

EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HIGH NOTES



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High Notes Submissions

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

2015 Emmanuel Christmas Gala

Saturday, December 19 — 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM

We hope to see you at the 2015 Emmanuel Christmas Gala on Saturday, December 19 from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m., in the parish hall. The Gala will feature a delightful dinner buffet and libations along with live and silent auctions. Tickets can be purchased on Sundays following both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services.

The suggested donation to attend is \$25 per adult and, new for this year, onsite childcare will be available downstairs with a suggested donation of \$15 per child. The courtesy of advance notice of your attendance is appreciated.

The Christmas Gala is Emmanuel's biggest fundraiser of the year with all proceeds benefiting the numerous outreach programs. We are excited to again offer a fine selection of silent and live auction items, as well as the popular and affordable 'mystery gift' boxes.

Volunteers are already hard at work. There are many ways you can help to make the Gala the best possible success including:

Donate to the Auction

Auction items are needed, so be inventive! There's no way to predict what will start a bidding war, but here are some ideas: time at vacation homes; sporting event and performance tickets; themed gift baskets; gift certificates/vouchers for goods or services; artwork and collectibles; etc. Monetary donations towards the purchase of items for the auction are also welcome. Submit auction items using this [form](#), then drop it at the church office or e-mail it to the Auction Committee, [Mary Ann Frank](#) or [Rebeckah Adcock](#).

Volunteer to Help

We still need volunteers for committees, including: Publicity, Setup/Decorations, Treasurer/Auction Check Out, Security, and Clean-up. To those who are new to

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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](#)

Seminarian

[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

Lilian Urrea
Rosa Alarcón

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

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703-683-6158 (fax)

office@emmanuelonhigh.org
www.emmanuelonhigh.org

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Emmanuel or have not yet helped with this event, the Gala needs you! E-mail Gala co-chairs, [Pat and Kerry Adams](#), to get connected with volunteering.

Come to the Gala!

Join friends old and new for an evening of food and fellowship at Emmanuel's 2015 Christmas Gala on December 19. Your involvement will ensure that EEC programs and good works are robustly supported in the new year.

For more information, please feel free to contact [Patrick](#) or [Kerry Adams](#). We look forward to seeing you at the Gala!



Why We Chose Emmanuel

By Mike, Janie, Chris, and Rachel Piemonte

When Chuck e-mailed us about writing this piece, he asked why we *chose* Emmanuel as our parish. That particular choice, however, is not made once and never considered again. It's made every single week when we *choose* Emmanuel as the place we go to express our faith. Faith is a living, breathing, evolving concept to us, and that fact alone makes finding a parish to stick to that much more difficult. Emmanuel has been more than up to the task.

Like so many others in this community, our roots are not solely in the Episcopal Church. For the most part, we grew up in the Catholic Church and our exposure was more or less limited to that for years. If you examine our path to Emmanuel, though, you can pick out some clues that suggest that this parish and this faith were where we were headed the entire time.



The first clue is in Pittsburgh where Rachel and I were baptized by Scott, the energetic young rector at the local Episcopal church. We then moved to Rochester and were part of a Catholic church called Transfiguration led by Father Jerry. The way I remember Father Jerry is as a wise, cheerful, kind old man who at the time did NOT fit my definition of a priest. Father Jerry was the first one who made church fun for me and was beloved by his parish.

Our next stop was Buffalo, where we searched a little while before landing at the

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Newman Center of a local university. It was an eccentric parish, to be sure, but there were two factors that made the decision an absolute no-brainer. One was the community; people just like us that we could relate to and would eventually work alongside as we became increasingly involved in several parish ministries including music and education. The second was Father Pat. You could really write an entire page about Father Pat and not be halfway through, but suffice it to say that the man is the single most interesting person I think I've ever met. An Irish Catholic with an affinity for Greek literature and all things philosophical, Father Pat was a 69-year-old firecracker whose sermons may have been hard to follow, but were guaranteed to introduce an idea you hadn't considered before. Finding this community when I was six and Rachel was nine, the formative years of our faith were spent there and Father Pat became our ideal picture of who we wanted leading our services. When we moved here, we knew it was going to be hard to find a suitable replacement.

During this time we also experienced a shifting or perhaps an expansion of our views. An evolution, if you will. Certain teachings of the Catholic Church no longer resonated with us, especially when we ventured outside the Newman Center for Mass. At the time, we thought little of it. But it created a rift of sorts when we started feeling like square pegs fitting into a round hole.

Our search around Northern Virginia started in Catholic churches and we tried a few, some even for months. But after months of sitting in the same pew every week and never once being greeted, never making a connection to any of the priests, and otherwise feeling dissatisfied by the entire experience, we knew we needed to keep looking. We finally decided to give this little Episcopal church a try.

It took all of two weeks for us to realize we had found our parish. Re-examine the clues and it shows you why Emmanuel is an absolutely perfect fit: we need a rector who challenges us and makes us think while keeping it fun, we need a community we can be a part of, and we need the flexibility to allow our own faith to grow. Our first experience with Emmanuel was through Chuck's brilliant blog post about Super Bowl Sunday. Then we got to see his homilies in person. Check on the thought-provoking rector. Our very first week, we were approached by no fewer than six people welcoming us to Emmanuel, one of which was Meredith Wade who then made sure we met just about everyone in the building and also talked to us about God & Donuts. Check the community box, too. And as we met these people around us, we heard their stories and how they had come from all walks of life and all different faiths to land at Emmanuel and we knew then that this was a place that encouraged growth and transformation of faith. Checklist complete.

