

EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HIGH NOTES



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High Notes Submissions

Articles for the January *High Notes* must be submitted to the [church office](#) by December 17.

A Note from Chuck

Greetings and Happy Advent everyone! It's a great liturgical season. As you know, Advent offers us ample opportunity to embrace the spiritual practices of **waiting**, **patience** and **hope**. These are wise teachers but they come to us during the rush, clamor and craziness of the holiday season, a time when many of us are overwhelmed with obligations and extra work. Instead of caving in to the stress of the holidays, let us stop briefly during Advent to refresh our souls with inspiration from "**Expecting Jesus**" — a daily devotional book for busy people during Advent. Written by Danielle Tumminio, an Anglican theologian at Yale and contributor to the Huffington Post, Tumminio explores the metaphor of the coming birth of Christ as a window into the new life emerging in our own. Please help yourself to a copy in the back of the church!

Waiting is a hard discipline to embrace in this hurried culture of ours. We want things to happen on our timetables and when they don't, we get upset, depressed, stressed out or angry. It is difficult to wait when our consumer culture brainwashes us daily into the ideal of instant gratification; anything that takes too long isn't worth getting. Advent beckons us to an active kind of waiting that opens our hearts and paves the way for the wonder and peace of Christmas. The spiritual practice of **patience** is another virtue which goes against the grain of how we live most days. God, in our view, has a wonderful sense of humor. Since most of us haven't gotten the point of patience, we are given plenty of opportunity to practice it! Ahem! Advent is an ideal time of the year to be more patient with our loved ones, those we work with, and the general public.

Hope is an aspect of Advent that demands our attention and allegiance. It is a spiritual practice that is really needed as the days get shorter, the nights get longer, and the year comes to its conclusion. Hope is an orientation of the heart, a renewable energy source that comes from the grace of God. It provides a perfect antidote to the exhaustion and inertia that so many feel during the holidays. Hope counsels us that all is well and that we can make it through tough times and dark nights of the soul. If you find this season a bit of a challenge and would enjoy worshipping alongside others on the journey, consider joining us on Sunday, December 21 at 5:00 p.m. for a **Comfort & Healing Service** in our chapel.

I pray this Advent is a sacred special time of year for us all. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers; and thank you for keeping me in yours.

Peace friends, 



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

Seminarians

Alex Allain
Scott Steiner

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

Advent Gala Celebration

December 6 at 6:00 PM

Emmanuel's Advent Gala Celebration on December 6 will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a concert featuring the extraordinary guitarist Peter Fields. Peter's repertoire ranges from classical guitar, Jazz, and Latin music masterpieces, to extraordinary arrangements of R & B classics, and interpretations of ethnic music from various parts of the world. He has performed on the Washington Chamber Symphony recitalist series, released an album of his compositions entitled Solo Guitar Music, which was selected as best acoustic album of the year by Northern Virginia Rhythm, and been nominated as Best Jazz Instrumentalist by the Washington Area Music Association. You can read more about [Peter](#) here.

Following the concert, bidding will open on the silent auction while we enjoy a holiday buffet and bar, but be sure to stick around for the live auction at the end of the evening! We hope that you will join us for this festive evening benefitting our outreach programs. Donations are being accepted for tickets in the Parish Hall after the 10:30 a.m. services. Even if you cannot join us, you can still contribute to the evening's success and Emmanuel's outreach efforts with a donation.

“O come, o come, Emmanuel”
to an

Advent Gala Celebration

*A festive evening to raise funds for Emmanuel's
Outreach Program*

When: Saturday, December 6 from 6:00-10:00pm

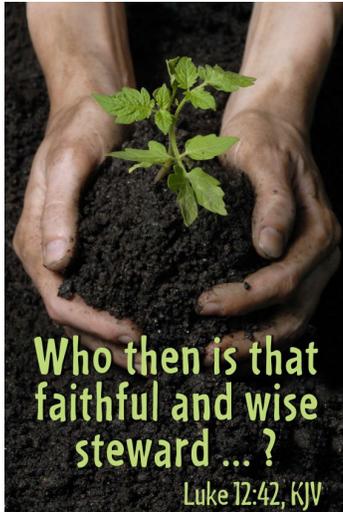
Where: Emmanuel Episcopal Church
1608 Russell Road, Alexandria

What: A celebratory concert will begin at 6:00 in the Sanctuary, followed by silent and live auctions and a holiday buffet and bar in the Parish Hall.

