gabrielle Tidwell
 and Tucker Couch
 Ushers..... TBD

Saturday, December 25–Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-14

10:30 am LEM and IntercessorJohn Simpson

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Denise Rowe
- 3 Mary Curtin
Joyce Rodgers
Christina Zochowski
- 6 Martha Litton
- 7 Mary Betn 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
- 22 Loretta Trayer
- 24 Mary Armstrong
Doris Hagey
Audra Jones
Elizabeth Oakley
- 25 Kira Adams
- 30 Robert Rodgers
Matt Wood
- 31 Mike Johnston

DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Gwen & Archie Hubbard
- 10 Audrey & Sarfraz Zaidi
- 16 Stephanie & Chris Yoder
- 20 Bettie & Jim Hite
Barbara Sue & Joe Kurre
- 31 Tina & Ed Hitt
Shauna Nefos & Michael Webb



DECEMBER 2016
MESSENGER

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

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MESSENGER

The deadline to submit information for the January 2017 Messenger is December 9. Please be prompt.

Weekly Schedule

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 a.m. Rite I
10:30 a.m. Rite II
Holy Eucharist

SUNDAY

FAITH FORMATION

9:15 a.m. Catechesis
of the Good Shepherd

Youth Formation

9:30 a.m.

Adult Formation

WEDNESDAY

12:15 p.m.

Holy Eucharist &
Prayers for Healing
Bledsoe Chapel

6:00 p.m.

Young Adult Formation

7:00 p.m.

Choir

BIBLE STUDY

10 a.m.

Thursday

SATURDAY

SERVICE

5:00 p.m.

Holy Eucharist

Children's Pageant

Sunday, December 18

9:00 a.m. Breakfast

10:30 a.m. Pageant



We will once again celebrate an annual tradition with a delicious breakfast prepared by church members at **9:00 am on Sunday, December 18.** Afterwards, please stay for the Children's Pageant during the **10:30 am service.** All children are invited to participate.. If anyone is interested in helping with the breakfast please contact Spike Tickle or Mike Riley. If your child or grandchild would like to be in the pageant, please contact Julia Rainero

