



Emmanuel News Notes

October, 2010

Pastor Lookingbill ponders. . . . confirmation

Dear Friends,

I like Confirmation! That's one of the reasons that I like October when we start Confirmation Classes again. It's great to see our youth arrive each week with their Bibles, questions and keen insights into our community.

This year we'll be studying the Bible as a primary reference to the foundation of the faith we share in the Church. It was Martin Luther in Germany, as he started the Reformation, who emphasized that Scripture is the sole authority in the Church. In Christendom in what some still call the "middle ages," the Church before the Reformation recognized a shared authority with tradition, bishops and archbishops and perhaps lastly Scripture. Martin observed that often the Bishops and the traditions of the Church had not been in agreement with Holy Scripture. Therefore he emphasized the primary role of the Bible in the life of Christians. Clearly, it was this conviction that compelled Martin Luther to translate the Bible from the Latin of the Church into German so that everyone in his country could read the Bible in their own language.

We'll be reading the Bible this year in our Confirmation Class in English, our language. There are many translations of the Bible from the original Hebrew and Greek, but we recognize they are all attempts to better understand the origins of our faith and who we are as God's people. God has revealed his saving Grace to us through the prophets and welcomed us as Christians who follow the life and teaching of Jesus, our Lord.

It's a tough job to cover the whole Bible in just one year with middle school students. We'll do our best to read the Hebrew Scripture that we call the Old Testament in light of the New Testament. That's the way that Christians have learned to read the Law and the prophets. What we learn about Jesus and his ministry, his birth, life and death comes alive when we read the Old Testament prophets. Was Jesus another prophet? Yes, and more than a prophet. It is through this Word of Jesus that we have come to understand more fully who God is and what God wants us to reveal to the world.

One of the most challenging aspects of teaching youth about the Bible is how much the teacher has to learn, sometimes relearn, about Holy Scripture. I'm sure that's one of the important reasons that I like Confirmation at Emmanuel. It makes me think more deeply again about the revealing Word of God and how it impacts my life and the lives of the members of Emmanuel. In that same vein, I am anxious to have mentors, adults from the congregation, who will commit to meeting with a confirmand this year, share some spiritual insights and encourage the youth to learn and pray about their faith. It's a similar challenge for mentors and for teachers: You'll have to face your own doubts and questions so that you can understand where the youth are living these days. It's spiritual growth for both the mentor and the mentee! The youth of our congregation deserve such personal attention and the adults in the congregation deserve the opportunity to help a confirmand mature in faith.

Another aspect of Confirmation that I enjoy seeing develop is the relationships that develop over the course of the two years we share together. As often happens when I'm visiting with college students from Emmanuel, they ask how other members of their Confirmation Class are doing, where they are living, what work they've taken up. Even though they have moved away to colleges, met new friends, perhaps even married, they still are interested in what their Confirmation Class is doing years later.

We are a community of faith, called together by God's Word through our Lord Jesus Christ. We nourish one another in many ways, not just the Church dinners and Coffee and Tea Fellow

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DATES OF NOTE

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- Oct 31 Reformation Sunday
- Nov 5 Drop-off for garage sale
- Nov 6 Garage sale (p 4)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Services at 8:30 and 11 a.m.
Sunday School 10:00

ship after Church. We are nourished by our Lord who continues to care for us and guide us through the challenges of life.

God Bless our Confirmation year as we study the Bible and learn from one another.

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

Confirmation Classes begin on 4 October with feeding the homeless women in the Community Based Shelter in Rockville.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE ENCOUNTER *THE BOOK OF GENESIS*

"*In the beginning . . .*" is such a powerful introduction to the Bible that when St. John needed to start his Gospel narrative he too started with these mighty words. What St. John meant to convey is the continuity of God's "rescue" of these people through all the difficulties in this life. In the case of the Gospel, Jesus is the means by which this rescue will be accomplished. Our faith is based upon the revelation that God is the beginning, the middle and the end of creation.

The Book of Genesis is basically divided into two large sections: The first eleven chapters bring to light the pre-history creation stories and the account of the flood. Beginning at Chapter 12, the story of Abraham and Sarah and the ancestral history leads to the wonderful cycle of stories about Joseph, Egypt and God's purpose despite human failures.

