

Emmanuel Episcopal Church

THE EPISTLE

Sharing the Joy and Power of Life in Christ

May2022

SABBATICAL

*Definition: A sabbatical is a rest or break from work. The concept of the sabbatical is based on the Biblical practice of **shmita**, which is related to agriculture. According to Leviticus 25, Jews in the Land of Israel must take a year-long break from working the fields every seven years.*



In the Episcopal Church, clergy have the great privilege of taking a sabbatical. After 6 years of fulltime employment, we may take a break of up to 12 weeks. Since I have worked with you now for 6 ½ years, and since the last 2 years have been quite challenging, I have planned with the wardens and the diocese to take a sabbatical this summer. For ten weeks, from June 6 to August 14, Tom and I will be taking a break from Emmanuel. We will visit family, spend time with our children, and fulfill one of my “bucket list” items: walking among the giant sequoia trees out west. It’s exciting to contemplate, but also a little scary—I love my time with all of you, and I thrive in the rhythm of the church year. But for the sake of my spiritual health and well-being, as well as my ability to continue in our faith journey together, this time of renewal and refreshment will be helpful! I am grateful to all of you for your support and prayers, and I know I’ll miss you while we are gone. But you will have great fun getting to know some of the diocesan staff who will be filling in for me, as well as a few retired clergy from around the diocese. Your very capable wardens will be a great source of help and information, and I know the vestry will carry on their duties with enthusiasm and pride. Our staff will continue to work hard and support both the people and the buildings, and last but certainly not least is our deacon, Carter Sinclair, who serves with dedication and good humor. All of these folks assure me that I will leave you in good hands and return in August ready to roll into the new program year!

In the meantime, we have the month of May ahead of us, as we celebrate the Great Fifty Days of Easter with great music and lots of alleluias! Ascension Thursday is on May 26, and Pentecost will be a great celebration on June 5th. A parish picnic will top off the program year that day, giving us much to be grateful for. Church is back! Please join us and participate in the fun.

Faithfully,
Mimi+



“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

So ends the first lesson of the Ascension Day readings. Ascension Day is 40 days after Easter—and 10 days before Pentecost (and always on a Thursday). It commemorates the day that Jesus ascended into heaven after his resurrection and 40-day sojourn teaching the disciples before returning to his father. **Our Ascension Day service will be here at 7:00PM on Thursday, May 26. See you then!**

LITURGICAL NOTES

EASTER SEASON

Easter Sunday began the "Great Fifty Days of Easter," a celebration that takes us to the day of Pentecost. In other words, it's Easter season all month long! So remember:

- The opening acclamation declares the risen Christ.
- The liturgical color is white.
- The Old Testament reading is replaced by scripture from the Acts of the Apostles, which tells us the stories of Jesus after his resurrection.
- There is no confession as we recognize the power of the resurrection in our lives.

In addition, please note that as of May 8:

- Our use of "homemade" bread will return.
- The use of the common cup will return.

Your vestry discussed the above changes, recognizing that everyone must do whatever they are comfortable with. And since many of us still may not be ready for the common cup, the individual communion cups will still be offered. At this point, however, intinction (dipping the bread into the cup) will NOT be permitted. Research has consistently affirmed that the risk of disease transmission through the common chalice is very low, but intinction raises the risk because the hands often carry and transmit germs. All of this will take some getting used to, so please do what you are comfortable with, and if you have questions or concerns don't hesitate to contact the clergy. As always, communion with the bread only is communion in full, and if you would prefer to cross your arms over your chest for a blessing at the chalice, you are welcome to do that as well.



The Brotherhood of St. Andrew

Making a difference in the Kingdom of God since 1883

A worldwide ministry to men and youth in the Episcopal/Anglican Communion & beyond

ATTENTION ALL MEN

Something new is coming to Emmanuel! "The Brotherhood of St. Andrew" is a longtime ministry of the Episcopal Church. Founded in Chicago in 1883, it is a worldwide organization of men that performs countless diverse ministries under the mission of "prayer, study, and service." Go to the website at <https://brothersandrew.net> and learn all about the possibilities for this group at Emmanuel.

You are invited to breakfast at 7:00 AM on Thursday, May 5th, 2022. The purpose of this meeting is to introduce to you and to our parish the Brotherhood of St. Andrew.

