

EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HIGH NOTES



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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

Building the Kingdom of Heaven



There are a lot of parables and other stories in the scriptures these days about the Kingdom of

God. Jesus, at every turn, thank goodness, tries to help us wrap our minds around how we too can be a part of kingdom-building. Images of mustard seeds, pearls, yeast. So lofty on the one hand, so simple on the other. Surely kingdom building is for the holy among us? Sure. Possibly. But it's probably more the case that kingdom work is the work of everyone. Read on

Our congregation here at Emmanuel does a pretty darn good job of helping to build God's kingdom here on earth. As long as we have Christ in our hearts, we have the power to affect positive change — to make some simple difference in the life of another human being.

- We make a difference just by being here. We witness to Christ just by being here. As people drive by on Russell Road, our building testifies to our love for Christ. When people see our cars parked on all three sides of our church, our cars witness to our love for Christ. When people see us coming and going, assembling outside to speak with each other, our smiling faces witness to our love for Christ and for each other.
- We make a difference by what we do here. We make a difference by our worship — by singing hymns — by our fellowship with one another. We make a difference by participating in ALIVE!, when we tutor a child, when we serve at Carpenter's Shelter, when we help with the annual yard sale which helps people in our neighborhood, when we make sandwiches which we distribute to those who are hungry and when we visit someone in our church family who is unable to join us here within these walls. This is kingdom-building.
- We make a difference by what we do when we leave Emmanuel and go out into the world. When we leave church, we take the church to dozens of different places. We are, after all, the church — the people of God. When we leave Emmanuel, we go to our homes and to the homes of our friends. We go 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 Associates

The Rev. Rosemari Sullivan
The Rev. Joani Peacock

Seminarian

Alex Allain

Director of Spiritual Formation for Children and Youth

Toni Buranen

Organist/Choir Director

Ryan Fitch

Parish Administrator

Kelli Corts

Administrative Assistant / Receptionist

Heather Starek

Nursery Caregivers

Lilian Urrea
Rosa Alarcon

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

1608 Russell Road
Alexandria, VA 22301
703-683-0798 (phone)
703-683-6158 (fax)

office@emmanuelonhigh.org
www.emmanuelonhigh.org

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workplaces and play places. We meet people on the streets and in the supermarkets and malls — and we take Christ with us.



Fred Craddock, a great preacher and teacher of preachers, puts it this way. He says:

"A word here, a cup of cold water there, a firm stand on a matter of conscience — let people do their own work without forcing, without pushing, each in their own way. Drop the stone in the water; the ripples will spread beyond sight."

In other words, just say a faithful word to someone — a kind word — an encouraging word. Invite someone to come with you to church. Then trust God to do something with your little mustard seed word. Stand back and let the Holy Spirit work. That's kingdom-building.

It might not seem that we are doing anything and, in a sense, we aren't. It isn't ourselves, but the Christ who lives in us, who makes the difference. It might not be apparent that Christ is making a difference. Yeast works slowly and quietly — but it works. Christ works! Christ makes a difference — and he does that through us.

So be of good cheer! Have faith! Say a faithful word, and then trust God to do something with it — something big — something blessed. You all inspire me each and every day. Thank you for your example of loving service.

Have a great August.

Peace friends,

Your Pledges at Work

It has been a busy summer and you should be seeing the results of the efforts of painters, masons, an electrician, our cleaning staff, our "handyman," and church and preschool volunteers. The exterior of the building, several classrooms, the work room and Kelli's office have been painted, for starters. Needed electrical repairs and upgrades are completed and preliminary work on replacing one of our 14 air conditioners is underway. Carpets throughout the building will be cleaned, floors polished, and a long list of minor upgrades and repairs are being 'checked off.' A generous gift from a member helped with the expense of replacing three sets of crumbling steps on the High Street side of the property. Yes, indeed, EEC is looking sharp! Help us keep it that way by contacting Kelli in the office if you spot something that needs attention AND by keeping your pledge account current, especially during the summer months when it's easy to forget.

*Meredith Wade
Vestry Liaison, Building and Grounds*

Why am I an Episcopalian?

By Tom and Elizabeth Anderson

Elizabeth: My British-born parents came to the United States in 1938 when my Dad was invited to do a year of research at the Swedish Hospital in Seattle. During that year, he was asked to stay to work on the Manhattan Project in support of the war effort. My parents had planned to return to England, but ultimately decided to remain in the United States.

