

ADVENT AT EMMANUEL

*In this season of preparation, comfort, and joy,
we welcome new faces and express gratitude for familiar ones.
These opening pages bring greetings to all from our clergy and staff.*

EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

TOWER

FROM FATHER ROBERT

The weather has been a little crazy lately. Yesterday I was in long sleeves and roasting. Today a sweater and a jacket didn't quite do it. It's inconsistent. It changes. It doesn't let us get too used to just one way. Heck, it even rained last eve.... in answer to the governor's prayers no less! Wow! We should all be on our knees, perhaps. It's kind of like life, don't you think? It changes too. Life is absolutely not consistent, and just when we think we can step back and rest for a moment, some new thing – good or bad, happy or sad, just bubbles up and causes us to act.



Our readings for liturgy in the next few weeks will be calling us to get ready for all the inconsistencies of life, all of the change. They are warning us to be alert – to read the signs of the times and to be ready to move. I would hope the direction of our move would be towards God. I have come to believe that what sets us in that direction is our life of prayer. The amount of time we spend praying is not always essential. Prayer can be an instant and spontaneous; it can be the simplicity of just turning our hearts and our minds to the awareness of the presence of God. It is interesting that the Hebrew scriptures (Old Testament for those who must) don't contain any words for prayer. They used words like, "sing, rejoice, laugh and dance." Prayer really became the culmination of their total human experience – given to God. Everything they said and did – intentionally – for God was a prayer. We could be or do the same. We live to praise God and so the more we appreciate, celebrate and recreate life around us, the more we do praise God.

The coming seasons of Advent and Christmas invite us to live that reality – of recreating life, God's life, in our hearts and in the hearts of our families and fellow parishioners. There is something to be said about finding once again the innocent values that come from the babe in Bethlehem. We can do it also by being lovingly present to one another at our Annual Meeting on the 2nd by being open to the Spirit as it moves us to a greater dedication in doing the works of justice and mercy in our common mission as a parish.

It's about to get a little crazy, friends. Different schedules, welcoming home family members, liturgies that call us to HOPE and Joy and the reality that something new is about to happen in our lives again. I look forward to celebrating hope and God's love with you.

Robert+



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

There is a book called, *I Can Make a Difference* by Marian Wright Edelman. It tells about all sorts of people and ways they are making a difference in our world. The book is filled with quotes and poems and stories of people of all ages and ethnicities who are making conscious choices to live a better life. Chapter 3 begins with this quote: “I can make a difference by aiming high and holding to my ideals.” Then follows a quote by Helen Keller, “No pessimist ever discovered the secret of the stars, or sailed to an uncharted land, or opened a new doorway for the human spirit.”

I observe that as a part of the Body of Christ, Emmanuel has chosen to make a difference by giving Education/Formation much respect. In my opinion, this is key to transformation and growth. St. Augustine said, “Our hearts are restless until they rest in You, O Lord.” One path to our soul’s longing for the Lord is through learning. As we learn more about our faith (and other religions and faith traditions), we are able to more fully live into who we are as the Body of Christ, and what being the Body of Christ means to the world.

This past Sunday, the Sunday School teachers graciously allowed me to drop into their classes. I was so impressed by what the youth have to say about praying and what it means. All of us are on a path which continually informs and forms us. The more we know about our selves and our souls, the more authentically we are able to live our lives. We can all of us make a difference in the world.

Formation is a step in that direction. Learning is a portal to a more expansive world view. Ultimately, it is a step towards peace.

I appreciate suggestions for Adult Education, and your help with the Christmas Pageant. which will be performed December 24th at 5:00 PM.

Peace be with you,

Nancy+

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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES



When I first started as the Emmanuel Youth Director in July, my days were spent mostly familiarizing myself with the J2A curriculum, reading notes on past events and setting up this year's youth program. When people asked how I was settling in, I would often say that once September came, I would really feel like I'll have hit the ground running. So far, it's been exactly that.

During the first few months of this school year, I'm very glad to say that our youth group has gotten off to a fine start. Our weekly EYC program has been a great chance for the youth to get to hang out with other kids, play lots of games and learn some things about God and themselves as well. We've also had some great meals, thanks to both the kids that cook as well as some gracious parents. In October, we took 16 youth to Camp Mikell for a great retreat that included, among other things, discussions about the Beatitudes and Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, four square time, scaling the 35-foot-high Climbing Tower, four square time, a night hike to the cross...and did I mention that we played a lot of four square? We followed that weekend by taking a trip to Mule Day in Washington and trying to navigate our way through the Corn Maze at Washington Farms. On the final weekend of October, we connected with the EYC at St. Gregory's and carved pumpkins and ate pizza.

One of the strengths of our program is the adult leadership we have on board. We have a group of about ten dedicated people that volunteer their time and oh-so-valuable weekends to planning lessons for Sunday School and EYC. As I mentioned above, we've had parents cook dinners for some of our Sunday evenings, and that's been a great form of parent involvement. This type of support is vital, and it says a lot about our parish's spirit of stewardship that we have so many people donating their time, talent and energy to our youth program.

Our kids are involved in so many different activities and are incredibly talented, and the variety of skills that they possess is amazing. Several adult leaders and I attended some of our youth's extracurricular activities, such as plays and sports games, and being able to go to such events is an aspect of youth ministry that we think is especially important. We're always searching for opportunities that can allow Emmanuel to be present in our kids' lives away from church, so if you know of an upcoming event that I or any of our youth leaders might attend, please pass that info on to me.