As a family of four adults all with different ideas about faith and religion, it's not an easy task to find something that satisfies all of our individual desires. In truth, we all get something different out of coming to church each week and it will probably always be that way. The one thing we can all agree on, though, is that whether it be for Chuck's guidance, the support of the community, or the accepting nature of the Episcopalians, there is no place better-suited for the continued growth of our faith than Emmanuel.

Chris Piemonte

2015 Vestry

[Bob Carragher](#) (Senior Warden)
[Michelle Vaughan](#) (Junior Warden)
[Patrick Adams](#) · [Lola Beggs](#)
[Leo Cruz](#) · [Katie Kelly](#)
[Bryan Moore](#) · [Adam Schildge](#)
[Joe Scott](#) · [Meredith Wade](#)
[Doug Wheeler](#)
[Gene Lange](#) (Treasurer)
[Vonda Delawie](#) (Clerk)

Contacts for Ministry Teams

Fellowship : [Lola Beggs](#), [Leo Cruz](#), [Bryan Moore](#)

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

Service: [Katie Kelly](#), [Joe Scott](#)

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 Kliever](#)
 Haiti: [John Maass](#)
 Haiti Coffee Sales: [Kim Scott](#)
 Meals on Wheels: [Pat Hadley](#)
 Tutoring Consortium: [Kelly Dresen](#)
 United Thank Offering: [Bonnie Fairbank](#)
 Yard Sale: [Tom and Taylor Craig](#)

Stewardship: [Patrick Adams](#), [Bob Carragher](#), [Doug Wheeler](#)

Annual Giving Campaign: [Bob Carragher](#)
 Building and Grounds: [Dwayne Piepenburg](#)
 Foundation: [Jane Kolson](#)

Teaching: [Adam Schildge](#), [Michelle Vaughan](#)

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

Worship: [Chuck McCoart](#), [Meredith Wade](#)

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](#)

Pledge Sunday — December 6

Pledge Sunday, when all the pledge cards from the congregation will be presented and blessed during the Offertory at the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services, is December 6. If you have not yet returned your pledge card, please do so before then either by mailing it, dropping it off at the church office or by dropping it into the offertory bags on Sunday.

As you can see from the chart below depicting where we stand with this year's campaign, we're moving the needle in the area of new pledges and in the amount pledged for this time into the campaign. However, we've still got a ways to go to reach our goals for 2016, but as you all know — we're an optimistic lot here at EEC. To those who have pledged and to those who are about to — many, many thanks. To those who haven't yet decided to pledge, please give it some serious thought. It's a way that we can meet our goal for 2016 — ***Growing Our Faith, Service and Commitment***.

In the coming days, Emmanuel's Finance Team will be putting the final touches on a 2016 budget for consideration and ratification by the Vestry at its



December 9 meeting. The amount pledged during our campaign will have a significant impact on what is and isn't included in the budget next year. It is in all of our best interests that the Team has the most accurate assessment of the anticipated annual giving level for 2016 or we risk making the tough decisions of what activities to exclude in next year's budget.

Thanks again for your gifts of time, talent and treasure at Emmanuel!

EEC's Annual Giving Committee

Bob Carragher, Vonda Delawie, Joe Dresen, Jane Kolson, Adam Schildge, and Doug Wheeler

	2015	2016 through Nov. 23
Annual gifts	\$340,000	\$245,851
Pledges	128	76
New pledges	38	9
Goal	\$325,000 100-120 pledges	\$400,000 148 pledges

Vestry Election in January



Outgoing Vestry members Bob Carragher, Michelle Vaughan, and Meredith Wade comprise the

Nominating Committee for four new members who will be elected at the Parish Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 24. Individuals who are considering this opportunity are encouraged to speak to Chuck or any member of the committee before December 15. Full details on this leadership position are on the front page of the [November newsletter](#).

Growing in Faith, Service and Commitment

"God will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped others and continue to help them." Hebrews 6:10

As members of the Emmanuel community, we are asked to give annually to support the work of the Church. The Vestry asks that you prayerfully consider an increase in your financial commitment.

My/Our pledge for current year 2015 was \$_____.

I/We pledge \$_____ to Emmanuel for 2016.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

☐ I would like envelopes. ☐ I do not want envelopes.

☐ I would like information about including Emmanuel in my will or living trust.

From the Office of Spiritual Formation for Children and Youth

"The season of Advent means there is something on the horizon the likes of which we have never seen before... What is possible is to not see it, to miss it, to turn just as it brushes past you. And you begin to grasp what it was you missed, like Moses in the cleft of the rock, watching God's [back] fade in the distance. So stay. Sit. Linger. Tarry. Ponder. Wait. Behold. Wonder. There will be time enough for running. For rushing. For worrying. For pushing. For now, stay. Wait. Something is on the horizon."

Jan L. Richardson

Night Visions: Searching the Shadows of Advent and Christmas

Greetings, all!

The time from Thanksgiving to Epiphany is my favorite time of year! I think I am not alone. And yet, I find that it is incredibly busy, filled with gatherings, shopping, decorating, card writing, wrapping, baking, etc. It goes quickly and I sometimes find that at the end of the season, I am exhausted and somehow have forgotten to focus on what's most important.

To that end, I have decided that this year I will slow down and focus on only the things I love to do: spending time with my family, baking, listening to holiday music, and sharing a meal or two with good friends. Santa will certainly visit our house, but even he has let us know that he is going to keep it simple this year. I have also decided I am going to take a break from Facebook, which for me historically sucks up time that could be spent playing a game, knitting, reading, or cuddling!

