



AUGUST 2017

At Emmanuel Episcopal Church, we strive to provide people the opportunity for growth in their faith through our mutual love, respect and acceptance of one another.

NEWS FROM THE NARTHEX

FROM FATHER ROBERT MANY BLESSINGS TO YOU!

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Lord, Summertime continues to warm us, that's for sure. Summertime is a good time to get caught up with things that have needed to be done. We have had some painting done on the exterior windows and doors of the common room, the church and even the heights of the bell tower. The Day School has replaced all of their carpeting. We installed an additional security fence around the entrance to the nursery and soon we will be having some work done on the sidewalk, steps and trees in the front of the church at the corner of Prince and Pope.

These are all good things, but more importantly, safe things. Things that "had" to get done. In other words, they were all priorities. On the subject of priorities, I'd like to share with you some thoughts. And this is a good time to focus on priorities as Fall begins to unfold, our program year gets off to a wonderful start and we realize that we

might need a vacation from our vacations. I've seen so many people over the years come back after the summer, more tired than when it began. Go figure! Anyway, priorities...

Choice is usually a two-edged sword. If I think I need to turn left and do, then I have given up on the idea of turning right. Seems simple. However in the middle of a very busy life filled with exciting options and opportunities to live out varied interests, the choices become a little bit harder, don't they? Often, some of us choose not to choose, thinking we can handle whatever comes our way. That often means that we take on way too much and instead of being able to carry out all of those things we were excited about, we may well get burned out and not do much of anything because of being overwhelmed.

When we comply with too many of the demands made on our time and volunteer for too many projects (our own as well as the rest of our family's), we're heading

for a difficulty: over commitment = frustration, tension and unwelcome stress! Sometimes we take on too much because we are afraid to say no. Maybe one of our fears is that others will drop us if we don't participate. Or maybe we think that we can in fact do it all. Maybe we don't want to admit our limitations. Maybe deep down we say yes because we think we can find just a little more time to do this. The problem is that it is not a question of time, as much as it is a question of being able to set priorities for ourselves. And that means we must choose one thing over something else. How ironic that I am now going to ask you to consider your ministry choices in the church and especially at liturgy. As I said, it's all about priorities, about deciding what is important for each of us at this moment.

So tell me, what are your top priorities? Well, don't actually tell me, rather tell yourselves. What are your priorities and
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Emmanuel Episcopal Church

**Serving the People
of God in the name of**

Bishop Rob Wright
of the Diocese of Atlanta

and the Vestry

Anna Alexander, Youth Ministry
& Liaison to the Day School

LaBau Bryan, Communications

Ellen Cowne, Pastoral Care

Bill Fox, Facilities

Brian Freese, Adult Formation

Rob Hoyt, Stewardship

Roger Lange, Junior Warden

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Terrie Seward, Senior Warden

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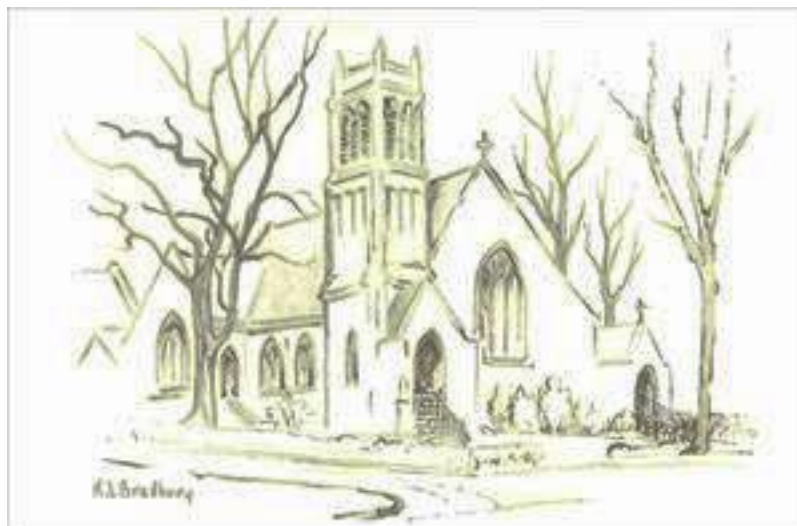
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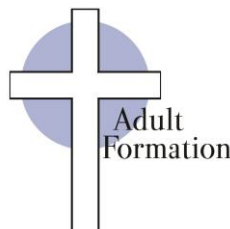
www.emmaneulathens.org



ADULT FORMATION FOR AUGUST

Adult Formation meets in the Westminster room, downstairs in the Formation Building. Please join us this month for an exciting series “Embracing Interfaith Cooperation” (Morehouse Education Resources), facilitated by Brother Brian Freese, July 30 - August 27.

