

Messenger

April 2009

Vol. 24 No.3



Youth Group in April

The schedule for youth group meetings for April is:

- April 5: Seder Meal (Those participating should plan to arrive at 4 p.m. to help set up tables and ceremonial foods. Remember to dress up.)
- April 12: Easter – No meeting
- April 19: Regular meeting at the church; 6-8 p.m.
- April 26: Acolyte meeting – No youth group

Vestry Notes

The following was unanimously approved as “A Vestry Discipline” at the March 16 meeting and will serve as a “verbal snapshot” of spirit-led leadership in our Parish for the next year.

At the recent retreat, the Vestry was asked to contemplate what Spirit-led leadership would look like for this parish. The Vestry chose several disciplines to reflect upon and guide their actions – at meetings and towards others in general – this coming year. The following statement encapsulates those spirit-led disciplines:

A Vestry Discipline

The acceptance (or inclusion) of the Holy Spirit in our lives is manifested in the “fruit of the Spirit,” which “is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, (and) self control” (Galatians 5:22-23). Once we allow the spirit to flow through us, we obtain the gifts of the Spirit: Knowledge/Understanding/Wisdom (Discernment), Counsel (Listening and Honesty), Power (Energy), and Godliness (Isaiah 11:2-3). Being filled with the gifts of the Spirit empowers believers to commit to do the work of Christ in the church community, in the local community, and in the global community – the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:8-10, Ephesians 4:11-12, Romans 12:6-8). This commitment allows us to commune with God.

Adult Forum

Adult Forum will not meet Palm Sunday, April 5, or Easter Sunday, April 12. We should complete our study of William Barclay’s commentary on the Gospel of Luke by late May. This summer we plan to have a “Summer DVD Club” (instead of the usual Summer Book Club). We will meet on a monthly basis in June, July and August. More about the DVD topics later. Please join us!

Featured Outreach Program

Men’s SAFE House

213 Central Ave., Urbana, IL 61801
Contact information: Brother Thomas Green, Interim Director
Phone 344-7233
www.canaansafehouse.org

The SAFE (Substance Abuse Free Environment) House is a twelve-month residential, comprehensive rehab program for those recovering from substance abuse. The House recently celebrated its 15th anniversary and has graduated 77 men during that time. A recent graduate wrote this about his experience at the SAFE House, “Drugs will make you formulate any kind of scenario to keep you stuck. In your madness you try to put on the air that you don’t care. But the atmosphere at the SAFE House brings out the real you; it brings out what God has inside of you. It was new, different and refreshing.” The SAFE House is a Christian recovery support group, which provides opportunities for residents to share hopes and experiences to remain drug and alcohol free. Men, ages 18 and older, are served at this facility. There is a need for male volunteers to cover the desk evenings as well as overnight. Contact the above number for details.

The Rector's Corner

Dear People of Emmanuel Memorial Church,

I am writing this column just a few days following the most recent meeting of your Vestry. I want to say to you how pleased I am to be working with your Vestry. For these last many years, it usually takes several months for the Vestry to “gel” – to get to that point where they are working well together as a body for the furthering of Christ’s Kingdom. This year, your Vestry was “gelled” – is clearly up and running with a focus on the furthering of Christ and Christ’s Kingdom – at their first meeting as a Vestry. I cannot begin to tell you how pleased I am.

What I want to say to you is that you have done a wonderful job in prayerfully electing a group of people who have Christ and you as their central focus. Our parish mission statement “To Know Christ and to Make Christ Known” is the central focus of your Vestry and your parish staff. Our prayer and our goal is to assist you in coming to Know Christ more fully as individuals and to Make Christ Known to all others. I am honored to be a part of this dedicated group of Christian individuals.

Elsewhere in this issue of the Messenger, you will find a statement written by Vestry Member Tom Barnard entitled “A

Vestry Discipline.” It comes from the prayerful discussion of your Vestry at their recent retreat. I think you will be pleased to find that your parish leadership have so central as their focus, the leading of the Holy Spirit for your parish. I commend Tom and all of the Vestry for this statement of purpose.

It looks to be a great year in parish life as your Vestry, clergy and staff attempt to lead by example in Knowing Christ and Making Christ Known through the ministry and mission of this parish. Hang on folks, we can only wait in wonder to see where the Holy Spirit is leading us!

With my love and prayers, I remain,

Faithfully yours,



Father Alan, Obl. SSJE
The Xth Rector of Emmanuel Memorial Church

Welcoming Committee

Of Vacuum Tubes and Love

Recently, Fr. Alan made me think of my old vacuum tube radio. Well, sort of. Some years ago, when I lived in Charleston, West Virginia, I owned a small airplane that was the apple of my eye. But the radio in the panel was so old that it still operated with vacuum tubes. Can you remember the last time you had a radio that had vacuum tubes? Do you even know what vacuum tubes are? Indeed, you may NEVER have had such a radio. Mine was always in the shop for repairs.

Finally, I saved enough money to buy a new radio. I was as happy as a clam.

But a few months later, a thief broke into my plane and stole my new radio. I was just sick.

