

Emmanuel Episcopal Church

THE EPISTLE

Sharing the Joy and Power of Life in Christ

May 2021



For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

***a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.*** (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

What a strange “season” this past year has been! So many choices that we *couldn't* make—and so many that we *had* to make. It was an unprecedented time, and one we won't soon forget. Yet within this season of pandemic strangeness, we also celebrate the season of Easter: the Great Fifty Days will not end until Pentecost Sunday on May 23rd. Which means that as always, our Christian faith gives us both comfort and a reason to rejoice, as we remember and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Because no matter what life throws at us—no matter what season we are in—Jesus is the foundation of our faith, the basis of our hope, and the source of our love, and he is there for us always. Are you able to believe that? Are you able to tap into the comfort—to trust in that power? At this point in pandemic living, many of us are weary, and tired of trying so hard. But still, Jesus is there, and it is my hope that our faith—and our faith community—provide each of us with strength, sustenance and courage to face what yet lies ahead. Therefore, no matter what time you find yourself in, may you remember the season of Easter, the joy of the Great Fifty Days, and the love of Christ which holds you closer than you'll ever know.

Faithfully,
Mimi+

SEEING RED!

Sunday, May 23rd is **Pentecost Sunday**—so whether you are at home or at church, be sure to wear **red!** We will celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, our church, and our community—praising God and giving thanks for the Spirit's guidance and inspiration. A day to truly celebrate!

Emmanuel Staff

Church Office 757-499-1271

Bishop Southern Virginia

The Rt. Rev. Susan B Haynes

Rector

The Rev. Mimi Lacy

Deacon

The. Rev. Carter Sinclair

Director of Music

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Misty Thomas

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Director Children's Choirs

Janet White

Day School Director

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Custodian

Greg Goodman

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Emmanuel Vestry

Sr. Warden: Laurry Rodman

Jr. Warden: Linda Deviney (also Communications)

Register: Lori Brashears

Duncan Bell Stewardship

Steve Furman Building & Grounds

Dolly Holland Liturgy

Stephanie Long Formation

Becky Maxey Inreach

Camile Peter Parish Life

Jeff Peters Finance

Joan Raybourn Dayschool

Tim Sessions Young Adults

Judy Totten Outreach

FORMATION COMMUNITY SERVICE: As a parish, we are looking into doing some projects to help preserve our environment. Previously we participated in Clean the Bay Day with Chesapeake Bay Foundation. This year CBF is planning on doing this for a week from May 31 to June 5, and we get to choose a location and a time. If you are interested in participating, please contact Gary Ardison or Stephanie Long. Here is the website: <https://www.cbf.org/events/clean-the-bay-day/>. You must register on the website to participate (registration opens on April 30).



FORMATION

Remaining Formation Schedule

May 2 - Adult Forum - "What They Saw" (Mike Callahan, presenter); youth

May 9 - Book of Acts Study only

May 14 - Adult Forum - "What They Saw" (Presenter TBD); youth **If you can step in and do this, please get in touch with Melissa Thomas. The material is ready to go.**

May 21 - Book of Acts Study only

May 30 - Memorial Day Weekend - No Formation

We look forward to seeing everyone back in the fall! Have a safe summer!

Topic: Formation for All

Join Zoom Meeting

A NOTE FROM MELISSA THOMAS

Dear Cherished Emmanuel Family,

What a year we have had! For nearly 15 months, we have worshipped from home, navigated Formation on Zoom, ceased extra programming, and spent far too much time apart. You all have managed brilliantly, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for sticking with it, even as Zoom Fatigue creeps in. It has been a weird ride this year, but I hope that with this "down time" you have taken a moment to reflect on what's truly important in your lives and what lessons you've learned that we can carry forward into the new normal. With all the extra time I was afforded during the last year, I began to finish up a Science degree at TCC...a journey that has been 20+ years in the making and will conclude when I graduate in December. I have more yet to do, but the future most certainly includes completing a Bachelor's and figuring out what I want to be when I grow up. In light of this, it is evident that the coming years will require me to refocus my energy. Through much prayer and discernment, I have come to the conclusion that it is time for me to depart the Formation office at the end of June. This position has filled my heart to the brim, challenged me, and taught me so much about you all and myself. It has been a pleasure to serve you in this capacity over the years and my hope is that you will be open to what this next chapter in Formation has to offer you. Joshua and I are eternally grateful for your steadfast love and support all these years. I am excited to participate in the life of Emmanuel as a parishioner again, and look forward to seeing how God moves through us all as we come back together in the fall.

