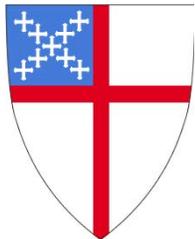


The Pruden Parish Press

March 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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Janet Phillips, Carmella Fisher Play Emmanuel

By Susan Paynter

In the second of four concerts of the **Chatham Concert Series**, Flutist **Janet Phillips** and Pianist **Carmella Fisher** played to a large and appreciative crowd at Emmanuel on Sunday afternoon, February 13. The program covered pieces from Russia and France, as well as the American Southeast & Southwest.

The program began with Philippe Gaubert's "Sonata in A major." Written in 1917, it was one of three sonatas the French composer wrote for flute and piano. "I was transported by the Gaubert," said audience member Barbara Wilson



Carmella Fisher, Janet Phillips, and Kevin Matheson, Director

of the three-movement piece. Flutist Phillips shared with the audience that she had recently been privileged to play on Gaubert's very own 1874 flute.

The second piece was Katherine Hoover's "Kokopeli" for solo flute. The American Southwest was certainly evoked by this piece, named for the ancient flute-playing god

of the Native American Pueblo people.

Intermission was followed by another American piece for solo flute, Charles Delaney's "... and the strange, unknown flowers..." Ms. Phillips had studied under Delaney, and hinted to the audience that nearly every note on the scale she'd practiced so

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Bishop Hollerith Addresses 19th Council

This Council marks the end of my second year as your Bishop – and I must say, it has been a challenging, yet deeply meaningful journey. Every day I spend working and ministering among you, I am reminded of just how blessed I am to have the opportunity to build relationships with you.

As I travel about the diocese, I am continually impressed by your hospitality, your love of Christ's Church and your willingness to engage with me about all aspects of our common life. I am also impressed by the faithfulness of our parishes striving to move forward in these challenging economic

times. So, thankfulness and hope are the two predominant dispositions that color my reflections today.



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Vestry Notes from the Senior Warden



In this my initial message published in the Pruden Parish Press, I extend my gratitude to our outgoing Senior Warden, Dick Camp. His years on the Vestry and as Warden-In-Charge have covered a period of tremendous challenges for Emmanuel. Thanks to his competent and caring leadership, we have weathered the tumult quite well; however, these challenges are, for the most part, still with us, most prominently the search for a part time Priest-In-Charge.

In that regard, Dick continues to lead the effort and search. Just last week he prepared and reviewed with me a letter to the Bishops in charge of every Diocese across much of the Southeast, from Pennsylvania to Georgia, seeking information and leads for us to consider. Hopefully, responses will be prompt and helpful. The Vestry continues to work on the matter.

Junior Warden, Tred Hunt, and I will be compiling a list of areas needing attention for repair, renovation and improvement as to the physical plant. Among these are the old tile floors in the sanctuary which are badly cracked and worn, split and worn pews, up-grading of the chapel and exterior landscaping and clean up. After

the Vestry addresses these, we will schedule the work. By the time you read this, the old water heater space in the kitchen should be repaired.

One matter which I would request congregational comment about is the advisability of installing cushions on all the pews in the sanctuary. It is possible this would not only provide comfort but enhance the condition of the pews.

The Reverend Jim Mathieson will be with us to celebrate Easter Sunday, as well as Ash Wednesday and Maunday Thursday services.

As you know, the Lenten season is fast approaching. Ash Wednesday is March 9th and the first Sunday in Lent is March 13th. Before we know it, Palm Sunday will be here on April 17th, followed by Easter on the 24th. The Reverend Jim Mathieson will be with us to celebrate Easter Sunday. He will also be with us for Ash Wednesday and Maunday Thursday services which are yet to be scheduled but we do have his commitment for those. More about that later. As of this writing, we do not have a celebrant for our Palm Sunday service.

Speaking of Palm Sunday, at 3:00 p.m., that day at the request of the Reverend Cleon Ross of Christ Church at Mount Hermon, Emmanuel will be the site of a musical concert featuring the singers, soloists and choral group from Christ Church. It is a fundraiser for them and we will have a block of \$10.00 tickets to sell. Any that Emmanuel sells will provide us with 50% of the proceeds. It is a public event and worthy of our support.

My thanks to the Altar Guild and Ushers Committee for their continuing service to our congregation.

I look forward to serving you and solicit suggestions and comments at any time. I also look forward to seeing you and ask that you mark your calendars now for the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper to be held on March 8th. More information will be forthcoming about that.

Yours in the Service of our Church.

Vic Millner
Senior Warden

Janet Phillips

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relentlessly for him was to be heard in that number. It seemed to be so!

The program closed with – who else? – Prokofiev. Not “Peter and the Wolf,” though, but the four-

movement “Sonata in D major,” for flute and piano. Challenging to play, fun to hear, and giving the audience plenty to admire in both musicians.

