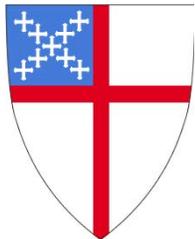


# The Pruden Parish Press

November 2009

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**The Pruden Parish Press**

*News & Information for Parishioners and Friends of Emmanuel*

*Published bi-monthly (except July) in September, November, January, March and May*

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## Emmanuel Celebrates Feast of St. Francis with a Blessing of Animals

By Jeanne Reynolds

October 4<sup>th</sup> was a day for celebrating The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi at Emmanuel. Saint Francis's Feast Day is traditionally celebrated with a **Blessing of Animals**.

Approximately thirty special pets were brought to Emmanuel to be blessed by Dr. David Smith. All dogs and cats were well behaved and seemed to enjoy the special attention and blessing!

Francis was born to a wealthy family in Assisi, Italy. As a young man he lead an active life taking part in the commercial, political and social life of

the City. But after being taken prisoner in a local war and after seeing a vision of Christ, Francis changed his way of life.

He adopted absolute poverty as the goal for his life. He wanted to build churches and serve the poor as Christ had done.

As he went around preaching the Gospel and healing the sick he began to attract followers. Saint Francis of Assisi became one of the most popular saints of the Middle Ages.

In 1209 Francis established the Franciscan Order of the Roman



Janice Chaney and friend with Dr. Smith  
{More photos on page 4.}

Catholic Church. Saint Francis's simple life of poverty inspired many people. The stigmata appeared on Francis's body in 1224 while he was praying on Mount Alvernia in Italy.

*Please turn to page 4*

## Studying The Great Emergence

G2R, the Adult Bible Class, is currently studying **The Great Emergence** by Phyllis Tickle.

Rooted in the observation that massive transitions in the church happen about every 500 years, Tickle shows

readers that we live in such a time right now.

She compares the Great Emergence to other "Greats" in the history of Christianity, including the



Dr. Smith with class members Norm Reynolds, Langhorne & Ruth Jones, Garrie Thompson, and John Geyer

*Please turn to page 2*

## Vestry Notes from the Senior Warden

The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter has been relatively quiet compared to all the mid-year celebration related to David's ordination.

Plans for two fundraisers coincident with the Chatham car cruises in September and October were both rained out so we will be looking for some good weather soon for a BBQ sale on the lawn.

The residents at Oak Grove have been getting more exercise, especially when Ron Irby's Briar Ridge Ramblers are in the house! The residents love the music and show it with clapping and dancing, all wearing huge smiles on their faces. If you haven't been there, you have missed something won-

derful, so come on out in November and join the fun.

We have asked Oak Grove management how we can help and as a result, we are getting estimates

"The Oak Grove residents love the music. If you haven't been there, you are missing something wonderful!"

for several repairs to the building. We will move forward on these as soon as sufficient funds are available from the second matching gift. The fund raising is going well. (See below.) Please join in if you have not already done so.

Over the past three years, the ves-

try has been focused on a list of projects to improve the appearance of the church. The last of the major outside items on the list, the painting of the eaves, was recently completed.

Operationally, we have had no unusual expenditures and income has thus far been sufficient to cover our normal expenses, keeping us about even for the year.

The Annual Meeting has been scheduled for December 13, and we look forward to seeing all of you then for our traditional Congregational Luncheon before the Annual Meeting. - Dick Camp



## Outreach Continues at Oak Grove Lodge

Emmanuel's Outreach at Oak Grove Lodge continues with a musical program the first Thursday of each month at 2 pm.

Ron Irby, Emmanuel's Jr. Warden and his wonderful band, **the Briar Ridge Ramblers** play music in the dining room of the Lodge while the residents enjoy cookies and lemonade provided by and served by Emmanuel volunteers.

The residents love to dance with the twist being a particular favorite! This event is very popular with the ladies and gentlemen of Oak Grove and all who are able



make their way to the dining room to hear the Briar Ridge Ramblers perform.

**The Fund Drive for Oak Grove is continuing.** To date the Treasurer has received:

Donations:	\$500.
Matching Donation:	\$500.
Other Donations:	<u>\$435.</u>

**Total (as of Oct. 18th) \$1435.**

## The Great Emergence...

*Continued from page 1*

Great Transformation (when God walked among us), the time of Gregory the Great, the Great Schism, and the Great Reformation.

