

*Emmanuel Episcopal Church
Athens, Georgia*



Annual Report

“Windows of Faith and Love”

December 11, 2005

Collect

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." Revelation 21:1-4

When you return to Emmanuel, what do you see? Windows of glass, beautiful colors, a pageant in your mind, light streaming in, faces and people you know, grace reaching through or perhaps simply, windows of faith and love..... This report highlights our contributions to the spread of God's kingdom and helps tell our story as a parish seeking to carry out its mission—to strive to honor God by nurturing the spirit and ministering to God's people wherever they may be." Here are just a few key themes:

- Spiritual life at Emmanuel is centered in worship, liturgy and music.
- Emmanuel church welcomes all people. Emmanuel offers many and varied opportunities for enhancing our lives together and reaching into the Athens community.
- Christian Education is an integral part of parish life at Emmanuel and comprises a variety of programs for children, youth and adults.
- Emmanuel Day School is one of our most significant contributions to the community.
- Our parish is blessed with an abundance of resources , talents and gifts.
- For over 100 years, Emmanuel has been located along Prince Avenue, a vibrant corridor of commercial, institutional, and residential development.

We want to share the Good News about our ministries with each other and the world around us, and to answer God's call to bring others into His church. Another chapter has been written in the life of a faithful community that began meeting a long time ago.... And continues to dream and share visions for its future together. We give thanks to God!

Yours in Christ,

Lee Gaby and Jay Shinn, Wardens, On behalf of the Vestry

Lee Albright, Robin Bewley, Butch Bush, Allison Clements, Hal Cofer, Amrey Harden, Wren Howard, David Kidd, Robin Krause, Penny McLanahan, Tom Odom, Brian Tison, David Woodruff

This Report Covers the Period from Advent 2004 through Pentecost 2005

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Worship

The Worship Commission offered guidance and coordination for all nine committees and ministries that support our worship services. Our liturgical services helped nourish and keep us centered as we went out into the world to do the work God gave us to do. This was a year of many new things, highlighted by the transfer of liturgical leadership from Father Courtney to Mother Mandy, changes in the Sunday service schedule, and addition of new services.

Father Courtney took a terminal sabbatical beginning in February and retired in May after 34 years in the Lord's service as a full-time parish priest. Bishop Alexander welcomed him as a new "interim rector for hire," and the local woodworking community gained a full-time practitioner!

Mother Mandy assumed the position of Priest-in-Charge and enlisted the assistance of Father Gene Britton. Together, they helped us experience the gospel through their preaching, equipped us for our ministries, and added helpful features to our seasonal liturgy.

During Lent we experimented with a new Sunday schedule with 8:30 Rite I and 10:30 Rite II Eucharist services and found these new times met our needs. Other services offered included the Wednesday Healing Service, Compline during the liturgical seasons of Lent, Easter, Advent, and Christmas, and Evensong the 2nd Sunday of each

month. The Lord's Table was placed closer to the congregation with the priest drawing us together for the services during the Easter season.

We decided to stick with two Sunday Eucharist services after trying the new 8:30 and 10:30 format during Lent. We added Compline and Evensong services and continued the Wednesday Healing Service.

Acolytes Teams

When we changed the service schedule, the acolyte teams adjusted too. Our 37 youth acolytes, led by Leslie de Haseth assumed the responsibility for serving at all the 10:30 services. These acolytes were re-organized into four teams of seven or eight members. Each team was led by experienced acolytes of high school age, and included youth from fourth grade through high school seniors. Each team was scheduled to serve once a month, with occasional extra service during holiday seasons and on fifth Sundays. Seven acolytes graduated from high school and we added four new acolytes.

An adult team, led by Matt Humphries continued to assist with special services, while Lay Eucharist Ministers served as acolytes for the 8:30 service and the Wednesday Healing Service and Leslie served as crucifer for Evensong.

Altar and Flower Guilds

The Flower Guild, led by Jenny Broadnax, and the supporting Alter Guild, led by Debra Lassister, brought together dedicated volunteers weekly

throughout the year. More than 70 Guild members painstakingly prepared the silver, brass, and linen, and all other items used by the clergy, and arranged the flowers for all occasions, including weddings and funerals. The flower calendar was maintained, and parishioners took advantage of the special opportunities to order Easter Lilies and Christmas Poinsettias for the church as memorials.

Baptismal Banners

The Baptismal Banner Committee led by Anne Bretscher and JoAnn Yates, met on the first Thursday of each month to create the banners given to each newly baptized person. They cut, sewed, and assembled these personalized banners. This was continuing a tradition that began in 1998, reminding the newly baptized and their families that they were “sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked as Christ’s own forever.”

