



Emmanuel News Notes

May, 2010

Pastor Lookingbill ponders. participation

Dear Friends,

When St. Paul traveled to Jerusalem (Acts 15) to meet the apostles and the elders about the issues of the day, specifically, the admission of Gentiles, it took the whole Church to consent to the decision. The final word to those who had heard the preaching of Paul and Barnabas was that they should have no future burden placed on them than to abstain from what was sacrificed to idols, what was not kosher to eat, and from fornication. There was no need to dwell on other matters of the traditions of the Jews, for this would be enough to keep dignity intact for everyone. After all, we are all saved by God’s Grace, not by what we wear or by our family heritage. This discernment by the apostles and the elders in Jerusalem was intended to unify the Church and build community.

When members of Emmanuel come together for our Annual Meeting for Elections and Programs on 2 May, we too need to discern what is essential for our community of faith. There never needs to be a greater burden placed on our Christian living than what Jesus Christ has commanded for us: That we love one another as He has loved us. We do not all have the same talents, we do not all have the same interests and we do not all have the same experiences. What we all have is a faith that sustains us, a faith that builds a Christian community.

What is truly essential for us in our election at this Annual Meeting is to propose and support members of the Church who will faithfully take up leadership positions for the benefit of the whole community. Men and women both continue to make countless contributions to the well being of us all – teachers, lectors, Communion assistants, those who prepare the Altar, those who plant the flowers and those who paint. The youth of our congregation can bring energy, questions and insight into our faith conversations. When the youth meet together, they can share their stories of growing up in a new world of fantasy and foreboding and find spiritual strength to grow into the fullness of faith.

We are not baptized into Christian faith to take what we want for ourselves and leave the work of community to everyone else. We are baptized into the life of Christ, the community of faithful Christians, to share with one another the challenges of our calling. Some will do more, some less; it’s the nature of our busy lives. But no one is too small and no one is forgotten. Some do choose to withdraw, but they are still counted as part of our Church community, made part of the body of Christ by the eternal gift of Baptism.

What is truly essential for us in our programs at Emmanuel is to consider how we can come together as a living, breathing community to teach, support and cherish every living moment in our lives. We reach out to others to share what has been generously given to us. We are blessed with spiritual gifts, with prayerful members, with keen insight and compassionate gestures for one another. When one of us is broken, the whole community is prepared to bind up the wound. When one of us is weak, the whole community becomes the strength to find a way forward. When one of us is joyful, we can all unite in the thanksgiving to God for our good fortune. Then we share from what we have received for the benefit of others in Christ’s community. When we bring children to Church, we share their beauty and promise and show them the mighty power that resides in a faithful community. They learn by being part of the Church, a family and a miracle of faith.

Why are we announcing an Annual Meeting of the Congregation? We invite members to come so that you will take your place in the community of faith. We are all called to act together, just as the Jerusalem Council did in the life of the early Church, to determine what is essential for the community. We need put no further burden on our members than to meet together, share the dignity of our Christian message with one another and determine the essentials for this community of faith at Emmanuel.

May God be with us as we come together in the love that Christ has shared with us.

In Christ’s Service,
Jan P. Lookingbill, Pastor

DATES OF NOTE

- May 1 BBQ and basketball (p 10)
- May 2 Congregational meeting
- May 2 CPR training—bring bag lunch
- May 7 Simulcast in Fellowship Hall
- May 9 Mothers Day; Youth Sunday
- May 9 Dedication of John Johnson Memorial Garden 9:45 a.m.
- May 15 High School Senior lunch with Pastor Lookingbill at Bethesda Country Club
- May 15 Treasures of Emmanuel Concert 7:30 p.m.
- May 15 Basketball game (p 10)
- May 23 Pentecost Sunday and Confirmation
- May 31 Trip to the Zoo (p 10)

WORSHIP

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

Synod Assembly to meet in May

The Metropolitan Washington Synod meets in assembly on Friday and Saturday, May 7 and 8, at the Lansdowne Convention Center in Leesburg. A second, one-day assembly will be held in the fall at a place yet to be determined.

Prior to the May assembly, the delegates from the Montgomery Conference will meet at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Derwood, Maryland on April 24.

THE WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY IN MAY: IS CHRISTIANITY THE PROBLEM?

