

EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HIGH NOTES



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High Notes Submissions

Articles for the *April High Notes* must be submitted to [Kelli](#) by Friday, March 18.

Meet Our New Vestry Members

Joseph Dresen is a program associate at the Woodrow Wilson Center's Kennan Institute, where he is responsible for public events, conferences, and corporate outreach. He has edited and co-edited Institute publications on issues ranging from Russian energy, human rights, and rule of law issues. He has been interviewed on economic and policy issues on *Voice of America* and *Voice of Russia*. At Emmanuel, Joe has taught Sunday school, and served on the Rector Search Committee and the Annual Giving Team. Joe and his spouse Kelly have three children.



Margaret Wohler came to Emmanuel with her husband, Brett and children Christina and Marcus in 1995. She's served as a Sunday School teacher, Adult Spiritual Education committee member, EPS Preschool teacher and Board member, Vestry member, and Senior Warden. She's employed as a park naturalist and Illustrator at Huntley Meadows Park.

Chris Yianilos is a faculty member at Virginia Tech, where he serves as the Executive Director of Government Relations and runs and teaches a Capitol Hill focused semester in Washington, DC (called Hokies on the Hill) for Virginia Tech undergraduate students. He resides in Alexandria with his wife Torra and two children.



Our 10 -Year Vision for Emmanuel

Emmanuel Episcopal Church is a thriving, engaged and creative parish working to educate and meet the needs of children, youth and adults; live and demonstrate our Christian values; and create a more humane and just world through community service and outreach.

Diocesan Bishops

The Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston
The Rt. Rev. Susan Goff
The Rt. Rev. Ted Gulick

Emmanuel Church Staff

Rector

[The Rev. Charles C. McCoart, Jr.](#)

Priest Associate

[The Rev. Joani Peacock](#)

Seminarians

[Gethin Wied](#)

[Jordan Casson](#)

Director of Spiritual Formation for Children and Youth

[Toni Buranen](#)

Organist/Choir Director

[Ryan Fitch](#)

Parish Administrator

[Kelli Corts](#)

Administrative Assistant / Receptionist

[Karen O'Hern](#)

Nursery Caregivers

Natalie De Leon Santizo
Lilian Urrea

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Church Office Hours

Monday—Thursday
10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church

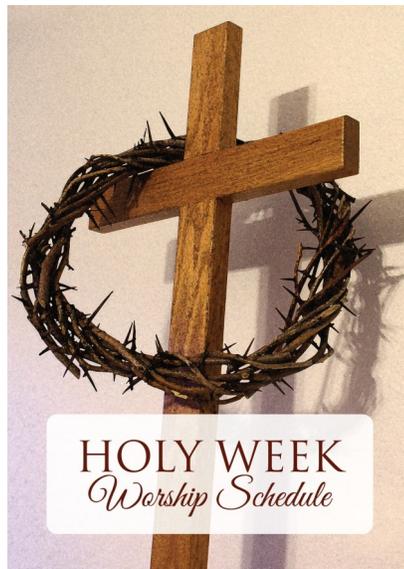
1608 Russell Road
Alexandria, VA 22301
703-683-0798 (phone)
703-683-6158 (fax)

office@emmanuelonhigh.org

www.emmanuelonhigh.org

Spiritual Growth in Lent

- "Journeying the Path of Discipleship and Confirmation — An Inquiry Class" Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the Memorial Room (*page 7*)
- "Way of the Cross" services at 7:30 p.m. each Friday in the sanctuary (*page 6*)
- Lenten devotionals: *2016 Lenten Meditations* and *Lent is Not Rocket Science* (*page 7*)
- Alexandria Ecumenical Lenten Series, "The Theology of Harry Potter," at various Alexandria churches: worship at 6:30 p.m., a simple supper at 7:00 p.m., and the program from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. (*page 8*)



Palm Sunday

March 20 — 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Maundy Thursday

March 24 — 6:30 PM

Foot Washing, Agape Supper, and Eucharist
(*page 6*)

Good Friday

March 25 — 7:30 PM

Easter Sunday

March 27 — 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Coffee Hour and Easter Egg Hunt to follow the 10:30 AM service
(*page 3*)



Easter Flowers

The Altar Guild is looking forward to a fabulous spring and a fun time decorating the church with some stunning flowers. But once again, we need your help and are seeking some extra funds to use towards decorating the church for Easter.



If you would like to make a donation and have a memoriam printed in the Easter Day bulletins, the sign-up sheet will be available on the table in the back of the church beginning March 6. Suggested donation is \$50. Payment can be made by check or through e-giving. Please note "flowers" on either payment.

Please take a moment to consider how you or your family might celebrate an occasion, remember a loved one who has died, honor a special friend or family member, or express gratitude for any number of things. Be creative!

*Kindest regards,
Your Altar Guild*



Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 27 following the 10:30 AM Service



We invite all children to participate in the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, March 27. The hunt will start about 15-30 minutes after the conclusion of the 10:30 a.m. service to allow for families to take pictures and enjoy the Easter coffee hour. The eggs will be hidden outside, weather permitting. If the weather is not cooperative the eggs will be hidden inside. There will be a designated area for children under 4. Please bring a basket and Happy Hunting.