Funeral Committee

After operating for years on an informal basis, the Funeral Committee was officially recognized as a ministry in April by our Vestry. Members of the committee served as hosts for grieving families, providing water, mints, tissues, and other needs for each of the families. A booklet was written outlining the responsibilities of the committee. The committee provided support to the clergy, Altar Guild, and funeral home before, during, and after each funeral service.

Lectors, LEMS and LEVs

Guided by Ellen Cowne, our Lectors and Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEM) handled very

important roles each Sunday. Our thirteen Lectors prepared for and read the 1st lesson during the liturgy. The twenty-two Lay Eucharistic Ministers, licensed by the Bishop, vested to serve, read the 2nd lesson and lead the Prayers of the People. They also administered the chalice and assisted the priest during the administration of Holy Communion, when needed. Our Lay Eucharistic Visitors, who are also licensed by the Bishop, carried the Sacrament to the sick and shut-ins to enable them to receive communion at home.

“I pray that God will bless
our efforts, that we may
“sing in the Spirit, and with
the understanding also.”
1 Corinthians 14:15.

Music

The music program, under the direction of Scott Goodwin, was delivered by four choirs: St. Cecelia (boys and girls ages 7-10), St. David (boys and girls ages 11-14), Schola Cantorum (men, voice change and up), and the Family Choir (men and women, boys and girls). The St. Cecelia and St. David choirs each sang once a month at the 10:30 am liturgy, and the Family Choir sang every Sunday at the 10:30 am liturgy. In addition, we began singing Evensong and Compline. We adopted the Royal School of Church Music’s (RSCM) training program for the 16 regular members of the youth choirs, and this fall we began using the program with our adult singers. The RSCM curriculum provided a comprehensive music education with a

special emphasis on singing and church music. We have a group of five adults meeting on Sunday afternoons. Robin Krause worked closely with the St. David Choir, and Michael Brewer and Sharon Rockholt assisted with the St. Cecelia Choir. The total number of choir members was about forty. The Family Choir consisted of twenty-five volunteers who, in addition to preparing music for our regular schedule of liturgies, worked on music for the St. Cecelia's Day Concert in November and a joint effort with the choir of Friendship Presbyterian. We continued to work on the large task of cataloguing our rather extensive music library.

Ushers

Bob Gregory and Curt Collier stepped forward to fill the shoes of Chuck Galis who retired from this ministry during the year. Our new co-coordinators worked with the schedule change and a trial set of guidelines was prepared for the 8:30 ushers. These guidelines were expected to help

bring consistency with all ushers and integrate them more into the worship experience at the church. The 10:30 ushers began wearing a medallion inscribed with the word "Usher" hung neatly by a colored ribbon that reflects the color of the liturgical season.

Weddings

The wedding committee, led by JoAnn Yates, met with the brides and the grooms, to plan details of the all the wedding ceremonies held during the past year. Each wedding was assigned a coordinator to help with the many behind-the-scenes details of the wedding and on the day of the ceremony. We updated our wedding guidelines booklet in August and posted it on the parish website. Wedding fees were increased to \$550 for members and \$2,000 for non-members.

Submitted for the Worship Commission by Robin Krause, Chair

Pastoral Care

We reached out to help others physically, emotionally and spiritually in times of need. Through our personal ministries of Pastoral Care, we touched each other with love, a warm smile, a listening ear, a show of concern, or a helping hand. We also helped out in specific ways through formal ministry groups.

AGAPE MEALS

The agape meals committee, led by Linda Dodson, was often busy in crisis situations and always ready to provide meals for overwhelmed mothers of young children, husbands with wives in the hospital, and anyone who was alone. Gourmet cooking was not expected, only willing hands and loving hearts. Anne Becker, Myra Blackmon, Nancy Woodruff, Polly Connerat, Robin Bewley, Allison Clements, Cindy Sullivan, Lane Norton, and Jane Galis all fed our faithful folks this year. Gillian Ball and Sara Ehlers signed up to help us expand our ministry.

Stephen Ministers

Ann Darby and Diane Wahlers led our 12 active, trained Stephen Ministers. We served 20 people from Emmanuel and the community as supportive and understanding listeners this past year. Ministers met weekly with their assigned care receivers for confidential conversation and spiritual support. We offered consistent care and objectivity during challenging times, such as illness, death of a loved one, divorce, job change/loss, aging, and other difficult life transitions. Every Stephen Minister participated

in regular peer supervision and ongoing education. We stayed plugged in with our fellow Stephen Ministry groups at other churches, since we are an ecumenical group and belong to a national association of caregivers.

Guild of the Christ Child

The Guild of the Christ Child, led by Cindy McAlister, offered emotional and spiritual support for families during pregnancy and on through the joy of birth and baptism. Guild members took care of tasks related to our prayer lists, notification of births, delivering meals, and supplying information on choosing godparents and baptism. We helped welcome and celebrate the newborn. We took part in the nurturing of young families and helped them better connect with others in our faith community.

