



Annual Meeting

To God Be The Glory

December 2011



Senior Warden

The following year end summary highlights some of the good works done by the staff, clergy, vestry and you the members all whom were a part of a very successful 2011. However this space could not possibly allow a recap of all the hours and hours of volunteer time spent and the many deeds accomplished all on behalf of God's work at Emmanuel Episcopal.

The 2011 year started with a Vestry retreat at wonderful Lake Logan in NC. The January weekend retreat always serves us with the opportunity to set vestry goals, renew personal friendships, and a dedication to manage Emmanuel's business.

Martin Darby of St James Episcopal Church in Greenville, SC joined the vestry as the group facilitator. Martin led discussions and helped the vestry identify 2011 goals. The topics covered many issues but focused on increasing hospitality (both inside Emmanuel and beyond), raising up new lay leaders, year round stewardship, and finally, reaching our goal in capital building campaign.

The vestry underscored the need to listen to all parishioners as a large part of hospitality and realized its extreme importance. Of our active membership role, 90 percent have responded by pledging to our 2011 annual operating budget. The vestry adopted the 2011 budget with \$939,438 in total expected revenues vs expenses of \$943,837. A shortfall of \$4,399. However, Emmanuel finished 2010 with a surplus of \$24,000 from the 2010 budget and the 2011 YTD should also end with another positive balance by December 2011.

New Treasurer – Johnny Terrell has been our faithful treasurer for more than eighteen years. In March 2011, Johnny expressed a desire to begin stepping down and allow someone else to take over the job. We have been truly fortunate to have Johnny's leadership in guiding EEC finances for these years. Johnny volunteered to work with the treasurer allowing for a smooth transition. The Vestry discussed nominations and approved Bill Bowdoin to serve as treasurer. Bill has been an EEC member for several years and is a retired banker with Sun Trust Bank.

Beverly Sligh and Debra Harden are leading our Emmanuel wide standing committee for radical hospitality. Information tables at Sunday services, great Sunday lunches and teams of greeters are just a few of the successes for 2011. The vestry also appointed a stewardship committee within the Administrative Support group led by John Albright, Joe Clements, and Rob Byrne. Their Sunday pulpit skills and other lectionary communications helped create the beginning of Emmanuel's year long stewardship awareness.

Another new valuable standing committee was formed to build on our initiative of raising up new leadership. Youth representation and membership at the vestry level is only one of the continued outcomes. A vestry statement of

Support for the Youth of Emmanuel was adopted. The Statement reads: "The Vestry of Emmanuel recognizes and affirms the presence of youth in our community. We value and encourage their active participation in the life, mission, and ministry of the church. And we acknowledge our continuing commitment to do all in our power to support these persons in their life in Christ."

Yet another result of new leadership is a wonderful slate of Vestry Candidates. These new leaders, none of whom has ever served on a previous vestry, will bring new lay leadership skills.

Recently, the parish purchased two AED (automatic external defibrillator) machines through Pastoral Care. Training continues for all interested. Additionally, Emmanuel's health education led by Nancy Jacobson and Bette McNeeley, have provided numerous informative topics essential to our parish health. We all are grateful for this ongoing education.

In the spring, Fr. Robert announced that Georgia Collier was added to the staff, coordinating such events as Vacation Bible School, the Easter Egg Hunt, the Nursery, and young children and family events. She is a welcomed addition in the position of Director of Catechesis.

The Vestry accepted the recommended donations totaling \$11,000 from the Thrift House proceeds which included: Nurse's Clinic.....\$3,500 Athens Community Council on Aging..... \$3,000 Georgia Options.....\$2,000 Oasis Catolico..... \$600 Limonade, Haiti.... \$1,900. Please consider volunteering your time to this great EEC Ministry.

One of our most anticipated warm weather /outdoor events is the Parish Picnic which was held at the farm of Brian and Marty Kemp on May 1. We had over 150 members and friends of Emmanuel attending. Many thanks to the Kemps and the volunteers that make this possible.

Growing Blessings Building Futures- let us celebrate our success. During the many months of 2011, Houser Walker, our EEC architectural firm, met with the our ad hoc building committee(chaired by Naomi Norman) on a two times a month basis. As a result of these many discussions, Hank Houser submitted revisions to the building plans. After these adjustments were made, our preliminary costs figures are at or below budget for Phase I. HW team is finalizing the architectural and engineering specifications to be completed early January 2012. Additionally Josh Kunz, landscape architect, is completing wonderful plans for our outside garden(s). Houser shared all of these revised plans on Sunday, Aug. 14 with the congregation. You can see these changes with drawings on our web site www.emmanuelathens.org. An agreement currently exists with Atlanta Union Mission (Potters House) giving them the option to stay during construction of Phase I and continue to operate until the end of September 2012. The vacant Huddle House building will be demolished (appx date late Dec 2011) to make necessary room for the construction to begin in late first quarter of 2012.

The Vestry approved by e-vote the firm of R.W. Allen to be the general contractor for construction of the new facilities in Phase I. RWAllen should provide firm costs ten days after receiving plans from HW architect in January

2012 . A Request for Proposal (RFP) was prepared to present to 8 area banks for bids for construction financing. We will have additional updates to share during our annual meeting.

Recently, your Emmanuel Delegates and Clergy attended the Atlanta Diocese 2011 Convention hosted in Rome GA. I am pleased to announce that Emmanuel was one of 3 parishes to give 11 % (1%additional) as our annual diocesan required pledge. The Council recessed until summer 2012 at which time the council will meet and elect a new Bishop for the Atlanta Diocese.

Our Fall fundraiser the "Evening of Chance" and silent auction was held at the Hotel Indigo on October 12. Marty Kemp's volunteer team received wide support for the new venue and was a great fun filled parish event. Mark your calendars for Fall of 2012!!

Sadly, Lena Watkins passed away this year. She began serving Thanksgiving dinners from her home many years ago and from Emmanuel's kitchen for a number of years. The number of meals served had increased to nearly 600. The Vestry believed it was part of our core value to sponsor the Thanksgiving Lunch as part of our outreach. Many thanks to Dee Forester and Lindsey Payne who volunteered and led EEC efforts to continue this ministry.

Please consider how blessed we all are. I say thanks be to God for the efforts of so many Emmanuel volunteers, our staff and clergy. Many, many hands have made 2011 a memorable year and one of which you should be proud. I am truly thankful to all.

May God bless each of you.

Respectfully submitted
Ray (Butch) Bush
Senior Warden

Worship

The Worship and Liturgy Commission is a group of nine committees/ministries that work together with the clergy to help ensure that our worship services flow smoothly and provide a meaningful and spiritual experience. Our clergy, staff and the members of the committees comprising the Worship and Liturgy Commission labor faithfully week in and week out to lead us in rich, inspiring worship. These ministries have grown in size and talent, and the spiritual lives of many parishioners and visitors have been enriched through their service. Our liturgical services are at the heart of who we are as people of God and they help nourish and center us as we go out into the world to do the work God has given us to do.

Sandy Jarrett and Mary Moore, Vestry Commission Co-Chairs

ACOLYTE MINISTRY

In 2011, Emmanuel has 34 youth acolytes and 5 adult acolytes serving on a rotating schedule at both the 8:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite I and the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite II services. Youth acolytes serve on teams of four or more at the 10:30 a.m. services and adult acolytes serve individually at the 8:30 a.m. services. During special services throughout the year – Holy Week, Christmas, Choral Evensong, etc. – both youth and adult acolytes serve in tandem.

In early fall, principal verger Brian Freese began to assist Fr. Edwin with coordinating the acolyte ministry for Emmanuel. Revised and updated acolyte instructions were created to better reflect current needs and enable acolytes to complete all the tasks necessary of them before, during, and after each service.

