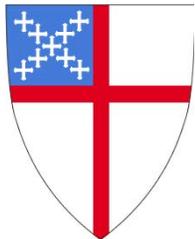


The Pruden Parish Press

March 2012

Volume 5, Issue 4



The Pruden Parish Press

News & Information for Parishioners and Friends of Emmanuel

Published bi-monthly (except July) in September, November, January, March and May

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Editor & Publisher

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Emmanuel Prepares for Lent with Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Over 40 parishioners and friends came together on February 21 in the Parish Hall for a fabulous Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. The outstanding pancakes were accompanied by country ham, fried apples, fresh fruit and various beverages.

Garrie Thompson, along with Seth Hunt, Janice Chaney,

Beth Coles, Martha Jane Rush, Martha Scarce, Sharon Taylor, and Susan Paynter, assisted Head Chef Tred Hunt.

Second servings were readily available, and many participants lingered for extended conversations.



Garrie and Tred in the kitchen



(Photo by Mary Catherine Plaster)

Waiting for the pancakes - Left to right: Mary Hicks, Betty, Ed, Jeanette; Alice, Walter & Vic

Emmanuel Welcomes Sally Ford as Organist

Emmanuel is pleased to welcome Sally Ford as its new church organist beginning March 4th.

Ms. Ford has been involved in church music since before she could read when she begged to be allowed to join the children's

choir at her home church. She began piano at age seven and organ in High School, replacing the church organist, who had retired.

Sally studied organ at Westminster Choir College, Princeton, NJ, un-

der the tutelage of James Litton (American Boys Choir).

She earned her degree in organ with a minor in voice and a concentration in Music Education.



Vestry Notes from the Senior Warden

Friends,

I hope this will be the first in a regular series to communicate with you, our membership, as your Senior Warden. Touched does not begin to express my feelings for the confidence you have placed in me.

As we began this year, we had No Priest, No Organist, No Choir, No Sunday School, and No Regular Bible Study. My VERY LARGE GOAL IS TO Fill ALL these positions this year. I ask for your prayers in the endeavor and your support.

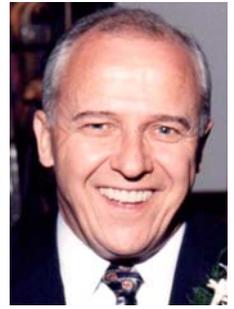
At my suggestion the Vestry has decided to expand our search for a

Priest to include a Full Time Priest. I'm convinced that if we truly want to rebuild Emmanuel to the vibrant church of years past that we need a full time priest. Some may ask if we can afford that. I believe we can afford it and cannot afford not to do so.

Last year we took in a little over \$70,000. A full time Priest with budget for all church expenses would be approximately \$125,000 per year. A number of us have expressed that we would give more if we are needing more and accomplishing more.

I am delighted to report that the Vestry has offered, and Sally Ford has accepted our offer to become

Emmanuel's new Organist. Sally will join us on a regular basis beginning on Sunday, March 4, 2012.



My basic belief is that Emmanuel is at a crossroad in our 168 year history. I am convinced, determined, and full of energy (with your help) to rebuild our church! In the words of Gladstone, "Some Men See Things as They Are and Ask Why! I See Things That Never Were and Ask Why Not!"

In Christian Love,
Billy Simpson

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Pancakes are eaten on Shrove Tuesday because they are made from the main foods available (sugar, fat, flour and eggs) whose consumption was traditionally restricted during the ritual fasting associated with Lent.



(Photos by Mary Catherine Plaster)

(Photo by Mary Catherine Plaster)

Working to get ready - Janice, Martha and Beth

Deep in conversation - Charles, Michael, & Joan; Billy and Jim



(Photo by Susan Paynter)

John enjoys the pancakes

John, Elizabeth and Sam

Suzanne, Sally and Mary Hicks

Emmanuel Calendar Notes for March - May 2012

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

Friday, March 9

7:00 pm Chatham Concert Series-
A St. Patrick's Day Prelude featuring organist
Kenyon Scott and bagpiper William Plail

Sunday, April 1

11:00 am Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 8

11:00 am Easter Sunday



Easter lilies backlit by Emmanuel's stained glass (photo by Susan Paynter)

Human Sexuality, the Church and Your Voice

By Susan Paynter

Issues surrounding the subject of human sexuality will be addressed at the General Convention of the Episcopal Church this July. Before that happens, Bishop Holterith would like to hear your thoughts on the subject.

Toward that end, the bishop has called together a task force to foster open communication throughout the diocese on issues of human sexuality. The **Leading a Holy Life Task Force** is composed of lay and ordained members of the Diocese of Southern Virginia.

