

## FROM THE RECTOR



### PETER'S PENSE

On the rare occasions I have looked at a collection of sermons, I have read the first one, half of the second, skimmed numbers 3-10 and forfeited the rest. Not so on reading "A Ray of Darkness" the collection of sermons offered by our present Archbishop of Canterbury. Rowan Williams is justly renowned for his learning, erudition, and compassion. Reading a collection of his sermons bears out this fame. Many of them were delivered to academic gatherings of one kind or another and reflect that audience in their cerebral approach. Others are for more disparate audiences.

As one who has been, to my great pleasure, attributed the title "a true Anglican," I particularly like the title "A Ray of Darkness". Some might call it a paradox, others an oxymoron. I think of it as a crashing good title for the daring spiritual approach to life that we Anglicans have often had when we are at our best.

In the title sermon (p. 99 ff) Williams admits that paradox can be a cheap way out of being decisive, courageous, or clear. AND he goes on to say: "Even in banal contexts, we are aware of the fact that our pigeon-holes for things, people, emotions, and perceptions are often lagging well behind the fluidity of the real world with its subtle, rapid interactions and its puzzling quality. Whether it is in theoretical physics or in poetry, we need to express some sense of this strange fact that our language doesn't keep up with the multiplicity and interrelatedness and elusiveness of the truth." Sounds like a nuanced way of living to me.

He goes on (even mo' bettah), "God's ray brings on a kind of vertigo; it may

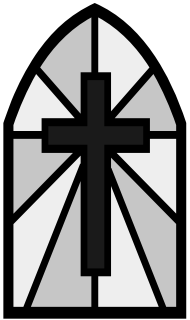
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make me a stranger to myself, to everything I have ever taken for granted. I have to find a new way of knowing myself, identifying myself, uttering myself, talking of myself, imaging myself. In short, when God's light breaks on my darkness, the first thing I know is that I don't know . . .and never did."

Precisely! No wonder we often prefer our sure and certain trumpets. These familiar tunes, played in the dark with none of God's vertiginous light seeping in are a great comfort. They forgive us in advance for avoiding the chaos which the knowing of ourselves and God inevitably entails. We are forgiven and at great cost. This is the Gospel!

*Peter+*



## NEWS FROM THE VESTRY

### A SPIRITED RETREAT

The Emmanuel vestry met for its annual retreat at Camp Mikell over the weekend of January 16-18. To our great joy, all vestry members were able to be present for the entire weekend. Peter, Mandy, Lee Gaby, and Debra Harden were our leaders as we joined together for work, worship, study, and camaraderie.

The vestry retreat is not a business or planning session, (though we did have a brief business meeting on Sunday morning, as is our tradition). In Peter's description, the main purpose of the retreat is "a chance to work on building our common life together." We spent a good bit of time learning about each other: our work and problem-solving styles, the things that we love, our concerns and our vision for Emmanuel and the life and work of our parish.

The New Testament lesson for Sunday was especially appropriate for our purpose as a vestry. In it, Paul reminds us that there many gifts of the Spirit, given to all in various measure, as the Spirit pleases. We studied this passage as a group with Peter's guidance and concluded that it is up to us to discover our gifts and talents, and to realize that our weakness may be another's strength and so call on one another as needed in our work together.

Laughter and the sharing of personal experiences is a powerful bonding method for a group, and the Emmanuel vestry is no exception. After all our scheduled sessions were complete on Saturday night, we remained in the conference room and literally laughed ourselves to tears over stories on everything from child-rearing to Cajun fishing methods to the perils of Tunisian

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plumbing.

We awoke to rain on Sunday morning, but our spirit remained undiminished through breakfast, Morning Prayer, and a brief business meeting. The retreat concluded with the celebration of the Eucharist, during which we offered back to God our gifts and talents, that we may best use them for God's work in the Emmanuel community. The rain ended and the sun was peeking through the clouds as we said our good-byes and returned home, our diverse personalities and abilities united in one love, one purpose, one commitment.

*Terri Tillman*

## THE VESTRY AT WORK

At our Sunday Vestry Meeting during retreat, in addition to approving minutes from the previous meeting, we passed nine other measures. Of particular note were the election of Laura Cofer to serve as Junior Warden; the re-appointment of Larry McLeod and Peg Wood to the Architecture, Gifts, and Memorials committee; resolutions of appreciation to the Parlor Committee and to Jim Wahlers, Stewardship chair; the amendment of operating guidelines to add a Library Committee and to reassign Daughters of King from Pastoral Care to Parish Life. On the table for a vote at the next meeting will be a proposal to amend the bylaws to create a ninth commission for Finance, thereby elevating the status of the Finance Committee work and separating it from the Resources Commission.

