

welcome!

Introducing this month's issue of ...

HIGH NOTES



EMMANUEL
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



2021

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High Notes Submissions

Please submit your articles for the *January High Notes* to [Janie](#) by Wednesday, December 15.

A message from Chuck

Prepare for a new thing

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."—Isaiah 43:19

Advent and Christmas are all about celebrating the "new thing" that God did for the sake of God's people - the incarnation of God's divine essence and presence in the human form of Jesus, our savior and lord.

Join us as we journey into Advent, beginning Sunday, November 28.

The four traditional Advent themes offer a template for how we can do a "new thing" in our church and in our lives.

Hope as an antidote to the culture of despair.

Peace in our hearts brings reconciliation to the world.

Love for our friends and enemies alike expands the capacity in each of us.

Joy in Christ makes all things new.

Information on our Advent selections are on page 2 and 4.

Join us as we celebrate the Birth of Christ. Details found on page 2.

If you haven't had a chance to fill out a pledge card, please find information on how to do so on page 5.

One of our goals for 2022 is to renovate our ministry to children and youth. Information about our partnership with Ministry Architects can be found on page 7.

We will soon close out the books on another calendar year - and what a year it has been - coming to the end of a second year of pandemic, 2021 will certainly go down as one the most turbulent years in recent history. And we as God's people continue to pray for an end to this time of pandemic awaiting whatever the new thing is which God wants to do in our lives.

God, who promises to make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, will lead us to new ways of stewarding our lives to meet the challenges of whatever the new normal will be.

Thank you for sticking with us through this incredibly challenging time.

Peace, chuck.

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

[Winnie Smith](#)

[Stephen Bragaw](#)

Director of Youth Ministry

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
1:00 pm —4:00 pm

Emmanuel Episcopal Church

1608 Russell Road
Alexandria, VA 22301
703-683-0798 (phone)

www.emmanuelonhigh.org

Advent & Christmas Coming Attractions



Advent Sundays: 8:00 & 10:00 am

Lighting of the Advent Wreath & Holy Eucharist

The 10 o'clock service will feature performances by the handbell choir, cantor soloists, and seasonal music orchestrated by Ryan Fitch, MM.

Advent 2, Sunday, December 5, 5:00 pm

For the Blue Season, A Service of Comfort: The New Zealand Night Prayer liturgy interlaced with Taize Chant in the nave at 5:00 pm. An "at home" version will also be sent to your email boxes.

Advent 3

Bells, Carols, and Cocoa—December 11, 5:00 pm

Bell choir concert, "masked" Carols, and cocoa outdoors on steps of the church. Wear your craziest Christmas sweater and join us in the pews in this reimagined "sing-a-long". There will be prizes!

Christmas Eve, December 24 - 3:00 & 5:00 pm

Family Pageant in the Pews

To accommodate the Christmas crowd safely and socially distanced, each of these two services will feature "A Pageant in the Pews." As a young voice reads the Nativity story from the Gospel of Luke, younger folks in the pews will don a Christmas garland halo, lift up a cardboard shepherd's crook, or a shiny aluminum foil star (given out at the door as they arrive) from wherever they are seated with their families in the pews. A simple and fun way to celebrate the birth of our Lord.

Christmas Eve, December 24 -9:00 pm

Candlelit Vigil Holy Eucharist in the Nave

A traditional after dark celebration of Jesus' birth accompanied by beautiful music of the season.

Christmas Day, December 25 -10:00 am

Morning Holy Eucharist

An Emmanuel Christmas morning tradition, features carols strummed by the faithful members of the Guitar Circle.

For this holy season, Emmanuel at Home, the portable liturgy will also continue to come out each Saturday at noon. Stay tuned for more info!

Greetings Emmanuel Parents!!

Let me introduce you to an Advent season creative project for children and youth. After reading this, I hope you will share it with them and see if they would like to participate.

This **Emmanuel Voices** blog series, *The Spirit of Christmas Present*, will feature younger artists and writers from our community. **A post will go up daily starting December 1st for 24 days -- like an Advent calendar.**



Each post will reflect/illustrate **meaningful memories of a Christmas past** both secular or sacred, with family, friends, school, or church. They can be funny, thoughtful, joyful or sad. They can include the characters found around your holiday table. They can share unique and homegrown traditions, a rundown of favorite Christmas carols, a Christmas pageant gone wrong, or a story about presents you were surprised to find under the tree. Or something I have not thought of here!