It was a lovely afternoon. The dreamy quality of music for the flute seemed especially appropriate for the unexpectedly warm and sunny day. No telling what

the weather will be like on March 20, but mark your calendar now for **the Saturn String Trio** (Kevin Matheson, violin; Bryan Matheson, viola; Kayla Hermann, cello) and guest guitarist, Andrew Motten.

Violin, viola, cello, guitar... what more could a string-lover ask for?

Emmanuel Calendar Notes for March – May 2011

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

Tuesday, March 8

6:00 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Wednesday, March 9

Time TBA - Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, March 20

3:00 pm Chatham Concert Series -
The Saturn String Trio

Sunday, April 17 - Palm Sunday

3:00 pm Christ Church Danville Concert
Fundraiser - at Emmanuel

Thursday, April 21

Time TBA - Maunday Thursday Service

Sunday, April 24 - Easter

Friday, May 6

7:00 pm Chatham Concert Series -
Romantic Music

Spotlight on the Vestry — Vic Millner Fourth in a series

By Susan Paynter

Vic Millner is Senior Warden and his area of responsibility is finance. This term on the vestry is only the latest of many that Vic has served in his 50 years as a member of Emmanuel. Aside from the challenges presented by Dr. Smith's departure, "Last year on the vestry was pretty smooth sailing," he recently declared.

Vic was born in Lynchburg and raised in Danville where he attended Epiphany Church: "That's where I grew up," he says, "at Epiphany." He moved to Chatham and began to practice law in 1960, almost before the ink was

dry on his Washington and Lee LL.B. He can still be found in his Main Street law office, and in his down time he enjoys spending time at the lake with his dog, his family when they're in town, and friends.

About Emmanuel, Vic says it's the feeling he gets when he enters the sanctuary that affects him most. "The way it feels, the way it looks... it's comfortable, but it has an ambience that suits the purpose for which it was created," he explains. "The stained glass windows contribute a lot to that," he adds. Then he tells a story: Years ago, Vic happened into the building while an old man -- one of the few who still knew the trade -- was re-plastering the wall. It was

late afternoon, and the light was filtering through the stained glass. Vic saw the old man gazing for a while toward the altar. He looked down and met Vic's eye. "You know," the old man said, "This *sure* do feel like a *church!*"

What would he wish for Emmanuel? Vic doesn't hesitate: "More young people! In the past the pews were full on Sunday and we had chairs in the aisles on Christmas Eve. So many older members have moved away or passed on, and we just don't have replacements."



December Outreach at Oak Grove



Ron Irby and the Briar Ridge Ramblers (left) perform for Oak Grove residents in December.

Keith Maurakis (on the right) in his new jacket. (Photo by Nancy Massie)



An “Army coat with big brass buttons” was the most unusual Christmas wish met by Emmanuel parishioners who “adopted” 12 Oak Grove Residential Care residents for Christmas giving. Keith Maurakis had wished three years for his special coat and Betty Camp---with a little help from Hargrave—made his Christmas wish come true. Other gifts included clothes, watches, diet drinks, and candy. All were wrapped in Christmas paper and opened Christmas Eve. Christmas cards containing pictures by Sharon Taylor were another remembrance for this special group at Christmastime. – *Rosemary Nichols*



Oak Grove residents (left to right): **First row - Top:** Margaret Neal, Inez Burnette; **Bottom:** Shirley Cotton, Betty Williams; Raymond Toone, Sharon Taylor with Ida Custer, Shirley Carmichael, Alvin Moorefield, Ida Custer. **Second row:** Norma Franklin, Pam Bennett, Henry Elliott, Donald Potter, May Pannell, Ben Pillow. **Third row:** Clarence Hall, Deborah Kelly (Kitchen staff), Ida Custer with Ron Irby, Winona Motley, Amos Walker, Henry Elliott and Donna Payne. (Photos by Sharon Taylor.)

The Briar Ridge Ramblers perform at Oak Grove Residential Care the first Thursday of each month during a Social Hour sponsored by Emmanuel. Please speak with Ron Irby or Sharon Taylor if you would like to become involved at Oak Grove.

Bishop Hollerith Calls Us to Action

(Selected excerpts from remarks to the 119th Annual Council by the Rt. Rev. Holly Hollerith, Bishop of Southern Virginia — February 11, 2011, Williamsburg, Virginia)

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Most of are keenly aware that in the last few years Christianity has been a failing enterprise in our culture. Like G.C. Murphy's or Sears we have been losing business. The number of people who practice their faith regularly has rapidly declined.

The Evangelical conservative Church alone has lost more members in the last ten years than the entire population of the Episcopal Church. But, we in the Episcopal Church have certainly suffered a similar fate relative to our size - as have all denominations.

Unfortunately, as the culture changed in this country, **the Church continued to do business as usual.** While it is fair to say that we remained progressive in our social ethics and theology, we did not engage in new forms of evangelism or in finding new models for ministry and community, certainly not on any large scale. The results are evident.

