

welcome!

Introducing this month's issue of ...

# HIGH NOTES



EMMANUEL  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



## Fall 2021

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### High Notes Submissions

Please submit your articles for the *Holiday High Notes* to [Janie](#) by Wednesday, October 27.

## Support for Our Afghan Brothers & Sisters: Volunteer, Donate, Advocate, & Pray

With the magnitude of humanitarian need occasioned by the U.S. departure

from America's longest war, Emmanuel is stepping up its outreach to our Afghan brothers and sisters. Under the umbrella of Christ Church's Interfaith Refugee Ministry (led by Melanie Gray, MSW), here is both an update and a summary of ongoing efforts to support both the local Afghan community, and newly arriving refugees.



### Support for Incoming Afghan Families

#### One Journey/Northern Virginia Friends of Refugees

There is great desire to help Afghan refugees resettle in the DMV area. The biggest needs are housing, volunteers, transportation, and mental health. One Journey/NOVA FOR is building a centralized database to be accessed by all local refugee resettlement agencies. If you would like to volunteer, click [here](#) to complete the survey. Your response is an indication of interest, rather than a firm commitment. The individual nonprofits will reach out to confirm your offer to help meet the needs of their refugee clients. For more info contact: [1journeyfestival@gmail.com](mailto:1journeyfestival@gmail.com).

### Support for Local Afghan Community

We are engaged with these efforts on several fronts and there are many ways you can help.

- **Christ Church Interfaith Refugee Ministry**

**Emmanuel's Care Team** (Kim Scott, Jennifer Jones, Theresa McCarthy & Lee Anderson) currently support the Kwi family from Cameroon. Our care team has also shepherded several Afghan families in the recent past including Zorah and her young son Sam. On this front, we have some good news! Zohra and Sam left Afghanistan along with her new husband, Mohammed. They are now in Spain awaiting

*(continued on pg. 2)*

## Our 10 -Year Vision for Emmanuel

Emmanuel Episcopal Church is a thriving, engaged and creative parish working to educate and meet the needs of children, youth and adults; live and demonstrate our Christian values; and create a more humane and just world through community service and outreach.

### Diocesan Bishops

The Rt. Rev. Susan Goff

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson

The Rt. Rev. Porter Taylor

### Emmanuel Church Staff

#### Rector

[The Rev. Charles C. McCoart, Jr.](#)

#### Associate for Worship

[The Rev. Joan L. Peacock](#)

#### Seminarians

[Steve Bragaw](#)

[Winnie Smith](#)

#### Organist/Choir Director

[Ryan Fitch](#)

#### Parish Administrator

[Janie Piemonte](#)

#### Administrative Assistant

[Karen O'Hern](#)

#### Sexton

Carlos Guzman

#### Nursery Caregivers

Lillian Urrea

Natalie De Leon Santizo

Jeni Rivera

#### Sunday Services

8:00 am, 10:00 am

#### Church Office Hours

Monday—Friday

8:00 am—4:00 pm

#### Emmanuel Episcopal Church

1608 Russell Road

Alexandria, VA 22301

703-683-0798 (phone)

[www.emmanuelonhigh.org](http://www.emmanuelonhigh.org)

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documents that will allow Mohammed to enter the U.S..

- **Financial Assistance for local Afghan families**

The financial need is great! Rental assistance for eight Alexandria families, totaling \$14,900 a month, is the most critical and ongoing. Unable to work in the midst of family emergencies, many have also lost income and their financial resources are depleted. Support for daily living expenses can also help to free up income in family budgets, and reduce stress. If you would like to make a financial contribution to these efforts, you can donate online by clicking [here](#), send a check to the office, or drop your check in the Sunday Collection Box. Please by select "Leaves of Love" from the drop down menu on e-giving or include "Leaves of Love" on the memo line of your check.

- **Diplomatic Intervention**

Chuck and Joani have joined their colleagues from other local churches in signing a joint letter sent to state and federal government officials asking for their intervention on behalf of 24 Afghan Alexandria City families and their 256 extended family members still in danger in their country. Senator Mark Warner's office is gathering additional information directly from families in order to facilitate their safe departure. The families have asked for our prayers.

- **Gift Packets Project for Moral Support**

Many families feel isolated, abandoned, and traumatized. Along with other faith communities in the city, Emmanuel can help assemble gift packets for 24 local families by donating gift cards from:

- [Walmart](#) for groceries, family, and household necessities, or
- [The Halal Guys!](#) to provide a fun and healthy family meal or two.