Spiritual Formation

Our Christian Education Commission was renamed Spiritual Formation this Fall. We had a fantastic and growing group of children's and youth Christian educators throughout the year. They serve in myriad roles, including shepherds, ambassadors, teachers, leaders, and advisors. Many are new to leading Sunday School, while others are returning volunteers. All of them are doing a diligent and great job. Children and youth are engaged and look joyful! Our young people are being given a wide pool of resources to learn from as they grow in their faith and spirituality. We gave thanks for Kat Ballard's ministry and wished her well in August for her journey to receive additional education in a new vocation.

Our special activities included the **Christmas Pageant, Christmas Outreach** and **Vacation Bible School** in July. Emmanuel children told the Christmas story with style and grace and the entire congregation joined in singing Christmas hymns to remind us of the joy of Christmas. A large group of parents and other adults helped put the pageant together and arrange our beautiful sets. Ralph Stephens provided his gift for directing and brought out the dramatic talents of our children. Emmanuel children rose to the occasion to give to others at Christmas. They again donated shoeboxes of supplies to Haiti and Christmas Stockings for Emmaus House children. Church members and Sunday School classes gathered needed supplies

for boys and girls and worked together on a Wednesday evening to assemble the gifts. Children who participated in this project began to understand the importance of outreach. Our theme for Vacation Bible School was "Serengeti Trek" and under the leadership of Georgia Collier, Jackie Anderson, Kat Ballard, Cindy Sullivan, & Katherine Byrne, our Common Room got wild with happy kids and good lessons for a week.

Throughout the year, our 3-5 year-olds attended **Children's Chapel** during the 10:30 service. They enjoyed the open space of the Christian Connection with its bright colors and paintings. This year's curriculum for the 3-4 year olds featured "Group's Hands-On Bible Curriculum," an program based on the idea that children learn 10% by listening and 90% by doing. Children were treated to a weekly puppet show with Whiskers the mouse, simple crafts and a Bible Story. Weekly lessons built on each other, so that children have several weeks to absorb the material. The loving leaders for this age group were Cindy Sullivan, Erika Greene, Lisa Allen, Diane Wahlers, Allison Clements, and Michele Lease.

Christian Education Hour featured the return of the Workshop Rotation Model for K-5 grade children in our second year with this exciting program. Classes explored one Bible concept for 3-5 weeks, rotating to a new workshop each Sunday as part of the "Bethlehem Marketplace." Children experienced The Artist's Bazaar, The Bedouin's Tent (drama &

storytelling), The Garden of Eatin' (cooking), and The Magic Carpet. (movies & music) Through this program, our young children have explored the Biblical concepts and lessons of Stewardship, Discipleship, The Good Shepherd, and more. The wonderful Shepherds who helped shape and hold the program together included Jackie Anderson, Hadley Smith, Baxley Dolphus, Ralph Stephens, Meredith Kahlstorf, Judy Fox, Margaret Smith and Pam Shields. Linda Dodson was our super Ambassador for the Garden of Eatin' and Sara Clarke, Clara Herrin, Frances Doherty, Melanie Rowell, Claire Smith, Lee Gaby, Wren Howard, Stephanie Slate and Nancy Woodruff served as teachers. We have signed up many other talented teachers signed up for the rest of this school year. We received frequent reports of children pressing their parents to take them to Sunday School and our teachers have also had a positive experience. It was always fun to have the children from Liturgy and Chapel join us in church at the Peace.

Anne Becker led **Children's Liturgy** for 1st - 4th graders. This active bunch met in the parlor to read "The Sunday Paper Junior," a cartoon-style, lectionary-based newspaper that highlights the message in the Gospel. Two representatives helped present the bread and wine at the 10:30 service with the adult ushers.

We offered **Children's Bulletins** along crayon packs and a coloring page that added a lectionary-based way for young ones to tune in to the rhythm of worship as well as to the Gospel

message. Mother Mandy invited the children to sit around her on the chancel steps and hear the Good News in **Children's Sermons** that inspired us all on every 2nd Sunday of the month. And, in the special months that had five Sundays, **Family Eucharist** was celebrated in the Christian Connection for all of the families with children in Children's Chapel and Children's Liturgy.

We supported our families by continuing to offer a **Nursery** for infants up to age 3 during Sunday services, Wednesday night suppers and special events. Ellen Cowne stepped in to keep this ministry on track. Our five dedicated professional nursery workers were a blessing to all!