2016 Vestry

[Bob Carragher](#) (Senior Warden)
[Adam Schildge](#) (Junior Warden)
[Patrick Adams](#) · [Lola Beggs](#)
[Leo Cruz](#) · [Joe Dresen](#)
[Katie Kelly](#) · [Bryan Moore](#)
[Joe Scott](#) · [Doug Wheeler](#)
[Margaret Wohler](#) · [Chris Yianilos](#)
[Gene Lange](#) (Treasurer)
[Meredith Wade](#) (Clerk)

Contacts for Ministry Teams

Communications: [Leo Cruz](#)

Fellowship : [Lola Beggs](#), [Chris Yianilos](#)
 Coffee Hour Baristas: [Adam Schildge](#)
 Craft & Sewing Group: [Gudrun Callahan](#)
 Inreach: [Nancy Dupree](#)
 Newcomers Welcome: [Lola Beggs](#)
 Prime Timers: [Jim Bradley](#)
 Shrine Mont Parish Retreat: [Joe Scott](#)
 Twenties & Thirties: [Leo Cruz](#), [Jennifer Jones](#)

Preschool: [Adam Schildge](#)

Service: [Katie Kelly](#), [Bryan Moore](#)
 ALIVE!: [Laura Macone](#); [Sarah Orndorff](#)
 Bag Lunch Program: [Karen Coda](#)
 Carpenter's Shelter: [Marco Dkane](#)
 Community Lodgings: [Barbara Harslem](#)
 Free School Physical Program: [Bonnie Lilley](#)
 Giving Tree: [Rachel Kliewer](#)
 Haiti: [John Maass](#)
 Haiti Coffee Sales: [Kim Scott](#)
 Meals on Wheels: [Pat Hadley](#)
 Tutoring Consortium: [Kelly Dresen](#)
 United Thank Offering: [Bonnie Fairbank](#)

Stewardship: [Joe Dresen](#), [Joe Scott](#), [Doug Wheeler](#)

Annual Giving Campaign: [Bob Carragher](#)
 Building and Grounds: [Dwayne Piepenburg](#)
 Finance: [Stewart Bartley](#)
 Foundation: [Jane Kolson](#)
 Yard Sale: [Tom and Taylor Craig](#)

Teaching: [Pat Adams](#), [Meredith Wade](#), [Margaret Wohler](#)

Adult Spiritual Formation: [Beth Boland](#)
 Sunday School: [Toni Buranen](#)
 Youth: [Toni Buranen](#)

Worship: [Bob Carragher](#), [Chuck McCoart](#)
 Acolytes: [Dave Buckman](#)
 Altar Guild: [Christina Bartley](#)
 Counters: [Jim Bradley](#)
 Music (Adult and Youth Choirs): [Ryan Fitch](#)
 Music (Guitar Circle): [Stewart Bartley](#)
 Readers (8:00): [Suji Kelly](#)
 Readers and Chalice (10:30): [Jerry Boykin](#)
 Ushers: [Bob Callahan](#)
 Worship: [Nancy Dupree](#)

From the Office of Spiritual Formation for Children and Youth

*"Create in me a clean heart, O Lord,
and renew within me a steadfast
spirit."*

— *Psalm 51*

Greetings! I hope this finds you all enjoying the last bit of winter. It is not too late to take some time during the season of Lent to create a little space for spiritual renewal in the life of your families. Perhaps you can create a little altar with a candle to spend five minutes each day together and with God. Perhaps you have chosen to give something up to remind yourself of the sacrifice of Jesus and all the gifts that we have been given. Perhaps you and your family are donating change to the Episcopal Relief and Development Hope Chest.

However you choose to do it, I hope you choose to do something. Lent is an awesome opportunity to slow down and remember and be with the God who loves me. And any way that I am able to ground my children in that same loving God is a gift.

Read on for information on upcoming events. And may God bless you during this Lenten season.

*With peace and gratitude,
Toni*

Coming Up:

Confirmation Preparation for Rising 9th Graders.

Stay tuned for information about our Confirmation preparation program for youth who are currently in eighth grade or above. Confirmation is in November when the bishop comes to visit and we are looking forward to providing opportunities for faith formation, community building, and social service for those youth who are interested in receiving confirmation. More information will be coming out by the middle of March. If you know you are interested in having your child participate or have any questions, feel free to reach out to [Toni](#) or [Janie](#).

Formal First Communion. In the Episcopal Church, children are welcome to receive communion at any

time and as early as the parents would like. However, because we have so many who are new to Emmanuel that come from other traditions, we offer an opportunity for formal First Communion preparation to our second and third graders. Preparation happens within the context of Sunday school and will begin sometime at the end of March or in the beginning of April. First communion will be on Mother's Day, May 8, at the 10:30 a.m. service. If you are interested in having your child participate in a formal first communion experience, please reach out to [Toni](#).

God & Donuts. The God & Donuts crew is going on retreat! The 6th to 9th grade members of our parish community are invited to go on our rescheduled retreat at Shrine Mont the second weekend of March. If your child is interested, please contact [Janie](#).

Forget Snow....and Think Summer!

Although we are in the heart of the winter season, registration for summer camps — adult, family, children, and youth — has begun. Go immediately to [Shrine Mont Camps website](#) and look over all the choices. Some of the sessions fill up very quickly so do not delay. Hard copies of the registration form are available in both the upstairs and downstairs foyers.

