

# EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH



## *The PEW* Parish Events Weekly

December 18–December 24, 2015

This Sunday at Emmanuel–December 20 2015, The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m.—*Lector*: Dave Zochowski

10:30 a.m.—*Eucharistic Ministers*: John Simpson and Fred Knickerbocker

*Acolytes*: Jack, Judson, Rowan, and David

*Ushers*: Ann Christ and Frank Goodpasture III

### From the Rector

Driving around Bristol I see church signs advertising Christmas programs this week and I'm reminded of the tradition of *Gaudete Sunday*. The word comes from the fourth century Latin translation of rejoice Philippians 4: 4, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!" I suppose we stopped referring to the Third Sunday in Advent as *Gaudete Sunday* because most of us are rusty on our Latin. We could call it *Rejoice Sunday*, I suppose, but I haven't read any liturgists suggesting that. Rose colored vestments were sometimes used on *Gaudete Sunday* and that is the reason some congregations continue to have one rose colored candle in their Advent Wreath, though they probably don't realize it has any connection to the reading from the Epistle to the Philippians.

It is hard to wait until Christmas to rejoice in the coming of the Lord. It is a losing battle to try to enforce a so-called small lent during the time of preparation for the Feast of the Nativity as we do for the Feast of the Resurrection. Emmanuel is one of a growing number of Anglican parishes using blue vestments in Advent rather than Lenten purple. It's not festival white yet. That has to wait for the twelve days of Christmas. But it isn't Lenten somber either.

Waiting for Christmas has devotional value. Just as we wait for the birth of a baby, a wedding, or any other happy occasion, there is joy in the anticipation. The prophets of the Old Testament who gave voice to the emotions of the people of God who were forced to leave their homes in Israel and Judea were told to rejoice because their God was with them and would deliver them safely back to Jerusalem. And Paul wrote to the Philippians who were waiting for the kingdom, the coming of Christ in ultimate triumph of peace, to rejoice now.

The purpose of liturgy is not to be ritualistic. It is the people of God acting out the story of God's steadfast love in our time by remembering what God has done through time and will do in time. Peace will triumph. We are confident of that. So, of course, we rejoice.

*From the Rector continued on the next page*

Nonetheless, we also wait for the beauty of a traditional Christmas beginning on Christmas Eve with both an early and a late night Eucharist. We will ring the bells so the sound of joy carries through the cold December night across our community. We will sing the carols we love and hear again the ancient story of the birth of the One who would personify the peace of God which passes all understanding and love so incredible all we can do is break the silence of the night with joyful adoration. Then again as you have done for thirty-five years, we will welcome our neighbors to join us for Christmas dinner.

See you Sunday and *Christmas* if not before.

### Upcoming Events

#### **Thank you from BFIA**

Bristol Faith in Action extends their gratitude for the generosity of Emmanuel parishioners who provided 93 personal care packages to help those in need in our community.

#### **Children's Pageant and Breakfast**

We will once again celebrate an annual tradition with a delicious breakfast in the Parish Hall prepared by church members at **9:00 a.m.** on **Sunday, December 20**. Afterwards, please stay for the Children's Pageant during the **10:30 am service**. All children are invited to participate.

#### **Greening of the Church**

The annual greening of the Church will take place **Sunday, December 20** after the **10:30** Eucharist in preparation of our Christmas festivities. If you have any live greenery you would like to share, please leave it in the alley behind the kitchen any time prior to Sunday. Hope you can join us!

#### **34<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas dinner**

Preparations for the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Dinner are well underway! We anticipate another large turnout this year, and we need your help. The Emmanuel Christmas Dinner will be

Friday, **December 25**, from **4:00 p.m.** until **6:00 p.m.** We ask all parishioners to provide the following prior to the dinner:

- Desserts that do not require refrigeration
  - UNWRAPPED Children's gifts (0-12).
  - Shatter proof ornaments (keepsake)
- 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. To sign up, please contact the Senior Warden, Denise Rowe.

#### **Holiday Office Hours**

The Parish Office will be closed **Tuesday, December 22-Friday, December 25**. Office hours **Monday December 28–Thursday, December 31** will be **7:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.**

#### **Young Adults Meeting**

“Are you interested in Sunday school tailored for young adults and young families at Emmanuel? Join us on **Sunday, January 10** at **9:30 a.m.** in the Parish Hall to discuss this opportunity for 2016! We will discuss the format and topics that we could explore during the year. This group is geared toward both young adults and young families. We are excited to study scripture and get to know one another better. Nursery assistance will be provided. If you have any questions please contact Michael Webb at 423-202-0606 or mcwebb1061@gmail.com.”

I would also like to reach out personally to some individuals and couples about this group. Would you all mind to send me names and contact info for individuals and couples that you believe would be a good fit for this study group? I will personally contact them and invite them to the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Any thoughts you have about this group would be greatly appreciated. If you have any question or need anything please let me know.

Thank you, Michael Webb.

## **97<sup>th</sup> Annual Council**

The Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia will convene the 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Council January 29–31, 2016 at Hotel Roanoke, Roanoke, VA. Online registration is available through January 18. To register, please visit <http://www.dioswva.org/governance/annual-council.html>.