*Lee Gaby*  
Senior Warden



*The Chapel at Camp Mikell*



# PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

## NATURAL SPIRITUALITY GATHERING

A Natural Spirituality regional conference will be held at Mikell Camp and Conference Center in Toccoa, Georgia, February 27, 28, and 29. It is sponsored by natural spirituality groups in the Diocese of Atlanta and will be aimed alike at natural spirituality veterans, those new to the program, and those who are interested inquirers. Lectures and workshops are planned, as well as introductory sessions for inquirers, small-group dreamwork, Tai Chi and Contemplative Prayer exercises, worship, and time for relaxation and fellowship.

The cost for the weekend is \$85, which includes six meals but no lodging. The camp itself has been filled, so conferees are registering at a nearby motel. A \$50 fee reduction is available to anyone who could not otherwise attend the weekend conference. For those who wish to come for one day (Saturday, February 28), the fee is \$25 and includes lunch. To register, contact Joyce Hudson at [rosewisdom@mind-spring.com](mailto:rosewisdom@mind-spring.com) or Agnes Parker at 706/742-2530. The deadline is February 13.

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

If you or someone you know would like a trustworthy friend who will listen and share through stressful times – pregnancy, childbirth, loss of a job, illness, death, divorce or infirmity affecting you or a loved one call Stephen Ministry leaders Pat Hall (548-7600), Pat Oliffe (742-5681) or Mother Mandy.

## THRIFT HOUSE NEWS: Thrift House Gift Request Deadline

April's Thrift House Meeting to distribute funds for the past six months is just around the corner. Written requests for gifts need to be submitted by the end of March for consideration at the April meeting.

Request forms can be obtained from Melissa at the Church office. The form should be completed and returned to Linda Ford, Chair, or left for her attention in the Thrift House box at the Church or with Melissa by the deadline of Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Questions about submitting a request for gifts, completion of the Request Form, or specific questions regarding the Request Form should be directed to Linda Ford, Chair, at 546-9517 or 549-6843.




## PRELUDE TO LENT: SHROVE TUESDAY SUPPER

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is coming up! Join in pancake festivities on February 24 at 6 p.m. This EYC-sponsored event will help fund scholarships for the J2A pilgrimage. Cost: \$5 per person with a \$15 maximum per family. This meal replaces the Wednesday night dinner for the week, so come on over for food and fun!