The breakfast is free; all you need to do is sign up on the list in the Narthex, call the office (757-499-1271) or sign up online [here](#) so that we know how many meals to prepare. We chose a Thursday morning in hopes that those who are busy on Saturdays with other obligations could take part. We will feed you and have you out on time to get to work!

Breakfast will begin at 7:00 and the program will start at 7:30 and end no later than 8:30. Richard Conner, a parishioner from Galilee Episcopal Church, will present the program. We will have time after his presentation to discuss the level of interest at Emmanuel and how we might proceed. Options for future meetings will be considered by the group, and could include anything from morning meetings with coffee and doughnuts 3 times per month and a full breakfast once a month, or one breakfast per month with some meetings at night. Suggestions are welcome!

If you have questions, please get in touch with Curt Womble, Carter Sinclair, or Tom Lacy.

FORMATION

We are in the midst of the Easter Season, which means we are also in spring with summer right around the corner. With this in mind, there are many things to plan and do. Some of the things I like are swimming, planting, and bringing out the grill. However, that does not mean forgetting about the church's many Formation opportunities!

We will continue to have two options for adult formation through May 22nd on Sundays at 9:00AM.

Study of the Book of James: We meet on Sundays at 9:00AM during formation. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Gary Ardison or Doug Lewis. We are meeting in person and on Zoom.

The Adult Forum group has different offerings every week and are also meeting in person and on Zoom at 9:00AM.

May 1st: Spiritual Truth in an Age of Fake News

May 8th: Praying with Your hands: Ways to Pray with Art (this is an excellent event for the whole family; little ones to adults are welcome to join)

May 15th: Rituals Interfaith art tour

May 22nd: Learn about EFM and give your opinion on next year's offerings!

VBS (Vacation Bible School): We will need all hands on deck (or one could say "the food truck"). If you have helped out in the past and can again, please reach out to me on Sundays, email me at dianamorelandmoyer@gmail.com, or text/call 480-266-9816 (please leave a message). VBS will be June 20-24th from 9:00AM -12:30PM. If you have children or grandchildren in pre-k through 5th grade that would like to come, mark your calendars. Registration will open soon!

We are also offering Nursery for 10:00AM worship and will have Children's Chapel May 8th through May 22nd for 5th grade and below!



CHILDREN'S FORMATION: JAM (Jesus and Music) for elementary aged children continues to meet on Sundays NOW LIVE at 11:30PM. **WE WANT YOU** if you are in this age range, and we would love to have your children or grandchildren if you are a little older! Join us for some fun music activities, and for growing together in Christ. Contact Janet White for information at 757-572-5592, or janetsw230@aol.com.

ONGOING ADULT FORMATION



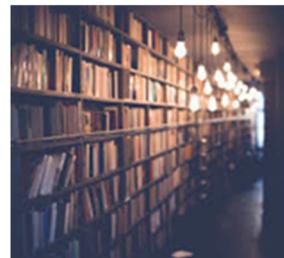
The Richard Rohr group will meet next in June. Stay tuned.

Faith in Fiction – May meeting

Next meeting: Second Tuesday, May 10 at 1:00PM.

Faith in Fiction is a group that enjoys reading and discussing novels. We focus on the spiritual thread and/or social consciousness running through the story line of a novel. Anyone who has read the book is welcome. Our book for this month is True Colors by Kristin Hannah. Please join us now *in person in the library* or on Zoom!

If you would like more information, please contact Bonnie Kiermaier, bonnie6616@gmail.com.



Women's Bible Study: continues on Mondays at 6:30PM. We are exploring the series on the Book of Ruth, written by Kelly Minter, a writer, singer, speaker, and teacher, living in Nashville, TN, but born and raised in northern Virginia. All women are invited to join us as we explore what we may learn from Ruth's story of loss, love, and legacy. Our sessions together are at 6:30PM on Monday nights. **We will meet for a potluck at the church on Monday, June 6!** **Mark your calendars!** Please contact Cindy Barnhurst or Janet White for information about joining this study.

VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS MODEL PARTNERSHIPS

In 2001, VBCPS began recognizing outstanding partnership practices that support mutually beneficial relationships between schools and business/community organizations. Through a nomination process and selection committee comprised of school and community representatives, Model Partnerships are selected each year that represent exemplary community engagement in our school division.