Nearly six months later, I received a call from the FAA in Washington, D.C., to inform me that my radio had been discovered in a plane in Johnson City, Tn. I was thrilled. I just HAD to share my good news with someone. In spite of the fact that I knew she was teaching in the local grade school, I called the principal’s office and got my wife out of the classroom so she could talk with me on the office phone! Then I went down town to celebrate with a cup of coffee and a big piece of pie at a local

restaurant. (If you have ever heard of Garrison Keillor and Lake Wobegone’s Chatterbox Cafe, you will know what I am talking about.) I smiled at everyone I passed on the sidewalk while walking to that restaurant. I was so cordial in the restaurant that they all thought I must have inherited a lot of money.

That’s what I was thinking about recently when Fr. Alan reminded us that God’s fundamental nature is to be merciful, that it is to love us in spite of any lacking, any inadequacy, any – dare I use the word – sin. He still loves us; we have great good news. We come so happy, so cordial, that we want to share the good news of His love with anyone we meet. That awareness, that sensitivity, is what makes us a **welcoming** church. Every visitor is someone with whom we can share our joy and make it His joy.

In the Lenten devotional booklet that Fr. Alan gave us as his Lenten gift, Katherine Howard says, “God is Love. Love’s nature is to be effusive, generous, kind, caring, self-giving and always fully open to and welcoming of the other... This is the life we share through creation in God’s image... God, Love, is living in us.” No wonder **we are a welcoming church**.

John Taylor, Welcoming Committee

Journey of Faith

by Dean Olson

Each Vestry member in their third year of service writes an essay of this title for the *Messenger*. As with all journeys, my development as a Christian has high points, low points and landmarks along the way. Most of my landmarks are people, coupled to something I learned from them. I was born, baptized, raised and confirmed (the first time) in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. In 1995, I was confirmed into the Episcopal Church at Emmanuel, and the late Ed Davidson was my parish sponsor. That's the short story, but let me go back and put together a few of the most important pieces.

In 1979, I left my home and church in Minnesota to attend the U. of N. Carolina in Chapel Hill. Early in those years, I barely knew that the Episcopal church existed. But, Thursdays, at noon, the campus Episcopal church hosted a "Bach's Lunch" organ concert which I usually attended. The Episcopal church was very different than my Lutheran church just down the street. A blue book and a red book rested next to each other in the pew; neither was a Bible. It looked like Episcopalians knelt, since the pews had kneelers. It was through these concert visits that I became aware of the Easter Vigil service. We didn't do that at the Lutheran church (they do now!), so I recruited a number of friends, and we all went together to the Easter Vigil. I never missed another Vigil service as long as I lived in Chapel Hill. However, I never went to a Sunday mass at the Episcopal Chapel of the Cross. I was always at Sunday services at Holy Trinity Lutheran.

One Easter Sunday, a man named Pastor Persaud was our guest preacher. I believe he was from India, serving as a Lutheran Pastor in the USA. He rose to the pulpit and proceeded to say a number of shocking things to a stunned congregation. I remember where I was sitting as he made remarks something like this: "I don't much feel like preaching today – or even being in church. I certainly don't feel like being a minister, or giving a sermon, or sharing communion with you. I am sad, afraid, tired, angry, depressed, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ is of little comfort to me." Uh-oh, I thought; who is this guy? How can he say this on Easter Sunday?! How can he ever resolve his remarks into a decent sermon? Oh, boy – this is making people uncomfortable. He continued, "How can this be, you ask? Well, you see, my mother died Friday morning – Good Friday morning, just two mornings ago. I can hardly come to grips with the enormity of this, and I am at the very bottom. So, let me tell you a little about how it looks from down here. I know God is still with me, but frankly, I do not feel the presence of God. I know Jesus loves me, but knowing is not the same as feeling. I also know things will not stay this way for me. Some day, lifted by your prayers, I will begin to see a faint glimmer of God's presence, and again feel a tinge of God's love. I will be able to say I tested the bottom, but I can already tell you this with certainty: the bottom is sound. God's love is among us – with me and with you this very morning. I will grow to better accept this truth, but only by God's grace; I will not be able to do it myself. Pray for me. Remember on Easter that God is here – and this is only the beginning." It was a brief sermon, and we sat in somber silence. Surely everyone in that sanctuary wondered how this man could have possibly preached considering his circumstance, but there he was. We knew we'd just witnessed faith in action as we heard the innermost stirrings of a life (and death) deeply sustained by the Holy Spirit.

