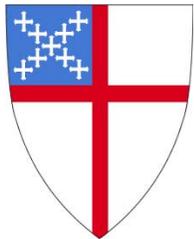


The Pruden Parish Press

March 2008

Volume 1, Issue 3



The Pruden Parish Press

News & Information for Parishioners and Friends of Emmanuel

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Inside this issue:

<i>A Message from the Senior Warden</i>	2
<i>Emmanuel Installs Vestry for 2008</i>	2
<i>Parish Calendar Notes for March - May 2008</i>	3
<i>Remembering Helen Laughlin James</i>	4
<i>A New Dawn By Dr. David Smith</i>	5
<i>Emmanuel Prayer List</i>	5
<i>Pruden Parish Notes - Emmanuel's Treasures</i>	6

Emmanuel Attends 116th Annual Diocesan Council Meeting

The 116th Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia opened on Friday, February 1st at the Bruton Parish Church. The Ordination of six new members of the Sacred Order of Deacons was very special with the Deacons, their families, Council participants and the Choir from Chatham Hall in attendance and participating.

Bishop Sean Rowe from the Diocese of North-western Pennsylvania preached at the ordination. At 32 years of age, The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe is the youngest member of the Church's House of Bishops. His sermon was spiritual and dy-

namic and he set the tone for the three days of Council to follow.

Assisting Bishop John Buchanan chose for the theme of Council Eccl 3:1ff: **“For everything there is a season. Let this be a time to heal...and a time of peace.”**

In his opening address, Bishop Buchanan stressed the importance of healthy debate, the importance of being in fellowship with each other, caring for one another, and restoring all people to unity with God and each other.

“Let it Go” was the Bishop's way of telling



Bishop Buchanan

the delegates it's time to move on to the future.

The Bishop and his staff put together an excellent Council Meeting. The Williamsburg Lodge was a wonderful setting in which to carry out the business of the Church.

Please turn to page 2

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Draws Over 50 People

The Vestry hosted over 50 parishioners and friends in the Parish Hall on Tuesday evening, February 5th, for the traditional **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**. In addition to some great pancakes,

the menu included fried ham and stewed apples along with an assortment of beverages.

Shrove Tuesday is the last day before **Ash Wednesday** and the beginning of **Lent**, the

forty-day liturgical season of fasting and prayer leading up to **Easter**. Traditionally, pancakes were an efficient way of using up rich ingredients such as eggs, milk, and sugar before **Lent** when only the plainest foodstuffs would be eaten.

(Photos on the web at emmanuelchatham.org.)

A Message from the Senior Warden

Having now completed my first two months, my first (marathon) Council meeting, and my first Vestry meeting as your Senior Warden, I can truly say **thank you** to last year's vestry for their hard work in laying the ground work for 2008.

We are off to a great start in 2008 with a new vicar, great services, and excellent attendance.

Like a huge fly-wheel, we have a bit of momentum. But to continue that momentum, we have to put more energy into it, regularly. That was the theme of our first vestry meeting on February 17th.

As a vestry, our job is really about

more than money and buildings. As I heard someone say recently, in a different context, our job is to create cross-roads that bring people together.

“We are off to a great start in 2008 with a new vicar, great services, and excellent attendance.”

Some have been working for awhile on building cross-roads, such as gift baskets for newcomers with an invitation to visit our church and more recently the dinner groups that have brought us and others together in fellowship.

We all need to be building these

cross-roads to keep the wheel spinning.

The vestry will also be working on a vision for our church and goals to move us in that direction. We want to be proactive, not reactive. But to turn this corner, we want and need more congregational involvement. One idea under consideration is the formation of parish committees to advance our work in specific areas, such as communications, outreach and stewardship.

We hope that you will join us in these efforts. Your vestry does not intend to let the wheel stop or even slow down. — *Dick Camp*



Emmanuel Installs Vestry for 2008

The Vestry of Emmanuel for 2008 was formally installed by pastoral vicar, Dr. David Smith, during the Service of Morning Prayer on Sunday, January 20th.

As part of their installation, vestry members pledged to "faithfully and reverently execute the duties of [their] ministry to the honor of God, and the benefit of the members of [the] congregation."



Pictured - Front row: Mary Hicks Heitzler, Linda Swanberg, Sharon Taylor (Registrar), & Jeanne Reynolds (Junior Warden). **Second Row:** Dr. Smith, John Geyer (Treasurer), Tred Hunt, & Richard Camp (Senior Warden).