Combining history, a look at the causes of social upheaval, and current events, *The Great Emergence*

shows readers what the Great Emergence in church and culture is, how it came to be, and where it is going.

Anyone who is interested in the future of the church in America, no matter what his or her personal affiliation, will find this book a fascinating exploration.

-David Smith



Sharon Taylor continues her Sunday School Class for Young Children with hands on activities for learning while having fun.

# Emmanuel Calendar Notes for Nov. '09 - Jan. '10

The schedule of services and other parish events summarized below are as of the date of publication. Changes or additional details will be published in the Sunday service bulletins, by special announcement and / or on the parish web site at [www.emmanuelchatham.org](http://www.emmanuelchatham.org). The complete calendars are also available on the web site.

## RECURRING WEEKLY EVENTS

### Sundays

- 9:45 am Sunday School for Young Children  
Class for 4 to 8 year olds taught by Sharon Taylor in the Parish House. Please contact Sharon directly regarding space in the class.
- 10:00 am G2R with Dr. Smith  
Adult Christian Formation Bible Class - Currently studying **The Great Emergence**, by Phyllis Tickle, about big transitions which have occurred in the church every 500 years or so - in the Parish House Conference Room. New participants are welcome.

- 11:00 am Holy Eucharist - Rite II
- 12:00 pm Coffee Hour  
In the Parish Hall following the Service

### Wednesdays

- 6:00 pm Choir Practice  
All parishioners are invited to participate in the Choir.

## SPECIAL DATES AND EVENTS

### 1st Thursday of each month

- 2:00 pm The Briar Ridge Ramblers perform at Oak Grove Residential Home  
Social Hour sponsored by Emmanuel

### Monday, November 2 - Wednesday, November 4

- Annual Diocesan Clergy Conference at Camp Chanco  
Dr. Smith will attend

### Thursday, November 5

- 2:00 pm Oak Grove Outreach

### Wednesday, November 11

- 10:00 am Convocation 9 Clergy Meeting
- 5:45 pm Dinner Program - the history of our respective denominations in conjunction with Chatham Baptist Church, Chatham Presbyterian Church, and Watson Memorial Methodist Church—hosted by Chatham Presbyterian but held at Chatham Baptist
- The October Program was a HUGE success!  
Come join us!

### Sunday, November 15

- 12:30 pm Vestry Meeting - Parish Hall Conference Room

### Thursday, December 3

- 2:00 pm Oak Grove Outreach

### Sunday, December 13

- 12:15 pm Congregational Luncheon and Annual Meeting—in the Parish Hall

### Thursday, December 24

- 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

### Thursday, January 7

- 2:00 pm Oak Grove Outreach

### Wednesday, January 13

- 5:45 pm Dinner Program - the history of our respective denominations in conjunction with Chatham Baptist Church, Chatham Presbyterian Church, and Watson Memorial Methodist Church—hosted by Emmanuel in Emmanuel's Parish Hall

# Emmanuel Celebrates a Blessing of Animals

Photos by Jeanne Reynolds (More photos at [www.emmanuelchatham.org](http://www.emmanuelchatham.org))



## Feast of St. Francis of Assisi...

*Continued from page 1*

The stigmata are five wounds resembling those suffered by Jesus on His hands, feet and side during the Crucifixion. In 1228, Francis was canonized (declared a saint). His feast day is October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Today, Saint Francis is admired because of his love of peace and his

respect for all living creatures, which he expressed in his religious poem, **Canticle of the Sun**. The Hymnal version of his poem begins:

Most High, omnipotent, good Lord,  
To thee be ceaseless praise outpoured,  
And blessing without measure.  
Let creatures all give thanks to thee  
And serve in great humility.



St. Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Animals

# Keeping Our Souls Afloat



November and December are here and that means three things: **stewardship, Thanksgiving and Christmas.**

Most of us separate, compartmentalize, and distinguish these annual wonders in peculiar ways, but in fact they all combine nicely into a collective whole.

At worst they simply salve our guilt, fill our tummies and excite our senses.

*“Giving money away is not about keeping God afloat; it’s about keeping our souls afloat.”*

At best they prioritize our lives and energize our spirits by going into hand-to-hand combat with our ever present (and unwanted) companion - self interest.

**There is nothing like giving money** away to set one’s soul right and I’m a bit weary of hearing about “these trying economic times.”

In our parish, no one (of whom I am aware) is worried about where their next meal is coming from. No one is going to have the bank foreclose on his or her house.

