

Messenger

May 2009



Vol. 24 No.5

First Quarter Financial Update

At the conclusion of the first quarter of 2009, a quick glance at income and expenses seems to indicate that revenues exceeded expenditures. This is due to the receipt of a \$30,188.04 check from the insurance company as an initial payment for the repairs necessary due to the severe water damage sustained in February. Upon completion of the repairs, which are scheduled to begin in early June, a second check will cover the remaining expenses for the ceiling, floor tiles and asbestos abatement procedure. The heating bills, due to the extreme cold in the first three months of the year, totaled almost \$16,000. In contrast, the Ameren bill just paid in April totaled \$2,591 – a hopeful sign for the upcoming warmer months of spring, summer and autumn. In addition, costs attributed to the extremely cold weather totaled almost \$3,000, including repairs to burst pipes and the rebuilding of a frozen radiator. Snow removal expenses were \$2,970, half of which we will be reimbursed for by the Housing Authority of Champaign County. The total of winter-related expenses and repairs due to the cold totaled almost \$22,000. As we enter the warmer months, we anticipate relief in these expenditures but encourage parishioners to please keep current with their pledge payments as the day-to-day operations of the parish

must continue to be funded. Pledge statements were mailed after Easter so gifts given for Easter flowers and Easter offering and the Lenten Youth Project could be included on the giving report. Thank you to all for your continued generosity and commitment to the mission and ministry of Emmanuel Parish.

First Quarter Review - March 31, 2009

From the Parish Trustees

The church's endowment has been invested with equal emphasis on growth and income. Preservation of capital is also an investment objective. As such, at the end of the first quarter of 2009, the portfolio was approximately 50 percent stocks and 50 percent fixed income and cash.

The equity markets continue to be a challenge for investors. During the first quarter of 2009, the S&P 500 index was down 12 percent, the Dow was down 13 percent and the international markets were down 15 percent. The equities in the endowment were down six percent. First-quarter income from the portfolio used to support church operations was approximately \$14,000. The overall first-quarter return from the portfolio was - 2.9 percent.

Youth group members: Watch the Sunday bulletin and group e-mail for details about May meetings.



The Rector's Corner

A Word of Thanks

Dear People of Emmanuel Memorial Church,

If I may say so, the Season of Lent, this year at Emmanuel Memorial Church was a particularly blessed one. The aura of devotion and dedication of so many this year made this so. I think of all those who attended the series *Knowing Christ in Worship*, the attendees at Lenten Suppers, the Thursday Noon Bible Study, the Seder Dinner and the Liturgies of Holy Week; those who “watched for one hour” at the Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Vigil. I am grateful for the members of the parish staff who worked quietly behind the scenes and in public to lead parish programs, make preparations, and lead worship. I am aware of the unnumbered volunteers who served dinners, moved tables and chairs, served in liturgies, sang in the choir and in other ways led us and took care of our physical needs. I am deeply grateful for those who so generously gave of your resources to fund and meet the challenge gift for youth ministry.

Because of your generosity, we have been able to add more than \$20,000 to the parish endowment for Youth Ministry. You not only “talk-the-talk, but also walk-the-walk” in supporting this ministry which you identified as your number one priority. I commend all of you, and I thank you. You are part of a very vibrant and healthy portion of the Body of Christ, Emmanuel Memorial Church. You show yourselves to be the Body of Christ in who you are and all that you do. I am honored and humbled to be allowed to be a servant of this community of the Risen Christ.

With my love and prayers,



Fr. Alan, Obl. SSJE
Rector

Featured Outreach Program

Crisis Nursery

1309 W. Hill St.
Urbana, IL 61801
217-337-2730

The Crisis Nursery provides care for children from the ages of newborn to five years old in times of family need. Begun in 1983, the Crisis Nursery is the only 24-hour, 365-days-a-year child abuse prevention and family support agency of its kind in the county. They provide emergency interventions, respite care, crisis counseling, parental support and parental education to assist families in crisis.

Volunteers are needed to assist staff in working directly with children, planting and tending the gardens, assisting shoppers at the annual Holiday Shop, participating in clean-up and working various fundraisers. Direct-care volunteers must be at least 18 years old, undergo a background check and participate in ongoing training programs.

Financial donors are also a vital part of this operation. Most all of the annual budget is raised each year from gifts, grants, contracts and special events. Gifts to Crisis Nursery are essential as there are no permanent recurring funds.