Many Emmanuel families have found time at Shrine Mont camp to be a wonderful antidote for our busy life in the city. Fresh air, lots of exercise, wholesome food, music and traditional camp 'crazy fun' prevail. Contact [Meredith Wade](#) if you or your child would like a personal conversation with a camper or camp family. But first, check out the [website](#)!



Heads Up, Youth of Emmanuel!

Here are dates you want to know for Diocesan events you might not want to miss:

- April 15-17: Current 6th & 7th Graders Weekend @ Shrine Mont
- May 13-15: Current 8th Graders Weekend @ Shrine Mont
- July 17-23: Summer Mission Trip to Philadelphia, PA for all current high schoolers

Full details on these events AND summer camps at Shrine Mont are available [here](#) (note tabs at top of page).



God and Donuts Group Bounces Back!

Disappointed that the planned retreat to the Shrine Mont area was one of the victims of Storm Jonas, the God and Donuts group quickly bounced back with a very successful Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Thankfully the snow that day was a minor event! The first arrivals at 6:00 p.m. were greeted with Mardi Gras décor, pancakes, sausages, berries and whipped cream. By 6:30 p.m. a line had formed and many children could be seen sporting Mardi Gras beads and tossing Doubloons into the container. We served about 70 people and a good time was had by all. I even saw some attendees take the placemat home to complete the word search! The kids were great in the kitchen cooking and doing dishes while other were a huge factor in the setup and cleanup. Thanks to all who attended and all who helped make the evening a success.....just look at the pictures!

The retreat has been rescheduled for the weekend of March 11-13. Fingers are crossed that Mother Nature is on board this time.

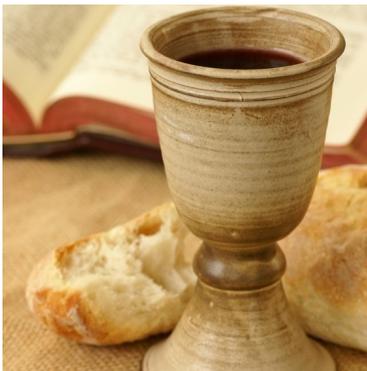
Janie Piemonte



A Down to Earth Maundy Thursday

March 24 | 6:30 PM

Maundy Thursday, in Holy Week, celebrates the Last Supper. Literally, on this night we are to remember Jesus, gathered at the table with his disciples for the very last time. Jesus shared with them a very holy meal



in a very down to earth way. On the night before he died, bread is broken and wine is poured. "This is my body. This is my blood."

Traditionally in *Triduum*, Maundy Thursday is celebrated in the church with the choir singing, foot

washing, the Eucharist, and the solemn stripping of the altar. This beautiful tradition, however, has been observed less and less here at Emmanuel with fewer and fewer folks attending over the last few years.

The parish is not just growing but evolving. And that includes our liturgy. Liturgy is the living and breathing work of the people.

This year we are going to have a very down to earth Maundy Thursday.

This special liturgy will weave together options from the *Book of Common Prayer* and *The Book of Occasional Services* appointed for the day. The inclusive service will incorporate Foot Washing, a simple Agape Supper, and conclude with the Eucharist.

Celebrated in the Parish Hall, we hope to include folks of all ages around the table. For our Agape dinner, there will be soup, bread, and fruit. Celebrating the Eucharist in the context of this shared meal, together we hope to experience communion in the spirit of the earliest Christians.

And so that we have plenty for all, please RSVP to either [Joani](#) or [Chuck](#).

Hope to see you there!

Walking the Way of the Cross

March 4, 11, & 18 | 7:30 PM

For five Fridays in Lent, here at Emmanuel, we will have the opportunity to walk "*The Way of the Cross*." This is the Episcopal liturgy for observing the Stations of the Cross, found in the *Book of Occasional Services*.

A devotion to the Passion of Christ, *The Way of the Cross*, imitates the practice of visiting the places of Jesus' Passion in the Holy Land by early Christian pilgrims. The first stations outside Palestine were built in Bolgna, Italy in the 5th century. The devotion was encouraged by the Franciscans and became common by the 15th century.

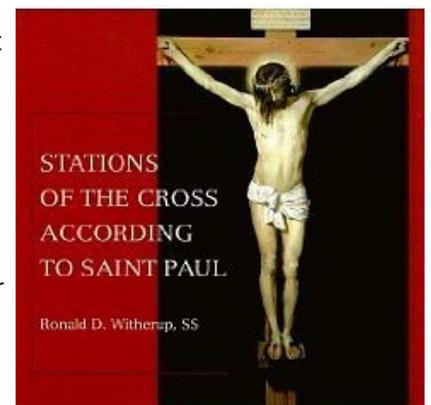
The number of stations for prayer and meditation in *The Way of the Cross* have varied throughout history but typically there are fourteen. Eight are drawn from the biblical story. Six descend from reading between the lines of scripture and church tradition.

The stations are often artistically depicted in paint, marble, clay or even cardboard. Some years ago, Emmanuel children made a set. They were much loved and well used but are no longer serviceable.

Emmanuel does not have a permanent set of stations. So this year, the clergy have devised a creative alternative. Chuck and Joani (supported by Karen!), have chosen distinct art for each station that will be printed in the bulletin. Each of the fourteen is rendered in a different style and by a different artist. Click [here](#) if you would like to have your own copy.