This year, one of the Model Partnerships selected is **Emmanuel's Beach Bag program with Arrowhead Elementary School!** Ably led by Doug Lewis, the Beach Bags program provides shelf-stable meals and healthy snacks to students who might otherwise go hungry during weekends.



As summer is fast approaching, Doug thanks everyone for the great job donating Beach Bags supplies and financial resources for this school year. He says, "We have had to spend hardly any of the funds budgeted thanks to your generosity. We only have four more delivery dates to complete this school year. **We have plenty of fruit cups and juice boxes in the pantry to finish this year. The donations that would be most helpful through the end of May would be the shelf ready milk (Horizon is one producer) and individual servings of cereal, Chef Boyardee ravioli and/or mac-n-cheese.** You should know that no donations go to waste. Whatever isn't used for the Arrowhead Elementary kids, goes to the SE VA Food Bank."



Thanks to all for the great response to our **Soles for Souls** shoe donation drive! We collected 271 new or gently used shoes during the season of Lent. We sincerely appreciate everyone's support for this worthwhile outreach project.

The Judeo Christian Outreach Center has been awarded the Hampton Roads Nonprofit Organization of the Year for 2022.

From an article in the Virginian-Pilot newspaper: "In 1986, faith-based organizations in Virginia Beach came together to help hungry people around the Oceanfront. In the beginning, meals were served on Saturdays but there was such a need that very quickly community dinners were being served every day. Today, under the leadership of Todd Walker, JCOC partners with over 100 volunteer groups, churches, synagogues, civic groups and individuals to serve tens of thousands of free meals annually to its neighbors. JCOC operates Food Pantry and Family Food Box programs that provide free groceries to hungry families, individuals and veterans — both housed and homeless."

Emmanuel Church has been one of the faith-based communities offering meals to the people served by the JCOC for several decades. Although the methodology has been to provide and serve the meals, the pandemic made that impossible. Several Emmanuelites bought dinners from Pollards and provided them to the JCOC for that night. As restrictions have eased, however, we plan to resume our regular protocol of providing the meals and serving them to the good folks whom they serve. **Our next date will be JUNE 7 and the signup will be in the parish hall starting on May 8.** If you have any questions, please get in touch with Gary Ardison. Thank you so much for your dedication to this ministry as we gear up again.

The article in the Pilot can be found [here](#).



DAY SCHOOL NEWS



We will introduce the letter W this month and our older children are counting to 100! We'll focus on rhyming through our books, songs, and classroom activities. For our theme of God Helps Things Grow, you can find lima beans growing in clear plastic bags and sweet potatoes in clear jars. One class will even have an ant farm!

On Wednesday, May 25th we will have a small Preschool Promotion ceremony for our Pre-K students. Some of our Pre-K students will be returning to school for another year so we refer to the ceremony as a promotion instead of graduation. We let parents know not to expect caps and gowns; we'll save that for High School and College.

The Day School is offering two summer camps. Session 1, June 6-9 and Session 2, June 13-16. Camp is Monday-Thursday, 8:30-12:30. We are still formulating our themes for the camps.

As educators, the end of the school year is always bittersweet. We are amazed at the progress the children have made and want them to continue to grow and thrive, but it is sometimes difficult to let them go! Just as we have observed the children grow and transform this year, the students will be monitoring the growth and transformation of caterpillars to butterflies. We'll have a special release day at their maturity.

In spite of the health challenges, it has been a wonderful year at the Day School. God has blessed our school, staff, and children in countless ways. Thank you for your encouragement and prayers throughout this year. Fall is just around the corner.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

A parishioner writes:

Several years ago, my wife and I met our daughter and grandson in Washington D.C. for a long weekend visiting some of the museums on the national mall. Our grandson was 10 years old at the time. On our last night in Washington, we had dinner at a local seafood restaurant and our grandson had his favorite, King Crab legs. He had plenty left over and took them with him to enjoy later. As we walked back to the hotel, he saw a homeless man sitting on the sidewalk across the street. Without any prompting from us, he crossed the street, walked up to the man and held out his precious cargo. The man took it, looked inside, smiled and nodded. Our grandson crossed back to us and we returned to our hotel. I don't remember what was said then, but I do remember the lesson in stewardship that I received. Our grandson gave from the very best that he possessed and he did so gladly.