- * The suggested donation for tickets is \$20/person. Donations accepted during coffee hour and at the door.
- * Dress is festive cocktail attire.
- * The Gala is intended as an adults-only evening.
- * Bring your checkbook to settle your account at the end of the event.
- * **All proceeds benefit Outreach!**

December 7 is Pledge Sunday!

December 7 is a special day for Americans — one that a president once said, "... is a day that will live in infamy." December 7 is a **BIG** day for the Emmanuel community too, as it's this year's Pledge Sunday, where all 2015 pledge cards received to date from the congregation will be presented and blessed during the Offertory at the 10:30 a.m. service.



To the many who have already returned your pledge cards — a **BIG** thank you! To those of you who have yet to return your pledge, a **BIG** thank you to you too! — for planning to bring your pledge card to church this Sunday or for dropping it off or mailing it back in time for Sunday.

As you may know, pledges serve an important role in providing Emmanuel's Finance Committee with an accurate assessment of the level of expected giving in 2015 when it begins work on drafting next year's budget. As you can see from the chart below depicting where we stand with this year's campaign, we're definitely heading in the right direction and have noted a **HUGE** uptick in pledges and the total amount pledged.

However, we still have a way to go to meet this year's campaign goals of 120 pledging units, as well as a total amount pledged of \$325,000.

After the 7th, we'll be reaching out to members of the congregation who have yet to pledge to encourage them to do so for 2015, to ensure that the Vestry has an accurate assessment of the expected giving levels for 2015 before ratifying the Finance Committee's recommended budget for EEC next year at its December 10 meeting.

We're looking forward to an exciting 2015 and we hope you are too. Thank you again for your generosity and continued commitment to the good work Emmanuel has been doing and hopes to do next year!

	2014	2015 (as of 11/25/14)
Annual gifts	\$282,110	\$203,840
Pledges	100	62
New pledges	24	9
Goal	\$270,000 / 107 pledges	\$325,000 / 100-120 pledges

*Bob Carragher, Vonda Delawie, Joe Dresen,
Jane Kolson, Adam Schildge, and Doug Wheeler
EEC Annual Giving Committee*

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: [Adam Schildge](#)
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 Corts](#)
Preschool Liaison: [Leo Cruz](#)
PrimeTimers: [Jim Bradley](#)
Readers and Chalice (10:30): [Jerry Boykin](#)
Readers (8:00): [Ted Sullivan](#)
Sewing Group: [Gudrun Callahan](#)
Shrine Mont Parish Retreat: [Joe Scott](#)
Twenties and Thirties:
[John and Katherine Flower](#)
Ushers: [Bob Callahan](#)
Vestry: [Bob Carragher](#)
Worship: [Emily Buckman](#)

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](#)
Carpenter's Shelter: [Marco Dkane](#)
Free School Physical Program: [Bonnie Lilley](#)
Giving Tree: [Kerry Adams](#); [Rachel Kliever](#)
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](#)
United Thank Offering: [Bonnie Fairbank](#)
Yard Sale: [Margaret Wohler](#)

Enriching Advent

The meaning of the word “advent” is the arrival of an important person, thing, or event. For Christians, Advent is the first season in the liturgical year, during which we anticipate and prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ — both his historic birth on earth and also the unknown time when he will return.

Emmanuel is offering several opportunities, in addition to worship services, to help you focus on your preparations and on the season itself, in the midst of the worldier holiday hoopla going on all around us. We hope that you will take advantage of as many as you can.

- *Expecting Jesus* is a book of **daily Advent devotions**, which you can pick up at the back of the church. Read more about this little book, as well as other recommended holy readings for Advent, in the “Reading Through Advent” article also on this page.
- Sunday, December 7: Advent II. We invite children and others to have **Breakfast with St. Nick** after the 10:30 a.m. service. Remind children to leave their shoes in the parish hall during the service for a surprise when they return!
- Sunday, December 14: Advent III. Bring one or more **family crèches**, and/or others that have special meaning to you, to set up in the parish hall before the 10:30 a.m. service. After the service, sit with your crèche(s) and explain their history and your special memories with others. (Then take them back home, of course.)
- Sunday, December 21: Advent IV. (Don’t tell, but) we’re moving the **Lessons and Carols** service to the Sunday before Christmas. Invite your friends to join you to help make joyful music on the last Sunday before Christmas.

There is a bookmark in the church pews explaining all these offerings, as well as information on services and other programs through Advent and the entire Christmas season through Epiphany. Be sure to take home a copy with more detailed information about these resources, programs, and services.

