

Lay Ministry at
**EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

Sharing the Joy and Power of Life in Christ



5181 Singleton Way Virginia Beach, Virginia 23462 757-
499-1271

Email us at: eec@emmanuelvb.org

Website: emmanuelvb.com

Visit us on Facebook!

EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH IS...

- A church that welcomes people from all faith traditions or no faith traditions: all ages, races, orientations or experiences are invited and accepted
- A joyful worshipping community that is both sacramental (celebrates Holy Communion) and liturgical (follows a pattern in worship) with a wide variety of musical choices and accompaniment
- A place for good food, good fun and good fellowship
- A faith community where opportunities for service both within and outside of the congregation abound

SEP

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At Emmanuel we believe that our primary purpose is to care for each other and for our world. This is reflected in the ministries in which we engage. Please take time to reflect on these opportunities and choose one that fits you the best. If you don't see one that works, perhaps you might consider starting your own!

SEP If you are interested in one of these ministries, call (499-1271) or email the church office (office.emmanuelvb@gmail.com) and we will be happy to assist you.

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FORMATION MINISTRIES

Activities for ages 4 through 100

On **Sunday mornings** during the program year (September through May) the following groups meet from 9:00-9:45:

- **Newborn through age 3:** no formation, just fun in the nursery! Caretakers available from 8:45-11:30 during the program year; 9:45-11:30 in the summer.
- **The Tree House:** A curriculum for children K through 3rd grade which is centered on prayer, friendships, bible study and fun activities. Meets in Classroom 1 in the Day School.
- **Be Bold:** For kids 4-6th grades—this is a preteen curriculum that focuses on acceptance, asking questions, and action! Meets in the Day School Activity room—grab a beanbag chair and join in.
- **FaithLens:** This is a “current events” type of curriculum for 6th through 12th grades. Pulled from a blog written by youth formation leaders across the country, it uses the lectionary readings (the scheduled readings for each Sunday) and relates them something that has happened recently...maybe from the news, or possible from something that didn't get as much press. Challenging and informative—a perfect mix for this age group. Meets in Children's Chapel.
- **Adult Forum:** An eclectic mix of topics led by a variety of facilitators, both lay and ordained. Meets in Conference Room 1.
- **Scripture Study:** An open group that studies the scripture for that Sunday. Meets in the library.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

A fun and eclectic gathering that uses activities and music to learn about God. For ages 4-8, this group meets in the narthex at 10:00—or children can join the procession as it goes down the aisle! Children join their families in church at the peace.

Other Formation Opportunities

The following groups meet at the time and day listed:

- **EYC** (Episcopal Youth Community): Middle schoolers meet the second and fourth Sundays of the month from 11:30-1:00pm. LUNCH provided! High School students meet the fourth Sunday of the month from 1:30-3:30pm.
- **Cursillo Groups:** A wide variety of groups are available, most meet on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm. Call the office for more information.
- **Women's Bible Study:** this group meets on Monday evenings for a set period of time (usually 4-6 weeks) to study a book or other resource. Open to all.
- **Richard Rohr Study Group:** meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 10:30 in the morning. Discussion is based on Rohr's daily online meditations. Open to all.
- **Education for Ministry (EfM):** EfM is a four year study program that covers the old and new testaments, history and philosophy. Classes form every fall; call the office for more information.

Periodic Formation Classes

- **Inquirer's Confirmation Class:** This is for those folks interested in learning more about the Episcopal Church. Completion of this series qualifies an individual to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church.
- **Youth Confirmation Class:** A time for HS students to learn about their faith; completion leads to confirmation in the Episcopal Church.
- **Vacation Bible School:** VBS is held every summer for one week (M-F). Staffed by lots of volunteers—both adults and teenagers—this is a wonderful time for 4-8 year olds to learn about their faith and God, all with a lot of play, singing and great snacks.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Volunteers serve on Sunday mornings as well as during special services throughout the year.

