



A Publication of
Emmanuel Church, Chester Parish
Chestertown, Maryland

The Messenger

March & April 2021

From Darcy+

On the first Sunday of Lent, those who heard my sermon heard these words: “Although our liturgical calendar tells us today is the first Sunday of Lent, perhaps you feel like I do that Lent 2020 never really ended, so today might feel more like the 52nd Sunday in Lent.”

I went on to talk about the losses so many have experienced, as well as the positive efforts by our health care providers and medical researchers to care for the sick, to develop vaccines to combat COVID-19, and the many things we accomplished as a parish. Please read the article Steve Croker wrote about helping to register people to receive the COVID vaccine (page 5), the article on Community Service and Outreach at Emmanuel in 2020 (page 4), and Ann Hedgepeth’s article on the 2020 Pancake Supper (page 3), to get a sense of what this parish does and a reminder of what life was like pre-COVID!

I also talked a bit about our life as a parish family and the ways we have managed to stay in touch, to pray together, and to share our stories. Despite being unable to gather in large groups for nearly 12 months, we have found ways to continue to care for and support each other. We have found ways to join together on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings, in-person and virtually, to pray and participate in our worship services. At the same time, the Search Committee has been hard at work developing the Emmanuel Parish Profile, and seeking your input about the parish as it is and as you hope it to be. Read Libby’s and Sandy’s articles (pages 2 & 3, respectively).

Whether Lent 2021 feels like a new opportunity for prayer, self-reflection, meditation, and doing those things that bring us closer to God, or whether it feels like one long Lent that started in February 2020, I hope these next weeks of your faith journey leading up to Easter will be a time of spiritual refreshment and renewal.

One resource you may find helpful is The Episcopal Church’s offering: **Life Transformed: The Way of Love**: an 8-part video presentation with study guide. For more information, go to: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/life-transformed-the-way-of-love-in-lent/>.

Or you might like this list (from the Ginger Cove Episcopal group, sent by Janie Ashley) of things to fast from and things to feast on this Lent.

In Lent, 2021: Fast from judging others; Feast on Christ dwelling in them.

Fast from illness; Feast on the healing power of God.

Fast from words that pollute; Feast on speech that purifies;

Fast from discontent; Feast on gratitude.

Fast from anger; Feast on patience.

Fast from pessimism; Feast on optimism.

Fast from negatives; Feast on alternatives.

Fast from bitterness; Feast on forgiveness.

Fast from self concern; Feast on compassion.

Fast from gossip. Feast on purposeful silence.

Fast from problems that overwhelm; Feast on prayer that sustains.

Fast from worry; Feast on faith.

May Easter 2021 be a day of great joy as we celebrate our life together rejoicing in the Risen Lord!

Darcy+

Worship Schedule

(pending return to in-person, indoor worship)

Saturdays:

5 p.m. Eucharist

Sundays:

10:30 a.m.—Eucharist
with music

Reservations Required

Call 410-778-3477

Search Committee Update

Well done, Emmanuel!

The Congregational Assessment Tool or CAT survey was sent out to 157 of you and we received 127 responses, a phenomenal return rate! The Vestry and the Search committee have received the full report, are working to condense all the metrics and will send a summary out to all of you within the next few weeks. We learned that Emmanuel is a very healthy parish, comprised of discerning and enthusiastic parishioners who are currently led by a priest who excels in preaching, pastoral care and administrative leadership. One of the more important points made to and about us by the Holy Cow Consulting! trained facilitator, is that we are very happy with our Darcy+ and our deepest desire to find someone just like her to lead us next ...and that that will be like trying to find a “golden unicorn!”

Our next step, as some of you have already experienced, is to hold “Holy Conversations.” It was important that we get information about who we are and where we want to go from an objective viewpoint, and we thought the CAT was the best way to do that. But it is equally important that we have conversations with each other, to learn about the dreams of our hearts that an anonymous survey cannot discern. So in the next few weeks we will be reaching out to have that conversation with as many of you as we can, mostly via Zoom.

We will then be able to finalize our Parish Profile and pull together our employment package to present to our Bishop and the Transition Minister, the Rev. Canon Patrick Collins. They will make sure that all the Emmanuel info will be published to the wider church to attract candidates to be our next rector.

More information about our timeline will be published on the website within the next month, stay tuned! And as always, please feel free to reach out with questions or concerns at chesterparishsearch@gmail.com.