With Love,
Melissa Thomas

A NOTE FROM MISTY THOMAS

Dear Emmanuelites:

It has been a great adventure leading the Children's Ministry for the last 5 years. As you may know, I took a fulltime position in the public school system last September. I am required to take Education courses in the next 2 years to fulfill my Teaching License. This will take most of my time, and I will no longer be able to work at EEC.

Thanks for giving me the amazing opportunity to create, pray, discover, and grow with your children. I'm only a text away if you have any questions.

Peace,
Misty Thomas

FORMATION (continued from previous page)

As you know from the previous notes from Melissa and Misty, we are saying thank-you and best wishes concerning their recent decisions about their positions, but still counting on seeing them as part of EEC in the months and years to come! As for us—we will be posting the openings in the Diocesan newsletter, so please pray for great candidates to apply as well as a wonderful future for Misty and Melissa.

Cursillo

The next Cursillo is still tentatively planned for October. If you know of any candidates, please encourage them to sign up. Application forms are on the website for the Diocese of Southern Virginia Cursillo. <https://www.cursillodiosova.org/> What is Cursillo? "We bring together a diverse group of Episcopalians to share the richness of many modes of worship and broaden our appreciation for our Church. Lay people conduct the Weekend with two or three clergy members as spiritual advisors. Cursillo presumes that those who attend a Weekend are already well grounded in the faith. It isn't intended to be a conversion experience, but an enriching and deepening of what is already there. It often provides new insights into our faith as well as fostering ministry among lay people." (<https://www.episcopalcurstilloministry.org/about-cursillo>)

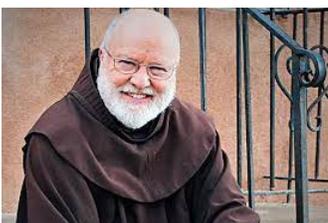
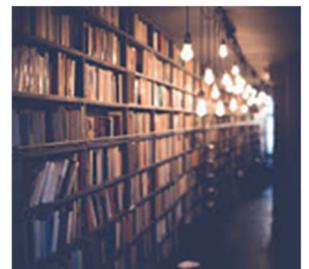


Women's Bible Study

Emmanuel Women's Bible Study began April 19 on "What Love is" by Kelly Minter (Letters of 1, 2, 3 John). It is on Monday evenings at 6:30PM on Zoom. We have 22 women participating and there is still room for more! To join our Zoom sessions please contact Janet White or Cindy Barnhurst.

Faith in Fiction — Next meeting: Second Tuesday, May 11th at 1:00PM via Zoom.

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 [This Tender Land](#) by William Kent Krueger. Please join us!



Next meeting: May 5 at 11:00AM (new time). The Richard Rohr group meets to discuss Rohr's *Daily Meditations* <https://cac.org/category/daily-meditations/>. In May we will also continue our discussion of Brian McLaren's new book, *Faith After Doubt* (ch. 3-4). Weather permitting, we will meet outside at church; otherwise on Zoom. Contact Diann Nickelsburg for more information.

Wednesday Evening Compline

Now that the pandemic is drawing to a close, church is open, and summer is nigh, Compline will be coming to an end. It has been a blessing throughout this time, and we've appreciated the support and comfort that it brought! And do remember that it is perfectly acceptable to pray Compline on your own or with another person—just settle yourself in a quiet spot, breathe easy, and feel God's presence. In the meantime, we will continue through Wednesday, May 26 (with a break on May 12 when we will be helping out with childcare in Chicago), and then we will say "Good night and God bless" for the final time.

STEWARDSHIP

In this time of prayer, reflection, and action, your Stewardship Commission asks you to Exercise Stewardship of God's Gifts



Stewardship Reflection

Let us pray...

"That all our parish ministries work together in Stewardship for the glory of God's name and not for our own pride and ego."

YEAR-ROUND STEWARDSHIP

Back in March I attended a Webinar presented by TENS, The Episcopal Network for Stewardship, on the subject of Year-Round Stewardship Formation. The focus of the discussion was the development of stewardship within a parish throughout the whole church year. At Emmanuel, we understand that stewardship means taking care of things entrusted to us, and we take this responsibility very seriously and exercise it in so many ways. Last month, Curt Womble's article "Spotlighted" the Beach Bag program, which provides weekend meals to needy students at Arrowhead Elementary School. Every couple of months, Gary Ardison and a team from Emmanuel deliver an evening meal to the Judeo-Christian Outreach Center, and before the pandemic, we provided and served meals to the homeless people at the center. If you had a birthday or celebrated your anniversary, chances are that you received a loving card from our Inreach Card Ministry, and we thank Barbara Jones for her support of that project. Before the pandemic, if you were hospitalized, you may have received a visit from our Pastoral Care team. Over the past year we have held food drives for the local Food Bank, and we have assisted families with either food or Food Lion gift cards from our Food Pantry.

