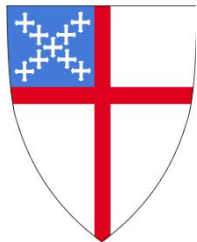


The Pruden Parish Press

November 2011

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The Pruden Parish Press

News & Information for Parishioners and Friends of Emmanuel

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Wayne Wilson
Editor & Publisher

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Emmanuel Celebrates Autumn's Arrival with Parish Picnic

By Susan Paynter

On Sunday evening, September 25, parishioners and guests enjoyed the weather, -- as summer gave way to fall -- and one another's company as well as great food at Emmanuel's Autumn Picnic hosted by Bill and Janis Simpson.

The setting was lovely, with the slanting sun playing light and shadow over the pastures and woods of the Cherrystone valley. From the Simpson deck where we congregated, we could see hundreds of purple "Encore" azaleas showing off with their second bloom of the year.



Tred, Johnny and Seth Hunt catered barbeque sandwiches with spicy beans and coleslaw. The rest of us contributed home-baked cakes, pies, crisps and pastries, as well as wine, beer and soft drinks.

Beth Coles had arranged flowers for each table where, after a blessing by Jim Mathieson, we

settled in to enjoy the savory meal and lively conversation.

The Autumn Picnic is a charming Emmanuel tradition which once again left no one disappointed. We all extend many thanks to the Simpsons for their hospitality!

More photos - pages 5, 6

Parish Annual Meeting Set for December 11

All Emmanuel parishioners are invited to attend the 2011 Annual Meeting to be held on Sunday, December 11 immediately following the 11 am service of Holy Eucharist.

The formal meeting will follow a covered dish congregational luncheon.

At the Annual Meeting, parishioners will be asked to elect two new members to serve on the vestry for three-year terms beginning in January 2012.

Retiring vestry members Jayne dePaulo and Ron Irby are serving as the

nominating committee. Please speak with Jayne or Ron if you have suggestions for nominees or if you are interested in serving.

The meeting agenda will also include the annual Treasurer's Report among other matters.

The Future of the Episcopal Church



Recently the Very Reverend Dr. Ian Markham, Dean of the Virginia Theological Seminary, spoke on the future of the Episcopal Church at St. James, Wilmington, NC. Mike Burke, a member of St. Philips, Southport, NC, prepared the following summary of Dean Markham's remarks.

The Episcopal Church, like other "mainline" Protestant churches, has witnessed a substantial decline in membership in recent decades.

From a high of 3,647,297 in 1966, membership is now down to approximately two million, a drop of 45%. However weekly attendance has not fallen to the same degree.

Indeed, attendance actually rose between 1991 and 2001, and has declined since then far more slowly than membership overall.

In other words, the most dedicated Episcopalians, those who attend regularly and participate in activities, are still here.

Congregation size is also a problem. The majority of congregations are small (under 100 families, some less than 20), but the majority of Episcopalians attend large churches, most of which continue to thrive. In years to come it is likely that many small churches will not survive.

Declining membership is not a problem unique to the Episcopal Church, or even to organized religion as a whole. As David Putnam describes in *Bowling Alone*, Americans are just not the joiners they once were.

Not only churches, but also civic clubs, school parent organizations, political parties, social or-

ganizations — all are experiencing the same decline in membership.

Busy lives, two career families, geographical mobility, a general inclination to do things as individuals or with families and small circles of friends all contribute to diminished interest in traditional organizations.

The rise of the NONES, those who profess deep personal spirituality outside of formal church membership, reflects this larger social trend.

Declining membership is not a problem unique to the Episcopal Church, or even to organized religion as a whole.

So where does this leave the future of the Episcopal Church?

The unique attributes of the Episcopal tradition, taken together, offer the hope that it is well positioned to continue to fulfill a deep spiritual need in years to come.

And at a time when much of religion throughout the world has turned ugly, the world needs the Anglican Communion. "The 'product' still has traction."

Three specific traditions stand out.

Inclusion. It is an integral part of Episcopal belief to welcome everyone. Episcopal hospitality is more than mere toleration or acceptance; it means that we take real delight in welcoming you, whoever you are.

Liturgy. Our centuries-old liturgy has real power — "its flow, its rhythm, and its life-enhancing lib-

erty." Its language is rooted in Scripture (beyond the readings), contains a beauty spontaneity can seldom achieve, and derives from a thoughtful theology.

(Here Dean Markham referred to his book, *Liturgical Life Principles: How Episcopal Worship Can Lead to Healthy and Authentic Living*.)

Faith. Faith in the Episcopal tradition is not the opposite of skepticism but the opposite of certainty. Faith encompasses questions and doubts as well as affirmations.

Faith in the Episcopal tradition offers a refuge to those who have problems with absolutes, yet fear falling into total skepticism. Faith is dynamic.