This series provides a timely and contemporary portal for exploring multi-faith dialogue and cooperation in our increasingly diverse culture. Each session will start with a short video led by Eboo Patel, founder of the Interfaith Youth Core in Chicago. Eboo Patel believes religion is a bridge of cooperation, rather than a barrier of division. Inspired by his faith as a Muslim, his Indian heritage, and his American citizenship, he speaks to his vision of interfaith harmony at places like the Clinton Global Initiative, the Nobel Peace Prize Forum, as well as college and



university campuses across the country. He is a regular contributor to *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, and *The Huffington Post*.

The goal of this DVD series is for participants to consider the topics presented and discuss them within a framework of faith formation. Over the five week sessions, attendees will explore what it means to be “literate” about other faiths, how and why interfaith cooperation “works,” the skills needed for interfaith cooperation, and the significant role that our institutions—including colleges and faith communities—can play in this process. According to Irene Flynn, a Resource Specialist with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the DVD series offers participants opportunity “to become more literate in the art and science of interfaith cooperation...[and] that groups will be empowered to speak out for pluralism and promote more cooperation and understanding.”

Because of the Labor Day weekend, there will be no Adult Forum on Sunday, September 3.

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how important are they to you? Are you living your lives in accord with them? If not, what kind of choices should you make to establish their order of importance? Are you willing to do that hard work? I have found that sometimes a crisis that pops up unexpectedly helps realign things for me. Sometimes all of us just get the inspiration and the strength to do it on our own. We ask – who am I, where

am I going, where is God leading me and what tools has God given me to get there? While we're on THAT SUBJECT, where does God rank on my list of priorities? What's on my list that takes time from my personal time for/with God and my time in my community of worship and service? And am I happy with that balance?

Please know this: from a quiet heart comes awareness of our unique purpose in life. A singleness of purpose will give

us a reference point from which all of our decisions can be made. Setting our priorities and being faithful to those priorities will lead us to a quieter or at least a simpler life. Oh, and we have to revisit them often. We have to allow for change as we grow and if we are faithful, we will grow. But here's the one important question; (it is for me) that we must ask often... are we putting first in our lives that which we would give up last?
Robert +

THRIFT HOUSE GETS A 5-* INTERNET RATING!



Income from the Thrift House is ahead of projections, thanks to our manager Leah Goodwin, all of our wonderful volunteers, and your great donations. Our happy customers have given us a **5-star internet rating** which has led to increased customer traffic at all hours of operation and increased sales. To keep the momentum going, we need your help so we can sell more merchandise and increase our donations to various outreach initiatives. How can you help? In addition to donations, we always need volunteers and friends with pickup trucks willing to pick up donations.

Shifts from Tuesday through Friday are: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Saturday shift is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Even if you can only do one shift a month, it will really help us out. Contact Leah or Bill Fox for more information. **No prior experience in retail is needed. So come and have a great time meeting other wonderful volunteers and customers. It costs nothing but a little time... unless you get sucked in by great deals.**

Can't volunteer? Become a customer! Leah does a great job of marketing the sales floor, so come by regularly to check it out for great stuff at even greater prices. Or become a donor! Think of us first when donating goods. Items we can't use are donated to Habitat for Humanity's Re-store, Project Safe, Sparrows Nest and others—nothing goes to waste.

Bill Fox

DO YOU LOVE TO SING?



The Emmanuel Choir is made up of dedicated volunteers who love to make a joyful noise on Sunday morning and on various special occasions during the church year. We are always looking for new members to join us. No audition is required. We meet on Wednesday evening from 7:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m and on Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. We have been on summer hiatus but will start Wednesday rehearsals on August 16 in the choir room. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Michael Brewer at Music@emmaneuathens.org.

OPPORTUNITIES AT EMMANUEL FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO SERVE . . .

WHAT IS STEPHEN MINISTRY?

Stephen Ministries, based in St. Louis, Missouri, is a not-for-profit Christian education organization founded in 1975 that produces training and resources known for their excellence, practicality, psychological integrity, and theological depth. These resources cover topics such as caring ministry, assertive relating, spiritual gifts discovery, grief support, spiritual growth, and more.

Congregations and other organizations use these resources to strengthen and expand ministry. Individuals use them to improve their ability to relate to and care for

others, grow in faith, and journey through life's crises.

Emmanuel is blessed to have an active Stephen Ministry cohort as part of its pastoral care ministry. The members of this group (currently 11 active members) provide high-quality, confidential, one-to-one Christian care to those going through tough times and can benefit from someone listening and being present to their needs. Emmanuel's Stephen Ministers also assist our clergy by making weekly hospital visits to both of our hospitals in Athens.

Care receivers can be congregation members or others in the community who are struggling through a difficult time in their life—divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, grief, or

other crises. The relationship between a care receiver and a Stephen Minister is confidential. Men are matched with men, and women with women. If a care receiver's needs exceed what a Stephen Minister can provide, then the Stephen Ministry team makes a referral to an appropriate professional or community resource.

If you or someone you know might benefit from this ministry, please contact Debra Harden (debro48@bellsouth.net) or Sue Holt (sholt721@gmail.com).