On alternating Fridays, we will also be using "*Stations of the Cross According to Saint Paul*" by Ronald D. Witherup. This lovely book includes snippets from Paul's letters, brief prayers, and select art from a variety of classic artists as well.

Please join us in the nave Fridays at 7:30 p.m.



Journeying the Path of Discipleship and Confirmation — An Inquiry Class

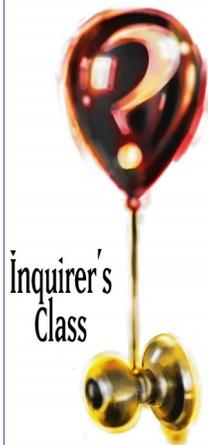
March 16, 13 & 20 | 9:30 AM

What exactly is confirmation? This is a question many people within the Church often ask when the subject gets brought up. Although we sometimes consider the rite as the beginning of official membership within the Church, it's also an invitation to greater formation as

disciples of Christ. For the five Sundays in Lent, Emmanuel seminarian Gethin Wied will be leading a class intended for anyone discerning whether they wish to be confirmed when the bishop visits later this year. The course will probe what it means to be a disciple, its implications for our common life within the Christian community and how someone might live into this call to a mature relationship with Christ. In addition to instructional information and class discussion time, meditative

exercises will also be integrated into the experience. This includes guided prayer and a form of sacred group dialogue known as *Conversatio*. Classes continue on Sunday mornings through March 20 at 9:15 a.m. in the Memorial Room.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Gethin at gwied@vts.edu. Looking forward to seeing you there!



Please consider including Emmanuel Church or Foundation in your will or living trust. For more information, contact [Jane Kolson](#).

Two Devotionals for Lent

2016 LENTEN
MEDITATIONS



Episcopal
Relief & Development
meeting a hurting world

Episcopal Relief & Development invites supporters to "Walk the Path of Lent" with this year's Lenten Meditations series, featuring reflections on spiritual practices written by the organization's staff, partners and friends from around The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. In these poignant meditations, program staff,

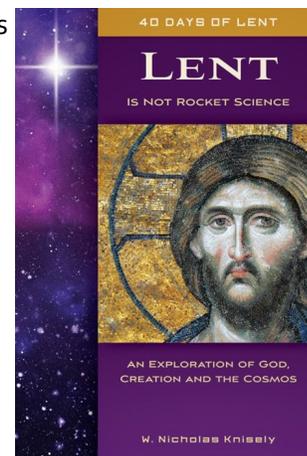
disaster response volunteers, board members and others share the breadth of spiritual practices that give them strength for the journey. "If you are like me, discerning the best Lenten spiritual practice can be difficult," said Sean McConnell, Episcopal Relief & Development's Senior Director of Engagement. "Why not spend this Lent holding in prayer those who are working with the world's most vulnerable, walking alongside participants in our programs from day to day." The digital version of the booklet is available [online](#), where you can also sign up daily e-mail meditations.

Lent is not Rocket Science

An Exploration of God, Creation, and the Cosmos.

The season of Lent prompts us to ask questions, big and small, about the nature of our being, and about our role in the world. In these daily Lenten reflections, astronomer, physicist, and Episcopal Bishop W. Nicholas Knisely explores the intersection of faith and science, creation and the cosmos.

Hardcopies of both can be found in the vestibule. A \$5 donation to help defray the cost is appreciated!



2016 ALEXANDRIA ECUMENICAL LENTEN SERIES

The Theology of Harry Potter

Join us for a Lenten adventure. On our first night, your Muggle experience of past Lents will end and you will be sorted into one of the four Houses. (Suggestion: don't give up chocolate frogs for Lent). Come and let your imagination be fed this Lent so that it might feed your faith for the rest of the year. All ages are welcome.

No prior knowledge of Christianity or of the Harry Potter stories is necessary to be a Seeker!

6:30 p.m. worship, 7:00 p.m. simple supper, and 7:30-8:30 p.m. program

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Host</i>
Wednesday, Feb. 17	★ Why you should care about Harry Potter?	St. Paul's 228 S. Pitt St., Alexandria 22314 www.stpaulsalexandria.com/
Wednesday, Feb. 24	★ Choosing between good and evil	Meade/Resurrection 322 N. Alfred St., Alexandria 22314 www.meadechurch.org/
Wednesday, Mar. 2	★ Judging other people	Christ Church 118 N Washington St., Alexandria 22314 www.historicchristchurch.org/
Wednesday, Mar. 9	★ Storing up treasure	Fairlington UMC 3900 King St., Alexandria 22302 www.fairlingtonumc.org/
Wednesday, Mar. 16	★ Casting a spell of forgiveness	Church of St. Clement 1701 N. Quaker Ln., Alexandria 22302 www.saintclement.org

J.K. Rowlings' *Harry Potter* series embeds deeply Christian themes. As Christians, we need to be able to make these connections precisely because a vast majority of millennials have embraced its precepts but don't know them to be Christian.

The Rev. Patricia Lyons will lead our 2016 Alexandria Ecumenical Lenten Series. She is an honors graduate from Harvard College in the Comparative Study of Religion. She holds a Master of Divinity degree from the Harvard Divinity School, with a focus on Biblical languages and systematic theology. She received her doctorate from the Virginia Theological Seminary. Her doctoral thesis was a study of the stages of moral and spiritual development of adolescents. Patricia is the author of *The Soul of Adolescence*, a book focused on the spiritual life of teenagers. In November 2015, she was ordained to the transitional diaconate in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington.