Our pews aren't as full and the membership we do have is becoming increasingly older. While there are some exceptions, especially in the highly populated areas of our diocese, the majority of our congregations have been de-evolving. As a result, ministry is more about palliative care and self-protection than it is about mission. And palliative care and self-protection are always what shrinking institutions end up resorting to.

This is what we know: In this day and age, young people, young professionals in particular are seeking three distinct things for their lives.

There is every reason to be both excited and hopeful. This is God's church and God is in charge.

First, they are seeking meaningful community. If a Church demonstrates powerful hospitality and a deep desire to create diverse community, then young people are going to be attracted to it. Note that the kind of hospitality I'm describing is not the same as warmly welcoming a newcomer to come and adopt "our way of doing things". Rather, it's hospitality in which people are welcomed in to be who they are and are clearly appreciated for their own unique gifts and perspective. Its community created not from moving the outsiders in, but from the insiders moving out.

The second reality that the younger generations seek is a meaningful way to live, a way that makes sense out of all the craziness of the world. In short, they are seeking the Gospel message, even if they don't know what that message is. Meaningful spiritual nurture, creative liturgy, and rich spiritual formation are paramount for these seekers.

It isn't enough to just hand someone a prayer book and wax on and on about the beautiful historical traditions of the Episcopal Church or make them new members of the altar guild. People are seeking more than that. They are seeking a *way of life*. And if a church community can offer them that way then they will seek to be a part of it.

And finally, the third reality is that young people will become part of a community only if that community is making a positive impact on the problems of the world. In other words, opportunities to do meaningful outreach are paramount to church involvement. People want to believe that they can make a difference in the world, that they can make the world a better place. Faith communities that are primarily inwardly focused will not offer any attraction.

Prayer List

Pray for the sick and the shut-ins:



- * Allene Hunt
- * Catherine Overbey
- * Dorothy Roop
- * Marvin Mullis
- * Scott Daniel Reynolds
- * Alan Arey
- * Alice Overbey
- * Robin Haley Anselmo
- * Othelia Davis
- * Louis DePaulo
- * Shannon & Ed Olivarez
- * Hunter Powell
- * Nancy Jones Hayes
- * John 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.

The simple fact of the matter is this: if your congregation is not clearly and intentionally addressing those three primary realities in its common life with all due haste and commitment, then your congregation is de-evolving. It's as simple as that.

It's time for us to organize ourselves around a missional perspective in this diocese. The lynch pin of this perspective will be intentional development of the ministry of the baptized.

There is no doubt that we face big challenges. But, there is every reason to be both excited and hopeful. This is God's church and God is in charge. As a community we have the gifts, the talent, the resources, and the faith to do new and wonderful things. What we must find now is the *will* to do these things! May God grant us the will and courage to embrace our future!

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

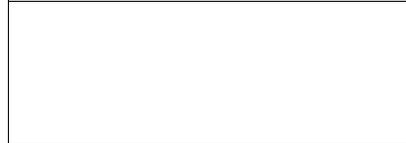
The Rev. J. W. Mathieson, Supply Priest

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 May issue is **April 15th**.



Spotlight on the Vestry — Ron Irby

Fifth in a Series

By Susan Paynter

Ron Irby's area of responsibility is Outreach. He recently completed a year as junior warden where he was responsible for buildings & grounds. This is Ron's first term serving on Emmanuel's vestry. The recent challenges for buildings and grounds, he says, included the replacement of the waterline and water heater, pew repair, outside trim painting "and little things like getting way up there to replace a light bulb." But, he adds, "I got real sick and couldn't do much for a while. Richard and the others really stepped up and helped out."

Ron (or "Duck," as he's known by many) grew up, the son of a

blacksmith, in Halifax County. He and Irma moved to Chatham from Java in 1971, early in Duck's career at Ennis Business Forms. They continued to drive 15 miles to St. Paul's, their home church, every Sunday until four years ago when they joined Emmanuel. Duck jokes that he's Emmanuel's "token redneck," but those who've read his book, *The Last Blacksmith*, know him as a thoughtful, introspective man with a generous spirit.

What does he love most about Emmanuel? "The people," he says without hesitation. "We didn't know how well we'd fit in here, but we've been touched by how warm, friendly and supportive everyone has been. When I got sick, and when Irma's mother

died, they were really there for us. And," he adds, "they all show respect for other viewpoints. I think they're very capable of loving *anyone*. If you need help, you know this is a family and they'll help!"



Duck's wish for Emmanuel: "More outreach. I wish we had more money to help the homeless and hungry, domestic violence victims, and other folks in trouble." One outreach program Duck *has* been active in is his monthly visit to Oak Grove with his band, The Briar Ridge Ramblers, bringing music and cheer to the residents there. (See article on page 4.)