Beginning on 21 April and continuing in May, the Wednesday Evening Study Group is taking a look at a video from C-Span entitled "Is Christianity the Problem?" These sessions will include both viewing time and in depth conversation about the place of the Christian Church in the modern world, especially as it relates to science and technology.

Please join us as we enrich our lives with serious conversations and new insights into the modern problems of a Spiritual life. We meet for supper in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 and then move to study in the Christian Education room beginning at 7:30. You need not have supper with us to engage in the study. Please let the Church office and the Pastor know you are planning to attend.

THE WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY WITH DR. ROY ENQUIST

In Lent and after Easter the Wednesday evening study group shared a Study of Roy Enquist's new book, *The Courage to Believe: How human life may flourish*. Dr. Enquist, a Professor Emeritus of Gettysburg Seminary and the former Canon Ecumenist at the Washington National Cathedral was present with us for two Wednesday evenings. The essential idea of his book is that faith is an adventure, not simply a system of beliefs. Therefore, having faith means consciously living in a "web of connectedness."

On 13 April Dr. Enquist died in Georgetown University Hospital of leukemia. He did not apparently know that he was ill with the disease until after our sessions together. His Memorial Service was held at the Washington National Cathedral on 24 April with the connections he had made in his ministry clearly celebrating his life and faith.

INTERFAITH STUDY AT EMMANUEL DEUTERONOMY 27 MAY AT 7 P.M.

Our first five sessions of the Interfaith Study this year brought about 20 people together each evening to study the intriguing Book of Deuteronomy. We have learned in depth how important the Book and theology of Deuteronomy has been to both Christians and Jews. In our April meeting at Har Shalom we studied the essence of the book as it relates to "Covenant." In that discussion we looked at what "holiness" means and how Deuteronomy changed that perception. Earlier religious traditions among the Hebrews were based upon taboos, staying away from evil and vile things. Deuteronomy changed that perception to insist that holiness is actually making a religious life the focus of our lives. You can see how Jesus followed this example and perhaps expanded it with his blessings in the beatitudes in Matthew compared with the negative attitude of the 10 Commandments in Exodus.

I am delighted to be a part of such an exciting and unique program as we have with Rabbi Emeritus Leonard Cahan and Har Shalom congregation. Join us for the next Thursday evening meeting of this study and bring along a friend or two to share in our "unique" study of Christian/Jewish thought. If you need transportation to the evening programs, please let the Church office or Pr. Lookingbill know.

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:
Youth & Family Ministry
Council President
Parish Administrator
Director of Music
Joyful Praise (Children's) Choir
Parish Nurse

Rev. Jan P. Lookingbill
Rev. Robert L. Lewis
James McGee
Katherine Burrell
Dingwall Fleary
Susan Drumm
Anna Roberts



Emmanuel Congregation meets to consider elections and programs

The regular spring-time meeting of the congregation to consider programs and to conduct elections of persons to serve on the church council will be **held between services on Sunday, May 2**. All confirmed members of the congregation are eligible to vote and participate in these matters.

Financial Status As of 31 March 2010

	Budgeted	Actual
Income	\$164,150	\$166,331
Expenditure	164,151	<u>158,832</u>
Surplus		7,499

May is Older Americans Month

To celebrate these remarkable citizens, the U.S. Administration on Aging is holding an *Age Strong! Live Long! Walk on the National Mall* May 27th, 2010.

Visit Olderamericansmonth.org for more information. If you cannot celebrate downtown, take a walk in your own neighborhood!

Take the time this month to recognize all the Older Americans in your life!

Joyful Praise Choir to present *Cool in the Furnace*

Mark your calendars now to join the Joyful Praise Choir on **Sunday, June 13th** as they present "Cool in the Furnace". This is the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, not the most famous characters in the Old Testament, but ones with a great message for all of us. In the face of great adversity, these three young men relied on their faith in God to sustain them. Joyful Praise will be singing ballads, jazz, and blues as they tell the story of "Cool in the Furnace," and they play instruments too! So plan on being in church at the **11:00 service** to be entertained, inspired, and amazed at what these young people can accomplish. It's going to be HOT!

MOTHER'S DAY WOMEN'S WELLNESS COLLECTION BENEFICIARY: N STREET VILLAGE NIGHT SHELTER AND WELLNESS CENTER

When a woman becomes homeless, there usually are hard-to-fix problems. Three of the major ones are mental illness, substance abuse, and domestic violence. Where can a woman find help?