In late August the Brotherhood of St. Andrew again hosted an "Emmanuel Acolyte Kickoff Picnic" in the Common Room to thank veteran acolytes and welcome new ones. The meal was absolutely delicious and attended by more than fifty including returning and new acolytes, parents and siblings, and Brotherhood members. Some acolyte games – giving a foretaste of what an "Acolyte Olympics" competition may be at an upcoming diocesan Acolyte Festival – created a great amount of excitement. Interest among youth wishing to serve in this key liturgical ministry at Emmanuel increased as a result of the luncheon and appreciation was offered to the Brotherhood for hosting this important annual event as part of their ministry. Between September and October two training sessions were offered for both new and returning acolytes with 29 participating in total. The training emphasized a team-based and "non-anxious" approach that hopefully allows acolytes to fully participate and enjoy our worship while still taking good care of their responsibilities. The importance of serving in multiple 'roles' on an as-needed basis was emphasized.

All adults and youth interested in becoming an acolyte or learning more about this ministry at Emmanuel are encouraged to contact Fr. Edwin Beckham (associaterector@emmanuelathens.org; 706-543-1294) or verger Brian Freese (brianfreese01@gmail.com).

Brian Freese, Verger

ALTAR GUILD

This year saw quite a bit of change in the Altar Guild. Two faithful servants, Debra Lassiter and Elizabeth Stephenson, stepped down after many years of service to the Guild. Naomi Norman is the new director; she is helped by several team captains who back her up every month and by Lisa Townsley who is now lovingly caring for our altar linens. The leadership transition was marked by a “lunch and learn” gathering that the church hosted for members of the Altar Guild in August; more training and social events are being scheduled for 2012. Debra Lassiter continues to be involved and has offered invaluable advice about the Guild and its budget; she is concentrating now on putting together a Junior Altar Guild. Please contact Debra if you are interested in having your children participate in a Junior Altar Guild. Each week, almost 40 devoted Emmanuelites actively serve the parish by preparing the church for services, but there is always room for more. If you are interested in joining the Altar Guild and in learning how to set the Lord’s table, contact Naomi Norman (nnorman@uga.edu).

Naomi Norman, Altar Guild

BAPTISMAL BANNERS

The Baptismal Banner Committee creates the banners given to each newly baptized person at Emmanuel Church. The committee meets once a month to cut, sew, and assemble the banners that are presented to those that are baptized. Each banner takes approximately 4 hours to assemble. This year, from June to October 15th, we have presented 9 banners. To date we have made more than 320 banners since our inception! We hope the banners will be hung in the home of the newly baptized to remind them and their family of when they were sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ’s own forever.

JoAnn Yates, Chair

FLOWER GUILD

The Flower Guild is comprised of many dedicated and talented volunteers who work together weekly throughout the year. Each month a different team creates beautiful arrangements for each Sunday including weddings, funerals, and receptions. We have extraordinary teams for Christmas and Easter that turn our sanctuary into an even more beautiful place to worship.

In October, several members of the Guild attended a hands on workshop by Faith Flowers at the Cathedral of St. Phillip in Atlanta. In November, a luncheon and informational meeting was given for new and existing members.

Our faithful leader, Mrs. Jenny Broadnax who has given endless hours and years, has retired from this ministry. She dedicated her time and talent to help create beauty in our sanctuary and throughout our church.

The Guild consists of 25 extremely talented members dedicated to creating beauty for our worship environment. If you are interested in joining the Flower Guild please contact Beverly Sligh at bevsligh@charter.net

Coordinator: Beverly Sligh

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND READERS

Emmanuel is blessed to have twenty-five lay people who serve as Eucharistic Ministers. These servers assist the priests by administering the chalice during the services of the Holy Eucharist on Sunday celebrated at 8:30 and 10:30. A number also serve as Eucharistic Visitors. Their role is to take the Eucharist to parishioners who are not able to come to church but who want regularly to have the Body and Blood of Christ. Six Eucharistic Ministers serve on Wednesday evenings at the Healing Service.

We have twenty three adult Lay Readers. These are people who read the first and second lessons as well as the Prayers of the People.

I want to personally thank all Lay Readers and the Eucharistic Ministers for being kind when I make scheduling errors and for being both punctual and dependable in their duties.

Ellen Cowne, Coordinator of Lay Ministers

MUSIC

Emmanuel's Music Ministry continued to flourish in 2011 with the Emmanuel Choir providing strong musical leadership for worship. The dedication and talent of this group allows the parish to hear a wide variety of choral music as the choir continually learns new music and revisits music already in their repertoire. The new liturgical year began on November 27 with twenty-six active members in the Emmanuel Choir.

For the third consecutive year the Emmanuel Choir will present a service of Advent Lessons and Carols during the 10:30 a.m. liturgy on the Third Sunday of Advent. Parish response has been overwhelmingly favorable the previous two years, and it is a favorite of mine as we bring the whole of Advent into one service.

Plans are underway for the Emmanuel Choir to join forces during Lent 2013 with the choir from First Baptist Church in Athens for a joint presentation of the sacred cantata of Théodore Dubois, *The Seven Last Words of Christ*.

The most significant change in Emmanuel's music program has been the re-introduction of music for children. Each Sunday the children begin their Catechesis time with 10-15 minutes of music led by Melanie Rowell and Jared Berry.

Two levels of choirs have been introduced on the second Sunday of each month to coincide with the parish luncheon. The Angel Choir (ages 3-6) meet with Melanie Rowell and the St. Cecilia Choir (ages 7-10) meet with Jared Berry. Melanie, who holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in vocal performance from UGA, is well-known in the parish and working with children is one of her many talents. Jared Berry graduated from Hofstra University with a degree in music education and is in his second year of the master's program in choral conducting at UGA. His sonorous bass voice and 6'6" frame lends an imposing presence in the Emmanuel Choir where he often uses his choral conducting skills. It is my hope that the choir rehearsals for children will grow to twice a month for the 2012-2013 season.

An organ recital at the Cathedral of St. Philip is being planned for 2014. In the meantime, I will play an organ recital at St. James Episcopal Church in Hendersonville, North Carolina on February 26, 2012. During the time Father Robert

served this parish the English organ builder, Harrison & Harrison, installed a three-manual pipe organ. The acoustics of the renovated church are a delightful match for the grand sound of this instrument! These performances lead up to my recital in May, 2015 at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City.

I am grateful for the support I receive from both the choir and parishioners in my endeavors to serve Emmanuel and glorify God through music!

*Respectfully submitted,
Sam Polk
Director of Music*

USHERS

The ministry of an usher is one of welcome and hospitality. The usher is usually the first person a parishioner sees when arriving for worship, and the usher sets the tone for each person's godly experience for that day. Whether meeting someone new or welcoming a regular parishioner, we strive to greet all in the name of the Lord and extend a hand or offer a smile to welcome them to Emmanuel.

8:30 Ushers

We currently have fifteen volunteer ushers for the 8:30 service and are currently seeking additional volunteers to enable us to cover Sundays with an appropriate number of ushers. Our goal is to present a welcome smile and inviting posture to everyone who enters the church. Our 8:30 ushers are very dedicated and serious about their contribution to Emmanuel, and as the Usher Warden, I am proud of our group.

Gus Backelant, 8:30 Usher Warden

10:30 Ushers

We are thankful that we have over fifty ladies and gentlemen who volunteer as ushers for the 10:30 Rite II service. Ushers also support special services for Holy Days or funerals. We are honored to minister to the parish of Emmanuel in this way, and we are always open for new volunteers. If interested, please contact Curt Collier 706-540-9062 (mobile) and c.harris.collier.iii@gmail.com.