Journey of Faith

Carol Jeanne Muster

We all periodically ask ourselves “How did I get here?” Neither of my parents was raised in the Episcopal Church; after marrying, they chose it together. Thus, I am a cradle Episcopalian. As a child, I didn’t question going to church. I had great Sunday school teachers and enjoyed the hymns and Bible stories. When I got older, I participated in junior choir, a minor miracle since I’ve never been able to carry a tune consistently. In high school, when I saw a friend wearing a button that said “Ask Me,” I asked. As a result, I learned way more than I wanted to know about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This incident made me more acutely aware of the variety of Christian denominations, and of non-Christian religions too. I began discussing Catholicism with a Roman Catholic friend and I checked out other churches too. Learning about different forms of worship made me more aware of the Anglican liturgy as I compared traditions. Each religion had something about it I found attractive and mysterious. In college, I participated in a Bible study for the first time. I really enjoyed the critical discussion of scriptures and the variety of views and interpretations held by people from different traditions. But by the time I was in graduate school in North Carolina, I was no longer attending church regularly although I still considered myself an Episcopalian. I was busy with coursework, research, teaching, and meeting the man to whom I am married.

When we discussed marriage, I had to think hard about how important regular church attendance was to me. Karl had been brought up in the Methodist church, for the most part, but attended sporadically. I came to realize that I wanted to be married in an Episcopal church and I wanted any children I might have to be raised in a church too. I felt obliged to clearly communicate this to Karl since, from his own observation, this stance was by no means obvious. We married in my sister’s church, Church of the Holy Spirit in Lake Forest, Illinois. Because I wasn’t a member there or anywhere at the time and had been divorced, I had to request a character reference from my childhood parish priest. This speed bump made me realize how important the Episcopal Church is to me.

When Karl and I came to Champaign we had still not settled on a church home. I began attending Emmanuel in the early eighties, at a time of transition. I was surprised and pleased by how welcoming the congregation was, and the liturgy itself was like getting hugged by family. Karl began coming with me and decided to be confirmed. The Tuesday Women’s Bible Study had been an important part of my spiritual life here for over twenty years and provided an opportunity to get to know a group of amazing and supportive ladies. Emmanuel is our church home. We do feel we belong in this family and we treasure our relationships here.

I was trained as a scientist and have great respect for experimental evidence and logical thinking. Yet God is proclaimed in the very complexity of our universe. I do not see any conflict between science and the spiritual life. The Episcopal Church is not a rigid box that tells me what to think or when to think it. It is a garden that nourishes and promotes my journey to a true relationship with God. Because this church acknowledges reason as a partner to scripture and tradition, I can struggle toward that relationship, however messy the process, in a tolerant and supportive environment.

Education Goals for Emmanuel's Youth

One of the 2008 vestry goals was to make a list of what we want our youngsters to know by the time they finish high school. We wanted to focus on the “big picture” since our instructional time with the kids is so limited. This process involved asking all the adults in our church who work directly with our youth to contribute to this list. This included Sunday School teachers, Children’s Chapel leaders, confirmation instructors, acolyte instructors, the clergy and members of the education committee of the Vestry. (Brenda Koester, Kim McQueen and Roger Burrus) What follows is an edited

list from the contributions of many. Special thanks to Bill Techau for his thoughtful and substantive response. This list has been through several revisions and this one is the final version – at least for now. One of the responsibilities of the education committee will be to review the list and edit as needed on an annual basis. If you have any suggestions or comments about the list below, please see one of the current Vestry members of the education committee. (Patti Gruber, Linda Meyer, Roger Burrus).

Dear Emmanuel young person,

God created you and loves you as a child of God more than you can possibly know. God wants you to try to do his will every day. When you fall short, as everyone does from time to time, God will forgive you.

As Christians, we worship Jesus, God’s son. Jesus showed you how to live and how to love. He even suffered death on a cross. The good news is that he rose again and is now with God in heaven. God wants you to join Jesus, and those you love, in heaven after you die. Jesus wants you to love and forgive other people like he loves and forgives you. He expects you to cherish your relationships with other people. Not only did Jesus love and forgive others, he also prayed to God daily, read the scriptures regularly, lived his life according God’s commandments, helped the poor, tried to create a more just society, and felt compassion for those in need. God expects you to try to follow the example of Jesus.