Youth

Middle-schoolers and high-school age members of the parish completed their 4th year of the **Journey to Adulthood** program last spring and began the 5th year this Fall. Our 6th graders formed a new group and called themselves the Padawans, a familiar type of character from the Star Wars series. Our 7th-8th grader met together as a "Rite-13" group, freshman and sophomores were simply the "J2A group" and the junior and seniors formed the Young Adults in Church or YAC. Each group met on Sunday morning during the Christian Education hour and again in the evening during the EYC time. Under the direction of Katie Lawrence, trained volunteers who made one- to two-year commitments to work with our youth

led each group. We celebrated the passage to womanhood and manhood with the Rite 13 liturgy in May. With this program, youth are confirmed at the end of their 9th or 10th grade year, after 4 years of spiritual formation. The California Mission trip was a huge success.

Episcopal Youth Community (EYC): The EYC continued to be an important outreach in the spiritual formation of our youth. EYC was also organized in the same age groups as the Journey to Adulthood program. Additional leadership came from Mother Mandy, who helped in planning and was often present for special functions, such as retreats. Katie Lawrence was there weekly and rotated between the groups. The groups came together to eat, and met separately for programming was separate and age appropriate.

Parents of Youth

Our group of parents of pre-teens, teenagers and young adults met monthly and in the Winter and Spring, then restarted in the fall with the aid of several fearless facilitators. We discuss topics and issues facing youth and parents in a confidential, non-judgmental way.

Both Emmanuel's Children's Christian Education and EYC continue to grow and change. They are wonderful ministries for children and youth, led by fun, spirit-filled, creative, talented people.

Wren Howard, Georgia Collier, Katie Lawrence

Men of Emmanuel

We were recognized as a ministry of the parish in May and continued to meet each Sunday for Bible study, fellowship, and encouragement followed with emails and personal greetings. We traveled together through the book of Romans in the Spring and Summer and set forth into the book of Acts this Fall. Our strong core of 30 plus regular attendees continued to seek ways to support each other in ministry and look for ways to serve the mission of the parish. Men of Emmanuel was led by Jay Staines.

Natural Spirituality

Our program of Christian dream work was offered on Sunday and Tuesday mornings. Participants were invited to deepen their awareness of God's activity in their lives through the sharing and examination of dreams. Agnes Parker, Joyce Hudson, and Heidi Simmonds were the leaders.

The Natural Spirituality Program included an introductory class and the ongoing Sunday and Tuesday Journey Groups (dream groups). The class was offered for six weeks every fall during the adult Christian Education hour. Journey Group participants are graduates of the class who wish to put theory into practice. The Sunday group met at 12 noon and the Tuesday group met from 10:00 until noon.

Highlights of the year included our third weekend conference at Camp Mikell in February with 101 attendees from 7 states. Natural Spirituality was well represented at the Haden

Institute Summer Dream Conference at Kanuga, where Joyce Hudson was a key presenter, Agnes Parker led a workshop, and both led dream groups. In August, Heidi Simmonds entered the Haden Institute's two-year Dream Leadership Training Program. When she graduates in 2007, she will be our first formally certified dreamwork leader.

The seventh and eighth editions of *The Rose* were published this year for those interested in Christian dreamwork. It was paid for entirely by donations, distributed free of charge and reached a national circulation of 3,000. Copies were placed in Emmanuel's vestibules.

Committee Chair: Joyce Hudson

Extended Ministry

Our **Outreach Committee**, led by Bill Hicks, met regularly during the year to award grants to local agencies and to Pere Bruno's ministry in Haiti. This year was topped off with a super successful Thanksgiving Day lunch delivered by countless volunteers to over 500 needy persons.

The Thrift House, led by Linda Ford, used the net proceeds from its sales to again make significant grants to agencies and organizations serving a wide variety of needs in the community and beyond.

Williams Rhodes Screening Committee, led by Phillip Cofer, met quarterly to choose grant recipients and received approval from the Vestry to distribute a approximately \$120,000 for worthy organizations and agencies.

Emmanuel became a member church of the **Interfaith Hospitality Network** and hosted its first guests during the Christmas season and three more times during the year. Our growing list of volunteers cooked, fed, transported, entertained, mentored and provided comfort, support and shelter for families in transition for a full week. Our Christian Connection and Common Room were put to good use and the guests enjoyed our gentle hospitality.

Day School

We had 104 students in nine classes bustling with preschool activity this year. Our director, Amy Wraga, assembled an outstanding, highly qualified and loving staff. With our small student teacher ratio our teachers were able to truly nurture and stimulate each child. We continued to meet the stringent criteria for accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

The generosity of our parents supported our school and the larger community. Through our pizza fundraiser, EEDS provided scholarship money for our sister school in Haiti. Part of the funds raised by our PTO this fall will support our musical program and teacher appreciation. With the balance we began providing support for three families from New Orleans that are currently living in Athens. Scholarships have been awarded to seven students so they may attend school this year.