Curt Collier, 10:30 Usher Warden

VERGER

With Christmas of 2009, the lay ministry of verger began in our parish. Emmanuel's vergers are laypersons who serve the church in a ministry of liturgical service and welcome. You will often see the verger dressed in blue and black moving about the church preparing for worship. The verger's logistical support allows the priests more time for pastoral and sacramental responsibilities. Some typical verger duties are ensuring that lectors, Eucharistic ministers, and acolytes are present and prepared for the liturgy. The verger checks to be sure all the elements, resources and materials to be used during the liturgy are present and in their proper place. The verger leads the processions of the parish during worship.

Laypeople who feel a sincere call to the ordering of worship and in sharing hospitality with all present make wonderful vergers. Those new to this role receive extensive training and are mentored both by an experienced verger and by the rector. It is a joyful ministry centered on our common Liturgy and the Holy

Eucharist. As of this report, Brian Freese continues serves as the principal vergers for the parish and the only volunteer in this ministry.

In 2011, Brian represented Emmanuel's vergers ministry at the annual diocesan ministry fair. He has also attended the meetings of the Mark Emory Graham Chapter of the Vergers Guild of the Episcopal Church as a chapter member, and he is also represents Emmanuel's vergers ministry in the national organization.

If you feel an interest in serving in the Vergers Ministry at Emmanuel, please speak with Fr. Robert Salamone (by phone 706-543-1294 or by email rector@emmanuelathens.org) about your interest. If you'd like more information about the ministry in greater detail, you can request a copy of the vergers customary and guide from Brian (by phone 706-255-6377 or by email brianfreese01@gmail.com).

Brian Freese, Principal Verger

WEDDINGS

After a wedding is accepted by the Rector/or his Associate, one or two members of the committee are assigned as coordinators. At the initial meeting with the bride and groom the coordinator provides an explanation of our policies and discuss the details of the ceremony. The coordinator meets with the couple one more time before the rehearsal and assists the priest both in directing the rehearsal and the mechanics of the wedding on the day of the ceremony.

Our goal is the help the priest during the rehearsal so that the wedding runs smoothly. We coordinate with the following groups at the church: Altar Guild, Flower Guild, LEMS, Acolytes, Organist, and Priests. This year, between June and October 15th we have assisted with three weddings. The criteria for serving on this committee include being a member of Emmanuel with a willingness to learn!

JoAnn Yates, Chair

Pastoral Care

The emphasis for Pastoral Care is outreach to homebound and other pastoral needs of our parishioners. This includes visitation, administering Eucharist to homebound, and providing services that reinforce radical hospitality and foster servant leadership.

PASTORAL CARE COMMISSION

With six active Pastoral Care Ministries at Emmanuel, we serve God's people each day in a variety of ways. Volunteers are always needed and there are many ways to get involved that will match your time and talent. As you read the mission and activities of each Ministry, I feel sure you will find one that beckons you to consider. Please do not hesitate to contact the church office, the Ministry Chair, or me with any questions or to let us know how you are interested in serving. Join us now as we thank God for the blessings of 2011 and the exciting journey in 2012. You can reach me at carolbowles@bellsouth.net or 706-549-8578.

Carol Bowles, Vestry Liaison

AGAPE MEALS

Agape Meals is a wonderful ministry that responds to the needs of a parishioner in crisis. We furnish meals to those who have had an interruption in family life (death, illness, birth). With thirty members who are generous with their time, energy and prayers, it means a lot to the recipients in helping ease the stress and worry of planning and cooking meals. You do not have to be a gourmet cook—just have an open heart and willingness to share God's love with those in need. Please contact Kim Ripps at kimripps@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to volunteer to be a part of this rewarding and vital ministry. Also, please contact the church office or Kim if you know of someone in need of our assistance.

Kim Ripps, Chair

CHARIOTEERS

The Charioteers Ministry is designed to provide transportation to the doctor, grocery store, or church for any parishioner. These volunteers are ready to assist during a health crisis and are sensitive to the wishes of each person involved. It is a great way to get to know your fellow parishioners and have a great time serving the Lord. The Bowens and their group furnished rides over 50 times this year and stand ready when needed. Contact Bob or Jane at 706-543-6187.

Bob and Jane Bowen, Chairs

INTERCESSORY PRAYER MINISTRY

The Intercessory Prayer Ministry receives names on a regular basis that are in need of prayer. The church office obtains the names and contacts the Ministry Chair who then notifies the members of the Ministry. No time limit is set on prayers and confidentiality is observed if requested. We all know how important prayer is to each of us and how much comfort it gives. Please contact Elaine Carleton at 706-353-8017 or sbcarleton270@charter.net to join this wonderful Ministry.

Elaine Carleton, Chair

PRAYER SHAWLS

Knitting Into The Mystery. The making of a prayer shawl is a spiritual practice which embodies our thoughts and prayers for the receiver. We strive to knit God's love, care, and warmth into shawls for those who need them. (Example: those who need healing, for one who grieves, the mother of a new baby, those going on a journey, etc.) The word 'mystery' comes from the Greek word myein and means 'to shut our eyes.' The prayer shawl ministry invites us to 'shut our eyes' so we can be open to seeing what happens within ourselves and within an encounter with God. The mystery that unfolds silently in the rhythm of Knit 3, Purl 3, asks us to experience the Divine in ways that may feel unconventional.

Emmanuel's Prayer Shawl Ministry was founded in the fall of 2007 and we have knitted and blessed 192 shawls. We meet the second Sunday of each month and typically have 6 or 7 knitters present (we added several new members in 2011). We also have several who are not able to meet at our scheduled time and lovingly knit at home and contribute shawls. Our group is very close and supportive of one another. No matter how hectic a day it is, it is always calming and uplifting to come together and knit meditatively.

It is extremely rewarding to be able to do God's work by giving away 'wearable prayers'. Even though it is not at all necessary, we have received many calls and notes of appreciation. This ministry is for those with a need, but it blesses all who participate. We welcome anyone who knits or would like to learn to knit. Anyone who knows of someone who would like a prayer shawl, please contact Pat Hall at 706-548-7600.

Pat Hall, Chair

STEPHEN MINISTERS

Stephen Ministers are carefully trained lay people who serve as Christian Caregivers. They are not therapists, but are trained and prepared to listen and walk through life's difficult times with those who are in need. It is a confidential and pastoral ministry that serves both church members as well as the community at large. We also continue to make hospital visits on the weekends at both Athens' hospitals. After these visits reports are made to Fr. Robert concerning patients' needs and requests.

Our Stephen Ministers have continued serving individuals as Christian friends who listen, pray with, encourage and support them as long as needed. They are true care givers and receive continuing education at their semi-monthly meetings. We also have a yearly day-long retreat where we set goals, assess the past year's progress and learn new techniques in helping our care receivers. If you are aware of someone who would benefit from the services of a Stephen Minister or if you would

like to become a Stephen Minister please contact Polly Connerat at (706) 769-5601 or Fr. Robert at the Church.

Polly Connerat

HEALTH MINISTRY

The Health and Wellness Ministry was initiated in 2008 to integrate Mind-Body-Spirit into church efforts concerning wellness advocacy and health support. The National Episcopal Health Ministry Conference provided information and ideas adaptable to individual parishes. An Advisory Board of Emmanuel parishioners and staff have oversight and evaluate the Ministry's activities. Nancy Jacobson and Betty McNeely (retired RNs and Nurse Practitioners) coordinate the many efforts and enlist members of the parish and community agencies when appropriate. Volunteers from the parish have and will continue to be the most important resource as we identify needs and initiate programs.

Many opportunities were available for parishioners in 2011.