As we continue through the holidays and look forward to 2008, I am thrilled about continuing our ministry to our young people. We have many exciting opportunities ahead, including the Jr. and Sr. DYC Retreats (Nov. 30-Dec. 2 and Jan. 11-13, respectively), Chili Cook-Off, and moving our "headquarters" next door to the present Community Connection building. I look forward to continuing our time together, both with those of you who have been active and present and those who will be new to our youth group soon. Thank you!

Peace,

David Wagner

youth@emmanuelathens.org



EVENTS OF THE SEASON

A CHRISTMAS CARD
from
The Athens Master Chorale
Joseph Napoli, Conductor
Sunday, December 2nd at 4:00 pm
Tuckston United Methodist Church
4175 Lexington Road, Athens, Georgia

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting on December 2nd to hear reports, elect new vestry members, celebrate the happenings of 2007, and enjoy fellowship will follow this schedule:

7:30 am	Liturgy, Rite 1
9:00 am	Liturgy, Rite II, will begin in church and will include the sermon, the Rector's annual report; the parish will then move to the Common Room for the meeting; After "meeting" we will return to church to finish Eucharist.

The vestry slate, presented recently in a special *Tower*, is also posted in several locations on the campus. Nominees are: Paul Anderson, Anne Brightwell, Patrick Cline, Frances Doherty, Matthew Hicks, Vince Howard, Matt Humphrey, Nancy McDuff, Terri Tillman, and Lisa Yarn. From these ten candidates the parish will elect five new vestry members for three-year terms beginning in 2008.

EMMANUEL THRIFT HOUSE DISTRIBUTES GIFTS

Thanks to everyone who has been involved with the Thrift House over the last 6 months. Whether you donate items, shop with us, or volunteer, you are a significant part of this ministry. Please continue to keep us in mind when you have gently used clothing or small household items to donate.

At the October Meeting, the Thrift House volunteers discussed requests and voted to make the following gifts: *The Ark* (prescription medical assistance) - \$1,000; *Athens Area Emergency Food Bank* (supplement donated food) - \$1,000; *Athens Nurses Clinic* (medication and medical supplies) - \$2,500; *Athens Area Community Council on Aging* (home delivered meals) - \$2,000; *Samaritan Counseling* (assist with counseling expenses) - \$500; *Oasis Catolica* (supplies) - \$1,000; *Rev. Pere Bruno* (scholarships for St. Etienne School and Haitian children in Dominican Republic) - \$1,450; *Georgia Options* (assist with dental care) - \$750.

If you are interested in being a part of this ministry (you can volunteer as little as 3 hours a month), contact Cathi Shinn (706-769-0227). You will find it very rewarding to help so many people in our community and in the mission field.

Linda Ford

BENEVOLENCE MARKET FOR ALL: SUNDAY DECEMBER 9

Twelve local churches, including Emmanuel, and the United Way of NE Georgia are joining hands again to help those less fortunate and make a difference. You can buy a gift card that honors someone you love --- all the money goes directly to the charity(s) of your choice. The Benevolence Market will be open from 12-3PM at Milledge Avenue Baptist Church on Sunday, December 9.

This has become my favorite way to shop for Christmas. In the November *Tower*, Blue Wood wrote about the opportunity to offer a symbolic gift and to learn more about the efforts of our community and faith-based outreach organizations. She mentioned Episcopal Relief and Development and the tremendous work it does. In all, there will be 32 exhibits this year. This may be your best chance get to become acquainted with a variety of community wide ministries. It's also a great way to introduce your children and grandchildren to the concept of giving a gift that goes beyond the ordinary. When you "buy" something at the Benevolence Market, you are really honoring the person in whose name you make the purchase, and you receive a gift card to give them. And if you struggle with gift wrapping like me, a Benevolence card is the best card of all. It's so simple.

Here is just a sample of what \$10 will buy - A gallon of paint for a mission home, a doll for play therapy, a birth certificate for a homeless child, a course of antibiotics, a week's supply of diapers. \$25 will buy a night of shelter, medication for an acute illness, 5 hot meals, a workforce re-entry handbook, a week supply of food for a family, a mission hand washing station, 5,000 food service gloves.... There are over 100 individual choices and countless combinations that are interesting, and they all make a difference!

Blue mentioned something else, buying a life sustaining goat in honor of your husband. Can you honestly pass up such a thing? Imagine, if every man at Emmanuel knew that there is a goat with his name on it somewhere making things better for someone else. I can't think of a better way to put Jesus first at Christmas. Let's do it.

Chili and Cornbread, desert and beverages are complimentary for everyone who visits the Market. There's festival music too. Please come and experience the joy of community sharing and outreach!

Lee Gaby

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER

Evening Prayer will be offered at Emmanuel during Advent, each Monday through Saturday at 5:30 pm (except on Wednesdays; Healing Rite with Holy Eucharist at 5:30). All are welcome to join us in praying the daily office of Evening Prayer during this season of spiritual preparation, beginning December 3.

Matt Humphrey

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

Emmanuel will again host families and their children by providing food, shelter, and transportation at our church during the week of December 16 through December 23. Many Emmanuelites come together as volunteers to make it possible for one or more families to have a safe, nurturing place to stay. We work with 13 other churches during the year on a rotating basis to provide shelter, and opportunities for these families to become more self sufficient, look for employment, and affordable housing. In order for this to happen at our church volunteers provide evening meals, transportation to and from work or school, offer their presence as an evening host, or spend the night to provide supervision.

Our volunteers have been faithful in each of these roles, but we are always seeking new faces, especially during the Advent season. If you would like to know more, or share with us in this interfaith ministry, please call Lee Gaby, Merry Stovall, or Vince Howard.