From your Adult Spiritual Formation Team

Reading Through Advent, One Day at a Time!

I love Advent calendars. Twenty-four little windows to open as we count down the days until Christmas. Sometimes behind that window there is a little symbol, a little toy, a chocolate kiss. But Advent Calendars aren’t just for children, they are for us grownups as well. At least Advent calendars of a different kind.

Advent is a season of waiting and expectation; yearning and longing; darkness and light. With a little holy reading, *Lectio Divina*, we can both deepen and enlighten those twenty-four days. Here are several little books, I recommend, to encourage you on your way — on your way to Bethlehem.

First and foremost is “*Expecting Jesus*”, chosen by the Spiritual Formation Ministry Team. Copies in the pews will soon be available. Written by Danielle Tumminio, an Anglican theologian at Yale and contributor to the Huffington Post, “*Expecting Jesus*” explores the metaphor of the coming birth of Christ as a window into new life emerging in our own.

“*Waiting for the Wonder: Voices of Advent*” places the reader in the hearts and minds of the biblical characters — both real and imagined — who played a



role that first Christmas. It weaves together story and scripture that is both compelling and thought-provoking. The author, Katerina Katsarka Whitley, is a native of Thessaloniki, Greece and a notable Episcopal author and retreat leader.

“*Advent with Evelyn Underhill*” draws on the classic wisdom of this Anglican mystic. Underhill, born in 1875, considered herself an atheist, but became immersed in the liturgical life of the church. Torn between Rome and Canterbury, she found her true spiritual home as an Anglican. Each daily Advent reflection concludes with suggestions for meditation and prayer.

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"Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus: Advent and Christmas with Charles Wesley" The great hymnist, Anglican priest and co-founder of Methodism recently celebrated his 300th birthday! Among the 9,000 hymns he wrote, many are heralds of this holy season. Can you imagine a Christmas without "Hark the herald, angels sing"? Paul Wesley (yes his middle name is Wesley!) Chilcote has compiled this lovely little book that weaves together Wesley's hymns, with scripture and prayer.

Blessed reading to you all!

Joani



Tuesday Adult Education

Tuesday mornings: The Tuesday morning Bible Study is examining the Gospel According to John. We have been comparing John's distinctive voice with the other three Gospels and conducting a type of scavenger hunt to find and decode the recurring themes introduced in the amazing introduction to John's Gospel. Come join the discussion! It's held in the Memorial Room, from 10:00—11:30 a.m.

Tuesday evenings: *Tuesdays with Chuck* is taking a break and will pick back up again after the holidays. Thank you one and all who were able to join us for a contemporary conversation viewed through the lens of faith and God's word. Stay tuned for when we'll start up again.

Everything Episcopal: Worship, History, Mission and Ministry

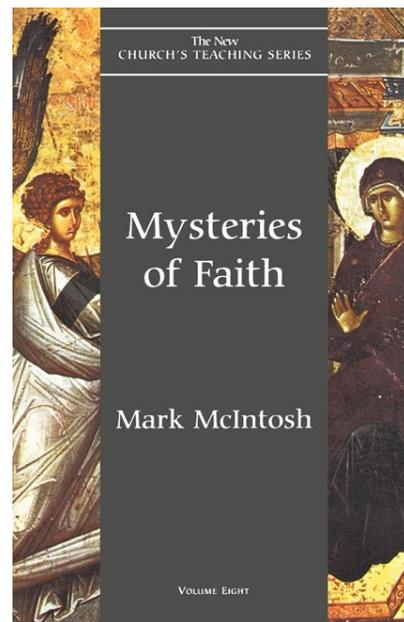
The Sunday morning Adult Forum **reconvenes January 11**. Many have voiced an interest in learning the basics of what it means to be an Episcopalian. Many likewise are looking for a way to delve deeper into our catholic and protestant roots and traditions. **"Everything Episcopal"** is designed both to help ground us in the faith as well as expand our Anglican horizons.

Starting January 11, 9:15 a.m. in the Memorial Room, this six part series is based on the "New Church's Teaching Series". The books, written by noted theologians, are engaging, substantive, and accessible. But not to worry! No reading is required! The class can also serve as preparation for confirmation.

The forums will be led by your clergy: Joani and Chuck, as well as Emmanuel's two seminarians: Alex and Scott.

