

PRUDEN PARISH PRESS

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FROM THE RECTOR

We have come to the end of the Jesus Story. It began at the Feast of the Nativity (Christmas) and reached its conclusion on Ascension Day. Now we have had Pentecost or Whitsunday and we enter upon the Church Story.

Because of the overpowering sense of individualism, which we experience in this part of the world, most people tend to think of the Jesus Story first and then, if they pursue the matter, the Church Story as somehow dependent upon the former. The truth is, if there were no Church Story, there would be no Jesus Story. It is the existence of the community of the first believers and the influence which they had upon their world which first provided a forum for the Jesus Story and demonstrated its power to the world.

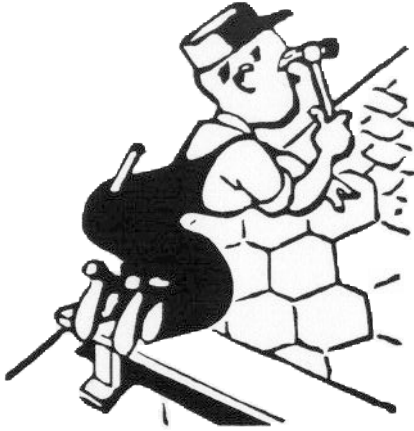
*'If there were no
Church Story, there
would be no
Jesus Story.'*

The Church is not the sole arbiter of truth. It makes mistakes. But, as the community of believers, it is a necessary part of what Christianity is all about, since that first Ascension Day.

-John Ruef

FROM THE VESTRY

The Vestry continues to work on a series of repairs and upgrades to various parts of the church. One of the most visible signs of that work is the new polyurethane finish on the meeting room in the parish hall. Now that the floor improvements in that area are complete, the Property Committee is considering ways to refurbish the kitchen.



In addition, bids are being requested for new carpets in the hallways of the parish hall and the church foyer.

Several leaks in the roof were discovered during the recent heavy rains, and those leaks have been repaired. One leak recently put the organ out of working order, and expert advice is being sought about possible repairs and tuning needs.

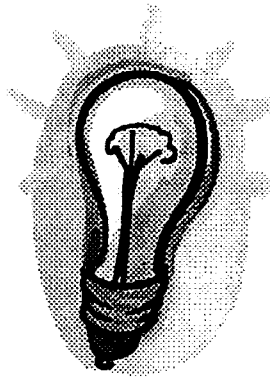
The Vestry has upgraded

the church p.a. system by acquiring a new wireless microphone and transmitter for the Rector. At publication time, the brass collection plates had been sent out for refinishing.

SUGGESTIONS ARE WELCOME

The Vestry welcomes suggestions of any kind about ways to improve the church or any of its services or programs. A suggestion box for this purpose is located in the hallway near the side entrance to the church. Please feel free to drop a note in the box.

If you have an idea and don't want to forget it, you may use one of the new information/response cards located in the back of each pew in the church. The cards also provide a way for both members and guests to submit information about themselves or others to the church.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School children recently helped decorate and complete a model of the Garden of Gethsemane. The model, which was built for the children by Herman Melton, is on display in the Children's Sunday School room.

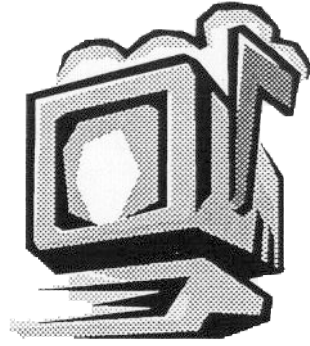
FROM THE WOMEN OF EMMANUEL

The Women of Emmanuel would like to express thanks to Stephanie Hedge for her ongoing efforts to recover the chairs in the parish hall.

CHURCH WEB SITE

Information about Emmanuel soon will be available on the Internet, thanks to space made available for that purpose by Henry Mitchell. His Chatham-oriented site may be found either at www.victorianvilla.com or at www.historicchatham.com.

The Emmanuel web page will include a brief history of the church, general information about services and contact information for people interested in learning more.



E-MAIL DIRECTORY

Work continues on compiling a list of members interested in receiving e-mail from the church. If you would like to include your e-mail address in the membership directory, please contact **Chris Smith** at cswriter@adelphia.net.

TRINITY SUNDAY

More than a dozen members of Emmanuel, including the choir and organist/choirmaster Kenyon Scott, joined Dr. Ruef at Trinity Episcopal Church in Gretna for that church's name-day service on Trinity Sunday—which was also Father's Day. All shared a picnic lunch after the service.



‘The real question isn’t how the Spirit got into the world, rather, the question facing us is how are we going to respond to the Holy Spirit that is near us even now?’

-Rev. Joel Clark Mason, in The Anglican Digest, Pentecost 2003

DID YOU KNOW...

... The Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia has a wealth of resources on its Web site, www.southernvirginia.anglican.org, including a directory of parishes, a brief history of the diocese, KidNet, an entertaining area for children, and online access to articles from print version of *The Jamestown Cross* newsletter.



... The diocese includes more original 17th and 18th century church structures or congregations than any diocese in the Western Hemisphere.

COFFEE HOUR

Refreshments at each Sunday's coffee hour are provided by volunteers at Emmanuel. Please consider signing up for a coffee hour—it's a rewarding way to participate in the life of the congregation. Consult the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The *Pruden Parish Press* is a quarterly newsletter from Emmanuel Episcopal Church. The next issue is scheduled to appear in the fourth quarter of 2003. To submit comments or provide information for publication, contact Ann Duke.

