

Messenger

October 2009



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Musings



Blessed Are The Children Of God

(An address delivered by Eric Kobel at the June Parish Picnic. Eric, a graduate of Champaign Centennial High School, is studying flute performance at the University of Illinois.)

Why are we here?

For the first half of my life it was "because mom makes me."

We would sit in the front pew on the north side of the church so a quick escape could be made if we were misbehaving. If my parents were lucky, the tote bag of colored pencils and paper would entertain us enough to keep us mildly attentive to the service, but most importantly if they were lucky it would keep us quiet. Music has been a part of my life throughout its entirety. While listening to the organ music I'd hum quietly to myself. Later in life I would learn that what I was humming as a five year old were chords. At the time I just liked changing the vibrations I felt in my head.

Eventually my reason went from "because mom makes me" to "I am scheduled to acolyte today."

Sitting in that front pew I had a pretty good view of what was happening at the altar. I suppose I looked up to the older acolytes in a way. They were trusted with responsibility and were important.

I wanted to be one very badly. I signed up and moved my way through the ranks. I carried the very-large-for-a-ten-year-old flag and always stayed three pews behind the candles. I carried the candles and always stayed as close

as I could to the crucifer. I became a server and learned I had to really pay attention to the service. I became a second cross, and that was big because it seemed important without actually being so. I became a crucifer, which was another big deal because that is the one I always saw the most sitting in the front pew. I made it to MC and you all had to sit, stand and kneel through my abysmal bell ringing. Kevin Kelly finally got fed up and gave me a bell ringing lesson which was very informative, thank you very much, Kevin. At long last I became a thurifer. I know the 360's look dangerous and reckless but as long as it keeps moving nothing bad can happen.

Since I am older now I find myself asking more seriously: *Why are we here?*

*God is present
whenever love is present,
and love is certainly
present here in my
Emmanuel family.*

I think I know the answer. It is because we all share the same faith that God is present here with us. One time—actually probably on more than one occasion—Father Al said in a sermon that "God is love." That really has stuck with me. God is present whenever love is present, and love is certainly present here in my Emmanuel family. We care about each

other's livelihoods and always remain supportive through the ups and downs in our fellow parishioners' lives. Our relationship with one another is not confined to the walls of the church building, as is evident here, but also in the community. I have seen more than one of you in the audiences when I perform supporting me as well as other community groups. This love brings us closer to God and it is through our love for one another that I have come to know God.

The Rector's Corner

Dear People of Emmanuel Memorial Church,

Pastoral Care is a vital part of parish ministry. I want to inform you of some new innovations in this parish ministry.

There are many pastoral ministries which have been in place for many years at Emmanuel. Deacon Hopkins and I bring the Blessed Sacrament to and pray with those hospitalized and homebound on a regular basis. She and I are always here to provide spiritual and pastoral counseling. We have a willing and able group of volunteers who are ready to bring in meals to those who may need meals from time to time. Our parish "talent bank" is filled with persons who willingly provide legal, financial, medical, home maintenance and other assistance when called upon. The Parish Nurses meet with you monthly for blood pressure screenings and to listen to your medical concerns and make appropriate referrals. The parish office has an excellent file of social workers, counselors, marriage and family counselors, and mental health care providers to which we can refer you if you should need these services. We can refer you to local providers of grief and recovery counseling at the time of a death, prolonged illness, or other crisis. The Prayer Shawl ministry creates beautiful and meaningful symbols of the care and prayer of the parish community. Your parish staff are always here if you just want to come in for a cup of "tea and sympathy," and to find a compassionate, listening and prayerful ear when you are going through a rough stretch. The Discretionary Fund is available (as resources allow) to provide temporary financial assistance when a crisis arises. We provide support for the parish children, teens, new parents, and the elderly. Many times we can connect you with another young person, or person wiser in years who can relate to what you are going through and simply assure you that "I've been there too, and I made it through. You will too!" And perhaps they can share with you their advice from their life experience. There are other pastoral ministries already in place which are too numerous to list in the brief space of this column.