*Kat Ballard*

# FEBRUARY 2004

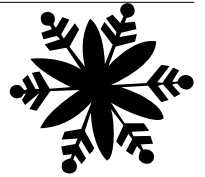
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1 EPIPHANY IV</b> <b>8:00</b> Holy Eucharist, I <b>9:00</b> Holy Eucharist, II <b>10:00</b> Chili Pickup <b>10:15</b> Christian Ed. <b>11:15</b> Holy Eucharist, II <b>12:30</b> NS Journey <b>4:00</b> Diocesan Youth service	<b>2</b>  <b>11:00—12:30</b> Bible Study at 540 Prince Ave	<b>3</b>  <b>10:00</b> Natural Spirituality  <b>5:30</b> Spiritual Autobiography	<b>4</b>  <b>5:30</b> Healing Service with Holy Eucharist  <b>6:00</b> Supper in Common Room	<b>5</b>  <b>6:00</b> Supper in Common Room	<b>6</b>  <b>7:00</b> Stephen Ministry	<b>7</b>  <b>8:00</b> Holy Eucharist, I <b>9:00</b> Holy Eucharist, II with Baptism <b>10:15</b> Christian Ed. <b>11:00</b> EYC leaders <b>11:15</b> Eucharist, II <b>12:30</b> NS Journey <b>5:00</b> EYC POY, parlor
<b>8 EPIPHANY V</b> <b>8:00</b> Holy Eucharist, I <b>9:00</b> Holy Eucharist, II with Baptism <b>10:15</b> Christian Ed. <b>11:00</b> EYC leaders <b>11:15</b> Eucharist, II <b>12:30</b> NS Journey <b>5:00</b> EYC POY, parlor	<b>9</b>  <b>11:00—12:30</b> Bible Study at 540 Prince Ave	<b>10</b>  <b>10:00</b> Natural Spirituality  <b>5:30</b> Spiritual Autobiography	<b>11</b>  <b>5:30</b> Healing Service with Holy Eucharist  <b>6:00</b> Supper in Common Room	<b>12</b>  <b>7:00</b> Stephen Ministry	<b>13</b>  Happening Retreat for YAC youth	<b>14</b>  Happening Retreat for YAC youth
<b>15 EPIPHANY VI</b> Happening Retreat for YAC youth <b>8:00</b> Eucharist, I <b>9:00</b> Eucharist, II <b>10:15</b> Christian Ed. <b>11:15</b> Holy Eucharist, II <b>12:30</b> NS Journey <b>5:00</b> EYC	<b>16</b>  <b>11:00—12:30</b> Bible Study at 540 Prince Ave  <b>5:00</b> March <i>Tower</i> Deadline	<b>17</b>  <b>10:00</b> Natural Spirituality  <b>5:30</b> Spiritual Autobiography	<b>18</b>  <b>11:00</b> Arbor Terrace  <b>5:30</b> Healing Service with Holy Eucharist <b>6:00</b> Supper in Common Room	<b>19</b>  <b>11:00</b> Lanier Gardens  <b>1:00</b> DAR in Common Room		
<b>22 LAST SUDAY            IN EPIPHANY</b> <b>8:00</b> Eucharist, I <b>9:00</b> Eucharist, II <b>10:15</b> Christian Ed. <b>11:15</b> Holy Eucharist, II <b>12:30</b> NS Journey <b>3:00</b> EYC leaders' planning <b>5:00</b> EYC Rite13 parents'mtg.	<b>23</b>  <b>11:00—12:30</b> Bible Study at 540 Prince Ave	<b>24 St. Matthias,            Apostle</b>  <b>10:00</b> Natural Spirituality  <b>6:00</b> Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	<b>25 ASH            WEDNESDAY</b>  <b>7:00 am</b> Ash Wednesday Service <b>12:00 pm</b> Ash Wednesday Service  <b>5:30</b> Ash Wednesday and Healing Service with Holy Eucharist	<b>26</b>  <b>7:00</b> Stephen Ministry 540 Prince Avenue	<b>27 George            Herbert, Priest</b>  EYC Retreat Camp Mikell	<b>28</b>  EYC Retreat Camp Mikell
<b>29 LENT I</b> EYC Retreat ends <b>8:00</b> Eucharist, I <b>9:00</b> Eucharist, II & Family Eucharist <b>10:00</b> Christian Ed. <b>11:15</b> Holy Eucharist, II <b>12:30</b> NS Journey						



# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- |    |  |                       |   |
|----|--|-----------------------|---|
| 1  | Palmer, Laurel<br>Shields, Chandler Wade   | Steedman, Lynn Tayloe |   |
| 2  | Wheeler, Mark Frederick  | 14                    | Hunnicutt, Jean Phillips<br>Hutchins, Gail<br>Dean, Katherine Michelle<br>Vance, James<br>Baker, Hannah Frances       |
| 3  | Crump, Taylor Allen<br>Byrne, Jack   | 15                    | Cowne, Ellen<br>Rogers, James Wesley  |
| 5  | Lahey, Susan Cook<br>Shattuck, Gary Lewis<br>Snyder, John Francis<br>Davies, Marcella Olumuyiwa<br>Bunting, Kimberly Smith           | 16                    | Masters, Judy Jay Alves<br>Permar, Andrew Johns<br>Stewart, Will<br>Stewart, William Charles<br>Martin, Daniel Weldon |
| 6  | Gibson, Robert E.<br>Brewer, Terri Tillman<br>Zenere, Andy<br>Sligh, Margaret Bland  | 18                    | Ramsey, Tami  |
| 7  | O'Neil, Oliver Thomas  | 19                    | Wilson, Doreen<br>Zenere, Antonio<br>McDonald, Thomas Roy   |
| 8  | Jarrett, Walter Allen<br>Gipson, Bobby   | 20                    | Ferrelle, Dodd  |
| 9  | Davis, Sharon<br>McDuff, Nancy G   | 21                    | VanGiesen, Cedric Alexander   |
| 10 | Robertson, Janet<br>Zullo, Robert<br>Lloyd, Molly<br>Simmons V, James Thomas   | 22                    | Colvin, Thomas<br>Baker, Todd<br>Davis, Gary<br>Tonge, Stephen  |
| 11 | Norton, Lane Turner<br>Maddox, Barbara Skinner<br>Kias, Amy<br>de Haseth, Andrew Joshua  | 23                    | Cline, James Harper   |
| 12 | Ferguson, Elizabeth (Betsy)<br>Parker, Agnes Broadnax<br>Kidd, Jane<br>Permar, Debora Lynn<br>Cotton, Ashley<br>Collier, Mary Morgan | 27                    | Yarn, Douglas Hurt<br>Herrin, Clara Lee<br>O'Neal, Madeleine Moore  |
| 13 | Jones, William A.<br>Shattuck, Tommie Elaine Perry<br>Jones, Laura   | 28                    | Richards, Tommy<br>Whitley, Hudson<br>Stephens, Ralph<br>Henning, Megan<br>Becker, Joseph Werner Shryock              |
|    |  | 29                    | Gibson, Ava   |

