

# The Good News

## EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH



### Keeping Us All Well

*The Rev. Pamela Hillenbrand*

In this time of flu season, many churches are reviewing the manner by which members receive communion and providing information, reminders or suggestions that may serve to help all stay well. Here are a few.

The church has always held that receiving in one kind only is receiving full communion. Thus, if you are not feeling well, please only receive the bread and not the wine. Even intinction carries risk because the bread is first handled by two people prior to being dipped in the wine, and there is opportunity for fingers to come into contact with the wine. Receiving only the bread may also be wise if your immune system is compromised.

If you find it prudent to only receive the bread, please cross your arms over your chest or put your fingers up to your lips (as if to make a hush sound) when the chalice comes to you. The chalice will stop before you, say the words of administration without offering you the chalice, and then will move on.

Intinction: It sounds so safe. But many people now believe that because of the fact that the bread is handled so much, and that fingers may touch the wine, it is not the answer to our concerns about illness.

And then there is the passing of the peace. Please respect another person's choice to refrain from passing the peace. Some may choose to do so, not because they are feeling unwell, but because their immune system is temporarily compromised. Perhaps a verbal cue of our intention to refrain from shaking hands would be to again cross our arms over our chest while extending a verbal greeting.

What will we do at Emmanuel: We will continue to offer communion in both kinds (bread and wine) as well as offer the common cup and the

cup for intinction. The clergy will continue to use hand sanitizer immediately prior to handling the bread and wine. We will continue to pass the peace, allowing each person to participate as seems best. We will also review these decisions in light of new information.

### Christmas Schedule of Services

*By The Rev. Pamela Hillenbrand*

Christmas Eve 5:00PM: A candlelight service of Christmas Carols.

Christmas Eve 10:30PM: This service begins with selected instrumental and choral music at 10:30PM followed by High Mass at 11:00PM. This, too, will be a candlelight service.

Christmas Day 10:30AM: Spoken Eucharist with the singing of Christmas carols.

### Handel's *Messiah* and the Advent Forums

*The Rev. Pamela Hillenbrand*

Handel's *Messiah* holds a special place in Christian hearts everywhere. In the four Sundays of Advent, we will explore (and enjoy listening to!) four musical selections from *Messiah* that lend themselves to the themes of Advent. Get your cup of coffee and come to the Guild Room where we will begin at 9:15AM. Please bring your Bible.

Advent 1, November 29, "Comfort Comfort My People"

Advent 2, December 6, "Who May Abide the Day of His Coming?"

Advent 3, December 13, "For unto Us a child Is Born"

Advent 4, December 20 "Glory to God in the Highest"

# Holiday Outreach

## The Warmest Spot at Christmas

By Stanton McGroarty

At Emmanuel, the Body of Christ has a wonderful voice and a great heart, but that's not all! When we're sharing Jesus' birthday celebration with our neighbors, we are Jesus' hands in this place. If you join us, you won't forget it ever.

The Emmanuel Episcopal Community Kitchen (Soup Kitchen) serves a Christmas Feast to our neighbors at noon on the Saturday before Christmas.

This year it's on December 19th. The dinner is attended by the folks who dine with us on Saturdays throughout the year.



We will serve turkey and ham with all the fixings, as well as home made deserts provided by parishioners. Emmanuel Youth help; choristers and other musicians will entertain during the meal; and, of course, Emmanuel volunteers will do the cooking, serving, and cleanup.

If you haven't joined us before for this exciting event, you're in for a treat. You'll enjoy your Christmas twice as much when you share it with your neighbors. If you have helped before, well it's time to do it again!

Here is where you can pitch in –

- **Cooks, Carvers, Servers, Cleanup Crew**, please email Stanton McGroarty at [stanton@pobox.com](mailto:stanton@pobox.com) or phone 815-985-6997 (evenings please). When we have a list, I will do job assignments and a schedule.
- **Dessert Chefs**, we're shooting for pies this year. Please contact Stan if you'd like to donate some dessert.
- **Musicians**, please email Trish Rooney at [tear Rooney@charter.com](mailto:tear Rooney@charter.com) or phone 815-985-0143. Trish will team up with Wayne to provide a schedule, etc.