Pr. Lookingbill gathers the Wednesday morning Bible Encounter group to take up the challenging reading of Genesis this year. We meet at 10:30 a.m. each Wednesday and conclude with a brown bag lunch about noon. Members and friends of Emmanuel are invited to join our fall study to review our ancient "origins" and share our Christian view about how God continues to interact in our lives today.

WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY *THE FUTURE OF FAITH*

The Wednesday evening study group is meeting for weekly supper together and to study the most recent book by Harvey Cox of Harvard College and Divinity School, *The Future of Faith*. Dr. Cox describes three eras in the history of Christianity: The Age of Faith, the Age of Belief and now what he hopes will be recognized as the Age of the Spirit. The Age of Faith lasted until Christianity was legalized by Constantine in the 4th century. For the next 1500 years there was an Age of Belief where creeds and doctrines held the attention of the Church. Now there is a revival of religiousness in the world, searching for meaning and for a spirit to live in the secular society.

This latest book by Harvey Cox may well be his most considered thoughts on religious life in America today, published at the same time that he announced his retirement from active teaching at Harvard after more than forty years. In his writing, Dr. Cox refers to a "current metamorphosis in religiousness" as properly described in the poetic words of Gerard Manley Hopkins, as our everyday world "charged with the grandeur of God." Therefore, the question is how to "see" the grandeur in our everyday lives and live according to that sense of "awe?"

We are going to investigate the nature of religion in our lives and in our community today and how it is invigorated by Harvey Cox's analysis and description.

Join Pr. Lookingbill and the group each Wednesday evening in the Fellowship Hall for supper at 6:30 and in the Christian Education room at 7:30 for the study. Supper is provided by members of the group each week and shared with generosity.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES BEGIN 3 OCTOBER

10 a.m. in Pastor Lookingbill's study

Pr. Lookingbill will begin a three Sunday series of classes on 3 October for those children and their parents who want to prepare for Holy Communion this fall. The Church Council has set a policy for children who are judged sufficiently mature by parents and the Pastor that they be educated and join the rest of the congregation at the Communion table. All interested friends of Emmanuel who are not currently taking Communion and would like to join us are welcome too.

We will meet for the first three Sundays in October to discover the Biblical heritage of Communion, the Lutheran catechism on Protestant practices and the experience we share here at Emmanuel. First Communion for those ready for the Sacrament will be on Reformation Sunday, 30 October.

Please let Pr. Lookingbill know that you and your children are planning to join him for the First Communion Classes this year. Please bring along a Bible to the first session.

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Parish Nurse	Anna Roberts

INTERFAITH STUDY RESUMES IN OCTOBER

Pastor Lookingbill and Rabbi Emeritus Leonard Cahan will resume their study of the Book of Deuteronomy this fall, meeting at Har Shalom for the first session on 14 October at 7 p.m. This joint study between members of Har Shalom and Emmanuel, now in the tenth year, has extended our mutual understanding and affection for Biblical scripture and our respective traditions. It's been an engaging opportunity for both the Christians and the Jews to see how our separate, yet dependent, traditions have viewed Holy Scripture. It's another way to see that theologians tend to see what they want to see in what they read. Maybe we do too?

By continuing our study of Deuteronomy this fall, we are extending our understanding of a part of Torah that has often been overlooked. As Walter Brueggemann has noted in his Introduction of the Old Testament, "It is of decisive importance to recognize that in the book of Deuteronomy we have the voice of a tradition that is completely contrasted to the Priestly voice by which we have thus far been addressed in the Pentateuch." What he means is that the Priestly tradition informs Genesis through Numbers, but Deuteronomy is separate and distinct with different intentions to accomplish different things in the history of the Jews and later Christians through the application of Jesus and his ministry.

As Jesus was asked "what is the greatest commandment?" he replied like a good rabbi: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might (Deut. 6.5) and your neighbor as yourself (Matt. 22.34-39). This is a direct application of the core teaching of Deuteronomy which challenges the teaching of Moses and the Pharisaic teaching on the Law. Jesus stands in the tradition of those who see the way you live daily as the important expression of your faith.