- **January 11 "Living with History"** — A look at the roots and heritage of Anglican faith.
- **January 18 "Opening the Prayer Book"** — An exploration of the Book of Common Prayer, worship and sacraments.
- **February 1 "Opening the Bible"** — An Anglican approach to reading the Bible with the "three legged stool".
- **February 8 "Mysteries of Faith"** — What Anglicans believe: Trinity, incarnation, resurrection, heaven, saints, etc.!
- **February 15 "Ethics after Easter"** — Episcopal approach to important moral issues of the day.
- **February 22 "Horizons of Mission"** — The mission and ministry of Emmanuel, the Diocese, Anglican Communion.

Any questions? Just contact [Joani](#).



From the Office of Spiritual Formation for Children and Youth

Dear EEC families,

"Take time to be aware that in the very midst of our busy preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth in ancient Bethlehem, Christ is reborn in the Bethlehems of our homes and daily lives. Take time, slow down, be still, be awake to the Divine Mystery that looks so common and so ordinary yet is wondrously present."

—Edward Hays, *A Pilgrim's Almanac*

Advent greetings! Advent is a great time to find ways to slow down, live more simply, and enjoy the present moment with our children as we anticipate the coming of Christ in our world. We can also create simple, but meaningful rituals for marking this liturgical season. Does your family have an Advent wreath? Maybe you set up a crèche every year and mark the passing days of Advent by slowly "walking" Mary, Joseph, the Three Wise Kings, Bethlehem. How about an Advent calendar that allows you to read a scripture passage each day (and eat chocolate each day as you open it?) Regardless of how you celebrate Advent, try to take time each day to observe it. It can help your children to move away from the commercial aspects of the season, and ground them in the sacred. And then we can truly be ready to welcome Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us!

May the Spirit of Emmanuel fill your hearts with wonder, joy and peace throughout this holy season!

*Peace,
Toni*

P.S. This can be such an incredibly busy time of year, in an already very busy culture. If you find yourselves over-scheduled and overwhelmed by the pace of life here in Northern Virginia, I want to

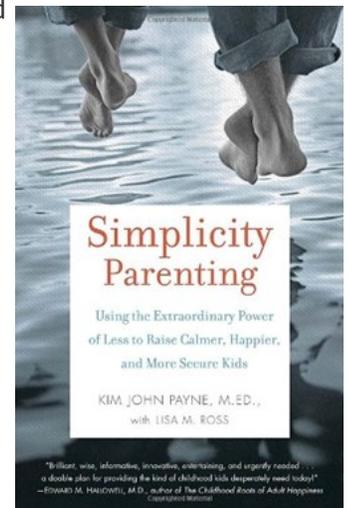
introduce you to a great parenting resource for creating rhythm and calm for your family life — *Simplicity Parenting: Using the Extraordinary Power of Less to Raise Calmer, Happier, and More Secure Kids* by Kim John Payne. I also recommend the website: www.simplicityparenting.com. This has been a great resource for our family, particularly in simplifying our space and our meals, but also — and more importantly — for simplifying our schedules. I hope you find it helpful as well.

From the publisher:

"Today's busier, faster, supersized society is waging an undeclared war . . . on childhood. As the pace of life accelerates to hyperspeed — with too much stuff, too many choices, and too little time — children feel the pressure. They can

become anxious, have trouble with friends and school, or even be diagnosed with behavioral problems. Now, in defense of the extraordinary power of less, internationally renowned family consultant Kim John Payne helps parents reclaim for their children the space and freedom that all kids need, allowing their children's attention to focus and their individuality to flourish.

Based on Payne's twenty year's experience successfully counseling busy families, *Simplicity Parenting* teaches parents how to worry and hover less — and how to enjoy more. For those who want to slow their children's lives down but don't know where to start, Payne offers both inspiration and a blueprint for change."



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Items of Interest

Our first **Spaghetti dinner and Semi-Potluck** of the year was a big success! 40 to 45 parishioners gathered in the parish hall on Friday, November 7, to eat, chat, play games, and just relax. We will look forward to the next dinner, in early March, for Pizza and Family Game Night! Stay tuned!



Having fun together at the Spaghetti Dinner!

Our next **Family Service** will be Sunday, December 7. Per our recent services, the children (ages 3 years to 5th grade) have been practicing at Sunday school and will be singing. The children are enjoying working with Amy. It would be wonderful to see all of them there!

Scenes from our November Family Service. Amy Schildge led the children in a song, and Seminarian Scott Steiner led the children's sermon.