With much anticipation and many thanks,

The Search Committee

Libby Rice, Chair
Carolyn Spencer Brown
Sandy Durfee

Earl McGimpsey, Vestry Liaison
Darlene Housley
Katie Mouldsdale

Joe Goetz
Steve Croker
Bob Tyson

Did You Know . . .

. . . that **Caren Saunders** was recently named Teacher of the Year at Kent County High School for 2021? Caren teaches AP Psychology and Social Studies at the high school. Congratulations, Caren!

. . . that Emmanuel received a \$304 rebate check from Redner’s Market from our recently submitted Redner’s register tapes? The check will be forwarded as a donation to the Community Food Pantry. Many **thanks to Elizabeth Riedel and Helen Tyson** for counting the \$30,000 in tapes and submitting them. A collection box for qualifying Redner’s tapes is in the Narthex.

. . . that Bishop San will be at Emmanuel for his annual visitation and **Confirmation on April 18**? Any adults interested in being confirmed, received, or reaffirming their faith should contact Darcy+ by March 7.

. . . that the **Children’s Home Foundation** provides camperships to children on the Eastern Shore in addition to scholarships for 2-year and technical post high school education? There is no need to be an Episcopalian. To apply for a campership, go to <https://www.childrenshomefoundation.org/types-of-camperships>, or follow the links on the Diocese of Easton website.

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Senior Warden's Corner

Well, we've persevered for nearly a year of lockdown or semi-lockdowns in this pandemic. February-March can be so gloomy, and this year so unpredictable with snow and wintery mixes several times a week.

Now we are well into Lent with the prospect of a joyous Easter in the not-too-distant future. As a parish, Emmanuel has done quite well in supporting each other and the parish (99.7% of 2020 pledges met; 127 parishioners responded to the CAT survey). Lent provides a time for self-examination and renewal. We've all probably had lots of time for that over the past year. But while we look with hope for better things this summer and fall, we can look with certainty to the joy of the Resurrection.

Wishing all of us a Holy Lent and a Blessed Easter!

Sandy

Shrove Tuesday

by Ann Hedgepeth

Little did we know (some may have suspected) that February 26, 2020 would be one of our last public functions held at Emmanuel's Parish Hall in 2020 (into 2021). Here is a pre-pandemic postcard to jog your memory and refresh your resolve to keep on doing what it takes to get back to some version of recognizable parish family life.

Shrove Tuesday. Pancake Day. Fat Tuesday. Mardi Gras: call it what you will – we had a humdinger of a good time! As this is a postcard, let's see if I can edit well enough to make my case.

Typically, the youth of the parish with some adult help take on this supper and collectively decide to which organization they will donate the proceeds. In 2020 we realized that most of our older kids have moved on in life and we needed a bit more adult involvement to pull it off with the younger, very eager kids. Darcy+ asked and I took the reins – with the assistance of many wonderful people we pulled off a Pancake Supper plan that previously resided inside of my head!

I hoped to shake it up a bit and try some things I'd seen done at other churches in the area. I wanted the meal to be *served by* the youth, and the seating to be family style. Traditionally there was a buffet steam table type of set up where you helped yourself and sat at one of the 10 tables set up cafeteria style – Don't get me wrong it was always a lovely setting – tables neatly set and tables shared but with a few tweaks it could be even more communal. Nowadays we'd probably call it a super spreader event!

We had a basic plan of action and certain tasks divided up and volunteers in place. I knew it *could* work; I just didn't know how well it *would* work -- once the doors opened. It took a few moments of fluster at the get-go but soon enough the spirit of the family style changeover slipped into gear and we were off. Kids in red aprons wielding platters of eggs and pancakes and pitchers of syrup...parents, friends and Grands pitching in to help manage the youngest as they took to serving others like professionals! They wanted to serve, to clear, to cook, to set new place settings and most importantly to engage with EVERYBODY. Mission accomplished! We had to wash dishes to keep up with the crowd. We probably set most spaces twice and I recall we even managed to have some bacon and sausage until the very end (a minor miracle in itself!). Every aspect of the event was shared by a blend of generations and has become one of my most memorable days shared with my Emmanuel Church family. Thanks for all who made it so! Who is ready for an encore Family Style Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper?? Laissez les bons temps rouler!



The Way God Chose to bring a New HVAC Unit to the Retreat House at Hillsboro

by Francie Thayer

In this hard time of pandemic, of political upset, of racial injustice, of economic hardship and fear, it's *not* hard to lose sight on occasion of God's presence. And God, in the beautiful, grace-filled way God moves in our midst, brought a precious reminder of that Presence over two weeks in December.

