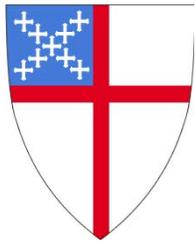


The Pruden Parish Press

May 2008

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The Pruden Parish Press

News & Information for Parishioners and Friends of Emmanuel

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G2R (Genesis to Revelation) Begins at Emmanuel

By David Smith

G2R is off to a great start! Sunday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 10:40 a.m. Emmanuel adults gather in the Parish Hall to continue our adventure through the Bible.

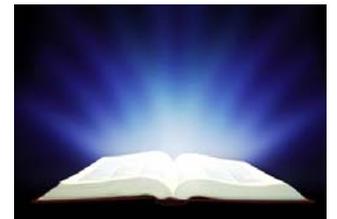
Our primary purpose is to familiarize everyone with the overall sweep of the Biblical drama and recognize the principal historical, theological, cultural and ethical themes inherent therein.

While most of us know many stories from the Bible, we are less certain about how everything fits comprehensively together.

Thus far we have discussed the nature of the religious impulse, how far back into human history it can be traced and how the impulse continues to be revealed in our own lives.

We considered truth and how many different ways it can be understood and encountered. Conversation then jumped into literary types and the variety of literary types present in the Bible.

In weeks to come we will learn about the distinctive characteristics of the Hebrew mind and how those characteristics are reflected in Biblical stories, as well as



principles of interpretation we must employ in order to authentically understand the intention of those who wrote the material.

It takes a while to lay the groundwork, but once done, **the Bible comes alive in ways never before enjoyed or imagined.** Everyone is encouraged to attend whenever time and personal schedules allow.

We'll see you Sunday mornings!

Join Us May 2nd for Bar-B-Que on the Lawn

Join us Friday, May 2nd from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for **Bar-B-Que on the Lawn** at Emmanuel.

With a little north wind, the sumptuous smell will drift down Main Street, tempting everyone to follow it to the

source. We expect lots of visitors in town for a beautiful spring day.

Bar-B-Que will be sold for \$6 per pound, or on a plate along with all the fixings & tea for only \$8.

Contact Dick Camp or Jeanne Reynolds to buy

advance tickets, help sell tickets, or to help out on the day of the Bar-B-Que.



Come join us for some fun, fellowship, and good food!

Vestry Notes from the Senior Warden

It's been a busy spring and the momentum continues!

The Vestry wishes to thank everyone who has unselfishly given their time and resources to give the church grounds a much needed facelift with new plantings, groomed flower beds and trimmed trees. With the Resurrection Window restoration complete, it looks beautiful!

We continue to be blessed with wonderful services conducted by David and our Lay Readers. We have also experienced increased attendance along with new faces in the congregation and the choir, a welcome sight. Our theme of building cross-roads to bring us

together in worship and fellowship is also alive and well through the Dinner Clubs, David's exciting new Bible study class, G2R, and the Bar-B-Que on the lawn event coming up May 2nd.

"Our theme of building cross-roads to bring us together in worship and fellowship is alive and well."

Good things are happening at Emmanuel but we have much to do. A complete list of work on the church building and grounds is being assembled so that the Vestry can set priorities and manage the costs. Once complete, the list will be made available to

everyone along with an invitation to adopt an item or two to resolve.

As mentioned before, the Vestry also seeks more involvement by the congregation in efforts that are important to our mission. By mid-year we expect to have **two new committees** established in the areas of **finance** and **out-reach**.

Each of these committees will operate in an advisory capacity to the Vestry to assist with its work in these two very important areas. Please speak to a Vestry member if you would like to serve on either of these committees. – *Dick Camp*



The Resurrection Window Really Has Returned!



(Photo courtesy of Richard Camp)

Over the past year, **the century-old stained glass windows were completely dismantled, cleaned, restored and painstakingly reassembled** by Gill and Victor Somers, owners of Somers Studios in Scottsville, VA.

Gill Somers, an ornamental and stained glass specialist for over 60 years, has performed work for some of the largest cathedrals in

the country.

Over \$3,000 has now been raised to support restoration of the Church's side windows, and yet another matching gift of \$500 has been offered!

Help us raise that number to \$4,000 by contributing to this important work!

Join Us May 10th for the Dinner Clubs' Potluck Supper

Join us for the Dinner Clubs' Spring Potluck Supper on Saturday, May 10 beginning at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall as we **celebrate the conclusion of the Winter Season and organize for the Summer Season.**

The Dinner Clubs have been very active over the Winter Season



A Dinner Club Meeting at the Hairstons

(Photo courtesy of Jeanne Reynolds)

in a variety of settings including dinner and cocktail parties and restaurant events.

If you would like to join a Dinner Club for the coming season, please email the Parish Office for more details or call Mary Hicks Heitzler.

Emmanuel Calendar Notes for May – August 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.