Dad was raised in the Methodist church, and Mother in the Church of England. Although as children, we attended the Episcopal Church, my parents felt we should make our own decision about religion. Throughout high school, I continued to go to the Episcopal Church, but also attended different churches with friends. It was then that I decided that the services and rites of the Episcopal Church best met my spiritual needs. When I moved to Virginia, I transferred membership from my church in Washington State to Christ Church in Alexandria, where several of my friends attended.

When my husband Tom and I were dating, we liked the early morning service at Emmanuel. We were married in the lovely Chapel which holds a special meaning for us. The intimate service in the Chapel continues to be a favorite of ours.

Tom: I was born and raised by Swedish parents who immigrated to America through Ellis Island at the turn of the century. I attended the local Lutheran church in Everett (just north of Seattle) beginning when I was a toddler up until I was in about the ninth grade.

My parents and an aunt, uncle and grandma and our neighbors were musicians to their core. I remember our family sitting around the radio in the dark in the required air raid blackouts in the evenings during WWII listening to dance bands in NYC. And my parents held jam sessions at our house each weekend. I fondly remember falling to sleep in my upstairs bedroom listening to the music. Obviously, I learned the joy of making music from them and I was blessed with a reasonable singing voice and I learned to play the trumpet and a full set of drums.

In high school I joined a youth group in the Baptist Church and attended services there regularly. Many of my friends were involved and the activities included intramural sports, hiking and the like, plus bible study classes each

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Tom and Elizabeth on their honeymoon in 2009.

2014—2015 Vestry

Bob Carragher (*Senior Warden*)
Michelle Vaughan (*Junior Warden*)
Emily Buckman
Leo Cruz
Bob Feden
Bryan Moore
Adam Schildge
Joe Scott
Meredith Wade
Doug Wheeler

Gene Lange (*Treasurer*)
Vonda Delawie (*Clerk*)

Contacts for Emmanuel Parish and Worship-Related Activities

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

Christian Education

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

Outreach

ALIVE!: [John and Katherine Rider](#)
Alexandria Tutoring Consortium:
[Kelly Dresen](#)
Bag Lunch Program: [Karen Coda](#)
Giving Tree: [Kerry Adams](#); [Rachel Kliewer](#)
Haiti (Sister parish of St. Martin de Tours):
[Rosemari Sullivan](#)
Meals on Wheels: Fred De Luca

Fundraising

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

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week. It was high energy and kept me involved with learning of the church and doing so with good friends. But, I was still missing “something” to connect their teachings and service proceedings to my life and being in church.

When I was an undergraduate student at the University of Idaho, I saw a notice posted in the Student Union and took it upon myself to attend information classes at the local student Episcopal Church house. I thought I would take the chance of trying yet another Christian denomination.

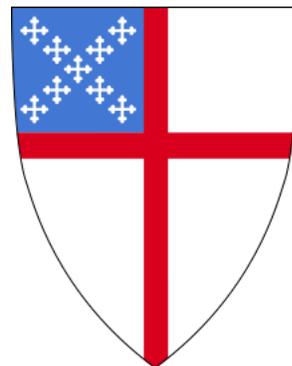
I was comforted by the information classes. The services and rites in the Book of Common Prayer, where the entire congregation, including the priest and choir – all – participate in the service, not just by singing, but by speaking many parts of the service, all led with beautiful music. Unfortunately, my busy schedule of studies, working part time, fraternity officer and being on the varsity ski team didn’t seem to leave enough time to attend the Episcopal Church on campus.

When I graduated from college I married my college girl friend in her Methodist church and attended that church in Everett in the summer until we moved to Moscow where I started my teaching years at the U of I. It was there that I met Bruce Bray, our neighbor and professor of music at the U of I. Wow! That is when it kicked in!

After long discussions about my history of church and music life, Bruce convinced me to find time to start going back to church, his church, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Moscow where he was organist and choir director. One thing led to another in rapid fashion and before long I was singing in the choir, serving on the vestry and supervising the purchase and installation of a new pipe organ for the church. That was in the 1960s and I’ve stayed with the church ever since.

A special aspect of my time at St. Marks is that Bruce had the priest, the choir and the congregation singing antiphonally. Father Fleharty sang the psalms and communion service words. I fondly remember that wonderful experience to this day.