Over this past summer, we have begun a new ministry of written pastoral support. So far, we have created a brochure for those suffering from an illness, and a brochure to be sent to persons with newborns in their home. These brochures use photographs of the stained glass in the parish and other iconic items from this beautiful church. Our prayer is that these familiar parish scenes will be of comfort at a time of stress. These brochures include suitable prayers from *The Book of Common Prayer* and other sources, and Scriptural passages which we pray will bring comfort, inspiration and support. Over the next few months, it is our intention to produce brochures for other occasions such as marriage, when raising a teen, at the time of death,

and so on. We are also now giving parents a book entitled *My Baptism* which records the baptism and provides suitable prayers and Bible passages and instructions for parents on how to raise their children in the Christian Faith.

We are in the process of creating a set of letters which will be sent to the surviving family after there is a death. We are gathering resources for these letters from many sources. Our goal is to send a letter to surviving family members over the course of a year: at the time of death, one month from the death (dealing with self care while grieving), and on all of the "firsts" during that first year after a death: the first birthday, the first wedding anniversary, the first Christmas, and so on. We hope that these letters will be of comfort and assure the bereaved that they have not been forgotten after everyone has gone home after the funeral.

We would like to create a similar set of letters for new parents about how to proceed through the first year(s) of having a new child in the home. And a set of letters for teens and the parents of teens. Your input is welcomed in creating all of this. We will be contacting some of you to solicit your sage advice.

Lastly, in keeping with the Fall Forums on "*Aging Well, Dying Well*," we are developing a packet of materials on legal, medical and financial issues, making decisions about assisted living, and planning your funeral. These packets will be available in the parish office.

So you can see, we have been busy, and we have much more work to do.

Now comes your part! Please let us know what issues we are missing. If you have other ideas about how we can assist you pastorally, please speak with Deacon Chris or me. But above all else, please contact the parish office by phone (352-9827) or e-mail (EMEC@ameritech.net) at the time of an illness, crisis, or other pastoral need. We are here to assist you, but we can only be effective if we know of your need. Please don't hesitate to contact us at any time. That is why we are here.

With the assurance of my love and prayers for each of you, I remain,

Faithfully yours,



(The Reverend Father) Alan A. Herbst, Obl. SSJE
Rector

Stewardship

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In the next month, the Wardens of this parish ask you to consider prayerfully your role in God's kingdom, and the role played by our parish. The substantial community outreach provided by this parish, the meaningful worship within these walls every day, the education of our young people, and the Christian fellowship we enjoy result only from the active involvement of each of us.

This year, during our annual Stewardship campaign, we ask once again that each family make a pledge, and that the amount of the pledge be a true, prayerful reflection of your family's commitment to the parish. We recognize that the economy is weak, but we also know that God blesses us in many ways. Our parish budget each year is built based on pledges received and paid, and it is published each year in time for the annual meeting in January so that you can see how your pledge dollars are used.

Early in October, pledge cards and a cover letter will be sent to each family on the parish roll. We invite you to the annual Cajun Dinner on Sunday, October 25, beginning after the 5:15 evening prayer service, to kick off the Stewardship campaign with an evening of good food, Bingo, and a hymn-sing. Your completed pledge cards may be turned in at the dinner or at any Sunday service in October. On Sunday, November 1, we will conduct the every-member canvass.

*Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea,
Day by day his clear voice soundeth, saying, "Christian, follow me;"
Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store;
From each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more."
(Hymn 550, verses 1 and 3)*

We pray that you will join your Vestry in supporting the mission of Emmanuel Parish.

With Love in Christ,
Roger Burrus and Craig Russell

Make a Joyful Noise!

