

PRUDEN PARISH PRESS

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FROM THE RECTOR

We find ourselves in the middle of summer. The Church calls it the time “after Pentecost” or “Ordinary Time.” It is a time for many to think of vacation or holiday. It is a time to get away from the humdrum, to go to the seashore, to go fishing, to travel to see a different part of the world.

It is a time which has been built into the contract of many workers as something which they deserve. One might call it “the weekend writ large.” But if we take the notion of a God-given vocation seriously, there can be no vacation from it, only a time to rest, reflect, and return to perform our vocation better.



-John Ruef

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BISHOP'S VISIT

Bishop Bane visited Emmanuel on Wednesday, June 2. The event was a covered-dish dinner followed by a congregational meeting including

members of Trinity and St John's church. Bishop Bane made a few comments and then answered questions from those in attendance.

Regarding Dr. Ruef's retirement, the bishop said that one of his objectives would be a program in which a member of the congregation could be "lifted up" and receive special training to conduct Sunday services for the local church. Although he did not give a specific date for that program, the bishop indicated that it would begin in the near future.

NEWS ABOUT THE RECTOR

Dr. John Ruef recently sent a letter to members and friends of Pruden Parish regarding the process of seeking a new part-time Rector for the parish. To facilitate that process, he said, "I have set a date, no later than the end of the calendar year 2005, when I will resign." The vestry of Emmanuel has also solicited suggestions and questions from members about the transition.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

After its annual summertime break, the George Dame Sunday School class will resume its normal Sunday class September 12. New and returning members of the class are welcome!

PRAYER BOOK & HYMNAL DRIVE

The worship committee is continuing its drive for donations to purchase new prayer books and hymnals.

Books of Common Prayer are \$18 and Hymnals are \$19. Several donations have been received since the drive began earlier this year, and more are welcome. Contributions in memory or honor of a family member, friend or other person can be made. The inside cover of each donated volume will contain both the name(s) of the individual memorialized or honored and the name(s) of the contributor.

For more information, contact Ken Scott.

BARBECUE ON THE LAWN

The church held a very successful barbecue fundraiser on Friday, July 16, selling out more than 180 pounds of by-the-plate and by-the-pound barbecue prepared by Tred Hunt. Assisted by more than a



dozen members who volunteered to sell tickets and serve lunches, Emmanuel raised approximately \$1,000.

TRINITY SUNDAY

Emmanuel Church hosted Trinity Sunday services June 6, for church members along with the Gretna congregation. The choir sponsored the coffee hour and everyone enjoyed having Gretna members present.

BEATRICE BALDWIN

Former member Beatrice Baldwin, who taught at Chatham Hall for six years, recently accepted a new teaching job and relocated to Austin, Texas. In e-mails to members, Bea sent her regards to everyone in Chatham and said she is enjoying life in her new home. You may reach her at summergatebea@hotmail.com.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Some upcoming events in and around Chatham that may be of interest to members:



- Sept. 18: Southside Saturday family festival at Oak Hall on Main Street.
- Oct. 9: Chatham-Sartomer 5K Race—the finishing stretch passes in front of Emmanuel
- Nov. 13: Chatham Rotary Auction & Dinner at Chatham Hall to benefit polio eradication and other charitable projects
- Nov. 28: The 2004 National Christmas Tree visits Chatham, 1:30-4 p.m. Sunday afternoon (music and other activities are planned)

For information about these events contact Chris Smith.

DID YOU KNOW...

... Before the consecration of Emmanuel Church by Bishop Meade in May 1844, the Reverend Dr. George W. Dame conducted services about twice each month for nearly four years at the Pittsylvania County Courthouse.

... Emmanuel is listed on the new Web site for the Town of Chatham, located online at www.chatham-va.gov.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY?

Members will be happy to note that Virginia fire codes recently were amended to provide permission for churches to display live trees during the Christmas season. Last year, restrictions on such displays required many churches, including Emmanuel, to display artificial trees or to suspend tree displays completely.



JOIN US IN PRAYER

During World War II, an advisor to Winston Churchill organized a group of people who dropped whatever they were doing each day at a prescribed hour for one minute to collectively pray for the safety of England, its people and peace.

A similar practice has recently been started in America. If you would like to participate, every evening at 9 p.m. Eastern Time, stop whatever you are doing and spend one minute praying for the United States, our troops, citizens, national leaders, and for the peace in the world.

Prayers are the most powerful asset we have. Together, we can make a difference.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The *Pruden Parish Press* is a quarterly newsletter from Emmanuel Episcopal Church. The next issue will appear in Fall 2004. To submit comments or provide information for publication, contact **Ann Duke**.