



Emmanuel News Notes

June, 2009

Pastor Lookingbill ponders. children

Jesus says in the Gospel of Mark, “whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it!” Did Jesus mean to say that we need to be as trusting as a little child to innocently receive the Kingdom? Or, did Jesus mean to say that only those who act like little children, tantrums and all, can be part of this vision of God’s heavenly realm?

June is a fine month to think about children and the message of the Church. The yearly Sunday School program has ended with celebration and thanksgiving to all the teachers and students. It’s heartwarming to see the children and a few of the youth come to study and learn about God’s Word to the world, in the world. There’s also a new announcement from the Christian Education Committee that a “one room” Sunday Funday will continue throughout the summer months. The intention is for children up to sixth grade to participate in learning activities. It makes good sense to continue the Sunday sessions since most of our members are here “at home” for various parts of the summer. There’s nothing better to do on a Sunday morning than learn about Jesus and the promises to the Church children! (Spoken like a Pastor, I know.)

June is even more exciting for children and the adults, both parents and friends in the Church, because the Joyful Praise Choir will present their spring Cantata on 7 June at the 11 o’clock worship service. That’s also Music Appreciation Sunday, but the Cantata will be the late service focus. What makes it exciting is that the children will be explaining in their own voices the praise and wonder of learning about God’s love for us. Is this not also what Jesus would have meant when he spoke about receiving the Kingdom like a child? There really is nothing more persuasive than a child’s voice speaking clearly and simply about God and the forces of creation. What we adults have been “trained” to ignore in life – ants and flowers and the breeze, sticks and stones and water gurgling along a brook – the children see plainly, and adore them! What we adults have been distracted from seeing the eyes of our children are open to notice. We adults sometimes see the need to torture, children see the need to heal. We adults speak in serious tones while the children sing for joy about God’s saving activity.

What could Jesus have possibly meant when he took little children in his arms and blessed them when the whole of his generation ignored the children and told them to watch and keep silent? Without children of his own, Jesus was not able to know the joys of staying up all night with a sick little one. What he did know was that those children were notable in the Kingdom of God; they looked for that attention and that love that the Creator of all has always shared. Even when there is a sick child, the Lord hears the prayers of those who plead for healing and health.

Even more important in the Church is the opportunity for adults and children, youth and the wise older members to share their lives and their wisdom. We learn from one another. We share in the Church the rare opportunity to interact with people of several generations. We don’t all have to “twitter” or “blog” or send an “email.” Some of us don’t even know what those activities mean? All God’s people need to support one another, listen to one another and learn together that our Lord is Truth and the Life. We learn this together in the wonderful gathering of all the generations in Church!

“Innocence and blessedness” is the phrase that Martin Luther uses in the Small Catechism to explain why Jesus has been sent from God to us: That we may live in innocence and blessedness under his teaching and serve him always. The children teach this and we display this innocence and blessedness as we share the beauty of children’s singing voices and our attention to their growing faith at Emmanuel. Thank God for the children, whose blessings we share in simple faith and trust.

DATES OF NOTE

- June 6 Car wash (page 6)
- June 7 Joyful Praise Cantata (page 3)
- June 14 Church picnic (page 3)
- June 18 Lutherpalooza (page 8)
- June 21 Chi Rho commissioning 11 a.m. service
- June 22 Fun Bunch Lunch (page 8)
- June 28-July 4 Chi Rho work camp

WORSHIP

Sunday 8:30 & 11:00
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

Congregation Meets, Hears About Programs, and Elects New Members of the Council

On Sunday, May 3, the congregation met to hear of programs and hold elections. The financial picture of the congregation was also discussed; giving is down from that of a year ago, although not as seriously as was feared, income is only 90 percent of expenses. Nonetheless, it is probable that some cuts in spending will be required in order to avoid depleting the congregation's reserve funds. Four members of council were elected for three-year terms: Andrew Szamoszegi (re-elected to a second term), Anna Roberts, Diane Swenson and Annette Poston.

Council Re-elects Officers

At its meeting on May 12, the church council re-elected its officers to another one-year term. President, James McGee; Vice President, Jessica Botsford; Secretary, Martha Lundberg; Treasurer, Tim Hando, and Financial Secretary, Wayne Hunley.