MAY

Friday, May 2 - Bar-B-Que on the Lawn
11:00 am to 2:00 pm **Spring Fundraiser**

Sunday, May 4 - Seventh Sunday of Easter
10:00 am **G2R** with Dr. Smith
11:00 am **Morning Prayer**, The Rev. Dr. David Smith

Saturday, May 10 - Dinner Clubs' Potluck Supper
6:00 pm Parish Hall

Sunday, May 11 - Day of Pentecost
10:00 am **G2R** with Dr. Smith
11:00 am **Holy Eucharist**
The Rev. Dr. David Smith; Deacon Bill Jones, Celebrant

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

JUNE

Sunday, June 1 - Third Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 am **G2R** with Dr. Smith
11:00 am **Morning Prayer**, The Rev. Dr. David Smith

Sunday, June 8 - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 am **G2R** with Dr. Smith
11:00 am ~~**Holy Eucharist**~~
The Rev. Dr. David Smith; Deacon Bill Jones, Celebrant

Sunday, June 15 - Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 am **G2R** with Dr. Smith
11:00 am **Morning Prayer**, The Rev. Dr. David Smith

Sunday, June 22 - Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 am **G2R** with Dr. Smith
11:00 am **Holy Eucharist**
The Rev. Dr. David Smith; Celebrant TBA

Sunday, June 29 - Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 am **G2R** with Dr. Smith
11:00 am **Morning Prayer**, The Rev. Dr. David Smith

JULY

Sunday, July 6 - Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 am **G2R** with Dr. Smith
11:00 am **Morning Prayer**, The Rev. Dr. David Smith

Sunday, July 13 - Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
G2R— No Class Today
11:00 am **Holy Eucharist**
Deacon Bill Jones, Celebrant and Preacher

Sunday, July 20 - Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
G2R— No Class Today
11:00 am **Morning Prayer**, Lay Reader

Sunday, July 27 - Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 am **G2R** with Dr. Smith
11:00 am **Holy Eucharist**
The Rev. Dr. David Smith; Celebrant TBA

AUGUST

Sunday, August 3 - Morning Prayer

Sunday, August 10 - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, August 17 - Morning Prayer

Sunday, August 24 - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, August 31 - Morning Prayer

RECURRING WEEKLY EVENTS

Choir Practice - Wednesdays at 6 pm in the Church. All parishioners are invited to participate in the Choir.

G2R (Genesis to Revelation) - Sundays at 10 a.m. in the Parish Hall

Coffee Hour** - Sundays in the Parish Hall following the 11 a.m. Worship Service

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

March Madness Comes to Emmanuel

By Jeanne Reynolds, Junior Warden

March Madness came to Emmanuel before Easter as parishioners raked, pruned, planted, mulched and generally prepared the whole Church Yard for Easter Services.



The day began early with many folks showing up with their enthusiasm and garden tools. The good fellowship that came along

with working together was celebrated with a lovely hot lunch prepared by Jane de Paulo.



Some changes are also taking place in the Parish House. The copier has found a new home across the hall. The old copier room will be used as a nursery for parents and their young children. It is a bright room, has a door with a window and is in close proximity to the Parish Hall.

When that room is cleaned, repaired, painted and fitted with a

new rug, the furniture from the old playroom can be moved in. Watch for progress on that space.

The Rector's office will also be getting a major face-lift with repairs, paint, new blinds and curtains. On the Vestry wish list is a **large meeting table and some chairs** for that room. Please let us know if anyone has a table to donate for that room.

There is much more work to be done on the grounds, the leaded windows in the church, the Parish Hall windows, and the outside doors and trim work. This work will be completed in stages as time and resources permit.

Thanks to Langhorne Jones for the lovely Lenten roses, ferns, nandina bushes, and mulch.

All the lovely Easter lilies have been planted into the beds on the south side of the church thanks to John Geyer's hard work on that project. Each spring from now on, Emmanuel will have a beautiful garden filled with lilies.



Emmanuel's Treasures at the Altar

When preparing the Altar for Communion, the Altar Guild uses several memorial items given by faithful parishioners in memory of family members and friends.

The **silver breadbox**, which holds the wafers, was given in memory of Frances Laughlin James by her husband Dr. A. O. James and family.

Elizabeth Moon Dennison provided the **silver wine chalice** as a memorial gift to Elizabeth Stone Moon.

Eleanor Watkins Vest and Mark Clark Vest were remembered by their parents with the gifts of the brass **Receiving Basin and Collection Plates**.

Emmanuel's Sunday School classes gave the Church the



Brass Missal Stand and Prayer Book in memory of William B. Hurt, Sunday School Superintendent for many years.

The Taylor family gave the **pair of five-branched brass candelabra** in memory of Rawley M. Taylor.

The **pair of three-branched brass candelabra** were given in memory of Frances Laughlin James by the Woman's Auxiliary.