In June, we at the Retreat House discovered that the HVAC system that had been poised unused in the basement for 20 years and that had served us so consistently for the next 6 years was on its last legs. Repair people, conversations, bids and proposals were all part of June and July. We managed nicely through the summer: open windows, well-timed to the sun's location—worked sufficiently, especially in a time of pandemic when foot traffic in the building was so low. There were plenty of folks on the grounds, but the building was not the destination. And then it started to get cold.

The need became more urgent, the cost was \$13,000. The Diocese declined taking the lead to solve this diocesan property issue. What to do? Well, pray, of course, and we did, but not in the "Please God, deliver us a check" kind of way. We prayed in the 'let-go-of-anxiety/fear-and-wait-to-see-how-God-will-be' kind of way. And we asked: What is ours to do? Fund-raise? Take out a loan? And we listened and waited... and then this happened.

God moved in the hearts of the people of Holy Trinity Oxford who heard of the situation. They sent us a very generous check for a new HVAC system. Having heard how Holy Trinity had responded, a couple who are friends of the Retreat House matched Holy Trinity's gift. The situation was brought up at Council, and within 2 days, Emmanuel Church in Chestertown's rector and Vestry generously responded. Shortly after that, a friend of the Retreat House spoke with his friends at St. Paul's Kent. Their hearts were open to the need also, and another generous donation arrived. Then another friend of the Retreat House spoke to a foundation he is connected to, and there it was... a total of \$13,000 for a new HVAC system.

For us at the Retreat House, this unfolding situation lives in our hearts as God in our midst: God, living and breathing life through God's beloved children whose hearts are connected to the Retreat House. We have been blown away by the generosity, the compassion and support of so many. And we are surprised... always we are surprised at the same time we hold deep confidence that things will work out. This is not the first time God has held and upheld us here in Hillsboro. We know we do not need to spend energy worrying about these kinds of things. And yet still, we worry a little, and we trust, and we pray and we wait...

How faithful God is, how loving and generous are God's people. We are grateful, so deeply grateful. And we feel renewed inspiration to be good stewards of God's gift to us—the gift of the invitation to be present in Hillsboro at this time. Nothing lasts forever, and we are just so grateful for what is, what has happened, and for God's constant Presence in our lives as so lovingly manifested through God's people.

Community Service and Outreach at Emmanuel During 2020

by The Rev. Dr. F. Darcy Williams

While no one needs to be reminded about what the last 12 months of life during a pandemic have been like, we thought it would be helpful to take a look back at one aspect of Emmanuel that is so much a part of who we are.

We are a parish that uses our resources to help others, even when that must be done more remotely than we would like. If we could accomplish this while living through lockdowns and suspension of in-person group gatherings, think what we will be able to do post-COVID! Many thanks to everyone who made all of this possible.

January – mid-March:

- **Laundry Love** operated on the 4th Thursday of January and February providing detergent, bleach, dryer sheets and quarters for 111 loads of laundry.
- **Souper Bowl Sunday** brought donations of 100+ cans of soup that were given to the Community Food Pantry.

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- **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** raised \$1,129 to be used to support Outreach programs sponsored by our Sunday School children, Acolytes, and other Emmanuel youth.

March – December:

With all in-person gatherings suspended other than religious services, Emmanuelites still found ways to help others in the community:

- One set of **Redner's Receipts** was submitted generating \$131.65 for the Food Pantry
- The **Bazaar Committee** prepared jars of homemade jellies and jams, sold them and added funds from the Bazaar Reserve to be able to donate \$2600 to both The Samaritan Group of Kent County and Kent Attainable Housing, Inc.
- The **Outreach Fund** distributed \$7,519 for activities such as Legacy Day, MLK, Jr. Breakfast Scholarship Fund, Good Neighbor Fund, Community Food Pantry, Sumner Hall Food Paul Tue Fund, and adopting a family at Christmas through Minary's Dream Alliance. In addition, \$3500 was donated to the Retreat House to help purchase a new HVAC system (see Francie Thayer's article).
- The **Rector's Discretionary Fund** distributed \$7,046 to our needy neighbors through direct payments for overnight housing, auto insurance premium, and utility costs, plus gifts to local organization such as the Community Food Pantry, the Good Neighbor Fund, Agape Ministries, the Retreat House, Camp Wright, Compass Hospice, and Kent Attainable Housing.
- **Brown Bags Against Hunger** continued to provide Social Services with 4 bags of non-perishable food a month for 8 of the 12 months in 2020.
- The **Christmas Giving Tree**: to keep our parishioners safe, we collected gift cards from Acme, Redner's, Dunkin Donuts, Dollar General, Visa, and Amazon, plus cash to purchase additional gift cards. We donated 91 gift cards (\$25 and \$50 values) to Kent Family Center for their clients, and gave \$650 to the Rector's Discretionary Fund for the Food Pantry.