In the midst of our tapestry of views on human sexuality, we can

support a strong and healthy community in which our individual thoughts and feelings can be shared and considered.

To help with that, the task force has set up an Internet blog (discussion) site. On the blog, there will be weekly postings around specific issues related to human sexuality. We are encouraged to read the postings and respond with openness, courage, compassion and respect.

Those on the task force also encourage us to use the postings as a starting point for discussions within our parish, in small groups

or larger forums.

A link to the blog can be found on the diocesan website: www.diosova.org Just click on "read more" under the bishop's photo.

Those without Internet access or know-how can find computers, willing and confidential help and privacy at the Chatham library.

The library computer room, which offers the best privacy, is open from noon to 8:00 pm Monday - Thursday, noon to 5:00 pm on Friday, and 10:00 am to noon on Saturday.

Concerts Lighten Dark Days of Winter

By Susan Paynter

The Chatham Concert Series continues at Emmanuel, bringing joy to classical music lovers in and around Chatham. The January and February concerts were great successes featuring music of the oboe and baritone voice.

Mark your calendars for the final concert of the season. In March, we'll welcome back an old friend, **Organist Kenyon Scott**, along with **Bagpiper William Plail** for A Saint Patrick's Day Prelude. The concert will be held a week before St. Patrick's Day, at 7:00 in the evening, Friday, March 9.

The Oboe of William Parrish

Speaking of old friends, the oboe concert on Sunday, January 8 was just delightful and featured **William Parrish, Jr.**, son of former Emmanuel Rector the Rev. William Parrish, Sr.

Who knew the oboe would be such a popular instrument? For days afterward people were talking about it, and no wonder! Parrish was a marvelous performer, not only on his instrument, but with his witty, informative comments throughout the program.

All the concerts of this season have brought joy, but this one perhaps best fulfilled the multiple missions of the concert series. The program was well balanced and included works of familiar composers J.S. Bach and Donizetti. There was also a popular piece, after which the program was named: Gabriel's Oboe, music from the 1986 film, *The Missionary*.

As he carried us into the works of less-familiar composers, Parrish made sure we didn't go in blind.



English Vocal Music from Butterworth to the Beatles: Left to right, Kevin Matheson, David Castonguay, Lisa Wright, Bryan Matheson, and Martin Irving

He explained -- with charming anecdotes -- a bit about the music and the composers. He seemed to be aware that moving from the familiar to the less familiar, while sharing information, is the best way to "foster a love of classical music," one of the series' main objectives.

Another objective is to provide young music students valuable performance experience. At this concert, two young ladies, Oboist **Lauren O'Neil** and Flutist **Kate Dietrich**, performed Handel's Bourree. It was rewarding to learn from O'Neil's mother that this concert was Lauren's first opportunity to see and hear a professional oboist!

And the music? It was hauntingly beautiful. Parrish, principal oboe of the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, Opera Roanoke and Opera on the James, played magnificently and was adeptly accompanied by Pianist **Claudia Jones Patterson**, Violinist **Mary Alexander Patterson**, and the Saturn String Ensemble: **Bryan Matheson**, viola; **Kevin Matheson**, violin; and **Kayla Herrmann**, cello. As always in this chamber music

series, one of the most pleasant things is to sit close enough to see the performers' expressions and how they handle their instruments. One could easily see how hard Parrish was working to bring us an evening's entertainment to remember and to cherish!

The Voice of Baritone David Castonguay

On Friday evening, February 3, the program was English Vocal Music from Butterworth to the Beatles. Headlining the concert was Baritone **Dr. David Castonguay**, singing the poetry of W.E. Henley and Thomas Hardy, set to music by Gerald Finzi and George Butterworth.

The baritone of Castonguay reflected nicely the themes of loss and longing and was well balanced by the rich, full sound of the accompanying strings. At times the tones of voice and violin seemed to merge.

Much of the program -- including the opening, Mozart's *Eine kleine Nachtmusik* -- was performed by the Saturn String Ensemble: **Martin Irving**, violin & viola; **Lisa Wright**, cello; **Kevin Matheson**,

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Mourning the Loss and Celebrating the Life of Elizabeth Hairston

By Susan Paynter

The Emmanuel family was joined by many members of the community and the extended Hairston family as we gathered twice to grieve, to find comfort in the presence of one another, to offer our condolences to Sam and the rest of the family, and to celebrate the life of Liz Hairston.

