

EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HIGH NOTES



2013

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High Notes Submissions

Articles for each month's *High Notes* must be submitted to the [church office](#) by the 15th of the month.

A Note from Chuck

Are you ready for Christmas?

"Are you ready for Christmas?" asked a guy I see almost every day as I walk Brock around the long block where I live in Fairfax. I thought of the gifts I still need to buy and the calendar crammed with holiday events and parties, and I shook my head. "Not yet," I said, and we both laughed knowingly.

On my walk I let my mind ponder that question a little deeper. "Am I ready for Christmas?" This time I thought about the meaning of the holiday — the Son of God coming to earth to dwell among us and show us the way to eternal life. Emmanuel. Again I shook my head and murmured to myself, "Actually, I am ready!"

It was then that I vowed to take advantage of every opportunity to prepare my heart for the coming of the Christ Child into the world — the world you and I live in.

What I discovered was that if we know what we're preparing for, everything we encounter on the way to Christmas 2013 can prepare us for the coming of Christ, not only in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago but also into our homes, our families, our workplaces, and our communities. The usual December distractions can instead become holy moments when we find the Christ Child in our midst. Emmanuel.

Having the right attitude and perspective on the season will help us all to avoid the excesses that make certain Christmas preparations frantic — and sometimes draining and disappointing. As one theologian put it, "The task seems to be a delicate one of learning to make the customs and traditions of Christmas serve the Spirit."

May I recommend that we all take a look at some of December's demanding activities with new eyes — eyes that fully expect to find God in every moment of this season of hope. Emmanuel.

Happy Advent everyone.

Peace,



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.

Emmanuel Church Staff

Bishop of Virginia

The Right Rev. Shannon Johnston

Rector

The Rev. Charles C. McCoart, Jr.

Interim Director of Christian Education

Evelyn Hutton

Organist/Choir Director

Ryan Fitch

Parish Administrator

Kelli Corts

Nursery Caregivers

Lilian Urrea
Rosa Alarcon

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:30 a.m.—Holy Eucharist Rite II

Church Office Hours

Monday—Thursday
10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church

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Celebration of New Ministry and of Shared Ministry

On Thursday, November 7, Emmanuel Episcopal Church was filled with joy as we celebrated the official installation of Chuck McCoart as Emmanuel's new rector. A long processional of crosses, torches, banners, choir, visiting and home clergy in a splendor of red, parishioners, and Bishop Susan Goff began the service with appropriate "pomp and circumstance." Immediately, our senior and junior wardens, along with members of the Search Committee, presented Chuck to the Bishop, confirming his selection and qualifications to lead us.



Bishop Goff then charged not only Chuck, but the entire congregation, to commit ourselves to our joint ministry with Chuck as our rector. She later emphasized the nature of that shared ministry in both her conversation with the children (with a puppet!) and also her sermon for adults.



At one point in the service, members of Emmanuel and representatives of the Diocese presented Chuck with gifts that symbolize his various roles as rector: a Bible for proclaiming the Word, water for baptism, oil for healing, the keys to the church, and other gifts. The

evening ended with a lovely reception and the presentation to Chuck of a new blue chasuble from the congregation and a photograph of Emmanuel Church from the Vestry.

All told, more than 30 Emmanuel parishioners played a formal role in the service and reception. Many more worked behind the scenes to ensure the evening's success. In this way, we have already demonstrated our commitment to the shared ministry Bishop Goff called us to.

*Faithfully,
Beth Boland*

[Click here to read Bishop Goff's sermon.](#)



2012-2013 Vestry

Senior Warden
Russ Haymes
Junior Warden
Vonda Delawie
Treasurer
Gene Lange
Members
Christina Bartley
Emily Buckman
Bob Carragher
Bob Feden
Joe Scott
Michelle Vaughan
Meredith Wade

Contacts for Emmanuel Parish and Worship-Related Activities

Acolytes: [Dave Buckman](#)
Altar Guild: [Christina Bartley](#)
Building and Grounds: [Vonda Delawie](#)
Coffee Hour Baristas: [Jennifer Adams](#)
Counters: [Jim Bradley](#)
Inreach: [Nancy Dupree](#)
Music (Adult and Youth Choirs): [Ryan Fitch](#)
Music (Guitar Circle): [Stewart Bartley](#)
Newcomers Welcome: [Joe Scott](#)
Parish Office: [Kelli Cortz](#)
Preschool Liaison: [Meredith Wade](#)
Readers and Chalice: [Jerry Boykin](#)
Sewing Group: [Judy Carlton](#)
[Gudrun Callahan](#)
Shrine Mont Parish Retreat: [Joe Scott](#)
Ushers: [Bob Callahan](#)
Vestry: [Russ Haymes](#)
Worship: [Anne Seville](#)