- **Write notes or greeting cards.**

Break out your colored pencils and crayons. This is something Emmanuel's families, including children and youth can easily do: provide a message of love and hope to our Afghan neighbors. The cards will be tucked into the Gift Packets.

**Please mail to or drop off gift & greeting cards at Emmanuel no later than Wednesday, September 15th.** The office is open 8:00 am—4:00 pm Monday through Friday.

- **And don't forget to pray.** We are a resurrection people, people of hope.

*O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus Christ your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP, p. 815)*

## Directing the Future Course for Emmanuel



Work continues on development of Emmanuel's new 5-year Strategic Plan. Vestry member John Read is meeting with each of the Vestry Liaisons who will in turn meet with their respective ministries to look ahead at goals and objectives for each ministry. This work will culminate in the creation of a new plan for what we hope to achieve over the next 5 years.

## Stewardship—A Key to Unlocking Potential

Over the next few weeks you will be receiving information on this year's annual giving campaign. We have fared better than many churches during this challenging time thanks to the your generosity. We hope you will read the information carefully and consider how you might do your part to help us continue on solid financial footing and proactively plan for future needs.



## Emmanuel Foundation Elects New President

As some parishioners are aware, Emmanuel established a charitable Foundation in 1993 with proceeds from the sale of the church rectory. The purpose of the Foundation is to prudently steward these funds and to seek asset growth through appreciation, contributions, and bequests, with the over-arching goal of securing the church's long-term financial stability. As of June 30, the Foundation's Rectory Fund had assets of \$870,000. The Foundation's funds are invested and administered for Emmanuel by the Trustees of the Funds of the Diocese of Virginia.

From time to time, fundraising events are held at Emmanuel to benefit the Foundation, and outright gifts and bequests are always welcomed.

In recent weeks, the Foundation Board elected Michael Piemonte as its new president. Mike has worked in accounting and finance for more than 30 years and holds an MBA and is a CPA. He succeeds Jane Kolson, who has served as Foundation president for the past several years and who remains as a member of the Board. Please direct any questions you may have about the Foundation and the role it plays at Emmanuel to [Mike](#) or [Jane](#).

### 2021 Vestry

[Tom Craig](#) (Senior Warden) [Meredith Wade](#) (Junior Warden, Youth Education)  
[Barbara Huffman](#) (Fundraising) [Scott Keplinger](#) (Building & Grounds)  
[Emily McNaughton](#) (Stewardship) [John Read](#) (Strategic Plan) [Doris Rudolph](#) (Fellowship)  
[Nathan Turner](#) (Communication)  
[Chris Yianilos](#) (Preschool)  
[Gene Lange](#) (Treasurer)  
[Sarah Kolo](#) (Clerk)

### Contacts for Ministry Teams

#### Worship

Team Coordinator: [Nancy Dupree](#)

Acolytes: [Kelly and Joe Dresen](#)

Altar Guild: [Meredith Wade](#)

Counters: [Janie Piemonte](#)

Guitar Circle: [Stewart Bartley](#)

Music & Choirs: [Ryan Fitch](#)

Readers (8:00): [Suji Kelly](#)

Readers (10:00): TBD

Ushers: TBD

#### Education

Team Coordinators: [Joani Peacock](#)

Adult Spiritual Formation: [Beth Boland](#)

Sunday School: TBD

God & Donuts: [Chris Piemonte](#)

Preschool: [Nicole Crochet](#)

#### Service

Team Coordinator: [Liz Kane](#)

ALIVE!: [Liz Kane](#)

Bag Lunch Program: [Karen Coda](#)

Carpenter's Shelter Breakfast: [Jennifer Jones](#)

Carpenter's Shelter Dinner: [Bonnie Lilley](#)

Community Lodgings: TBD

Giving Tree: [Sylvie Harris](#)

Haiti: [Sean Ellis](#)

Haitian Coffee Sales: [Kim Scott](#)

Inreach: [Nancy Dupree](#)

Meals on Wheels: [Mary Tinsley](#)

Refugee Family: [Kim Scott](#)

Yard Sale: [Gretchen Walzl](#)

#### Fellowship

Team Coordinator: TBD

Breakfast with St. Nick: [Courtney Keplinger](#)

Coffee Hour Baristas: [Ann Wheaton](#)

Craft & Sewing Group: TBD

Prime Time Zoomers: [Meredith Wade](#)