Advent is a waiting time. It asks us to slow down, to simplify, to ponder and just maybe, if we can be

still long enough, we will be able to experience the in-breaking of Emmanuel, God with us. This is what's most important: God coming into our lives and our hearts, transforming us to be a people of light and love and justice.

I really need Advent. I pray that it is a fruitful time for you as well.

*With gratitude and peace,
Toni*

On the Horizon

Youth Sunday

Youth Sunday is coming up on Sunday, December 6, at the 10:30 a.m. service. Young people are invited to participate in a variety of ways. For any of these Youth Sundays, if you would like to have your family bring up the gifts, OR if your child (grades 3 and older) would like to be a banner bearer, OR if your older child (6th grade and older) would like to do a reading, please reach out to [Toni](#). On that same note, the children and youth participate in the music in unique ways for this service. Please arrive at 10:00 a.m. on Youth Sunday mornings so that your child may rehearse with their peer group and thereby feel more comfortable singing in front of the congregation.

Christmas Pageant

Emmanuel's annual Christmas pageant occurs during the 4:30 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. All children are invited to participate. There are roles for everyone, age 3 to 6th grade! We need readers as well as shepherds and angels (and

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of course, the myriad of other roles, including Joseph and Mary). Stay tuned for more information and if you would like to volunteer to assist with this, contact [Melissa and Barry Bennett](#).

Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to manage the children's worship bags and to help out with mini-service projects for MLK and Presidents' weekend. Both of these jobs are a great service to our children while having a low time commitment. Please contact [Toni](#) for more information!



God & Donuts is Babysitting

Parents, would you like a free December afternoon to finish your shopping without the kids? Or just to go have a quiet coffee together? Well, the God & Donuts group wants to give you a hand with that. On Sunday, December 13, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., the God & Donuts kids (and a few parents) will provide babysitting at Emmanuel for members of the parish. There may be a limited number of slots available based on how many helpers we have, and for safety and comfort we can only take children age 2 and up. Sign up sheets and release forms will be in the parish hall on November 29 and December 6. Please e-mail [Janie Piemonte](#) with questions.

God & Donuts Holiday Gathering

Sunday, December 13, 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (after babysitting!)

God & Donuts



Have you noticed a subtle shift? Seen more of our middle school youth? God and Donuts is growing and evolving in leaps and bounds. Here are a few things to share with you:

- We began the year by redecorating the God & Donuts space over the summer. If you haven't seen it, feel free to stop in! And the best is that having added significantly more seating we are already needing more!
- The 6th through 9th grade group has doubled in size this year, a testament to the changing demographics of Emmanuel.
- We are engaging the G & D group in the liturgy through music. They aren't always comfortable up there, so please encourage them when you can.
- Two of our 9th graders were confirmed in November in a beautiful ceremony.

We are looking for ways the youth can connect more with the Emmanuel community through things like a December babysitting event (see details on the left), hosting a coffee hour, and of course the traditional hosting of the Pancake Supper. Activities they can do together are the most fun and comfortable. Let us know if you have an idea for us!

This is just a snapshot of what is changing and we hope you have noticed. We look forward to continuing to expand the program and plant the seeds for a high school group. Thanks to all in the community for your support and encouragement as these kids learn how to use their talents in new ways.



Chuck with Olvin and Yvette McBarnette at the October Goodwin House Dinner.

Music Ministry

December Adult Choir Schedule

Thursday, December 3 — Choir Rehearsal in Memorial Room — 7:00 PM

Sunday, December 6 — Children/Youth Sunday (No Adult Choir)

Sunday, December 13 — Choir Practice — 9:20 AM

Thursday, December 17 — Choir Practice — 7:00 PM

Sunday, December 20 — Choir Practice — 9:20 AM

Thursday, December 24 — Choir Practice/Christmas Eve Vigil — 9:15 PM

Sunday, December 27 — Choir Holiday (No Choir — Enjoy!)



Ding dong merrily on high, in heaven the bells are ringing...I heard the bells on Christmas Day, their old familiar carols play...Silver Bells, Silver Bells, it's Christmas Time in the City...Jingle Bells Jingle Bells...Hark how the bells, sweet silver bells, all

seem to say, throw cares away...Door bells and sleigh bells and schnitzel with noodles, sleigh bells ring, are you listen'n? There are bells all around and I've been listening...since July! Choir directors, organists, singers, and music teachers, start planning early for holiday concerts and by Christmas we are usually full of stress and more than tired of those songs we loved months ago! Years ago I found myself in the shoes of Mr. Grinch as I prepared for all of the holiday services, concerts, and the events that are supposed to make us happy! I was all done with the merry part of Christmas and I knew there were certainly other people in my situation, so my colleagues and I came up with the idea of a Christmas Comfort healing service. I'm so happy that Emmanuel, for the 3rd year, will be offering a Christmas Comfort service on December 20 at 5:00 p.m. Those with a heavy heart, sadness, stress, depression, or suffering loss might appreciate a quiet time to come together with others who also aren't greeting the season with a smile. I just heard a song recently that I hope to include in the liturgy for that evening. Mary Chapin Carpenter wrote some striking lyrics in her song, *Bells Are Ringing*. "Wherever you're walking tonight, whoever you're waiting for, somehow by the stable's faint light, peace in your heart is

restored. Bells are ringing all over the world, bells are ringing calling the light, bells are ringing all over the world." Bells have great significance at Christmas and all year long. In the famous book, *Polar Express*, the children know that if they can hear the bells on Santa's sleigh, that he loves them, is real, and is alive in their minds and hearts. Bells get our attention to share a message. Bells mark the passing of time, bells in school indicate when class is over and a new class will start, bells tell us when it's time to come to the dinner table, bells ring when someone is waiting at our door, bells ring on our phone to tell us a text message has arrived, bells ring when it's time to take something out of the oven, bells ring on the trolley to say, "look out!", bells have been used to indicate emergencies or bad weather, sometimes the bell in the elevator even tells us that someone is stuck and needs help. I invite you to listen to the song above on youtube or click the QR code below to listen directly. Maybe this year you will



ring your bell to share your joy and maybe this year you're finding it is difficult to hear that bell. Know that it's ok if you can't hear that joyous bell! Come to Christmas Comfort and find a meditative moment in a busy season.