Christian Education

Adult Formation (Sunday and Tuesday mornings): [Chuck McCoart](#)
Adult Formation (Wednesday evening): [Beth Boland](#)
Sunday School: [Evelyn Hutton](#)
[Michelle Vaughan](#)
Youth: [Evelyn Hutton](#)
[Meredith Wade](#)

Outreach

ALIVE!: [John and Katherine Rider](#)
Alexandria Tutoring Consortium: [Kelly Dresen](#)
Bag Lunch Program: [Karen Coda](#)
Haiti (Sister parish of St. Martin de Tours): [Rosemari Sullivan](#)
[Claire Haymes](#)
Meals on Wheels: [Fred Deluca](#)

Fundraising

Annual Giving Campaign: [Bob Carragher](#)
Backpacks for Community Lodgings: [Barbara Harslem](#)
Haiti Coffee Sales: [Mary Beth Edgar](#)
Holiday Bazaar: [Mary Ann Frank](#)
Yard Sale: [Margaret Wohler](#)

Advent Prayer for an Individual or Family

The following prayers are meant for every day during the weeks of Advent, beginning with the first Sunday. Dinner can be made even more special with this ritual. The family or individual says the prayer as the candles on the Advent wreath are lit.



The First Week of Advent

The family or individual prays:

Father in heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of your love, and our minds are searching for the light of your Word.

Increase our longing for Christ our Savior and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.



The Third Week of Advent

The family or individual prays:

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ever faithful to your promises and ever close to your Church: the earth rejoices in hope of

the Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope which his presence will bestow, for he is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.



The Second Week of Advent

The family or individual prays:

Father in heaven, the day draws near when the glory of your Son will make radiant the night of the waiting world.

May the lure of greed not impede us from the joy which moves the hearts of those who seek him. May the darkness not blind us to the vision of wisdom which fills the minds of those who find him. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.



The Fourth Week of Advent

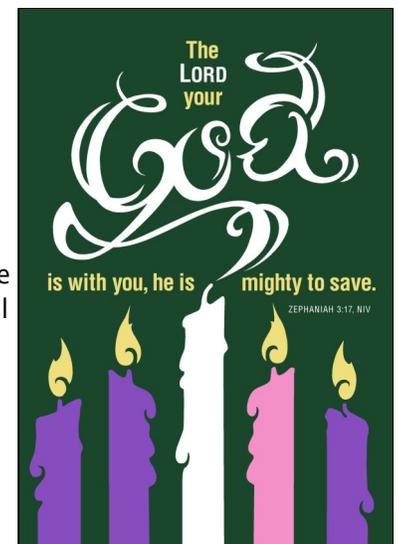
The family or individual prays:

Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of

your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory, and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday Services during Advent

During the four Sundays of Advent our services will be intentionally designed to allow for more quiet reflection. With a little preparation ahead of time Advent can be a beautiful time of quiet anticipation and reflection. To this end, announcements will be shared at the end of the services, rather than in the middle. We'll also be using a different rite and prayers so as to highlight the change in liturgical season and the celebration of anticipated new life among us. Not such a big deal, but a little change in our regular routine.





HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

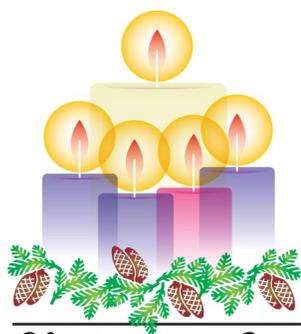
Taizé Service — Tuesday, December 3, 7:00 p.m.

We all know how hectic the weeks leading up to Christmas can be. This year, start off your Advent season on a meditative note. Taizé, in the south of France, is the home of an international, ecumenical community founded in 1940. Since then, their style of prayer and singing has become popular around the world. Taizé services engage individuals in reflection, healing, and inner peace. They have been used to introduce retreats, to focus students before their studies, even to center artists before a creative session. As an ecumenical community, Taizé focuses not just on personal wholeness but wholeness of the worldwide church as well. Their services incorporate elements from different Christian traditions — from icons to using many languages in their music. Please join us for a short prayer service focused on scripture reading, chant, and silence.

"One of the first things Christ says in the Gospel is this: "Happy the simple-hearted!" Yes, happy those who head towards simplicity, simplicity of heart and simplicity of life." —*Brother Roger of Taizé*

Comfort and Healing Service — Thursday, December 19, 7:00 p.m.

