



FEBRUARY 2018

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 LIFE-GIVING WATER AND MANNA

I thought that this message would be filled with new updates that would have come out of our recent vestry retreat. All the best-laid plans, however, are frequently side lined when it comes to health concerns. I got the flu, and the retreat had to be cancelled. I am not alone, for the flu and its effects are having an impact in the parish, our school, and the community at large! The difficult part is trying to find another time to “get away” on retreat to spend time together. The new vestry class has a lot of enthusiastic energy, and I look forward to hearing their visions and dreams for Emmanuel.

The season of Lent will be here in a week or so. We are graced throughout the year to have special and specific moments in which to focus a bit more intently on our spiritual lives. Lent begins with

ashes and the desert with all of its starkness. It is the place where we can turn to God in a quiet way to have our basic needs met, yet discover that we are really given so much more. In the gospel of Matthew, we read, “One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes to us from the mouth of God.” My friends, when we set aside our preoccupation to have all of our physical needs met, we will become satisfied because God’s voice will be clear. God’s words of intimacy and union nourish us beyond our expectations and strengthen us for the journey to encounter the world in all of its fragility.

We have a natural appetite for God, and yet how easily do we hunger and thirst for that which cannot fulfill us. It’s sad that our desire for the things that cannot last dulls our appetites for that which is eternal. Jesus reminds us,

“blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”

Jesus himself hungered and was thirsty. But his was a hunger and thirst for Communion with God. Like every other human, Jesus needed food and water to physically survive, but for the survival of his very soul, he was totally dependent on God. This is the life-giving water and manna that he offers to all of us.

The righteousness that we embrace and seek in this holy season feeds our spirit and nourishes our souls. May the effects of this grace—joy, peace and love—be yours at the end of your Lenten journey.

In his love,

Robert+

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

Katherine Alexander

LaBau Bryan, Communications

Bob Davis

Randy Forrester, Pastoral Care

Bill Fox, Facilities

Kerry Hogan

Rob Hoyt, Stewardship

Kelli Neil

Terrie Seward, Senior Warden

Carter Stanfield, MEMC

Jan Wheeler, Pastoral Care

and supported by the Staff

Michael Brewer

Georgia Collier

Melissa Fulcher

Leah Goodwin

Karen Holland

Megan Hooper

Sam Polk

Ben Popham

Denise Thomas

Amy Wraga

and assisted by the Clergy

Fr. Robert Salamone, Rector

Fr. Samuel Porrás, Assoc. Rector

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ADULT FORMATION FOR FEBRUARY

Adult Formation meets in the Westminster room, downstairs in the Formation Building. Please join us this month for the beginning of our Lenten series.

February 4: Friar Brian will facilitate a theological reflection on Mark 1:29-39, with handouts; everyone is asked to read the Scripture beforehand. A rhythm is surfacing. Out to teach or to heal – then in to pray and listen. Jesus goes to Simon's house after the first teaching in the synagogue to find Simon's mother-in-law ill. He takes her by the hand and helps her up. Right back into the kitchen she goes to cook supper. By evening, the whole town was crowding around – many in need of healing, and most were healed. Jesus gets a little rest and then long before dawn goes inward – to a lonely place to pray. We see the balance in which he lives.

February 11: Friar Brian will facilitate a theological reflection on Mark 9:2-10, with handouts; everyone is asked to read the Scripture beforehand. Jesus' status as Messiah is confirmed by the divine testimony that he is God's beloved Son (9:7) and is anticipated by the shining white garments of Jesus. The three that see the transfiguration are also those who witnessed the healing of Jairus's daughter (5:37) and will witness his agony in Gethsemane (14:33). Although this group of disciples have seen the healing and the transfiguration, they do not seem to demonstrate exceptional insight or fidelity. The transfiguration story is a form of an epiphany, a sudden manifestation of the divine and when humans see or witness an epiphany, they generally have an "ah-ha" moment, followed by confusion (now what) or fear (what does this mean?) Peter (once again) demonstrates that he doesn't "get it" and Jesus once again has to explain his death and resurrection.