Come to Christmas Comfort to listen to your heart. Come to Christmas comfort and ring your bell quietly to remember someone who is no longer with us, ring your bell to lift up a personal prayer, or ring your bell in the quiet darkness to indicate that you're still here! We're here with you!

Join Choir for Christmas Eve!



Are you interested in singing with the choir for Christmas Eve? We would love to have you!

Is your family visiting and wanting to sing in the choir with us? We would love to have them! We would like to have a really large choir on Christmas Eve at 10:00 p.m. Candlelight worship, so please invite your family, friends, or come yourself. No commitment necessary other than Christmas Eve. Contact [Ryan](#) if you know someone or are interested yourself.

[Ryan W. Fitch, MM](#)

Director of Music | Organist | Countertenor

Reading Through Advent, One Day at a Time



I love Advent calendars — twenty-four little windows to open as we count down the days until Christmas. Sometimes behind that window there is a little symbol, a little toy, a chocolate kiss. But Advent calendars aren't just for children, they are for us grownups as well — at least Advent calendars of a different kind.

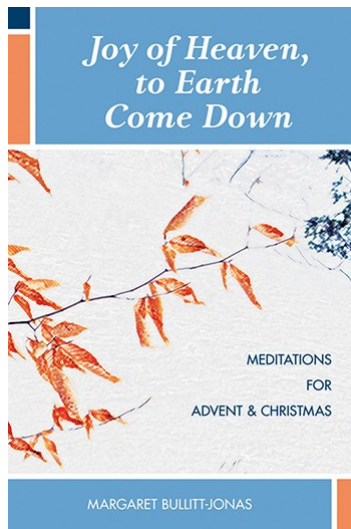
Advent is a season of waiting and expectation; yearning and longing, darkness and light. With a little holy reading, you can both deepen and enlighten those twenty-four days. Here are several little books to encourage you on your way — on your way to Bethlehem.

First and foremost are these two you will find in the foyer:

Joy to the World: Popular Carols for Advent and Christmas by Nancy Hopkins-Greene. At this hectic time of year, open your hearts to reflect and pray with familiar carols — a great way to navigate the season.

Joy of Heaven, to Earth Come Down by Margaret Bullitt-Jonas. This little book of daily prayer is grounded in reverence for the earth and living in harmony with the natural world. Includes photos and meditations for Advent.

And if you would like to go deeper...



Waiting for the Wonder: Voices of Advent places the reader in the hearts and minds of the biblical characters — both real and imagined — who played a role that first Christmas. It weaves together story and scripture that is both compelling and thought provoking. The author, Katerina Katsarka Whitley, is a native of Thessaloniki, Greece and a notable Episcopal author, and retreat leader.

Advent with Evelyn Underhill draws on the classic wisdom of this Anglican mystic. Underhill, born in 1875, considered herself an atheist, but became immersed in the liturgical life of the church. Torn between Rome and Canterbury, she found her true spiritual home as an Anglican. Each daily Advent reflection concludes with suggestions for meditation and prayer.

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus: Advent and Christmas with Charles Wesley The great hymnist, Anglican priest and co-founder of Methodism recently celebrated his 300th birthday! Among the 9,000 hymns he wrote, many are heralds of this holy season. Can you imagine a Christmas without *Hark the herald, angels sing*? Paul Wesley (yes his middle name is Wesley!) Chilcote has compiled this lovely little book that weaves together Wesley's hymns, with scripture and prayer.

Blessed reading to you all!
Joani



Breakfast with St. Nick

Advent 2 — Sunday, December 6

The service this day is a Youth Service, so plenty of opportunities for children to be involved. Following the service please join us in the Parish Hall where children will have the opportunity to visit with jolly ol' St. Nick. A delicious brunch will be enjoyed by all. Children who leave their shoes in the parish hall during the service will find a special surprise when they return. Suggested contribution is \$10 per family.



Crèche Sunday

Advent 3 —

Sunday, December 13



Last year's Crèche Sunday was such a success that we will be repeating it this year on the Third Sunday of Advent.



Do you have a nativity set associated with family traditions or that holds special memories or meaning? Fill out the [form](#) and bring it with your crèche(s) to church on December 13. You are welcome to bring more than one crèche; please fill

out a form for each one. We'll set up the nativity scenes in the Parish Hall before the 10:30 a.m. service. During coffee hour, tour the crèche display and share your stories with those who come by to see yours. There will also be a craft activity for the younger members of the parish.

Intergenerational Christmas Card Sunday

*Advent 4 — Sunday,
December 20*



On the Fourth Sunday in Advent, we will remember those in our Emmanuel family who cannot make it to church by writing Christmas cards to them. Stop by a table in the Parish Hall during the coffee hour after the 10:30 a.m. service on December 20, select one of the cards available, write a short note or just sign your name, and address the card to one of the names on a list that will be provided. There will also be a table with craft materials where our youngest members can make a card under adult supervision. Our Twenties 'N' Thirties group will be delivering the cards in person, along with homemade baked goods!