Please join us for a special seasonal service at 7:00 p.m. in our chapel. Though this holiday season leading up to Christmas is filled with many blessings for many people — for others, this season can also be a challenging time, especially if you have experienced the loss of a loved one, might be dealing with an addiction, in bad health, or just desirous to celebrate Christmas in a quieter way. Join us and consider bringing a friend.



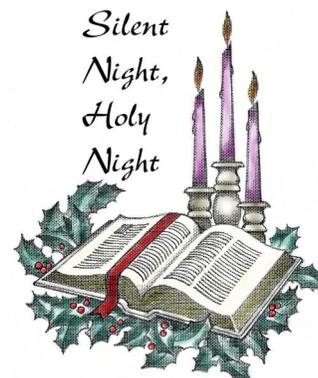
Christmas Eve Pageant — Tuesday, December 24, 7:30 p.m.

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 you know would like to have a part in this year's pageant, please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or simply come to rehearsal during Sunday School on **December 22**. The Pageant will be held during the 4:30 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. 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

Christmas Eve Vigil — Tuesday, December 24, 10:00 p.m.

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



*Silent
Night,
Holy
Night*

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Christmas Day — Wednesday, December 25, 10:30 a.m.

As we 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. In consultation with the Worship Committee, we will celebrate Christmas Day with one service at 10:30 a.m. with Holy Communion and music.



Lessons and Carols / Family Sunday — Sunday, December 29 — 10:30 a.m.

The Festival of Lessons & Carols is a service of worship celebrating the birth of Jesus that traditionally followed during Christmas-time. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told through short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns and choir music.

The format was based on an order drawn up by Edward White Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, but at that time Bishop of Truro, in Cornwall, for use on Christmas Eve 1880. Tradition says that he organized a 10:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve in a temporary wooden shed serving as his cathedral and that a key purpose of the service was to keep men out of pubs on Christmas Eve!

Join us for this festive celebration of the Birth of our Savior among us again.

Epiphany / Family Sunday — Sunday, January 5, 10:30 a.m.

The celebration of Epiphany will be held on Sunday, January 5. It celebrates the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles and the visit of the Wise Men to the Christ Child. Epiphany is traditionally celebrated on January 6, but here in the United States we transfer the celebration to the closest Sunday so many of us can celebrate this special day together. Come join us.

God's LOVE has
been poured
into our
HEARTS
through
the
HOLY SPIRIT
that has been
given to us.

Romans 5:5, NRSV

Baptism of the Lord — Sunday, January 12, 10:30 a.m.

The Baptism of the Lord is the feast day commemorating the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. Originally the baptism of Christ was celebrated on Epiphany, which commemorates the coming of the Magi, the baptism of Christ, and the wedding feast at Cana. However, here in the west, the celebration of the baptism of the Lord came to be commemorated as a distinct feast from Epiphany.

Calling ALL Babies! Here at Emmanuel Episcopal Church we welcome all who would like to have their child baptized on this special day. Join us at the 10:30 a.m. service if you'd like to celebrate your child's baptism with our community. Please contact [Chuck](#) if you'd like to have your baby or child baptized.

Advent Book Discussion — *a Coming Christ in Advent*

Join Chuck and other parishioners for an Advent book discussion Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the Memorial Room. The book, *a Coming Christ in Advent* by Ray Brown, will be available for purchase. Reading a designated chapter ahead of time will make the conversation more fruitful, but please, if you cannot read the chapter ahead of time — join in the conversation and community with others anyway. The book has been ordered and should be in soon.



Decorating the Church for Christmas

On Sunday, December 22, following the 10:30 a.m. service, the Altar Guild is gathering to decorate the church for Christmas. We invite anyone to come and participate in this very festive activity. However, if you are not that into decorating per se but still would like to help out, we would love it if you could just bring some greens. We will especially need Magnolia, Boxwood, Holly, Pine, and Yew.

Feel free to add to the celebration as you feel called, or just stop by to learn more about what the Altar Guild is doing and enjoy some chili which our long time member Nancy Dupree will be serving. We would love to see you! Don't hesitate to contact [Christina Bartley](#) with any questions.

Breakfast with St. Nicholas

Plan to join us for the 10:30 a.m. church service on December 8 for a special opportunity for the children to meet Bishop Nicholas of Myra and hear his story. After the service children may meet St. Nicholas individually, while we all enjoy a delicious brunch. 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.

Sunday School News

The Sunday School classes will meet together during the Season of Advent to explore together our journey to Christmas Day and the birth of our Lord and Savior. We will meet on December 1, 15 and 22. There will be no Sunday School on December 8 as that is Family Sunday and also there is the St. Nicholas breakfast following the 10:30 a.m. service. In addition, we will use December 22 to get ready for the Christmas Pageant which will be a part of the 4:30 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.