The Vestry is the lay governing body responsible for the parish's financial & administrative affairs.

Council Meeting is Productive and Uplifting

Continued from Page One

Much work is also being done leading to the election of a new diocesan bishop in September.

Emmanuel was well represented at council by **Janet Turner** being the voting delegate and **Richard Camp** being the alternate. Betty

Camp also attended all the meetings and functions. Our Vicar, David Smith was also in attendance with his wife Jane. (Visit www.emmanuelchatham.org on the web for a related article and photos from the Council meeting.)

The Sunday Morning Eucharist brought the Council meeting to a

close with The Rt. Rev. Bruce Cameron of Scotland preaching the sermon. The Chatham Hall Choir sang the anthem and participated in all of the music.

A full report of the resolutions and other business addressed at Council appeared in the February issue of the Jamestown Cross.

Emmanuel Calendar Notes for March – May 2008

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.

MARCH

Sunday, March 2 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

11:00 am **Morning Prayer**, The Rev. Dr. David Smith

Sunday, March 9 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

11:00 am **Morning Prayer**, The Rev. Dr. David Smith

Holy Week

Sunday, March 16 - Palm Sunday

11:00 am **Holy Eucharist**

The Rev. Dr. David Smith; Deacon Bill Jones, Celebrant

Thursday, March 20 - Maunday Thursday

7:30 pm **Holy Eucharist, Foot Washing, Stripping of the Altar**, at Christ Church, Danville

Friday, March 21 - Good Friday

12:00 Noon **Stations of the Cross**, at St. Paul's, Peytonsburg
6:30 pm **Good Friday Liturgy**, at Emmanuel

Saturday, March 22 - Great Easter Vigil

6:30 pm **Holy Eucharist**, Combined service at Christ Church, Danville, with Epiphany and Emmanuel

Sunday, March 23 - Easter Sunday

11:00 am **Holy Eucharist**

The Rev. Dr. David Smith;

The Rev. Canon Win Lewis, Celebrant

Please bring fresh cut flowers for the Flower Cross on Easter Sunday.

Sunday, March 30 - Second Sunday of Easter

11:00 am **Morning Prayer**, The Rev. Dr. David Smith

APRIL

Sunday, April 6 - Third Sunday of Easter

10:00 am **G2R** with Dr. Smith

11:00 am **Holy Eucharist**

The Rev. Dr. David Smith; Celebrant TBA

Sunday, April 13 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

10:00 am **G2R** with Dr. Smith

11:00 am **Morning Prayer**, The Rev. Dr. David Smith

Sunday, April 20 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00 am **G2R** with Dr. Smith

11:00 am **Holy Eucharist**

The Rev. Dr. David Smith;

The Rev. Canon Win Lewis, Celebrant

Sunday, April 27 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

10:00 am **G2R** with Dr. Smith

11:00 am **Morning Prayer**, The Rev. Dr. David Smith

MAY

Sunday, May 4 - Seventh Sunday of Easter

10:00 am **G2R** with Dr. Smith

11:00 am **Morning Prayer**, The Rev. Dr. David Smith

Sunday, May 11 - Day of Pentecost

10:00 am **G2R** with Dr. Smith

11:00 am **Holy Eucharist**

The Rev. Dr. David Smith; Celebrant TBA

Sunday, May 18 - First Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am **G2R** with Dr. Smith

11:00 am **Morning Prayer**, The Rev. Dr. David Smith

Sunday, May 25 - Second Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am **G2R** with Dr. Smith

11:00 am **Holy Eucharist**

The Rev. Dr. David Smith; Celebrant TBA

RECURRING WEEKLY EVENTS

Choir Practice* - Wednesdays at 6 pm in the Church

Coffee Hour** - Sundays in the Parish Hall following the 11 am Service

* All parishioners are invited to participate in the Choir.

** Please sign up to host a Coffee Hour. Coffee Hour is one of our best opportunities for greeting and staying in touch with fellow parishioners. The sign-up sheet is located in the Parish Hall.

Remembering Helen Laughlin James

By Jeanne Reynolds

Members of Emmanuel Church and friends of Helen Laughlin James remember her by the beautiful manuscripts filled with the exquisite calligraphy that she created in her life time. She was a talented artist born August 4, 1903 in Fon du Lac, Wisconsin.

