

## From The Rector

Again this year I will remember the prayer Dag Hammarskjöld wrote in his journal on New Year's Eve:

*For all that has been, Thanks.  
For all that will be, Yes!*

As I think about the things for which I am thankful, I realize it is not *things* but *relationships* that have made my life happier and fuller in 2015. Never were those relationships accentuated more than when Kathy (my wife) was in a car wreck last summer. I will always remember arriving at the site near the marina where the accident occurred and seeing Kathy in the back of an ambulance. The car was totaled and Kathy spent a couple of days in the hospital but we replaced the car easily enough and Kathy has made a complete recovery. The aftermath of the accident was marked with kindness and support from our Emmanuel family. We are thankful for the Slagles who came to Kathy's aid immediately and took care of our dog, Prancer, who was in the car. We are thankful for Fred

Knickerbocker's calm reassurance during Kathy's recuperation and for all the people who offered prayers, brought food, and visited.

My point is that it is not the things that happen to us but the relationships, including our spiritual family, that are ultimately most important. I have said to a number of you that 2016 is going to be a great year at Emmanuel. It will be if we say yes to God's abundant gifts, starting with the grace to be thankful for all that has been, and to forgive.

Through the red doors representing the atoning blood of Christ, we enter a house of prayer and our spiritual home. Join me in a New Year's resolution to seek a deeper relationships with God and each other. Following the admonition of St. Paul to his spiritual family, the church at Philippi, let us remember the Lord is near and let our gentleness be known to everyone, being kind and careful and calm.

See you Sunday if not before.

## *With Joy and Thanksgiving for their Ministry*

The Rev. Dr. Craig R. Wylie will be serving Faith Lutheran Church in Bristol.

**Deacon Preston Mitchell** has been reassigned to ministries closer to his and Patty's home in Big Stone Gap and he will be helping develop possible new ministries including prisons and the Haiti Collaborative.

**Bob Bruce** has served faithfully as Emmanuel's Treasurer. Under his leadership our financial processes were improved resulting in a successful outside review by an independent accounting agency.

**Denise Rowe** was our Senior Warden for 2015. Her ministry included managing the nursery and the Christmas Diner in addition to her other Senior Warden duties.

**David Taverner, Frank Goodpasture III, Denise Rowe** and **Dan Bieger** rotated off the Vestry. Their class led Emmanuel during the transitional years leading to the call of a new Rector

*Thanks be to God for their good and faithful service!*



## Formation Ministries

"So, what's your Good News?" I ask the assembled young people at Sunday school that morning. In the Gospel reading John the Baptist, after ripping into the crowds that came to be

baptized calling them a brood of vipers, tells them essentially "turn from your old ways, and do what you know is right." The crowd loves it. They were filled, it says, with "expectation." John the Baptist had proclaimed to them Good News. Surely some of them changed their ways, and made the world around them look just a little more like what God intended.

My question fell silently over the room. "That's a tough one" I offered, as I reel the question back in. Tough, perhaps, because the answer is different for everyone. There are some answers to be sure that are universal. But even in our Gospel reading John's advice was unique to the tax collectors and the soldiers. To the blind, it is sight. To the hungry, it is life-giving bread. I think each of us receives our Good News in our own way. And just like the tax collectors and the soldiers, our responses to the Good News are going to be unique.

I've been heartened by the passion I've seen at Emmanuel for the discipleship of our young people. I see it in talking and visiting with our wonderful catechists in the atria, and the joy the children -including Marshall, my son - take in being a part of it. It shows in the enthusiasm for Sunday School, in parents that prioritize their children's presence there, and the adults who offer their presence. And it's no small wonder these followers of Jesus gathered at Emmanuel Episcopal Church are so eager to share, spread, transmit, and translate their faith: the disciples at Emmanuel hold profound Good News, and they are responding!