So there you have it of how and why I became an Episcopalian. It was a winding, long, enjoyable journey, and each step helped me build on the last. We all get here in different ways and, thanks be to God, we do.



Why I Choose Emmanuel

You may have noticed for the past several months we started running a monthly article on why people chose to be an Episcopalian. With so many new members in our parish I thought it might be helpful to new people among us to read why someone might choose to be an Episcopalian. Imelda, Bob, and Marco all sent wonderful messages which we enjoyed reading. You will soon find these messages also on our parish [website](#).

In September I’d like to introduce a new article titled: **Why I Chose Emmanuel**. If you’d like to share with us why you chose to be a part of our parish, please send your articles to [me](#) and we’ll work to get them in the newsletters this Fall.

Many thanks.

Peace,

Chuck

Words of Our Worship: "Cantor"

We Anglicans have our own vocabulary for just about everything! Unusual names for parts of the church; parts of the liturgy; the things that go on the altar; names for who is who in those vestments; as well as vestry and sacristy lingo. If you are a life-long churchgoer, you may have heard these words all your life but have no idea where they come from or what they mean. If you are a newcomer, well, this may all be new to you!

So for August the word is "**cantor**". While the choir was on summer vacation, Marianne Palastro, was Emmanuel's guest cantor. Supported by Ryan Fitch, our organist, Marianne beautifully led the congregation in song. The history

of cantors in worship goes back to our Jewish roots and cantors have been part of virtually every Christian tradition: Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant.

So here is a little history....

A **hazzan** or **chazzan** is a Jewish musician trained in the vocal arts who helps lead the congregation in songful prayer. In English, they are often called **cantors**.

In Christianity, the **cantor**, sometimes known as the **precentor**, was considered the "first of the singers". Employed in a cathedral or monastery, they were responsible for the choir and the preparation of the music for divine services. The cantor would choose the music, conduct the choir, lead the chant, and correct the missteps of the

singers placed under them. The cantor supported the singing of the melody by movements of the hands, as would a conductor.

In the Eastern Orthodox tradition, a cantor, also called a **chanter**, was a monk or a lay person in minor orders who would chant the responses and lead the singing of hymns in the services of the church.

In the Roman Catholic tradition, prior to Vatican II, a cantor was the leading singer of the choir and customarily a cleric. The medieval **cantor of the papal Schola Cantorum** was called the **Primicerius**. In medieval cathedrals, the cantor directed the music and chant, as well as being a ranking dignitary. During the 14th century in many churches, the cantor began to delegate the instruction of singers to a master of music. When harmonized music was introduced, these duties fell to the choirmaster. Today in RC parishes (both with or without a choir), the cantor may lead both responsorial singing and the congregation in song.

In Protestant Churches the role of the cantor was served both by the lay and the ordained. In Europe, especially in Germany, the title of **Cantor** or **Kantor** survived the Reformation. The Kantor was the musician who supervised the music in cardinal churches, taught in the choir schools, and provided music for civic functions. Johann Sebastian Bach and Georg Phillip Telemann are two famous musicians who were employed as cantors.

Who knew?

Faithfully,
Joani



Meet the Adult Spiritual Formation Ministry Team

Did you notice on Emmanuel's spring calendar such programs as the Sunday morning "Way of the Cross" and "Singing Our Faith" series, a presentation on Celtic traditions and spirituality, the Shrine Mont "Know Your Neighbor" guided discussions, April's Zentangle evening of meditative doodling, or the June wine and cheese reception with Alexandria's Poet Laureate? The relatively new Spiritual Formation Ministry Team, which has organized and/or collaborated on these and several other offerings since February, hopes that you not only noticed, but joined one or more of them! Formerly known as the "Adult Education Committee," the team now uses the name "Spiritual Formation" to convey the diversity of activities through which we seek to engage your hearts, minds, and souls. These include traditional Bible Study, guided discussions on specific topics, "spiritual socials" to combine socializing with spiritual growth, and other events.

We are already planning for fall, which will begin with a Sunday morning exploration of "A History of Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years," using the six-part BBC series as the jumping off point for

discussion (see article below for details). The Tuesday Morning group will be launching into a study of the Gospel of John and a new evening Bible Study group also will start meeting. Our next Spiritual Social will take place at Huntley Meadows in October and we're working on a special Advent event as well. Watch future Sunday bulletins, newsletters, and Emmanuel's Facebook page for more information.