One place is **N Street Village's Night Shelter**. The shelter assists 30 women who have agreed to work on their problems with a case manager. The shelter provides 6 to 12 months of housing, dinners, and educational and supportive services. Another place is **N Street Village's Wellness Center**. The center provides health and mental health services, including dental care and vision services.

In honor of Mother's Day, Emmanuel will be aiding the women served by the Night Shelter and the Wellness Center. We'll be collecting supplies needed for the women in those facilities. Please consider the Wish List below and bring an item or 2 to church with you on May 9 or 16. We'll be receiving the supplies in the narthex. Thanks in advance for your donations.

WISH LIST - the Night Shelter and Wellness Center particularly needs:

- basic household cleaning products (Lysol, Windex, Comet, bathtub cleaner)
- over-the-counter medication
- nail clippers
- deodorant
- bus tokens/Metro cards
- new sheet sets
- new towel sets
- dish detergent
- laundry detergent
- mattress protectors

National Physical Fitness Awareness Month

People of all ages benefit from physical activity. It doesn't matter how out-of-shape you feel or how long you have been inactive.

Physical activity increases your chances of living longer. Exercise can help you control your blood pressure, blood sugar, and your weight. It can help raise your "good" cholesterol. It can also help prevent heart disease, colorectal cancer, and type 2 diabetes.

And that's not all. Getting more active can:

- Be fun
- Help you look your best
- Improve your sleep
- Make your bones, muscles, and joints stronger
- Lower your chances of becoming depressed
- Reduce falls and arthritis pain
- Help you feel better about yourself

How much aerobic activity do I need each week?

Do moderate or vigorous aerobic activity for at least 10 minutes at a time.

- If you choose **moderate** activities, do at least **2 hours and 30 minutes** a week. Moderate activity includes things like walking fast, dancing, and raking leaves.
- If you choose **vigorous** activities, do at least **1 hour and 15 minutes** a week. Vigorous activity includes things like jogging, jumping rope, swimming laps, or riding a bike on hills.

If you have a health condition, be as active as you can be. Your doctor can help you choose the best activities for you.

How do I know if my activity level is moderate or vigorous?

Your body is working at a moderate level when you can talk but not sing. Your body is working at a vigorous level when you can't say more than a few words without pausing for a breath.

Train for walk

Join the Fitness Training Walking group on Saturday mornings May 1st, 15th, and 22nd. Meet at Winston Churchill High School, near the track at 10:00 a.m.

The National Lutheran Home Auxiliary's Spring Festival

Saturday, May 1, 2010
9:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Silent Auction, Grandma's Attic
Plants, Jewelry, Resident Crafts,
Baked Goods, Candy, Handwork
Books, Postcards, Stamps,
Gift Shop 50% Off Sale

All proceeds benefit the residents.

Lunch served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Tickets sold for \$8.00 or lighter fare \$4.00

Independent Living Cottage Tours
10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Home Chorus program at 2:30 in the Chapel.

9701 Veirs Drive, Rockville, MD
For further information call 301-424-9560

Creative Endeavors Exhibitions

Donna McGee

Many thanks to Donna McGee whose abstract acrylic paintings adorned our Fellowship Hall over Easter and throughout April.

Youth Art Show

Please bring your artwork to church between May 9 and May 12.. The artwork should be labeled with the artists name, age or grade, and the medium in which it was executed. The work can be put on a table in the Fellowship Hall and will be hung Thursday, May 13. It would be helpful to have the art framed if possible.

Any questions? Call Carol Vorosmarti 301-340-7326

Coming in September

Photography show

Christian Education Notes

SUNDAYS

Children and Youth Sunday School - 10 a.m. in the Atrium and Classrooms

- May 2 – Special Sunday School Class – A taste of Vacation Bible Camp
- May 9 – Regular Sunday School Class
- May 16 – Regular Sunday School Class
- May 23 – Regular Sunday School Class
- May 30 – Special “One Room” Sunday School

Adult Forum - 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

The Adult Forum is an opportunity to have a Christian discussion on the issues of the day. All are invited.

Adult Bible Study - 10 a.m. in the Parlor

The Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study invites you to join them in the Parlor at 10:00 a.m. Ginger Boone and others are leading the group. Further information may be obtained by calling the church office at 301-365-5733.