Allison Clements, EEDS commission chair



Parish Life

The **Parish Life** ministries include eleven ministries or committees whose activities are related to encouraging fellowship and strengthening our church family. We invite all those interested in promoting activities to involve parishioners in the life of the parish and the church to participate in any of the committees and groups. Cathy Cofer and Ivey Adams coordinated receptions and celebrations this year. Among the many special events were Farewell Receptions for Peter Courtney, Debby Perry, and Kat Ballard, a Commencement Luncheon for all graduates in 2005, a reception for the Ordination of Sarah Fisher and other new ordinands, an appreciation reception for the Sunday School teachers and helpers, and a reception for those newly baptized and confirmed. Bishop Frank Allen presided at the Ordination.

The members of the **Brotherhood of St. Andrew**, led by Andy Simmonds, met each month for dessert in a member's home, participated in devotion and discussed selected books. They organized and prepared the annual Acolyte Appreciation Breakfast, family picnic in May and Brave Game trip in June. The members pledged themselves to draw men and boys nearer to God, to serve the church to the best of our abilities, and to study the Bible and other proper books on Christianity in order to deepen their knowledge of their relationship to God and their fellow man.

The **Order of the Daughters of the King**, led by Kay Hoyt, encouraged its members to

live their lives from a stance of prayer and praise, strengthened by their community. They remained in touch with other chapters of this national group of approximately 30,000 women and help promote the annual Atlanta Diocesan Assembly, retreats at Camp Mikell in April, and quiet days around the diocese.

Our newly established **Dry Bones Breathe Committee**, led by Duncan Krause, launched a series of parish conversation groups in the Spring after months of facilitator planning and preparation. The conversation groups followed their assignments and provided feedback and suggestions about the parish and their ideas for activating the congregation. Committee members were Butch Bush, Hal Cofer, Lee Gaby, Larry Hymo., Duncan Krause, Penny McLanahan, Cindy McAlister, Pat Oliffe and Bob Wood.

The **Foyer Groups**, led by Lisa Allen, were again formed in January and then again in September, with eight to ten people in each Foyer. The groups met in the homes of members once a month for a simple meal and relaxed conversation. New friends were made of those among those who may have been just names or faces in the congregation.

The **Holy Cookers**, led by Betty Cofer, were again busy in the Emmanuel kitchen on most Wednesday night from September through May, and continued a tradition that began eight years ago. The cooking teams, usually groups of five, had great fellowship while cooking and learned a

great deal about mass cooking. They enjoyed the opportunity to greet and serve many hungry parishioners and visitors of all ages.

The **Office Volunteers**, led by Annette Mitchell, helped out enormously by answering the telephone at the Church, and performing some office tasks to reduce the load on Emmanuel's office staff. Only a small time commitment was required and our generous volunteers extended a personal touch for visitors and callers.

Our **Reception Committee**, led by Ivey Adams, was very busy this year with celebrations for the special people and events in the life of our church family. They helped make each celebration of the year a joy with offerings from heart, hands, and cooking skills.

The members of the **Sunday Refreshments Committee**, led by Lee Albright, prepared the delightful treats and beverages before and/or after Sunday worship services, including doughnuts and coffee during the school year and lemonade in the summer.

The name **Super'lites** was coined for the group of "Super Emmanuelites" led by Betty Cofer who first started gathering about 15 years ago. Throughout the year, these "mellow parishioners," who fall into the "above 55" age bracket, promoted and encouraged fellowship among members, involvement in community-wide organizations. They set goals to travel

together, break bread together, and share and care for each other.

The **Vestry Nominating Committee**, chaired by Heidi Simmonds, met for several weeks and presented a slate of nine candidates who were all approved by the Vestry in October. Carol Winthrop offered guidance as a consultant. Committee members were Susan Alexander, Anne Brightwell, Hal Cofer, Linda Dodson, Lee Gaby, Erwin Greene, David Kidd, Jay Shinn, Heidi Simmonds. Nominees were: Gillian Ball, John Ballard, Katherine Byrne, Curt Collier, Keith Cowne, Ann Darby, Robin Krause, Rustin McAlister, Johnny Terrell, Betsy Turner.

The newly established **Welcome! Committee** led by Kim Ripps and Duncan Krause, got really going this year to make our church a more welcoming place for everyone, and especially for our newcomers. They added a map of the church campus and interior signs to help newcomers and guests find their way around. The Committee organized greeter teams to welcome guests and newcomers, organized callers to contact newcomers and help them plug into parish programs and ministries, and created and implemented a tracking system for contacts. Special efforts were made to communicate with newcomers and they were invited to the ministry fair and Harvest Hoedown. The Committee began laying the groundwork for production of a new information brochure and parish directory in 2006.