This reality arrived in special clarity on Christmas Day in the Parish Hall during the annual Christmas Dinner. It arrived in a vignette, as if it had been set by a Hollywood or Broadway director or a Renaissance painter. Already that evening I'd been moved by the significant number of people who entered the bell tower and nave soaking wet, having clearly walked a ways in the persistent rain to get to a welcoming place and a hot meal. Take a moment and imagine what would motivate you to go to such lengths, to arrive in such a state. What deep longing would you sojourn like that to satisfy. We all have one. Anyway, that night, Emmanuel was a beacon, haven, sanctuary, a light shining in the darkness.

The scene was this: singers with beautiful voices at the piano, some with no use for song sheets, blessing the room with their voices; children leaving the library clutching a precious toy; a basketball team from out of town singing the Christmas carols of their fatherland; a new formation director, feet sore from watching, learning, but not being particularly helpful, savoring a hot meal with guests and volunteers; two guests, high school friends now middle-aged parents, facing one another holding hands and encouraging one another through dark winter months.

This is, as close as I can conceive, what heaven is like, what God is working through us to make on Earth: all gathered with their gifts and their wounds, giving gladly of what God's given them, and receiving Christ's healing balm from one another.

This is good news (note the lower-case) for me in shepherding youth discipleship at Emmanuel. No one of us - especially myself - holds the whole message. Each one of us is a unique translation of the Gospel, a new response to the Good News. And when the Holy Spirit works to raise up a follower of Jesus, the Spirit does so through the host of saints around that person. My time here at Emmanuel will be spent building the scaffolding around our young people for the Holy Spirit to do the work. My good news is that the Spirit was working long before I arrived, and will continue to work long after I'm gone.

So let's build something! My first order of business is to form a committee to set the vision of the youth program, tell its success stories, and hold its institutional memory. We'll set a calendar of events, formational and fun, to foster relationships among youth and the adults. Then we'll recruit the congregation to take purposeful roles in setting the program in motion. Just like the church, there's room for everyone. Some are comfortable being chaperones and load-bearing leaders in the program, some have gifts in hosting one-time events or performing specific tasks, while others can fill in behind the scenes.

I can't close with anything more important than profound thanks to the welcome Emmanuel has given me and my family, and an exclamation of how excited I am to be a part of what the faithful at Emmanuel are doing. Pray for me, please, for our youth and for one another, that our Good News shine boldly as an example to one another.

Faithfully yours,

John Simpson  
Director of Formation Ministries

# Parish Life: Activities, Events, News

## Thank You

Thank you to everyone who assisted with the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Dinner. From donations of gifts, to desserts, to giving of your time, it wouldn't have been possible without all of you who ministered to our community on Christmas! We would also like to thank those who donated funds in December for the annual Boys Home Christmas sponsorship.

Thanks to the generosity of the parishes in our diocese, the Boys Home was able to furnish Christmas gifts for their residents. Following is a thank you card Emmanuel received from one of the boys.



Dear Friends,  
Thank you so much for making it possible for me to receive Christmas gifts. I hope that you & your family have a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!!  
Love  
TAZE

## Acolyte Training

January 24, 12:00 -2:00 p.m. (after the 10:30 Eucharist)  
LUNCH PROVIDED! If service at the altar is one of your gifts to Emmanuel, please join us! Let's celebrate what we do together and start the year off on the same page. Never quite sure what to do in a certain moment of worship? Bring your questions and ideas. RSVP to Debbie Tidwell at [lesssofdeb@charter.net](mailto:lesssofdeb@charter.net)

## Confirmation Preparation

In the Episcopal Church one of the sacramental duties of a bishop is the confirmation of mature Christians. Bishop Bourlakas is scheduled to be at Emmanuel on the Feast of Pentecost, May 15, when he will confirm those who are "ready and have been duly prepared to make a mature public affirmation of their faith."