CONFIRMATION

Those being confirmed this year need to make an appointment with Pastor Lookingbill before Confirmation Day.

- May 3 – Regular Class
- May 10 – Regular Class
- May 16 – Confirmation Dinner for those being Confirmed this year
- May 17 – Regular Class
- May 23 – Confirmation Day

WEDNESDAYS

Wednesday Morning Bible Encounter

with Pastor Lookingbill 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Bring a lunch and join the discussion on Paul’s Second Letter to the Corinthians.

SPECIAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SURVEY

Beginning in May, we will have a special survey concerning Sunday School at Emmanuel. Several new ideas and suggestions have been made and we would like to find out what you think about these changes. Details about the Survey will be available at the Congregation meeting on May 2, 2010.

From the Council President:

Greetings

The May Congregational meeting is approaching.

Sunday, May 2nd, we will have our annual Congregational meeting to view programs and to elect Council members. The meeting will take place between services in the Fellowship Hall. Refreshments will be served.

Two members are stepping down from their roles on Council, Martha Lundberg and Wayne Hunley. Both have been very active Council members and their work is greatly appreciated.

But I don’t want to wait until someone leaves Council before thanking them. All of the Council members contribute their time and talents, not only to the actual time of the meetings, but also to many other areas of Congregational life. They exemplify the commitment that makes our community of faith possible.

So it with the sincerest gratitude that I express my appreciation for all the Council members who

- 1 Bring issues before the Council for decisions
- 2 Analyze consequences and alternatives
- 3 Discuss options openly and freely
- 4 Make decisions.

It is indeed an honor to work with you.

But there is another group that is even more important, our committee chairs. They are the ones who organize and deliver those services we take for granted. I have occasionally singled out some of those people in this space.

We are always looking for new people to fill all those essential roles in our community.

It is an important reason why we need to grow our congregation and to attract and retain new members.

Peace and Joy

Jim McGee

1920Jimmy@gmail.com

Parish Vital Records

New Members

Carson Robert Beardall, 21 March 2010, son of Matt and Marianne Beardall, by infant baptism

The *Schuetler* family, *Fred, Pam*, and daughter, *Emma*, by affirmation of baptism

Carl Seils, 21 March 2010, by affirmation of baptism

Deaths

Paul Fackler, died Friday, 12 March 2010, father of Brad Fackler

Burials and Memorials Services

Lawrence A. "Larry" Schneider, inurnment at Emmanuel, 12 March 2010

Ann Sandberg, memorial service at Emmanuel 16 April 2010

Pentecost at Emmanuel brings Confirmation

The four members of the second-year Confirmation Class will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, 23 May at the 11 a.m. worship service. These four youth have been studying the Bible and Martin Luther's Small Catechism for two years with Pastors Jan Lookingbill and Robert Lewis. Once these youth are confirmed, they will join the roll of adult and confirmed members of Emmanuel, having voice and vote at congregational meetings.

This year, our four confirmands also had adult mentors who encouraged them and prayed for them. Below is the list of the Confirmands and their mentors.

William Joseph Szamosszegi - Doug Murtland, mentor
Brendan Patrick Cawley - John Drumm, mentor
Max Henry Vogel - Kurt Moss, mentor
Kerkko Byron Rautsola - Robert Lewis, mentor

The congregation is encouraged to join with the confirmation families in this joyful Pentecost and the reception in the Fellowship Hall following the Worship Service.



Saturday, June 5, 2010
National Mall, Washington, DC

We all are touched or have been touched, in some way by the debilitating disease of Cancer. The Susan G. Komen, Walk-Race for the Cure is a way that we as individuals can come together to make a difference, to remember those we love who are suffering with or have died from Cancer. Cancer affects all genders and age group and this event is opened to everyone, men, women and children. By having a team from Emmanuel we can show our support and love to those in our community who have or are fighting Cancer.

Emmanuel is registered for the Walk; our team's name is **Emmanuel Lutheran Church Walkers**. All you have to do is go online (or a committee member will do it for you) www.globalrace.info-komen.org 'Join a Team' or call 703-416-7223 to register. Early Bird Registration fee is \$35.00 a person. Children registration is \$20 each and Runners' registration is \$40. Runners will receive a timing chip. Your Event packet, which you will receive by mail, will contain a Komen Global Race T-Shirt and their official runner's bib. Volunteers to help you signup will be available after each service from April 4 through 18.