## **Youth at Council (Y@C)**

Y@C is available for 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> graders and will be at St. John's in Roanoke Friday evening January 29 through Sunday morning January 31. For more information please contact John Simpson, [emmanuelforma@gmail.com](mailto:emmanuelforma@gmail.com).

## Miscellaneous Notices

### **Emmanuel Christmas Ornaments**

Emmanuel Christmas ornaments are available for \$10 each in the Parish Office.

### **Large Print Copies of the BCP**

Large print copies of the Book of Common Prayer are available in the back of the church. Ask the usher's for assistance.

### **AED (automated external defibrillator)**

In the event of a cardiac emergency an AED is mounted on the wall in the chair lift alcove (2<sup>nd</sup> floor, just outside the Nave).

### **Prayer Requests**

Jim Barber, Ruby Barber, Carol Biegler, Nancy Bourke, 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, John Kennerly, 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, Anna Stuart, Julian Van Winkle, Sarah Vaughn, Charlotte Vaughn, Reilly Vaughn, the families in Family Promise, and for Will Haynes and all those serving in the military.

## **Birthdays**

- 22 Loretta Trayer
- 24 Doris Hagey, Mary Armstrong  
Audra Jones, Elizabeth Oakley
- 25 Kira Adams

## **Wedding Anniversaries**

- 20 Bettie and Jim Hite  
Barbara Sue and Joe Kurre  
Patty and Preston Mitchell

## Notes of Interest

### **Parish Office**

If you need to reach the rector whenever the office is closed, call him directly on his cell phone. You may contact the Parish Office by calling (276) 669-9488 or emailing [emmanuelbristol@gmail.com](mailto:emmanuelbristol@gmail.com). Office hours are Monday–Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### **Nursery**

The Emmanuel Nursery will be open 9:30 a.m. to noon each Sunday. We ask that there be no new checks-ins after 10:45 a.m. If no children are checked in prior to 10:45 a.m., the nursery will close.

### **Needlepoint Kneelers**

Please be aware of the potential damage caused to our beautiful kneelers when used as foot rests. If you would like to have one of the kneelers designated in memory or honor of a loved one, please contact Ann Fleming (423-652-7674) and she will show you the kneelers that are available. A donation of \$150 per kneeler is appreciated.

### **Pastoral Support**

If you are in need of pastoral support, please contact the rector directly or by calling the Parish Office.

# EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

700 Cumberland St., Bristol VA 24201 PO Box 1376, Bristol VA 24203  
 Phone: 276-669-9488 Fax: 276-669-3817  
 emmanuelbristol@gmail.com emmanuelbristol.org

The Rt. Rev. Mark A. Bourlakas, D. Min.  
*Bishop*

The Rev. Joe K. Dunagan, D. Min.  
*Rector*

The Rev. Craig R. Wylie, D. Min.  
*Assisting Priest*

The Rev. Preston Mitchell  
*Deacon*

Stephanie Yoder  
*Organist & Choir Director*

John Simpson  
*Dir. of Formation Ministries*

Kristie Faylor  
*Parish Administrator*

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

### SUNDAY SERVICES

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

### SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION

Catechesis resumes in Sept.  
 9:15 a.m. Adult Study

### WEDNESDAY SERVICE

12:15 p.m.—Bledsoe Chapel  
 Holy Eucharist with  
 Prayers for Healing

### CHOIR

7:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday

### BIBLE STUDY

10:00 a.m., Thursday  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

### THURSDAY EUCHARIST

6:00 p.m. Bledsoe Chapel  
**YAF**

## VESTRY

### 2013–2015

Dan Bieger  
 Frank Goodpasture, III  
 Denise Rowe,  
*Sr. Warden*  
 David Taverner

### 2014–2016

Fred Knickerbocker  
 Doug Mitchell  
 Debbie Tidwell

### 2015–2017

Barbara Sue Kurre,  
*Secretary*  
 Jeremy McLaughlin,  
*Jr. Warden*  
 Greg Oakley  
 Barbara Walling

### 2016–2018

Maggie Green  
 Sharon Kyser  
 Michael Webb  
 Audrey Zaidi

Bob Bruce, *Treasurer*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 20 during the 10:30 a.m. service ..... Christmas Pageant  
 Sunday, December 20 after the 10:30 a.m. service..... 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.–6:00 p.m. .... 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Christmas Dinner  
 Monday, December 28..... Last day to submit 2015 reimbursements or pledge offerings  
 Monday, December 28–Thursday, December 31, 7:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. ...Parish Office open  
 Friday, January 1 ..... Parish Office closed  
 Wednesday, January 6 ..... Epiphany  
 Monday, January 18, 5:15 p.m. .... Vestry  
 Sunday, January 24..... Attendance Sunday  
 Friday, January 29–Sunday, January 31 .....97<sup>th</sup> Annual Council

The PEW is emailed each Friday to all parishioners with a valid email address in the Parish Office. If you have any items you would like included in the update, please submit them to emmanuelbristol@gmail.com before noon each Monday.