The following is our mission statement. We invite any others called to help with this work to join the team!

Our mission is guided by the Great Commandment, grounded in love of God and love of neighbor. Our hope is to help the faithful connect Sunday to Monday by engaging hearts, minds, and souls: hearts by way of the creative arts; minds through thoughtful study of God's Word, and spirits with food for the soul. We seek to create opportunities where our faith, relationships, and community may be strengthened by providing a safe and welcoming place for one and all to explore together what it means to be faithful Christians in the 21st century.

*Beth Boland, Jennifer Jones, Chuck McCoart,
Joani Peacock, Margaret Wohler*

"A History of Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years"

Fall Sunday morning forum series — 9:15 a.m. in the Memorial Room

This fall we will explore the roots, blossoming and branches of the Christian faith. Our guide will be Diarmaid MacCulloch's fabulous six part BBC series "A History of Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years". It's based on the Oxford University historian's masterful work of the same name published in 2011. (A great resource, not for the faint of heart! Lighter recommendations will be made along the way.)

One Sunday we'll view an episode and follow up with a discussion the next Sunday. We'll also draw on the wisdom of fellow parishioners who have come from a variety of traditions, an occasional guest and optional mid-week field trips to other churches.

- September 7 and 14 — "The First Christianity"
- September 21 and 28 — "The Unpredictable Rise of Rome"
- October 5 and 12 — "Orthodoxy, From Empire to Empire"
- October 19 and 26 — "The Reformation: The Individual Before God"
- November 2 and 9 — "Protestantism: The Evangelical Explosion"
- November 16 and 23 — "God in the Dock"

Come to any or all. No reading and no homework required! Questions? Contact [Joani Peacock](#).

Greetings from the Office of Spiritual Formation for Children and Youth

How blessed we are! Things are buzzing right along as we approach the new school year. We have Sunday school teachers as well as a God and Donuts team — and for these we are so grateful! Thank you to those who have been able to say yes to this ministry. We can always use

“The spiritual life does not remove us from the world but leads us deeper into it.”

—Henri J. M. Nouwen

more help. I know I have said it before, but children and youth ministry is a whole parish ministry. If you

are interested in supporting our children and youth in some way, please be sure to contact [Toni](#).

At some point, as it becomes more apparent, I will put out a list of specific needs.

In the meantime, thank you all. We are looking forward to a great year. Be sure to reach out with any questions or ideas and in the meantime, take some time to enjoy the lazy, hazy days of summer.

Peace,
Toni



Some upcoming dates:

God and Donuts will be getting together for a social event sometime before August is out! Stay tuned for more information!

Registration for Sunday School and God and Donuts begins August 1. You are welcome to

[download the registration form](#)

here OR from the website OR look for a hard copy on the door of the Office of Spiritual Formation for Children and Youth. There will also be some available after services in the Narthex or the parish



REGISTER FOR
SUNDAY SCHOOL

hall. If you are planning for your child to attend Sunday school or God and Donuts, it would be very helpful to **submit the registration form by August 31** so that we can get a general sense of the number of children and youth for whom we should be planning. Only one form per family is needed.

On Saturday, September 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., there will be a retreat/workshop for our Sunday school teachers and God and Donuts team at the Virginia Theological Seminary here in Alexandria. This is a wonderful opportunity for our children and youth ministers to take time to breath and reflect on their own spiritual journey and on their ministry to our young people.

On Sunday, September 7, at the 10:30 a.m. service, we will have a teacher/children and youth ministry team commissioning as well as a Blessing of the Backpacks! All those assisting with Sunday school and God and Donuts are asked/invited to attend this service so that we as a community may bless this ministry. All the school-age children and young people of our parish, from preschool to universities, are invited to bring their school backpacks so that we as a community may have the opportunity to bless their school living and working as the new academic year begins. We invite teachers, school staff and administrators to join in this blessing as well.



On Sunday, September 14, we will have our first day of Sunday school and God and Donuts. This will be a time to meet your teachers and say hello. Stay tuned for a 2014 – 2015 calendar.