For the first and only time, I met Pastor Persaud after the service; he was glum. I said, "Thank you for your message today." He replied simply, "Thank you for listening." Our just having heard his message clearly made a difference to him. I am still listening; his words hover around me at times. Pastor Persaud remains one of the landmark people on my journey of faith. I left Chapel Hill with a steady involvement in a familiar church, an introduction to the Episcopal church, and a firm knowledge and feeling that my Christian faith was anchored in a solid, sustaining God. It is a gift for which I am grateful – an Easter gift that hasn't faded, but instead becomes more tangible as the years accrue. Like a switchback on a trail, usually led by events and not will, my journey of faith sometimes loops around to that day, that Easter morning, in a sacred revisit to a treasured spiritual touchstone.

schedule for Holy Week

April 5

THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY

8 a.m. - Liturgy of the Palms & Low Mass with Hymns

10:15 a.m. - Liturgy of the Palms & High Mass

5:15 p.m. - Seder Meal

April 9

MAUNDY THURSDAY

12:15 p.m. - Mass

7 p.m. - The Mandatum, Mass, & Stripping of the Altar

(Watch begins and continues until 6:00 p.m. Good Friday)

April 10

GOOD FRIDAY

12:15 p.m. - Stations of the Cross and Mass of the Pre-Sanctified

7 p.m. - The Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday

(Dressing of the church building follows the Liturgy)

April 11

HOLY SATURDAY

10:00 p.m. - The Great Vigil of Easter & The First Mass of the Resurrection

April 12

EASTER DAY

7 a.m. - Low Mass with Hymns

9 & 11 a.m. - Solemn Mass of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ

(Persons attending the Easter Vigil or the 9 and 11 a.m. Easter morning services are invited to bring a finger food, bread, cookie, savory, etc. on a tray ready to serve at the Easter Break-fasts following each service.

Thank you.)

Milestones

April Birthdays

- 1 Keith Cadwallader
Kari Jo Black
- 2 Kathy Ottney
Nick Ragle
- 5 Jean Mills
Barbara Maggs
Carolyn Ogen
- 6 Elizabeth Dickerson
- 7 Jane Heaton
- 8 Ray Noel
- 9 Jean Morgenstern
- 11 Eric Kobel
- 12 Zachary Medlyn
- 13 Kristin Feddersen
- 14 Anthony Wells
- 15 Randy Kobel
Ethan Russell
- 16 Chris Bonds
Bill MacDonald
- 18 Bernard White
- 19 Bruce Bonds
Myles Cadwallader
- 20 Maeve Aquino
Geoffrey Ross
- 22 Pat Nelson
Scott Ryle

- 23 Emily Mills
Chad Warren
- 24 Reba Hall
- 25 Dennis Buerkett
Chris Hopkins
Laura Sonnichsen
- 27 Phil Swanson
Dean Olson
- 28 Anna Bess Hale
- 29 Robert Worthington
- 30 Christopher Weaver
Elizabeth Owen

April Anniversaries

- 2 Matt and Amanda Hopkins
- 8 Bill and Judy Link
- 13 Stephen and Carolyn Brown
- 18 Dean and Nancy Olson
- 23 Katie and Albert Yau
- 26 Tish and Steve Stanner

"O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord."
Amen.

The Staff at Emmanuel

The Right Reverend Peter H. Beckwith
The Right Reverend Keith Ackerman
The Reverend Alan A. Herbst, Obl. SSJE
The Reverend Eugene Hall
The Reverend Christine Hopkins
Michael Fisher
Kevin Kelly
Lori Dobrik

Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield
Assisting Bishop
Rector
Priest Associate
Deacon
Organist
Choirmaster
Parish Administrator

Wardens and Vestry

William Link, Treasurer
Lori Dobrik, Clerk
Roger Burrus, Rector's Warden
Craig Russell, Parish Warden

Tom Barnard
Roger Burrus
Patti Gruber
Kim McQueen

Linda Meyer
Scott Moe
Carol Jeanne Muster
Dan Noel

Dean Olson
Lois Rath
Craig Russell
Winton Solberg

Upcoming Events

April

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| 2 | Mass at 11:30 a.m. followed by Bible Study/Brown Bag Lunch | 11 | The Great Vigil of Easter and the First Mass of Easter – 10 p.m. with reception to follow |
| 5 | Palm Sunday – 8 & 10:15 a.m.: Liturgy of the Palms 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. – Seder Meal | 12 | Feast of the Resurrection – Easter Day Masses at 7, 9 and 11 a.m. with receptions to follow |
| 7 | Clergy at Liturgy of Collegiality in Springfield | 13 | Parish Office Closed |
| 9 | Clergy at Clark-Lindsey Village – 10 a.m. Maundy Thursday – 7 p.m., The Liturgy of Foot Washing The Celebration of the First Eucharist, The Stripping of the Altar, The Watch Before the Sacrament begins and continues until Friday evening | 14 | Parish Office closed |
| 10 | Good Friday – 12:15 p.m.: Stations of the Cross and Mass of the Pre-Sanctified 7 p.m.: The Passion Gospel, The Solemn Collects, The Mass of the Pre-Sanctified | 15 | Messenger Deadline |
| | | 16 | St. Catherine's Guild Mass & Luncheon – 11 a.m. |
| | | 21 | Vestry – 7 p.m. |
| | | 26 | Sprint UTO Ingathering |

Noel Scholarship Applications

Applications are available in the Parish Office for the Noel Scholarship. Applicants must be regular participants in the worship and life of the church, be a wholesome example of the Christian lifestyle, and must maintain a “B” average. Preference will be given to persons from the parish who are entering a recognized and accredited seminary of the Episcopal Church. Applications are due back to the Parish Office by no later than April 30th.



Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal Church

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Champaign, Illinois 61820

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