Advent Adult Forum Series

Sent: Delivering the Gift of Hope at Christmas

Sunday Mornings — 9:15 AM — Memorial Room

As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them . . . —John 17:18

God sent Christ into the world as the Messiah. That's what Christmas is all about. In turn, Christ sends us into the world. But do we really understand how, where, and why we are sent?

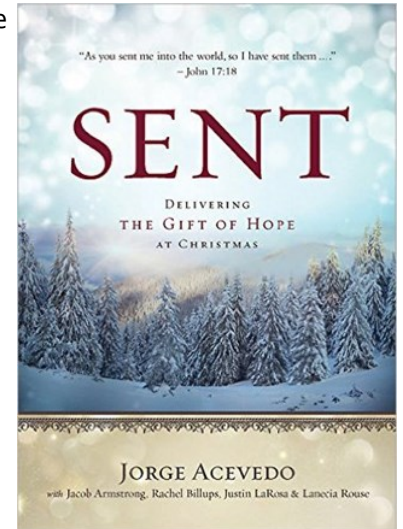
This five-week, Advent DVD-based study challenges us through story, art, and Bible study to discover what it means to be Christ's hands, feet, head, and heart.

- **November 29** — *Jesus Reconciles*
- **December 6** — *Jesus Sets Us Free*
- **December 13** — *Jesus is God with Us*
- **December 20** — *Jesus Brings New Life*
- **December 27** — *Jesus Changes Everything*

Each participant will receive a personal copy of the book (\$10 donation is appreciated).

As a clergy person, I know just how busy this season can be! Take a break from the busy-ness and join me for some Advent reflection — any or all the Sundays you are able!

*Blessings,
[Joani](#)*



Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany Services

Comfort & Healing Service

Sunday, December 20 — 5:00 PM

Please join us for this special seasonal service. Though the holiday season leading up to Christmas is filled with many blessings for many people, for others this season can also be a challenging time. This is especially true for those who have lost a loved one, might be dealing with an addiction, in poor health, or just want to celebrate Christmas in a quieter way. Join us for a special Meditative Service and healing Holy Eucharist and please consider bringing a friend.

Christmas Eve Pageant — With Holy Communion and Music

Thursday, December 24 — 4:30 PM

Calling all youth! From toddlers to teenagers — all are invited to participate in the beautiful tradition that is Emmanuel's Christmas Pageant! If you or a young

parishioner — or guest — would like to have a part in this year's pageant, please sign up in the parish hall. Come see the Christmas Story as only our young "stars" can tell it, sing your favorite carols by

candlelight, and rejoice in the wondrous gift of Jesus' birth. All are welcome, including our little out-of-town visitors — there will be parts and costumes for all.

Christmas Eve Vigil — With Holy Communion and Music

Thursday, December 24 — 10:00 PM

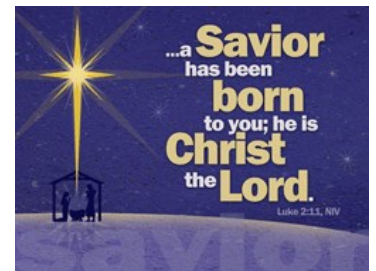
This service will no doubt be a little quieter than the 4:30 p.m. Pageant — but we hope lots of folks will

invite their neighbors and friends and together we'll celebrate the Savior's birth.

Christmas Day Service — With Holy Communion and Music

Friday, December 25 — 10:30 AM

As we all know and celebrate, Christmas is the sacred annual commemoration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Millions of believers around the world will gather this day to celebrate again the great gift Christ is in our lives. Come one — Come all.



Youth Sunday

Sunday, January 3 — 10:30 AM

Families old and young — individuals, couples — neighbors and friends all are invited as our young people take special participation in our liturgy as we continue to remember and celebrate the Joy that is all around us this Christmas Season.

Epiphany / Baptism of the Lord

Sunday, January 10 — 10:30 AM

Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles and the visit of the Wise Men to the Christ Child. The Baptism of the Lord is the feast day commemorating the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. **Calling ALL Babies!** We welcome all who would like to have their child baptized on this special day. Please contact [Chuck](#) if you are interested.



Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY

STORY DISTRICT

Story District (formerly SpeakeasyDC) is the fabulous non-profit that last April co-produced *Unhinged: True Stories about Living with Mental Illness* along with Joani. It was staged right here at Emmanuel. Over 300 people packed the house! There is no better way to tell the truth than to tell a story. And inside every one of us is a master storyteller.

This one-day crash course intensive workshop is scheduled for Saturday, December 12 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Emmanuel's Parish Hall. You will learn how to generate new story material, learn about and apply narrative structure and storytelling techniques to a story of your own choice, practice telling stories in pairs and small groups, and get individual feedback from the instructors.

It's a full day so arrive by 9:15 a.m. to ensure you have time to settle in. The morning is dedicated to exercises that will help you gain an understanding of narrative structure and storytelling fundamentals. Lunch, bring your own or eat at a nearby eatery. In the afternoon, you will practice and polish your story; and build skills to bring your characters to life. Each storyteller will get individual feedback from the instructors and other participants.

[Register](#) by December 5 for Emmanuel Discount Rate of \$150 by entering code EEC150. After December 5 the regular rate of \$195 applies.

If you have any questions, please contact [Joani Peacock](#).

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

Trash Dance

Join us on Sunday, January 10, at 6:30 p.m. for a family-friendly spiritual social featuring pizza, discussion.....and trash! We will be viewing *Trash Dance*, a fantastic movie that gets us to see every day workers in new ways.