Helping to Register County Residents for the COVID Vaccine

by Steve Croker

In late December, community volunteers recognized that the state-wide solution to getting people vaccinated against COVID-19 relied on electronic, on-line registration, but they knew this would present problems for many in Kent County. The first step was to begin training volunteers with internet access to help those who would need assistance. Steve Croker of Emmanuel's Pastoral Care team was one of the first to volunteer. With the assistance of a small team of four others from Emmanuel, almost all the Emmanuel Directory-listed parishioners were contacted and offered registration help. Through their efforts, 42 parishioners were assisted in registering and getting scheduled for their vaccinations. Forty-three other Emmanuelites were registered and received their vaccinations at Heron Point.

Recognizing that 27% of Kent County residents are 65 and older, that 60% are without effective internet access, and that the vast majority of residents do not live at Heron Point or an assisted living facility, committee members reached out to other local churches through the Chester Valley Ministers' Association offering training and material help. In that way, our pastoral care team assisted local ministers to get others registered. As of February 19, 4,000 first doses and 1,100 second doses of the vaccine have been administered to Kent County residents.

The challenge is to broaden our effort to find older folks in Kent County who didn't know that vaccinations were available, or who need assistance and don't know where to turn for help. To date, our Health Department-enabled list includes 903 names, or about 20% of the population 65 and older, most of whom have had at least one vaccination. Daily the list is growing of elderly citizens who are waiting their turn to be vaccinated. Although the Health Department has arranged for low-cost transportation or vouchers for the very poor, the first requirement for vaccination is to get registered online.

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In addition to our own Bill Webb, Kent County Health officer, and Libby Rice who has been working tirelessly at the Health Department to vaccinate all comers, Steve Croker, George Shivers, Gretchen Knowles, Joan Flaherty, Jeff Warden and our “on-loan” Deacon, Lisa Webb have been running our telephone tree to keep abreast of who has been vaccinated, when and where, helping to track what more remains to be done for those already eligible.

Once the eligibility window expands for vaccinations, the opportunities to help will grow. When that day comes, the Kent County Health Department will be facing an even bigger challenge. But, for the moment the Pastoral Care team has a handle on expanding Emmanuel’s OUTREACH beyond our doors to assist the community in addressing this health crisis.

Vestry Highlights

- approved switching from Atlantic Broadband to Think Big as our internet service provider.
- approved a proposal from Chester River Landscaping to provide the grass cutting and landscaping services at the rectory for the 2021 season.
- approved the new website designed by Katie Mouldsdale as part of the Search Committee’s work to enhance Emmanuel’s online presence and update the parish information with revised text and lots of pictures. The intent is to provide more information to prospective new members as well as to potential candidates for the position of the 34th rector of Emmanuel in an easy to navigate and visually pleasing format.
- approved Emmanuel signing as a sponsor of the James Taylor Justice Coalition. The JTJC is a Kent County coalition aligned with the Equal Justice Initiative’s Community Remembrance Projects and seeks to shine the light of truth upon the more than 4,000 extrajudicial lynchings of African American people that occurred in the U.S. between 1877 and 1950, especially the lynching of James Taylor in Chestertown in May of 1892.
- appointed a small committee to work with Darcy+ on upgrading our video equipment with the goal of being able to live-stream services.
- appointed Jim Block and George Shivers to head a committee to research Emmanuel’s early history in an effort to learn more about the early church and its leadership during a time when there were many enslaved African Americans in Chestertown and much of the Eastern Shore.