Communication

The Tower was published faithfully each month with news, reports, birthday lists and articles of interest to the parish. Mother Mandy wrote us a love letter in each edition. Blue Wood gently nudged writers to make the deadline and provided graceful editing, when needed. Every week, Melissa Fulcher produced our Bulletin with the Sunday lectionary, current events and helpful reminders.

Advertising continued in the Athens-Banner Herald to let the world know what we were up to.

Our **Website** was maintained faithfully by webmaster Bob Wood. He posted news and calendars, updated commission and committee references, installed links, made our Vestry meetings materials accessible, and created a new archive area. The website made it possible to stay in touch easier and learn more about our common life and ministry.

www.emmanuel-athens.org

Stewardship Committee

We had a busy and exciting year. Activities included choosing and training volunteers to

help with letter writing, envelope stuffing, mailing, phone calls, and visitation. We also redesigned our Time and Talent cards.

In keeping with the campaign theme “Count Your Blessings - A New Beginning” we distributed seed packets, wrote articles and helped each other share some our stories.

In October, we pulled together and pulled out the stops for our first ever parish-wide “Harvest Hoedown” and had a fun social time in the Common Room, complete with bales of hay, good food, singing kids, and square dancing with a real-live caller.

We mailed pledge cards and followed up in November with a visitation phase for those who did not respond. At the end of November, our numbers of pledges for 2006 had reached 230 for a total of \$ 507,494.96.

Committee members – Robin Bewley, Bob Bowen, Claire Gaus, Robin Krause, Cindy McAlister, Brian Tison, Chair, John Wilkins

Finance

The Finance Committee met regularly during the year to review the financial position of the parish, monitor cash flow and spending and advise the Vestry on budget priorities.

Our accumulated surplus was \$120, 232 at the end of 2003 and \$74,797 at the end of 2004.

The Vestry adopted a budget for 2005 with total income of \$855,446 and total expenses of \$854,351. The latest projection for December 31, 2005 year end results was total income of \$852,855 and total expenses of \$886,952, meaning a shortfall of \$34,097. Unexpected increases in utility costs and general maintenance were the primary reason that 2005 expenses were higher than expected. The Vestry planned to use the accumulated surplus to cover the projected shortfall, which would leave an accumulated surplus of \$44,690 at the end of 2005.

In November, the Finance Committee proposed a tentative budget for 2006 with total income of \$874,288 and total expenses of \$930,218. To again cover the shortfall, it called on the Vestry to draw upon the remaining \$44,690 surplus

and an additional \$11,240 that was set-aside in a property reserve account. Provisions were included for the continued trend of higher cost of utilities and general maintenance. The Committee also noted that the trend of higher costs in utilities and repairs was projected to continue. The need for a 4% cost of living adjustment for staff salaries was recognized in the 2006 budget. The Vestry asked the Executive Committee to try to develop a policy for the use of the remainder of the property reserve account.

During the year, the Finance Committee monitored the income to the parish and made comparisons with previous years. The payment of pledges through September 2005 was slightly behind where it was in September 2004. The Committee considered measures that could be adopted to encourage payment of pledges consistently and more evenly during the year.

We maintained insurance coverage for property, liability and workers' compensation.

Arrangements were made for independent audit.

Budget Summaries

	2005 Amended Budget	2006 Budget	
Pledge Income	\$ 542,848.03	\$ 561,143.00	64%
Rentals & Tenant Tax Payments	\$ 82,866.31	\$ 86,004.82	10%
Endowment Receipts	\$ 199,841.00	\$ 199,841.00	23%
Other Income	\$ 27,300.00	\$ 27,300.00	3%
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 852,855.34	\$ 874,288.82	
Total Salaries and Wages	\$ 242,918.00	\$ 259,420.55	28%
Total Benefits Annuities and Insurance	\$ 78,417.90	\$ 101,263.18	11%
Total Matching FICA	\$ 17,269.71	\$ 19,274.73	2%
Total Beyond the Parish	\$ 88,902.00	\$ 76,376.00	8%
Total Parish Programs	\$ 28,039.60	\$ 25,194.00	3%
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 190,971.56	\$ 209,257.57	22%
Total Rental Property Expenses	\$ 80,292.60	\$ 79,292.60	9%
Total Uses of Endowment Funds	\$ 142,103.00	\$ 142,103.00	15%
Total Other Expenses	\$ 18,038.00	\$ 18,038.00	2%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 886,952.36	\$ 930,219.63	
Contribution from Surplus and Property Reserve Needed	\$ 34,097.02	\$ 55,930.81	

Resources

Architecture, Gifts & Memorials

Committee

We were faithful in meeting regularly this year and completed a number of projects. We published a booklet guide to the memorials in the church and inserted a section in the Sunday bulletins during May, began work on a guide for the outdoor memorials, installed a lectern railing in June, pledged up to \$5,000 from the non-obligated General Memorials account for interior cleaning of the memorial windows and made plans to begin the work in November under supervision of the Facilities Committee, and endorsed a preliminary concept design for a tree planting and re-curbng project in collaboration with Athens/Clarke public works at the corner of Prince and Barber Street.