We meet on 14 October at 7 p.m. at Har Shalom on Falls Road. Bring a guest along with you who might enjoy this unique Interfaith Study.

Photographs on Display

Check out the display of interesting photographs that have been taken by some of our members. They range in subject matter from studies of pets to natural phenomena, from winsome grandchildren to floral extravaganzas, from local scenes to those from far, far away. It's an interesting and thought-provoking exhibition.

Fiftieth Anniversary Planning Begins—Murtland to Coordinate

On Sunday, September 12, Doug Murtland met with interested members of the congregation to discuss some of the events that may be incorporated into the celebration of the congregation's fiftieth anniversary. It is hoped that the event will be celebrated for the full fiftieth year, culminating in the actual anniversary in December of 2011. Bishop Richard Graham has agreed to participate in a service on 12 December 2010 inaugurating the celebration. Thereafter it is hoped that there will be worship opportunities involving sons and daughters of the congregation who have been ordained to the ministry and perhaps including neighboring worship communities with whom the ELCA has pulpit and altar fellowship. It is hoped that music and arts will be part of the observances and that there will be ample opportunities for participation by all members of our worship community. If you have a suggestion for additional sorts of celebratory events, get in touch with Doug Murtland (301-983-2683); he has expressed an interest in learning of them.



Do you
remember
when...

Now that Emmanuel is gearing up to celebrate our golden anniversary, the question always seems to arise, "Do you remember when" And then comes some tale of fellowship enjoyed, work performed, amusement enjoyed, dinner served, disaster averted, sadness shared, exuberance endured, or the like. These stories always entertain and often enlighten us. But the sad thing is, if those of you who remember don't share these memories, they are soon lost.

One doesn't have to be a polished writer to jot down the gist of a tale. Give us the bare bones, flesh them out if you can, include a photograph if you have one, and drop them off in the office. If we can collect enough of these, it's possible that we can put together a really interesting set of memories. Think of writing a letter to your child in college or to your parents. What is important to your memory? Probably lots of things. Share them.

Flu Shots to be Available at Emmanuel on 24 October

Flu Shot Clinic will be offered October 24, 9:30-11:00 at Emmanuel. Cost \$25.00; the immunization is covered by Medicare. Sign up sheet available in the narthex. Please contact Anna Roberts with any questions.

Exercise

The people of Israel got a lot of exercise walking from Egypt to the Promised Land! Did you know that exercise not only helps you lose weight or maintain a healthy weight but also helps with brain function, strengthens immune systems, significantly reduces your risk of developing various diseases, and reduces the risk for recurrence of certain cancers? Exercising helps your lymphatic system move toxins out of your body and speeds up your metabolism for close to 24 hours. Of course, you already know that it helps you sleep better.

So, why is it hard to exercise? People who don't exercise either fell out of the habit or never got into it in the first place. Start small and don't overwhelm yourself! How about exercising for five minutes today? Go for a walk or wave your arms around in your chair. After you get started, increase the time a little every day. You can do it!

When you DO exercise, give yourself a huge pat on the back. You are taking a proactive step that can add years to your life and quality to those years.

No matter how young or old you are, no matter what your physical condition is, the exercise that's right for you can help you feel better. Your parish nurse will be glad to help you find an exercise routine that will work for you.

Blessings on your journey,

Anna Roberts

Please note - Because the office is closed, there will be NO Parish Nurse office hours on Thursday, October 7th.

Dinner Club begins new season

Come join one of our Dinner Clubs – with stimulating conversation, great food, and meet old friends and make new ones. In sum, informal monthly fellowship (fun) outside of church. With eight to twelve members in each club, participants agree to host a potluck dinner once a year in their home, with the main course provided by the host. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex for joining, and you will be assigned to a group. These have been fun for several years now. If you have any questions, please call Kevin Adams at 301-762-6136, or better yet, e-mail him at Kevin.Adams@dot.gov. I'm getting hungry already!



Polka and waltz at the Oktoberfest

The **date is Sunday, October 17th**, from 6 to 9pm. Tickets will be on sale beginning September 26. Price is \$30 per person, **children 13 and under are free.**

Deadline for ordering tickets is
October 11

Any questions? Please call
Sheila Murtland at 301-983-2683.