Synod Assembly meets, elects

The Metropolitan Washington DC Synod met on May 8 and 9 in the Kellogg Conference Hotel at Gallaudet University. Among other things, the Assembly elected John White to be the new Vice President (replacing Dr. Tommie Robinson), the highest lay position in the Synod.

Council Retreat Announced

The Church Council will meet in a retreat to consider its actions and the life of the parish at the church on June 27. All members of the Council are urged to attend.

Youth Confirmed

The nine members of the Confirmation Class that were confirmed on Pentecost Sunday 31 May at the 11 a.m. Worship Service are:

Catherine Emma Benz	Daniel Christopher Condon
Mark Thomas Hunley	Alexander Robert Lewis
Rachel Leigh Danielle Lundberg	Robert Lawrence Pillote, III
Lauren Elizabeth Rhea	Catherine Jean Roberts
Alaine Patricia Thronson	

We welcome these fine youth to adult membership and celebrate with them the joys of the community of faith here at Emmanuel.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE ENCOUNTER WITH MARK

Pr. Lookingbill will conclude the challenging study of the Gospel of Mark on 10 June, after a luncheon study at Bethesda Country Club on 3 June. Our spring study of the Gospel of Mark has been the re-reading of the dynamic story of Jesus at work in a world that needs healing, vision and God's power! Jesus is the Son of God, teaching about the Kingdom of God among the people of God and confronting both the Roman world view and the prevailing Jewish traditions. The fall Wednesday morning Bible Encounter will begin on 9 September, the Wednesday after Labor Day.

Youth Sunday

On May 10, 2009 the Lutheran Youth From Emmanuel (LYFE) led the worship services. High school seniors, Patrick Deem and Hannah Vogel, were our preachers. We had music from the Joyful Praise Choir. Zibby Pillote accompanied the hymns and adult musicals on the guitar. Brendan Cawley, flute, and Andrew Weinstein, violin, played during the service. The jazz postlude was preformed by Alex Lewis, Connor Southar, and Quanah Potts. Other youth were also involved in the readings and prayers. We thank each of them for the worship experience.

Just a knell at twilight

Two by two they come, tracts in hand, earnest questions on their lips, and fingers on the doorbell. "Have you seen the light?" they ask, certain of the answer. How eager they are to share their superior understanding. One cannot argue, for they don't listen. One cannot escape them without rude rejection. After a long day, there is not energy left to impart the glories of the Augsburg Confession to them. Ask not for whom the bell tolls. Indeed, consider not answering the door.

Emmanuel News Notes is published eleven times a year by Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 7730 Bradley Blvd, Bethesda, Maryland 20817, Telephone: (301) 365-5733; Fax: (301) 365-9236 Email: info@elcbethesda.org website: www.elcbethesda.org

Pastor:	Rev. Jan P. Lookingbill
Youth & Family Ministry	Rev. Robert L. Lewis
Council President	James McGee
Parish Administrator	Katherine Burrell
Director of Music	Dingwall Fleary
Joyful Praise (Children's) Choir	Susan Drumm

SCHOOL SUPPLIES, JUNE 2009 SCHOOL'S OUT!! SHOPPING ALREADY?!

It's the end of the school year - time to buy more school supplies! Why? Well, Emmanuel's students may not need them this summer, but some other kids in our county do - kids of working poor, homeless, and disabled individuals, and recent immigrants.

During the summer the Interfaith Clothing center collects pencils, notebooks, and other items for these school kids, to get them ready for fall. To help the ICC with its school supply drive, Emmanuel will be collecting the items on the shopping list below. Please bring them to the narthex on June 7 and 14 - we'll do the rest!

Shopping list: New backpacks, calculators, boxes of pencils and pens, erasers, glue, glue sticks, rulers, markers, crayons (24-48 per box), 3-ring binders, pocket folders, notebook dividers, marble composition books, pencil boxes, wide-ruled loose leaf paper, spiral notebooks, small boxes of tissues, and highlighters.

MANNA FOOD SUMMER COLLECTION: GIVE BEYOND EMMANUEL'S WALLS

Many of our area students in schools qualify for free or reduced-price meals (FARMS) at school. So who feeds these kids breakfast and lunch during the summer? There's not much room in their parents' budgets for extra food expenses. So, their families turn to places like the MANNA Food Center to make up the difference. Not surprisingly, MANNA gets its highest demand during June, July, and August.