1. Emmanuel hosted a community-wide workshop on Dementia and Alzheimer's sponsored by Arbor Terrace and led by nationally-known expert on dementia Teepa Snow. Attendance was beyond expectation and valuable information was provided mainly to caregivers for patients with some form of dementia.
2. Two AEDs were purchased and installed; training is ongoing and we have a special need for volunteers to train on this easy-to-administer machine which could save a life of someone on our campus.
3. Care Notes are available for any parishioner that offer simple yet comforting words to those who need help with grief, depression, serious illness, etc. The booklets are located on the table just outside the Parlor doors.
4. A three-week end-of-life program emphasized how important it is to put one's final wishes in writing to help ease the emotional pain and stress when the end is near. Dr. Tom Kias presented the physical signs of the patient and the importance professionals place on the patient's desires. A representative from Odyssey Hospice dispelled some ideas about Hospice and what their role is with end-of-life patients. The final presentation focused on the legal and moral issues surrounding end-of-life and the paperwork needed to assure the patient's wishes are being granted. By having an Advance Directive, like the *Five Wishes* booklet provided to those in attendance, a patient can relieve stress on everyone because the family is aware of the wishes and can prevent more emotional pain than is necessary.
5. Emmanuel has teamed up with the local American Red Cross for an "Emmanuel Advent Blood Drive." This will be held during the Advent season and one can donate blood at the Red Cross location on Atlanta Highway (next to Academy Sports) – schedule at one's own convenience.
6. Health Screenings and Blood Pressure are provided during the 2nd Sunday lunches.

7. Robin Johnson conducts Yoga exercise programs periodically during the year which provides physical comfort and spiritual comfort to the participants.
8. The Liturgy of "Blue Christmas" (an ecumenical worship service for those who find the Christmas Season difficult) was initiated in Dec 2009 and has become a traditional liturgical celebration at Emmanuel. The Athens community is invited and the service was well received last year.
9. Another comforting element of the program is that Elaine Kalber sends cards on behalf of Emmanuel to parishioners who need uplift due to illness or other adversity. Please contact Elaine at elkalber@charter.net if you know someone who could use a written word of solace.

Betty McNeely and Nancy Jacobson, Co-Chairs

Spiritual Formation

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Nursery

The loving arms of our Nursery Staff are trained and prepared to care for your children under 3-years-old. Although tucked away on the far end of campus, they are an integral part of our team. Our staff is comprised of five ladies who work on a rotating basis. They are Meagan Riley, Melissa McDaniel, Isabel Schneider, Lucy Wille and Katelyn Walter. Each staff member is trained through the Episcopal program, 'Safeguarding God's Children'. They come to work each Sunday morning with big smiles and warm hugs for the children.

Our Nursery is open on Sunday mornings from 9am - 12 noon, and the ladies stay late on every second Sunday for the Fellowship Lunches. Nursery Care can also be organized for special events or meetings with a one - two week notice given to Georgia Collier.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

The young children of Emmanuel continue to flock to their respective atria each week to learn what mysteries from God will be revealed to them next. We serve up to 140 children from ages 3 years - 5th grade.

We are asked often about the Catechesis program by fellow parishioners.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd website explains it this way: "The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an approach to the religious formation of children. It is rooted in the Bible, the liturgy of the church, and the educational principles of Maria Montessori. Children gather in an "atrium," a room prepared for them, which contains simple yet beautiful materials that they use."

"You may be wondering how these materials help the religious life of children. If an adult hears a beautiful passage from the Bible, the adult might take a Bible, find the

passage, and read it slowly again and again. He or she may think deeply about the words and perhaps speak to God in a thankful or hopeful prayer. But a little child, too young to read, needs another way. In an atrium the child can ponder a biblical passage or a prayer from the liturgy by taking the material for that text and working with it - placing wood figures of sheep in a sheepfold of the Good Shepherd, setting sculpted apostles around a Last Supper table, or preparing a small altar with the furnishings used for the Eucharist. Older children who do read often copy parables from the Bible, lay in order written prayers from the rite of baptism, or label a long time line showing the history of the kingdom of God."

We thank the faithful servants who continue to share the Word with our young children every week. This summer, several parishioners participated in a 40-hour training to begin the certification process of becoming a Catechist. These individuals included: Kerry Hogan, Penny McLanahan, Cathi and Jay Shinn, Ellen Dolphus, Cindy Sullivan, Ann Cabaniss, Georgia Collier, Nancy Rettew, and Jeanette Bowers. This group joined previously trained leaders: Jackie Campbell, Erika Greene, and Jennifer Wells, in support of the program. Also providing consistent support every week are Shepherds Brooke Stortz, Sara Baldwin, Janet Robertson, Ralph Stephens, and many parent helpers.

Another aspect of our Catechesis program was added this fall as Peg Wood led a nine-week adult formation class, specifically for parents of Catechesis children. The discussion group was titled, 'What About the Other Six Days?', and the purpose was to share ideas of ways to bring faith formation and Catechesis principles into your home for the remaining days of the week.

Our Church invests heavily in the training of the program leaders and the furnishings and supplies needed for this quality program. The program holds so many blessings for the children, their parents, and the program leaders. We invite every Emmanuelite to become more familiar and involved "the Catechesis;" after all, it takes a village to raise a child.

Submitted by: Curt Collier, Vestry Liaison for Faith Formation and Georgia Collier, Rector's Associate for Children's Formation and Family Life

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

What happens when a pack of fun-loving Panda Bears invades our Church? A wild celebration of God's Love! At Emmanuel's Vacation Bible School, kids discovered that God has a purpose and a plan for every-one and that He crafted each of us with His own loving hands.

Eighty young children, 20 youth helpers and 30 adult volunteers joined us for our 'PandaMania' last June. Our time together was full of fun, memorable activities, and God's love.

The kids enjoyed music and movement, played team-building games, nibbled on treetop treats, experienced wild Bible adventures, collected Bible Memory Buddies, created Bible Point Crafts, and were reminded to look for God's Love in everything they did. They also worked together to make twenty-two backpacks which were blessed by Father Edwin, filled with comfort items, and donated to children who are served by the In-terFaith Hospitality Network.

We hope to have everyone involved next year at 'SKY...Where everything is possible with God!'

4th & 5th Grade Formation: Club 45

The idea behind Club 45 was to provide Emmanuel's 4th and 5th graders with experiences to help bridge the gap between the children's programs and the youth group. They meet once a month, and it is primarily social in nature. Parents take turns planning and coordinating the monthly gatherings.

Lisa Allen and Katherine Byrne coordinated projects for the kids for the 2010-11 year. Young Emmanuelites were spotted about town bowling, rock climbing and making their way through haunted mansions. In May they were trained with the Youth to help at VBS, and they were invited to the End of the Year EYC Swim Party.

They kicked off the new year by supporting the local 'Walk to Cure Diabetes' with their presence, prayers and a bake sale. They are once again spearheading the parish-wide toy drive during Advent to benefit the families of Emmaus House in Atlanta. The kids of Club 45 enjoy these activities as they keep God in their hearts and friendships close at hand.

Submitted by: Georgia Collier, Rector's Associate for Children's Formation and Family Life

Children's Seasonal Celebrations

Our children and families continue our spiritual growth as a community outside of Sunday mornings by celebrating the different seasons. Over 100 children, donning their Sunday best, sprint around our Church campus each Easter morn hunting for their prized eggs. This fall, we gathered over delicious homemade chili to watch 'A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving'. And it just isn't Christmas until our children have re-enacted the story of Jesus' birth at our annual Christmas Pageant. This year, please join us on December 18th at 4:30 for the special presentation. Afterwards we will host a parish-wide reception in celebration of this beautiful season.

Faith Formation for Youth (grades 6-12) @ Emmanuel Episcopal Church

- **Journey To Adulthood formation groups** ("Journey groups" we call them) met Sundays, 9:25-10:15 AM, from the end of August to the end of May
 - *Sixth grade*
 - 2010-11: Because of the structure of the Journey curriculum, every other year we have a Journey group composed of just 6th-graders. In 2010-11, this group was led by Georgia Collier using the lectionary-based SPARK curriculum from Augsburg Fortress (Lutheran) publishers.
 - *Rite 13*
 - 2010-11: 7th & 8th-graders in their second R13 year, they were led by **Linda Dodson and Jennie Allison** (the latter a UGA undergrad from Christ Church, Kennesaw)
 - 2011-12: A new Rite 13 Journey Group of 6th & 7th graders is now underway lead by **Laura Beckham**. We are still seeking an adult male leader to share this responsibility.

