



Emmanuel Voice

MAY 2010

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Vestry Notes

Lewis Williams - Sr. Warden

April has been an eventful month at Emmanuel... The rear sidewalk has been poured and looks great, the new refrigerator was delivered and is "on station" at the Soup Kitchen. Work has begun on the Parrish Hall roof and the interior repairs will soon begin.

I just walked home from the Dogwood Festival and Plant/Bulb sale is going great. Weather permitting we should sell the majority of what we purchased. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all of the volunteers who graciously donated their time and talent to this fund-raiser.

May 2nd will be our final "breakfast" and Vestry meeting until the fall. I encourage everyone to come and enjoy the food and fellowship. Breakfast and Vestry will resume the first Sunday after Labor Day.

Have a happy and safe summer,

Lewis



Soup Kitchen

Janet Heath

Soup Kitchen (Community Outreach Kitchen)

The Soup Kitchen needs volunteers to cook on May 11th and May 25th. Please contact Janet (753-5512, heathj@ecu.edu) if you can help out.



Altar Guild

May - Janet Heath
June - Joy Collins
July - Kathy Rafferty
August - Nan-Et Charles
September - Judi Williams
October - Linda Carol Burti
November - Janet Heath
December - Joy Collins



Prayer List

Please keep the following members of the Emmanuel family in your prayers:

Scott Luce, Venetia, Scott Thorne, Mark Simpson



An Instructed Eucharist

Chip Galusha

Part 1 of 7: Service of the Word, the gathering rite.
Courtesy of www.instructedeucharist.org

(Editor's note: As Episcopalians, each week we take part in a service that stretches back into the earliest times of the church. Each section has meaning that contributes to the whole. I have been doing some research into what our service means, and with your permission, would like to share what I have found. This then is the first part of a seven part series.)

Typically, when Episcopalians gather for public worship on a Sunday, we have a service of Communion, also known as the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. We do this because this is the way Christians have worshiped since the earliest days of the Church. When Jesus instituted the first Eucharist at the Last Supper, he commanded all of his followers to continue the practice. It is the clearest, strongest way we know to tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection, and to maintain our bond with him and with one another.

Episcopal worship is structured, and it uses *The Book of Common Prayer* as its source. The texts and patterns of worship in the prayer book are derived from the earliest surviving texts of ancient Christian worship, updated and expanded as times and circumstances have changed. The common words of the prayer book express our most deeply held beliefs, keep us connected to the timeless elements of Christian tradition, and allow us to participate as more than just listeners.

A Eucharistic service has two main parts. The first part is known as the "Service of the Word" or the "Liturgy of the Word." The word *liturgy* means *the work of the people*. In the Liturgy of the Word we gather in the Lord's name, proclaim and respond to the Word of God, and pray for the world and the church. We do this, not as a group of spectators watching a group of performers, but as the people of God acting together, each with their appointed part to play.

We begin with the gathering rite. Now that we are assembled in one place, those people who have designated roles in the service enter in procession while we all sing praise to God. The procession allows everyone to take their appointed places, while at the same time helping the service begin on a note of dignity and reverence. When all are ready, the minister in charge of the celebration, known as the celebrant or presider, begins a dialogue of praise with the congregation. This is known as the Opening Acclamation. After an optional prayer to prepare us for worship, we commonly sing a second hymn of praise which has been used for centuries in the gathering rite. It is known by its opening words "Glory to God." The gathering rite concludes with a prayer, or collect, that reflects the themes of this particular Sunday.



Musings

Rev. Al MacKenzie

"Tell Me Your Story!"

I heard someone say: "I don't know enough about the Episcopal Church to tell others about it." I took that statement to mean that we have to leave the communications to the professional Episcopalians, whoever they are?

If you want to know what Episcopalians believe, all you have to do is say the Nicene Creed or the Apostles Creed. 'We believe. . .', 'I believe in . . .' What is even better is to turn to page 845 in the Prayer Book and read what is called the 'Catechism'. Line by line and verse by verse it explains what it means to say: "I Believe in God, etc." and a lot of other things in between. It is all there for 'our reading, learning or inwardly digesting.'