God & Donuts 3.0 has arrived! After doing some research and getting feedback from our families of middle school youth, the God & Donuts team has decided to **move the God & Donuts meeting to the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.** Listen and look for announcements in church, in the e-news and in the bulletin! **The first meeting at the new time is scheduled for Sunday, December 14.** On Sunday, December 21, God & Donuts is hoping to go ice-skating! More information to come.

Due to the Christmas holidays, there will be **no Sunday school on December 28!**



Holiday Season Warm Clothing Drive and Screening of *American Winter*: Supporting ALIVE and Community Lodgings



Please join the Emmanuel Episcopal Church Sunday School and God & Donuts in supporting the children and youth of these two organizations this holiday season.

PRESCHOOL CHILDREN: Sunday school preschool-aged children are invited to participate with Emmanuel Preschool in the **MITTEN TREE!** Please join us in decorating our "Mitten Tree" by donating unused children's mittens, hats, gloves, scarves, but **most importantly, underwear and socks are desperately needed.** The age range for sizing 2.5 – 5 years old. Donations may be hung on or placed under the Christmas tree outside the Memorial Room before **Monday, December 15, 2014.** All items will be donated to the ALIVE Child Development Center.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH K – 12th GRADE: Community Lodgings serves students in grades 1-12 and are in need of gloves, hats, and scarves for sizes ranging from youth to adult. All of their students received a new coat last month so we do not need any coat donations, but if you have a coat to give, we will collect them and then donate them to Carpenter's Shelter. Community Lodgings currently has 3 learning centers (2 in Arlandria and 1 on the west end of town at Brent Place Apartment complex). Combined, they serve approximately 80 elementary students, 40 middle school students, and 20 high school students. Donations may be placed in the box outside Toni's office through **Sunday, January 11, 2014.**

ADULTS: We welcome every adult in our parish to join us for both the screening of *An American Winter* and the Warm Clothing Drive. *An American Winter* will be shown on Sunday, January 11th – 6:30 PM in the Memorial Room. Come see the HBO film produced in 2013 by Emmy Award winning Harry and Joe Gantz. It features the stories of eight families struggling through a harsh winter in the aftermath of the Great Recession. While the stock market rebounded, millions of ordinary Americans still struggle to meet their basic needs. In the spirit of Epiphany, like the Magi we invite you on **Sunday, January 11** to bring gifts of **new and very gently used** warm clothing — **mittens, hats, scarves, gloves** — for the children and youth at **Community Lodgings.** Coats and jackets will go to help families at **Carpenter's Shelter.**

We hope every family, and indeed every parishioner, will participate! This is a wonderful way to teach your children the joy of giving!



Please contact [Toni](#) with any questions!



Goodwin House Dinner



We had a wonderful time at the Goodwin House fall dinner. There were 10 Goodwin House residents and an equal number from Emmanuel. Milton Jobe continued to coordinate the events throughout the dinner. He called upon Chuck for the blessing and later, after dinner, for remarks, which Chuck delivered to the amusement and delight of all in attendance. If you missed this outreach event, we will have a similar dinner next spring.

Jim Bradley



Top photo on the left: Fenton Goodwin, Vonda Delawie, and Kate Armstrong.

Bottom photo on left: Barbie Frank with her mother, Liz McCrea and her sister, Lillie Koebke.

Top photo on right: Milton Jobe and Bucky Mills.

Bottom photo on right: Virginia Backus and Chuck.



Fellowship / Outreach

Emmanuel's Newcomer Bread Ministry

When Emmanuel's Newcomer Committee was initially formed about one year ago we welcomed visitors and newcomers by way of special events. Since then, in addition to the planned events, we have formalized the process of reaching out to visitors who leave their contact information on a pew card after a Sunday service. Within 24 hours of receiving the pew card, Chuck's goal is to reach out to each family via e-mail or phone. Afterwards, the Newcomer Committee's bread ministry sub-group delivers a loaf of homemade bread to the visitor's home. We've had cards printed that share the significance of bread with reference to the communion shared each Sunday at Emmanuel. This note extends an open invitation to join us in God's communion each Sunday. If you are interested in helping with this bread ministry, please contact [Lola Beggs](#).



Newcomer Committee: Lola Beggs, chair; Sarah Kolo, Dave Kolo, Bonnie Fairbank, Leo Cruz, Adam Schildge (Vestry liaison)



Oh Come, All Ye Faithful Instrumentalists!

Do you play an instrument (violin, clarinet, french horn, harp, etc.)?

Ryan is organizing a group of instrumentalists to play for the annual Emmanuel Lessons and Carols worship service on December 21. If you are interested, please e-mail [Ryan](#) TODAY!