- *J2A*
 - 2010-11: 9th- & 10th-graders in their second J2A year, they were led by **Jeff Stephens and Jenny Korwan** (the latter a UGA undergrad from St. Catherine's, Marietta)
 - 2011-12: A new J2A Journey Group of 8th & 9th-graders is now underway. **Linda Dodson & Jennie Allison** requested to stay with these kids and are back for another two-year term as their youth leaders!
- *YAC (Young Adults in the Church)*
 - 2011-12: **Jeff Stephens**, having chaperoned their J2A pilgrimage in July 2011, has stayed on with the same group of youth (now 10th & 11th-graders) as they undertake the final years of the Journey curriculum. We have no active 12th-graders this year.
- **Youth gatherings** in *The Catacombs* or elsewhere 2-3 times per month on Sunday afternoons or evenings (see *The Journey Cont'd* below), included these **highlights** in 2011:
 - Jan. 9: An "**Epiphany Party**" with annual **blessing of the Youth Center** & white elephant gift exchange
 - Jan. 16: Prepared sack suppers for the feeding ministry at **Our Daily Bread**
 - Jan. 21-23: The "**Role of Sex In Christian Living**" course, attended by 18 6th – 9th graders (about half of them Emmanuelites) and their parents, facilitated by The Rev'd Tom Camp of Samaritan Counseling Center, and staffed by adult volunteers from this parish who gave an entire weekend to this important learning experience.
 - Feb. 13: The J2A group, with help from Rite 13 and several leaders and parents, hosted a **Valentine's BBQ Lunch** for the entire parish, raising nearly \$2000 for the J2A pilgrimage fund.
 - March 6: Several J2Aers (9th & 10th graders) received the **sacrament of confirmation** during Holy Eucharist at Bishop Neil Alexander's parish visitation. Two of their colleagues with date conflicts **went on to the cathedral in Atlanta** a couple of weeks later, where they were confirmed, as well, alongside dozens of others from around the diocese.
 - March 13: Several youth and adult leaders trekked to Atlanta to participate in the annual **Hungerwalk/Run** through downtown, raising funds for the Episcopal Charities Foundation.
 - April 10: Several youth & leaders again assisted with the Athens/Clarke Heritage Foundation's annual **spruce-up day for historic neighborhoods**.
 - May 15: We were treated to an **end-of-year lunch and pool party** at the Collier's home, joined by several "Club 45ers" who were ready to move up to 6th grade, thus Rite 13, in the fall.
 - Sept. 16-18: About 19 Emmanuel youth & their friends, plus several adult leaders, enjoyed an all-Emmanuel **kickoff youth retreat at Camp Mikell** with the theme "Building Up the Body (of Christ)." Five sessions on ways to "pray without ceasing," plus the high ropes course, a bonfire, and outdoor Eucharist, a

- nighttime hike to the cross, and – of course – tons of 4-Square made this an awesome weekend for all participants.
- Oct. 2: We had a nice turnout for a **kickball game** on the field at Barrow Elementary, where we focused on getting to know this year's **youth formation interns, UGA seniors Julie Tuttle and Emily Wilson.**
 - Oct. 9: At lunch youth, their parents, and other parishioners were treated to a presentation about **Kids4Peace**, an interfaith peace movement bringing Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta kids together with Israeli and Palestinian kids every summer.
 - Oct. 23: Several youth, leaders, and parents joined the Collier's 'Suess-a-tion-al' team on a **walk at Sandy Creek Park, helping them raise over \$10,000 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.**
 - Nov. 13: Once again a beautiful fall Sunday found us on our annual "All Saints' Outing" to cut, weed, rake & **clean the Paupers' Field and the Emmanuel plot** at Oconee Hill cemetery.
 - End-of-2011 plans include joining forces with Club45 to organize the collection and wrapping of **Christmas gifts for the youth of Peoplestown**, the neighborhood served by our **Emmaus House** Episcopal mission near Turner Field in Atlanta; and hopefully taking a contingent to the always-fun **Jr. DYC retreat at Camp Mikell** over the second weekend of Advent.
 - As of fall 2011 we're experimenting by referring to any 'non-Sunday-morning' youth activities not as "EYC" but as **The Journey Cont'd.** Words matter, often more than realize, and the intent here is to help our young people, their parents, and the entire congregation come to see our youth ministry as a single piece of cloth, woven of several types of thread. We want to avoid the decades-old trap of seeing Sunday morning formation time as the 'obligatory' piece that's more/less a chore, like school; and all other gatherings as 'optional fun-time.' Rather – as our rich **Journey To Adulthood curriculum** insists – we to want make all our time together *formation time*, all of it roughly equal in importance, all of it a mix of 'spiritual content' and 'Christian community,' all of it something young people and their families desire to be a part of.
 - As with the 2010-11 program-year, we continue to be intentional about sharing the leadership load for youth ministry among a wider group than just the very dedicated Journey Groups leaders – encouraging folks to step in and lead where their energies are high and their calendars are clear. UGA undergrads **Chris Watts** (from St. Paul's, Newnan) and **Julie Tuttle** (from Holy Spirit, Cumming) were great additions – as paid student interns – to the ongoing life of our youth ministry in 2010-11, along with the steady assistance of **Matt Humphrey** on virtually a weekly basis. **Father Edwin** continued to lead planning and logistics efforts overall and assisted almost weekly

with The Journey Cont'd, while other participant-leaders, such as **Jamaica Miller**, added joy and depth to our gatherings as their schedules permitted. In 2011-12, we are delighted to have Julie back as an intern, now assisted in accompanying the kids on The Journey Cont'd by fellow **UGA senior Emily Wilson (from St. David's, Roswell)**.

- **Other notables of 2010-11 & looking ahead:**

- At the beginning of 2010 the vestry took the significant step of amending the parish by-laws to provide for the appointment of a **youth representative on the vestry**. Partly in response to an initiative of The Episcopal Church's 2009 General Convention calling for a commitment to younger voices being heard in the councils of the Church, Emmanuel's change gives **full voice and vote** to the youth appointee, who, per church canons, must be at least 16 years old (though if under 18, the youth cannot vote on certain financial matters per state law). What a great statement about the gifts and agency young people have to offer the Church! In 2010-11 high school seniors Johnny Miller and Ryan Williams shared the appointment, while junior Jason Miller has been appointed for 2011-12.
- Five Emmanuel youth attended one of the six **diocesan-sponsored youth retreats** this program-year (2 @ fall 2010 Happening, 3 @ fall 2010 Jr. NYC).
- Near the end of 2010 we finally christened our dedicated youth space – on the Barber Street side of the church in the storefront next to the Emmanuel Thrift Store – with a true name, **The Catacombs**, and labeled it nicely with a sign overhead, proudly sporting the Episcopal Church shield. Sadly the eye-catching red of the sign has faded in the weather...and as the building itself fades into history around October 2012 we will eagerly look forward to a newly renovated upstairs of the Christian Connection for dedicated youth space come the end of the upcoming Phase 1 construction project (approx. Feb. 2013).
- In addition to **confirmation instruction** (Jan.-Feb.) for the J2A Journey Group and the sacrament of confirmation for the seven active participants in that instruction (see above), 2011 was also the year the **Rite 13 Ceremony** came around again, at the first of May, concluding that piece of the curriculum for the eight young people who'd been active. We were reminded how moving this ceremony seems to be for all and what a high-point it is, both for the kids & families and for the life of the entire parish community. Also very popular this year – especially for the parents – was the **banquet** the night before the ceremony for the **Rite 13 'celebrities'** & families, an event recommended by the curriculum but not practiced here in recent years.
- **Summer camp:** Three Emmanuel youth attended summer camp sessions at Camp Mikell, our own Diocese of Atlanta's camp &

conference center, thanks to scholarship assistance from our youth formation budget. The two high schoolers served a couple weeks each as camp counselors, then put in another week at “Work Camp” sprucing up the Camp Mikell facilities at the end of the season.

