



EMMANUEL NEWS

February 2011

Join Us in Welcoming Bishop Prior on
Saturday, Feb. 12th!

Please join us for eucharist, confirmation and a celebratory luncheon on Saturday, February 12th as we welcome our "new" Bishop, Brian Prior, to Emmanuel. Please note that this event will be on Saturday, February 12th. Confirming information will follow by email, but here is the preliminary schedule:

10:00 a.m. Vestry to meet with Bishop Prior

11:30 a.m. Eucharist with confirmation (of

Connor) and reception

Lunch following (approximately 12:45 p.m.)

Greetings from Bishop Prior

For anyone wishing to be received into the church, please contact Kathryn Jeffrey. We have not been visited by a bishop for 4 years, so please make every effort to attend.



Excerpts from Sr. Warden's Annual Report (JoEllen Doebbert)

Financially, we finished the year strong. Despite the economy and the loss due to death of a small number of parishioners, financial gifts to the parish have been larger than anticipated, and we ended 2010 with a healthy balance in our parish check book.

It has been a year of continued 'behind the scenes' activity by Kathryn Jeffrey to help ensure a positive worship experience, outreach to shut-ins and those in the hospital, and support to your lay leadership in the absence of a rector. We are experiencing these 'fruits' thanks to action taken by the parish at an annual meeting about three years ago to hire Kathryn Jeffrey to begin some home visits, pastoral care, and some adult and youth educational programming. Since then, Kathryn has been asked to select hymns

Contact us:

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320-763-3201

Sunday Service: 10 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

Pastoral Care: Contact

The Rev. Kathryn Jeffrey,

Tom Sinning, Deacon, or

Edith Kelly

Support Staff

DeAnn Runge, email:

rector@rea-alp.com

Newsletter: Wendy Zander

wendyjzander@yahoo.com

Open Church Wed. & Fri.

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Bette Wolf

Vestry:

JoEllen Doebbert

Sr. Warden ('12)

Don Krueger

Jr. Warden ('12)

Edith Kelly, Clerk ('13)

Wendy Zander, Treasurer ('13)

Mary Sinning ('12)

Tim Johnson ('14)

Wendy Zander ('14)

Edith Kelly ('13)

Bob Baas ('12)

Mark Reicks ('12)

Delegates to Region and

Convention:

Rev. Tom Sinning, Deacon

Laird Barber

Alternate delegate open.

and help coordinate the liturgies. Although we see two or three different ministers in a typical month, there is consistency in the worship experience. Kathryn works behind the scenes, so many don't realize it is her good work that helps things go so smoothly around here.

It has also been a year of testing the waters. We continued to offer our monthly "soup ministry" to those who use the Food shelf next door until the fall, when we as a vestry decided to suspend it. Although we usually would serve one or two returning folks, plus the food shelf volunteers working that day, our highest number served was about eight, plus volunteers. I had mixed emotions about suspending the ministry, as it served a faithful few. Before the ministry is continued, a decision will need to be made about the mission of this ministry: to be content with serving a faithful few by serving those who use the foodshelf, or by making that 'leap of faith' to offer the ministry to the whole community and be prepared to serve the many.

The other issue that 'tested the water' at Emmanuel was the proposal from the newly formed Living Word Lutheran Church to share our space and pay rent for the privilege. This proposal proved to be a very emotional one for the vestry to discuss, but in doing so, brought out strong opinions and emotions about the love we have for our church and the community of Emmanuel, why we are here, what Emmanuel means to us, and how that could be impacted by sharing space with another church community. The proposal was defeated.

2010 was also a year of exploring and developing. We are blessed to have a summer parishioner with many years of experience as a pre-school teacher: Sheila Stanton. Kathryn introduced Sheila to "Godly Play," a montessori-based early elementary Sunday School program, and Sheila is willing to help us roll out this program in 2011. We are hopeful that this program could bring young families into the church.

This fall I presented some information to the vestry about 'shared ministry,' 'total ministry' and/or having a part-time priest in charge. As we move into 2011, we will have the opportunity to observe one or more services by a total ministry team, and to learn more from our Canon Missioner, Sandi Holmberg, who will visit with us about our options.

This year also brought increased financial accountability. The Vestry now sees a breakdown of expenses as a percentage of the budget at least quarterly.

At the end of the year, your vestry was presented with diocesan canons which require our bylaws to be updated. Some of the required changes include maximum consecutive terms of service for Vestry and lay leaders. The bylaws committee met and will be presenting new bylaws at the 2011 annual meeting. I do believe that Emmanuel is best-served by having fresh faces on the vestry and in leadership positions. The term limits set forth in the church Canons are there for a good reason: fresh views are important to the future of the church - we can't keep doing things the way we have always done them; changing times and conditions require new insights from persons who have not served and from those who have had a break in service and wish to come back to serve.

As I enter my final year as Sr. Warden, I would like to thank all those serving on vestry for their stewardship, their time and their attention to the needs of the parish. We continue to be blessed with those willing and able to serve.

Excerpts from Long Term Supply Priest's Report (Kathryn Jeffrey)

It is amazing for me to realize: could it really be true that this January marks four years of my pastoral work at Emmanuel Church? It has been a very pleasurable time of service, and my gratitude for our work together increases as I reflect upon these years. As I write this first Annual Report for you, I write hurriedly amidst the new and short-term responsibilities of fresh grandmotherhood. I apologize if, in my haste, I have overlooked mentioning things I ought.