Don't worry about driving to and parking in Washington, DC. With 25-40 person joining us for the Walk, we will have a bus that will drop us off and pick us up at the Mall area. Transportation fee will be \$15.00 a person.

To prepare us physically for the walk, Annette Poston will be planning a walking and stretching exercise program which we will do during May. Sign up for the training program in the narthex.

Can't make it to the National Mall on Race Day? You can register for "Sleep In for the Cure." You will also receive a Komen Global Race T-shirt.

Breast Cancer Survivors who register as a walker, runner or sleeper and indicate as such on your registration form will receive a pink survivor T-shirt, hat and bib and will be awarded a special medal on Race Day. They will also be invited to participate in a special honorary ceremony the morning of Race Day.

What a great way for Emmanuel to show support to those in our community, who are going through treatment or even those who are Survivors, than to walk with them, in their honor.

Yes! Each participant is asked to raise \$125, through people giving in support of their walk, to donate to the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, but it is not necessary. It is an individual choice.

Pastor Lewis considers... redemption

Dear fellow saints and sinners,

For those of you who are sick of hearing about Tiger Woods, I will start with an apology. But after a conversation with my brother, Jeff, about why so many people are fascinated with his story, I started to think a little deeper about the whole thing. Why so much attention? Why are we interested? How does this connect to our lives? Certainly for golf fans it has something to do with his excellence as a golfer. But I think it has more to do with Easter. That's right, I said that people's fascination with Tiger Woods has to do with Easter.

As human beings, we love (or perhaps "need" is a better word) to hear stories of redemption. So, no matter how much we revile Tiger's actions, I think most of us want to see him overcome them, to redeem himself both on the golf course and more importantly in the rest of his life. Again, the question – Why?

Because, while our sins are not nearly as public as his, all of us have actions or inactions for which we need redemption.

*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,*¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior,* Jesus Christ.¹⁴ He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds. Titus 2:11-14*

Tiger did not win the Masters this year, and that is probably a more accurate reflection of real life. We do not often go from complete failure to absolute success. Redemption in this world does not usually come that easily. Most of us find ourselves somewhere along the way, becoming the people that God intended for us to be, but never quite there.

And that is why this is an Easter story. If it were all just up to us, our redemption would never be complete. We would never quite get there. Fortunately for us, we trust in a God who believes in second chances (and third, and fourth, and fifth . . .). We trust in a God who redeemed us once and for all, so that no matter how badly, or how many times, we screw up, we have the opportunity to start over each day.

Even Tiger. Even each of us.

PAX,

Pastor Robert Lewis, Jr.

Can you remember?

This year 2010 is an interesting one. It marks the sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of World War II and the ninety-second anniversary of the War to End All Wars. It is the year that the baby boomers begin to reach Medicare age. One hundred years ago, plans were underway to construct a memorial to Abraham Lincoln and another to Ulysses S. Grant at opposite ends of the National Mall. Each of these events and structures mark an important point in the life of Washington. It also is the last year of the Congregation's first half century of service.

It seems only a few years ago that the first clearance of the site in the "Grubby Thicket" began. Yet, time's inexorable progress has seen the construction of a church and its education wing, remodeling, and construction of the enlarged church that we enjoy today. There has been growth of the church community, substantial presence in the neighborhood, and involvement of the Congregation in synodical and regional affairs.

Memories of our first 50 years should be preserved. Are there stories from these years that are interesting, funny, heart wrenching, touching, or otherwise worthy of remembering? Will you share them? Only very few of us remain from those who were charter members, but many of us have memories from the intervening years.

The stricture that those who don't remember history will have to re-live it probably doesn't apply in the existence of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, but, certainly, those who can remember should share the memories or they will be lost. Re-living would be impossible.

Consider, then, that this is a plea to all members of the congregation to jot down some thoughts about events or actions taken in years past as they relate to the congregation. The stories need not be polished, just have a beginning, a middle and an end. If we collect these tid-bits, it may be possible for future members to share in some of the memories engendered by the existence of this congregation.

What brought you to Emmanuel? Who made an impression? What event did you enjoy? Who was the pastor when you arrived? Did he confirm you? Did you sing in a choir? How about social events? Pot luck dinners? Oktoberfests? Who do you remember? What didn't you like? Why? What was special? Why?