Merry Stovall



SUPER'LITES CELEBRATION

*You are invited to a
Christmas Brunch and Concert
Sunday, December 9th*

*Coffee Hour in the Common Room after church
Christmas Brunch in the Common Room at 1:00 pm
Athens Symphony Christmas Concert at the Classic Center
at 3:00 pm*

Cost \$5.00

For Reservations:

Please call the church office before Monday, November 26th

THE ANGEL

I know that not everyone has had an “aha” moment in their lives where you know without a doubt that God is reaching out and helping you. While I surely do not expect all my day to day problems to be solved by divine intervention, I am absolutely certain that God has helped me on more than one occasion. I related one of these stories to Gillian and Joe and they thought it was worth sharing.

I play in the Macon Symphony about once a month. This involves traveling back and forth between Macon and Athens. There have been times when I have played a concert on Saturday night, drove home, and drove back to Macon on Sunday afternoon. During one of these weekends I realized early Sunday morning that I had misplaced my music. This was a problem on two levels: one, I still had another concert to play that day, and two, the cost of replacing the music would exceed my paycheck for the weekend. Not having any idea where the music could be sent, my stress meter through the roof. After tearing the house and my car apart, I decided to head back to Macon immediately to find the music. I really had no idea what I was going to do, I just knew that I had to get to Macon to do it.

Arriving there Sunday morning I found the Grand Opera House all shut with nobody around. Of course that is to be expected early on Sunday morning. I wanted to look inside, but every door was locked. I walked around, frustrated that I could not get in and growing increasingly apprehensive because of my fear of not finding the music. About this time a man started across the street towards me. I could tell that he was probably a street person from his general appearance, even from across the street. I knew what he wanted, but truthfully I was not feeling especially generous because I was caught up in my own problems. However, I somehow decided to turn towards him, walk to meet him, and give him a few dollars. This caused me to change my focus from the building and out towards the sidewalk by the parking lot. My eyes followed the man after he thanked me and turned to go back across the street. That is when I saw my music laying on the ground. I could not find the music because I was looking in the wrong direction. I would certainly not have found it had I continued to search in the direction I was originally headed. Only when I managed to shift my concentration away from my troubles did I find a solution. Whenever we can manage to shift our focus from helping ourselves to helping others, we are the biggest beneficiaries. I doubt he ever knew that he helped me far more than I helped him. That morning a beggar from the street served as my angel. Emmanuel – God with us!

Carter Stanfield

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

HOLY COOKERS



Jesus fed the multitude when he performed the miracle of the loaves and fishes. The Holy Cookers of Emmanuel follow his example when they joyfully feed another multitude—those sixty to eighty parishioners who show up each Wednesday evening for food and fellowship.

Betty Cofer, the kitchen coordinator, organizes seven teams of five or more members (including one comprised of the vestry), who alternate four times a year to plan, cook and serve the varied meals. “The menus can be

soup and salad, meat, potatoes and vegetable, pastas and vegetarian choices,” Betty says. “There are usually fabulous desserts (see below Peggy Allen’s famous and decadent chocolate sauce recipe) and there is always ice cream. There are kids’ menus, too.” Peggy adds, “Once there was talk about having the dinners catered, but we decided that preparing the meals is a real ministry because we cook with each other and for each other.”

Serving the crowd is not a miracle a la the loaves and fishes. Instead a great deal of preparation takes place. Before the team members even enter the kitchen, they decide on their menus and then they shop—usually at Sam’s—and transport the food to the church. On Wednesday the Holy Cookers arrive in the early afternoon, and the team spends hours chopping, stirring, carving and doing all the things that are necessary to feed the parishioners. They set the tables, often decorating them with flowers, and they have fun socializing while they perform their mission.

“What happier experience can you have than feeding people? And I love to cook and I love the people,” says Claire Gaus. Peggy Allen notes, “The biggest improvement lately is changing from long tables to round tables. People can have more chances to co-mingle. The Wednesday night dinner

is one place that people who attend different Sunday services can meet each other and socialize. They hardly have a chance to see each other at other times.” Betty adds, “Since we acquired new tables and chairs, our common room looks like a nice restaurant with food to match. We also feed the homeless who sometimes come to the door.” But even the best laid plans can go astray. “One night we came to dinner and the cooking team didn’t show up. We ordered pizza, salad and cookies and had dinner anyway. That incident takes the cake, so to speak,” Betty recalls with a laugh.



The Holy Cookers are not the only ones who enjoy their experiences. Young and older parishioners alike have nothing but praise for the family friendly Wednesday dinners. Graham Dodson, 5 ½, says, “I like the chocolate milk and the dessert they serve, and I like to run around the stage with my brother. We like getting out of the house to eat.” And senior member John Drewry believes the evening

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**Reached the point where you want to know more about your Christian Faith?
Have you done the basics time after time but now want to learn in depth?
Would you like to apply what the bible teaches to the events in your everyday life?**

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a unique and exciting course for anybody who really wants to learn about the Christian faith and their discipleship in the world. Through **study, prayer, and reflection**, EfM groups are moving toward a new understanding of the fullness of God's kingdom.

It is an extensive and intensive course, and those who embark upon it will need to put aside regular time for study, as well as for a weekly group meetings. During the first year, the Old Testament is studied and for those who want to continue and complete a further three years, the other subjects include the New Testament, Church history, Christian ethics, liturgy and theology.

The full course takes four years to complete, but students register a year at a time, and can take a break in the course if they need to. At the end of the four years a Diploma will be issued by the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee.

The seminar group is the nucleus of the Education for Ministry program. A group consists of six to twelve participants and a trained mentor who meet weekly over the course of a nine-month academic year.