- **Acolytes:** Young people ages 7-18 are trained to serve in a worship service; responsibilities increase as they grow older. Rotating schedule
- **Altar Guild:** Men and women of all ages work on a team to prepare the sanctuary for worship. Rotating schedule
- **Flower Guild:** Teams meet weekly to arrange flowers for worship or other special events. Training provided! Rotating schedule
- **Sound Guild:** Operates the soundboard for worship. Training provided! Individuals work out their schedule
- **Kneaders:** Bakes bread for worship services. Training provided! Rotating schedule
- **Lay Eucharistic Ministers:** Lay volunteers are trained to read scripture and assist in serving the wine at communion during worship services. Rotating schedule
- **Healing Prayer:** Prayers for healing, as well as prayers of thanksgiving or supplication, are offered during communion by lay volunteers during the 10:00 Sunday morning service. Rotating schedule
- **Lay Readers:** Trained laypersons read scripture during the service—this opportunity is for those individuals who want to be readers but not work as Lay Eucharistic Ministers. Rotating schedule
- **Ushers:** Volunteers serve on Sundays and at special services to answer questions, direct (indoor) traffic, distribute bulletins, and be alert to any issues. Rotating schedule
- **Welcomers:** Friendly folk who serve on Sundays greeting visitors, encouraging and assisting newcomers, and answering any and all questions. Rotating schedule
- **Adult Choir:** Open to anyone 18 and older who loves to make a joyful noise! This group provides music at 10:00 Sunday mornings and at special services throughout the year; practice is at 7:30 on Thursday evenings.
- **Children's Choir: (Aka JAM: Jesus and Music)** Open to any child age - who loves to sing and who wants to learn about music and leading worship. This group practices on Sunday mornings after the 10:00 service (11:30-12:15); parents bring snacks for the group. They sing at the 10:00 service several times throughout the program year.

- **Handbell Choir:** Make a joyful noise! Training provided; practice is at 6:30 on Thursday evenings. Provides music at 10:00 on Sundays and occasionally throughout the year.
- **Chamber Choir:** A 16 member choir; auditions required.
- **Lay Eucharistic Visitors:** LEV's don't actively participate in the worship service, but are commissioned at the end to take communion to those unable to get to church. Training required; rotating schedule

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES

- **Crafters:** Meets Tuesday mornings at church. This is a project-based group that is open to anyone with an interest.
- **Faith in Fiction:** Meets at church the second Tuesday of the month at 1:00pm. This 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.
- **Men's Breakfast:** Fellowship for men of any ages happens on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. We gather at 7:30 am and usually finish by 9:00. All are welcome!



SERVICE MINISTRIES

INREACH: Within the Emmanuel Community

- **Counters:** Meet Monday mornings in scheduled teams to sort and prepare bank deposits of weekly contributions.
- **Martha's Ministry:** Provides care and support for members of the parish following the death of a family member.
- **Pastoral Care Team:** A group of volunteers who assist the clergy by visiting shut-ins, making phone calls, and keeping up with the well-being of church members.
- **Prayer Chain:** A coordinator contacts a volunteer group of dedicated folks who pray for the special intentions and requests of members.

- **Card Ministry:** Volunteers send church members birthday and anniversary cards.
- **Meal Ministry:** Four teams cover each week of the month; meals are provided to those in need of some extra support.
- **Ride Ministry:** Volunteers help out church members who need transportation to church, doctor's appointments, etc.

OUTREACH: Service to the Community and the World

- **Disaster Emergency Response Team: (DERT)** Responds to natural disasters and provides support, supplies and service to communities in need.
- **Faith Works Coalition:** Participants go to different homes in the area to make necessary repairs or needed adjustments.
- **Food Pantry:** Emmanuel works with Social Services to provide grocery store cards to individuals who need financial assistance to purchase food.
- **Judeo Christian Outreach Center:** JCOC is a shelter that provides meals for the homeless. Emmanuel members sign up to provide food and/or go and serve at the shelter.
- **Beach Bags:** Members contribute food weekly to this program; volunteers gather to pack up the bags. Emmanuel provides 40 children from Arrowhead Elementary School with 2 meals to take home every single weekend of the school year.
- **Rise Against Hunger:** A yearly event (usually the beginning of December) when 45-60 volunteers of all ages gather to pack 10,000 meals; they are shipped somewhere in the world where the need is great.



Outside Groups at Emmanuel

We have a very busy building!

- A wide variety of **12-step groups** meet at Emmanuel; times vary between noon and 8:00pm, and happen most days of the week. Contact the church office at 499-1271 for more information.
- There is a **First Friday Healing Sanctuary Group**—they meet in the evening and participate in a hands-on healing ministry.