Menu

Schweinenackenbraten" roasted pork in
dark beer gravy sauce
Butcher's Delight of Bratwurst, Bauern-
wurst and Weisswurst
Handmade spätzle, Apple red cabbage,
Old Europe's Sauerkraut and potato puree
Apple strudel with vanilla sauce

Appropriate wine and beer will be
available along with soft drinks.

Emmanuel's Second Annual Garage Sale

Saturday, Nov. 6th, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Donations of gently used items will be accepted from Sunday Oct. 31st to Friday Nov. 5th. Please drop off in Fellowship Hall during church office hours.

Christian Education Notes

In September the children and youth were challenged to bring in change each week as we build up to a collection of \$50 in each class to present on December 12 when Emmanuel begins its kick off toward the 50th anniversary. Please remember to keep bringing in your weekly donations.

BIBLES

Emmanuel has a tradition of passing on the word of God to the third graders in the form of a new Bible (we also present them to older elementary age students who have not yet received one). We will hand these Bibles out to the children during our Reformation worship service on October 31, 2010. If Pastor Lewis has not already contacted you about presenting a Bible to your child, please contact him at the church office as soon as possible.

SUNDAYS

First Communion Class

Pastor Lookingbill will meet with those children, and their families, who feel they are ready to begin receiving Communion. Classes will take place during the Sunday School Hour in Pastor Lookingbill's study on October 3, 10 & 17.

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

- October 3 – Opening: Community Based Shelter, remember to bring toiletries to donate – Regular Classes
- October 10 – Regular Classes
- October 17 – Regular Classes
- October 24 – Regular Classes
- October 31 – Special “Celebrating Church” Session: The Reformation

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

Classes begin at 4:30 p.m. Please be on time.

- October 4 – Acolyte Training plus preparing and serving dinner for Community Based Shelter
- October 11 – Regular Classes
- October 18 – Regular Classes
- October 24 – Regular Classes
- November 1 – No Classes

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 Genesis.

Wednesday Evening study with Pastor Lookingbill (see page 2)

From the Council President:

Greetings

And we are off!

That send off is normally associated with horse racing, but the comparison to recent events at Emmanuel is not inappropriate. On September 12th we had Rally Day and attendance was up slightly from last year. Doug Murtland led a meeting of close to 20 people in the Chapel to begin to organize events to celebrate our fiftieth anniversary. The anniversary celebration will begin on December 12th, 2010 when Bishop Graham will come to Emmanuel to lead our worship. It will end 365 days later on the fiftieth anniversary on December 11, 2011 (12/11/11). In between, Doug wants to involve the congregation in a year-long celebration of “this holy house and all here who offer their worship and praise.”

At the Council meeting, the pastors informed us that they may have as many as ten confirmands this year. That's a nice reversal of a more recent decline in the number of young teens willing to embark on the route to confirmation. But the Council is also struggling with ways to bring new members to worship. There are discussions about changes to Sunday school and about further changes to worship times. We hope all of you will get constructively engaged in that conversation.

In all of these discussions, there is a question that needs to be at the top of the list – why are people staying away from worship and what can we do to bring them into worship? The problem with that question is that we do not know who to pose that question to. We can only find the answer to that question by trying new things and seeing what works. That will be unsettling to some, but we have no choice. The future of our congregational life is at stake.

I have been noticing how our prayer list is growing off the page as our worship numbers shrink. Not a good trend.

We live in changing times. What worked fifty years ago, is not an automatic recipe for success for the next fifty years ago. On the other hand, it is never easy to give up on recipes that are familiar and comfortable, even if they may not offer the necessary nutrition.