Christmas Flowers

One of the many ways Emmanuel offers glory to God during the Christmas Season is by decorating the church with special Christmas arrangements. You are invited to remember a loved one, honor a special friend or family member, or express gratitude for any number of things during this very special season by making a gift to the Altar Guild for flowers.



There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church. Donations can be placed in the offering bag, or made [online](#) using your credit card. Please note that your donation is for Christmas flowers. You can also drop off a check with Kelli in the office. The suggested donation for flowers is \$50.

*Kindest regards,
The Altar Guild*



Giving Tree

Last year, Emmanuel collected over 150 toys and books for distribution to many hopeful Alexandria children. We will be participating in the drive again this year in coordination with the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services.



In December, the Christmas tree and collection bin will be set up either in the

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lobby area or the sanctuary. Each ornament will have a removable tag with a child's age range. Simply remove the tag leaving the ornament on the tree and purchase a toy or book for that child. Leave the unwrapped gift(s) in the collection bin.

Last year there was a special need for Spanish/English books for preschool children, dolls of color, and "classic" toys.

We will collect toys through Friday, December 19. That evening, from 6:00 to 9:00, we will deliver the toys to the Mount Vernon Recreation Center.

If you would like to volunteer to deliver and/or sort on December 19, please contact [Kerry Adams](mailto:kerry.adams@emmanuelhigh.org) (703-587-7841); or [Rachel Kliewer](mailto:rachel.kliewer@emmanuelhigh.org) (571-344-5667).



Mark Your Calendars for a Musical Holiday Treat!

The Outreach team is very pleased to invite you all to a concert by the St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble, in the sanctuary on Monday, December 22, at 8:00 p.m. These four gifted singers return to Alexandria with a one-hour program of Russian sacred music and folk songs. Entrance is free but donations will be gratefully accepted. Please contact [Vonda](mailto:vonda@emmanuelhigh.org) if you can help put up a few posters around Del Ray and Rosemont.



2015 Summer Camps at Shrine Mont

Although the temperature outside is dropping, things in the Diocesan Office of Christian Formation are just starting to heat up as they prepare for Shrine Mont Camps 2015. The [dates](#) for each and every one of our camp sessions are set and [camp descriptions](#) are ready to help you decide what camp is the best fit for your camper. Applications will be available [on-line](#) and in brochures which will be available in January.



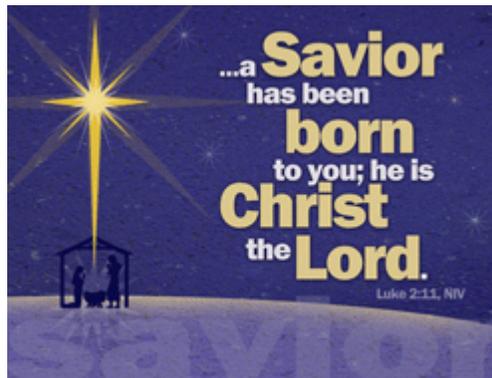
Meredith Wade, Vonda Delawie, Torrence Delawie, and Nancy Dupree display some of the delicious baked items for sale at the November 22 T.C. Williams High School Craft Fair. Thanks to their efforts, and all those who baked and staffed the table, they earned \$650 for Emmanuel's outreach programs. A huge thanks to Vonda for coordinating.



Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany Services

Lessons & Carols — Sunday, December 21 — 10:30 a.m.

Our wonderful and talented Music Director Ryan Fitch is putting together an orchestra for the celebration, so please join in if you have an instrument to play. Invite your friends as well – the more the merrier. Together we'll listen to and enjoy scripture and music as we journey from Advent to Christmas.



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

This service will no doubt be a little quieter than the 4:30 p.m. pageant — but we hope lots of folks will invite their neighbors and friends and together we'll celebrate the Savior's birth.

Comfort & Healing Service — Sunday, December 21 — 5:00 p.m.

Please join us for this special seasonal service. Though the 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 for a special meditative service and healing Holy Eucharist and please consider bringing a friend.

Christmas Eve Pageant and Carol Sing — Wednesday, December 24 — 4:30 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 parish hall or simply come to rehearsal during Sunday School on December 21. The Pageant will be held during the 4:30 p.m. 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. Come early for caroling at 4:00 p.m.!

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

As we all 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.

Family Sunday — Sunday, January 4 — 10:30 a.m.

Families old and young — individuals, couples — neighbors and friends all are invited as our young people take special participation in our liturgy as we continue to remember and celebrate the Joy that is all around us this Christmas Season.