Her father, William Laughlin bought Mountain View, a property of 600 acres near the Banister River in Pittsylvania County in 1904 and moved his family there in 1905. Helen and her sister Frances were tutored at the local schoolhouse at Mountain View. Life at Mountain View was idyllic for Helen and Frances with their

horses to ride and orchard and woods to explore. Until her last years, Helen always spoke fondly of her life at Mountain View.

In the early 1920s, Helen attended Chatham Episcopal Institute that is now Chatham Hall. During part of this time, Georgia O'Keeffe was teaching at CEI. Helen must have been delighted to have had art lessons from Georgia who became one of America's leading artists. Recognizing her talent, Helen's parents sent her to Richmond to learn practical art as

a painter in a decorating shop. There she painted custom draperies and lampshades.

In 1944, Helen married her widowed brother-in-law, Dr. James. Her sister Frances had died suddenly in 1943 leaving two young sons, Cary and Bill. Helen became a second mother to the boys. Cary fondly remembers Helen for encouraging his interest in art and architecture.

When the family lived across the street from Emmanuel Church, Helen was active on the altar guild and began singing in the church choir which she continued to do for many years. After the death of her husband, Helen moved to an apartment on the corner of Catalpa street and Oak street.

During this time of retirement, Helen created the magnificent Lord's Prayer Manuscript which hangs in the Emmanuel Church Chapel.

The Church was also the recipient of framed lists of the Church's

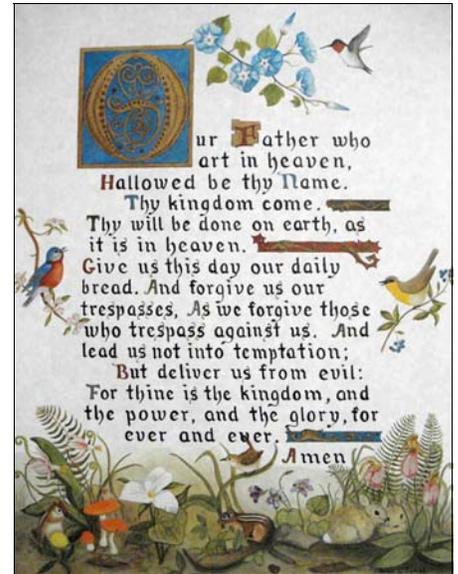
Rectors and the dates of their service to Emmanuel. These hang in the Parish Hall. Helen also created miniature watercolors for church bazaars, manuscripts of prayers, and coats-of-arms and children's likenesses in pastels for local families.

Women of Emmanuel can now offer prints of a lovely Morning Prayer created by Helen James.

As worshippers enter the

Sanctuary, they can read a beautiful welcoming prayer that was created by Helen in 1944. Not one to sit idyll, Helen also learned to quilt, with the cathedral windows pattern being her favorite.

Helen generously gave the women of her church the opportunity to make and sell prints of her beautiful original works of art. In addition to the Lord's Prayer, three other prayers have been available.



The Lord's Prayer

They are Dear Father, A Child's Prayer and Lord Support Us. Women of Emmanuel can now offer prints of a lovely Morning Prayer created by Helen. Prints of this work of art have recently been offered by a church member who was given the original.

At the age of 81 years, Helen left Chatham and moved to a retirement home in Mill Valley, California. From the Redwoods she was able to enjoy time with her stepsons, Bill and Cary. Her life was good well into her nineties but on

January 9, 2001, Helen L. James passed away peacefully in her sleep. Bill and Cary brought her ashes back to Pittsylvania County to be buried in the family cemetery at Mountain View. Helen is fondly remembered by all those whose lives she enriched.

This article was made possible through the kind assistance of Mary Catherine Plaster, Cary James and Dr. B. Black.

A New Dawn



I like to think about overseeing a church the same way a CEO thinks about running a business. The principles are remarkably similar.

For instance, each has a product to advertise, customers to cultivate, a sales staff to inspire, facilities to maintain, stockholders to please, budgets to follow, and new markets to open. The analogy is clear and seemingly endless. **The church is God's business.**

And like businesses, churches have life lines. They are conceived, born, develop, strengthen,

grow, mature, often weaken and, sadly enough, sometimes die. Businesses and churches also experience life in terms of a circle rather than a line.