# FOR AND ABOUT YOUTH



## FEBRUARY CALENDAR FOR YOUTH

- February 1,** 10 am-11:15 am: **Super Bowl Chili Sales!!**  
No EYC for the J2A group (lock-in the previous night)
- February 8,** 11 am: EYC leaders' meeting and lunch  
5-7 pm: EYC... 5<sup>th</sup> graders invited!  
Parents of Youth meet in the Parlor
- February 13-15:** Happening retreat for YAC youth at Camp Mikell
- February 15:** Sunday School and EYC
- February 22,** 3-5 pm: EYC leaders' planning meeting  
5-7 pm: EYC  
Rite 13 parent meeting
- February 24:** 6 pm: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper!  
(Youth arrive to prepare at 4 pm)
- February 27-29:** EYC RETREAT @ CAMP MIKELL!!
- February 29:** No Sunday School or EYC for youth



**RITE 13 PARENTS...** have you been wondering about the Rite 13 Liturgy and how it fits into the picture of your child's EYC group? Please come to an informational meeting on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> during EYC. Kat and other leaders will talk with you about what the Rite 13 Liturgy is, why it was created, how and when it will impact your child, and how you can be involved. All parents of Rite 13 youth are encouraged to attend.

## BACK TO THE FUTURE

**HEY YOUTH,** there's a lot coming up! Read on to find out what's out there for you (and look for registration forms outside Kat's office!)

*The New Beginnings retreat* is designed to respond to the issues, concerns and needs of teenagers in grades 6-9. New Beginnings is a spiritual growing and renewal weekend that will be held March 26-28 at Camp Mikell. The weekend is filled with talks, skits, sharing, praying and singing. Participants must register by March 13<sup>th</sup>.

*The diocesan mission trip* this year will be headed to Ecuador, our companion diocese, on June 7-17. The group will be living and working in the city of Ambato where construction will be done on homes for the poor. This trip is open to youth who have completed the 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades. Mother Mandy and Kat will accompany the youth, so see them for more details!

*DYC staff applications are available!* Did you love DYC and want to be a part of making it happen?

*(Continued on page 8)*

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Forms for DYC staff are outside Kat's office. All high school youth who are willing to give their all to create a wonderful retreat for other youth are welcome to apply.

## DIOCESAN YOUTH RETREAT

The Senior DYC (Diocesan Youth Committee) retreat was a hit! Four Emmanuel youth and two leaders attended the retreat, held at Camp Mikell on January 2-4. This year's theme was "I'm a Believer", and together the youth explored their beliefs, individual and collective, and took a careful look at the Nicene Creed. All of this was done in the context of a lot of fun activities, singing, hanging out in the courtyard, and a Big Dance!



*Emmanuel youth on the floor*



# CHILDREN'S CORNER

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR FOR CHILDREN

**February 8, 9 am:** second Sunday of the month, children's sermon

**February 29, 9 am:** Family Eucharist in the Christian Connection

February is a special month in that it has five Sundays! And that means that we'll be having a Family Eucharist at the 9am service on February 29<sup>th</sup>. The families of all Children's Chapel and Children's Liturgy kids (3 year-olds through 4<sup>th</sup> graders) are invited to attend. Please join us in the Christian Connection for singing, worship, and activity! This replaces Children's Chapel and Children's Liturgy for the day.

