



November 2010

NEWS FROM EMMANUEL

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The Rev. Tom Sinning, Deacon

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT: Reflections by the Rev. Kathryn Jeffrey

"At our church, Vestry members are scheduled the responsibility of opening the Church on Sunday. This past Sunday was my turn. As I go through each area of the Church, narthex, choir loft, altar, lights, sound system, etc., I pray for that particular area of the Church. For example, in the choir loft, I pray that the music will be a blessing to God. At the doors, I pray that all people entering will feel the presence of God in their entire being and take that with them when they go into their week. Praying like this always makes me feel close to God. At the altar I pray for each person who receives the body and blood of Christ, that they will be strengthened in spirit. All this makes me feel close to God."

An FCD student wrote this lovely answer to the question with which we begin each week's work online, "When did you feel closest to God during the past week?" Is there any wonder that Mickey (who granted me permission to share this with you) is serving a church that is undergoing deep transformation, and growing in numbers and spirit? A different person might have approached his turn at this task with grumbling resentment about having to get up a bit earlier and be at church before everyone else, He might have done the job perfunctorily, unlocking the doors hastily before heading out for coffee, only to slip back to church at the last possible moment. Mickey, however, understanding the spiritual dimension to even the smallest duties, brought great love to his task. He walked through the entire building, blessing it with his gentle presence and praying for everything that would happen there that day. In this, he was like the kitchen monk, Brother Lawrence, who practiced the presence of God with every potato he peeled and every dish that he washed. Mickey understands that it is not what we do, but how we do it that matters. He also understands that it is his prayerfulness that is his most important qualification for Vestry responsibilities.

Do we bring prayerfulness to all our responsibilities? Is Sunday the day we seek refreshment--Sabbath rest--or the day we bustle through the tasks that we didn't get to earlier in the week? Let's make prayerfulness, Sabbath rest, and practicing the presence of God our priorities at Emmanuel Church, in our homes, and in all our lives.

God's peace,
+Kathryn

P.S. As it happens, Emmanuel has its own "Opening Angel." Most Sundays, Edith is at the church very early unlocking and preparing the building for our use. Thank you, Edith!

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SAFE CHURCH TRAINING – Saturday, November 6th

For those persons in leadership positions with our church, who work with the public at our church or with children at our church, it is important to receive "Safe Church" training. The next training is at St. James Church in Fergus Falls on Saturday, November 6th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please contact JoEllen on or prior to November 3 if you are interested. We will likely carpool.

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Shared Ministry/Total Ministry

by JoEllen Doebbert, Sr. Warden

Your vestry is investigating our options for ministry at Emmanuel. For example, can we afford, and are we able to hire, a part-time rector or "priest in charge?" Should we explore Total Ministry or Shared Ministry? Should we combine a part-time priest in charge who provides leadership and all the amenities of a rector, with a lay team of 'ministers' who are trained to conduct services when our priest in charge is not scheduled?

Since the terms "total ministry" and "shared ministry" will be discussed over the next few months, I thought I would take this opportunity to give you a brief introduction to the concepts. Total or shared ministry involves a team of persons from a congregation who use their gifts of ministry to provide worship services, pastoral care, and other important services and ministries. "Total" ministry means that members of the team provide all the needed functions of the church (e.g. all the worship services) and there is no seminary-trained priest associated with the church who conducts services, does pastoral care and so forth. "Shared" ministry means that there is a team as above, but there is also a seminary-trained priest who might be rector or priest in charge and provide various services also.

This is a fairly simplistic explanation, and I don't mean for this introduction to provide everything you need to know about it. We will be inviting one or more shared or total ministry teams to Emmanuel over the next several months so that we can learn more about the concept.

Keep in mind that the basic premise of shared or total ministry comes from our baptismal roots: "each baptized Christian is called to use their God given gifts for ministry." Our own Book of Common Prayer states: "Who are the ministers of the Church? The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons." According to information provided by our Canon Missioner, Sandi Holmberg, "lay persons" are intentionally listed first. Our prayer book then asks another question on page 855: "What is the ministry of the laity? The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church."

Persons who are discerned to have the gifts of total or shared ministry engage in a three year process of training. They can become preachers, 'Eucharistic ministers' (i.e. one who administers the bread and wine at holy Eucharist), deacons, pastoral care ministers, and so forth.

Please let me know if you would like to read more on this subject and I will provide you a copy of some materials. I can also email them to you. My email is eastreno@runestone.net.

SOUP MINISTRY -- temporarily suspended



We are temporarily suspending our soup ministry for a few months. This will give us some time to evaluate it as a ministry and determine whether we want to continue it as is, make changes, or end it as a ministry and do something different.

I would like to take this time to thank everyone who helped out in any way with the soup ministry. I would especially like to thank those who made the food during one or more months of the ministry: Wendy Zander, Mary Ann Mameeri, Donna

Ziegelmann, Ann Hultstrand, Cleone Sherman, Sheila Stanton, and Bette Wolf. The food shelf volunteers were very helpful in handing out slips to their clients about the upcoming lunches.

As you know, it was our goal to provide a service to those who used the food shelf and to members of our congregation who would otherwise be alone. We were able to serve a small number of repeat 'customers' as well as some new people. I know they appreciated the meal and those of us serving enjoyed meeting and talking with those who stopped by.

I would appreciate any suggestions or comments about the soup ministry. I would like to maintain a strong connection between Emmanuel and the Food shelf, and to aid those who use the food shelf in any way possible. As an interim ministry, I am thinking about advertising our 'Open Church' (coffee, cookies and conversation) and 'Jumble Sale' to the food shelf clientele, since Bette is here each Wednesday and Friday from 10-1.

Again, my thanks to all who have helped, and please see me if you have ideas about the soup ministry or open church, or about other ministries which would serve God's mission. JoEllen Doebbert 283-5736

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CREAMY BANANA PUDDING

Thank you Ann Hultstrand for providing this tasty recipe!

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| 1 (14 ounce) can sweetened condensed milk | 1 pint heavy cream, whipped |
| 1-1/2 cups cold water | 1 box vanilla wafers |
| 1 small package instant vanilla pudding mix | 4-5 bananas, sliced |

- Combine condensed milk and water in a large bowl. Add pudding mix and beat well. Chill 5 minutes. Fold in whipped cream.
- Spoon 1 cup pudding mixture into a 2-1/2 quart glass serving bowl. Top with 1/3 each of the wafers, bananas, and pudding. Repeat layers twice, ending with pudding.
- Chill thoroughly before serving. (I prefer to chill overnight)

Yield: 8 to 10 servings

'Pon Top Edisto Cook Book
Trinity Episcopal Church
Edisto Island, South Carolina

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