Real Men (and Women) Sing!! I process up and down the aisle every Sunday and hear some wonderful singing from the congregation, from both men and women. (I am eternally mystified, though, by the number of men who simply won't sing—including some I know sing perfectly well. I'd really like someone to explain this to me sometime. See the opening line of this article!) You would be correct in guessing that my ear is constantly scouting for potential singers for the Emmanuel Parish Choir. Yet with two choir rehearsals under our belt in the new season (as I write this), we have no new voices. A healthy program depends on regular rejuvenation of its membership, just as a parish does, and I have noticed quite a few new faces in the congregation. Surely some of those faces belong to willing singers.

I am pleased and impressed by both the talent and the dedication of our present choir members. We're a mix of young, semi-young and not so young. We work well together, and we like each other—the choir can be as much a social experience as a musical and spiritual one. You will

be joining a close-knit and supportive group of people, and of course, playing a critical role in the spiritual leadership of the parish.

Whether you sing high or low, read music well or not so well, you're welcome to join the choir. Unlike most choirs, we seem to have a special need at the moment for sopranos! We rehearse each Wednesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and gather Sundays at 9:30 a.m. for the 10:15 a.m. mass. If you'd like more information or have specific questions, please feel free to direct them to me at kmkelly1@gmail.com or speak with any current choir member.

As for you guys in the congregation who stand silent during the singing: get over those inhibitions or prohibitions and jump in. Strong congregational singing makes quite a joyful noise!

Kevin Kelly
Choirmaster

Activities

Youth Group will meet twice during October.

October 11

The Youth Group will make its annual trip to the Hardy's Ranch Corn Maze in Rantoul. Members will meet at Emmanuel at 5:45 (to leave by 6:00) and we will return to Emmanuel by 8:30. Snacks will be served, not dinner, so eat before you come. Also, please remember to wear closed-toed shoes and bring a jacket. The cost is \$6 a person. Guests are welcome, just be sure to bring a signed parent permission form for them. To make sure there are enough drivers please let Dn. Hopkins know how many guests you plan to bring.

October 25

Members will go to the Swann Center (see related article in Featured Outreach) as a fall service project. We will have lunch at the church following the 10:15 service that day and then we will travel to the Swann Center to assist with outdoor activities for the residents. The group will return to Emmanuel at 2:30.

Library Acquisitions

Recently acquired and cataloged books are now available in the Keck Library. The list was submitted by the Keck Library Committee on September 14, 2009. Committee members include *Barbara Maggs*, Chair; *Toni Boynton*, *Lisa Cerezo*, *Tom Kilton*, and *Carol Jeanne Muster*

Bible

Brosend, William. *Conversations with Scripture: The Parables*. Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing, 2006—2462 B (Bible)

Classics Devotional Bible: With Daily Readings from Men and Women Whose Faith Influenced the World. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1996—2453 B (Bible)

Holy Bible: Containing the Old and New Testaments. In the King James Version. The New Open Bible Study Edition. Large Print. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1990—2459 B (Bible)

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version Pew and Worship Bible. Large Print. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2007—2455 B (Bible)

Holy Bible: King James Version. Master Reference Bible. Nashville, TN: Royal Publishers, Inc., 1968—2466 B (Bible)

The New English Bible. Oxford and Cambridge: Oxford & Cambridge University Presses, 1970—2458 B (Bible)

The Reader's Digest Bible: Illustrated Edition. New York: The Reader's Digest Association, 1995—2456 B (Bible)

Biography

Waite, Terry. *Taken on Trust: An Autobiography*. New York: Harcourt Brace, 1993—2451 Bio (Biography)

Fiction

Davidson, Dianne Mott. *The Last Suppers: A Culinary Mystery*. New York: Bantam Books, 1995—2454 F (Fiction)

Rice, Anne. *Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt. A Novel*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2005—2464 F (Fiction)

Theology

Hart, David Bentley. *Atheist Delusions: The Christian Revolution and its Fashionable Enemies*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009—2449 T (Theology)

Haskins, Susan. *Mary Magdalen: Myth and Metaphor*. Old Saybrook, CT: Konecky & Konecky, 1993—2465 T (Theology)