February 18: Friar Brian will facilitate a theological reflection of Mark 1:9-15, with handouts; everyone is asked to read the Scripture beforehand. Jesus is Baptized, the Spirit descends on him "like a dove," and he hears the affirmation: "You are my Son, loved, and pleasing to me." It appears that he is affirmed and ready for ministry. Yet, immediately the Spirit drives Jesus into the wilderness where he must spend 40 days taming the temptations that come with power. Only then is Jesus equipped to proclaim the good news. And so we too are invited to notice the temptations that are pulling us off course, diverting our energy, and impeding our ability to proclaim the good news.

February 25: Friar Brian will facilitate a theological reflection of Mark 8:31-38, with handouts; everyone is asked to read the Scripture beforehand. Just prior to our reading today, Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they offer the various responses that they have heard from others. "But who do YOU say that I am?" asks Jesus. Who are you following? Today, Jesus once again teaches those around him who he is, therefore, what is ahead for the Son of God and what that means for the followers of Jesus.



THE ANGEL TREE

I always look forward to seeing the great tree decorated with tiny angels in the Narthex during Advent. This year I happened to be out of school on the day my mom went to decorate the tree, so I got to help. Each angel has the name of a gift or food item written on it. You know what happens next ... a member of Emmanuel chooses an angel, donates the item, and we give it to a person in need.

Emmanuel really came through with the donations! If you came to the "Great Wrap-Up" following the Children's Christmas Pageant, you would have seen first-hand how many gifts we collected. That was the only time they all came out of my mom's office into one area. Just a couple of days later, we loaded every single one of those gifts into my mom's Honda Pilot. There were watches tucked under the seats, art kits squeezed in through the window, and I even had to hold a stack of board games on my lap. But we made it work!

We set off for Emmaus House feeling like we were guiding Santa's sleigh. It was a very stormy day. We laughed about needing a Rudolph-red-nose,

and we plowed through.

The Emmaus House is an Episcopal outreach project that supports the people of Peoplestown in downtown Atlanta. They assist with everything from education to providing basic needs. Each year they host several celebrations for the holidays including a Thanksgiving meal, a Grandparents' Party, and a Secret Santa Shop. Emmanuel offers to help with their Children's Christmas Festival. The Christmas Eve Festival offers residents entertainment, food, fun, and a visit with Santa for more than 800 children and their parents. All 800 children leave with a gift! And Emmanuel donated and wrapped over 300 of those gifts! I was so proud of my church!

As we came closer to the center, I realized that it is located right near where the Braves used to play. I knew that we were delivering gifts for kids who didn't have much, but I'm not sure I was prepared for what I was about to see. Remember when I said that it was a stormy day? It was pouring rain and it was cold. But I noticed that there were kids hanging out at a local park under an open pavilion. They didn't have on raincoats, just hoodies, and it was raining

so hard they were being splashed. I noticed that there were some other kids sitting on their front porches. Some of the porches were about to fall in, and some homes didn't have a door. Then I watched as another group of kids just walked casually down the street. I wondered if they had a safe and warm place to go. And I wondered if they would be the recipients of any of our gifts. It made me very thankful for all of the comforts I enjoy.

When we parked at Emmaus House, staff and volunteers greeted us in the parking lot, and we hurried the gifts inside. They made jokes about the clown car...presents kept coming out of every nook! Some of the staff members were so excited to see us and so appreciative. Honestly, I think the sorting volunteers were a little overwhelmed.

Now I feel like the little angels do not just have gift items listed on them, but I can see more clearly who those angels are attached to. Our Advent Tree will continue to be a favorite tradition for me, and it will be even closer to my heart now. Thank you, Emmanuel, for sending love to those who needed it!

Mary Morgan Collier



The Holy Helpers

The Holy Helpers are a group of talented parishioners able to assist you with simple household projects. Examples are:

- . replacing light bulbs too high to reach
- . repairing lamps
- . repairing furniture
- . hanging pictures
- . moving furniture
- . helping clean or take out larger items to the Thrift Store if desired
- . solving PC problems including installs or repairs

If we are able to help you, know that there are no costs involved except for needed materials.