- **Financial Donors**, Episcopal Outreach is making a contribution this year, but there's always room for more. Please make checks



out to Emmanuel Episcopal Church with "Soup Kitchen" on the comment line. You can place

them in the alms basins during church services or mail them to the church office.

Volunteering can be a little confusing at this time of year because there are at least two other Christmas dinners hosted by Shelter Care Ministries the week before Christmas. If you use the contact info above, you will be signing up for the Soup Kitchen Christmas Dinner, December 19, 2009. We will get back to you with the details in December.

Please consider adding this celebration to your Christmas. You really won't forget it – ever.

## Adopt a Jubilee Member for Christmas

By The Rev. Pamela Hillenbrand

Soon you will see the Jubilee member Christmas Tree in the narthex covered with paper ornaments. On each ornament is written the gift one of our Jubilee members would like for Christmas. These gifts are shared at the Jubilee Christmas party. The gift requests are small and usually practical, valued at about \$10 to \$15. Please take one or more ornaments, wrap the gift you purchase, attach the ornament as part of your wrapping, and return to the church or the Jubilee Center no later than December 22. Robert Parker can help people with sizes and other information about the members' needs. 815/964-5520

## Shelter Care December Wish List

By The Rev. Pamela Hillenbrand

Thank you – thank you – to the many of you who have responded so generously to Shelter Care's monthly wish list. You are helping us stretch our ministry dollars!

(Continued on p.3)

# Upcoming Events

*(Continued from p.2)*

The December wish list includes the following items: general purpose cleaner, laundry detergent, and window cleaner. You may leave your gifts in the basket that is in the narthex. These gifts will be presented with our Sunday morning offering at 10:30 AM. And, again, thank you!!

## Emmanuel Reads the Classics

*By Mary S. Johnson*

Our last meeting of the year will be Thursday evening, December 3, 2009, 7:00 p.m., at Borders. We will be discussing Mildred Taylor's award winning **Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry**. As we don't meet the first week in January, we have chosen a lengthier book (817 pages) for the two months we have before February 4th, **Anna Karenina** by Leo Tolstoy. Our four new community members are a great addition to our discussions and book choices. Join us. Mary S. Johnson, 226-1112.

## Youth Events: Mark Your Calendars!

*By Dr. Amy Gustafson*

Tuesday, 12/1 from 6-8 PM: Children from K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade ring bells for the Salvation Army Christmas fundraising efforts at Logli on State Street. Parents, please bring children directly there.

Sunday, 12/6 at 10:30 AM Eucharist: Blessing of Confirmand/Mentor relationships. All confirmation students, mentors and parents should attend.

Sunday, 12/6 immediately following 10:30 AM Eucharist: Advent Luncheon and Gathering for children birth to 5<sup>th</sup> grade and their parents.

Saturday, 12/19 from 9 AM to 3 PM: Youth Group, parents and other volunteers host the Soup Kitchen, including food and musical entertainment.

Sunday, 12/20 immediately following the 10:30 AM Eucharist: Youth Group serves a light lunch to nourish parishioners on Greening Sunday.



## Men's Group Meets 2nd Saturday in December

*By Lou Matjasko*

The next meeting of the Men's Group will be on Saturday, December 12 at 8:00 a.m. in the undercroft. All men are welcome to join us for camaraderie and discussion. Contact Lou Matjasko with questions, 815-624-7690.

## Emmanuel Guild's Silent Auction

*By The Rev. Pamela Hillenbrand*

Emmanuel Guild will hold its Christmas Luncheon and Silent Auction on Thursday, December 17 at 11AM. This is a major fundraiser for the Guild's General Fund. It is also a wonderful way for Guild members to spend a delightful morning while "shopping" for Christmas.

## A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

*By The Rev. Pamela Hillenbrand*

Emmanuel will once again present *A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* on Sunday, December 13 at 6 PM. This service of reading and song first began in King's College, England, and is now celebrated world wide. Readers and choristers from the Rockford area will join Emmanuel members in presenting this service. A reception follows. Invite your family and friends to join you. An offering will be taken to benefit Shelter Care Ministry.