Opportunities to Serve

Ministry Fair on September 21

Eight o'clockers — plan to stay after church! Everyone else — plan to arrive early! The Ministry Fair will take place on Sunday, September 21 between services in the Parish Hall. This is your chance to learn more about parish activities, speak to members of each Ministry Team, and find the participation opportunity that feels right for you. The Fair will be coordinated by the Outreach Team. For more information, please contact [Pat Hadley](#) or [Vonda Delawie](#).



Backpack Ministry

Community Lodgings Inc. (CLI), an organization started by the Episcopal Churches in Alexandria, provides transitional housing to move families from being homeless to having a home of their own. CLI serves about 90 children at a time. The services for children include developing study skills, help with homework, and learning computer skills. As many children in our city look forward to the first day of school and shopping for new school supplies, these children do not have the resources to join in this back-to-school ritual. We at Emmanuel Church have the opportunity to help these young people to start the new school year with all the school supplies they need. Please make a donation to help in this vital ministry. You may write a check with *backpacks* on the memo line or use the blue pew envelope and note *backpacks* on the envelope. Questions regarding this ministry may be directed to [Barbara Harslem](#).

Monthly Meal Preparation and Serving

Imagine working full time and still being forced to choose between feeding your children and paying the

rent. The cost of living in Alexandria is such that employment does not mean stability for many families. EEC is taking on a new outreach project! Thanks to Imelda's careful and caring research, EEC will be providing dinners to the Carpenter's Shelter in Alexandria. The shelter provides safe housing, job-seeking assistance, and — of course — family meals. EEC will be responsible for cooking and serving meals for the residents of Carpenter's Shelter one night per month.

Our regular night will be the first Wednesday of every month beginning in September. But, in the meantime, our first meal night is coming up on August 13. If you and yours are interested, please e-mail [Marco](#). You do not need to commit to the whole schedule of meals, as you can choose to participate only in those

months that work for you. Volunteer opportunities include cooking, transporting, and serving. If your schedule does not allow you to be present to serve the meals, you can cook your dish ahead of time and drop it off. Though the shelter requires that only adults do meal service, children are strongly encouraged to participate in the meal preparation. This is a wonderful way for the whole family to contribute without making a long term commitment.



Free School Physical Program

On Saturday, August 16 from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. volunteers are needed to assist families in need of Free School Physicals. Physicals are given at the South County Government Center on Route 1 in Alexandria. As a volunteer you will be paired with a family and will simply walk with them through the process so they receive all of the services they need (immunizations, physicals, etc., plus a backpack with school supplies, new reading books and a bike helmet). Further

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information on this program can be found [here](#), and about the volunteers [here](#). If you would like to volunteer or ask any questions please call or e-mail [Bonnie Lilley](#), 703-780-4844.

Shrine Mont Camps Fundraising Dinner

Saturday, November 1, 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Refectory, Virginia Theological Seminary



Shrine Mont Camps have fed and formed the youth of the Diocese of Virginia for over 50 years. Join Bishop Ted Gulick and other Shrine Mont fans and camp alumni for Orkney-inspired food, live music, and the opportunity to help secure the future of the camps.

For information or an invitation, contact Sally Masri at 703-867-2803 or find the event on the [Shrine Mont Camps Facebook page](#). Share your old camp photos and videos! Click here for information about the ["Shout It From the Mountain" capital campaign](#).

Emmanuel Yard Sale

August 30 — 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

We accept all housewares, furniture, books, sports equipment, toys, women's accessories (handbags, belts, hats, scarves, jewelry), gardening equipment, working electronics. **We do not**

accept TV's, liquids, flammable or edible items, clothing, or VCR tapes. Donations will be accepted by the schedule outlined below.

The yard sale is a fun event that engages the parish



community with the neighborhood. Please volunteer to receive donations, set up, price, sell, or clean up by sending a note to [Margaret Wohler](#).

Thank you for your help in making the Yard Sale a successful fundraiser and outreach event to Alexandria's low-income families! See you then!

Donations Drop-off Schedule:

- Sunday, August 3, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon (before and after church services)
- Thursday, August 7, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday August 10, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon (before and after church services)
- Monday, August 11, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 13, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, August 14, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, August 17, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon (before and after church services)
- Monday, August 18, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 19, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 20, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, August 21, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The final week before the yard sale, August 25-29, will be open for donations as we set up the parish hall.