Epiphany / Baptism of the Lord — Sunday, January 11 — 10:30 a.m.

Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles and the visit of the Wise Men to the Christ Child. The Baptism of the Lord is the feast day commemorating the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. **Calling ALL Babies!** We welcome all who would like to have their child baptized on this special day. Please contact Chuck if you'd like to have your child baptized at this special service.

Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY

Two More Beautiful Children of God



Lay Committee Report for Our Seminarian, Alex Allain

Emmanuel Episcopal Church is privileged to have two seminarians participating in the field work program through Virginia Theological Seminary. Our seminarians are assisting Chuck and our parish community in a variety of ministries. Alex Allain is from the Diocese of Mississippi and is in his senior year at VTS.

Each seminarian has a lay committee and Alex's committee is comprised of Gudrun and Bob Callahan, Pat Hadley, Ted Sullivan, Jennifer Jones, and James Kaelin. The purpose of the lay committee is to encourage Alex in his spiritual development and to walk with Alex on his journey towards becoming an ordained minister of the Episcopal Church. The committee meets about once a month to discuss Alex's work in the parish and his ongoing contributions to Emmanuel. Special attention is paid to Alex's sermons, providing feedback and encouragement on each one. Topics the committee discusses with Alex at committee meetings include his discernment process with his home diocese, life as a seminarian, academics, his development from seminarian to ordained minister and his plans for following his priestly call after graduation.



Alex Allain, James Kaelin, Jennifer Jones, Gudrun Callahan, Bob Callahan, Ted Sullivan, Pat Hadley.

One member of Alex's lay committee described her experience being on this committee as follows. *This past year I have been on Alex's lay committee and have been so happy to be involved in this ministry. It has been so educational, for me, to see how our church trains its future priests. It makes me think about my own commitment to serve when I have seen how Alex has grown in the past year. He truly is a gifted young man and his dedication to God has been wonderful to see and to experience. I am glad he will be with us until he graduates and is ordained. The Episcopal church is lucky to have him!*



EMMANUEL
PRESCHOOL

Emmanuel Preschool Staff

Director

Jeanna Reidy

Administrative Assistant

Bryn Baisley

Bookkeeper

Kelli Corts

Teachers

Michelle Brayman
Mary Beth Conry
Amy Ernst
Christy Finn
Mary Carol Gavin
Mollee Hansen
Sarah Higgins
Anne Hubbard
Ressa Jones
Alyce McLean
Dana Mutscheller
Nancy Palmer
Alithea Price-Pearlstein
Deborah Rumph
Denise Stanley
Cappie Stiers
Susan Stockton
Sara Tiedemann
Mary Anne Troxell

School Hours

Monday—Friday
9:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Emmanuel Episcopal Preschool

1608 Russell Road
Alexandria, VA 22301
703-683-0303 (phone)
703-683-6158 (fax)

preschooladministrator@epsonhigh.org
www.emmanuelonhigh.org

Preschool News

HOT OFF THE PRESS... Emmanuel Preschool has a new LOGO!

We thought it was time to refresh and revitalize our sweet logo for the school. Much reflection and thought went into the design, the meaning, the representation, and the concept. HUGE thank you to the extremely talented preschool parent and professional graphic designer, Renee Richardson, for her design work and capturing our vision so perfectly, and for bringing EPS to life in a logo!

I wanted to share some of my thinking and “brainstorming” with you, so you see the meaning behind the image design. I sat and reflected on our school, preschool children, etc. and came up with these fundamental and foundational ideas:

- The main idea started with the concept of a kaleidoscope; then an idea of a labyrinth — a journey to be taken.
- The idea that the view always looks different through the lens of a kaleidoscope depending on the perspective, the angle, the particular viewer, and what they, as individuals, see.
- Yet, the vision always stems from the same materials/ starting point, that same foundation is consistent and unwavering, supported, and provided. But each “look” varies based on the viewer — their prior knowledge, personality and perspective.
- The idea of evolving, changing, growing — going in various directions, varied ages (many sizes of stepping stones), each child finding his/her “path,” personality, and individualism.
- The pieces of the kaleidoscope are representative of stepping stones, journeys, discoveries, and explorations — which is why none of them are simple and neat circles or perfectly shaped.
- They represent the children, each being individual and unique and each having it’s own shape and characteristics.



EMMANUEL
PRESCHOOL

The feet are what take the children on this preschool journey and exploration, and they find their way, building their confidence, self-awareness, self-perception, life-long love of learning, and skills.