## Lunch and Greening Party

*By The Rev. Pamela Hillenbrand*

A wonderful annual tradition is the "greening of the church" in preparation for Christmas Eve. Up go the greens, out come the beautiful poinsettias, the crèche is set in its place of honor, the candles are readied, and everything is polished. But not before we are all nourished for the work by a lunch prepared by our youth. Help prepare Emmanuel for Christmas (and enjoy the fun) by remaining after the 10:30AM service on the Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 20). Donations for the lunch will help support the youth summer mission trip.

# Mark Your Calendars

## Annual Cookie Walk at Second Congregational Church

By Kathleen Ferrero, Second Con.

On Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> will be the Second Congregational's Annual Cookie Walk. The event will last from 11AM – 1PM. Cookies will be \$7 a pound and you better come early to get all of your favorites. Choir Guild will also be selling their famous casseroles: Chicken Tetrazzini and Ham, Broccoli, Rice. The price for these delicious entrees are \$6 a piece or two for \$10. Wait...that's not all. There will be a mouth watering luncheon served: chicken barbeque sandwiches or clam chowder with chips or crackers and a drink for just \$5.

## Youth Choir Festival in February

By Trish Rooney

The 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Youth Choir Festival sponsored by the Rockford Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will be held on Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. This year's clinician is Randal McChesney, an active author, teacher, lecturer, and researcher in the field of childhood development, learning, and intervention. The theme is "Take Up the Tambourine."

Rehearsals at Emmanuel will be scheduled with participating choristers. There will be an optional rehearsal at Our Savior's on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11:30 AM and a required rehearsal on Saturday morning, February 27<sup>th</sup>. Rehearsal cd's will be available as well. Participants will wear t-shirts with the festival logo which will be available for \$8. Interested choristers (unchanged voices from Grades 3-8) should contact Trish Rooney for further details.

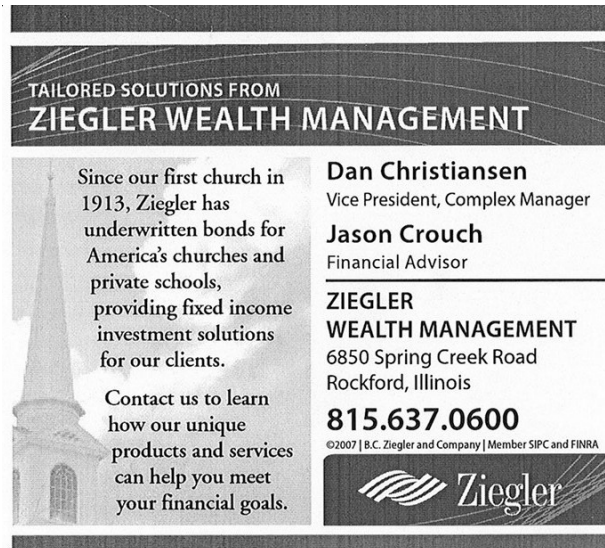


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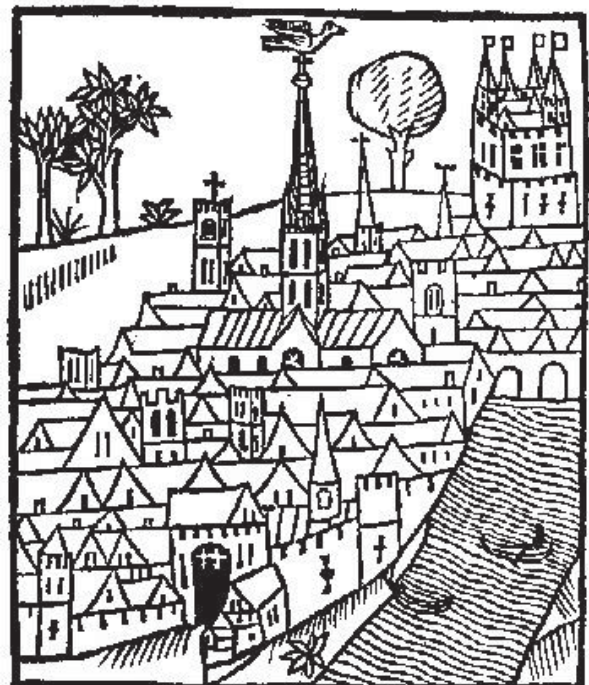
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## Fall 2009 Confirmation Retreat