The beautifully crafted walnut **Altar Rail**, suggesting a sense of sanctity in the altar area, was a gift from Gertrude Wilson Jones and Frances Hackett Rison as a memorial to Whitmell Tompkins Rison, their husband & brother.

Emmanuel's beautiful memorial gifts will always be part of the Church's treasures.

Dr. Smith will be on study leave July 6 to 26

at Merton College in Oxford, England. This year's recipient of the Spencer family faculty incentive grant, he has enrolled in "The History and Architecture of Oxford" taught by Christopher Day. He plans to write his research paper on "The Oxford Movement of 1833-1841 and its effect on the American Anglican Church."

Are You Biblically Literate?



Shocking though true, **almost 90% of all Christians are Biblically illiterate.**

Most Christians know a few stories from the Bible but have no concept of the entire scope of the Biblical drama. Good church going folk may have heard of Abraham, Joshua and Stephen, but do not know what a covenant is, when the Promised Land was settled, or why Stephen was stoned.

So, you may ask, “What difference does it make? Not knowing that stuff hasn’t hurt me so far,” to which I might reply,

“You don’t know that!”

It is impossible for anyone in western civilization to claim to be “educated” without knowledge of the Bible. **Every facet of our cultural identity is inextricably bound to Biblical themes and images.** Literature, art, drama, law, philosophy, politics, music, economics, ethics, you name it and the Bible has had and continues to have a dramatic impact on how we live, think and perceive the world.

Interestingly, the notion of Biblical literacy is a relatively new phenomenon. **Until the middle of the 19th century, the Bible was the book children used when learning to read.**

Almost every household had a copy of the Bible and reading from it was far more common than today. Parents and grandparents would use the Bible to teach vocabulary, sentence structure, and composition. It was a primer for literacy and faith.

However, that is no longer the case. Young children may receive

“Most Christians know a few Bible stories but have no concept of the entire scope of the Biblical drama.”

a picture book of Bible stories from a pious aunt (or at least see one on the table at the doctor’s office) and turn through it, but never learn more than the pictures tell.

Those same children no longer receive religious education from their parents and depend on irregular attendance at Sunday School to set the story straight.

The result is what we now see — generations of people who know very little about the Bible, and therefore have little more than personal experience upon which to base their faith.

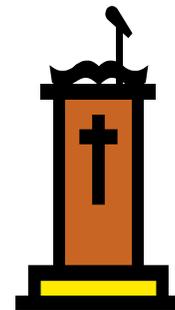
If and when we are asked why we are Christian, it is not acceptable to answer, “I always have been,” or “I was brought up in a Christian home,” or “I have never known anything else,” or “I don’t know, I just am.”

If being a Christian serves as the cornerstone of our identity and behavior, then it behooves us to know why. And until we have taken time to investigate and learn how God has chosen to be revealed throughout the ages, our true identity will forever remain uncertain.

If you have tried before to read and understand the Bible but found the process daunting or difficult, then join us Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. for G2R (Genesis to Revelation).

It’s easier to learn with a guide and in a group. The coffee pot will be on and waiting for you.

- 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
- Virginia Hunt
- Ruth Gibson
- Robin Haley
- Frank Fowler
- The Ruoff Family
- The Vest Family

Pray for the departed:

- Dale Ruoff
- Bishop Frank Vest

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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
- G2R Class Notes
- Recent Sermons
- Recent Sunday Service Bulletins
- The Parish Prayer List
- Links to Church & Diocesan web sites

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

Thank You to the Emmanuel Altar Guild

Emmanuel's Altar Guild is a special group of active, dedicated and talented women who serve God by preparing the Altar for all services and maintaining the furnishings used on the Altar.

There are no vacations from Altar Guild. The Altar must be prepared for all services including weddings, baptisms, and funerals.

Members come with a sense of willingness and dedication to be trained in the proper procedures. Service on the Altar Guild provides its members with the privilege of service to God in His sacristy and Sanctuary.

Working under the direction of the clergy, the Guild's duties in-

The Altar Guild is a special group of active, dedicated and talented women.

clude flower arranging, preparation and cleaning of communion sets, laundering and ironing linens, polishing brass and silver,



laying out and caring for vestments, filling the candles with oil, setting out the alms basins, and

vesting the altar with hangings appropriate for the Church season. Additional tasks may be required for special services.

Caryl Yeatts and Ruth Jones co-chair the Emmanuel Guild and four teams currently serve on the Altar Guild.

These teams include **Virginia Chapin/Martha Sours, Lisa Mullis/Ruth Jones, Caryl Yeatts/Beth Coles, and Betty Camp/Mary Hicks Heitzler.**

The Altar Guild welcomes **Alice Coles** and **Linda Swanberg** who will be trained as team members by senior Altar Guild members.

THANK YOU ALTAR GUILD!