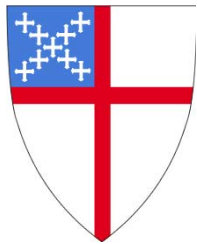


The Pruden Parish Press

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The Pruden Parish Press

News & Information for Parishioners and Friends of Emmanuel

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Editor & Publisher

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Emmanuel Family Gathers for Fall Picnic at Vic Millner’s Home



Parishioners Gather at Fall Picnic (More Photos on Page 4)

By Susan Paynter

After Morning Prayer on Sunday, October 17, the Emmanuel family re-joined on the front lawn of Vic Millner’s in-town home for a picnic. It was the loveliest of autumn days: the sun shone, the leaves were beginning to turn, and the temperature was just so.

After John Ruef’s blessing, the Hunt men -- Tred, Johnny and Seth -- provided the main course of wonderfully smoky pork barbeque and fresh coleslaw. It was hard to tell who was more excited by the barbeque aroma: the people of Emmanuel or Vic’s black lab, Rachel!

Other parishioners brought supporting beverages, side dishes and deserts. Has there ever been an Emmanuel gathering without delicious food?

It was just a perfect day. We were warmed by the sun, good food and drink, and good company. The only thing missing were those who couldn’t attend because of travel or family obligations.

Many of us enjoyed getting better acquainted with Jane Ruef’s cousin, Paul, who recently relocated from Colorado to Peach Street, Chatham. He is a welcome addition to the community.

In his *Autumn Across America*, Edwin Way Teale wrote: “For man, autumn is a time of harvest, of gathering together. For nature, it is a time of sowing, of scattering abroad.”

And it’s true: while we gathered, Vic’s majestic oaks were sowing and scattering their acorns -- but none of us lost our footing, was knocked on the noggin, or even twisted an ankle. The only injuries reported were slightly over-filled tummies.

Thank you, Vic (and Rachel), for your warm hospitality!



Vestry Notes from the Senior Warden



My tenure as your Senior Warden and member of the vestry is nearing an end so this will be my last Vestry Notes article for a while. I have enjoyed the job and want to thank you for allowing me to serve and for your help over the past three years.

The time has passed all too quickly, but I suppose that has more to do with my age than with the speed of the clock! The past three years has been somewhat like a roller coaster ride: going up with the arrival of Dr. David Smith during my first month on the vestry only to go down with the financial losses incurred during the economic downturn then back up again with some financial recovery only to go back down again with Dr. Smith's resignation last June.

Throughout this time, the one constant has been the strength, cohesiveness, and close relationships among our faithful members.

With the economic turmoil over the past two years I am sure you are wondering how we stand financially. After our investment account plunged over 32% during 2008 it has now recovered nicely to a point that is almost 11%

above its value in December 2007. While these are not stellar returns they are excellent compared to the broader market. The vestry has reviewed our portfolio and decided not to make any changes to our conservative investment strategy.

Operationally, our year-to-date expenses exceed income by about \$4,000. This is not alarming for this time of year but everyone is reminded to make your year-end donations before the end of December.

The one constant has been the strength, cohesiveness, and close relationships among our faithful members.

I am sure you are also wondering how the search for a new priest is going. At the congregational meeting in July, I was encouraged that we had already received an expression of interest from two priests so soon after David Smith's departure.

Since that time, one of the two had to withdraw due to an unexpected change in his situation at the church he is serving and the other remains interested. Also since that time, we have received two additional expressions of

interest, leaving us with three candidates.

The vestry has completed a parish profile which will be posted on our website and also sent to the diocesan deployment office for their use in our search.

We are sending a letter to each of the three candidates asking them to confirm their interest after which we will continue the selection process with telephone interviews, diocesan deployment office screening, and visits as appropriate.

With God's help, I remain encouraged that we will fill our vacancy in the first half of 2011.

In the meantime, we are blessed to have the Rev. Jim Mathieson celebrate Eucharist with us twice each month, with Morning Prayer on the remaining Sundays. In closing, I want to thank all of you again for your support and for allowing me to serve as your senior warden over the past three years.

Continue praying for our church, and I hope to see you at our annual meeting and luncheon on December 12th.