By Tate Bailey

Our overnight Fall Confirmation Retreat was filled with powerful experiences and laughter. We



2009 Confirmation Retreat attendees (from top left) included Michael Lewis (adult assistant), Erin Campbell, Zak DeRango, Donald Shaner, (from bottom left) Tate Bailey, Sarah Torrence, Emma Cox, Nathan Krinikas, Amy Gustafson (adult assistant) and The Rev. Pamela Hillenbrand (not pictured). Caption by Dr. Amy Gustafson

enjoyed good company with great conversation about the church, *The Book of Common Prayer*, and our relationships with God. For me, I think the most enlightening thing we did was when we walked through the outdoor labyrinth. I definitely felt moved and rejuvenated. It was amazing, and a great start to the confirmation process!

*Please attend the 10:30 worship service on Dec. 6, when we will celebrate and bless the initiation of the Confirmands' relationships with their adult mentors!*



*In addition to structured retreat activities, the youth enjoyed exploring the beautiful grounds of Stronghold. Caption by Dr. Amy Gustafson*

## Emmanuel Hosts Happening

By Dr. Amy Gustafson

Emmanuel hosted the Diocese of Chicago Happening #89, a full weekend retreat which drew high school youth from all over the diocese to include over 60 participants! Pictured (from left to right) is our Emmanuel delegation: Zak DeRango, Emma Cox and Tate Baily sporting t-shirts with the weekend theme, "A Light Unto My Path."



# Schedules

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your scheduler directly. If you are unable to serve on a given day, please arrange for a substitute.

## Chalicians and Servers

Scheduled by Dale Thomas, 969-7280

### **December 6<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 am – Server, Chalicist, - Jim Erkert, Linda Posner  
10:30 am – Server, Logan Chapman-Neal Crucifer, Corrine Pollack MC, Rich Theyerl  
Torches, Elora Chapman-Neal, Sam Theyerl Chalicist,  
Sandy Billy, Bill Schnauffer

### **December 13<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 am – Server, Chalicist, Jerry Rice, Mike Lewis  
10:30 am – Server, Taylor Licon Crucifer, Tate Bailey MC, Zak DeRango  
Torches, Briana Martin, Riannon Perez Chalicist, Dale Thomas, Cindy Joesten

### **December 20<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 am – Server, Chalicist, Tyler Hillman, Julie Beck  
10:30 am – Server, Sarah Torrence Crucifer, Abbey Torrence MC, Jerry Rice  
Torches, Dale Thomas, Cindy Joesten Chalicist, Susan Rubendall, Mark Zaksheske

### **December 24<sup>th</sup>**

5:00 pm – TBD with Youth Group  
10:30 pm – Server, Logan Chapman-Neal Crucifer, Zak DeRango  
Sub Deacon, Stacey Sauer Torches, Elora Chapman-Neal, Emma Cox  
Banner Bearer, Tate Bailey Corrine Pollack Thurifer, Rich Theyerl

### **December 25<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 am Mike Lewis

### **December 27<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 am – Server, Chalicist, Julie Beck, Tyler Hillman  
10:30 am – Server, Emma Cox Crucifer, Damon Mosier MC, Stacey Sauer  
Torches, Sam Theyerl, Corrine Pollack Chalicist, Sandy Billy, Susan Rubendall

## Lectors

### **Old Testament**

### **New Testament**

### **Prayers**

December 6<sup>th</sup> Tyler Hillman  
Kyla Chapman-Neal  
Cathy Ritts  
December 13<sup>th</sup> Marge Henning  
Susan Chambers  
Mark Zaksheske  
December 20<sup>th</sup> Judy Schnauffer  
Mary Dammann  
Millie Zimmerman