That means it's time for churches like Emmanuel to step in and keep MANNA's shelves full. For that reason, we keep collecting food in the narthex on every Sunday. We make periodic deliveries to MANNA during the summer - to keep low-income county kids (and low-income folks generally) fed.

Care to help? Please bring some items from the list below to church with you this summer as part of your offering.

MANNA especially needs:

**Breakfast Cereal Rice – Beans - Pasta
Canned Meats/Tuna Fish Spaghetti Sauce
Canned Fruit and Vegetables Shelf-Stable Milk
Baby Formula/Baby Food Peanut Butter**



JOYFUL PRAISE CHOIR TO SING

Mark your calendars now for June 7th! The Joyful Praise Choir will present their end-of-year cantata "It's Good!", a story about creation. Needless to say, the children have found a new way to tell this well-known story, and everyone will enjoy the songs and the story. Please support all the choir's hard work by coming to worship at the 11:00 service.

Thank You: Sunday School Teachers.

We would like to thank the Sunday School Teachers for sharing their time and talents during the 2008-2009 school year. From Pre-K to adults, these classes were taught by some wonderful people:

Vicky Aceto, Marianne Beardall, Steve Benz, Adam Cowles, Maria Green Cowles, Anna Hasbargen, Sue Hunley, Samantha Irwin, Kristi Johnson, Jennifer Lewis, Steve Reed, Mae Scanlan, Floyd Swanson, Diane Swenson, Alan Williams, and Pam Williams



CHURCH PICNIC

June 14, 2009

Everyone is invited to the Church Picnic on June 14th after the Second Service. We will have BBQ from Red, Hot and Blue again this year. Please bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share with others. You can sign-up in the Narthex to let us know what you are bringing or call Pastor Lewis in the church office.

Young Adult Happy Hour

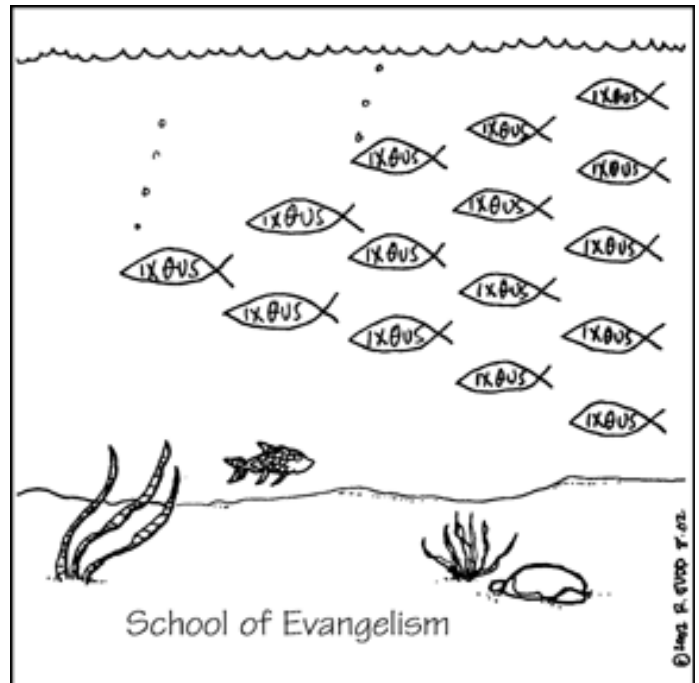
Monday, June 8, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Buffalo Billiards at 1330 19th St NW, Washington DC

Join us at the Young Adult* Happy Hour at Buffalo Billiards (1330 19th St NW, DC at the Dupont Circle Metro Station) on Monday, June 8 from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. The Lutheran Churches in DC are sponsoring a synod-wide young adult happy hour. We are inviting young adults to come meet other area young adults, enjoy informal conversation and explore how people are living out their faith Monday through Saturday.

For more information contact Pastor Meredith Lovell at mlovell@stpaulslutherandc.com. RSVPs helpful, but not necessary

[Wondering how we define young adult? Usually it is someone in their 20s or 30s, Often we find that people a little younger or a little older enjoy participating in young adult events, too, and we welcome them. For this event, those who are under-21 will need to sign a waiver form at the door.]



Young Adult Web Site

There is a new web site for Young Adults found at dcyoungadults.org. This is a new, online forum dedicated to thinking about how Young Adults are (or aren't) connecting to their faith. There is also information about events, blogs, and other ways to connect with one another.