Each post can **conclude with a sentence or two about hopes for this year's "Christmas Present."**

Written **posts can be any length but shorter is better.** (As short as a paragraph or as long as two pages). **Drawings, photos, music, video, poetry, stories, humor are all welcome.**

The posts go out beyond Emmanuel so **for privacy we can use just first names** for young authors if you prefer.

I am happy to offer any **coaching or support** your young bloggers might need.

Please, reply soon so I can get sufficient bloggers lined up. If we get more than 24, I can double up posts on any day.

Since the posts will go up each day in December, ideally **I would like to receive them by November 30.** You can email them to me **[here](#).**

And to sweeten the deal **each blogger will receive a tiny Christmas gift** from me!

Blessings,

[Joani](#)



If you missed our last Emmanuel voices Series "The Artist Within Us", you can click **[here](#)** to see all of the wonderful ways our parishioners and guest bloggers have engaged their artistic side during this pandemic. The entries in this inspiring series reflect the value of art in all our lives, from generation to generation.

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 Walz](#)

Fellowship

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](#)

Spiritual Formation



Dawning Divine: Prose & Poetry for Advent

This spiritual map of Advent's 24 days, "*Dawning Divine*" is a twist on a title from a book by theologian Karl Rahner. The literary selections feature poetry and prose, and are pulled from the likes of T.S. Eliot, Sylvia Plath, W.H. Auden, Thomas Merton, John Henry Neuman, Thomas Aquinas, Madeleine L'Engle, Oscar Romero, and many more.

You can engage this homegrown online devotional in a variety of ways. You can prayerfully read, and also listen to Joani's recordings. In order, or out of order it's totally up to you! Enjoy and please feel free to share. Click [here](#) to access this wonderful Advent devotional.

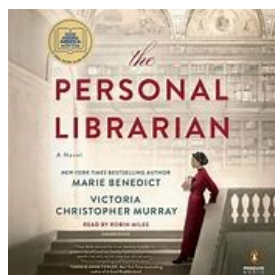


Forgotten Women Of Christianity

This 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.

November 7: Pulcheria defends the Virgin Mary (5th century)

November 14: Heloise embraces the New Philosophy (12th century)



Paperback Spirituality: [The Personal Librarian, A Novel](#), Sunday, November 21, 7:00 pm

Written by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray, this historical novel "tells the remarkable story of J.P.Morgan's personal librarian, Belle da Costa Green, the Black American woman who was forced to hide her true identity and pass as white to leave a lasting legacy that enriched our nation." A provocative and evocative read, please join in the conversation via Zoom by clicking [here](#), passcode 203224.

THE WAY OF LOVE *Practices for Jesus-Centered Life*

Join seminarian Winnie Smith in exploring The Way of Love in Advent. Our 3 virtual sessions will include Scripture study based on the weekly readings, discussion and creation of a Rule of Life, and learning how to show others the Way of Jesus' Love. Come for one, two, or three sessions, and be prepared to learn how to incorporate these spiritual practices into your life for a more meaningful journey towards Christmas. Watch the e-news in the coming weeks for series dates and final details



Tis the season to give thanks for all that makes us grateful and feel blessed. At Emmanuel we are especially blessed and thankful to all who open their hearts to give generously to our Annual Giving and Capital Campaigns. Thanks to all of you, Emmanuel has continued to operate with financial stability despite the “not so normal” times. Please see below for some FAQ’s about annual giving.

Thanks so much to those who have already pledged for 2022. If you haven’t yet submitted your pledge, we look forward to hearing from you as we strive to reach our goal of 100% participation this year. For those who have not yet pledged, it’s easy to fill out the card and mail it in or click [here](#) to submit online.

Thank you to all who have pledged to our Annual Giving and Capital Campaigns as of November 1.