Those who should consider confirmation preparation include young people who were baptized as infants or who have not been baptized and believe they are now ready to affirm the baptismal covenant and vows made on their behalf as babies or desire to be baptized now. Our Formation Minister is planning confirmation preparation for youth that will be fun, conversational, experiential, and liturgical. Participants will commit to making this a priority for their spring schedules. Holy Week begins on March 20th and will factor heavily into the process. Young people who are interested in intentional preparation for this sacrament should contact John Simpson ([emmanuelforma@gmail.com](mailto:emmanuelforma@gmail.com)) by January 17.

Adults who have not been baptized or who were baptized but have never been confirmed or received as Episcopalians should speak with Father Joe about their preparation for confirmation (or reception into the Episcopal Church). Adults who desire a deeper spiritual life should also speak with Father Joe about preparation for renewal of the Baptismal Covenant.

## Looking Ahead

Wednesday, January 6  
Epiphany

Sunday, January 17, 3:00 p.m.  
Abingdon Convocation at Emmanuel

Sunday, January 24  
Attendance Sunday

Sunday, January 24, 12:00 -2:00 p.m.  
Acolyte Training

Friday, January 29—Sunday, January 31  
97<sup>th</sup> Annual Council

Wednesday, February 10, 12:15 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.  
Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, March 3, during 8 & 10:30 a.m.  
Virginia Haiti Collaborative

Thursday, March 24, 7:00 p.m.  
Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, March 25, 7:00 p.m.  
Good Friday Service

Saturday, March 26, 7:30 p.m.  
The Great Vigil of Easter

Sunday, May 15 during the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist  
Confirmation

# Parish Calendar and Prayer Requests

## BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Tom Hairston
- 5 Dan Bieger
- 6 Susan Knickerbocker
- 11 Rowan Sullivan
- 12 Tommy Curtin
- Morgan Armstrong
- 14 John Ed Fuller
- 16 Adrienne Hess
- Emma Jones
- 17 Matt Lavinder
- 19 Jane Copenhaver
- Chris Yoder
- 20 Maggie Green
- 21 George Miller, Lisa Tickle
- 23 Moseley Snyder
- 24 Joe Dunagan
- 28 Ron Hurst
- 29 John Harty, Lee Wampler

## WEDDING

### ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Linda and Mike Riley
- 8 Audra and Blair Jones
- 12 Doris and Bill Hagey

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Jim Barber, Ruby Barber, Carol Biegler, 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, Joe Kurre, Chris Mallin, Gayle Mallin, Ann Martin-Thomas, Jim McGlothlin, Jill Mendiljian, Claire Miller, Helen Moore, Dan Morgan, Mark Morgan, Rachael Morgan, Jim Rodgers, Joyce Rodgers, Robert Rodgers, Denise Rowe, Norma Shew, Sharon Slaughter, Cody Snyder, Anna Stuart, Julian Van Winkle, Sarah Vaughn, Charlotte Vaughn, Reilly Vaughn, and the families in Family Promise, Will Haynes, and all who serve in the military, and their families.