Honoring our Neighbor's Faith. [Minneapolis]: Augsburg Fortress, 1999—2463 T (Theology)

Küppers, Leonhard. *Paul: Text of Story and Legend*. Recklinghausen (Germany): Bongers, 1967—2461 T (Theology)

Murchison, William. *Mortal Follies: Episcopalians and the Crisis of Mainline Christianity*. New York: Encounter Books, 2009—2450 T (Theology)

Shepherd, Victor A. *So Great a Cloud of Witnesses: Profiles of 25 Christian Greats*. Mississauga, Ontario: Light and Life Press Canada, 1993—2452 T (Theology)

Temples of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Salt Lake City: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1988—2457 T (Theology)

Worship

Cowan, Tom. *The Way of the Saints: Prayers, Practices, and Meditations*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1998—2460 W (Worship)

Featured Outreach Program

Emmanuel's youth group members will go to the Swann Center in October to assist with Sunday afternoon recreation

Swann Special Care Center provides residential care for more than 100 individuals with severe and profound developmental disabilities. This program also operates **Swann School** for school-aged residents and a **Developmental Day Training Program** for adults.

Volunteers are used for various recreational activities and may assist for a one-time event or on a regular basis. Call the above number and ask for Leonora to volunteer in this way. (Note: Emmanuel's youth group members will go to the Swann Center in October to assist with Sunday afternoon recreation.)

Currently the Swann Center is raising money to build a wheelchair accessible, indoor recreation building to provide individuals with severe disabilities a place to exercise,

explore and play all year long. The proposed building site is adjacent to the current care center. Many of the residents who live at the Swann Center have significant health complications related to their disabilities. The heat during the summer and the cold in the winter precludes them from safely enjoying outdoor recreation. The City of Champaign has graciously donated the land and many local organizations in the community are lending their support to this project. Donations may be made on-line through the above web site or by mail to the address below.

Swann Special Care Center
109 Kenwood Rd.
Champaign, IL 61821; Phone: (217) 398-3710
Web Page: swanncare.org
E-mail: resourcecenter@comcast.net

Special Events

UTO Fall Ingathering—Oct. 11

The Fall Ingathering of the United Thank Offering will be at both services on **Sunday, October 11th**. Gifts collected will be presented by our Synod delegation at the upcoming Diocesan Synod in Springfield. A mailing was sent in early October that included an envelope in which you may place your gift.

"Gracious God, source of all creation, all love, all true joy: accept, we pray, these outward signs of our profound and continuing thankfulness for all life. Keep each of us ever thankful for all the blessings of joy and challenge that come our way. Bless those who will benefit from these gifts through the outreach of the United Thank Offering. This we ask through Him who is the greatest gift and blessing of all, Jesus Christ. Amen"

Cajun Dinner And Every Member Canvass—Oct. 25

This year's Cajun Dinner will be **Sunday, October 25th** and will begin at approximately 5:45 p.m. following Evening Prayer. Sign-up sheets will appear in the Great Hall in October so we can plan for appropriate beverages and salad. We

are asking those attending to sign up to bring either a batch of Jambalaya or dessert. Some favorite events will return this year so please plan to join in the fun of the evening. The following Sunday, November 1st, Vestry members and those on their canvass teams will visit those who have not returned their blue pledge cards. A Stewardship mailing will be sent soon to all homes in the parish. Blue pledge cards may be returned to the Parish Office via U.S. mail or in the alms basins on Sunday morning.

Reading Of The Necrology—Nov. 1

Remembrance Of The Departed

The Reading of the Necrology will be at both the 8:00 and 10:15 services on Sunday, **Nov. 1st, All Saints' Day**. Those to be remembered were the "saints in our lives" – a parent, grandparent, friend, teacher – all those who, through their life and witness, showed us the love of Christ. Included in this issue of the Messenger is a form on which you may list the names of those you wish to remember. You may return the forms to the Parish Office by October 26th via U.S. mail, email (emec@ameritech.net), or place them in the alms basin on a Sunday morning.