As you can see, we do practice year-round Stewardship at Emmanuel. The message I want to get across this month is that we have so many opportunities to be good stewards to each other, our parish, and our community. All we must do is recognize that everything we have has been given to us and everything we have can be a tool for our stewardship. We just need to ask ourselves:

- How can I use my expertise or training at Emmanuel?
- How can I use my strength or skills on a project at Emmanuel?
- Is there a class, group, workshop, or event I could lead or help support?
- How can I financially support Emmanuel?

If any of these ideas have stimulated your interest for finding your special stewardship niche at Emmanuel and you would like to know whom to contact, please give me a call and I will get you connected with the leader of the commission or activity of your interest. — Duncan Bell, Vestry Stewardship Chair

NEW TIME — MUSIC



Zoom meetings for JAM (Jesus and Music), our children's choir, continue. We will be doing rhythm and melody learning activities, prepare some songs and practice a little music theory as we read the scores on Zoom. Tune in your singers, K-6th grades, on Sundays at 1:30 PM, by contacting Janet White.

OUTREACH

Beach Bags: Virginia Beach Public Schools have reopened for in-person learning so we will continue to offer weekly Beach Bags deliveries to Arrowhead Elementary School. Food items can be delivered to the church Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM. Doug Lewis will continue to organize the shelves, purchase needed items, and then deliver them to the school. Because fewer children are attending in person, we are providing 24 bags instead of 40.

American Red Cross: The Red Cross requested using the EEC parish hall for monthly blood drives since the church works well for these. The next scheduled dates are June 1, July 6, and August 3 from 2:00 to 7:00PM with the Red Cross staff and volunteers working the drives rather than church volunteers. However, if you want to volunteer, that would be great.

Judeo-Christian Outreach Center: The next date to serve is June 9th, and, hopefully by this date, we will be able to serve meals in person.

Meals on Wheels: Our Meals on Wheels Teams are continuing to deliver meals while observing COVID-19 restrictions. Beginning last month (April), we delivered 4 days per week with 2 meals delivered on Thursdays.

Faith Works Coalition: The Faith Works Coalition is continuing to help those in need while following COVID-19 restrictions.



DAY SCHOOL NEWS

What a wonderful time of the year to be in preschool! There are signs of spring all around us and the children are "blooming", too. This is always an exciting month where the children are able to learn all about the animals God made.

April began with an egg hunt. Our younger children hunted for eggs by color and our older children hunted for eggs with their name on the eggs. We have found that this system works well to be sure everyone receives the same number of treat-filled eggs.

On Wednesday, April 28th, our study of animals will conclude with a visit from a local petting zoo. We are expecting to see piglets, a mini horse, goats, rabbits, and a calf. The children learned all about farm, zoo, pet, and safari animals.

Our students were introduced to the letters Q, U, and Y, sequencing, and counted to 90. Opposites and spatial relationships were the focus for our visual/perceptual skills. They also learned to say 6 different animal names in Spanish. They are growing and learning so quickly! One month to go and so much more we want to teach them!



YOUR BUILDING AND GROUNDS commission has been keeping busy with the everyday maintenance and cleaning. We would like to thank Mike and Diann Nickelsburg, Marty and Kay Basden, Jon Osborn, Trish Young, and Cal Verity for their hard work cleaning up the Labyrinth and planting more trees and shrubs. Steve Furman

SACRED GROUND

"If we seriously want to solve any of the mounting problems we have—or even just be better partisans—we need some spaces where we listen to one another and show up humble enough to accept the fact that we might have something to learn. We need to have conversations that proceed according to a different set of operating instructions. The unspoken imperative should be this: I *want* to understand you. And I *want* you to understand me—whether or not we ever agree." From *Beyond the Messy Truth* by Van Jones; this reading is from Session 8 of Sacred Ground.

NOTES FROM CURRENT PARTICIPANTS:

For several years in college, I was a history major, until I realized that writing essays was not my forte. Therefore, I thought I had a pretty good grasp of history of the United States. Being involved in Sacred Ground, has changed a lot of what I thought I knew about history. I also knew that I was opposed to racism, and it was easy for me to label white supremacists and people such as the KKK as racists. Being involved in Sacred Ground has also changed my views on racism and opened my eyes as to how I play a part in the racism that continues to permeate our society. I am a white male, and have never really thought about the advantages of being a white male, until being involved in Sacred Ground. I could go on and on about my world view pre and post Sacred Ground. To say the least, it has made me question my world view and my place in it.