Change for Change

Do you have a jar of pennies that you have not had time to wrap? How about car ashtray full of coins? Or a piggy bank full of change and you do not know what to do with it? Bring it into the church and dump it into the "Change for Change" bucket. This change will go toward helping change the social and environmental conditions in and around New Orleans, a city that is still trying to recover from hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The twelve youth who are traveling to New Orleans this summer will be involved in mission work that will help the environment and social climate of New Orleans and the parishes (counties) that surround the city.



Chi Rho Work Camp

The Chi Rho Work Camp is the mission trip to Neon, Kentucky organized by the Metro D.C. synod that youth from Emmanuel attend. This year the work camp is June 28 to July 4, 2009. We ask you to please keep those attending Chi Rho in your prayers during that week.

Fund Raising for the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering

As we get closer to the date our youth will be attending the Gathering, we are still raising funds. With your help we have raised \$8633 so far. We still need to raise at the minimum another \$2500 to be able to completely pay for the travel, registration fees, and accommodations. We would like to raise another \$1000 over that to help pay for meals during the week we are at the gathering. You can help by coming to the car wash on June 6, 2009, buying raffle tickets for the Doll House, donating your loose change, or making a donation. We will have a dinner for all donors in the Fall to celebrate and to share with you our experiences.

2009 ELCA Youth Gathering

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus
(Philippians 2:5)

This July we have a team of 15 heading down to the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans along with 36,600 other Lutheran youth and leaders. This Gathering will not be like those in the past, instead, it will look and feel like a servant school. At the center of the Gathering program is a deepening of our awareness of God's call to servanthood, and a deepening of the basic Christian practices by which we live our baptismal calling to servanthood throughout life. Programming for the Gathering will follow a gospel-centered service learning model that includes intentional preparation, action, reflection and celebration.

As the team prepares to head down to New Orleans, we want to keep everyone abreast of what we are doing. Since we see ourselves as the "Away Team" that our worship community is sending into the world, we think of those who are staying in the community as the "Home Team." We have prepared a special web site for you, the "Home Team." It can be found at <http://elchometeam.wordpress.com/>. There you will find information about how you can support the "Away Team."

Christian Education Notes

Summer Sunday School

Beginning on June 14, 2009, we will have a "one-room" Sunday School / Fun Day School each Sunday during the summer for Pre-K to sixth graders. During these events we will have songs, arts, and crafts, Bible stories, interactive activities, games and more. Each Sunday / Fun Day is a "stand alone" activity; therefore, if you miss a week (or two) you will not feel left behind when you return.

Midsummer, a time to consider

For untold years, the time around the summer equinox has been special. Ancient pagans celebrated all kinds of strange stuff then and the early church co-opted those festivals for the use of the church, celebrating (among other things) the nativity of St. John the Baptist. It was always believed that magic was especially potent around this time and we still have vestiges of that in our culture—Modest Mussorgski wrote *Night on Bald Mountain* describing events that took place on the eve of Ivan Kupala (Russian for St. John the Baptist). Bonfires have apparently always played a part in these observances across northern Europe and the British Isles.

Young girls were advised to gather seven kinds of wild flowers on Midsummer Day and place them under their pillows. This would ensure that they would dream about the man they would marry.

In Sweden and elsewhere on the Baltic Sea, this was the day to dance around the *Midsommarstång*, a May pole set up at Midsommarsaften and covered in greens. Apparently the practice was brought to Sweden by Germans and, because the climate didn't permit much gathering of greens on May Day, they transferred the dancing to Midsummer.

Even today, many of these customs have some observance in Europe. Generally, certain bonfires are lit and partying often goes on into the night with strawberries, some drinking, the first new potatoes, pickled herring, and sour cream. (Why not make use of the light to enjoy oneself?) It may be that maidens don't have to gather flowers to find themselves dreaming of their future spouses—a bonfire and propinquity may be sufficient.



Midsommarsaften

Parish Vital Records

Births

Everett Robel June, son born 5 May 2009 to Jaime and Ron June

New Member

Linnea Menge, daughter of Linda Marie Oravec and Chad Richard Menge, by infant baptism 11 April 2009

Grant Alexander Portner, a son of Mark and Alexandra Portner, by infant baptism on 10 May 2009

Wedding

Christian Thomas Gunter Herr and *Casey Ann Williams*, on 18 April 2009, in Fredericksburg, Texas

Deaths

Clarence Brown. 5 May 2009, friend of Pr. Lewis

Song writers love to croon about June and its silvery moon. Why else did they light on "spoon" as a synonym for gentle caressing and the whispering of sweet nothings in the ear of one's sweetie? But, come to think about it, they do the same thing for other months, they just don't rhyme as well.