Some of us may have seen our investment portfolios drop and have to be a touch more cautious with indiscriminate spending, but all in all we are fine.

We can thank God for that and should do so regularly. I have always thought the best way to

display outwardly our inward gratitude to God is by giving money away.

**I watched my parents tithe their whole lives** and can vividly remember my father repeating his personal mantra, “If people can’t live off 90% of their income then they are living too high.”

I think that’s true and I think we can do it at Emmanuel. It’s good for us to remember that God does not need our money. If God wanted our money, God would take our money.

Giving money toward the work of God’s kingdom has nothing to do with keeping God afloat, or even keeping the church afloat.

It’s about keeping our souls afloat. Giving money away is GOOD for us - even better than eating fruit and vegetables!

There is something most satisfying and faithful about giving away that which we hold dear and realizing we really did not need it anyway and someone is going to benefit beyond belief.

We all live pretty well and the more we give away the more God’s idea of how money and resources should be distributed is fulfilled.

God has given us all we need and what better way to celebrate holidays than making God (and ourselves) happy by sharing it.

- David Smith



# Prayer List

**Pray for the sick and the shut-ins:**

- \* Allene Hunt
- \* Juanita Willis
- \* Nita Andrews
- \* Catherine Overbey
- \* Betty Whitehead
- \* Dorothy Roop
- \* Marvin Mullis
- \* Aly Youssef
- \* Betty Jean Bryant
- \* Nancy Bumgarner
- \* Alice Cromer
- \* Karen Keesee
- \* Scott David Reynolds
- \* Jayne DePaulo
- \* John Ruef



Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve thy sick servants, and give thy power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in thy loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## Parish Notes...

By Rosemary Nichols

**A Reception in Memory of Lane R. Millner** was held in the Parish Hall on September 20th following the morning Eucharist. It was standing room only as parishioners and friends from throughout the area came together in honor of her memory.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Dorothy Hogg Roop**, now residing at Roman Eagle, celebrated her 93rd birthday in September.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Jayne DePaulo reports** on Morgan’s first semester at Mary Washington: **“She loves it!”**

## Emmanuel Episcopal Church

*in the Diocese of Southern Virginia*

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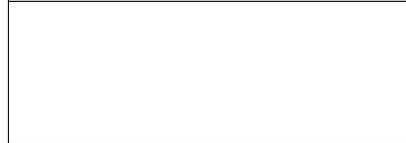
**The Rev. Dr. David H. Smith**  
Priest in Charge  
Phone: 434- 432- 7117  
Email: [dsmith@chathamhall.org](mailto:dsmith@chathamhall.org)

### Visit Emmanuel on the World Wide Web

at [www.emmanuelchatham.org](http://www.emmanuelchatham.org).

Please send stories, article suggestions or comments to **Jeanne Reynolds** or **Wayne Wilson** or email them to [emmanuelchatham@gmail.com](mailto:emmanuelchatham@gmail.com).

The article submission deadline for the January issue is **December 15th**.



## Emmanuel's Treasures

By Jeanne Reynolds

Perhaps one of the most important treasures of Emmanuel is its record book which dates from 1859. It contains the **Sentence of Consecration** which consecrates Emmanuel Church and is extremely important to the existence of Emmanuel church.

The sentence of Consecration is signed by **Francis U. Whittle, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Virginia** and dated October 18, 1881 making the document 128 years old this year.

The Sentence of Consecration reads as follows:

WHEREAS, devote and holy men, as well under the Law as under the Gospel, moved either by the express command of God or by the secret inspiration of the blessed Spirit, have built houses for the public worship of God, and separated them from all common uses, in order to fill men's minds with greater reverence for His glorious Majesty, and affect their hearts with more devotion and humility in His service;

*And whereas, God has put it into the hearts of sundry members and friends of the Protestant Episcopal Church to build a house for His worship at Chatham County of Pittsylvania, Virginia;*

THEREFORE, I the undersigned Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Virginia, do consecrate the same, according to the Form ordered by said Church, by the name of *Emmanuel Church*; separating it henceforth from all unhallowed and common uses, and dedicating it to God's service for reading and preaching His holy word, for celebrating His holy sacraments, for offering to His glorious Majesty the sacrifices of prayer and praise, and for the performance of all other holy offices. And I humbly pray Almighty God to accept this house at our hands and to bless it with His constant presence by the Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

WITNESS my hand and seal, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of *October* one thousand eight hundred and *eighty one*.