Adult Learning

October Adult Forum

Please consider joining us Sundays for Adult Forum from 9:15–10:00 in the education room. This semester we are using the book *Your Faith, Your Life: An Invitation to the Episcopal Church* by Jenifer Gamber, the same author who wrote *My Faith, My Life*—the book we use in our confirmation classes in the spring. “This everything-you-need-to-know guide to the Episcopal Church, combines user-friendly reading with substance-and is perfect for newcomers, adult formation groups, and lifelong Episcopalians who want to know more about their church. In an engaging, conversational style, the authors carefully unpack the language of worship, theology, church structure, and sacraments, providing readers with the framework to better explore, experience, and share the meaning and practices of their faith.”

We will not use this book every Sunday as we intend to offer a variety of topics and speakers with an occasional DVD.

Adult Forum October Schedule

- October 4 Dr. Bart Ehrman DVD: *The Pastoral Epistles*
October 11 No regular Adult Forum due to *Aging Well, Dying Well*, series starting at 12:30
October 18 No regular Adult Forum due to *Aging Well, Dying Well*, series starting at 12:30
October 25 Chapter 3: *Your Faith, Your Life*

Special Emmanuel Fall Forum Series

“Aging Well, Dying Well—The More You Talk About It the Easier It Gets”

Sundays: September 27, October 11 & 18

Emmanuel is offering a special forum series this fall. Each Sunday session begins just after the 10:15 a.m. mass starting with a light lunch, and followed at 12:30 p.m. by presentations and discussion to conclude by 2 p.m. The sessions will provide an overview of issues pertaining to aging and dying with an eye to how we can better care for ourselves and our loved ones. Speakers will share their experiences from their own unique perspective, and emphasize practical information and advice for all ages. The series offers a total of eight presenters from both within and outside the parish. Supplemental material (book list, web sites, professional

literature, news articles) will be provided including resources in our own parish and community. Please let us know which sessions you can attend so we can plan for food. Sign-up sheets are in the Great Hall, or contact the parish office. The series was announced to several local churches, and everyone is invited to bring a guest, especially someone who might not otherwise visit our church. Plan to attend as many of these presentations and discussions as possible on this important but often overlooked subject.

Schedule of Speakers and Topics

Sunday, September 27

Christian Spirituality and Practical Considerations

- ◆ Father Alan Herbst, Rector; Christine Hopkins, Deacon; Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal Church
- ◆ Peter Dyck, Pastoral Care Minister; Provena Covenant Medical Center, Urbana

Sunday, October 11

Legal Considerations

- ◆ Betsy Pendleton Wong, Attorney at Law, Champaign: *Wills, Trusts, Advance Directives, Power of Attorney, Living Wills*

Transitions in Living

- ◆ Nancy Olson, Gerontologist; Former Counseling and Advocacy Case Worker in the Senior Resource Center at Family Service, Champaign: *Right-Sizing, Retirement Communities, Assisted Living, Nursing Homes, Hospice Care, Medicare, Medicaid*

Sunday, October 18

Medical Considerations

- ◆ Dr. Abraham Kocheril, M.D.; Professor of Medicine, Cardiac Electrophysiologist, University of Illinois, Chicago; Emmanuel member: *Patient Experiences, Advanced Care Planning, Family and Physician Communication*

Funeral Planning: Making Things Easier for You and Your Loved Ones

- ◆ Jim Yost, Licensed Funeral Director, Owens Funeral Home, Champaign: *Funeral Planning and Related Matters*

Summing It Up

- ◆ Hediye Scheeler, Emmanuel Parish Nurses: *A Review of Parish and Community Resources*