We made further progress reproducing and computerizing the records of memorial gifts made between 1978 and 2000 for the archives. A leather volume was purchased for these records and a plan was adopted to keep memorial records up to date for the AGM archives.

The Vestry received our revised and updated list of suitable memorials in October and approved our new "Mission and Operating Procedures" to become part of the Standard Operating Procedures/Guidelines of the parish.

Those who were remembered with memorial gifts during the year included Jenny Ballow, Doris Clute, Barbara Coplin, Martha Elizabeth

Dearing, Franklin Ferguson, Florence Gatchell, Legare Hoge, Larry V. McLeod, Mary Margaret Millican, William Millican, Virginia McDowell Morgan, Thomas Odom, Dorothy, Schacht, Richard Scott, George Turner and Faye Welch. A memorial bench in the Sesquicentennial Terrace, given in memory of Richard Scott by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, was dedicated in August. A white marble aumbry was commissioned in memory of Larry V. McLeod as a gift from his family.

Committee - Jenny Broadax, Anna Dyer, Bobby Gibson, David, Kidd, Allen Stovall, John Waters, Carol Winthrop, Peg Wood, Chair

Facilities

With the help of our parish administrator, Melissa Fulcher, and many local professionals, we hammered, sawed, patched, glued, painted and prayed our way through another amazing year and kept our wonderful facilities functioning at a high level.

We took care of the physical needs of the "outreach" properties that are owned by the parish and leased to others. We completed HVAC and electrical upgrades so that the Atlanta Union Mission could continue its ministry of the Potter's House under a new five-year lease that we worked out with them. We took steps to create a plan to keep the Howell Cobb House in good repair. Bids were evaluated for roof, gutter, and siding repairs. A problem with infestation of bats was solved. We met

and talked with representatives of Pope Street Association about ways that we could work together to make improvements. They invited the parish to select a person to serve on their governing board.

In the 540 Prince Avenue Building, a wall was removed to make a larger meeting, shelves were installed and our parish library was set up. We offered advice and supervision for the projects that were initiated by the Architecture, Gifts & Memorials Committee and provided oversight for a drainage project needed for the Day School play area.

We welcomed new members to our Committee and gave special thanks for the long service and dedication of retiring member, Jim Jacobsen.

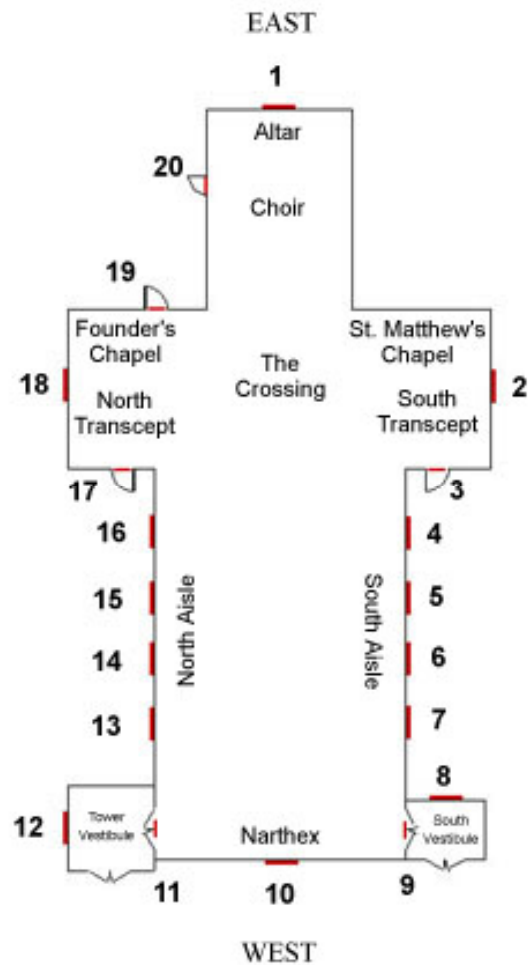
Bill Fox, Sean Hogan, Scott Rowell, Jay Shinn, Chair, Jay Staines, Carter Stanfield, Allen Stovall, Bob Wood

The Guild of Saint Francis. We had fun gardening in small groups and maintaining the grounds of the church, as we have since 1972, and everyone gained valuable learning experiences. At times, we made improvements with great leaps, at other times our wake resembled the slimy track of a snail, and yet progress never ceased.

During the grand year of 2005, we raised our number to 22 new members, who were

organized into six teams. Each team was given responsibility for planting and maintaining a portion the church grounds. As the works of these gardeners take shape we can expect many improvements in the months that lie ahead. We currently face many challenges, but as with the church this group of gardeners has been blessed with talent, energy and a spirit that make for an exciting future.