All donations are to be placed on the stage. Large donations should be delivered during the week of August 25-29.



Vestry Meeting Minutes

If you are wondering what Vestry is up to, the monthly meeting minutes are posted on the Vestry bulletin board, above the piano in the parish hall.

Fellowship

Film and Discussion Night

TnT (Twenties and Thirties) Girl-Only Film Night

Saved! is a 2004 American teen comedy-drama film involving elements of religious satire. The film touches on the issues of religion, ostracism, homophobia, teen pregnancy, divorce, and disabilities. After the film, there will be a discussion around some of the issues raised.

When: Friday, August 15 at 6:30 p.m. for a 7:00 p.m. start

Where: The Rider's Home, 5269 Colonel Johnson Lane, Alexandria, VA 22304 (571-218-0425)

Sketch Hike at Huntley Meadows Park — October 26, 2014

The Adult Spiritual Formation committee is sponsoring a nature journaling sketch hike at Huntley Meadows Park this fall, just in time for the colorful leaves, and without football game conflict! October 26 promises to be a beautiful time of year to stroll the park and learn to draw natural subjects. Join Huntley naturalist

Margaret Wohler from 3:00-5:00 p.m. RSVP to [Margaret](#). (Depending upon interest, we may be able to provide materials.)



Emmanuel Photo Directory

Coming This Fall

We are working with Lifetouch/Olan Mills on a new church photo directory. Every family who has their picture taken for the directory will receive a free 8x10 picture and a

directory. Also, you will be able to sit down with a Lifetouch representative immediately after your portrait session to view your photos and select one for the directory. You may also purchase additional photos and poses. Lifetouch encourages you to make your photo session unique and personal — bringing Spot (or Brock) and Kitty to be a part of the photo session is absolutely allowed!



Picture dates are: Thursday, September 25 through Saturday, September 27. **Mark your calendars now!**

We will need volunteers to staff tables for picture signups after church on Sundays in the parish hall and to check people in on their portrait session days.

Keep an eye out for more information in the next few weeks.

Congrats to our Grads

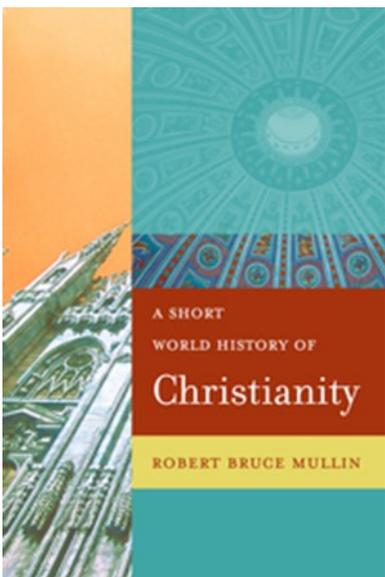
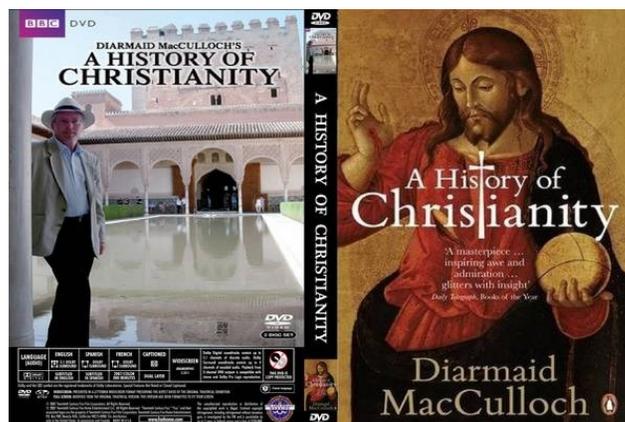
The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria awarded two of our youth with scholarships for their college expenses: Marcus Wohler, TC Williams Swim and Dive Boosters Scholarship, and Isabelle Harris, Stacey C. L. Bradley Memorial Scholarship. Well done!



Lectio Divina: A Trilogy of Christian History

This fall's Sunday morning adult forum series "*Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years*" is a fabulous BBC six-part program — sparkling and engaging and a must see! It is based on the book of the same name published in 2009 by the Oxford professor, *Diarmuid MacCulloch*. (See related article in this issue!). His book is masterful and now considered the definitive scholarly text but it is not for the faint of heart. It's nearly **1200 pages** and weighs in at about **5 pounds!** Great for when you want to look something up, you cannot sleep, or you need a makeshift doorstop.