There are lots of similar questions that might trigger a memory. Jot them down and we'll collect them. Who knows what might eventually come of it all?

Youth and Family Calendar

May 1, Saturday, 1 – 6 p.m.

BBQ and Basketball

The church has just purchased two new basketball poles, hoops and backboards and we are getting together to assemble them, eat some BBQ, play some “hoops” and have some great fellowship. Come on out for the whole time or just a couple of hours.

May 2, Sunday, 10 a.m.

Congregational Meeting

All youth should be at this important meeting. Those who have been confirmed have the responsibility of voting. Those who are in confirmation class should come to see how an important part of the life of the church is conducted.

May 9, Sunday, Both Worship Services

Youth Sunday

The youth will lead the Sunday Worship at both services.

May 10, Monday, Noon

Fun Bunch Lunch

We will gather again in the Fellowship Hall for lunch, fellowship and a program.

May 16, Sunday, 1:30 p.m.

Basketball Game

The youth and college students have challenged the adults to a basketball game. Come out either to play or to cheer for your team.

May 16, Sunday 6:30 p.m.

Confirmation Dinner

Those being confirmed and their families are invited to dinner. Information and maps will be sent out to the families.

May 23, Sunday, 11 a.m.

Confirmation

We will celebrate the Affirmation of Faith with those who have been preparing for the last two years. Come out and celebrate with us.

May 30, Sunday 1:30 p.m.

National Zoo

This is a family and youth outing at the National Zoo. Everyone is invited. Bring a lunch or a snack. Meet Pastor Lewis at the Connecticut Avenue entrance. See the write-up elsewhere in this issue.

Spending Memorial Day Weekend at Home?

Come Join us for a Family Fun Day
National Zoo

May 30, Sunday
1:30 p.m.

Everyone of any age is invited to join us at the National Zoo for a day of fun and fellowship. The zoo is easy to get to by car

and Metro (Red Line).

This is a family and youth outing, so children, youth, and adults are all welcomed. Bring a lunch or a snack and spend the afternoon. Meet Pastor Lewis at the Connecticut Avenue

Reports from The Midnight Run

On the night of April 9, 2010, Pastor Lewis joined seven youth on an overnight mission trip to downtown Washington, D.C. During this mission trip the youth handed out to those living on the streets items such as socks, bottled water, toothbrushes and toothpaste, duffel bags and backpacks, and other such items. Below are a few reflections from those youth.

“It felt good to give these things to the homeless. One man told us that our random act of kindness will be blessed. That really surprised me, but in a good way.”

“After the Midnight Run, I felt very grateful for what I have - not only the material things, but a family that loves me. I did not realize how many homeless people, men and women, there were in D.C.”

“Leading up to this experience I had been on several other mission trips - one in West Virginia, one in Baltimore, and one to Honduras. None of those trips gave me the same feeling I had after this single night in D.C. When I first arrived at Luther Place, I did not think I would really get anything [new] out of it because of my previous experiences. But after seeing the conditions these people were in and having real conversations with them, I was really moved. Yes, I helped build a school, but I did not feel like I was really helping those people like I felt we were helping the homeless. They needed and really appreciated the items we were giving them as if they were luxuries, things I don’t give a second thought about everyday.”

“We went out the next morning to see the area we ministered in the night before, and it was amazingly different but yet the same. There were many more people on the streets, including those who are homeless. People walked right by a man I talked to last night as if he was not there. But what really got to me was the political rally against healthcare reform going on in the same square that homeless people were eating the lunches they had just gotten from a church lunch truck that comes out to feed them a few days a week.”

“One of the things we learned that I thought everyone should know is that when you see a homeless person, you should at least smile and say ‘hello.’”



Music is the wine that fills the cup of silence.

– Robert Fripp *



Greetings Everyone.

I want to begin this month's column with a reminder that **Treasures of Emmanuel**, our annual talent presentation, will be Saturday evening, May 15, at 7:30 PM. For reference purposes, that is the Saturday following Mother's Day and Youth Sunday. Although there will be at least one more opportunity for you to tie a string around your finger to remind you, I also wish to invite anyone with a talent – not necessarily musical – to join the fun as a participant. Know any dancers? How about stand-up comics or jugglers? Encourage them to join the fun. Point them in my direction.