For questions or to request service, please call:

Bill Fox at 706-255-2887 or email us at

holyhelpers@emmanuelathens.org





**LATINO
MINISTRIES**
MINISTERIOS LATINOS

A conversation with Fr. Samuel & our Latino ministry

As some of you know, we have a thriving Hispanic ministry at Emmanuel. This in large part is due to our new Assistant Rector, Father Samuel. Father Samuel said he fell in love with Emmanuel when he visited and felt that something very good was going on here. He prayed to receive this assignment. He feels we are generous in every way, accepting and welcoming, and he is excited about what the future holds for all of us.

Starting last year, Emmanuel began offering a liturgy in Spanish in the chapel at 6:00 on Saturday evenings. The small group quickly grew to a thriving community of 70-80 people—too large for the chapel to accommodate. So the Hispanic liturgy is now being held at 12:30 on Sundays. In addition to the liturgy, we are currently providing a separate catechesis for Spanish-speaking children during the 11:30-12:30 Sunday hour. Volunteers are needed to teach catechesis to the younger children, to work with the youth, and to teach English as a second language (ESL). If you are looking for a way to serve in the coming new year, please consider these ministries. Father Samuel particularly emphasized how important ESL is in empowering the Hispanic community and giving them more freedom. We are hoping to extend the ESL classes into weekdays in the future. You do not need to speak Spanish to teach ESL. Father Samuel is also looking for help with music for the 12:30 service—specifically guitar, keyboard and drum set. If you've never attended a Mariachi liturgy, you are in for a special treat! Please consider becoming part of this joyful music ministry.

Most of this community comes from Mexico, although there are people from many other Latin American

countries as well. Many of them work at the chicken factory. Most of them grew up Roman Catholic, so they find the liturgy familiar. Father Samuel stressed that they need to feel welcomed and accepted. They are people who value hard work and family, and are very proud. Although we come from different cultures, there is so much we can learn from each other as we get to know each other.

Father Samuel himself grew up in Columbia. As a young boy of seven, he was deeply impressed by a local priest, Father Ramon Arcila. He describes him as a holy man who talked about the gospels in such a vivid way that Jesus seemed to be someone he knew first hand. Fr. Samuel describes an incident that has stayed with him. Although Fr. Arcila lived very simply, when a mother with two children needed a bed, he gave his bed to her, and he slept on the floor on cardboard boxes. The young boy was so impressed by Fr. Arcila that he determined to become a priest himself. He joined the Society of St. Paul, a Roman Catholic order, and eventually arrived in the Atlanta Dioceses as a seminarian. When he arrived in America, he knew no English. He continued his theological studies at Mt. St. Mary's in Emmetsburg, MD in 1993. He completed his studies and was ordained on June 7, 1997. He was officially welcomed as a priest in the Episcopal Church on May 15, 2016.

During our interview, I was drawn to Father Samuel's warmth and joyous faith. He said, "We are all children of God. If we rely on the Holy Spirit to be the community God wants us to be, God will do marvelous things for us." I think Fr. Arcila would be proud.

Sara Baker

PADRE NUESTRO, QUE ESTÁS EN EL CIELO.

Last Sunday I couldn't make it to the 10:30 Eucharist so I attended the 12:30 Spanish Eucharist instead. It was such a deeply moving experience that I wanted to share it with you. Our liturgy has a grace and a distinct rhythm that I cherish. It moves at its own pace, with the voices of the clergy, the congregation, the readers, and the choir weaving in and out, flawlessly, from the processional hymn to the final "thanks be to God." Although I don't speak or read Spanish, I had no trouble following the service. The Lord's Prayer (and every other part of the service) has its own cadence whether it is in Spanish or English. There was something very moving about reciting the prayer and the creed in English while surrounded by Spanish voices proclaiming the same beliefs. The words are written in my heart and are part of my being, whether in English or Spanish or indeed any language. I'll go again and hope some others will too.

