



EMMANUEL NEWS

January 2011

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT:

Reflections by the Rev. Kathryn Jeffrey

Our unusually mild autumn weather provided plenty of opportunity to view migrating ducks and geese. It always strikes me as miraculous to see the huge V-shaped formations of birds winging southward. How amazing is the Creator who set the knowledge deep within the brain cells of birds to know how to accomplish this annual journey and the return migration as well!

When we watch the migrating birds closely and often, we are treated to see a ritual reminiscent of England's "changing of the guard." The bird at the point of the "V" gets the most wind resistance, and thus has to work the hardest. Each successive bird in formation has a slightly easier time. To keep the pace of migration brisk, a bird takes the lead only for a short time. After pounding the air until wing-fatigue sets in, the lead bird then retreats to either of the farthest ends of the V in order to rest and regain strength for his or her next shift as leader. Thus, leadership is rotated throughout the flock.

Humans have taken a cue from nature and realized that communities are healthiest when leadership is rotated through the years. Our Diocesan Canons recognize this and provide for a four-year maximum on the number of years that church leaders can serve consecutively. In the larger churches, wardens, treasurers, clerks, and vestry members complete their terms, perhaps never to serve again, because of the large pool of leadership talent ready and willing to step forward. In smaller churches, however, it generally is a matter of taking an all-too-short break before getting back in the leadership saddle again. Basically, it amounts to obligatory Sabbath time for hard-working lay leaders; a fundamental building block of healthy spirituality.

All Diocesan churches were asked to revise their by-laws to conform with the Diocesan Canons by 2011, if they did not already mesh. In its December meeting, the Vestry began to move forward to meet this requirement. It can be a daunting task to revise any organization's by-laws, but eventually Emmanuel will be able to rest confident that its members are meeting all legal and spiritual expectations. That is surely well-pleasing to God, a great way to start a new year!

New Year's blessings,
Kathryn+

Contact us:

Emmanuel Episcopal Church

P O Box 231
12th Avenue and Lake Street
Alexandria, MN 56308
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 (2012)

Don Krueger

Jr. Warden (2012)

Edith Kelly, Clerk (2013)

Karen Reicks, Treasurer
(2011)

Mary Sinning (2012)

Tim Johnson (2011)

Karen Reicks (2011)

Edith Kelly (2013)

2 vestry positions open.

Delegates to Region and

Convention:

Rev. Tom Sinning, Deacon

Laird Barber

Alternate delegate open.

Sr. Warden Notes

Dear Friends,

Please join us for our annual meeting on Sunday, January 23rd. Lunch will be provided, and of course, there will be an Epiphany Cake with the Epiphany ring hiding inside, ready for a lucky person to find.

One of the issues at the meeting will be to adopt new bylaws. Our bylaws are much out of date, and the diocesan canons require that church bylaws be updated to conform to the canons. The canons require a limit on the number of years a Vestry member may serve, as well as limits on the terms that a Treasurer, Warden, or Secretary (i.e. Clerk) can serve, either individually or in combination with being a Vestry member. As these canons are implemented, vestry members will serve out their current terms, and more folks will be needed to fill the open seats. One of the changes I anticipate will be proposed is that some of the Vestry terms will be shorter - not the standard three year terms that we have in our current bylaws.

One of the concerns that has been expressed about changing our bylaws and conforming to the Canons is that we are a small church and do not have enough people to rotate through Vestry or serving in other positions. Yes, we are a small church. But if each of us takes a turn - even a one year stint - then we are helping to ensure that our church will be there when we truly need it. As I said in my stewardship letter:

"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. We have two, unfilled, open seats on the vestry and another seat that the church Canons require be filled by a new person. Please consider joining the vestry and making a difference in the future of the church. In 2012, more folks will be required to retire from the vestry as required by the Canons, and new folks will need to be found at that time."

It has been an honor for me to serve as your Sr. Warden these past two years, and I look forward to my third and final year. I believe that if we all work together, and serve the Lord together, that we will be doing His Will, making our community and Emmanuel a wonderful place to worship and to find God.

One final note. If you have not done so, please return your financial pledge by January 9th, and please consider completing the time and talent pledge as well.

JoEllen Doebbert, Sr. Warden

January Events

2nd - Christmas/Epiphany Program
6th - The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ
9th - The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ
12th - 5:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting
23rd - Annual Meeting Lunch Provided.

January Birthdays

Donna Ziegelman
Mike Baas
JoEllen Doebbert
Kathryn Jeffrey
Mark Reicks
Stephanie Schaper

January Anniversaries

Ted & Florence Hill
Jeff & Ellen Hormel

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Friends -- I received the following from Rev. Derby on Christmas Day. He was not able to finish the service on Christmas Eve, but many thanks to Bishop Parsons who stepped in to give us a wonderful, impromptu sermon and celebrate Eucharist with us, and also to EMT Jason Sinning, Brad Parsons' sister Mary (who is a doctor) and to Nurse Tim Johnson who assisted Fr. Derby and got him the help he needed. We were truly "Emmanuel" on Christmas Eve. JoEllen

I felt your prayers last night! Please let everyone know I am fine, we left ER, and got home at 10!
I had afib episode-have not had one for four years-no damage to heart, very thankful for all the prayers and professional help that just "happened" to come from the pews-I will always remember all the love and care!

Hope to see you soon

Glenn+

The Rev Glenn E Derby

15396 Shellisa Lane

Brainerd MN 56425 8127 218 330 3997

Epiphany House Blessings

Looking for a traditional way to transition from the Twelve Days of Christmas to Epiphany? How about a New Year's blessing for your home? Beginning January 2, blessed chalk will be available at the church which you are invited to take home and use to write over your doorway :

20 + C + M + B + 11

Surrounded by the numbers for the year of our Lord 2011 are the initials for the Latin words for "Christ Bless this Home." There is another, perhaps older meaning also traditionally associated with these letters. Come to church on Sunday to confirm any hunches you may have regarding the other meaning associated with C + M + B!

"Heavenly Father, visit this home with your heavenly blessings. Let all who enter here find within a haven of love and peace. May all who go out from this place carry Christ's love into the world. AMEN."

Military Updates:

Linnae's son-in-law, Andy, is safe at Camp Leatherneck in Iraq. She writes that his canine partner had a nervous breakdown of sorts and had to be taken out of the intense combat situation. Both are getting some R & R. There is concern that "Bandit" won't be able to work anymore and where that leaves Andy. For now, it leaves him "behind the wire," safe, warm, showered, fed, and in communication. "We like that a lot! It was probably the best Christmas present," reports Linnae.