FLOWER MEMORIALS, PARISH PRAYER CYCLE

Worship in March

March 6/7 (P) Lent III

No Altar Flowers during Lent

Parish Prayer Cycle: Virginia Catherwood; Anne Charles; and Melissa Clarke

March 13/14 (P) Lent IV

No Altar Flowers during Lent

Parish Prayer Cycle: Ginger & Thomas Collier; Sid Cooper; Lawson Cording; and Steve Croker

March 20/21 (P) Lent V

No Altar Flowers during Lent

Parish Prayer Cycle: Anne & Diane Daniels; Mary Booth Davis; and Betty De Jong

March 27/28 (R) Palm Sunday

Palms: James Thomas and Kathryn B. Ozman, Martha and Harvey Horsey, Olivia and William Bringman, and Anne Gray Daly

Parish Prayer Cycle: Nancy & Thomas DiAngelo; Alec Dick; Nancy Dick; and Gerry & Karen Dockstader

Worship in April

April 3/4 (W) Easter Sunday

Flowers: Flower Memorials

Parish Prayer Cycle: Penni Walker Doyle; Laura Drons; and Sandy & David Durfee

April 10/11 (W) Easter II

Flowers: Flower memorials

Parish Prayer Cycle: Kathy & Frank Durkee; Mackey Dutton; the Rev. Eleanor Ellsworth; and Jenifer Emley

April 18 (W) Easter III &

Bishop's Visitation

Flowers: Edward T. Tait

Parish Prayer Cycle: Brenda Fazekas; Barbara Fertig; and Suzanne Fischer

April 25 (W) Easter IV

Flowers: Robert Darlington Hoopes, Jr.

Parish Prayer Cycle: Karen & Richard Fitzgerald; Theodosia Fitzgerald; Joan Flaherty; and Edith Foley

May 2 (W) Easter V

Flowers: Anne Gray Daly

Parish Prayer Cycle: Sara & Shawn Forrest; Jenny Lee & Ricky Freebery; and Herb Friedman

May 9 (W) Easter VI

Flowers: **This Date is Available—call church office**

Parish Prayer Cycle: Joan Gaffner & Phoebe Kelly; Ethel Gates; Pat & Doug Gates; and Donna & Tony Gibbons-Neff

Notes: Uppercase letters in parentheses indicate liturgical colors:

B=black, BL=blue, G=green, R=red,
LA=Lenten array, P=purple, W=white

Easter Flower Memorials

The Flower Guild asks that requests and donations for Easter flower memorials should be made by **Monday, March 29** for inclusion in the Easter leaflet. A suggested donation of \$50 is requested to accompany the memorial dedication you wish included in the memorials. Checks should be made payable to Emmanuel Church with "Easter flowers" in the memo line. Please be sure to print the name(s) of those you are remembering as you would like it to appear in the leaflet. Please call the church office at [410-778-3477](tel:410-778-3477) if you have any questions. Thank you.



Worship through Holy Week and Easter

At Emmanuel, there will be many opportunities for us to read and meditate on God's word as well as to spend time in prayer with others in our community of faith:

Holy Eucharist:
Every **Saturday** at 5:00 p.m..
Every **Sunday** at 10:30 a.m.

March 28, Palm Sunday
April 1, Maundy Thursday
April 2, Good Friday
April 4, Easter

Updated Information

Edward Maxcy
602 Cannon Street
Chestertown, MD 21620
443-282-0824
eemaxcy@hotmail.com

Bruce & Elizabeth Riedel
217 S. Water Street
703-300-1049
briedel@brookings.edu
elizabethriedel@hotmail.com

Remember—The deadline for the May/June 2021 issue of *The Messenger* is **Thursday, April 15**. Submit your hard-copy articles to the Parish Office, or e-mail them to either emmanuelchestertown@gmail.com, or drdarcy.williams@gmail.com. We would also love to have copies of any pictures of the Parish at work or play for inclusion in future articles.

Staff:

The Reverend F. Darcy Williams,
Priest-in-Charge
Stephanie LaMotte, *Director of Music*
and Choirmaster
G. Robert Tyson, *Choirmaster Emeritus*
Avis Wheatley, *Organist*
Laura Kaufmann, *Parish Secretary*
Sue Byerly, *Financial Assistant*
Melvin Thompson, *Sexton*

Parish Officers:

Sandra Bjork, *Senior Warden*
Thomas Mack, Jr., *Junior Warden*
Roger Brown, *Treasurer*
Penny Block *Registrar*

Vestry:

Term end dates are in parentheses

Craig Jackson (2022)
Brianna Mayer (2022)
George Shivers (2022)
Nancy Dick (2023)
Earl McGimpsey (2023)
Betty Weller (2023)
Jim Block (2024)
Ann Hedgepeth (2024)
Phil Ticknor (2024)

Emmanuel Church, PO Box 875
Chestertown, Maryland 21620
emmanuelchestertown@gmail.com
www.emmanuelchesterparish.org
410-778-3477