Sacred Ground is not meant to solve all of the problems that divide us today, to me it is meant to better understand ourselves and how to be a better Christian. It is such a powerful program, and I wish it could be required for all Americans to participate in the program. By itself the materials in the form of videos and readings are very powerful, added to that is the ability to meet and share with a small group how the program is affecting each of us. It is not always easy to watch the videos and read the materials, as it holds a mirror up to us to see us as we are, warts and all. But as painful as it can be, there is also hope in the mix.

In summation there are very few things in life that have made an impact on me as great as this program. The good news is that you can participate by just signing up. I believe that this can lead us to lives of healing and truly living out our baptismal covenant of resisting evil and loving all. Carter Sinclair

Sacred Ground is a powerful collection of videos and readings that teach us about things we never even heard of before. And so yes, we do have to "*show up humble enough to accept the fact that we might have something to learn.*" Our next class will begin sometime in June and run through the summer. If you are interested please email the office (office.emmanuelvb@gmail.com) or the rector (mimilacy@gmail.com) and we will add you to the list.

SACRED GROUND SCHEDULE THIS SUMMER:

Our second Sacred Ground class will begin on June 13 and run through August 29.

There will be two breaks: July 4 and August 4.

We have found in the current session that weekly meetings help us retain the information and tie thoughts together, but the two breaks give us a breather and allow us to catch up.

We meet from 7:00-9:00 on Sunday evenings.

The videos and readings for each week vary, but are definitely doable within a week's time.

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/invitation/>

!!!PARISH LIFE EVENT!!!!

Moe's Tailgate Picnic — Sunday, June 6, 2020

Moe's food pickup is between 4:00PM and 4:30PM - Tailgate Picnic ends by 5:30PM

Get your tailgate gear together, your comfy fold out chairs and be ready for a Moe's Tailgate Picnic with your church family. On June 6, beginning at around 4:00PM, and weather permitting, we will have a good old fashion Tailgate Picnic!

Moe's will give 10% of this event back to the church! Order from Moe's, or bring your own food. After you pick up your Moe's food from the front of the church, pull back around to the big parking lot. We'll have our cars spread out where you can get out, get comfortable, and begin eating for a good cause.

We'll do it safely and responsibly and we will have our restroom facilities available. Remember to stay socially distant and wear your masks when in the church building.

Simply fill out this form to place your order: <https://form.jotform.com/211085056070143>

Or, place your order by calling 757-495-9500 ext. 1.

All orders must be placed before June 4th at 11:00AM

Then show up between 4:00PM and 4:30PM on Sunday, June 6 at the church parking lot and we will hand you your food! Enjoy Moe's at home or pull around to safely visit at the Tailgate Picnic, weather permitting.

NEW WEBSITE LINK:

The Church Calendar is now online:

<https://73807202.view-events.com>



Emmanuel Episcopal Church
June 6, 2021
4:00-4:30pm

MOE'S AT HOME!

HALF KITS STARTING AT 17.99
FEEDS 2-3 PEOPLE

FULL KITS STARTING AT 35.99
FEEDS 4-6 PEOPLE

PERFECT FOR FAMILIES OF ALL SIZES!

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| CHOICE OF PROTEIN | TORTILLAS | SALSA |
| BEANS | LETTUCE | GUACAMOLE |
| RICE | SOUR CREAM | GRILLED VEGETABLES |
| SHREDDED CHEESE | QUESO | INGREDIENTS VARY BY KIT. NOT ALL KITS WILL COME WITH ALL OF THESE ITEMS |
| PICO DE GALLO | CHIPS | |

Orders must be placed by credit or debit card using the online order form or by calling Moe's (757-495-9500 ext. 1). Place orders no later than June 6th at 11:00am

MOE'S SOUTHWEST GRILL

LENTEN OUTREACH WRAP-UP

Emmanuel did it again! Our combined Lenten discipline successfully raised \$2000 for the Virginia Beach Housing Resource Center. Wow! Way to go—they are thrilled with the donation. As promised, the money has gone to the following items:



- 47 one-day bus passes (to be used for interviews/doctor appointments/jobs)
- 10 Target gift cards @ \$50 each
- 10 Walmart gift cards @ \$50 each

(The gift cards will be used by clients to purchase what they need in their new housing set-up)

Many thanks to everyone who reached out to help our neighbors!