# January

# 2016

| Sunday   | Monday                 | Tuesday | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday   |
|--|------------------------|---------|--|--|--|--|
|  |                        |         |  |  | 1<br>Parish Office Closed                              | 2  |
| 3<br>8. & 10:30 a.m.<br>Holy Eucharist<br><br>9:15 a.m.<br>Faith formation<br>Adult-(Library)<br>Youth-(Conf. Room)<br>Ages 3-12 Atria   | 4                      | 5       | 6<br>12:15 p.m.<br>Holy Eucharist<br><br>5:15 p.m. Finance<br>Comm.<br><br>7:00 p.m.<br>Chancel choir      | 7<br>10:00 a.m.<br>Lectionary Study<br><br>6:00 p.m. Eucharist<br><br>6:45 p.m. YAF  | 8  | 9  |
| 10<br>8. & 10:30 a.m.<br>Holy Eucharist<br><br>9:15 a.m.<br>Faith formation<br>Adult-(Library)<br>Youth-(Conf. Room)<br>Ages 3-12 Atria  | 11<br>5:15 p.m. Vestry | 12      | 13<br>12:15 p.m.<br>Holy Eucharist<br><br>5:00 p.m. Finance<br>Committee<br><br>7:00 p.m.<br>Chancel choir | 14<br>10:00 a.m.<br>Lectionary Study<br><br>6:00 p.m. Eucharist<br><br>6:45 p.m. YAF | 15<br>February Messenger<br>Deadline                   | 16   |
| 17<br>8. & 10:30 a.m.<br>Holy Eucharist<br><br>9:15 a.m.<br>Faith formation<br>Adult-(Library)<br>Youth-(Conf. Room)<br>Ages 3-12 Atria<br><br>3p.m. Convocation                             | 18                     | 19      | 20<br>12:15 p.m.<br>Holy Eucharist<br><br>7:00 p.m.<br>Chancel choir                                       | 21<br>10:00 a.m.<br>Lectionary Study<br><br>6:00 p.m. Eucharist<br><br>6:45 p.m. YAF | 22   | 23   |
| 24<br>Attendance Sunday<br>8. & 10:30 a.m.<br>Holy Eucharist<br><br>9:15 a.m.<br>Faith formation<br>Adult-(Library)<br>Youth-(Conf. Room)<br>Ages 3-12 Atria<br><br>Noon<br>Acolyte Training | 25                     | 26      | 27<br>12:15 p.m.<br>Holy Eucharist<br><br>7:00 p.m.<br>Chancel choir                                       | 28<br>10:00 a.m.<br>Lectionary Study<br><br>6:00 p.m. Eucharist<br><br>6:45 p.m. YAF | 29<br>97 <sup>th</sup> Annual Council<br>Hotel Roanoke | 30<br>97 <sup>th</sup> Annual Council<br>Hotel Roanoke |
| 31<br>97 <sup>th</sup> Annual Council-<br>Roanoke  |                        |         |  |  |  |  |

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

### Alice Bieger

*Given by*  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Rogers, III

### Basil T. Harter

*Given by*  
Mr. & Mrs. John Ed Fuller

### Emily Hubbard

*Given by*  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Hagey  
Mr. & Mrs. Prent Hallenbeck  
Mr. & Mrs. Leno Rainero

### Elder Jones

*Given by*  
Mr. & Mrs. Leno Rainero

### Carla Vaughn

*Given by*  
Ms. Ronan King  
Dr. & Mrs. Fred Knickerbocker  
Mrs. Sharon Penny

# Vestry Minutes

The November 16, 2015 Vestry meeting of Emmanuel Episcopal Church was called to order at 5:14 p.m.

Members Present: Dan Bieger, Frank Goodpasture III, Fred Knickerbocker, Jeremy McLaughlin, Doug Mitchell, Greg Oakley, Denise Rowe, David Taverner, Debbie Tidwell, Barbara Waling.

Absent: Barbara Sue Kurre

Guests: Sharon Kyser, Tom Rogers, Michael Webb, and Audrey Zaidi.

## Rector's Report

- October attendance averaged 88 people per Sunday.
- Vestry Orientation and Planning meeting will be Saturday, December 5 at Jubilee House Retreat Center in Abingdon from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. At the close of the meeting, Fr. Joe would like to have
  - An inclusive Calendar for 2016 (Liturgical Feasts and Observances; Events; Stewardship; and Administrative).
  - Revisit Friedman's Reinventing Leadership
  - Ministry Reviews—What's working well? What needs attention?
  - Communication—What do we want to say and how will we say it?
  - Policies and Customaries
  - Possibly elect officers for 2016
- Emmanuel will not be hosting Family Promise the end of December. Fr. Joe is working on partnering with another area church to make our host weeks easier on our ministers from Emmanuel.
- John Simpson, his wife and children have visited the parish a few times. He has given his resignation to St. John's and has acquired a rental property in town. He will begin at Emmanuel December 1. John submitted a report which Fr. Joe distributed and is attached to the minutes. John's first Sunday with us will be Sunday, November 29.
- There will be a luncheon to welcome the Simpsons after the 10:30 Eucharist on Sunday, December 6.
- Denise Rowe will be the role of coordinator for the annual Christmas Dinner.
- Diocesan VPG this year is \$31,971.52 and the commitment form must be into the diocesan office by December 15. A motion was made by Denise Rowe to meet the obligation for the 2016 Diocesan Pledge, second was provided by Doug Mitchell, and was approved by the vestry unanimously.