CAR WASH RE-SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 6

Rain, threats of thundershowers, and other miserable weather led the Youth to postpone their car wash from May 16 to June 6. Remember the new date and refresh your vehicle with the Youths' careful cleaning.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES SET TO CONQUER THE WORLD

June means commencement for our High School seniors. As they begin this new chapter, they will be going to places throughout the world. Here is a brief account of what they plan:

Karl Benz (Walt Whitman) – Karl will attend Middlebury College in Middlebury, VT. He intends on majoring in biomedical engineering, and he plans to join the Panthers' swim team and possibly row on their crew team as well.

Patrick Deem (Walt Whitman) – Patrick will take a gap year and travel to Cairo, Egypt as part of an exchange program sponsored by the State Department. After that, he will enroll at Georgetown University, where he plans on majoring in international relations.

Katie Guild (Walt Whitman) – Katie will attend Susquehanna University, a liberal arts college in Selinsgrove, PA, where she plans on majoring in ecology.

Patrick Hunley (Walt Whitman) – Patrick will attend the University of Missouri-Columbia. He plans on double majoring in journalism and economics.

Brent Miller (Churchill) – Brent will attend Arizona State University.

Greg Murtland (McLean School of MD) – Greg will attend Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA. He plans to study in their business school and major in either economics or marketing.

Laura Sheys (Bethesda-Chevy Chase) – Laura will attend Smith College, a liberal arts college in Northampton, MA. She intends majoring in studio art to improve her skills in the visual arts, including painting and sculpting.

Eleni Stellakis (Rockville) – Eleni plans to attend Montgomery College for a semester and then transfer to Towson University in Towson, MD. Once there, she wants to major in Speech-Language Pathology. After college, she hopes to continue to be an advocate for those with autism.

Hannah Vogel (Walt Whitman) – Hannah will attend Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT. She plans to major in either environmental science or science in society, and she also plans on becoming involved in dance, a cappella choir, and

Pastor Lewis considers...choices

As another school year wraps up, graduating seniors are contemplating the next stage in their lives. Whether kids are heading to college, the military, or full-time employment, this important milestone brings a mixture of excitement and uncertainty.

Those feelings are not reserved for high school seniors. It does not matter if they are 13 or 24, most young people question what the future holds for them. "What does God want me to do with my life? Should I go to college? Should I work toward a masters degree? If so, which one? What should I study? What do I want to be? Should I get married? If so, to whom?" Such questions can feel overwhelming, especially when they're combined with all the other emotions and pressures today's teens and college students face.

Those who know that God has a plan for them still might not know which particular direction God wants them to take. When big choices loom, Christians can bring their questions to God in prayer and hopefully be able to count on the loving support of family members and friends.

As members of a community, a worship community, our presence and guidance during times of decision-making is crucial. Although we cannot make choices for our young people, we can help them recognize their talents and interests, research their options, set short and long-term goals, and then get settled in the next stage of their lives.

I am the first to admit that I did not know how to go about planning my life for God. I was never really taught or given advice from a community that cared about me (remember, this is a time in life when one thinks one's parents do not know anything). I remember some of the things my mom taught me back then, such as floss and wear clean underwear in case of an accident. But none of those things helped me figure out what God expected me to be and do. I am not even sure if I knew at that time that God had a plan for me. For me, discerning my purpose in life was a grueling process of hit and miss, of pouring my heart out to strangers, and of making bad decisions. I would not wish my method on anyone.

Below is a list of 26 lessons that we need to teach our young people. With these lessons, hopefully we can save them some frustration.