Naomi Norman



Get in shape and enjoy an afternoon of family-friendly fun, all while helping neighbors in need. See what this over 30-year tradition is all about and register for this year's Hunger Walk Run!

For the Hunger Walk Run we will return to Georgia State University Stadium (former Turner Field) on February 25th. The event will help raise funds to fight hunger in our Diocese.

The parish that raises the most for the Hunger Walk Run will

win the Bishop's Cup, which includes a \$3,400 cash gift for parish outreach!

Schedule

10:00 am: Episcopal Eucharist

12:00 pm: Festivities Begin

2:00 pm: The 5K Walk and 5K Race begin!

For more information and to register, please visit www.ECFimpact.org/HWR.

To learn more about Episcopal Community Foundation, visit www.ECFimpact.org. Join us and walk or run to alleviate hunger.

Chris Evans

EMMANUEL'S LIBRARY

Thanks to donations of new books, as well as out-of-print rare editions, our library now has more than 800 books (excluding the Natural Spirituality corner). The collection is divided into five major categories, beginning with Bibles and Bible commentary in the near left corner and ending with Judaism and other religions in the section next to the television. There are printed catalogues alphabetized by author and title to help you locate any particular volume. There is no formal check-out system. Take a book, keep it as long as you need it, and return it to an empty shelf near the catalogues. Donations may be left in the same area. Enjoy and learn!

Ralph Stephens

WHAT DOES THE THRIFT HOUSE NEED?

The Thrift House needs both new inventory and volunteers. Some suggestions for donations are