However, I don't think that is what others want to know. When people are inquisitive about the Episcopal church, they are asking for your story. Why did you become interested in the Episcopal Church? Why did you start attending and become active in it? What happened that made you want to be part of this community and family of God?

I have heard many of your stories. 'A friend, relative, or a neighbor asked me to go to church with them and I liked what I found!' That is the number one reason why people join a church. Your story may be different. 'I went to a funeral of a friend who was an Episcopalian. I liked the uplifting and hopeful message that was expressed through the whole service of the burial.' I was invited to go to the Episcopal Church and found it a bit confusing at first with the juggling of a bulletin, prayer book, and hymnal. I was kept busy keeping up, but then I realized that I wasn't watching someone else worship. I had to participate. I sang hymns, said prayers with the other people, made responses, and even knelt in silence together. There was a feeling of reverence, respect, dignity, formality and order. Praising God without having to make a spectacle of oneself. I felt good and kept going back.'

We witness for our Lord by going to the communion to receive our Lords gifts, by saying the creeds, confessing our sins corporately and individually and find forgiveness and grace from God. We give thanks to God for all the blessings he has given us and make our petitions for those who are sick, the needy, and those who have died. Besides all that we get constant reassurance that God loves us.

What more could you ask? What more could you ask?



Random News & Notes

Plans are well underway for our Parish picnic on June 6th and the Taylor's. We will begin at 11:00 with an outdoor celebration of the Eucharist followed by lunch. Bring a dish to share (check the signup sheet) and friends and family. Hamburgers, hotdogs, fried chicken, plates, drinks and utensils will be provided.

This would be a great opportunity to introduce new folks to the Emmanuel family.

Look forward to seeing everyone there.

We see the Episcopal shield in the bulletin every week and here in the newsletter, but I got to wondering if we all knew what it stood for. Here is an explanation from the website of St. John's in New Braunfels, TX.

This shield was adopted in 1940 as the symbol for the Episcopal Church USA. The shield brings together some of the Episcopal Church USA's history, offering a brief history lesson through its design.

The Episcopal Church was founded in 1789 as a separate group from its parent Church of England, from which the churches in the colonies found themselves divided by the American Revolution. The red white and blue colors are the colors of the American flag. Many of the founders of this nation, including George Washington, were Episcopalians.

The white field with a red cross is St. George's Cross, the patron saint of the Church of England (and incidentally the colony of Georgia). This remembers the Episcopal Churches roots in the Church of England.

There are nine miniature crosses on the field of blue symbolizing the nine dioceses that met in Philadelphia in 1789 to ratify the initial constitution of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. The crosslets are formed after the St. Andrews Cross. St. Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland. This remembers the Scottish Episcopal Churches part in our history as it was their bishops who ordained Samuel Seabury as the first American Bishop in 1784.

Got something you have been itching to say? A question you have been dying to ask? Your newsletter is taking all contributions. And yes, that means you.

Soli deo Gloria,

Chip



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Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you. Amen. – St. Thomas Aquinas

Activity Schedule

May, 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Fifth Sunday of Easter 9:00 – Breakfast 10:00 - Vestry 11:00 – HE II (p) MacKenzie; (c) ; (l) Heath	3	4	5	6	7	1/8
9 Sixth Sunday of Easter 11:00 – HE I (p) Mackenzie; (c) Brown; (l)	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Seventh Sunday of Easter 11:00 – HE II (p) MacKenzie; (c) ; (l)	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Pentecost Sunday 11:00 – MP II (o) ; (l) Heath	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 First Sunday after Pentecost 11:00 – MP II (o) ; (l)	31			Altar Guild – Janet Heath		June 6 – Parish Picnic June 13 – Service time changes to 10:00

Key: P = Priest; C = Chalicer; O = Officiant; L = Lector.

Note: If you will not be in church on a Sunday you are scheduled for, please trade with someone else. If that doesn't work then please call or email Chip.

If you would like to join our merry band of volunteers please feel free to speak to any of us. We are always happy to widen our circle of volunteers. Plus, it is a great opportunity to experience worship from a different perspective.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
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