Accepting the Holy Spirit in our lives is shown in the “fruit of the Spirit,” which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Jesus wants you to receive “the gifts from God to the people of God” (take communion) on a regular basis. He wants you to have a personal and close relationship with Him The Episcopal Church wants you to take God’s Holy Scriptures (the Bible) very seriously, to highly respect what generations of Christians before us have taught us, (tradition) and to understand that reason (or common sense) is a gift from God.

Emmanuel means “God with us.” Our mission is “to know Christ and make Christ known.” We hope that you will make this your mission, and that you will always regard Emmanuel, and the people who worship here, as part of your loving family. We want you to know that Emmanuel will always be a safe place to return to whenever life becomes difficult.

Some specific things we want you to know:

- The Great Commandment (“Love the Lord your God with all your heart...”)
- The Lord’s Prayer
- The Comfortable Words (p. 332 of the Prayer book) “Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to Him...”)
- The sacraments of Baptism and Communion
- Psalm 23 (“The Lord is my shepherd...”)
- Psalm 100 (“Sing to the Lord, all the world...”)
- John 3:16 (“For God so loved the world...”)
- Micah 6: 8 (“...do what is just, show constant love, and live in humble fellowship with our God.”)
- Luke 18: 16, 17 (“Let the little children come to me and do not stop them...”)
- Galatians 5: 22,23 (“...but the Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self control.”)

Milestones

May Birthdays

- 1 Rachel Lindemann
- 2 Philip Kocheril
- 4 Craig Schlatter
- 5 Mike Aquino
- 6 Brenda Koester
- 7 Mia Glassgow
Bill Cooper
Ruth McCauley
- 8 Katie Aquino
- 10 Neil Holding
- 12 Anneka Neukomm
William Neukomm
- 13 Cameron Barnard
Samantha Wells
- 14 Mike Hoch
- 15 Joe Kelly
- 16 Nancy Yaxley
- 18 Marjorie Bouton
Barb Holman
- 19 Pat Madsen

- 20 Mary O'Laughlin
Edward Ogen
- 21 Robin Allen
Stephen Kocheril
- 25 Clark Spence
Bill Neukomm
- 26 Scott Moe
Keli Erickson
- 29 Rick Layton
- 30 Caroline Dickerson
Jesse Mae Ottney
- 31 SuAnn Thomas
Michael Warren

May Anniversaries

- 6 Jan and Dennis Buerkett
- 9 Craig and Chris Russell
- 14 Elizabeth and Barry Dickerson
- 15 Kathy and Mike Ottney
- 16 Cathy and Scott Moe
- 18 Karie and Bill Neukomm
- 20 Gerald and Nancy Yaxley
- 22 John and Sue Duffy
- 24 Heidi and Jim DuVall
- 29 Brenda and Tom Koester
John and Susan Wozniak

"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.

In the life of our Parish

Repose of the soul of Geraldine Fletcher – April 10

May her soul and the souls of all the departed rest in peace. And may light perpetual shine upon them.

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

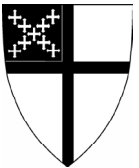
Linda Meyer
Scott Moe
Carol Jeanne Muster
Dan Noel

Dean Olson
Lois Rath
Craig Russell
Winton Solberg

Upcoming Events

May

- 14 Clergy at Clark-Lindsey Village – 10 a.m.
- 16 Spring Parish Workday – 8 a.m. to Noon
- 17 Last day of Sunday School/Adult Forum for spring semester
Youth Group at church – 6 to 8 p.m.
- 18 Vestry – 7 p.m.
- 19 Vote for next year's Altar Guild Easter Egg designs – 11 a.m.
- 20 Deadline for June *Messenger*
- 21 St. Catherine's Guild Mass and Luncheon – 11 a.m.
- 24 Youth Group at church – 6 to 8 p.m.
Bishop Beckwith to meet with Confirmands – 3:30 p.m. at Emmanuel
- 25-26 Memorial Day observance – Parish Office Closed
- 30 Brat and Beverage Party – 5:45 p.m.
- 31 Bishop Beckwith's Homecoming.
Confirmation at 10:15 a.m. Mass with reception to follow
Youth Group at church – 6 to 8 p.m.



Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal Church

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Champaign, Illinois 61820

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