DVD's, CD's, or albums

Toys

Coats and rain gear

Men's shoes

Leah Goodwin

Thrift House Manager

706-395-6468

thrifthouse@emmanuelathens.org

February Birthdays

1 Chandler Shields,
Courtland Alexander

2 Mark Wheeler

3 Brian Freese, Jack
Byrne

4 John Byrne, Tim Martin

5 Mike Garland, Kelly
Grow, Lucy Nolon

6 Carole Spencer, Maggie
Sligh

8 Walter Jarrett

9 Sharon Davis, Nancy

McDuff, Mimsie Roberts

10 Janet Robertson, Matt

McCaskey, Molly Lloyd,
James Thomas Simmons V

12 Betsy Ferguson, Agnes

Parker, Robert Leventry,
David Brown, Mary

Morgan Collier

13 William Jones

14 Jean Hunnicutt

15 Ellen Cowne

16 Judy Jay Master, Nash
Norris

19 Tom McDonald,
Frances Thrasher, Grace
Green

20 Dodd Ferrelle

22 Jean Jordan, Todd

Baker, Betsy Respass,

Gary Davis, Stephen

Tonge, Annalea Tillman

23 Katherine Buckner,

Tiffany Greene, Harper Cline

25 Charles Robert Smith,

Charles Hixson

26 Georgia Collier

27 Clara Herrin, Joseph

Tonge

28 Ralph Stephens, Laura

Simmons, Alex Greene,

Joseph Becker

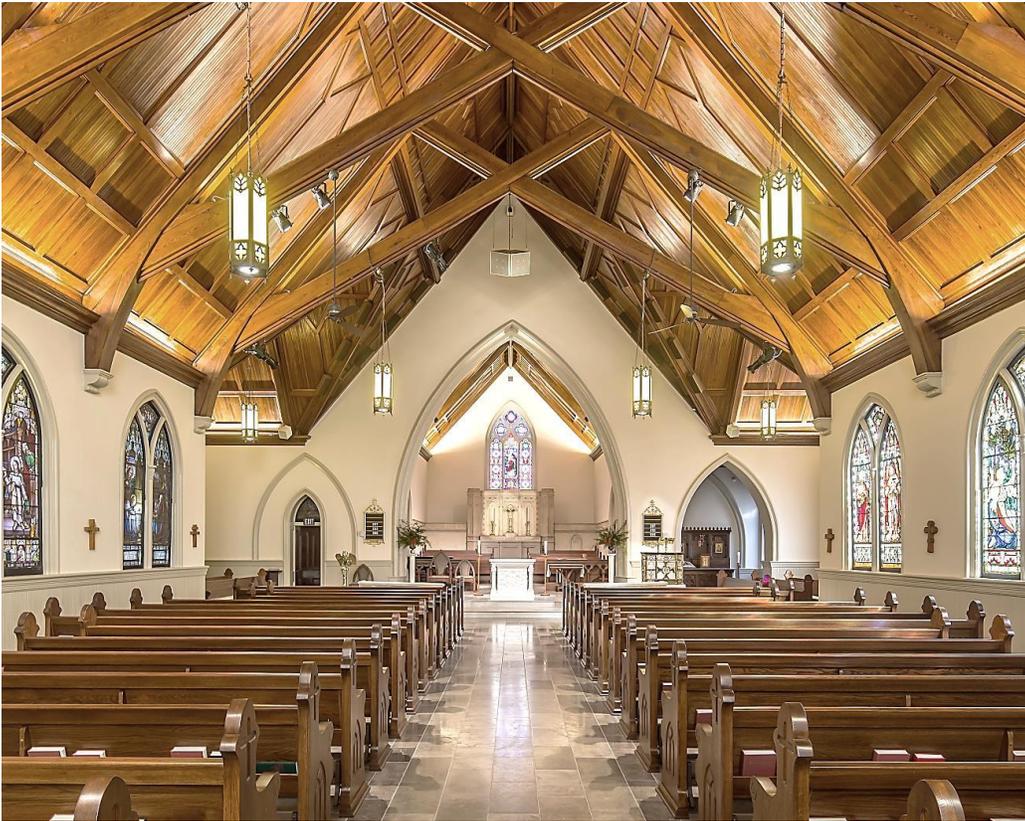
29 Rhetta Poole



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
- **Sundays: 8:30 am** Holy Eucharist Rite I, Church; **9:15 am** Faith Formation for Children & Youth; **9:30 am** Adult Formation, Westminster; **10:30 am** Holy Eucharist Rite II, Church; and **12:30 pm** Spanish Holy Eucharist, Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:30: Stephen Ministry, Library	2	3 6:30: Stephen Ministry, Library
4 11:30 am: ESL "Coventry" Noon: Natural Spirituality, Library 12:30 pm: Catechesis Training, Atrium 2:30 pm: Bigger Vision, Common Room	5 8:00: Men's Spirituality Group 10:00: Bible Study, Coventry	6 10:00: Natural Spirituality, Library 7:30: Al-Anon, Old Music Suite	7 1:00 pm: Yoga, Old Music Suite 7:15: Choir Rehearsal	8 11:00 am: Eucharist at Lanier Gardens 6:30: Stephen Ministry, Library	9	10 4:45: Daughters of the King
11 11:30 am: ESL "Coventry" Noon: Natural Spirituality, Library 1:30: Prayer Shawl Ministry, Old Music Suite	12 8:00: Men's Spirituality Group 10:00: Bible Study, Coventry	13 10:00: Natural Spirituality, Library 7:30: Al-Anon, Old Music Suite	14 ASH WED. 7:30 am, noon, & 5:30: service with Imposition of Ashes 1:00 pm: Yoga, Old Music Suite 7:00: Spanish service 7:15: Choir Rehearsal	15 6:30: Stephen Ministry, Library	16	17
18 11:30 am: ESL "Coventry" Noon: Natural Spirituality, Library	19 Church Office Closed Emmanuel Day School Closed	20 10:00: Natural Spirituality, Library 7:30: Al-Anon, Old Music Suite	21 7:15: Choir Rehearsal	22 6:30: Stephen Ministry, Library	23	24 4:45 Daughters of the King
25 11:30 am: ESL "Coventry" Noon: Natural Spirituality, Library 7:00 pm: Brotherhood of St. Andrew "Library"	26 8:00: Men's Spirituality Group 10:00: Bible Study, Coventry	27 10:00: Natural Spirituality, Library 2:00: Portrait Directory 7:30: Al-Anon, Old Music Suite	28 6:15: Vestry Meeting 7:15: Choir Rehearsal			



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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