Take IBM. "Big Blue" was born in the 1950's and at its peak in the 1970's, was so monolithic in the computer market that no one else could compete.

In the early 1980's a little upstart company called Apple began to erode IBM's market share. IBM was so big and cumbersome that

it could not respond fast enough to competition and technological change, and it began a corporate slide the likes of which American business had not seen.

But, in the early stages of IBM's decline, innovative executives re-configured the company into smaller, more agile units, able to respond quickly to competition. And IBM came storming back.

This scenario is not peculiar to IBM. It plays out regularly in many different venues. What needs to happen is for it to play out in the Episcopal Church.

The wonder of our identity based on scripture, reason and tradition and our love for liturgy is a very attractive faith path which many people are seeking.

The statistics are widely known. The Episcopal Church reached her membership peak in 1965 with 3.6 million members. That number decreased to 2.3 million by 2006. The reasons are varied. Some say it was changing demographics, others point to theological shifts, and still others to unacceptable political agendas.

But I think it boils down to something a bit simpler. **We got lazy.**

Like IBM, we became complacent

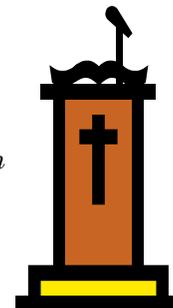
and operated under the false assumption that simply opening the church doors was enough to engage people. Very few clergy or lay people were enthusiastic enough about our faith or our church to invite people to join us. Evangelism and stewardship became topics about which we did not speak in polite company, and now we are paying the price.

Rather than despair, I believe now is the time to turn the tide. Creativity and seeking solutions outside the box must be the order of the day. We don't need to abandon canon law or our identity based on scripture, reason and tradition. Instead, the wonder of that identity and our love for liturgy is a very attractive faith path which many people, young and old, are seeking.

There are ways to be both traditional and cutting edge, and those parishes which choose to embrace both will find a new voice with which to proclaim "The Kingdom of God is at hand."

When that happens, the pews will fill.

- David Smith



Emmanuel Prayer List

Pray for the sick, the shut-ins, and those in sorrow :

- Allene Hunt
- Juanita Willis
- Nita and Frank Andrews
- Catherine Overbey
- Betty Whitehead



- Dorothy Roop
- Willie Frances Wyatt
- Jane Reynolds
- Dale Ruoff
- Virginia Hunt
- Helene Briggs
- Ruth Gibson
- Robin Haley
- The Hedge Family

Pray for the departed:

- Hugh Willis
- Bill Hewitt
- Frank Taylor
- Micheline Bridges Nichols
- Nelson Light
- Catherine Brooks (Kitty) Miller

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Visit Emmanuel on the World Wide Web

at www.emmanuelchatham.org.

The web site includes information about:

- News and Coming Events
- Emmanuel's Online Calendar
- The Parish Prayer List
- Recent Sermons
- Recent Sunday Service Bulletins
- Links to Diocesan & Church web sites
- Daily Musings by Dr. David Smith

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

Pruden Parish Notes

Emmanuel's Treasures

For more than 100 years, Emmanuel has been the recipient of many beautiful memorial gifts.

The red leather Bible, housed in a glass top cabinet at the rear of the nave, is probably the oldest such memorial gift.

The Bible, which will be 108 years old this Easter Season, was given to Emmanuel in 1900 by the teachers and students of Chatham Episcopal Institute (now Chatham Hall) who either worked at CEI or attended school there between Sept 5, 1898 and Jan 1, 1900. During this period,



For more than 100 years, Emmanuel has been the recipient of many beautiful memorial gifts.

Richard M. Willis was principal of the school. The lovely cabinet was made for Emmanuel by a devoted member, Frank Taylor, who passed away last December.

Welcome New Members

Emmanuel welcomes the following new members:

Steve and Sharon Barton

David, Jane and Emma Smith

Dinner Club Momentum Continues

The winter season Dinner Clubs have been very active.

During one week in late January, three different groups met in three different settings: a Sunday evening dinner at a parishioner's house, a joyous mid-week party at a local restaurant, and a well-attended cocktail party on the following Friday evening.

All of the groups continue to welcome new participants. Call one of the Group Leaders (Jane Ruef, Virginia Chapin, Linda Swanberg, or Alice Wilson) and join in the fun and fellowship.