Dr. Lyons is currently the Assistant Rector at Christ Church, Capitol Hill and has taught theology at Episcopal High School in Alexandria, as well as teaching summer and evening courses in systematic theology at the Virginia Theological Seminary. Dr. Lyons has taught at seminaries and in parishes on C. S. Lewis, Sigmund Freud, and faith development in families. In addition, she has delivered more than 100 classes, lectures and workshops across the country on the theological themes in Harry Potter. She is currently working on her latest book, *Harry Potter for the Pulpit*, on using Rowling's epic for teaching and preaching the Christian faith.



Adult Spiritual Formation Resources

A variety of great resources are available locally for adults who aim to deepen and expand their understanding of scripture, Biblical history, and the life of the historical Jesus and his disciples.

- Emmanuel Church's Tuesday Bible study (10:00 a.m. in the Memorial Room) takes an academic focus on both New and Old Testament writings by consulting expert readings and conversation. No cost. Join us!
- The Virginia Theological Seminary (3737 Seminary Road) offers both evening class series and occasional Friday workshops for adult laypersons. They're taught by VTS professors and are high quality, affordable and fascinating. Check the [VTS Lifetime Theological Education section](#). Coming up on March 11: Fridays at the Seminary, Dr. Stephen Cook will teach "I Object! Tackling Ethical Objections to the Bible", 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. \$7. He will explain how hate groups frequently distort Biblical passages and Jesus' words to support bigotry and exclusion and why these arguments are counter to Jesus' true teaching. Click [here](#) to register.
- edX is a cost-free online catalog of courses (nicknamed MOOCs) from all major US universities that offer instruction on a wide variety of topics, including religious study. Please see this [link](#) to browse the selection. No cost.



Mind Over Matter: True Stories about Living with Mental Illness

March 5 | The Atlas Performing Arts Center



If you missed "Unhinged" — the boffo storytelling success last April here at Emmanuel, here is your chance to see its new iteration. Unhinged is being restaged by Story District as "Mind Over Matter." It's a unique, fresh, and out of the closet approach to mental health advocacy. Mind Over Matter will feature six masterly crafted true stories on the theme of living with a mental illness, loving someone with a mental illness, or working in the field. The Rev. Joani Peacock will be performing once again. Joining her is Katie Kelly, Emmanuel Church vestry member and Story District veteran.

Presented as part of Atlas INTERSECTIONS Festival, click [here](#) for more info and tickets.



Shrine Mont Volunteer Work Weekend

Friday, April 1 to Sunday, April 3

Volunteers (age 16 and older) are needed to spend a weekend to help Shrine Mont get ready to open for 2016. Room and board provided, but bring your own linens and towels. Projects to suit all skills and strength levels. Join in the fun and hard work helping Shrine Mont prepare for the 2015 season. Click here for a [flyer and a registration form](#).

2016 Emmanuel Pictorial Directory

How wonderful is it to be able to put a face with the name of someone who emailed or called you or someone you've read about in the newsletter or bulletin! With the production of the new picture

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
2016 Parish Directory



For every difference that makes us unique, there is a common thread which connects us all. We share the need for home and community, for love and respect. May these common threads form a beautiful world in which all people and all cultures are honored. May these same common threads continue to hold us together as a parish community. Amen.

Cover art and message by Chuck McCoart

directory (cover by Chuck McCoart) we can do this. Many thanks to Beth Boland, Emily McNaughton, and Nancy Dupree who led this effort calling, emailing, and cajoling us to get our pictures in and even serving as a Sunday morning photographer for those who did not have a picture at hand. Nancy spent untold hours bringing this project to fruition, and the new directory is a testament to her commitment to having as many people pictured in the directory as possible. The process was a combined effort of staff and volunteers working seamlessly together to accomplish the final product. If you do not yet have a copy of the directory yet, you can pick one up in the vestibule as well as the table inside the Russell Road entrance. If you prefer a PDF of the directory, e-mail [Karen](#).

Prime Timers St. Patrick's Day Party at the Parish with a Priest

March 17 | 2:00 PM

Come to Emmanuel Church Parish Hall for a late lunch or early dinner.

Bring a dish that starts with a "P" like Pop Corn, Pizza, Peach Pie, and Pecan Pie be creative and COME WITH A "P" Plate or Dish.

Bring some "Pennies for Patients with Pulmonary" Diseases.

We will play a game, Left Right and Center.

Wear your green. You might win a prize for best green outfit.

Any questions, contact Bonnie at 703-338-4375 .



Annual Retreat to Shrine Mont | April 29 — May 1

Here's a little teaser to get you interested (or daydreaming) — Tucked away beyond the seemingly forgotten little village of Orkney Springs, Virginia, Shrine Mont is a place where friends, fellowship, prayer and reflection, rest and recreation are more important than meetings and schedules. It's a place where people may appreciate and enjoy creation — from the beauty of the streams, flowers and wildlife which are at home here, to the people who come to this place to celebrate being part of God's family. Come join us for a weekend of relaxation, golf, hay ride, hiking, quaint cabins, home-style cooking, bonfire, s'mores, bingo, songs, worship and more. Contact [Joe Scott](#) if you have questions or would like to volunteer to help.