The Deacon's report is attached to the minutes.

## Wardens' Reports/Remarks

- Senior Warden Report, Denise Rowe
  - Denise Rowe has spoken to several of the young adult group about assisting with the teens.

- A Night of Song was suggested by Audrey Zaidi. This will be a social event for the congregation where everyone can come together to sing familiar hymns.
  - There will be no Supper Club in January and February due to the instability of weather conditions. There is a possibility of a couple of family dinners during those months to encourage fellowship among parishioners.
  - Need assistance with Christmas Dinner
- Junior Warden Report, Jeremy McLaughlin
- Gutters need to be cleaned, possibly repaired/replaced in places, and have gutter guards installed. Motion by Doug Mitchell to approve up to \$2,000 for the gutters. Second by Debbie Tidwell. Motion approved unanimously.
  - The sidewalk is still in need of repair. Jeremy and David Taverner are working on this issue.

## Treasurer's Reports

- The treasurer, Bob Bruce, presented the 2016 Budget. The budget is attached to minutes. Some numbers will change (janitorial, and workers compensation insurance).
- Depreciation will be part of the finance numbers in 2016.
- The 2016 budget has a \$12,000 deficit.
- There are still some expenses outstanding for the Fine Arts Committee, but, there are funds left over that are being carried over to 2016.
- The pledge goal will be \$300,000 for 2016. Despite the fact that we are adding a \$50,000 staff position, the pledge goal has only risen by \$15,000.
- Motion from the finance committee is to adopt this as the budget for 2016. Motion approved unanimously.

## Old Business

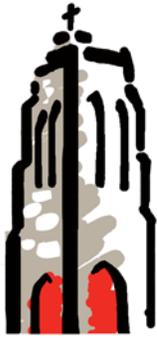
- David Taverner thanked the Vestry for the gifts he received in appreciation for his service to the Emmanuel.

## New Business

- Stewardship information will be sent out to parishioners by the end of the week.
- Fr. Joe requested that vestry members volunteer to speak to the congregation during services the next few weekends.
- The December 21 meeting will be cancelled. Items will be covered during the Vestry retreat on Saturday, December 6.

Closing Prayer: Where there is charity and wisdom, there is neither fear nor ignorance. Where there is patience and humility, there is neither anger nor vexation. Where there is poverty and joy, there is neither greed nor avarice. Where there is peace and meditation, there is neither anxiety nor doubt. Francis of Assisi

Meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.



**JANUARY 2016**  
**MESSENGER**

Emmanuel Episcopal Church  
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**MESSENGER**

*The deadline to submit information for the February 2016 Messenger is January 15. 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**

Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

**THURSDAY  
EUCARIST & YAF**

6 p.m. Bledsoe Chapel  
6:45 p.m. YAF

**BIBLE STUDY**

10 a.m.  
Thursday  
Conf. Room



Readings for January 2016

Sunday, January 10

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
*Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17;  
Luke 3:15-17. 21-22*

Sunday, January 24

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
*Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19;  
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21*

Sunday, January 17

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
*Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10;  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11*

Sunday, January 31

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
*Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71<sup>st</sup> 1-6;  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30*

**Parking Change**

Please be aware that the City of Bristol has changed parking on Cumberland Street. Vehicles may no longer park on the **west** side of Cumberland Street, but, are permitted to park on the **east** side of Cumberland Street. The Bristol Virginia Police Department has been issuing citations on Sundays for parking violations.