In coming to understand Emmanuel's liturgical preferences (short sermons! familiar hymns!) it also became apparent that there was significant interest in incorporating prayers for healing into our Sunday Eucharists. Emmanuel is blessed with parishioners gifted in intercessory prayer, but there was no formal outlet for parishioners to benefit from these gifts beyond inclusion on our prayer list. In response to this interest, healing prayer was added to our Eucharistic

liturgies (with many thanks to Tom Sinning for his support). Discernment of whether to add some sort of mid-week time of healing prayer is still underway.

In small churches, intergenerational activities are helpful in meeting the needs of diverse age groups and interests. Complementing our liturgies, I have endeavored to resurrect (or experiment in adding) new intergenerational activities. Among these have been the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper (thank you, Karen!), the Good Friday egg-coloring, the flowering of the Easter Cross, the Eastertide egg hunt (thank you, Verley and Rachel!), Advent wreath-making and Jesse Tree, and Epiphany King's Cake traditions. Youth retreats such as 2009's visit to the synagogue and the Greek Orthodox church could easily be expanded to include older parishioners, either as chaperones or as companions. Thank you, Brad and Joellen, and our youth participants Caitlyn, Connor, Gavin, and Colin, for making our first attempt such a fun and inspiring success.

Important for all churches, especially those in transition, is striving to invite others to share in God's work that we are given to do. I have endeavored to model this through promoting, encouraging, and (in the case of the newly-ordained clergy) mentoring, other clergy to share in Emmanuel's altar ministry. I am grateful that Juanita Palmerhall, Robin Morical, Dana Emery, Frederick Nairn, Linnae Grabner-Hegg, and Glenn Derby have joined Father Preble and I in the deep privilege of presiding during Emmanuel's Eucharists at various times. I have sought to open for lay ministry some tasks formerly reserved for clergy. On Good Friday, we enjoyed some very fine reflections by Mark, Bette, and Nancy. In the summer of 2010 we began to experiment again in partnering parishioners as companions for nursing home residents (thank you, Sheila and Ann for venturing forward, and also Edith, for your long-time faithfulness).

I have endeavored to plant seeds for future growth. We revived the newcomers welcoming ministry, recruiting new bread-bakers and bread-deliverers. I am particularly grateful to our snow-bird parishioner Sheila for laying the ground work for a Montessori-based Sunday School program at Emmanuel. Establishing such a program would be unique in Alexandria, and thus a real gift to the whole community as well as the life of the parish.

Just as the Diocese of Minnesota moves forward in utilizing technology to draw us together despite geographic distance, I have been creating pathways to strengthen our bonds year-round with our faithful snow-bird parishioners. Currently one such parishioner keeps active and involved through the online Foundations for Christian Discernment (FCD) program, and I hope that others both near and far will join the group in the future. Combined with "real time" classes such as those offered by Laird in 2009-2010 (thank you, Laird!), the internet can be an important educational and pastoral resource among Emmanuel's widespread community.

In essence, all program activity by intentional clergy in a parish is "pastoral work," and, especially in small churches, pastoral care tends to happen informally through the context of other activities. Beyond this informal pastoral care, "direct" pastoral care has still comprised the greatest part of my service at Emmanuel. Through hospital, nursing home, and in-home visits, I have been privileged to bring Christ's love on your behalf to the aged, the ill, and those undergoing surgeries. Office appointments, telephone appointments, and even extended email dialogue have provided the context for additional, frequent pastoral outreach.

I consider it an enormous privilege to serve Emmanuel Parish, where the commitment level is so high among parish leaders. Thanks are due to our team of organists, Nancy, Margaret, and Laurie, and our team of support staff, DeAnn, Bette, and now Wendy. Their graciousness and flexibility are such wonderful assets to our common life at Emmanuel. Special thanks go also to our diligent treasurer, Karen, to our tireless Altar Guild Directress, Edith, to our dedicated Property Manager, Don, to all our liturgical assistants, and to our Sunday school teachers Brad, Belvin, and JoEllen. Most of all I want to commend Emmanuel's Senior Warden JoEllen for her most gracious and dedicated service. A Senior Warden's job is always a big one; it is all the more challenging in the absence of a rector or priest-in-charge. Truly, through hundreds of hours of loving service, she has entered the rank of world-class Senior Wardens.

I give thanks that the Lord Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us, has sustained this church through another year of love and service.

Christmas/Epiphany Program, January 2nd.

What a treat for our parish!

Cast:

Angel:

Autumn



Joseph:

Gavin

Mary:

Jemma

Lamb:

Jada

The full cast with the three wise men on the right: Trappier, Colin, Hunter.

Thanks to Conner and Gavin, and Caitlyn and Colin for their presentation of O'Henry's "Gift of the Magi."

Recipients of the coffee beans found in pieces of the Kings Cake were Don Krueger and Trappier. They were allowed to issue edicts: Don wants to keep Emmanuel Parish going, and Trappier

wants NO MORE WAR!



February Events

2nd - Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ

9th - 5:30 p.m.—

Vestry Meeting

12th - Bishop Prior's visit and confirmation

February Birthdays

Dyanne Parsons

Edith Kelly

Florence Hill

Marie Baas

Mary Ann Maamari

February Anniversaries

Tarz & Sandy Embry

Gordon & Donna

Ziegelman

Donald & Ann

Hultstrand

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