Milestones

October Birthdays

10/1 Candice Schlatter	10/11 John Taylor	10/17 Miriam Iben
10/2 Jan Paluska	Bill Rear	Alex Kirlik
Heather White	Carolyn Brown	Jonathan Koester
10/3 Lott Thomas	10/12 Rosellen Bohlen	10/18 Joyce Bohrer
10/4 Lisa Kocheril	Susan Feuille	10/19 Nelson Jimenez
Sherry Danielson	Melinda Wells	10/21 Dylan Gunn
Patrick Weaver	Jeremiah Medlyn	10/23 Grace Hopkins
10/5 Joan Smith	10/13 Dale Elliott	10/25 Lura Aurelius
10/7 Peyton Scheeler	Cari Schlatter	10/26 Brian Holding
10/8 Carol Jeanne	Stephanie	Bill Muster
Muster	Beneker	10/27 Alaine Stanner
Stephanie Ryle	10/15 Karen Steigmann	10/28 Robert Wood
10/9 Charles Jordan	Maria Hopkins	10/30 Agnes Decker
	10/16 Jeanne Earley	Lane Dickinson
	Joan Sargent	

"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

October Anniversaries

10/13 Lott and SuAnn Thomas
10/17 Kevin and Ellen Thomas
10/22 Mary and Tom O'Laughlin
10/23 Andrew and Kari Black
10/27 Loren and Agnes Decker

In the Life of Our Parish...

Baptism

Maria Christine Hopkins, daughter of Matt and Amanda Hopkins on September 13th

Rest in Peace

Jim Rollins, August 29
Don Charlton, September 4

*Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.
And let light perpetual shine upon them.*

The Staff at Emmanuel

The Right Reverend Peter H. Beckwith	Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield
The Right Reverend Keith Ackerman	Assisting Bishop
The Reverend Alan A. Herbst, Obl. SSJE	Rector
The Reverend Eugene Hall	Priest Associate
The Reverend Christine Hopkins	Deacon
Michael Fisher	Organist
Kevin Kelly	Choirmaster
Lori Dobrik	Parish Administrator

Wardens and Vestry

William Link, Treasurer	Tom Barnard	Linda Meyer	Dean Olson
Lori Dobrik, Clerk	Roger Burrus	Scott Moe	Lois Rath
Roger Burrus, Rector's Warden	Patti Gruber	Carol Jeanne Muster	Craig Russell
Craig Russell, Parish Warden	Kim McQueen	Dan Noel	Winton Solberg

A Word to the Wise

A Note on the H1N1 Virus

We have all been hearing and reading about the H1N1 virus ("Swine Flu") this summer. Whereas there is no need for panic, simple precautions are appropriate.

First of all, I doubt people will stop going to Krannert or the Savoy 16. There is no reason to avoid church because of the flu.

Here are some precautions which are appropriate:

- ◆ If you have symptoms of the flu (fever, headache, sore throat, coughing, sneezing, runny nose) stay home for at least a week, or until the symptoms have passed, and seek medical advice.
- ◆ For many years, our local hospitals have required the use of hand sanitizer before and after entering any hospital room. Hand sanitizer is available at each door of the church, in the Great Hall and in each restroom. It is recommended that you use hand sanitizer when entering and leaving the Church, the Great Hall and the restrooms. Wash hands thoroughly after using the restroom.

- ◆ If you are uncomfortable shaking hands, just smile and greet one another during the Passing of the Peace and in the Great Hall. No one should be offended if someone doesn't shake hands.
- ◆ Whereas there is little or no danger from the Common Chalice (the alcohol in the wine sterilizes it), you are not required to receive the cup. Receiving the bread alone is considered a full Communion. The choice is yours.

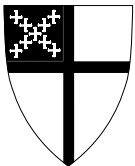
An article on the safety of the Common Chalice from "The L.A. Times" has been posted on the bulletin board in the Great Hall and is on the parish web site. The safety directions from the CDC are also on the bulletin board.

Please speak with me if you have any concerns. And please pray for all of those suffering from the flu.

Faithfully,



Father Alan, Obl. SSJE



Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal Church

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Champaign, Illinois 61820

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