- In mid-July 2011 Carter Ball, Sam Clements, Jonathan Fox, Jason Miller, Billy Seward, and Preston Stanfield (accompanied by chaperones Jeff Stephens & Fr. Edwin, plus guide Ken Janke from Wonder Voyage Missions) made their long-awaited **J2A Pilgrimage** to the gorgeous southern coast of Maine. From monastic lodgings at St. Anthony (Franciscan) Monastery in Kennebunk; to the lighthouse islands, harbors, & beaches; to sharing Holy Eucharist with Barbara & George Bush Sr.; not to mention touring Boston and Portsmouth, N.H, it was a fantastic retreat for all! On Sept. 18 the group gave a presentation to the Sunday morning Adult Forum, describing their trip to the congregation at large & thanking them for the support, both financial and prayerful.
- Last, but not at all least, we noted in last year’s report our hope that **2011 would be a “visioning” year** for Emmanuel’s youth Christian formation efforts, primarily spurred by the realization we’d now employed the *Journey To Adulthood* youth curriculum for about ten years. To that end we formed a **Youth (Formation) Steering Group**. Between February and November this group of volunteers met for rich discussions about eight times; studied the book Sustainable Youth Ministry; produced several documents, both vision and ‘practically’ oriented; sent two of our number to Camp Mikell for a youth workers’ retreat; and resolved that the next step is to explore bringing in a youth ministry consultant for a one-day retreat to help us craft a vision statement and a plan of action for the next 5-10 years. Look for news of this retreat and its results in the spring of 2012 and keep YSG members Berkeley Boone, Katherine Byrne, Georgia & Curt Collier, Sarah Ehlers, Alex Hinson, Matt Humphrey, Cindy Sullivan, and Fr. Edwin in your prayers.

YOUNG ADULTS

The beginning of Advent will mark the beginning of our fourth straight year of more-or-less “organized” young adult ministry at Emmanuel. This is a ministry – at the very least - of Christian formation, worship, fellowship, and evangelism. Our hope is to take notice of the significant number of 20-somethings and 30-somethings that pass through the doors of Emmanuel on a regular basis – a “demographic rarity” in the average Episcopal parish according to the statistics – to meet them where they are – in a particularly transitional life-stage and often in a particularly “searching” stage of their life of faith – and to facilitate their exploration of Christian worship & practices, of Christian community, and of the Christian vocation of loving God and neighbor.

The breadth and depth of this ministry has grown steadily in those three years. For nearly a year we had simple, monthly social gatherings at a couple of local

restaurants. Then we tried sharing a simple meal in the Common Room, followed by sung Compline in the church. By mid-2010 we felt ready to undertake a book study. The fall of 2010 saw us setting up a more steady structure of three separate monthly gatherings: "Theological Brew" on a weeknight at the pub, but with a specific, faith-related conversation topic each time; some version of Compline (Night Prayer) in the church on a Sunday evening; and a social brunch at a walkable local spot after a 10:30 Holy Eucharist. The regularity seems much appreciated so we've stuck with this structure through 2011 and will continue to for now. Attendance at these gatherings ranges from 3 to 10. Usually it's somewhere in between. We have 65 folks on our e-mail distribution, with several added each month.

New developments in 2011 were characteristic of how we hope our young adult ministry continues to go deeper, to try new things, to meet folks where their greatest hopes and desires lie. At the request of several newly married couples, for instance, the Associate Rector helped them set up a self-led Lenten study, for the Sunday, 9:30 Christian formation hour, to reflect on the Scripture lessons appointed for the sacrament of marriage. In the fall, a group of 11 each purchased the same daily devotional book and committed to use it for eight weeks and to support each other in prayer. Several gathered to reflect on this experience at the end of the term. Currently, the group has booked a date in January to serve supper at the Athens Area Homeless Shelter, and is considering organizing an overnight spiritual retreat for late in Epiphany or Lent.

Particular thanks are due to Adam Rivers - a post-doctoral fellow in ocean biology at the University - for serving as our communications guru of late; and especially to Kayce Mobley - a PhD student in international affairs at the University - for serving as a particularly efficient and effective coordinator since the beginning of 2011. We continue to be grateful for the parish's support of this ministry and look forward to continued growth in the power of the Holy Spirit!

NATURAL SPIRITUALITY

This year marks 20 years of the Natural Spirituality program at Emmanuel. Natural Spirituality explores God's wisdom as it comes to us individually through our nightly dreams, and the synchronicities of life. It complements the collective worship experience we treasure at Emmanuel. We facilitate three dream groups each week: on Sunday at 12:00, Tuesday at 10:00 am and Friday at 1:00 pm. We begin with a liturgy taken from the Prayer Book followed by dream gathering and working on understanding a few dreams. About 20 men and women regularly attend one or more of the dream groups each week, with more dropping in from time to time.

One of our major projects is the Natural Spirituality Regional Gathering. This conference attracts about 150 including priests, a couple of nuns and laypeople from the southeast and beyond. The gathering convenes the second weekend in February at Mikell Conference center in Toccoa. Our upcoming conference will meet on February 10-12, 2012. Some of the speakers are nationally known and give pro bono of their time and talent. Twenty or so workshops are offered "to learn practical inner skills and high level fellowship," as an ad says. This year we are excited to have a website, (naturalspiritualityregionalgathering.com). It has information about the upcoming conference and links Emmanuel's website.

Another major undertaking is *The Rose*, which comes out twice a year, mailed free of charge to more than 3000 people in this country and abroad. Issue Number 19 is at

the press, as we speak. This publication gathers talks from the Haden Summer Dream Conference in one issue and pieces from the larger community in the second issue. Joyce Hudson began *The Rose* and the editorship is now led by Peggy Law, a dream group member from Watkinsville.

In the summer we presented journals to J2A young men as they departed on their pilgrimage to Maine. In addition, we tend the altar of Thanksgiving, which is used by children and adults alike. And we are always pleased to present programs in the Forum. In the past we have spoken about "Listening to the Gospel With New Ears," looking at Biblical dreams, and introducing dreamwork.

We welcome any who are drawn to experiencing the Divine in everyday life, who are interested in the meaning of their dreams, or who are just curious. You may contact Heidi Simmonds at 706-353-3422 (heidihsimmonds@gmail.com) or Agnes Parker at 706-742-2530 (akbparker@earthlink.net)

Extended Ministry

The Extended Ministries Commission implements the priorities for outreach that parishioners identified during the Outreach Summits held in 2007: ministering to children, the homeless, and others in need. Three organizations are included under the Extended Ministries umbrella: Missions and Extended Ministries Committee, Thrift House, and Interfaith Hospitality Network.

The Missions and Extended Ministries Committee (MEMC) formed in January 2008, coordinates mission and outreach efforts at Emmanuel. The MEMC works in collaboration with the Rector and the Vestry, and reports to them. Committee members review grant applications and make funding recommendations to the Vestry. Final approval for grants, as per Canon, rests with the Vestry.

In 2011, the committee was chaired by Matthew Hicks and served by members Eric Wells, Merry Stoval, Carter Stanfield, Chris Evans and Marty Kemp (Vestry Liaison).