Shrine Mont Parish Retreat: [Joe Scott](#)

Twenties & Thirties (TnT): [Lauren Maxey](#)

#### Stewardship

Team Coordinator: [Adam Schildge](#)

Annual Giving: [Jane Kolson](#), [Dawnita Altieri](#)

Finance: [Aaron Flaaen](#)

Foundation: [Mike Piemonte](#)

## Upcoming Offerings from Adult Spiritual Formation

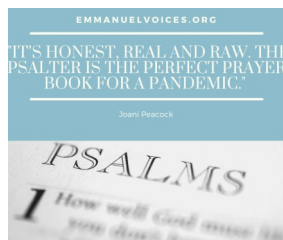
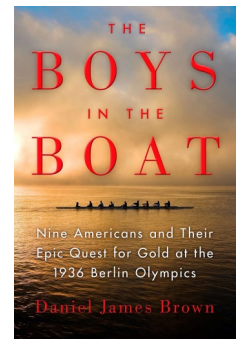
### Paperback Spirituality —The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics

Sunday, September 19, 7:00 pm

Daniel James Brown's robust book tells the story of the University of Washington's 1936 eight-oar crew and their epic quest for an Olympic gold medal, a team that transformed the sport and grabbed the attention of millions of Americans. The sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the boys defeated elite rivals first from eastern and British universities and finally the German crew rowing for Adolf Hitler in the Olympic games in Berlin, 1936.

Drawing on the boys' own diaries and journals, their photos and memories of a once-in-a-lifetime shared dream, *The Boys in the Boat* is an irresistible story about beating the odds and finding hope in the most desperate of times—the improbable, intimate story of nine working-class boys from the American west who, in the depths of the Great Depression, showed the world what true grit really meant.

Click [here](#) to join the conversation on Zoom, Passcode **433255**.



### Ticked at God: Homily Conversation on Anger

Sunday, September 26, 7:30 pm

Joani's recent sermon [Ticked at God: Prayer Book for a Pandemic](#) sparked a lot of interest. So many of us are reeling with a sense of déjà vu, frustration, and free floating anger, as the pandemic returns with the Delta variant. What do we do with it? How do we handle it in a spiritually healthy and productive way? Listen again to the [homily](#) and click [here](#) to join the conversation on Zoom, passcode: **018685**.

### Forgotten Women Of Christianity

This four week Sunday evening series highlights the important contributions of Christian women throughout the centuries, whose names have been lost or forgotten. We will use selected episodes from The Great Courses series:

[Warriors, Queens & Intellectuals](#). We'll watch a 30 minute episode together online followed by a lively discussion.

Click [here](#) to join us at 7:30 pm on Zoom, the following Sundays this fall: passcode **490781**

**October 17:** Helena brings Christianity down to earth (4th century)

**October 24:** Pulcheria defends the Virgin Mary (5th century)

**November 7:** Heloise embraces the New Philosophy (12th century)

**November 14:** Hildegard revolutionizes traditional medicine (12th century)

### Hiding in Plain Sight: *The (Ill)logic of Fear*

October 31, 7:30 pm

The next discussion in our ASF long form journalism series intrepidly tackles how fear shapes our everyday decisions with respect to spirituality, politics, and socio-economic choice. Our Halloween discussion will explore the extent to which fear influences our worldviews and what the implications are for our individual lives, families, communities, and beyond. Watch your e-news in October for two articles of long form journalism on the topic but reading them is not at all required to participate. Have no fear: costumes are not required either. Click [here](#) to join us on Zoom, passcode **356495**.



## The Bishop is Coming!

**Baptism, Confirmation & Holy Eucharist**  
**Sunday, October 10, 10:00 am**



Good news! Bishop Porter Taylor will visit Emmanuel Sunday, October 10. At the joint 10:00 am service (there will be no 8:00 am), along with a Baptism, the Bishop will celebrate, preach, confirm and receive 13 parishioners: nine adults: Nan DeRenzi, B.C. Forrest, Sarah Hastings, Linda Lowery, Kerin Ord, Janie Piemonte, Joanie Rodano, Donna Thompson, Jode Willingham, and four youth: Liam Brown, Katy Hartell, Logan Schmauder, and Fiona Sullivan. Mark your calendars for this special day!

## Moving Forward with Ministry Architects

Having completed the assessment of our ministries to children and youth, it's now time to start the process of acting on the resulting recommendations. The Executive Summary was written by our Ministry Architects' consultant, Mike Crain, and is available [here](#). Please take a few minutes to read it so you will know the scope and objectives of the 18 month project. Its impact on EEC's future is significant.