Acknowledge your abilities. **B**e willing to forgive yourself and others. **C**oncentrate on your character. **D**evelop a servant's heart. **E**mbrace God's dream for your life. **F**ace your fears. **G**ive God the glory. **H**old onto hope. **I**nvoke humility into your life. **J**ust offer your weaknesses to God. **K**eep going back to your Bible as the ultimate, unchanging truth. **L**ove God and your neighbor. **M**ove toward your life mission. **N**ot about you. **O**bey. **P**ray all day long. **Q**uit being so serious. **R**each out for healthy relationships. **S**erve where you are called today. **T**ell others about the numerous, gracious miracles God has done for you! **U**nderstand your uniqueness. Invite **V**ision. **W**alk with an accountability partner. **E**Xpect an extraordinary purpose. **Y**earn to please an audience of one: Jesus Christ. **U**nZip your zeal.

If I had known these lessons as a teenager and early 20-something, I do not think I would have made some of the awful choices that I did. I would not have had to figure them out the hard way. As a worship community, as parents, godparents, friends, uncles, aunts, and grandparents, we should teach these lessons to our young people. It is not just the responsibility of one or two people - all of us should be involved.

PAX,

Pastor Robert L. Lewis, Jr.

(Thanks to Katie Brazelton for the dynamic way of listing these lessons).



Doll House Raffle

Yes, beautiful new homes are still being built! A great way to help our youth make the trip to New Orleans for the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering is to purchase raffle tickets for the hand-crafted doll house that has been donated to Emmanuel. This would make a great gift for your child, grandchild and future generations. It is completely ready for the lucky winner to furnish it and move in.

Tickets are \$10 for one, or \$25 for three. The drawing will be held on June 14, 2009 during the church picnic. You do not need to be there to win. For more information contact Pastor Lewis.

Candle Wax Needed for Luminaries

Leave candle stubs and similar material in a plastic bag near your church mailbox. An obliging elf will transform them into luminaries.

Youth and Family Ministry Calendar

This calendar includes all Youth and Family Ministry Events, not only those for youth. Events advertised for "Youth" include those from 7th grade to 12th grade. Family events or "everyone is invited" are appropriate for all ages. Fun Bunch events are for older adults.

June 5, Friday, 6 - 7 p.m.

Meeting for those going to the 2009 Youth Gathering

This is a mandatory meeting for all those going to the 2009 Youth Gathering in New Orleans. We will be going over information about our focus issue while we are in New Orleans, the environment. We will meet at the Hunleys' home. You are then invited to stay afterward for fun and fellowship.

June 6, Saturday, 10 - 2 p.m.

Car Wash

All youth should come out to help with this car wash which will take place in the church's parking lot. Youth can earn SSL hours.

June 14, Sunday, After 11:00 worship service

Church Picnic

Everyone is invited to the Church Picnic. The BBQ will be provided. Please bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share.

June 16, Tuesday, 6 - 7 p.m.

ELCA Youth Gathering Meeting

This is a mandatory meeting for all those going to the 2009 Youth Gathering in New Orleans. We will be going over information about our focus issue while we are in New Orleans, the environment. We will meet at the Hunleys' home. You are then invited to stay afterward for fun and fellowship.

June 18, Thursday, 6 - 10 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church

Lutherpalooza - "Beach Party"

This is a High School Youth event for all youth in the Montgomery Conference. We will meet at Trinity Lutheran Church for a cook-out, games, wading pools, and fellowship. Trinity Lutheran is located at 11200 Old Georgetown Rd in Rockville.

June 21, Sunday, Second Service

Chi Rho Participants Commissioning

All those who will be traveling to the Chi Rho Work Camp will be commissioned at the 11 o'clock worship service.

June 22, Monday, Noon

Fun Bunch Lunch at the Hopkins

The Fun Bunch will meet at the Hopkins' home for lunch and to tour Roz's beautiful garden. Bring a bag lunch. Drinks, dessert and a salad will be provided. Also, if you have a folding lawn chair, please bring that as well.

June 28 - July 4

Chi Rho Work Camp

This is the Metro D.C. Synod's annual youth mission trip to

Neon, Kentucky. If you are interested and have not yet signed up, contact Pastor Lewis.

July 12, Sunday 6 p.m.

Dinner Club Pot Luck

This is the final meeting of the Dinner Club until the fall. Everyone is invited to attend and bring a dish to share. We will



Youth-Gathering Team Meetings

Those who are going to the 2009 Youth Gathering will have several mandatory meetings as we get ourselves spiritually and mentally ready. We will also have some team building exercises.