St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble on November 17.

Christmas Flower Donations

The Altar Guild is seeking some extra funds to use towards decorating the Church for Christmas. If you would like to make a donation and have a memorial printed in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day bulletins, please see the sign up sheet on the table in the back of the church or in the Parish Hall. You can also go to the church [website](#) and click on the [E-Giving](#) icon and follow the step-by-step instructions. Just make sure to note that it is for Christmas flowers. Any donation is welcomed, but we recommend a minimum of \$50. Thank you.



Given to the Glory of God: A Year of Flower Donations

Starting January 1 the new flower sign up sheet for 2014 will be posted in the Parish Hall. Take a moment to consider how you or your family might celebrate an occasion (wedding, birthday, anniversary), remember a loved one who has died, honor a special friend or family member, or express gratitude for any number of things. Then select a date and note your intention on the calendar posted for this purpose in the Parish Hall. Donations for Altar Flowers can be made online using a credit card. Just go to the church [website](#) and click on the [E-Giving](#) icon, and follow the instructions. Alternatively, note Altar Flowers and the date you choose on the memo line of your check, and bring it to Kelli. We recommend a minimum of \$50. Many thanks!



Twenties and Thirties

We had a lovely potluck supper at the home of Adam and Amy Schidge in mid-October with some delicious food. As three of our members are keen micro-brewers, there was also the opportunity to try some of their produce and admire the professional bottle labels.

Our next event will be **Christmas Drinks on December 20** from 7:00 p.m. at the home of John and Katherine Rider (5269 Colonel Johnson Lane, VA 22304). Hope you can make it!

Although TnT is an opportunity for fellowship with members of the church of a similar age, it also should provide a non-threatening environment in which to introduce friends, both Christian and non-Christian alike. Please invite anyone who you think may be interested.



The Twenties and Thirties (TnT) enjoy each other's company for a potluck meal.

Bazaar Update: Thanks and Praise

By Sarah Markel

Psalm 100 urges us to "Make a joyful noise to the LORD." This year's Bazaar and Silent Auction has given us plenty to be joyful about. We had an impressive turn-out of shoppers this year. The final tally is not complete, but after expenses, the bazaar will have raised a little over \$9,000. All of that money supports activities, programs and Outreach at Emmanuel.

We owe the success of the bazaar to the many volunteers who pitched in. The bake table, frozen meals and lunch alone earned about \$2,600. The lunch tables were full at all times and the frozen meals "flew" out of the kitchen. The bake sale even sold out by the close of the day. Many thanks to Vonda Delawie, Jennifer Adams, Meredith Wade, Irène Harris, Hank Harris, and all their helpers for their hard work in those areas.

Molly Watson and Christina Bartley worked hard setting up and decorating the parish hall. Molly also organized the silent auction. All of the silent auction items received bids. There was even a bidding war on the Kindle Fire. Thank you to Molly, Christina and the Emmanuel Preschool teachers who donated the Kindle.

Our craft vendors were happy with their sales. Huge thanks to all of our parish shoppers who made that happen. Thanks also to Bob and Jeanne Feden for handling external publicity and finance for the bazaar; Sarah Markel for internal publicity; and Nancy Dupree for representing our Emmanuel Sewing group.

The bazaar's youngest guests (and their parents) went home happy thanks to the tremendous efforts of Kim Scott, Tom Craig, Marianne Bambara and their team of helpers in Santa's Secret Workshop.

Many Emmanuel youth group members pitched in, too. Thank you to Caroline Garrard, Katherine Conner, James Bambara, Elise Bilodeau, Claire Bilodeau, Mary Adeline Stiers, Thomas Haymes, Gareth Markel, Blythe Markel, and Hannah Buckman!

Finally, none of this would have been possible without the dedication and leadership of Mary Ann Frank, our Bazaar and Silent Auction chairperson. Thank you, Mary Ann, for another successful auction!



ALIVE! (Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically)

Wonder how you could get more involved in ALIVE!?

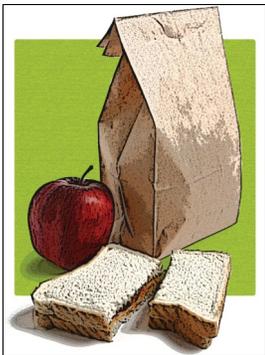
There are vacant positions currently for:

- The Child Development Center Board
- ALIVE! House (request for assistance in particular with fundraising)
- Internal auditor

Check out the [ALIVE! Facebook page](#) to find out about events and other volunteering opportunities.