- Dick Camp

Thank you Dick Camp! By Susan Paynter

As his term ends, let's focus on Richard Camp and his last year as Senior Warden. The projects keeping Dick busiest this year have been the column-reconstruction job on Oak Grove's east porch and, of course, leading the vestry in the absence of a rector and the effort to find a new priest for Emmanuel.

Originally from Danville, Dick moved to Chatham from Cary, North Carolina.

He works as a consulting engineer with offices in his Main Street home. Dick and Betty joined Emmanuel in 2001 when they bought their Chatham house, although they didn't "officially" move to Chatham until work on the house was completed (if such a thing is possible) in January of '03.

It's the admittedly small but close-knit and supportive congregation that Dick

values most about our church. Second place in his heart, by a hair, is the church building itself. "It's an interesting and reverent place, steeped in history -- a comfortable place to worship," he says.

And what would he wish for if he could make his dream for Emmanuel come true? "A priest who lives in Chatham: someone who wants to make this place home and become a permanent part of the community and our church."

Emmanuel Calendar Notes for Nov. '10 – Jan. '11

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. The complete calendars are also available on the web site.

RECURRING EVENTS

Sundays

11:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II - 2nd & 4th Sundays
The Reverend J.W. Mathieson, Celebrant

Morning Prayer - 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays

12:00 pm Coffee Hour
In the Parish Hall following the Service

Wednesdays

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

1st Thursday of each month

2:00 pm The Briar Ridge Ramblers perform at
Oak Grove Residential Home
Social Hour sponsored by Emmanuel
These elders would welcome *your* cheer!

4th Sunday of each month

12:30 pm Vestry Meeting - Parish Hall Conf. Room

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, December 12

12:00 pm Parish Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Wednesday, December 22

6:00 pm Greening of the Church

Friday, December 24

11:00 pm Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist

Spotlight on the Vestry — Linda Swanberg

First in a series

By Susan Paynter

Linda Swanberg's area of responsibility on the vestry is communications. Linda's job is to keep us all connected and informed. She runs the telephone trees to make sure everyone knows about special events such as the recent autumn picnic; or to inform us when services have been cancelled due to weather, broken pipes or some other difficulty.

Linda's duties also include keeping the membership directory updated and keeping the press informed of special events at Emmanuel that may be of interest to the public, such as special

services at Christmas and Easter. "I suppose the newsletter should fall under my leadership, too," she says, "but Wayne Wilson does such a wonderful job, why would we mess with that?"

Linda grew up in Kitchener, Ontario (roughly the size of Richmond) and spent her adult life in California. Six years ago she and her husband, Jerry, retired to their dream home on Spring Garden Road. Two years later, Jerry passed away.

"Everyone at Emmanuel was just wonderful," Linda remembers. "They couldn't do enough for me. That wouldn't have happened where we lived before." And still, she says, everyone helps out. "When I go visit my

kids in Washington State or California, someone is always willing to pitch in and take over my duties."

Linda loves Emmanuel's building and congregation. "It's my idea of what a church should look like," she says, "and the people are warm, caring and friendly." What would she wish for Emmanuel? "An increase in the size of the congregation," she says, "It would be nice if we had more people."

Linda will complete her three-year term on the vestry this December.



Fall Parish Picnic (Photos by Susan Paynter and Rosemary Nichols)



Beth brings out the goodies



Tred and Seth set up



Vic Millner oversees operations



John arrives, dressed for the occasion



Joe, Langhorne and Ruth enjoy the day



John and Martha are all smiles



Lunch was worth the wait



Time for dessert!

More Photos from the Summer Parish Meeting (By Rosemary Nichols)



Kenyon Scott



The Next Generation



Jayne and Morgan

Four Habits of Highly Effective Churches

By The Rev. Dr. James H. Cooper, Rector, Wall Street Trinity
(Part 2 of a two-part series. Reprinted with permission.)

Growth in the Church is not linear (1 to 2 to 3), but rather exponential (2 to 4 to 16). Scripture tells us that through God the abundance of love is multiplied for everyone in a never-ending flow of plenty.