Peace and Joy
Jim McGee
1920Jimmy@gmail.com

Parish Vital Records

Births

Emily Grace Wall Feldman born 29 July 2010 to Kathryn and Lee Feldman

Casey Ann, born 2 August to David and Bridgette MacKenzie and proud grandparents, Rhoda and Jim MacKenzie

Deaths

Walter Violand, died 3 August 2010, father of Charles

Peggy Bie, died 4 August 2010, mother of Martha Lundberg

Nancy Sturges, died 25 August 2010

Virginia Griswold, died 28 August, 2010, mother of Sylvia Darrow

Robert Sager, died 17 September 2010, grandfather of Pam Schuettler

Wedding

Glenn Momberger and *Anne Smith* at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Lutherville, Maryland, 7 August 2010. Pastor Lookingbill and Pastor Mark Huffman (a son of Emmanuel) jointly officiated.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

For some years, members of Emmanuel have prepared a devotional booklet to carry us through the Advent season. The volunteer writers have been recruited, encouraged, herded, edited, and cajoled by Jane Rosenquist for much of this time. Donna McGee has now volunteered to take on this role. It is a worthy effort and one which engages more people than the writers may realize. The booklet generally follows the scripture readings that lead up to Christmas and each portion contains a brief meditation on the reading and an equally brief prayer. When Donna gets in touch with you, asking you to write a portion of the devotional booklet, or for any other assistance, please say yes.

Lutheran Church of the Cross Celebrates its Golden Jubilee

Our sister congregation, Lutheran Church of the Cross (Missouri Synod), will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary at a service on Sunday, October 17. This congregation, located at the corner of Falls Road and Wootton Parkway, has served the area with steadfast devotion. Currently under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Lester Stano, the congregation has had five years of outreach to the Chinese speaking people of the region. This outreach program, under the leadership of associate pastor Rev. Tich Luu, has offered regular services in Chinese, English classes, cultural exchanges with the English speaking members, and occasional joint worship services. LCC is a small congregation making a big difference on a minimal budget. They are to be congratulated on achieving their fiftieth birthday. Let us continue to wish them well.

Youth Lock-In

October 2, 2010
6:30 pm

All youth, 7th to 12th grade, are encouraged to attend our first lock-in of the school year. Besides all the games and fun we will have during the lock-in, we will also have a service project (earn SSL hours) and do some planning for the Youth Worship Service and the rest of the year.

Financial picture as of August 31

	Budgeted	Actual
Income	\$437,733.40	\$366,616.60
Expenditures	<u>437,734.12</u>	<u>421,825.72</u>
Deficit	(0.72)	(55,209.12)

It is hoped that the usual more generous giving during the last four months of the year will bring our income and expenditures in line with one another.



Pastor Lewis considers... communication

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Love it or hate it, but you cannot deny that we live in a world with an almost infinite capacity to communicate. There is email, text messaging, cell phones, computers, Skype, and many others. At the touch of a button, we can speak to people all over the world. We can even have our messages translated into another language at the click of a mouse.

So with all this capacity to communicate, why does it seem that we have such a hard time understanding one another? Perhaps, we have lost our capacity to listen - to truly hear what one another is saying.

And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout people from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at the sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?" (Acts 2)

How indeed?

Do the winds of the Holy Spirit still blow in the world? Is it possible for us today truly to hear and to listen to one another? Can we re-discover the language of the Holy Spirit? The language of faith? The language of love?

Yes, because God still speaks.

The real question is – Are we listening?

In Jesus we are given a new language, a new way to understand God. Jesus tells us "*Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.*" Jesus **IS** God's Word to us, speaking to us in a language we can understand, showing us plainly what God is like. Yet, even the disciples, who spent three years with Jesus, had trouble understanding this until the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, descended upon them. They were comforted and called to spread the gospel.

And now the Spirit blows through our lives as well, empowering us to share with boldness who Christ is and what God has done for us.

Can you hear it? Can you feel the winds of the Holy Spirit blowing through your life? What do you hear? What are you being called to do?

Listen . . .

PAX,

Pastor Robert Lewis +



Sneakers and Squeakers Alert

Do any of you know a sneaker or a squeaker? These young people are around us and in our midst. A new group is forming in our congregation composed of young people ("Sneakers"), grade 6 and younger, down to the youngest ("Squeakers"). There will be monthly gatherings including such things as trips on the canal, outdoor adventures, cookie making, Christmas caroling, trips to Adventure Theater and many other activities which will be chosen by the group (and the parents who will go with us). This is a family affair and all are encouraged to come. We are hoping that friends, neighbors, cousins, and others will join the group for the monthly fun adventures.

Any and all help is welcome.