But the future also requires us not to stand still.

We must explain the liturgy with greater depth and clarity, focusing on its meaning as well as its history.

We should strive to develop greater connectedness with the communities in which we find ourselves, and expand our services.

And **we might consider adapting some of the tactics of successful mega-churches** where appropriate: special interest small groups, more contemporary music, welcome packages, projected texts — but in the context of our own special strengths.

Emmanuel Calendar Notes for Nov. 2011–Jan. 2012

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

Friday, November 11

7:00 pm Chatham Concert Series -
Guitarist Stanley Alexandrowicz

Sunday, December 4

3:30 pm Chatham Concert Series -
Christmas Concert with Mezzo-Soprano
Katarzyna Sadej and the Ranier Rio

Sunday, December 11

12:00 pm Annual Meeting and Luncheon
Parish Hall - Covered Dish

Saturday, December 24

TBA Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, January 8

3:30 pm Chatham Concert Series -
Bill Parrish Jr., Principal Oboist of the Roanoke
Symphony, with Claudia Jones Patterson, piano
and the Saturn String Ensemble

You can't take it with you...

The recent wave of hand wringing about declining investment portfolios represents a serious financial crisis for many people – dashed hopes for family needs, education, or a comfortable retirement.

And yet we are truly blessed in this country compared with most of the world's people.

I am reminded of two stories. A wealthy man had died and his family gathered in the office of the man's accountant and executor for the reading of the will.

A chorus of anxious inquiries ensued: "What did he leave?!"

What did he leave?!" To which the accountant replied, "All of it."

Another man on his deathbed cajoled his wife into promising him that she would place all of his money in his casket so that he could take it with him. Just before the funeral, his wife wrote out a check for the full amount of the man's net worth and placed it in the casket.

We are only custodians of the possessions of this life and we have an obligation to devote some portion of them to help those less fortunate.

– a parishioner

Parish Music



We are pleased to announce that **Joan Shelton** has agreed to continue her service as pianist for our Sunday morning worship services through November and December.

Our long-time organist **Kenyon Scott** returns to Emmanuel for our Christmas Eve service on December 24th.

Chatham Concert Series

All concerts held at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 66 North Main Street, Chatham, VA

All concerts are admission by donation at the door — Kevin Matheson, Artistic Director kstrings@vt.edu



CONCERT 1:

VIRTUOSO GUITAR MUSIC OF THREE CENTURIES

From Ernst Bacon to Piazzolla and Baroque masters

7:00 PM, Friday, November 11

Featuring: **Classical Guitarist Dr. Stanley Alexandrowicz**
and his double-necked 19th century guitar

CONCERT 2:

A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

With seasonal sing-along and local string students

3:30 PM, Sunday, December 4

Featuring: **Canadian Mezzo-Soprano Katarzyna Sadej and The Rainier Trio**



CONCERT 3:

GABRIEL'S OBOE

3:30PM, Sunday, January 8

Featuring: **Principal Oboist of the Roanoke Symphony Bill Parrish Jr.**
with **Claudia Jones Patterson, piano**
and the **Saturn String Ensemble**



CONCERT 4:

ENGLISH VOCAL MUSIC FROM BUTTERWORTH TO THE BEATLES

7:00 PM, Friday, February 3

Featuring: **Baritone Dr. David Castonguay**
with the **Saturn String Ensemble**



CONCERT 5:

A ST. PATRICK'S DAY PRELUDE:

7:00 PM, Friday, March 9

Featuring: **Organist Kenyon Scott & Bagpiper William Plail**



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More Autumn Picnic Photos

By Susan Paynter



Prayer List

Pray for the sick and the shut-ins:

- * Alan Arey
- * Louis DePaulo
- * Nancy Jones Hayes
- * Allene Hunt
- * Marvin Mullis
- * Shannon & Ed Olivarez
- * Alice Overbey
- * Catherine Overbey
- * David Brochu
- * Dorothy Roop
- * Dr. John Ruef
- * Mary Grymes
- * Rosemary Nichols
- * Gloria Thompson
- * Jane 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.

Pray for the Departed:

- * Scott David Reynolds
- * Ruth Saint Helena West Mathieson

Almighty God, we remember this day before thee thy faithful servants; and we pray that, having opened to them the gates of larger life, thou wilt receive them more and more into thy joyful service, that, with all who have faithfully served thee in the past, they may share in the eternal victory of Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
in the Diocese of Southern Virginia

66 North Main Street, P.O. Box 26
Chatham, VA 24531

Phone: 434- 432- 0316
Email: emmanuelchatham@gmail.com

H. Victor Millner, Jr., Senior Warden

The Rev. J. W. Mathieson, Supply Priest

Visit Emmanuel on the World Wide Web

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**.



Autumn Picnic Photos by Susan Paynter (More photos on Page 5)