Churches are places that help people keep lives centered in the Gospel. In this endeavor, we do well by cultivating and balancing simplicity and intimacy, splendor and awe, mission and ministry, and prophecy and prayer.

Mission and Ministry

We need to be able to get out of the pews and into the world, or all of the intimacy, simplicity, splendor, and awe is just for self-gratification.

The prophetic voice drives us to our knees in prayer. And with prayer we come full circle.

As members of the Church, and as followers of Jesus, we are called to do great things. Great things can take many forms. But the building blocks of mission and ministry will always look similar.

1. **Worship:** finding inspiration through relationship with and obedience to God.
2. **Christian Education or Formation:** finding discipline, training, and preparation for ministry.
3. **Faith in Action:** Finding ways to get to it, to do the work on the other side of the Church's walls.

Let us let go of what we want to do or think we should be doing. Let us begin with reflecting on the world around us and seeking to discern what God is wanting.

We can then look at what part of that work we have the unique ability to address.

Prophecy and Prayer

Prophecy is that aspect of life in the Church that comes through inspiration, through prayer, and in faith as we strive to integrate worldly and spiritual issues.

So once again we enter a process of discernment, centered in lots of prayer. Although we often want and seek a quick fix and a final answer, the process on critical issues may take as much as a generation or two to work out.

In the meanwhile, we do the work through prayer and stay in the conversation and discomfort by faith.

We are willing to live together in a church family with differing positions, as we hope and pray and expect that God's will can manifest and that we will be agents and play the part we are called to play. In other words: we will always step on each other's toes — it comes with the territory.

To live in that tension, each living by faith, not certainty, is to live out God's will — living together in fellowship strengthened, bonded, and sustained by prayer and Eucharist.

The action is to look for ways we can stay together to hear each other, not knowing at first what the listening will bring us to realize and how it will lead us in God's direction, but knowing that silencing voices stalls us and halts God's mission.

Prayer List

Pray for the sick and the shut-ins:

- * Allene Hunt
- * Nita Andrews
- * Catherine Overbey
- * Dorothy Roop
- * Marvin Mullis
- * Scott David Reynolds
- * Ron Irby
- * Alan Arey
- * Alice Overbey
- * Robin Haley Anselmo
- * Othelia Davis
- * Louis DePaulo
- * Shannon & Ed Olivarez
- * Hunter Powell
- * Nancy Jones Hayes
- * Mark DePaulo

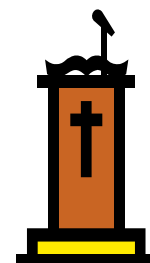


Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve thy sick servants, and give thy power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in thy loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord,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

The prophetic voice drives us to our knees in prayer. And with prayer we come full circle in these couplets back to simplicity and intimacy. To pray together with one another in the presence of almighty God is intimacy at its very best.

We pay attention to Amos' warning: "Woe to those who sleep on beds of ivory." But we also hear the prophetic voice of Isaiah: "Comfort, comfort my people."

Part 1, on **simplicity and intimacy** and **splendor and awe**, appeared in the September 2010 issue of **The Pruden Parish Press**.



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at www.emmanuelchatham.org.

Please send stories, article suggestions or comments to **Susan Paynter** or **Wayne Wilson** or email them to emmanuelchatham@gmail.com.

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



The Green Doors of Emmanuel Church

Are the green doors at Emmanuel symbolic? Was the color chosen to deliver a message? Have our doors always been green?

As you travel, you will notice that many Episcopal churches have red doors. What does that symbolize?

The why's and wherefores of church-door colors is mysterious. Trying to dig up answers is like digging in sand... it's a good way to get buried!

Here are some theories found in a web search: Green is a symbol of peace. Red is a sign of sanctuary.

Green signifies a paid-off mortgage! Red signifies a

mortgage owed, or being "in the red." (You also see the opposite: doors are painted red when the mortgage is paid off.)

Red honors the Passover (i.e., blood on the door lintel.) Green was a secret sign for the Underground Railroad. Red is a symbol of the Passion, and so salvation.

Our doors match our roof. Is that all there is to it? Do you know something about the history and choice of our door color? If so, please let us know!

- Susan Paynter

(Christmas at Emmanuel - Photo by Rosemary Nichols)