The dates and locations that are scheduled for us to meet at this time are:

June 5 Friday, 6 p.m. at the Hunleys' home

June 16, Tuesday, 6 p.m. at the Hunleys' home

The meetings at the Hunleys' will be 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. You are invited to stay after the meeting for fun and games. The Hunleys' home is located at 8206 Kenfield Court in Bethesda.



A
Note from
the Music
Director

"Life can't be all bad when for ten dollars you can buy all the Beethoven sonatas and listen to them for ten years."

William F. Buckley, Jr

If you haven't already started to feel the excitement around the church and throughout the neighborhood, you've been sleep-walking! Of course I'm referring to that eagerly awaited annual cantata by Joyful Praise, Emmanuel's delightful choir of beautiful children.

Only weeks away, it will take place at the 11:00 service on June 7th. Susan Drumm and the enthusiastic kids have been using every vacant nook and cranny during every possible stolen moment they can find to rehearse their individual and collective parts. If you didn't take my advice from my previous column, stop reading this now and go MARK YOUR CALENDARS! These talented kids never disappoint. The loss will be yours if you miss this spectacular treat! During the service these dedicated youngsters will be honored for their remarkable contributions throughout the year.

Due to a number of circumstances, much of the other special musical offerings which had been planned for that same Sunday may have to be modified to some degree, but all of our "resident musicians" will receive my well-deserved recognition. Without a doubt, Emmanuel Ringers and the Adult Choir are the musical backbone of worship in our church, and I plan to publicly acknowledge them that morning.

Although it hardly seems possible, we have come to the summer season when all the choirs take a short vacation. From time to time there will continue to be special music, both vocal and instrumental. If any among you would like to offer your talents, please let me know.

In the meantime, I must again make a plea to current members of our church family to seriously consider lending your God-given talent to continuing and strengthening the music of Emmanuel. I've stated this before, but it must be repeated: the music ministry is in critical need of *new participants*. Even with the best of intentions, from time to time it becomes necessary for current members of both the bell choir and the adult singers to divide their time between the duties of the church with the demands of their families and their personal lives. Our current numbers are small, so when such occasions arise, it often becomes difficult to provide music in the way Emmanuel and I have become accustomed. Another factor which concerns all of us is the reality that significant numbers especially of our singers are reaching ages which forecasts discontinuing extra activities and commitments such as regular participation with the choirs. It is now more and more necessary for new individuals to add fresh faces and a new life to these programs. Please consider becoming involved with the music of Emmanuel. Not only will you feel good about giving to others through your service – you'll have a fun social experience as well!

Until next time, I am faithfully yours,
Dingwall Fleary

*NOTE: Mr. Fleary will be performing as piano soloist in the final concert by his orchestra of 37 years, The McLean Symphony. It will be at 7:30 on Saturday, May 30 in the intimate Alden Theatre of the McLean Community Center. In addition to works by Mendelssohn and Schumann, he will be joined by Korean pianist, Jiji Park for the Concerto for Two Pianos by Mozart. The following weekend, Saturday, June 6 at 4 PM, he will lead the **Reston Community Orchestra** in a free family concert at the Reston Community Center featuring the classic musical tale of Peter and the Wolf, and nationally acclaimed Glass Harmonica player, Jamey Turner. Then, on Flag Day, June 14, the Symphony will perform at the heralded Center for Arts at George Mason University. The patriotic program will feature former news correspondent, Roger Mudd, two remarkable teen-age pianists and a full chorus. Details may be found at www.mclean-symphony.org, and restoncommunityorchestra.org.*



Rodgers and Hammerstein celebrated June with gusto in their musical, *Carousel*. Indeed, they had it bustin' out all over and held a real good clam bake as part of the festivities. Maybe this June won't be quite so tuneful and it may not be quite as exuberant as theirs, but any month that contains Flag Day, Father's Day, the longest day of the year, and the end of school can't help but being notable.



As summer warms up, new life appears in our gardens. The ever threatening weeds, tender new lettuce, a butterfly or two, and strange little things that glow in the dusk of evening. There are those who insist that these glowers are fireflies, but as we are assured by those who know, fireflies don't come out until the Fourth of July. What do you suppose these unidentified glowers are? Pixies?



The Firefly

The Firefly's flame
Is something for which science has no name.
I can think of nothing eerier
Than flying around with an unidentified glow on a
person's posterior.

Ogden Nash

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Susan Drumm, Joyful Praise Choir
Ligia Benjumea, Nursery Attendant

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