In addition to continuing our support of a school in Haiti (\$10,000), other grants funded were as follows:

Action Ministries (Full Plate Program) - \$3,000
Cancer Foundation - \$7,500
ACC Mentor Program - \$2,500
Jennifer Korwan - \$1,750
Salvation Army - \$5,000
Stable Foundation - \$13,600
Stonehenge Youth Association - \$5,000
YMCA - \$10,000
YWCO - \$7,000
Athens' area homeless shelter - \$12,500
The Healing Place - \$15,000

Holy Comforter Church - \$10,000
Action Ministries for Our Daily Bread - \$15,000
The ARK - \$8,800
Athens Land Trust - \$5,000
Children First - \$7,500
Athens' Nurses Clinic - \$3,840

Total = \$142,990

Respectfully Submitted,

Marty Kemp, Vestry Liaison
Matthew Hicks, Chair

Parish Life

The Parish Life Commission encompasses committees and activities related to the life of the Parish including groups with fellowship and service roles. We invite all those who are interested in promoting activities to involve parishioners in the life of the Parish to participate in any of the committees. Brief descriptions of the functions and activities of each group follow, along with the coordinator.

BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW-Emmanuel Chapter

The Emmanuel chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew is part of a national organization for men and youth that focuses on prayer, study and service. The Brotherhood was formed in Chicago in 1883; I wish I could tell you when Emmanuel's chapter came into being, but I can't. It's been around a long time.

We meet monthly, except in summer, for study, prayer and fellowship, a dozen more or less reflecting and sharing about our lives. We adopt a study guide that brings us closer to the purposes of Emmanuel and Christianity in our lives. Our service in the past year has taken a number of forms. We take part in providing meals for Our Daily Bread. We work with our indefatigable associate rector by hosting what has become an annual kickoff and recruiting luncheon in late summer for the acolytes. We honor the seniors who have served so well as acolytes. And, we enjoy each other's company and seek ways to serve the Lord and this parish.

Officers for 2012 are Jon Carlson, Director; Ron Bates, Vice Director; and Andy Simmonds, secretary-treasurer. We need and encourage new members and "seekers" who are looking for a welcoming group in this busy parish.

Respectfully submitted,
Wally Eberhard, Director, 2011

CORNERSTONE LEGACY SOCIETY

On April 27, 2011 the Vestry of Emmanuel Episcopal Church unanimously approved and endorsed the following statement.

With Thanksgiving and gratitude for the Endowment Funds left to Emmanuel Church by our predecessors we, the Vestry, approve and support, the Cornerstone Society, planned giving program, as a means to leave a bequest to Emmanuel Episcopal Church. We have individually reviewed our own planned giving as related to Emmanuel, and enthusiastically encourage all Parishioners to do the same.

Cornerstone Enrollment Forms and brochures describing various ways to leave a bequest can be found throughout the church and in the church office. If you have already made provisions in your will to leave a bequest to Emmanuel, please fill out the enrollment form and give to Karen Holland so that she will have a copy on file.

We are stewards of God's bounty. All that we are, all that we have, comes from God. Planned giving is one expression of the wise use of the personal resources God has entrusted to us.

If you have questions regarding leaving a bequest to Emmanuel contact Dee Forester, Susan Dukes, Ellisa Garrett or Father Robert Salamone.

FAITHFUL SERVANT AWARD

In the Spring of 2010, the second annual Faithful Servant Award was presented to Hal and Betty Cofer. In 2011, a committee was again appointed by Father Robert to choose a parishioner to be honored. This year we thought it fitting to recognize our honoree during the Annual meeting this morning. This is an award given each year to an individual(s) in the Parish who has over the years been a dedicated and Faithful Servant to Emmanuel Episcopal Church.

HOLY COOKERS

The Holy Cookers completely revamped fellowship dinners, when they moved from Wednesday evening to 2nd Sunday lunch. The meals are more Sunday dinner flavor (meat and vegetables) with fewer casseroles. The price remained the same, \$5 per person and \$15 per family. We are pleased to report the first two Sunday lunches were very successful. The fellowship hall seats 104 and we served well over that in September and October. Although we were originally planning for 100 we are pleased to adjust our numbers up to 150 for the future. There is no dinner in December because we have the annual meeting and in May due to the annual picnic. The only change to the 2nd Sunday will be in April because April 8th is Easter. Therefore our April gathering will be the 3rd Sunday, April 15th. The move to Sunday doesn't allow for Laurie and William to help us due to their church services. Therefore the Holy Cookers have taken on the cleanup task. Therefore we may need to use disposables from time to time. We welcome all who would like to join us, just call Sissy @706/202-5653 or talk with any Holy Cooker. Thank you for your patience as we work out the kinks and let us know any suggestions.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Led by our extraordinary parish administrator Melissa Fulcher, these volunteers helped enormously by answering the telephone at the Church and by performing office tasks. Our volunteers extended a personal touch for visitors and callers. We thank everyone who has taken the time to commit to this ministry and hope others will do so. For further information call Melissa at the parish office.

Coordinator: Melissa Fulcher

RECEPTION COMMITTEE

The reception committee comes together to celebrate the special events and people of Emmanuel Parish. This year the committee hosted a reception for Bishop Alexander, Sunday school kick off breakfast, Hank Houser luncheon, the Parish Picnic, and Annual Meeting Brunch. The committee also provides light refreshments for family and friends following a funeral. Many hearts and hands come together to make these celebrations special. The committee thanks the Flower Guild for providing these celebrations with beautiful floral arrangements.

Coordinator: Beverly Sligh and Jody Vrana

SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS

Members of this committee prepare refreshments served before and/or after Sunday Worship Services by providing coffee and donuts during the school year and lemonade on the terrace in the summer. We need volunteers to support this ministry which so many in the parish enjoy. Please sign up to help.

*Coordinators: Terri Seward – Coffee and doughnuts
Meredith Kahlstorf – Lemonade*

WELCOME! COMMITTEE

Our mission and goal remains making sure that all who enter the doors of Emmanuel, especially newcomers feel welcome.

This past year, in addition to rebuilding the committee, we revamped the greeter program and organized the third annual parish picnic.

The Welcome Committee has taken this year to work on rebuilding itself. New members are Brooke Stortz, Valerie Oxford, Katherine Hinson, Lee Albright, Frances Doherty, Erwin Greene and Beverly Sligh.

Communication

The following very talented and hardworking individuals serve on the Communications Committee: Bob Wood, Blue Wood, Keith Cowne, Carol Bowles, Clairelis Baxter, Harry Yates, Erwin Greene, Horace Newcomb, Lee Gaby, Donnie Dicer, Lee Albright, Mark Dodson, Father Edwin and Melissa Fulcher.

Focus this year has been on the Web site and how to refresh the site and simplify it's upkeep. Bob Wood continues to be the web master, but has asked that we begin to look for a successor. The following are in the process of determining the new look of the site: Bob Wood, Erwin Greene, Father Edwin, Father Robert, Mark Dodson, Donnie Dicer and Carol Bowles.

Blue Wood continues to produce The Tower each month and the Special Edition Tower featuring the Vestry Nominees. The deadline for submission of articles is the 15th of each month.

This year the AV team was formed to provide assistance, resources and solutions to Clergy, vestry, project leaders and any presenter of a program by setting up and manning audio visual equipment during a presentation leaving the presenter free to focus on their presentation. Contact the AV team if you need assistance: Mark Dodson, Erwin Greene, Scott Rowell, Todd Baker, Scott Shaw and Carol Bowles.

On October 11, 2011 the Inaugural lecture in the new lecture series "Steeple and Sidewalks: Lectures on Church and Community" was presented by Dr. David Williams, Meigs professor of Religion and Director of the Honors Program at the University of Georgia. Fall and Spring lectures will explore a wide range of topics related to religion and contemporary life. Horace Newcomb was instrumental in arranging the new lecture series which is open to the public and designed to be of interest to our larger surrounding community as well as the Parish.

Facebook, Twitter, E-Letters, Tower, Web-site, articles, bulletin boards, flyers, pictures, advertising, Sunday bulletins, e-mail, mailings and word of mouth are the ways we communicate at Emmanuel Church. Many thanks to this hard working team for getting the word out about all the happenings at Emmanuel Church.