A User-Friendly Episcopal Dictionary

This month I'm going to explain a Three-in-One to you. No, not THAT one, the Trinity. I'm talking about Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation (CRR), three rites many of us witnessed in one Sunday service when Bishop Jones was with us last fall. It's a big day for all concerned and a very special service held once a year. If you want to discuss Confirmation for yourself or your youth, want to join the Episcopal church through reception, or make a simple reaffirmation of faith, please speak to [Chuck](#) or [Toni](#). Preparation for CRR helps the candidates discover the meaning of Christian commitment in their lives, and explore ways that their Christian commitment can be lived.

First, the service

CRR is rooted in the baptismal covenant. CRR may be combined with Holy Baptism when a bishop is present. The Rites are all outlined in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Specific prayers are said by the bishop for Confirmation, for Reception, and for Reaffirmation. Candidates are presented in separate groups by their presenters, a person who will support them in their Christian life by prayer and example, not necessarily members of the clergy. The candidates reaffirm their renunciation of evil and renew their commitment to Jesus Christ. They reaffirm the promises made by them or for them at the time of baptism. Those present in the congregation promise to do all in their power to support the candidates in their life in Christ. The bishop leads the congregation in renewing the baptismal covenant. The bishop lays hands on candidates for Confirmation.

Confirmation

The Episcopal Church's theology of Confirmation has continued to evolve along with its understanding of baptism. Confirmation is no longer seen as the completion of Christian initiation, nor is Confirmation a prerequisite for receiving communion. Baptism is full

initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's body the church. Accordingly, Confirmation has been increasingly understood in terms of a mature, public reaffirmation of the Christian faith and the baptismal promises. There is considerable diversity of understanding and practice concerning Confirmation in the Episcopal Church. At Emmanuel, our tradition has been to prepare adults or youth (usually 12 and older) for taking this step in their faith journey through a course of 4-6 weeks.

Reception

Those who have already made a mature Christian commitment (usually Confirmation) in another denomination are recognized as members of the one holy catholic and apostolic church and received into the fellowship of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. In our diocese, those who have been sacramentally confirmed in the Roman Catholic or Orthodox churches are received, also.

Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

Persons who are already baptized and confirmed can be presented to the bishop in the context of a service of Baptism or Confirmation to reaffirm their baptismal vows. These might be persons returning after a period of being away from church or those who have entered a new level of spiritual life. The BCP does not specify who these persons are and a variety of interpretation exists. Reaffirmation may be repeated, depending on the pastoral needs of the person. The BCP provides a form to be used for reaffirmation of baptismal vows instead of the confirmation formula. The word "renewal" rather than "reaffirmation" is used to describe the reaffirming of the baptismal covenant by the entire congregation at Baptism, Confirmation, or the Easter Vigil.

And afterwards there's always a celebration, another kind of 'reception!'

Meredith Wade, Clerk of the Vestry





EMMANUEL
PRESCHOOL

Emmanuel Preschool Staff

Director

[Ressa Jones](#)

Office Administrator

[Dawn Doucette](#)

Financial Administrator

[Kelli Corts](#)

Teachers

Michelle Brayman
Mary Beth Conry
Amy Ernst
Christy Finn
Mary Carol Gavin
Mollee Hansen
Sarah Higgins
Anne Hubbard
Alyce McLean
Dana Mutscheller
Nancy Palmer
Deborah Rumph
Kate Schneider
Cappie Stiers
Susan Stockton
Sara Tiedemann
Mary Anne Troxell

School Hours

Monday—Friday
9:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Emmanuel Episcopal Preschool

1608 Russell Road
Alexandria, VA 22301
703-683-0303 (phone)
703-683-6158 (fax)

preschooladministrator@epsonhigh.org
www.emmanuelonhigh.org

Preschool News

With Spring Break happening the week leading up to Easter, March is a short month for the preschool, but still a busy one! In March the preschool has its second teacher in-service day of the school year. We are excited to welcome Peggy Ashbrook, author, science blogger, and teacher, to do a workshop on Ramps and Pathways. This workshop will help the teachers enhance block play by exploring principles of physics and how to incorporate them into children's building activities. With the availability of our wonderful Block Room, we know this professional development will truly enrich the experiences of our preschoolers. Now that our admissions season has wrapped up, we will also be hosting a New Family Welcome Coffee to give families new to the preschool the opportunity to come and meet each other. We love bringing new families into our preschool community, and look forward to getting to know them and their children in the coming months. We have been blessed to have so many families from within the church and outside it interested in enrolling their children at EPS.

*Ressa Jones
Preschool Director*

Purple Three's Class

After this cold winter, the Purple Threes are looking forward to celebrating spring. Emmanuel's beautiful grounds offer us the opportunity to look for signs that spring is coming. During one of our nature walks, our eyes will look for a daffodil breaking through the soil, buds on the trees, birds returning home. We'll bring our clipboards out with us to continue our study of trees and do an observational drawing of the trees with their spring buds.



March also offers us the time to embrace our silly side while celebrating St. Patrick's Day. We'll mix paints to come up with our own colors of the rainbow, look for pots of gold, and hope one of those rascally leprechauns comes to visit our classroom.

Christy Finn and Sarah Watson

The IRA Rollover is Back ... This Time for Good!