*Epiphany  
Party:*

*Dinner  
is  
Served!*



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

Emmanuel will host Vacation Bible School this year on July 19-23<sup>rd</sup>. Three year olds through fourth graders can participate, and youth and adults can be involved through volunteering. Look for more in upcoming Tower issues!

## EPIPHANY PARTY

Volunteers in Emmanuel's Children's Christian Formation programs enjoyed an evening of delectable dinner and conversation on January 10th at an Epiphany Party at Kat and John's house. In Kat's memory, the house has never held so many people!

## FEBRUARY ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

*9:00 a.m. service*

*February 1st*

Maren White, Captain  
Meg Winthrop, Asst. Capt.  
Lauren Nickerson  
Palmer Hicks  
Collin Hicks  
Samantha Nickerson  
Henry Terrell

*February 8th*

Andy Jarrett, Captain  
Brooks McAlister, Asst. Capt.  
Bess Gaby  
Scott Moore  
Ansley McAlister  
Johnny Miller

*February 15th*

Jason Vogt, Captain  
Jay Tison, Asst. Capt.  
Laura Leigh Fox  
Hays Sligh  
Elizabeth Gibb  
Kaity Gibb

*February 22nd*

Mitchell Odom, Captain  
Alex Odom, Asst. Capt.  
Jessica Sams  
Kathryn Woodruff  
Elliott Woodruff  
Ryan Williams

*February 29th*

To be announced

*11:15 a.m. service*

*February 8th*

Ben Galis and  
Bobby Gipson, Co-Capt.  
Trey Harden  
Allison Howard  
Blair Mallet  
Kendall Turnipseed  
Catherine Cofer

*February 22nd*

Adam Bewley, Captain  
Amelia Howard, Asst. Capt.  
John Stovall  
Margaret Gaby  
Sarah Richardson  
Shaw Richardson

*February 29th*

Maren White, Captain  
Meg Winthrop, Asst. Capt.  
Lauren Nickerson  
Palmer Hicks  
Collin Hicks  
Samantha Nickerson  
Henry Terrell

## FOYERS REGROUP FOR WINTER AND SPRING



Foyers will be regrouping in February for Winter and Spring, and we invite you to join your fellow parishioners for good food, good company, and fellowship. Each group consists of 4-5 couples/singles who meet monthly at individual homes or eating establishments to enjoy conversation and getting to know each other. It's a great way to rekindle old friendships as well as make new ones! Sign up sheets will be available on the bulletin board outside of Kat's office or you can call Cathy Cofer @ (706) 548-0780. If you currently are participating, you don't need to do anything as you will be automatically renewed unless you let Cathy know otherwise. This way you won't have to remember to sign up each time – we'll do it for you! New lists will be compiled the last week of January and mailed so you will receive them by the first of February. Please feel free to contact Cathy if you have any questions or need more information. Thanks!

*Phillip & Cathy Cofer*

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

### Clergy and Staff

**The Rev. Peter Courtney**  
Rector

**The Rev. Mandy Brady**  
Assistant to the Rector

**Kat Ballard**  
Director of Christian  
Formation with Children  
and Youth

**Melissa Fulcher**  
Director of Administration

**Deborah Lisano**  
Director of Music

**Amy Wraga**  
Director of the Day School

**Karen Holland**  
Director of Finance

**Scott Goodwin**  
Associate Organist



## THE TOWER

*The purpose of The Tower is to inform Emmanuel's members of who we are and what we do as a faith community. Members are encouraged to submit material they feel will both enlighten and inform others about Emmanuel's ministries. Submissions go directly to Melissa Fulcher in the office.*

*Blue Wood, Editor*

*March deadline is Monday,  
February 16, at 5:00 p.m.*

# TRANSITIONS

## *To Emmanuel*

W. Whitney Steuck  
from  
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
Satellite Beach, Florida

## *Baptisms*

Sydney Elizabeth Reeves  
Daughter of  
Gregory Perry and Mary Pat  
Reeves

## *Vestry*

Lee Albright  
Butch Bush  
Allison Clements  
Laura Cofer,  
*Junior Warden*  
Lee Gaby,  
*Senior Warden*  
David Gossett  
Debra Harden  
David Kidd  
Larry McLeod  
Joe Napoli  
Naomi Norman  
Jay Shinn  
Terri Tillman  
Brian Tison  
David Woodruff

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## **Emmanuel Episcopal Church**

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