These meetings are usually two and a half hours in length. Participants are given weekly assignments to study with the help of resource guides. Students are responsible for setting their own learning goals. They spend between two and four hours in study and preparation each week. In the seminars, members have an opportunity to share their insights and discoveries as well as to discuss questions which the study materials raise for them. Through discussion and guided reflection, the seminars furnish an opportunity to deepen understanding of the reading materials.

More important is the development of skills in theological reflection. The goal is to learn to think theologically. Mentors are trained in a process of guided discussion called "TR" which is designed to facilitate the exchange of ideas and beliefs. By examining their own beliefs and their relationship to our culture and the tradition of our Christian faith, participants can learn what it means to be effective ministers in the world. In coming to terms with the notion that **everything we do has potential for manifesting the love of Christ**, we discover that our ministry is at hand wherever we turn.

Emmanuel Church's Wednesday evening EfM group is reconvening January 9, 6:45-9:15 pm. Positions are open for any who would like to start their first year, or those who have had past EfM experience and would like to continue at what ever level they have attained. The tuition for one year will be \$340. All checks and enrollment forms must be in by Dec. 13. Contact for forms and information:

www.sewanee.edu/EFM/index.htm

Lane Norton & Jim Wahlers, co-mentors

nortonjim@bellsouth.net, 706-543-0426 jwahlers@bellsouth.net, 706-543-4158



IMPRESSIONS OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL

November 9-10

After surviving the drive to Atlanta during early Friday morning rush hour, I was hugely relieved to pull into the already full parking lot of the Cathedral of St. Phillip for my first ever Annual Council meeting. All delegates received a green totebag of materials-- included was a gift of the beautiful centennial book recounting the history of our diocese. Nice. Bishop Child Hall is about double the size of our Common Room, and it was full to the brim with round tables seating eight persons, grouped by convocation—we sat with folks from Redeemer, Greensboro. Coffee and food were in great supply, as were much meeting, greeting, and hugging. Bishop Alexander called us to order at ten, and we began with rousing singing and prayer. He was pleased to note that for the first time in his memory, all parishes in the diocese actually had representation at this meeting.

The main business of the morning (and throughout the day Friday, as well as Saturday morning) was the election of new Standing Committee members, Mikell Camp Governors, and Lay and Clergy Deputies to the 76th General Convention. Our own John Ballard was elected to the Mikell board, and after too many ballots to count, Rob Wood, son of Bob and Blue Wood and Rector of St. Aidan's in Alpharetta, was voted a clergy "1st Alternate" to the next General Convention. While we waited for voting results, we heard and approved resolutions and reports, always under the firm, intelligent, and witty guidance of Bishop Neil.

The Bishop's address to us after lunch was most memorable to me; it is now available for all to read online: www.episcopalatlanta.org/bishop/addresses.html. Neil spoke eloquently of five areas he sees us evermore involved with in the coming years: mission with youth and young adults; leadership development; growth of churches for the sake of mission; environmental ministries; and global mission. Later I attended the committee on community ministries meeting—the group that oversees Episcopal Charities; then at five we celebrated a "Centennial Eucharist," complete with incense and fabulous music.

I stayed for lasagna supper and a film called "Traces of the Trade"—a personal effort of a woman from Rhode Island to tell the truth about her family's involvement in the slave trade. Although a work still in progress, the film reminded me of our local movie "Darius Goes West" in its sincerity and moving scenes. Finally made it to my hotel room around nine—whew. Saturday morning we convened with "Shall We Gather at the River," accompanied by Bishop Neil on the piano. As we kept trying to elect folks and waiting for the results, he would lead us in several more hymns of old, and everyone seemed to enjoy singing along. Visiting with Barry Griffin, a former assistant priest with us at Emmanuel, and getting to sit with Mandy Brady at supper Friday, as well as embracing Rob Wood a time or two added to my happiness quotient immeasurably. Emmanuel was well-represented by Father Robert, Nancy Malloy, Bill Connerat, Bob and Blue Wood, Betty Cofer, John Ballard, and myself. Annual Council is many things, long and uplifting, mundane and glorious. I am grateful to have been a delegate and am grateful to have returned to Athens and Emmanuel safely!