Paula & John Ajello	Paulette & Doug Garthoff	Lucy Mustin	Jamie Williams
Elizabeth & Tom Anderson	Bettina Gehring	Kay Parker	Rance Willis
Katie & Lee Anderson	Jenny & Joseph Gesley	Kristin & Steve Pfeiffer	Brett & Margaret Wohler
Kate Armstrong	Pat Hadley	Pete Petersen	
Lola Beggs	Barbara Huffman	Leslie & Dwayne Piepenburg	
Beth and Frank Boland	Jennifer Jones & James Kaelin	Grace & David Pratt	
Jim Bradley	Sue & Pat Kenny	Joanne Pyle	
Joy Burwell	Sarah & David Kolo	John & Megan Read	
Amelie & Charles Cagle	Jane Kolson	Thomas Rigby	
Walter Carlton	Gene & Jeanne Lange	Joan Rodano	
Mary Lou Collins	Bonnie Lilley	Doris Rudolph	
Fred DeLuca	Lowell & Louise Livinghouse	Kim & Joe Scott	
Vonda & Greg Delawie	Kathleen McCullough	Cindy Shen	
Nancy Dupree	Emily McNaughton	Pat Barbarowicz & Chuck Thomas	
Gail & Ron Eger	Laura & Gian Maccone	Blake & Sharon Thompson	
Marion Ervine	Elizabeth & Chris Massey	Marilyn Tulloch	
B. C. Forrest	Lauren Maxey	Pat Tyler	
Carol Foss	Nancy Kuhn & Bucky Mills	Meredith Wade	
Barbie Frank	Catherine & Nick Miliaras	Catherine & Doug Wheeler	

Frequently Asked Questions about Annual Giving

If I am already donating to Emmanuel, do I need to complete a pledge?

Although a pledge is not required, pledging helps us to budget accurately and efficiently. Knowing what we can expect to receive in donations enables the Financial Team to plan expenses in keeping with anticipated income to ensure the financial stability of Emmanuel in the near term and but also for the future.

Is a pledging the same as a tithing?

The two are related but not the same. A tithe is considered a percentage of income, generally 10%. A pledge is assurance that you will donate a specific amount, decided by you. The back of your pledge card provides some suggested guidelines for level of giving but at Emmanuel our goal is to have each parishioner pledge the amount they feel is both appropriate and manageable.

I have already set up recurring giving online, do I need to return a pledge card?

It is helpful for our records to have a completed pledge card in case of any discrepancy. However, sending an email to Janie Piemonte indicating you wish your recurring gift to be considered a pledge would allow the office to complete a card for you.

Can I complete my pledge card online?

Yes! Visit Emmanuel’s website, www.emmanuelonhigh.org and click on the far-left tab labeled “contact.” Select Giving Campaign from the drop-down list, complete the required information and submit.

FAQs Continued

How can I pay my pledge?

You can pay your pledge in a variety of ways: 1) drop your check in the mail to the church office, 2) drop your check in the collection box or basket on Sunday, 3) set up automatic giving through our online portal using either a direct draft from your bank or a credit card charge. To set up online giving just go to our website, www.emmanuelonhigh.org, and click the e-giving image on the home page.

Can I pay my pledge using my annual IRA distribution?

Yes! Several parishioners already utilize their minimum annual distribution to honor their pledge to Emmanuel. You can set this up with the institution that holds your IRA.

Can I set up a recurring payment online?

Yes! Follow the instructions above to access the online giving portal. Just choose recurring gift when setting up the donation.

What about fees for online giving?

Our online vendor charges Emmanuel for \$0.39 each transaction and in addition a percentage fee is charged per transaction amount. The fee is 0.75% for an ACH or Automatic Clearing House transaction and 2.99% for a credit card transaction. When setting up your donation, you can opt to include these fees in the transaction.

Can I prepay my pledge?

Yes. Several of our parishioners choose to pay at the end of the previous calendar year for the upcoming campaign or at the start of the new calendar year.

Can I pay annually or quarterly?

You can pay your pledge in whatever increments work best for your personal circumstances. We have pledges that are paid in weekly, biweekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual installments.

How will I know my payments have been received?

The church office sends out a donation statement at the end of each quarter via email to all pledge donors and at the end of the year for non-pledge donors. This statement shows all donations entered in the church database.