Choreographer Allison Orr finds beauty and grace in garbage trucks, and in the unseen men and women who pick up our trash.



Filmmaker Andrew Garrison follows Orr as she rides along with Austin sanitation workers on their daily routes to observe and later convince them to perform a most unlikely concert. On an abandoned airport runway, two dozen trash collectors and their trucks deliver —

for one night only — a stunningly beautiful and moving performance, in front of an audience of thousands. See how one choreographer changed the lives of sanitation workers and the people they serve. How does God call you to use your creative talents to shine your light on others? We'll be eating, discussing and appreciating the unsung labor of others, together!

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

The Tuesday Morning Bible Study group invites you to join us in studying the Psalms. Did you know that the Book of Psalms is divided into five books to parallel the five books of the Torah? Or that more than half the Psalms fall into one of three types: hymn/praise, petition, or lament? Please join us on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Memorial Room, as we discuss the Book of Psalms, aided by several print and online resources (no purchase necessary!). Questions? Feel free to contact [Beth Boland](#) or [Nancy Dupree](#).

Fred DeLuca's Twenty-Five Years of Service

On November 1, the Outreach team thanked Fred DeLuca for his dedicated service to a number of different community activities, presenting him a framed print of Emmanuel. In the period since he "retired" in 1988, Fred has served our Alexandria neighbors in need in a number of ways. For many years, Fred staffed the front desk of the Carpenter's Shelter homeless shelter once a week; at first with his late wife Anita, and later alone, he delivered and served lunch at the Meade Memorial bag lunch program,



seven times a year; and from 1990 to 2015, he was a driver, and later coordinator of all Emmanuel's drivers, for the once-a-month Meals on Wheels delivery to needy seniors in Alexandria. Fred also chaired Emmanuel's outreach committee for several years.

What led to Fred's involvement in these activities? As a retiree, he had time available, but more importantly, it was a personal approach by late parishioner Bob Coombs. Fred recalled that Bob was "a great recruiter", and he emphasized that the most effective way to encourage participation in any activity is a person-to-person approach. In reflecting on his years of service, Fred pointed out that parishioners involved in one of our many outreach ministries will feel useful because they are able to help those in need, and will also be thankful for all that they have. We're all grateful to Fred for his example of Christian service.



Bake Sale Results

Emmanuel bakers raised nearly \$600 for outreach at our bake table at the Sixth Annual TC Williams

Homemade Holiday Craft Fair on November 21. A short list of Emmanuel's outreach activities was included with each item sold. Thanks to all who baked (Lee Larkin, Jeanne Feden, Doris



Rudolph, Mary Ann Frank, Nancy Dupree, Bonnie Lilley, Meredith Wade, Catherine Wheeler, Mary Kasik), and special thanks to Pauline Porter who baked and help set up, to Karen Coda who baked and helped sell, and to Pat Hadley who helped set up, helped sell, helped take down, and provided invaluable moral support.

Vonda Delawie, Outreach team lead



The Giving Tree

This year we continue one of Emmanuel's well-loved traditions and successful fundraisers by supporting the Alexandria's Community and Human Services Department's efforts to support its community



members. Since the Department offers several support options, we inquired about what is needed most, and decided that sponsoring underserved teens with gift cards to local stores was

a great option. The Giving Tree has been set up in the church foyer. Donations are due by Sunday, December 6. Please consider taking an ornament as a reminder of your commitment to purchase and return a gift card from one of the following options (Target, Walmart, Best Buy, Sports Authority, Old Navy, Amazon, etc.). All donations are appreciated. Please indicate on the card or its envelope the amount (\$5, \$10, \$15, \$20, etc.) and put them in the box provided. Questions? Contact [Rachel Kliever](#).

ALIVE!

Since we are entering the season of feasting, this month we'd like to highlight ALIVE!'s Last Saturday Food Distributions. Since food subsidies, which begin the beginning of each month, often do not provide enough food to last through the end of the month, ALIVE! works with congregations, grocery stores, and the Capitol Area Food Bank to provide a 5-day supply of surplus fresh produce and staple foods on the last Saturday of each month. Through this service, ALIVE! serves about 600 families referred by social service agencies and ALIVE! congregations.

Here are four ways you can contribute to this terrific ministry.

- **Bring food donations to church on Sunday.**

Leave your donations in the basket. It doesn't get any easier! We will box them up to be



picked up by ALIVE! All nonperishable foods are appreciated, but there is an ongoing need for cereal, peanut butter, jelly, and canned meat.

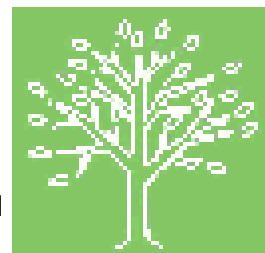
- **Make a tax-deductible donation directly to the food program.** Either drop your check (made out to *Emmanuel Episcopal Church* with "ALIVE! Food Program" in the memo line) in the weekly plate or [online](#).

- **Unload food on the last Friday.** This is a great Friday workout with time for dinner and drinks afterward. Volunteers unload food from the ALIVE! truck at Cora Kelly Recreation Center, 25 West Reed Avenue, in preparation for the last Saturday distribution. You can pitch in the last Friday of every month, January through October, and the second Friday in December from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (This event does not occur in November.)