Anne Brightwell

*Bishop
Alexander
listens
to
questions
and
discussion
at
Council.*



DECEMBER 2007

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY FRIDAY

SATURDAY

					Junior DYC Retreat begins at Mikell	1 Junior DYC Retreat at Mikell
2 ADVENT I 7:30 Holy Eucharist, I 9:00 Holy Eucharist, II, followed by brunch and Annual Meeting 12:00 NS Journey 2:00 R13/J2A returns from Jr. DYC 4-7 EYC	3 11:00 Bible Study 540 Prince Ave. 1:00 Stephen Ministry 540 Prince Ave	11 10:00 Natural Spirituality 540 Prince Ave. 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting 540 Prince Ave.	12 5:30 Healing Service with Eucharist 6:00 Supper 6:40 & 7:30 Choir Rehearsals 6:45 EfM 540 Prince Avenue	6	14 1:00 Natural Spirituality 540 Prince Avenue	8
9 ADVENT II 8:30 Holy Eucharist, I 9:30 Christian Education 10:30 Holy Eucharist, II 12:00 NS Journey Super'lites meet in Common Room 1:30 Prayer Shawl mtg. in Common Room 5:00 EYC	10 11:00 Bible Study 540 Prince Ave.	11 10:00 Natural Spirituality 540 Prince Ave. 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting 540 Prince Ave.	12 5:30 Healing Service with Eucharist 6:00 Supper 6:40 & 7:30 Choir Rehearsals 6:45 EfM 540 Prince Avenue	13 11:30 Day School in Common Room	14 1:00 Natural Spirituality 540 Prince Avenue 4:30 January Tower deadline	15
16 ADVENT III 8:30 Holy Eucharist, I 9:30 Christian Education 10:30 Holy Eucharist, II Pageant rehearsal after Service 12:00 NS Journey 5:00 EYC	17 11:00 Bible Study 540 Prince Ave 1:00 Stephen Ministry 540 Prince Ave	18 10:00 Natural Spirituality 540 Prince Ave. 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting 540 Prince Ave.	19 11:30 Eucharist at Arbor Terrace 5:30 Healing Service with Eucharist 6:00 Supper 6:40 & 7:30 Choir Rehearsals	20 11:00 Eucharist at Lanier Gardens	21 St. Thomas, Apostle 1:00 Natural Spirituality 540 Prince Avenue	22
23 ADVENT IV 8:30 Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 Christian Education 10:30 Holy Eucharist, Rite II Pageant Rehearsal after service. No EYC	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 12:00 Church Office closes. 3:00 Children Prepare for pageant 5:00 Family Service & Pageant 10:30 Choral Music 11:00 Eucharist with incense	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00 Holy Eucharist Church Office closed.	26 St. Stephen, Deacon & Martyr Church Office closed. 5:30 Healing Service with Eucharist	27 St. John, Apostle & Evangelist	28 Holy Innocents	29 Thomas Becket
30 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS 8:30 Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:30 Lessons & Carols No EYC	31 11:00 Bible Study 540 Prince Ave Church Office closed.	Church Office closed for New Year's Day				



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



		Conner Pannell	18	Peter Hodgson Robin Krause Stephanie Martin
	9	Peg Wood Carter Stanfield Brian Tison	19	Lauren Appleby
	10	Vivian Ygartua Jane Galis Paul Anderson Gillian Ball Sam Clements	20	Adam Bewley Ann Joye McLeod Carinne Laney
1		John McLanahan Philip Bettendorf	21	Georgia Patterson Gael Williams
2		Mark Dodson McCullough Hodgson Sarah Richardson	23	Jo Benton Keith Cowne Mary Cook
3		Harvey Hoechst Mary Roberts	24	Jolly Fay Welch
4		Sissy Erwin Lisa Yarn Rhodes McLanahan	25	Louise Horne Vesta Hardman Sara Newcomb Marib Gipson Kate Kleiber
5		Gloria Sams Ansley Miller Sheridan Cofer Emilee Stortz	26	Sally Jordan Patrick Snead
6		Keith Dix Frank Henning	27	Elizabeth Shaw Jessica Sams Harris Collier, IV
7		Elsie Fletcher J.M. Dail John Dry Katherine McKinney	28	Max Germain
			29	Ruth Cline Ethan Greene
8		Stephen Anderson Natalya Haas	30	Jennifer Dollman
	11	Vic Ford		
	12	Annette Mitchell Pam Shields Matthew Hicks Richard Swann		
	13	Jo Vaughn Seth Gibson Mary Anne Shields		
	14	Peggy Allen Nell Burger Rob Winthrop Eli Clarke		
	15	Tom Tuggle Stephanie Slate		
	16	Debra Harden Susan White Elaine Cook Laura Cofer Tye Edison		
	17	Samantha Nickerson		

FROM THE WELCOME! COMMITTEE

“Be the Ripple”

Hundreds of visitors and newcomers walk through our doors each year. It's quite striking when you consider the numbers. Many just come for church – perhaps looking for a new church home, celebrating a baptism or wedding, or attending a funeral. Others may come through different doors – the nursery, the Day School, the Thrift House, EYC, or a Christian Education class. Our fledgling greeter program is helping make all who pass through our vestibules welcome on Sunday morning. Imagine the impression if we assumed the role of greeter at every opportunity and every doorway of Emmanuel!!

“Remember there's no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end.” - American cartoonist Scott Adams

Be the ripple!

Greeter Schedule

We are in the process of setting up regular email reminders for the committee chairs, but in the mean time please **find a place for this on your refrigerator doors**, circle the dates when your groups are scheduled to greet, and create a few ripples of your own. Got questions about what to do? Contact the chair or coordinator for your group or call Katherine Byrne at 706-354-4805, Kim Ripps at 706-549-0660, or Duncan Krause at 706-354-0555. The rest of the greeter schedule (February through August) will appear in the next issue.

Welcome! Committee

December 2	Ushers
December 9	Welcome Committee
December 16	Welcome Committee
December 23	Pastoral Care & Office Volunteers
December 30	Super'Lites & Outreach Committee
January 6	Architecture, Gifts and Memorials Committee
January 13	EFM and Funeral Committee
January 20	Acolytes
January 27	Acolytes

(Continued from page 7)

“lets you let your hair down, be yourself and enjoy the good food and the friendly people.”

The parish extends kudos and thanks to the many Holy Cookers who spend their time joyfully feeding the multitude. The Holy Cookers always welcome more team members, so if you like to cook, set tables, socialize, or shop till you drop, call Betty Cofer, 706-369-1535.

Peggy Allen's Famous (and decadent) Chocolate Sauce: 1 stick of butter, 2 squares of bitter chocolate. Heat until mixed. Add ½ c cocoa, 1-1/2 c. sugar, 1/1 pint of cream (½ & ½, pinch salt, 1 tsp. vanilla. Mix and let boil slowly for 8 minutes.