Do I need to pay separately for my annual pledge and my capital campaign contribution?

If you wish to combine these two donations into one payment, you are welcome to do so by informing the parish administrator how you wish the payment to be split. You can email [Janie Piemonte](mailto:Janie.Piemonte) to provide these instructions or indicate the respective amounts on your pledge card.

Can I get weekly envelopes?

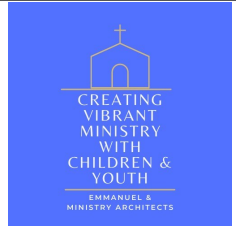
Yes. If you wish to have weekly envelopes in which to make your donation, please check the box before submitting your pledge card.

Updates from around the Parish

Ministry Architects Update

The Renovation Team has met on-line with our lead contractor, Mike Crain, and has begun the organizational work. Mike has also spelled out all the 'tools' they will be using and the project's timeline. The next step is gathering in person for Mike's on-site visit November 19-21. He will be with us in church on a Sunday so you will have an opportunity to meet and welcome him. Meanwhile, you can join the Prayer Team in supporting this project in your personal prayers. I'm reminded that one of my favorite scriptures is a good place to start: *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to God's purpose.* Romans 8:28

Meredith Wade, Vestry Liaison



Strategic Plan Update

The work of creating Emmanuel's 5-Year Strategic Plan for 2022-2026 is continuing to move forward. After several discussions, we have determined the focus for the next 5 years will be growing engagement and support for all members of our parish community. It is our hope that through this process every member of Emmanuel will find a ministry within our church that will be the right fit for them. A ministry through which they can love and serve God and others through their participation.

Supporting any good strategy are measurable goals to evaluate progress and identify where we may need to work harder or adapt our approach to achieve the goal. Currently, ministry leaders are working to envision their goals for broadening engagement and support, identify the tools needed for success, and determine the steps required to meet their goals over the next 5 years.

After ministry goals are set, we will work to integrate our diverse missions into one combined Emmanuel Strategic Plan and introduce this ambitious plan to the parish at the beginning of 2022. Following the significant challenges COVID-19 has brought all of us, we hope that our work provides all our members the opportunity to find new passions and meaning at Emmanuel that will renew them.

Vestry Update

Interested in serving on the vestry?

Every year we welcome conversations with those who may be interested in serving on the vestry. The vestry meets once a month, these days via zoom, and vestry members volunteer for a three year term. While on the vestry we hope members will attend monthly meetings, serve as a liaison to one of our committees, serve as a sounding board for the rector, and serve as a conduit by which parishioners can communicate their thoughts to the vestry.

We are particularly interested in volunteers or potential vestry members who have an interest or expertise in the following areas:

Communication

Website development

Building and Grounds or people who love to do or oversee indoor projects or outdoor projects

Please reach out to Chuck or Janie if this moves you to become involved.



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)
preschooladministrator@epsonhigh.org
www.emmanuelonhigh.org

Notes from our Preschool Classrooms

The Orange 3s love being back to school! We were happy to see many of our old friends from last year and welcome new friends to our school. We always begin the year learning some routines. Freezing and looking at our teacher when the bell rings, putting our feet on a fox (stickers on the floor) when it is time to line up, singing our song as we clean up.

Since we are 3s this year, each of us has a job to do every day: Line Leader, Caboose, Electrician, Meeting Leader, Class Reporter, Librarian, Weather Reporter, Thinker, Teacher's Helper, and Grace Leader. We love coming into our class and finding out what our job is. It's also a great question for parents to ask at the end of the day.

Orange 3s always have a few projects under way. We noticed that our classroom tree did not have any leaves at the beginning of the year. We used green items to collage beautiful leaves to add to it. Our tree will help us study the seasons throughout the year mirroring the trees we see on our outdoor walks. Since then we've added apples that we made using the office's die cutter and our strong muscles.

This week we found that some of the leaves on the tree are starting to turn colors just like the leaves outside. And to help welcome the fall season, we added a pumpkin patch with the pumpkins we made by mixing colors and sewing. It's a cozy corner! We can't wait to see what else the year brings!

Becca Brocato and Christy Finn