The other main calendar item, from a musical point of view, is the annual cantata by Joyful Praise, under the exuberant leadership of Susie Drumm. That will be Sunday morning, June 13, at the 11 a.m. service. You will be seeing and hearing more specifics about it, but please save the date so that you can support and encourage these wonderful children.

Following that special event will come Father's Day, June 20. On that Sunday, please join me to give a special tribute to all the choirs – Joyful Praise, Emmanuel Ringers and the Adult Choir – after which they will take a well-deserved break from the regimen of weekly rehearsals. To fill the void created during this part of the year, various guests, instrumentalists and vocalists, and perhaps even small groups of singers from our choirs will be engaged to enhance our worship experience.

Finally, I want to thank the entire church family for its continued out-pouring of well wishes with regard to my recently completed shoulder surgery. Your cards and notes ranged from "Lutheran Serious" to downright witty, bordering on raucous! By all indications the operation was a complete success. As I continue to heal, I've been able to resume much of my musical activities. These include continuing with the two choirs here at Emmanuel, as well as my orchestras in McLean and Reston. As yet I am not able to play the organ comfortably for sustained periods of time. Therefore, I owe a great deal of thanks, certainly to Kristi Johnson, and most recently, to John Ackley for filling in for me with their exceptional skills and musicianship. It is likely to be not very long until I can resume those duties.

** Born in Britain in 1946, Robert Fripp is a composer, guitarist and record producer, best known for his association with his progressive rock band, King Crimson. For the last four decades, his work encompasses a variety of musical styles. Rolling Stone Magazine ranks him among the "Best 100 Guitarists of All Time." He is highly sought after as a lecturer and keynote speaker around the world.*

Until next time, I am
Faithfully yours,

Dingwall Fleary
dingwallfleary@verizon.net

May seems to be full of days to celebrate. Everyone seems to know about Mother's Day and Memorial Day, but there are others that are much older and that may be interesting, too. There is May Day, May 1. This used to be a feast honoring Mary, but that seems to have been an adaptation of the earlier springtime pagan celebrations of *Beltane* in Ireland or *Walpurgisnacht* in Germany. Rebellious youth or even neo-pagans have again begun to celebrate these two festivals. The international labor movement has adopted May 1 as a day to demonstrate their solidarity. We often learn of elaborate events that have gotten a bit out of hand on these days. *Syttende Mai* (May 17) is the Norwegian national Independence Day and, in Norway, it is an occasion to break out the traditional folk costumes, parade, and wave flags and generally celebrate. May 24 is the anniversary of the first telegraph message sent from Washington to Baltimore. With that event, we no longer had to wait for long periods to find out what was happening elsewhere.



On May Day in more innocent times, youngsters would construct colorful paper baskets, fill them with flowers or candy, and hang them anonymously on the door of a special friend. They'd ring the doorbell, then run and hide, and watch as the object of their interest discovered the basket and had to puzzle out who the secret admirer might be. More innocent times, indeed. Doing that now might get one in deep trouble.



Once upon a time, even in the memory of many who still live in Montgomery County, there was dancing around a May Pole in Chevy Chase. Purists have seen to it that such things are no longer permitted. It's too bad. It seems to have been mostly innocent fun, much like Morris Dancing, potato races, jumping rope, and three-legged races that don't seem to be indulged in much these days. It must be that there is no app on that new cell phone to carry on these old customs.



And so we approach Memorial Day (or, as some used to call it, Decoration Day). Once a day to remember the dead in the Civil War, it has become more an excuse to have a barbecue than anything. Remembering and honoring the fallen is a worthy thing, but having a barbecue on the day is not really as far from the purpose of the day as you might think. If the fallen had not participated in those appalling battles, we might not have any reason to have a carefree barbecue. So, as you gnaw on that tasty rib, pause a moment and think on who and what made the day possible.

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

7730 Bradley Boulevard
Bethesda, Maryland 20817

Phone: (301) 365-5733
Fax: (301) 365-9236
Email: info@elcbethesda.org

Jan P. Lookingbill, Pastor

Robert Lewis, Pastor
Youth & Family Ministry

James McGee, Council President
Katherine Burrell, Parish Administrator
Dingwall Fleary, Director of Music
Susan Drumm, Joyful Praise Choir
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