Members of Emmanuel at Last Saturday Food Distribution at the Church of the Resurrection. Next Last Saturday is December 14.



Bag Lunches

Our last week of bag lunches for 2013 falls at the very end of the year: December 30 - January 3. No doubt some of the regular bag lunch crew will be away for the holiday. So please take a look at your calendar now, think about whether you'll be in town that week, and consider whether you can contribute. We'll be serving lunches each day of the week except Wednesday, January 1. If you can help out or just want more information, contact [Karen Coda](#). Thanks!

The Christmas Giving Tree

One of Emmanuel's well-loved traditions has been the Christmas Giving Tree, and this year [Kerry Adams](#) and [Rachel Kliewer](#) have agreed to set up the tree and organize the gift-giving. Once again we are blessed to be able to make Christmas a bit brighter for Alexandria children who might otherwise not receive gifts. All you need to do is take a *wish tag* off the tree that will be set up in the back of the sanctuary. Please purchase the requested gift (or something similar) for the child and then place the unwrapped gift under the tree **NO LATER** than Sunday, December 15, so the gifts may be distributed on time. Gifts should be **NEW** and **UNWRAPPED**.



Mitten Tree

The Sunday School and the Preschool are working jointly this year to decorate a mitten tree for the ALIVE! Child Development Center, who will then distribute to those in need. Any Sunday in Advent, please send mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, socks, or underwear for children ages 2.5 to 5 years old. There will be a box in the foyer and a tree inside the Russell Road entrance to receive these gifts.



Join us for our Christmas Program at 11:00 a.m. on December 18. The children will begin their Christmas break at noon, and school will resume on January 6.

We will hold our Preschool Open House on Sunday, January 12 at 1:30 p.m., and the Public Lottery will be Saturday, January 25 at 8:00 a.m.

Applications will be available on December 11. You may pick one up in the Preschool Office, or if you have already expressed interest and provided your email address, they will be e-mailed. All children of church members must complete an application and return it with the \$75 registration fee (maximum fee is \$100 per family) to the preschool office no later than Thursday, January 9. Feel free to return the application and check to the office at any time before then.



Have you purchased your Emmanuel tote bags yet? Look for them soon at a coffee hour—\$3 each or 2 for \$5.

Sunday School Teachers Needed for Epiphany Season

We have had a wonderful group of teachers working with the children of Emmanuel this fall. They have given the children the immeasurable gifts of their time and talents and love. Please, please consider joining us during Epiphany. You don't need to have children in the Sunday School to be a part of our fun. Speak to Evelyn (703-683-0798) — she's here on Sundays and during the week.

Buy a Christmas Tree and Support a Shelter

If you are buying a Christmas tree this year, consider buying it from the Church of St. Clement at 1701 N. Quaker Lane. St. Clement's uses the proceeds from the sale to fund their shelter program, so buying your tree there guarantees that someone will have a warm, safe place to sleep this winter.



All trees are Fraser firs. They'll be on sale outside the church on Fridays from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., Saturdays from 9:00 – 6:00 p.m., and Sundays from noon – 6:00 p.m.





2	Olivia Nealon	16	Rachael Cruz
4	Sarah Hoffman	18	Ham Beggs
5	Chuck Dervarics	18	Allan Knutsen
6	Kate Armstrong	24	Irene Harris
7	Perry Conner	25	Charles Scott
10	Jake Scott	27	Michelle Vaughan
11	Rosemary Beggs	29	Margaret Wohler
13	Bryan Kasik	29	Nora Peay
14	Allene Taylor	30	Greg Delawie
15	Stephen Beggs	31	Tracey Reed
15	Andrew Frank	31	Emma Bartley

Ham and Lola Beggs
December 19

Phil and Mary Kasik
December 28

Bucky Mills and Nancy Kuhn
December 31



December

- 3 Taize Service—7:00 p.m.
- 8 Family Sunday
- 8 Breakfast with St. Nicholas
- 14 ALIVE! Food Distribution
- 19 Comfort and Healing Service—7:00 p.m.
- 20 TnT Drinks and Secret Santa—7:00 p.m.
- 22 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
- 22 Decorating the Church for Christmas
- 24 Christmas Pageant—4:30 p.m.
- 24 Christmas Eve Vigil—10:00 p.m.
- 25 Christmas Day Service—10:30 a.m.
- 25-27 Church Office Closed
- 29 Family Sunday

January

- 1 New Year's Day—Church Office Closed
- 5 Epiphany / Family Sunday
- 12 Preschool Open House
- 20 Martin Luther King Day—Church Office Closed
- 25 Preschool Public Registration / Lottery

May

- 2-4 Shrine Mont Retreat