So let me recommend some lighter fare to take us on this worldwide, two-thousand year tour.

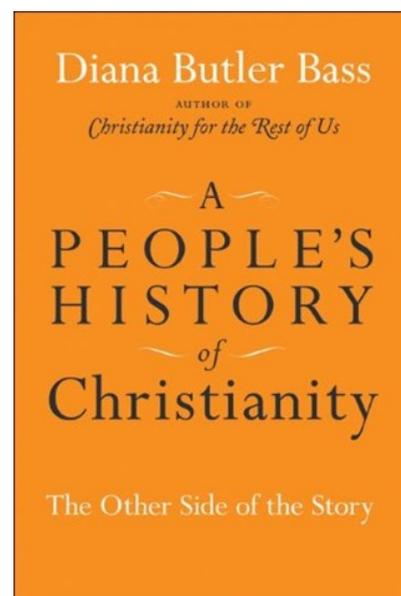


A Short World History of Christianity, Robert Bruce Mullin, 2008

Mullin's book is equally scholarly but also compact, concise and beautifully written. The book uses geography to explore how the Christian faith shaped the world both east and west. Starting with Pentecost and the words of Luke's Gospel, Mullin invokes the metaphor of fire: "it destroys and refines; its light illuminates and its smoke conceals." The story of Christianity "is one of amazing creativity and terrible destruction, of fearless accomplishments and grim failures, of highs and lows. Whatever else is to be said, Christianity has left its mark on the world as sure as any fire." **A really good book! And only 300 pages!**

A People's History of Christianity: The Other Side of the Story, Diana Butler Bass, 2009

Diana Butler Bass is the CS Lewis for the 21st century. A local scholar and historian, Bass lives in Alexandria and has taught at VTS. Her historical approach is holistic and inclusive. Bass brings to the forefront both forgotten voices and the grassroots movements that have kept alive the spirit of the faith for two thousand years. "In this beautifully written history, Bass reveals the living, beating heart of love at the core of Christian faith." **Provocative and refreshing! And also only 300 pages!**



All three are available new, used and on Kindle at Amazon.com.

See you in September, on Sunday the 7th for the start of the series in the Memorial Room. Reading is recommended but definitely not required!

Faithfully,
Joani

Where are the Birthdays and Anniversaries?

We're in the process of checking out a new database and until we can gather the information on all of our parishioners we're holding off on sharing that list. Please feel free to send [me](#) your birthdays and anniversaries so I can update our files. If you would like a list of August birthdays and anniversaries that I do have, I'd be happy to provide you with a list.

Thanks
Kelli



August

- 1 Sunday School Registration Begins
- 13 Carpenter's Shelter Meal
- 15 TnT Girl-Only Film Night
- 16 Free School Physical Day
- 30 Yard Sale

September

- 6 Sunday School Teacher Training
- 7 First Day for Adult Education
- 7 Sunday School Teacher Commissioning
- 7 Backpack Blessing
- 14 First Day of Sunday School
- 14 First Day of God and Donuts
- 21 Ministry Fair
- 25-27 Church Directory Pictures Taken

October

- 5 Pet Blessing
- 26 Sketch Hike at Huntley Meadows

November

- 1 Shrine Mont Camps Fundraising Dinner

Chuck's Southwestern Salad

(served at a recent Vestry meeting)
(Serves 8-10; prep time 15 min. plus chopping!)

Dressing

- 1/3 c. chopped fresh cilantro
- 1/2 c. lime juice
- 1/2 c. olive oil
- 1/2 c. sour cream
- 1 t. sugar
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1/2 t. pepper



Blend thoroughly in blender or food processor.

Salad

- 1 16 oz. bag romaine, broken in bite sized pieces
- 5 plum tomatoes, chopped
- 1 15 oz. can black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 small purple onion, chopped
- 1 8 oz. package shredded Mexican 4 cheese blend
- 1 15 oz. can whole kernel corn with red and green peppers, drained
- 1 6 oz. can black olives, drained (sliced or not)

Garnish

- 2 c. crushed tortilla chips
- Fresh cilantro leaves

Toss salad ingredients and then toss with dressing at the last minute. Garnish as desired. Serve immediately.