Clairelis Baxter

ADULT EDUCATION: ADVENT TO EPIPHANY

Dec 2	Annual Parish Meeting	
Dec 9	Fr. Robert, Prayer and Preparation	Joyce Hudson, <i>The Building Blocks of Wholeness: Psyche and Eros</i>
Dec 16	Fr. Robert, Prayer and Preparation	Heidi Simmonds, <i>The Building Blocks of Wholeness: Wisdom and Wholeness</i>
Dec 23	Fr. Robert, Reconciliation and Forgiveness	<u>No class</u>
Dec 30	Joyce Hudson, Listening to the Gospel with Ears to Hear	<u>No class</u>
Jan 6	Coffee Hour & Vestry Forum in the Common Room	

The Vestry . . . At Your Service! November 2007

This update covers two regular vestry meetings (October & November) and an outreach work retreat:

Emmanuel's preliminary 2008 budget was presented by the Finance Committee. Based on program and operating expenses requests, our parish will need pledges in the amount of \$725,000 to meet these requests. This is a faith-based budget approved at the November meeting.

"Be it resolved that the vestry of Emmanuel Church accepts and embraces Natural Spirituality as a vital ministry of the Emmanuel parish." In other words the vestry officially acknowledges and lifts up this vibrant global ministry whose roots are in our parish. Thanks be to God for the vision and commitment of Joyce Hudson, Agnes Parker, and Heidi Simmonds.

An important action item from the October meeting is a change in the administration of the Bloomfield endowment fund. Originally, this fund was to be used by the Rector to aid sick children in Athens/Clarke County. About 12 years ago the 1995 vestry voted to have the Outreach Ministry decide how to spend the money. Our current vestry voted to put this account back under the direction of our Rector, allowing immediate access to the funds to help in emergency situations that come to his attention from schools, social workers, and healthcare practitioners. This fund was given in memory of Dr. James C. Bloomfield.

Other action items: Mark Wheeler and Allen Stovall were approved as the two newest members on the AGM (Architectural, Gifts, & Memorials) Committee; the newly revised by-laws were also approved.

An outreach planning retreat took place on Sunday, November 4, in the parlor. The vestry took information gathered from October's Outreach Summit to give direction to the new Missions and Extended Ministries Committee (MEMC). A mission statement was crafted and a framework was adopted to give our future ministries and projects a focus. The next step is to discuss what proportions of our endowment and outreach budgets are to be allotted for local, national, and global projects. We'll continue that discussion at a second outreach planning retreat on the afternoon of December 9, which will include all members of the 2007 and 2008 vestries. That evening we'll gather at Fr. Robert's home for a vestry Hail and Farewell, where we'll happily say hello to our newest members and sadly say good-bye to our outgoing members.

Emmanuel's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 2 at 9:00 a.m. in the church. [Time change for the earlier Rite I service is 7:30 a.m. for Dec. 2 only.]

See you in church!

Robin Krause, Communications Chair



RESERVED FOR YOUTH

YOUTH SCHEDULE: ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, EPIPHANY

Nov. 30-Dec. 2: Jr. DYC Retreat.

Youth in grades 6-9 can attend the Jr. DYC Retreat, held at Camp Mikell on the first weekend of the month for all youth in the Diocese of Atlanta. Cost is \$100/person, with scholarships available. We will meet at Emmanuel on Friday evening at 5:30 pm and return on Sunday afternoon by 2 pm. For more details, please contact David Wagner.

Dec. 2, 4-7 pm: Gift-Buying at Wal-Mart.

This afternoon, we'll head to Wal-Mart to buy gifts for children with Project Healthy Grandparent, a program for children raised by their grandparents. We will meet at Emmanuel at 4pm (note the early time!) and carpool to Wal-Mart, then come back and wrap the gifts and have dinner. (Please RSVP for this ahead of time so that we can organize drivers!) This event is specifically for the YAC and Senior groups, although any youth who did not attend the Jr. DYC Retreat are also welcome to come.

Dec. 9, 5-7 pm: EYC in the Common Room.

Dec. 16, 5-7 pm: EYC.

Dec. 23: No EYC

Upcoming: Jan. 11-13: Sr. DYC Retreat.

Youth in grades 10-12 may attend the Sr. DYC Retreat, held at Camp Mikell in January 2008. Cost is \$100/person, and scholarship funds are available. The registration deadline is December 15th. For forms or questions, please contact David.

A MUSICAL NOTE



Children and Youth have performed music as the prelude to the Christmas Pageant for several years. Vocalists and instrumentalists of all levels are welcome to perform pieces, appropriate to the season. Please contact Beth Shaw (celloebs@bellsouth.net or 706-353-2614) if you would like to participate in this special offering to the church. Rehearsal time in the church will be available prior to December 24.

Beth Shaw

CHILDREN'S SPECIAL PAGE

ATRIUM NEWS



Wonderful transformations are happening in our Atrium. The children are learning how to use their Atrium hands, feet, and voices to create a meditative atmosphere for developing their relationship with God. They are learning to take special care of the environment to show how much they appreciate this beautiful gift that has been given to us by all the parish.

The children have been very busy in the Atrium. They have been working on many practical life skills like pouring water, scooping beans, and hand washing. They are now able to accomplish these skills so very carefully that there is very little spillage. Because most have mastered these skills, the children have learned how to arrange flowers and prepare the cruets for the wine and the water just like the altar guild. They have also been introduced to the articles on the altar and are able to set up a small altar of their own.

The children have had a presentation on the five different colors we use during our liturgical season. This has led to a wide spread interest and much speculation as to what Father Robert is wearing every Sunday!