Liz died on Saturday, February 4. On Sunday evening, the family received friends in the Parish Hall. On Monday, Emmanuel was filled with grievers from our

community and around the country for Liz’s funeral. The Reverends John Reuf and Jim Mathieson officiated. Jim’s eulogy reflected on Liz’s wonderful sense of humor and her strong, deep love for her family.

After the burial, family and friends returned to Emmanuel’s Parish Hall for a luncheon provided by many loving hands. The mixture of tears and laughter seemed fitting as we remembered and tried to say goodbye to this loving, smart, funny, dedicated woman who played such a vital role in our church.



Gathering at the luncheon



John and Jane Ruef with Judge Hairston

(Photos by Katie Whitehead)

English Vocal Music from Butterworth to the Beatles

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violin; and **Bryan Matheson**, viola. Strings were played with precision and power. The fifth movement of Dvorak’s Cypresses was particularly stunning with its strong, soulful, lyrical viola.

Student musicians for the evening were **Julian Ayers, Staley Lyle, Alyssa Arminan and Jacob Tisdale** on violin; and **Caleb Tisdale** on viola. They did a great job on the theme song to Super Mario!

Some of us were initially disap-

pointed that the Beatles songs were not to be sung by Castonguay after all. (I was particularly looking forward to hearing a classical baritone singing Get Back!)

The string ensemble managed so well, though, that any disappointment was short-lived. The numbers were so enthusiastically received (Get Back was performed in a particularly funny, physical way) that an encore was demanded and they returned with a lovely rendition of Hey Jude, with Kevin Matheson playing “lead” violin.

Prayer List

Pray for the sick and the shut-ins:



- * Alan Arey
- * Louis DePaulo
- * Nancy Jones Hayes
- * Allene Hunt
- * Marvin Mullis
- * Shannon & Ed Olivarez
- * Alice Overbey
- * Catherine Overbey
- * David Brochu
- * Dorothy Roop
- * Dr. John Ruef
- * Mary Grymes
- * Rosemary Nichols
- * Gloria Thompson
- * Jane Ruef
- * West Mathieson
- * Nancy Jiraneck

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.

Spotlight - Bill Simpson

Continued from page 6

into the healthy range. “We can bring people in,” he says, “but without a priest dedicated full time to biblical study, pastoral duties, sacramental practices and leadership of congregational activities, they won’t stay.”

Simpson talks about the eight members of Emmanuel who became ordained ministers – quite a number for a small-town Episcopal church. “We have such a great history,” he says; “we can have a great future, too! I know we can.”

In our next issue, the spotlight will be on Walter Coles, Sr.

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in the Diocese of Southern Virginia

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Bill Simpson, Senior Warden

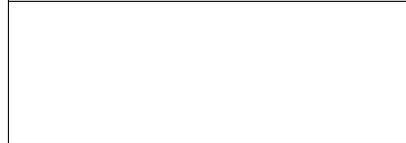
The Rev. J. W. Mathieson, Supply Priest

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 — Bill Simpson

By Susan Paynter

Bill Simpson, our new senior warden, was elected to the vestry on December eleventh, along with Walter Coles, Sr.

As you can see by the extensive contact information he provides on the back of our weekly bulletins, Bill gets around. He has a home in Chatham: the pleasant place on Cherrystone Road where the Simpsons hosted the Emmanuel Autumn Picnic. He also has a lake home on Hyco Lake in North Carolina, and works in that state as well. He owns and runs the “seven-day-a-week business,” Mastercraft Casket Co. in Graham, NC, near Burlington.

Bill has lived in Chatham all his life. His history with Emmanuel goes back to the early ‘60s when, as a teenager, he was attracted to

the Saturday night dances. He became a member in 1972.

Although he’s served several times on Emmanuel’s vestry over thirty years, he followed the Rev. Jim Mathieson to Epiphany Church in Danville. But he’s happy to be back at Emmanuel, and is looking forward with optimism to the challenge of bringing the parish back to health.

Bill loves the beautiful, historic church building, especially the stained glass windows, and the community. But he feels a sadness when he looks at the pews and sees, in his mind’s eye, the missing faces. “I’m convinced,” he says, “that we can turn the church around. I know we can welcome back members who have drifted away and also welcome in the

unchurched.”

Asked about his priorities for Emmanuel this year, Bill springs a surprise: one objective has already been accomplished. On February 12, the vestry voted to hire Sally Ford as our new organist. One goal down and two to go: a rector and a healthier number in the congregation. Who could disagree with those?

Bill strongly expresses his conviction that Emmanuel is at a “major crossroads” right now, and can’t afford to make the wrong choice in the selection of our next priest. He believes that without a vital, full-time priest, our congregation numbers will never climb back

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