December 24<sup>th</sup> 5:00 TBD  
TBD  
TBD  
December 24<sup>th</sup> 10:30 Nancy Sauer  
Barbara Penn  
Ben Rubendall  
December 25<sup>th</sup> Millie Zimmerman  
Mary Dammann  
Marge Henning  
December 27<sup>th</sup> Theresa Sinks  
Mary Kaull  
Mary Nielsen

**Van Driver:**

**Dale Thomas**

## Altar Guild

Scheduled by Mary Johnson, 963-0728

December 7- 13 Barbara Penn,  
Maryanne Theyerl  
December 14-20 Laura Wren, Linda Sutrina  
December 21-27 Mary Johnson, Joyce Apitz,  
Nancy and Stacey Sauer  
December 28-Jan. 3 Michael Lewis, Sandi Kelly,  
Susan Rubendall

## Closers

Scheduled by Mary Johnson, 963-0728

December 6 Sandy Billy  
December 13 Greg Cox  
December 20 Andrea Gibbs  
December 27 Lee Joesten

## Counters

Scheduled by Ron Wanninger, 968-4753

Robert Parker & Charlie Worboys

## Greeters

Scheduled by Mary Dammann, 520-2990

Mendy Thomas & Mary Nielsen

## Ushers

Scheduled by Tom Sutrina, 229-0375

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# Celebrations

## The Gift of Christmas Flowers

*By The Rev. Pamela Hillenbrand*

On Christmas Eve, I love taking that first peek into the sanctuary when the lighted candles are casting their glow and the poinsettias are



adorning the space with their deep red velvet petals. The poinsettias are there because of you – and your desire to remember loved ones or give thanks for the blessings of your life. You will find envelopes in the pews during Advent inviting you to donate flowers as a

memorial gift or a gift of thanksgiving. Thank you for making our Christmas services so beautiful! All gifts received by Sunday, December 20 will be acknowledged in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

## Birthdays

12/01	Erin Cox
	Zak DeRango
12/04	Bruce James
12/05	Linnea Liken-Aduddell
12/06	Sybil White
	Noel Saenz
12/08	Ruth Wheaton-Cox
12/10	Andrea Gibbs
12/12	Tammy Hooks
	David Hooks
12/14	Lauren Thomas
12/16	Melinda Thomas
12/18	Steven Wanninger
12/26	John VanLandingham
12/30	Janet White

## Wedding Anniversaries

12/23	John & Jean VanLandingham
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## EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## DECEMBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 6pm Bell ringing with children	<b>2</b> 10 HE & Study Group 7pm Bible Study	<b>3</b> 7pm Emmanuel Reads Classics @ Borders 7pm Liturgical Comm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10am Lessons & Carols rehearsal
<b>6</b> 8 Spoken HE 9:15 Christian Form. 10:30 HE 12 Event for Families with small children	<b>7</b> Parish Office closed	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 10 HE & Study Group 4 Wardens' Mtg 5:30 SC Board 7pm Bible Study	<b>10</b> 5:30 Jeremiah Bd.	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 8 am Men's Grp. 10am Lessons & Carols rehearsal 2 Memorial service for Nora Parker
<b>13</b> 8 Spoken HE 9:15 Christian Form. 10:30 HE 6pm Festival of 9 Lessons & Carols	<b>14</b> Parish Office closed	<b>15</b> 10:30 Pastoral Care Commission	<b>16</b> 10 HE & study group 7pm Bible Study	<b>17</b> 11 Emmanuel Gld Lunch & Auction 6:00 Vestry Mtg.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 10am Soup Kitchen Christmas Dinner
<b>20</b> 8 Spoken HE 9:15 Christian Form. 10:30 HE 11:30 Greening party 1:30 Youth Christmas party	<b>21</b> Parish Office closed	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10 HE & Study Group 4 Wardens' Mtg 7pm Bible Study	<b>24</b> 5pm Christmas Eve Service 10:30pm Christmas Eve Service	<b>25</b> 10:30 Christmas Day Service	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 8 Spoken HE 9:15 No Christian Form. 10:30 HE	<b>28</b> Parish Office closed	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10 HE & study group 7pm Bible Study	<b>31</b>		