We are all stewards and we never know when we will have our next opportunity to serve, to care, or to be there for someone so we need to make our opportunities count.

Everyday Stewardship

For the last year we have tried to highlight various people and groups around the Parish that do nice work and oftentimes get little or no credit. I would like to call your attention to the Lenten season and particularly Holy Week. First, our Clergy planned and executed a wondrous Lenten season culminating in a holy and inspirational Holy Week. The Everyday Stewards worked tirelessly to support the Clergy to ensure success. The choir supported every service, and along with the bells gave a special performance on Palm Sunday. The Altar Guild worked tirelessly to transform the church to support very different services. The ushers were there every time making sure things went smoothly and—along with the Welcomers—making sure all were welcome. On Easter Sunday the Flower Guild created a marvelous display around the altar that everyone thought was beautiful and added to the joy of the Easter Services. Our acolytes were in service at the altar; we have missed them! Not to be outdone, the coffee hour hosts served us coffee, delicious cake and cookies in the Parish Hall after the service. Christian Education had two Sunday School classes running until Palm Sunday and had various activities for the kids including an Easter Egg hunt. A vital cog in all of this was Nellwyn in the office producing reams of bulletins to support the services. After the Easter Sunday service, I heard many comments from Parishioners stating that the six weeks of Lent had been important to them and that the Easter Sunday service felt as if we were back; it really felt like "church" again.



CLEAN THE BEACH

May 14th Visitors Center 9:00AM

Join us at Back Bay Refuge and help
Clean the Beach!

Great way to enjoy some fellowship,
get some exercise and clean up the
environment!

Where: 4005 Sandpiper Rd,
Virginia Beach VA 23456

Bring: Sunscreen, Hat, gloves, water
Trash bags will be provided

Signups will be in the Narthex. There is a separate form for participants under the age of 18. See Wendy Daniels for more info.



Emmanuel Staff

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Custodian

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Treasurer

Bill Sisley

EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Vestry Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2022

Opening

The regular Vestry meeting of Emmanuel Episcopal Church was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on March 15, 2022.

Present

Rev. Mimi Lacy, Linda Deviney; Senior Warden, Joan Raybourn; Junior Warden, Dolly Holland, Jeff Peters, Susan Summerlin, Judy Totten, Duncan Bell, Doug Lewis, Debbie Boehmer and Lori Brashears; Recorder.

Absent: Elaine Shrader, Steve Furman, Becky Maxey

Approval of Minutes

The corrected minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

Rector's report – Had council virtually. The pancake supper went well. EYC is meeting again. Has two trips planned soon. You can always email, text or call her. She has been busy with pastoral care, bulletins & preparing for holy week.

Senior Warden Report – Thanks to all for your involvement in making the pancake supper a success. Needs more vestry greeters so be on the lookout for the signup sheet. New Vestry members will need to do the safe church training.

Junior Warden Report & Communication – Nothing new to report. Online service viewing numbers are around 35 but that is because more are attending in person church.

Finance – See Reports. Pledges are 12K behind budget. Mortgage is doing well so far. Expenses in good shape being 3K below budget. Motion made and approved to accept the finance reports and meeting minutes as presented.

Building and Grounds – Tiles in parish hall need to be replaced and Greg will make the repair when he can. No other major issues right now.

Adult Christian formation – See report. Parish Retreat too much to take on this year but will plan for 2023.

Children/Youth Christian formation – See report. Will be having VBS this summer.

Day School – See report. In the activity room the floor is starting to buckle.

Inreach – N/A

Liturgy – See report. Getting ready up for holy week.

Outreach – See report. Shoes are coming in for Soles for Souls & will collect thru April 10th.

Parish Life – See report. Meeting scheduled for this month.

Stewardship - See report. Looking for new stewardship members.

New Business:

Diocesan council – DCDI – Diocesan Church Development Institute – Laurry Rodman would like to take a team to attend. Good idea to send a group leadership team. Would like to see younger members attend. Vestry agreed it would be favorable.

Reminder: Taizé service approaching and is very lovely. Holy Week coming up and encourages all to consider attending the services during that week. Will be having "Keeping Watch" on Thursday 4/14/22 evening from 8:20 pm – midnight, please sign up if you can.

Discussed liturgical practices post Covid.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 by Rev. Mimi Lacy

Lori Brashears, Recorder