One of the goals Peg Wood, Ellen Dolphus, Erika Green, Ralph Stephens, and I are trying to accomplish is presenting the many different ways we can pray. We pray every Sunday with songs, words, and our work. The children are beginning to realize that even quiet is a great form of prayer. The very last act in the Atrium is the prayer of passing the peace. We do this in a very solemn and reverent way by shaking the hand of the person next to us in a large circle. This continues until the circle is complete. It is a rather beautiful experience every Sunday.

I hope to have pictures soon of all the children working in the Atrium, so be on the lookout throughout the church. Also, I want to be able to start inviting parents and others to come in to quietly observe the children as they complete their individual work in the Atrium.

Jackie Anderson

PARENTS' MEETING

All parents of Atrium children are invited to a meeting on Sunday, December 9th, at 9:30am. After dropping your child at the Atrium, please join me upstairs on the Sunday School hall in one of the empty rooms. The children will still be brought to you at the Peace. Thank you.

Jackie Anderson

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

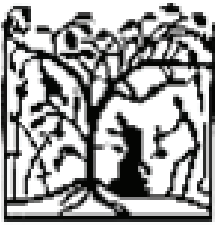
Greetings in Jesus,

We are beginning to prepare for the Christmas Pageant called "Good News" for this year. Every child between 3 years-5th grade is invited to participate in the pageant. Please send in the enclosed registration sheet, or bring it to church and put it in the Offering Basins by December 2nd. Rehearsal times are listed on the registration forms and hopefully will also be posted in other places.

The pageant will be offered to our parish December 24th at 5:00 PM.

Faithfully,

Nancy+



FROM THE DAY SCHOOL

Are you interested in learning more about the day school for next year? Information about classes, registration, and the definition of a member is posted on the website. Registration for the 2008-2009 school year is Friday February 1st at 9:30 in the common room for members of Emmanuel Church. You are welcome to stop by for a school tour or join us at our annual Open House on Friday January 25, 2008.

Our four year olds are celebrating Thanksgiving with a field trip to the Food Bank. They have collected donations and will learn about how we help others. We wish all parishioners a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!

Amy Wraga

Director of Emmanuel Episcopal Day School

WELCOME TO NANCY!



4 November 2008



THE DIOCESE AND BEYOND




Save the Date!

RELIGION AND THE LIBERAL ARTS
Piedmont College Inaugural Conference
Athens, Georgia

Barbara Brown Taylor

THE BIBLE
IN THE
CHRIST-
HAUNTED
SOUTH



February 22 & 23, 2008
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NOTED

in the current issue of
The Christian Century:
a conference on the relationship of
art, literature, and the Bible—
sponsored by
Piedmont College and featuring
keynote speaker
Barbara Brown
Taylor.
See
Piedmont website for registration
Details: www.piedmont.edu
February 22-23
2008

DREAMING IN FEBRUARY

Join the 2008 Natural Spirituality Gathering on February 8-10 at Camp Mikell. This two-tiered event—a one-day conference within a larger weekend conference—is aimed at natural spirituality veterans and inquirers alike. There will be lectures, workshops, small-group dreamwork, discussions of natural spirituality program issues, introductory sessions for inquirers, meditative movement and contemplative prayer opportunities, worship, and time for relaxation and fellowship. Staff includes **Bob Haden**, **Joyce Rockwood Hudson**, and **Jerry Wright**. This interdenominational conference is sponsored by natural spirituality groups in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta.

Saturday-only fee: \$25 (*includes lunch*)

Weekend fees:

\$145—double (full)
\$210—single (*only a few*) (full)
\$90—dorm ("*barracks*" bed and bath:
Spartan but adequate)
\$80—on your own for lodging (*fee covers
meals and activities*)

A \$50 reduction in the dorm fee (to \$40) is available upon request to anyone who cannot otherwise attend the conference.

CHEERS FOR OUR OWN!

The Rev. **John T. Thomas** has been elected the next head of St. Andrew's-Sewanee School, the Episcopal boarding and day school in Sewanee, Tennessee. Thomas, who is currently chaplain at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, Md., will begin his new role July 1, when the Rev. William S. Wade retires. Thomas served as an associate rector at St. Luke's, Atlanta, from 1996 to 1999. John is the son of Fran and Emory Thomas of Emmanuel.

COMING TO KANUGA

Winter programs at Kanuga include a conference featuring Bruce Feiler, author of *Walking the Bible*, *Abraham* and *Where God Was Born*. Feiler will keynote the Bowen Conference focusing on Christian commitment, Feb. 18-20. The theme will be *Rooted in Faith: Discovering History's Bounty*. Check the website at www.kanuga.org/conferences.

EMMANUEL AND THE WORLD

Joint Statement from ONE Episcopalian, Episcopal Relief and Development and Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation

At the 75th General Convention in June of 2006, the Episcopal Church set out the Millennium Development Goals (or MDGs as they are more commonly known) as a mission priority for the Episcopal Church. In 2000, 191 nations—including the United States—agreed on a plan to cut extreme global poverty in half by 2015. They identified eight goals:

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
Achieve universal primary education for children.
Promote gender equality and empower women.

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

Reduce child mortality.
 Improve maternal health.
 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.
 Ensure environmental sustainability.
 Create a global partnership for development.

All three of our organizations are working in different but complementary ways towards achieving the MDGs. Below are brief summaries of how we work to assist Episcopalians in making the MDGs a reality.

The Episcopal Church's ONE Episcopalian™ Campaign

ONE Episcopalian™ is a grassroots partnership between The Episcopal Church and the ONE Campaign to rally Episcopalians – ONE by ONE – to the cause of ending extreme poverty in our world and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Episcopal Church formally endorsed the MDGs at both the 74th and 75th General Conventions. The ONE Campaign (ONE) is a coalition of 2 million people and over 70 non-profit, advocacy and humanitarian organizations. ONE believes that allocating an additional one percent of the US budget towards providing basic needs like health, education, clean water and food would transform the futures and hopes of an entire generation in the world's poorest countries. ONE does not ask for donations but encourages advocacy by signing its declaration, spreading the word about the campaign, and by contacting elected officials and asking them to do even more to fight global AIDS and extreme poverty. For more information please go to: www.episcopalchurch.org/ONE.

Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD)

ERD is the international relief and development agency of the Episcopal Church. An independent 501(c)(3) organization, ERD saves lives and builds hope in communities around the world. We provide emergency assistance in times of crisis and rebuild after disasters. We enable people to climb out of poverty by offering long-term solutions in the areas of food security and health care, including HIV/AIDS and malaria. All of ERD's international programs are designed and assessed in part by how well they address the MDGs. If you want to make a gift in support of the MDGs, donating to ERD is a good way to do that. Visit our website or call to learn more: <http://www.er-d.org/> or 1-800-334-7626 ext. 5129.

Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation (EGR)


EGR is an independent 501(c)(3) organization resourcing the movement of spiritual transformation emerging around the MDGs in the Episcopal Church. From individuals and congregations to dioceses, church-related organizations and national church structures, EGR works with every level of the church connecting, educating, encouraging, providing resources and empowering ministry for the MDGs. We provide the connective tissue for this movement – drawing together any and all efforts to engage the MDGs so the movement may grow in new and exciting ways. EGR is not a granting agency, nor do we do any direct development work. Instead, we encourage MDG-related ministries and promote the work of ERD, ONE and any effort aimed at effectively engaging this mission. A primary way EGR invites the Church to engage the MDGs at every level is through 0.7% giving. Giving is not only a tangible commitment to this work, it draws us into deeper involvement through prayer, education, advocacy and relationship-building. Visit our website at <http://www.e4gr.org/> for more information.

We hope that this description of The Episcopal Church's ONE Episcopalian Campaign, Episcopal Relief and Development, and Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation is helpful as you discern your call to fight against global poverty and achieve the MDGs.

Alex Baumgarten
 International Policy Analyst, Office of Government Relations, Episcopal Church
 ONE Episcopalian™

Robert W. Radtke
 President
 Episcopal Relief and Development

The Rev. Mike Kinman
 Executive Director
 Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation

YOUTH ACOLYTES 10:30	USHERS 8:30	USHERS 10:30
<p>December 2 <u>Palmer Hicks</u> Collin Hicks Allison Howard Jason Miller Preston Stanfield Sam Clements Emily Pee</p> <p>December 9 <u>Laura Leigh Fox</u> Margaret Gaby Ryan Williams Jonathan Fox George Gaby Max Germain Jacques Germain</p> <p>December 16 <u>Scott Moore</u> Hays Sligh Catherine Cofer Johnny Miller Billy Seward Carter Ball Carter Seward</p> <p>December 23 <u>Brooks McAlister</u> Eric Anderson Ansley McAlister Samantha Nickerson Nicholas Byrne Katie Marie McEntyre Max Ruston</p> <p>December 30 <u>Laura Leigh Fox</u> Margaret Gaby Ryan Williams Jonathan Fox George Gaby Max Germain Jacques Germain</p> <p><i>Schedule for December 24 and 25 to be announced</i></p> <p>Trey Harden, Warden 706-543-9271 or debro48@bellsouth.net</p>	<p>December 2 Norm Wood Wally Eberhard</p> <p>December 9 Bill Baxter David Kidd</p> <p>December 16 Bob Bowen Jerry Midden</p> <p>December 23 Jay Shinn Will Hardman</p> <p>December 30 Butch Bush Walter Jarrett</p> <p><i>If you cannot serve on your assigned Sunday, please obtain a sub and notify Melisa Fulcher. If you have any questions concerning the schedule, please contact Bill Baxter by phone or email.</i></p> <p>Bill Baxter, Warden 706-543-4319 bbaxter3@bellsouth.net</p>	<p>December 2 <u>John Becker, Captain</u> Jim Jacobson Dev Weeks Ken Jordan</p> <p>December 9 <u>Pete Brown, Captain</u> Jay Staines Jim Griffith Allen Stovall</p> <p>December 16 <u>Tom Williams, Captain</u> Sam Harshman Jerry Sullivan Andrew Herrin</p> <p>December 23 <u>Curt Collier, Captain</u> Johnny Terrell Tom Tuggle</p> <p>December 24 5:00 pm Captains <u>Bill Fox and Tom Odom</u></p> <p>10:30 pm Captains <u>Amrey Harden & Curt Collier</u></p> <p>December 25 10:30 am <u>Curt Collier, Captain</u></p> <p>December 30 <u>Brian Tison, Captain</u> Joe Clements Gordon Maner Bill Connerat</p> <p>Curt Collier, Warden 706-353-3251</p>
		

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Denise Thomas
Sexton

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 to Melissa Fulcher in the office or go directly to Blue Wood at bluewood@earthlink.net.

Blue Wood, Editor

January deadline is Friday, December 14, at 4:30 p.m.

TRANSITIONS

To Emmanuel

David Wagner
from
St. Aiden's Episcopal Church
Alpharetta, GA

Deaths

Andrew Permar

*Rest eternal grant them, O Lord,
And let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Vestry

Gillian Ball
John Ballard
John Becker
Robin Bewley,
Senior Warden
Katherine Byrne
Phillip Cofer
Bill Connerat
Erwin Greene
Amrey Harden
Wren Howard
Robin Krause
Penny McLanahan
Naomi Norman
Tom Odom,
Junior Warden
Betsy Turner

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