The next step, recruiting the Renovation and Prayer Teams, has been completed. Kate Bartholomay, Ruth Bilodeau, Chris Piemonte, Kelly Dresen, and Courtney Keplinger make up what is called the Renovation Team. Mike Crain from the consulting group is the chair. To provide ongoing support for these volunteers, Nancy Kuhn, Tom Craig, Grace Pratt, Bridget Flaaen, and Dottie Gibson (former parishioner and long-time friend of EEC) have agreed to make up the Prayer Team. Catherine Wheeler is the chair. I continue to serve as the liaison to the Vestry.

All of us can look forward to hearing from the teams in the coming months as they tackle this very important review and renewal of our formation programs. Please join me in expressing your appreciation to these leaders for saying 'yes' to this important call to service.

Meredith Wade, Vestry Liaison

## A Youthful Feast of St. Francis & The Blessing of the Animals

**Sunday, October 3, Blessing at 9:00 am, Service at 10:00 am**

Traditionally Emmanuel on the first Sunday of October celebrates the Feast of St. Francis in the context of Youth Sunday. While the virus unfortunately precludes us from some of our usual practices, with adaptations Emmanuel will flex to celebrate this special day. We will use the Youth Sunday simplified liturgy of Holy Communion. There will be a fun interactive children's homily for everyone while remaining in the pews. Young people will read lessons and prayers. And the music led by the cantor will sing in our hearts.

And of course, we will bless the animals! Chuck and Joani will welcome your furry and feathered friends on the steps of the church from 9:00 to 10:00 am. And they are welcome in church too! (On a leash or in a crate, of course!)





Emmanuel's pews are full of artists of all kinds: musicians, poets, photographers, painters, writers, master crafts-people, flower arrangers, gardeners, storytellers, and thespians. Many of these gifted folks have agreed to share their work on [Emmanuel Voices, our parish blog](#), in a fall series called: "**The Artist Within.**" Each artist will post an example of their work (visual, verbal, or musical) along with the creative story of how each work of art came to be -- focusing especially on how their art form has fed their soul and helped themselves and others navigate the pandemic. If you would like to contribute, [Joani](#) the editor-in-chief would love to hear from you. The series will be posted mid-September through mid-October.

### **Bible Meets Art: Visual Interpretation of Scripture, taught by Stephen L. Cook, Ph.D.**

(Re)engage the Bible in strikingly new ways through a dialog between scripture and compelling artworks from across history and cultures with Dr. Stephen L. Cook, senior faculty at VTS. Class members, who attend, preach, or teach in the church, will deeply engage the scriptures for the Sunday lectionary period preceding Advent 2021. [Learn more in this video introduction.](#)

*Six Monday evenings, 7:00 pm-8:30 pm (ET) on VTS campus OR via Zoom, \$100-\$120*

[Click here to register.](#)

*This class will meet on six consecutive Monday evenings (Sept 20 - Oct 25) with ticket options that allow for both online and in-person options. Review our Campus locale to see if in-person participation is an option for you.*

## **A Warm Welcome**

Welcome to the following people who have joined or rejoined our Emmanuel community in the past 18 months. If you haven't met them yet, please introduce yourself when you see them at church.

Laura Bishop & Nan Derenzi

Kerin Ord

BC Forrest

Joan Schindel

Beau and Emma Grimes

Jonathan & Mailie Sills and family —Welcome back!

Beth Jarvis

Donna Thompson

Linda Lowrey

# Parish News

We are all missing in-person coffee hour and the ability to catch up on everyone's lives. We have listed below a number of life events that have happened within our parish community over the past 18 months. We apologize for any that we may have missed or forgotten and pray we will all be able to reconnect at in-person coffee hour again before too long.