- **Distribute food on the last Saturday.** Make this your New Year's Resolution! Volunteers bag and distribute food at three locations in Alexandria: Cora Kelly Recreational Center (25 West Reed Avenue), Ladrey Senior Residence (300 Wythe Street), and Church of the Resurrection (2280 North Beauregard). The distributions occur on the

last Saturday of every month, January through October, and the second Saturday in December from about 8:30

a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (This event does not occur in November.)



Upcoming ALIVE! Events

- **January 16.** Emmanuel's furniture distribution day. More information on this to come!

ALIVE! Requests

- The Furniture Program lost its warehouse space to redevelopment as of November 14. ALIVE! needs a minimum of a 1,000 square foot place and is looking for whatever can be found. Contact [Mike](#).
- Susanne Arnold is helping to resettle Afghan refugees with Special Immigrant Visas in Alexandria. Approximately one family per week is arriving. They all need beds, dressers, sofas, lamps, and rugs. Storage space is also needed until the items can be distributed to the families. Contact [Susan](#) at 703-606-2650.
- A new baby was born in October to an ALIVE! House resident, and other babies are due in December and January. Donations needed include trash bags; disinfectant spray; Metro fare cards; cleaning items for laundry, bathroom and kitchen; bleach; and toilet paper.



Christmas Flowers

The Altar Guild is looking forward to a magical Christmas Season, and a fun time decorating the church with extra greens and flowers. Anyone is invited to join us on December 22 at 6:30 p.m. However, if you feel like this is not your calling, you can still help us out with a special donation to our Christmas Flower Fund.



If you would like to make a donation, and have a memoriam printed in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day bulletin, please see the sign up sheet on the table in the

back of the church, or even better, go to the church web site and click on the [E-giving](#) icon, and follow the step-by-step instructions. We recommend a minimum of \$50, but would graciously accept any amount. Please make a note that your donation is for our Christmas Fund.

We are all looking forward to celebrating the Holidays together with you, your family, friends and neighbors here at Emmanuel!

*Kindest regards,
Your Altar Guild*

TNT Holiday Party

Saturday, December 5 — 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Home of Jennifer and James

5922 King James Drive, Alexandria

Come celebrate St. Nicholas at our annual TNT Holiday Party! While the adults enjoy some yuletide food and festivities the little ones will decorate cookies and make ornaments. It's the perfect evening to kick off your holiday season and fun for the whole family. Guaranteed to get you in the festive spirit!

This year our celebration will be a potluck so please bring your family's favorite holiday hors d'oeuvre to share.

If you would like to join us please contact [Jennifer](#).



Calling all TNT Families!

Looking for a way to spread the spirit of Christmas? This year the TNT Group will be spearheading the volunteer drive to deliver Christmas cards and warm cheer to the members of our Emmanuel family who are not able to make it to church on Sundays. We will be making Christmas cards following the December 20 service so cards can be delivered the following week.



Baked goods are also welcome! We have 13 EEC family members in need, many of whom live in Goodwin House. Please consider signing up and making a difference this Christmas season. Contact [Jennifer](#) for more information or to sign-up.

Books, Books, and More Books

We had stock-piled in our library: *Embracing an Adult Faith* by Borg, *Prophetic Jesus*, *Prophetic Church* by Johnson, *The Screwtape Letters* by Lewis, and *A Compass Rose* by Meland. If you are interested, these books can be found on a table in the foyer. A small donation to cover the cost of the book is requested.



All Saint's Sunday.

Happenings on the Holy Hill: Virginia Seminary



Emmanuel has a rich heritage and deep relationship with Virginia Theological Seminary. VTS offers an abundance of riches in events, classes, and

workshops open to all. Take a look at their upcoming activities. [Click here](#) for more information.

December

5 — *Advent Pilgrimage: A Walk Through Sacred Space*; 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM; Immanuel Chapel

6 — Dean's Cross with Lessons & Carols

13 — Messiah Sing-a-long conducted by Dr. Mark Whitmire

January

10 — Organ Recital with Janet Yieh

19-22 — Storyteller Class led by Donald Davis

February

Peace-making and Spiritual Discipline led by the Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori

February 9 to April 26 — 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM

20 — Illuminated Lives: Silent Retreat with activities led by the Rev. Dawna Wall, D.Min.



Above: On November 15, six members were confirmed and two received.

Back row: Blake Thompson, Bishop Jones, John Dresen, Andrew Buckman. **Front row:** Barbara Cotter, Katie Kelly, Suji Kelly, Carol Foss, Pauline Porter.

On the right (top to bottom): October Goodwin House Dinner: Kate Armstrong and her daughter, Kate Ellen; Barbie Frank and her mom, Liz McCrea; Nancy Dupree and Virginia Backus.





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

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703-683-0303 (phone)
703-683-6158 (fax)

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Preschool News

On Wednesday, November 18, the Preschool hosted a Parent Art Exploration Night. It was a fun evening of learning, observing, and trying our hands at various kinds of drawing. Kathryn Coneway, our artist-in-residence, shared a bit about the developmental stages of drawing. We learned that children begin with exploration of a given material using all of their senses. They then move to the energy stage, in which they like to cover as much of the paper as possible with their paint, crayons, or other materials. Children then start making controlled scribbles, followed by shapes and stories. In this latter stage children start to make connected enclosed shapes, and stories about their drawing increase. Once children are drawing shapes, they often start to make more complex designs with symmetry, divided space, and radials. Finally, children progress to creating representational forms. This information is helpful when looking at children's art, as it allows us to value and understand the purpose of what they are doing at each stage.