WHAT ARE AGAPE MEALS?

One of our pastoral ministries at Emmanuel is Agape Meals. The members of this committee provide meals to parishioners who are going through a stressful time due to family illness, death, surgery, or similar type of crisis. If you are in need of this ministry or know of a parishioner who could use this type of support, please contact Katherine Barrow, Chair, at barrowkatherine@gmail.com. Katherine also invites everyone to be part of this very important pastoral care committee.

August Birthdays

1 Mary Eberhard, Amber Pitt, Christina Stanfield
2 Will Power
3 Brad Koch
4 Erik Wells, Mark Costantino
5 Rebecca Mullis, Mary Vandiver, Brittany McCaskey
6 Lane Stewart, Charley Jones
7 Janet Griffith, Marie Garrison

8 Margaret Smith, Debbie Grainger
10 John Hancock, Chris Mallet, Christopher Luken
11 Mckenzie Cook, William Snead, Bo Rentz
12 William Kahlstorf
13 Linda Ford
15 Beth Thrasher, Garth Hixson, Natalie Barnes
16 Oliver Pryor, Emma Weynand, Solon Pitt
18 Gabi York, Emma Clarke

19 Anna Alexander, Charlotte Surratt, Sumit Alexander
20 Patty Jones
21 Kim Green, Mary Palmer Roberts
22 Suzanne Lindsay
23 Samantha Ledford, Holly Allen
24 Evlyn Pound, Mary Moore, Kerry Hogan
25 Susan Tuggle
26 John Northcutt

28 Ray Hemphill, Margarete Warwick, Phyllis Niolon, Chayananan Hill, Richard Connelly
29 Cindy McAlister
30 Jenny Sligh, Jim Griffith, Betty Varnadore, Courtney Gray, Nicholas Byrne, Price Swann



Emmanuel's Service & Faith Formation schedule is as follows; only exceptions are listed on the calendar below:

- **Wednesdays: 5:30 pm** Healing Service & Eucharist, Chapel
- **Saturdays: 5:30 pm** Holy Eucharist Rite II, Chapel; **6:00 pm** Spanish Holy Eucharist
- **Sundays: 8:30 am** Holy Eucharist Rite I, Church; **9:15 am** Faith Formation for Children & Youth; **9:30 am** Adult Formation, Westminster, and **10:30 am** Holy Eucharist Rite II, Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00: Natural Spirituality, Library 7:30: Al-Anon, Old Music Suite	2 1:00: Gentle Yoga, Old Music Suite 3:15: Joint Freeing Yoga, Old Music Suite	3	4	5
6 10:30 Blessing of the Backpacks Noon: Natural Spirituality, Library	7	8 10:00: Natural Spirituality, Library 7:30: Al-Anon, Old Music Suite	9 1:00: Gentle Yoga, Old Music Suite 3:15: Joint Freeing Yoga, Old Music Suite	10 7:00: Emmanuel Day School Back to School Night	11 10:00: Emmanuel Day School Open House	12 4:45: Daughters of the King
13 9:00 Atrium: Level I Interest Meeting Noon: Atrium Material Making; Natural Spirituality, Library	14 Emmanuel Day School Returns	15 10:00: Natural Spirituality, Library 7:30: Al-Anon, Old Music Suite	16 1:00: Gentle Yoga, Old Music Suite 3:15: Joint Freeing Yoga, Old Music Suite 7:15: Choir Rehearsal	17 11:00 Eucharist at Lanier Gardens 11:30 Caregiver's & Grief Support Group "Library" 5:15 Finance Meeting	18	19
20 9:00 Catechesis Breakfast "Library" Noon: Natural Spirituality, Library	21	22 10:00: Natural Spirituality, Library 7:30: Al-Anon, Old Music Suite	23 1:00: Gentle Yoga, Old Music Suite 3:15: Joint Freeing Yoga, Old Music Suite 6:00 Vestry Meeting	24	25	26 4:45 Daughters of the King
27 Emmanuel Hosts IHN this week 9:00 Faith Formation kickoff for Children / Youth (Breakfast) Noon: Natural Spirituality, Library	28 IHN	29 IHN 10:00: Natural Spirituality, Library 7:30: Al-Anon, Old Music Suite	30 IHN 3:30: Yoga, Old Music Suite 7:15: Choir Rehearsal	31 IHN	September 1 IHN	September 2 IHN



The Vestry Covenant

We, the Vestry of Emmanuel Church, promise to honor God by nurturing the spirit and ministering to God's people. We will support everyone's gifts for service and leadership made possible by God's grace. Ministry to the poor will be at the center of all we do. We promise to welcome with Christian hospitality all persons and to offer opportunities to all to grow in faith. We will strengthen ourselves through faithfulness in worship, daily prayer, and stewardship of our time, talents and treasure. We will foster love and joy in God's service.

EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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