Dee Forester, Vestry chair

Administrative Support Commission

The Administrative Support Commission is a new Vestry initiative charged with coordinating the committees and boards charged with budget preparation, financial planning, stewardship, and financial reporting. It consists of Vestry members John Albright (chair), Rob Byrne, Joe Clements, Senior Warden Butch Bush, Junior Warden Marty Kemp, Dee Forester from the **Cornerstone Society**, Mike Fitzgerald and Jud Doherty from the **Endowment Board**, plus adjunct Stewardship member Debra Harden to share her insights from leading the Vestry Administration team. The purpose of this initiative is to give all those responsible for any part of Emmanuel's financial planning and ministry the opportunity to sit together at one table utilizing our gifts and skills to reach sound and unified financial policies.

The Finance Committee

The Finance Committee chaired by John Albright oversees the expenditure of all monies spent by Emmanuel Church except clergy discretionary funds. The Committee Chair is appointed by the Rector, and volunteers from the parish are welcome to participate. Members of the 2011 Finance Committee were parishioners Bob Wood, Betty Varnedore, Naomi Norman, and Senior Warden Butch Bush. Also, membership included Treasurer Bill Bowdoin (who succeeded longtime treasurer Johnny Terrell) and Finance Director Karen Holland.

The Committee analyzed monthly income and expense statements prepared for us by Karen, and we compared spending to the Vestry-approved \$943,838 budget for 2011 as well as month-by-month spending and income patterns from recent years. Summary observations and suggestions for needed adjustments to any of the 128 income and expense line items of the budget were reported at the monthly Vestry meetings. Throughout the year, the 2011 Budget Analysis reports have stayed well within our expected monthly patterns. Unexpected but necessary spending needs such as those created by failed computer equipment, ancient falling trees, faulty air conditioning in the sanctuary, and additional consultant support for new Stewardship Ministry efforts were balanced by savings we realized in other expense lines and, most significantly, with strong net pledge and plate donations throughout the year. Recently, the Committee worked with the Endowment Board and the Church treasurer, finance director, church administrator, senior warden, and rector to produce a complex Request for Loan Proposal (RFP) document. In mid-November, with the approval of the Vestry the Treasurer distributed RFPs to eight banks in the Athens and Atlanta areas to solicit their interest in

supporting the currently unmet financial part of Phase 1 of our Capital Campaign building project.

In February 2011 the accounting firm of Burge & Associates, CPA's from Decatur, GA, met with the Vestry to review our 2009 annual audit and to prepare us for the audit of fiscal year January-December 2010. In October, Burge & Associates presented their completed audit to the Vestry, stating that Emmanuel Episcopal Church's financial position for Dec. 31, 2010, was again accepted without exception.

The Finance Committee is currently in the process of developing a preliminary budget for 2012 which will be based on expected pledge income for 2012. The final budget for 2012 will be approved by the Vestry after the first of the year with a goal of its being a balanced budget.

John Albright, Chair

Stewardship - "Growing in Ministry"

This year we have begun the process developing a "Year-round Stewardship Ministry" which views stewardship not as a month-long campaign, but rather as a continual process of recognizing and giving thanks for our many gifts. We are working to promote our individual and communal responses to what God has done for us, and what God is doing in us. In collaboration with Martin Darby, the Vestry began this process in January at the Vestry retreat, and brought it to the full congregation this summer and fall. A core group (John Albright, Joe Clements, Debra Harden and Rob Byrne) developed the initial curriculum for our program, drawing on Mr. Darby's experience and a book by Charles R. Lane *Ask, Thank, Tell: Improving stewardship ministry in your congregation*. We developed visitation teams to begin the process of talking and thinking with friends and acquaintances about stewardship in a new light. All of this culminated in a busy fall with sermons, formation classes and a celebration of the over 4-dozen volunteer groups and opportunities at Emmanuel.

We started by studying the topics of discipleship versus membership, what belongs to God, why Jesus talked so much about money and possessions, and the values that lead to "biblical giving" among others. Money can be a mirror, and our use of money (and time and talent) can reflect who we really are and in what we truly put our faith. Developing a process of intentional, regular, generous, first, proportional and cheerful giving of our treasures and our talents and our time will help us as individuals and as a congregation grow in our relationship with Jesus.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with this effort so far. As this ministry grows we will have ongoing discussions in small groups and large groups throughout the year through book studies, formation, and in ways yet to be determined.

Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Luke 12:32-34.

Emmanuel Church Vestry Stewardship Covenant

- We believe God is asking us to be faithful to Him and to not value our worth by our possessions, but by our usefulness in God's kingdom, and in return, God promises to love us and provide.

- We commit to the joy of intentional service in thanksgiving to God for His generous gifts to us, and we pledge to the goal of tithing in our walk with God.
- We invite the people of Emmanuel to join us in this journey of faith.

Rob Byrne
 Joe Clements
 John Albright

Endowment Fund

Current Trustees:

Mike Fitzgerald, Chairman
 Norman Wood, Vice-Chairman
 Jud Doherty, Secretary/Treasurer
 Father Robert Salamone, *ex-officio*

Nancy McDuff
 Gene Weeks
 Chris Lloyd

Annual Report of the Emmanuel Parish Foundation Fund
 November 16, 2011

The Endowment Board was formed in 1944 by a group of faithful members of Emmanuel Church to serve as the vehicle for the "... accumulation, maintenance and management of an endowment fund to be used for the benefit, development and expansion of the work of Emmanuel Church or Parish..". Since the initial contribution of \$5,000, the fund has grown to a current value of approximately \$6.6 million. This value is composed of original gifts and accumulated growth and earnings on the gifts, after annual payments to outreach, operations and other functions. Since 2002, approximately \$3 million has been distributed to the vestry for the good works of Emmanuel.

As of the end of 2010, the Book Value* of the endowment was:

Cash	26,730
Savings and Temporary Cash	60,285
Receivables	216,694
Land	151,000
Investment Accounts SSgA	6,212,064
Total	6,666,773

During 2011, the Endowment board will distribute \$249,092 to the vestry. Through October 31, 2011, the Investment account was valued at \$6,631,314, with January beginning value of \$6,834,657.30. The target asset allocation is 65% equities and 35% fixed income. As of October 31, account performance was in line with the respective benchmark comparison; up .94% gross (comparable benchmark up .43%).

During the year, the Huddle House property (land owned by Emmanuel Foundation) came into focus when a series of events occurred. The Foundation's objective for the

property was to be included in the master plan for required additional parking. The current Huddle House franchise owners did not want to invest more required capital into the building when it was inevitable that the building would be razed. Their lease agreement expired and they subsequently failed to renew; so, it developed into a mutual agreement that they abandon the property October end.

With regards to how the Endowment board has been involved with the Emmanuel Church expansion, we are excited to report that the board unanimously approved an unconditional gift of \$2,000,000, to be used in the capital building budget. This gift is a result of a thoughtful and prayerful process that was based on the mission of the Foundation as it relates to the good works of Emmanuel. The scope of this decision considered the needs of today with the future viability of the Endowment Fund. The gift was meant to signify that all elements of our community of faith have come together with a shared responsibility for the project and support the continued success of Emmanuel's ministries.

All board members are available for questions regarding the management and administration of the Endowment accounts.

*Book Value is a function of reported cost/value to IRS on Foundation tax returns.

Respectfully submitted,

The Emmanuel Parish Endowment Board

*If any questions about the following ministries please contact
the chairperson listed.*

COMPANIONS IN CHRIST

DUDE, WHAT'S FOR DINNER – Erica Greene

FACILITIES – Sean Hogan

EMMANUEL DAY SCHOOL – Amy Wraga

FOYER GROUPS – LaBau Bryan

SUPER'LITES – Hal Cofer