After hearing from Kathryn, we explored different drawing materials and practiced for ourselves. At one station we used black felt tips pens to make observational drawings of natural materials. At another station we experimented with oil pastels, discovering how to use them, trying them out on black paper, and using them to fill mandala circles. (A mandala in this sense is a circle to be filled with color or designs in whatever way the drawer chooses.) The third station gave us the opportunity to build with blocks and then use pencils to observe and draw what we had built.

I personally found it to be a relaxing evening that allowed me to use parts of my brain that I don't use enough! Providing these opportunities for children is extremely valuable as well. Kathryn shared with us that research has shown that giving mandala circles to children in special education classrooms at the beginning of the day helps increase their focus and improve behaviors. All of the types of drawing presented at the Parent Art Exploration night can easily be done with children at home. For reluctant artists, drawing something that they have built can add a new element and dimension to the idea of drawing. Oil pastels let children experiment with rich color and blending. And creating

observational drawing of natural objects gives children the chance to slow down, notice detail, and pay attention to form and texture. Drawing, just like yoga, is a practice, to be repeated and tried many times in many ways.

Our Priority Applications for 2016-2017 will be distributed on December 8. Church families who wish to receive an application packet should contact the [preschool office](#) or 703-683-0303. Priority Applications are due December 17.

*Ressa Jones
Preschool Director*

Red Twos Class

The Red Twos is the youngest group of students at Emmanuel Preschool. On Thursday and Friday mornings, we provide routines and structure that allow the students to grow and learn while feeling safe and comfortable. Students in the Red Twos are given opportunities to explore and learn through age appropriate toys and projects. Children are encouraged to use their words to express their needs and wants. Activities in our classroom are chosen to create learning and social experiences through play, projects and activities. In the month of December, we will create sensory explorations and group activities around the theme of Christmas. We will continue our ongoing art exploration of clay. The children enjoy digging into this dense material, rolling it into balls and coils, tearing it into small pieces and smashing the clay into flat pancakes. Their imaginations take over and they create stories to go with their creations. The picture shows a dragon battle! When our clay time is over, the children work together to clean up the space — rolling the clay into large balls and spraying it with



water so we can use it again and cleaning up the table with large sponges. They are learning cooperation and to take responsibility for our materials and classroom. In the second half of December, we will begin an art exploration of drawing with oil pastels, including using different materials and textures to draw on and using different surfaces such as boards, tables and the floor to draw on. So many fun things are lined up for the Red Twos this month and we are happy to share them with you!

*Mollee Hansen
Susan Stockton*



Emmanuel Episcopal Church follows the Alexandria City Public School (ACPS) system regarding closings for inclement weather. If Alexandria Public Schools are closed, then Emmanuel Episcopal Church is closed. All day and evening activities and meetings are cancelled. This applies to weekdays and weekends.

If Alexandria Public Schools have a late opening or an early closing then we will follow their lead as well.

This inclement weather policy includes the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday services as well. If it is unsafe for the school system to be open, then it is unsafe for our church to be open. God will completely understand — yes, even applaud

— your taking care of yourself and others by staying home.

In the event of a Sunday closing, an e-mail will be sent to all who currently receive the weekly e-news; and the closure will be placed on the website as well.



- 2 [Carpenter's Shelter Dinner](#)
- 2 Vestry Budget Meeting (7:30 PM)
- 4 Meals on Wheels Deliveries
- 5 TnT Holiday Party (6:00 PM)
- 6 Advent 2 / Youth Sunday (10:30 AM)
- 6 Breakfast with St. Nick (11:30 AM)
- 8 Preschool In-House Applications Distributed
- 9 Vestry Meeting (7:30 PM)
- 12 Storytelling Bootcamp (9:30 AM)
- 13 Advent 3 / Crèche Sunday
- 13 God & Donuts Babysitting (2:00 PM)
- 13 God & Donuts Holiday Gathering (4:00 PM)
- 16 Preschool Christmas Program (11:30 AM)
- 17 Preschool In-House Applications Due
- 19 Gala (6:00 PM)
- 20 Advent 4 / Card Making
- 20 Comfort and Healing Service (5:00 PM)
- 22 Church Decorating (6:30 PM)
- 24 Christmas Pageant (4:30 PM)
- 24 Christmas Eve Vigil (10:00 PM)
- 25 Christmas Day Service (10:30 AM)
- 25-31 Christmas Holiday (**Church Office Closed**)



- 1 New Year's Day (Church Office Closed)
- 3 Epiphany / Youth Sunday
- 4 Meals on Wheels Deliveries
- 6 [Carpenter's Shelter Dinner](#)
- 10 God & Donuts (4:00 PM)
- 10 Screening of *Trash Dance* (6:30 PM)
- 13 Vestry Meeting (7:30 PM)
- 16 ALIVE! Furniture Delivery
- 21-23 Diocesan Council
- 24 Annual Parish Meeting (9:00 AM)
- 22-24 God & Donuts Retreat
- 30-31 Vestry Retreat



- 1 Meals on Wheels Deliveries
- 3 [Carpenter's Shelter Dinner](#)
- 7 Youth Sunday
- 7 Super Bowl Party
- 9 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- 10 Ash Wednesday (12:00 PM and 6:30 PM)
- 14 Lent 1
- 17 Vestry Meeting (7:30 PM)
- 21 Lent 2
- 28 Lent 3
- 28 God & Donuts (4:00 PM)
- 29 Lent 4

****Please note that the Church Office will be closed from December 25 to January 1. However, staff will be available December 28-31. Please call the office (703-683-0798) or e-mail [Chuck](#), [Kelli](#), or [Karen](#) if you need to get in touch with any of us or to ensure someone is at the church if you need to stop by.****



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