The parent leader of each Sunday School class is needed to call each month to remind folks what the activity will be, the time, who is going, and travel arrangements. Most of the activities will be away from the church, usually on a Sunday, so cars will be needed.

Help is also needed for ideas and leaders for new and different adventures. If YOU have a hobby or interest which YOU would like to share with these young people, please offer to do so. We look forward to hearing from you. For further information, contact Pastor Lewis or Annette Poston.

Youth and Family Calendar

October 2, Saturday, 6:30 p.m.

Youth Lock-in

See page 8 for details.

October 3, Sunday, 10 a.m.

Youth Sunday Preparation

All youth, 7th to 12th grade, will meet in the Christian Education room as we finalize plans for the Youth Sunday the following week.

October 4, Monday, 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Confirmation Class and serve at CBS

This is the first meeting of the Confirmation Class. Besides beginning classes and acolyte training, we will also be preparing food to bring and serve at the Community Based Shelter in Rockville.

October 10, Sunday, Both Worship Services

Youth Sunday

Youth will lead and share their message at both services.

October 10, Sunday, 3:30 p.m.

Blessing of the Animals

See details in column 2 on this page.

October 17, Sunday, 1:30 - 4 p.m.

Airsoft Rally

All Youth and Young Adults are invited to join us at the Tactical Airsoft Arena located at 20-B Southlawn Court in Rockville. The cost is \$40 a person if you do not have your own equipment, \$20 if you bring your own equipment. You may want to bring money for snacks as well. We will plan to be finished by 4 p.m.

October 17, Sunday 6 p.m.

Oktoberfest

Everyone is invited to our annual Oktoberfest. This year, children ages 13 and below are free. See elsewhere in this issue for more information.

October 18, Monday, noon

Fun Bunch

Join the Fun Bunch for Lunch and enjoy fellowship and a presentation. Lunch is catered for a small donation.

October 23, Saturday

TEY Event

Emmanuel is hosting the Theological Education with Youth Event, "Troubling the Water." This is an event for 9th and 10th grade students in the Metro D.C. Synod. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Lewis for more information.

October 24, Sunday, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Family Ice Skating Event—Sneakers and Squeakers

This special Family Ice Skating event is for those families with children in 6th grade and below. We will meet at the Cabin John Ice Rink. The Cost is \$6.25. This is a great time to come and skate with the children since only parents and children are to be on the ice during this event.

Mark your Calendars:

November 12-14, Confirmation Retreat at West River

November 20, Walkathon for the Homeless

Confirmation Retreat

November 12 -14, 2010

Our first confirmation retreat for the year will be at the West River Retreat Center during the weekend of November 12-14, 2010. We plan on leaving the church around 4 p.m. on Friday and return on Sunday around 2:30 p.m. (We may leave earlier on Friday since the Montgomery County Schools only have a half day).

The cost of the retreat is \$65 a person. Forms are available in the church office, on the confirmation page of the church's website or by contacting Pastor Lewis.

Walkathon for the Homeless

November 20, 2010

National Mall

Come join us as we support the N Street Village at the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon. N Street Village Ministries has ask Emmanuel to help them reach their goal of having 3,000 walkers. If they are able to register that many walkers, N Street Village will be awarded an additional \$50,000 to go toward their programs such as Bethany Women's Center which helps homeless women learn a vocation.

Sign up material will be in the Narthex. You can also contact Pastor Lewis for more information.

Chrysalis High School Retreat

December 3-5, 2010

Chrysalis is the Synod-wide high school retreat at the 4H Retreat Center in Front Royal, VA. The cost of the retreat for Emmanuel youth is \$70. We plan in leaving the church around 4 p.m. on Friday and return on Sunday around 2:30 p.m. Forms are available in the church office, on the youth and family ministry page of the church website or by contacting Pastor Lewis. Forms are due no later than November 5, 2010.

Youth Report on Chi Rho

The youth will have a multi-media presentation during the Youth Worship Service on October 10, 2010 about their trip to Neon, Kentucky this past July for their Chi Rho Mission Trip.

Blessing of the Animals

October 10, 2010

3:30 p.m.

We will bless the animals in the side yard behind the chapel on Sunday, October 10, 2010 at 3:30 p.m. Bring your pets, gold fish, beast of burden or any other animal for a special blessing.