Peggy Allen, Frank Henning, Co-Chairs



Endowment Fund

The six members of the Board of Trustees, who are all Emmanuel members, met each quarter during the past year with representatives of SunTrust Bank and Montag & Associates and made investment decisions for the four sub-funds that make up the Emmanuel Endowment Fund.

The investments of the Endowment Funds were composed of savings accounts, certificates of deposit, government bonds, government agency bonds, corporate bonds, common stocks, preferred stocks, and in special situations, real estate. The normal asset allocation was 70% equities, 25% fixed income, and 5% cash. The Endowment Fund was managed with the objective of providing the maximum amount of income to the Church, consistent with safety of capital and preservation of purchasing power by growth of principal. By provisions of the Trusts, and by law, none of the principal of the General

Fund, the Williams Trust, the Rhodes Trust or the Special Funds (except for the Joelson Fund) can ever be spent. Earnings from the approximately \$7.3 million in assets held in trust by the Endowment Fund for the twelve months ending September 30, 2005 was as follows:

General Fund	\$ 21,548
Rhodes Trust	\$ 36,825
Williams Trust	\$127,039
Special Funds	\$ 34,616

TOTAL Earnings **\$220,028**

Income from the General Fund was used for major church maintenance needs. (no salaries, utilities, or other operating costs.) Income from the other three funds was designated by the Vestry for outreach. Reports of the Williams-Rhodes Screening Committee and the Outreach Committee show grants that were made by the vestry.

Trustees - Jim Bowers, Jack Coplin, Bobby Gibson, Amrey Harden, Gene Weeks and Norm Wood, Chair.

Sub-Fund	Description	Balance (9/30/05)
General Fund	Established in 1994 by parishioners	\$ 791,972
Williams Trust	Established under the will of Mrs. Williams	\$1,324,297
Rhodes Trust	Established under the will of Mrs. Rhodes	\$4,215,982
Special Funds	Miscellaneous trust funds and bequeaths over the years, including the Joelson Fund.	\$1,010,420

Some New Things We Were Thankful For This Year....

Add Your Own

Adiaphora
Advent Open Doors
Anti-Racism Training
Babies
Barber Street Project
Cottage Relocation Proposals
Darius Goes West
Diocesan Centennial Committee
Dry Bones Breathe Program
“Those Episkopols”
Funeral Committee
Guiding Principles for Property Use
Handicap-Accessibility Committee
Harvest Hoedown

Holy Habits
Hope Haven Respite House
“In the Name of Jesus”
Interfaith Hospitality Network
Katrina Evacuees
Men of Emmanuel
Men’s Retreat
Ministry of Pairs
Neighborhood Social
New Parish Clerk/Secretary
Parents and Grandparents
Promises of God
Property Use Master Plan Committee
Rector Nominating Committee
Safeguarding God’s Children Training
Samaritan Counseling Sponsor
Sara Fisher’s Ordination
Serengeti Trek
Servant Leadership
St. Mary’s Chapel/UGA Students
Thanksgiving Altar
The Episcopal Network for Stewardship
Vestry Nominating Committee
Vestry Retreat
Welcome Committee

Special Thanks to Mother Mandy Brady

You have been all these things to us and more...

Pastor, Preacher, Presider and Post-Game Consoler

Handicap Accessibility Committee Organizer

Bold Witness and Wounded Healer

Weekly Bible Study Leader

Friend of the Forgotten

Companion to Micah

Great Boss

Encourager

Salt & Light

Peacemaker

And to Father Gene Britton and Father Peter Courtney

Special Thanks to Our Wonderful Staff

Melissa Fulcher, Parish Administrator

Scott Goodwin, Director of Music

Karen Holland, Director of Finance

Denise Thomas, Sexton

Amy Wraga, Director of Emmanuel Episcopal Day School

Day School Teachers

Georgia Collier , Director of Christian Formation , Children

Katie Lawrence, Director of Christian Formation, Youth

and

Search Consultant, Reverend Canon Richard Callaway

Isaiah 65:17-25

For I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.
But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,
and its people as a delight.
I will rejoice in Jerusalem,
and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,
or the cry of distress.
No more shall there be in it
an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.
They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
They shall not labor in vain,
or bear children for calamity;
for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD--
and their descendants as well.
Before they call I will answer,
while they are yet speaking I will hear.
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;
but the serpent-- its food shall be dust!
They shall not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain, says the LORD

1 Thessalonians 5:(12-15) 16-28

We appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Beloved, pray for us.

Greet all the brothers and sisters with a holy kiss. I solemnly command you by the Lord that this letter be read to all of them.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.



The Episcopal Church welcomes you.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church

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