In other news, our classes have been busy conducting parent/teacher conferences, supporting 4/5s parents as they plan for their kindergarten options, and practicing with the children for the Christmas Program.

Meanwhile, the office has been collaborating with families regarding the kindergarten process and held a kindergarten informational coffee including an

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(Continued from page 14)

overview from a WPPSI evaluator, private school admissions director, and a parent panel to address questions about public school, as well as private and parochial options. We are also gearing up for the 2015-2016 admissions season — it's hard to believe it's time already. **Applications are available in the preschool office beginning on December 9.** Enrollment priority is given to returning students and new siblings of current students, siblings of EPS "graduated" alumni, and to active members of Emmanuel Episcopal Church (at the discretion of the Rector). These families must indicate their intention to enroll for the next school year prior to the Open House in January. All "priority" families must turn in completed applications and registration fees by December 18 to be considered priority over lottery enrollment.

Our annual Preschool Christmas Program will be held on Wednesday, December 17. Feel free to come and join the holiday cheer while listening to our little ones celebrate the season with festive songs!

Merry (early) Christmas and have a wonderful New Year!

Jeanna Reidy, Director

Preschool Class Spotlight: Orange Threes Classroom

"Tapping, tapping little elf as you work upon your shelf" can be heard from Orange Threes classroom as they practice their Christmas songs during their morning meeting. Walk by the our classroom and experience the

aroma of cinnamon, the glow of glitter and the sweet sounds of happy children. Christmas is upon us and the Orange Threes class is working hard. Lots of glittering and gluing by our little elves as they create gorgeous presents for their families and decorate the classroom (and often themselves in the process). But, that's only half of it! We will be practicing in the room and on the stage in the "Big Room" for the annual preschool Christmas program. Our class will be singing, "Tapping Tapping Little Elf" by themselves and "Jingle Bells" with the other threes' classes. It will be an exciting day for the class and their families and the perfect beginning of the holiday season. What could be more fun or more joyful? The Orange Threes class wishes you all a Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years!



Christmas Prayer

by Robert Louis Stevenson

"Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake, Amen!"

This Month's Schedule



December

- 3 Carpenter's Shelter Dinner
- 6 Gala Celebrating Advent (6:00 PM)
- 7 Family Sunday
- 7 Breakfast with St. Nicholas (11:45 AM)
- 8 Preschool Board Meeting
- 9 Preschool In-House Enrollment Applications Distributed
- 10 Vestry Meeting
- 14 Crèche Sunday
- 14 God & Donuts (4:00PM)
- 17 Preschool Christmas Program
- 18 Preschool In-House Enrollment Applications Due
- 21 Service of Lessons and Carols (10:30 AM)
- 21 Altar Guild Greening of the Church
- 21 Comfort and Healing Service (5:00 PM)
- 22 St. Petersburg Quartet Concert (8:00 PM)
- 24 Christmas Pageant (4:30 PM)
- 24 Christmas Eve Vigil (10:00 PM)
- 25 Christmas Day Service (10:30 AM)
- 25-31 **Church Office Closed for the Holiday**

Please note that the Church Office will be closed from December 25 to January 2. However, staff will be available December 29-31. Please call the office (703-683-0798) or e-mail [Chuck](#), [Kelli](#), or [Heather](#) if you need to get in touch with any of us or to ensure someone is at the church if you need to stop by.

January

- 1-2 **Office Closed for the Holiday**
- 4 Family Sunday
- 7 Carpenter's Shelter Dinner
- 11 Epiphany Sunday
- 11 "American Winter" Documentary Viewing
- 14 Vestry Meeting
- 19 Martin Luther King Day (Office Closed)
- 22 Preschool Open House
- 23-24 Annual Diocesan Council
- 24 Dinner Theater Spiritual Social
- 25 Annual Meeting
- 25 Patronal Feast
- 26 Preschool Board Meeting

February

- 1 Family Sunday
- 1 Parent Town Hall Meeting
- 1 Super Bowl Party
- 4 Preschool Lottery Drawing for New Family Enrollment
- 4 Carpenter's Shelter Dinner
- 11 Vestry Meeting
- 13-16 TnT Ski Trip
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 16 President's Day (Office Closed)
- 17 Shrove Tuesday
- 18 Ash Wednesday
- 23 Preschool Board Meeting
- 25 Alexandria Lenten Series (St. Clement)



For a look at our continually-updated church calendar, click on the calendar to the left.