For those aged 70 ½ or older, it is once again possible to make tax-favored charitable gifts from traditional and Roth IRA accounts. On December 18 Congress passed, and President Obama signed, legislation that retroactively extends the charitable IRA rollover to 2015 and makes this provision permanent for future years. A total of \$100,000 may be transferred directly from traditional or Roth IRAs each year to one or more qualified charities, including Emmanuel Church and Emmanuel Church Foundation, free from federal income taxes. Contributions given in this way count toward the donor's required IRA minimum withdrawal amount for the year of the gift. However, they do not entitle the donor to a charitable income tax deduction.

To make such a gift, it is important that you have the donated assets distributed directly from your IRA to Emmanuel. For those with check-writing privileges on their accounts, this may be the most efficient way to make a gift directly from your IRA to Emmanuel.

If you are interested in making a gift of IRA assets to Emmanuel Church or the Emmanuel Church Foundation, please contact your IRA administrator for instructions on making a charitable transfer or, as noted above, simply write a check to Emmanuel from your IRA account.

Should you have any questions about this giving opportunity, feel free to contact [Jane Kolson](#) at 202-994-9523.

We are Here for You

Emmanuel Church is a community of faith which seeks to nurture and support individuals and families in every stage of life and circumstances. If you or a member or your family need assistance with meals, transportation, prayers, cards, letters of encouragement or any other kind of support, please contact the Inreach Team by e-mailing [Nancy Dupree](#).



How You Can Support ALIVE!

- **Food Donation (Just place in the basket in the vestibule).** The ALIVE! Food Distribution Team reports they are very happy to have the food donations we at Emmanuel are providing to many needy families in Alexandria. Here is a list of the **most needed foods:**
 - Canned meat (beef stew, chicken, etc.)
 - Canned fish (tuna, salmon)
 - Peanut Butter
 - Cereal (low sugar)
 - Pasta (spaghetti, macaroni, etc.)
 - Rice
 - Canned fruit (no added sugar)
 - Canned vegetables
 - Spaghetti sauce
 - Canned tomatoes (sauce, diced, etc.)
 - Cooking oil (vegetable, canola, etc.)
 - Canned soup
 - Canned beans
 - Jam / jelly (preferably in plastic)
- **Donate used children's books (Place in collection box in the vestibule at EEC through Palm Sunday).** A book drive is being organized by Episcopal Church of the Resurrection for children in need, to be distributed at ALIVE!'s last Saturday Food Distribution in March. Whatever books we can collect will be picked up from EEC during Holy Week.
- **Business sponsors — and walkers! — sought for May 1 Walkathon.** This annual walkathon will benefit ALIVE!'s Child Development Center. The walkathon will include: a walk to Market Square and back followed by a picnic with live music. This is ALIVE!'s largest fundraising event throughout the year and business sponsors are needed. There is a \$15,000 challenge match this year, also. How many walkers can we recruit? Let's challenge ourselves to sign up!
- Please email [Laura Macone](#) and/or [Sarah Orndorff](#) if you have any questions about ALIVE! activities / opportunities to donate.

The Primates Communique: A Statement from the Bishops of Virginia and a Teaching and Reflection from Bishop Johnston

Dear Diocesan Family,

The "**Communique**" issued on January 15th from the Anglican Primates Meeting has given rise to questions and confusion across our Diocese. We receive the Primates' Communique with deep respect and every prayerful consideration and trust that you will do the same.

It is important not to overreact to the Communique, keeping in mind what the Primates said and what they didn't say:

*The Primates have NOT "suspended," "sanctioned," "excluded," "expelled," "banned" or even "disciplined" The Episcopal Church. The actual terminology they used is "consequences" in response to the actions of our General Convention.

*Our Church has not been asked to "repent" or somehow "undo" what we have passed. We've simply been asked to back away from a very few aspects of the Communion's work for a period of three years.

*By a unanimous vote, the Primates chose to continue to "walk together." In spite of all of the rumors that The Episcopal Church would be "thrown out" of the Communion, the Primates instead affirmed that our Church remains a wanted and needed presence in the Anglican family.

In all the many links that our Diocese has in other Anglican Provinces on three continents, we never lose sight of the fact that we do need each other. So, whatever your own particular views are on the questions at hand, let us all pray AS ONE for healing, reconciliation, and full restoration in our inter-Anglican relationships.

The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston, Bishop of Virginia
The Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff, Bishop Suffragan
The Rt. Rev. Edwin F. "Ted" Gulick Jr., Assistant Bishop

[Here is the link for the full reflection from Bishop Johnston.](#)

Vestry Highlights

At its New Member Orientation meeting on February 11, the Vestry:

- Discussed the role and responsibilities of the Vestry and its members and reviewed materials relevant to Vestry service.
- Reviewed the work that is underway on a Strategic Plan for the Parish. Adam Schildge will make a full report at the March meeting.
- Made revisions as needed to Ministry Teams and Vestry Liaison assignments for 2016.

At its regular meeting on February 17, the Vestry:

- Learned about the coming opportunity to appoint a delegate (possibly two) from Emmanuel to the January 2017 Diocesan Council meeting.
- Discussed the imminent replacement of the Parish Hall AC/Heat Pump System at a cost of over \$20,000. Joe Scott will be coordinating recommendations on behalf of the Vestry from the Finance Committee on making payment/financing recommendations for covering the cost of replacement.