## **Baby Brigade: Welcome to all our new little ones**

John Guthrie Anderson—Son of Katie and Tom Anderson

Emmaline Josephine Ash — Daughter of Ashley and Phillip Ash

Brooklyn Mary Hadley — Daughter of Brynn and Jed Hadley, Granddaughter of Pat Hadley

Nathaniel Jones—Son of Carolyn and Dan Jones

George Pfeiffer Russell — Granddaughter of Kristin and Steve Pfeiffer

George Burwell Scofi —Son of Sarah and Jason Scofi

Elijah Evan Sibley — Son of Katie Deemer and Tom Sibley

Axel Matthew Thottam —Son of Elizabeth and Nicholas Thottam

Lochlan Gerald Weller— Son of Katy and Wes Weller

Georgia Inglesbury Magruder Willingham — Daughter of Hayes and Jode Willingham

## **Happily Ever After: Congratulations to our newlyweds**

Laura Bishop and Nan Derenzi

Jeanne Langdon and John Vanore

Sarah Tianit and Bryan Frank—coming up October 2, Son of Geoff and Mary Ann Frank

## **Rest in Peace: Remembering beloved members we have lost**

Gudrun Callahan

Don Ervine

Ralph Fairbank

Tack Hamby

Barbara Helsing

Milton Jobe

Ken Kolson

## **Times are ever changing: Best wishes to all who are transitioning to new locations**

Nick and Caroline Benne

John Schoenewolf

Jim and Kelly Bialik

Tom Sibley and Katie Deemer

Julian Gonsalves and Ginny Insley

Matt and Brooke Stratford

Jonathan and Kristin Hayden

George Tuttle and Barbara Harslem

Brandon and Carlyn Hollingshead

Maria Jones

Paul and Lee Larkin

Rachel Piemonte



EMMANUEL  
PRESCHOOL

#### Preschool Board of Directors

Pam Resnick (Chair)

Erin Uhrle (Secretary)

Chris Yianolis (Vestry Liaison)

Becca Brocato (Teacher Representative)

Lucia Lodata ((Resource Parent)

Amanda DeLong (Resource Parent)

Ashley Berrang (Member)

Marissa Simpson (Member)

Chuck McCoart (Ex Officio)

Nicole Crochet (Ex Officio)

Janie Piemonte (Ex Officio,  
Finance Manager)

#### Preschool Staff Director

[Nicole Crochet](#)

#### Teachers

Rebecca Brocato

Meghan Cote

Pat Donnelly

Amy Ernst

Marilu Escalante

Christy Finn

Paige Gilgan

Mollee Hansen

Sylvia Logiewa

Kate Schneider

Sara Stekloff

Cappie Stiers

#### School Hours

Monday—Friday

9:00 AM—12:30 PM

#### Emmanuel Episcopal Preschool

1608 Russell Road

Alexandria, VA 22301

703-683-0303 (phone)

703-683-6158 (fax)

[preschooladminista-  
tor@epsonhigh.org](mailto:preschooladminista-<br/>tor@epsonhigh.org)

[www.emmanuelonhigh.org](http://www.emmanuelonhigh.org)

## EPS begins another school year!

It is hard to believe we are already in September and parents are arriving for Meet and Greet with their little ones. We are excited to begin the 2021-2022 school year with an enrollment of 70 students. While we are still following safety protocols such as masking, social distancing, and utilizing the outside areas as much as possible, we are thankful to be able to share classrooms this year. We will continue to limit access to the building during school hours for the protection of the children who cannot be vaccinated.

### Changes this year:

We are trying a few new things this year to respond to the needs of our community. Early drop off will be available for 3's and 4/5's with limited capacity and we have made a 4-day option available on a limited basis for our 3's program. It is our hope these changes will be easily integrated into our program and will provide additional options for our parents.

### Welcome to New and Returning Staff:

We are pleased to welcome back Amy Ernst and Jacquelyn Kittredge to our teacher roster this year. In addition, we are excited to have Kathy Bower join us as the Administrative Assistant in the preschool office. Kathy has been a wonderful addition to our faculty, helping us get ready for the new school year. Sylvia Logiewa and Sara Stekloff, are the newest members to our amazing teaching staff. In addition, Susanna Carey and Alison Alden will be assistants for 4/5 classes. Kathy, Sara and Allison all have children that previously attended EPS.

### Looking ahead:

With slightly less restrictions this year, we hope to be able to reinstitute chapel with Chuck in early 2022. Before the pandemic, chapel was always a special part of our program and we look forward to having it return to our monthly schedule. We also plan to have Beth Boland start back up with her Guitar Time with the 3s at the beginning of 2022, if we are able to do it safely. Beth brought such joy to our 3s when she came in previous years.

***Thank you, in advance, for the support and prayers as we navigate the challenges of our 2021-2022 school year. The Church Parishioner's and the Vestry's unwavering dedication to EPS has been a vital part in our school continuing to stay open and providing a positive preschool experience for the little ones in our community.***