Music is the electrical soil in which
the spirit lives, thinks, and invents.
— *Beethoven*

Fall Greetings!

After a summer respite for the Handbell Ringers, the Choir and Joyful Praise, rehearsals have resumed for all except the ringers. The church's four-octave set of bells are in Pennsylvania being refurbished by the manufacturer as of this writing, but will return to us soon, in plenty of time to prepare for winter worship services.

Again I am indebted to Kristi Johnson for her very able assistance over much of the summer, allowing me to take much needed leave time for to be with my children and their families, and for my wife, Laura, and me to enjoy a beautiful vacation abroad – a first for her.

As you must all imagine, the music program is fully committed to helping to make the up-coming 50th Anniversary of Emmanuel a most special and memorable occasion for the church community and the entire neighborhood. A commissioned musical work is being written by a local composer, scheduled to be presented as part of the culmination of our year-long celebration. The plan is to invite the choirs of neighboring churches, and a variety of organists and instrumentalists to join us for this event, and over the course of the entire year leading up to it.

In my next visit with you I will outline the schedule of our annual cantata presentations and plans for other special music presentations.

It isn't too early for me to stress, with a certain amount of urgency, the need to have more members and friends of the church to consider joining at least one of our on-going musical groups. Susan Drumm, who works so wonderfully with the kids who are the Joyful Praise Choir, and I are especially hoping that families with children of the appropriate age, will participate in that program. Over the years the choir's membership has been close to twenty. As this year gets under way, there are only seven!!!!

I am eager that high school and college-aged students with singing talent will come forward to augment and revitalize the choir – and perhaps make it necessary to form another one. That would be exciting. If there is such talent in your household, please encourage them to thank God for their skills by using their voices to enhance the worship experience of this church.

As always, I welcome any thoughts or suggestions you may have toward the enrichment of our musical efforts. Please don't hesitate to communicate with me.

Until next time, I am
Faithfully yours,
Dingwall



As the year progresses and the temperature drops, it is hard to remember the discomfort of sweltering days of summer. But, as leaves turn color and drop across our lawns, it is clear that change is in the air. We resist change it seems, and, when it comes with such insistent truth, it reminds us that change is the norm of our existence. We age, we gain things, we lose things, and the cycle of the seasons remains a constant in our lives.



There is something about autumnal days that spurs thoughts of our youth. Things were always more impressive then—colors brighter, temperatures more noticeable, fallen leaves more rustle-prone than today. And why not? They were newer to us then. Nonetheless, there are few who do not think of events in October that trigger special memories.: bobbing for apples, going on trick-or-treat missions while just slightly apprehensive about all those strange goblins in the night, swishing through the fallen leaves on the way to or from school. One thing that the older ones remember that probably cannot be recalled by even the middle aged among us is the scent of burning leaves on a crisp fall day. The EPA and similar watchdogs of propriety have pretty well banned the practice of burning leaves. The scents of fall are fascinating, but we're the poorer for the lack of leaf smoke.



The school down the street lets its students out for a noon recess. The release from the controlled environment of the classroom seems to act as a trigger for exuberant vocal behavior. The noise rises in a swirl of running, shouting, whooping, youngsters. A bell rings and silence reigns again. How wonderful the brief freedom, how marvelous it must be to get all that out of one's system—even if for only a moment.



The neighbors' dog is a wonder to watch. It's sleek and lithe and thoroughly curious about all the wonderful smells that it encounters on its daily walks through the neighborhood. Nose to the ground, it trots from bush to bush to tree to fire hydrant gathering tidbits of information. Its owner, leash tightly clutched against the pull of the dog, permits the exploration, but only for a while. An impatient yank on the leash sends them on to the next source of informative marks. Each of them eventually arrives at home having gained from the excursion.



The industrious ants are busy as usual and the crickets are noisily serenading. Birds are slowly winging south for the winter and so the seasons progress. We know that it must be fall because the public television stations are having a pledge drive. — No, that can no longer be counted as a sign of seasonal change. They seem to shake the contribution tin every three weeks or so. How many times can one be exposed to Andre Riou or Suzy Ormand and still keep one's sanity?

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