Meredith Wade, Clerk

AND WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

Luke 10:29

By Jim Melchiorre

10 Practices of the Good Samaritan

Suppose you had to tell the story of the Good Samaritan on Twitter. Perhaps it's possible to relate the parable within a 140-character limit, but it wouldn't be easy, because the power of the story is found in the details. By my calculations, the Good Samaritan performs 10 actions to respond to the man who "fell into the hands of robbers."

- 1 He **saw** him. Let's not underestimate the significance of this. People can be simultaneously quite visible and rarely seen, especially folks living on the margins of society. Sometimes we have to make an intentional decision to see, to notice what we have customarily ignored.
- 2 He was **moved** by pity. This is the most emotional act of the Good Samaritan—everything afterwards is really about logistics—but it may be the most critical of the 10 actions, because nothing else is likely to happen until the Samaritan begins to feel the pain of his fellow traveler.
- 3 He **went** to him. Now this is risky because the path between Jerusalem and Jericho is steep; they're traveling downhill, and there are ample hiding places for thieves and bandits. The Samaritan could be the next person to be stripped and beaten and left half-dead. Or suppose the man is faking, setting a trap for the Samaritan to be attacked. Maybe the Samaritan needs to get to Jericho by nightfall for a family engagement. The Samaritan has plenty of legitimate excuses—the priest and the Levite who crossed over to the other side of the road most likely used their own—all based on the question, if I get too close to this man lying on the road, what might happen to me? As the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. pointed out in the final sermon of his life, on April 3, 1968, the Samaritan flipped the question: if I *don't* approach this man, what might happen to him?
- 4 He **bandaged** his wounds.
- 5 He **poured** oil and wine on them. The Samaritan is utilizing a kind of first-century first-aid kit, while applying something timeless: human touch. He is willing to be vulnerable.
- 6 He **put** him on his own animal, a significant physical challenge depending on the scale of the man's injuries, which also meant the Samaritan would be walking the rest of the way.
- 7 He **brought** him to an inn so that the wounded man could have proper rest and recuperation.
- 8 He **took care** of him, which almost surely involved providing a meal.
- 9 He **took out** two denarii.
- 10 He **gave** them to the innkeeper with instructions to provide whatever care was necessary. Let's think of it as giving the innkeeper a credit card number, complete with expiration date and security code, as a commitment to ensure payment—again, showing a willingness to be vulnerable.

Scripture scholars tell us there's societal prejudice at play here—Jews like Jesus and the lawyers questioning him were not supposed to associate with Samaritans. It's uncomfortable for Jesus's listeners to hear a story in which the Samaritan is portrayed as a good guy. Toward the end, when Jesus asks who behaved most like a neighbor in the parable, the lawyer answers: "the one who showed him mercy," as though even speaking the word "Samaritan" in a positive context is more than he can say.

Obviously, one lesson here is about tearing down fences that divide us. And there's a

second lesson: check yourself, and the depth of your commitment.

The parable of the Good Samaritan is not a case of drive-by compassion. The Samaritan follows through, covering all the messy, inconvenient, and expensive details often required of a neighbor. In those details is the power of the parable and also the challenge, especially in that solitary instruction: go and do likewise.

Jim Melchiorre is Director of Content for Trinity Wall Street and Editor of *Trinity News*.



- 2 [Carpenter's Shelter Dinner](#)
- 2 Alexandria Lenten Series (Christ Church) (6:30 PM)
- 4 Way of the Cross (7:30 PM)
- 6 Lent 4 / Inquiry Class (9:15 AM)
- 6 Youth Sunday
- 7 Meals on Wheels Deliveries
- 9 Alexandria Lenten Series (Fairlington UMC) (6:30 PM)
- 9 Vestry Meeting (7:30 PM)
- 11-13 God & Donuts Retreat @ Shrine Mont
- 11 Way of the Cross (7:30 PM)
- 13 Daylight-Saving Time Begins
- 13 Lent 5 / Inquiry Class (9:15 AM)
- 16 Alexandria Lenten Series (St. Clement) (6:30 PM)
- 18 Way of the Cross (7:30 PM)
- 20 First Day of Spring
- 20 Palm Sunday
- 24 Maundy Thursday / Foot Washing, Agape Supper, and Eucharist (6:30 PM)
- 25 Good Friday (7:30 PM)
- 27 Easter Sunday
- 27 Easter Egg Hunt (11:45 AM)
- 28 Easter Monday / Office Closed
- 29-1 Bag Lunch Week



- 4 Meals on Wheels Deliveries
- 6 [Carpenter's Shelter Dinner](#)
- 8 Family Night
- 13 Vestry Meeting (7:30 PM)
- 15 Preschool Spring Fundraiser
- 15-17 Diocesan 6th & 7th Grade Weekend @ Shrine Mont
- 16 SpeakEasy Event (5:00 PM)
- 27 Goodwin House Dinner (tentative) (5:45 PM)
- 29-1 Parish Retreat @ Shrine Mont



- 2 Meals on Wheels Deliveries
- 2-6 Bag Lunch Week
- 6 [Carpenter's Shelter Dinner](#)
- 13-15 Diocesan 8th Grade Weekend @ Shrine Mont
- 11 Vestry Meeting (7:30 PM)
- 21 Story District
- 22 Music Ministry Picnic



For a look at our continually-updated church calendar, click on the calendar to the left.