

The Good News

EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Home of Shelter Care Ministries  Founding Member of Jeremiah Development

Christmas at Emmanuel

By *The Rev. Pamela Hillenbrand*

Sunday, December 18

(following the second service)

Greening Of The Church

Come in your “less than best” and lend a hand in putting up the greens and placing the poinsettias. Many hands make light of the task.

Sunday, December 18 at 5:00 p.m.

A Festival Of Nine Lessons And Carols

Join the Emmanuel Choir and our guests as we follow the tradition of the Christmas Eve service broadcast annually from King’s College in Cambridge, England. A reception follows in the lower level.

Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. – This service creates a special place for children to participate as we place the figures in the manger scene and bless the crèche. Familiar Christmas carols and the Holy Eucharist are part of this candlelight service.

10:30 p.m. – In this beautiful “prelude” to the 11 p.m. service, the Emmanuel choir presents music of the season and invites the congregation to join in some of our beloved Christmas carols.

11:00 p.m. – A Festal Choral Eucharist concludes with the traditional lighting of individual candles.

Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day

10:30 a.m. – *A Service Of Holy Eucharist And Christmas Carols* **Please Note** – There is ONLY ONE SERVICE on Christmas Day with no coffee hour following.

Christmas at the Jubilee Center

By *The Rev. Pamela Hillenbrand*

As in years past, you are invited to provide a gift for one (or more) of our Jubilee members. In the narthex (main entry area) you will find gold and silver paper ornaments on which are written gift requests for an approximate cost of \$10.00. Please take the ornament(s), purchase and wrap the gift and securely attach the ornament to the gift. Bring the gift(s) to the church no later than December 21 – just in time for the Annual Jubilee Center Christmas Party. Also – give the gift of your presence and volunteer to help at the party, Thursday, December 22 at noon..



A Festival

Nine Lessons and Carols

Emmanuel Festival Choir
Trish Rooney, Director
Wayne Hatwich, Organist

following the tradition of
the Christmas Eve service
broadcast annually from
King’s College Cambridge, England
featuring readers from the greater
Rockford community



Sunday, December 18 at 5:00 pm
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
412 N. Church Street – Rockford

www.EmmanuelRockford.org
A freewill offering will help support the music ministry at Emmanuel.



Children, Youth & Parents: Mark Your Calendars

By *Amy Gustafson*

Sunday, 12/11 - Help us bless and celebrate the beginning of our confirmands’ relationships with their adult mentors at the 10:30 eucharist. A meeting and dinner for confirmands and mentors will be held from 4-6 p.m. in the Youth Center.

See Youth... p.3

From the Rector

The Reverend Pamela M. Hillenbrand

Introducing Our Confirmands & Their Mentors

This year three of Emmanuel's youth are preparing for confirmation by attending two retreats and special learning sessions with Amy Gustafson and Pastor Hillenbrand. In addition, the confirmands will be meeting approximately a dozen times with their mentors – using a study program titled “Making Disciples” and sharing their faith with one another. Please keep our confirmands and their mentors in your prayers.

Confirmand:

Logan Chapman Neal
Briana Martin
Amber Neal

Mentor:

Bob Hillenbrand
Susan Rubendall
Stacey Sauer

Jeremiah Development on the Move

Jeremiah Development has made a major commitment. It has hired Kathi Ferrero as its very “part time” executive director. Kathi has served Jeremiah Development in the past three years as secretary of the board. At least, that has been her official title. In truth, she has done so much more, including a tremendous amount of organizing – of people, information, activities and projects!! Kathi was the obvious choice as JD begins to expand its ministry.

JD is presently exploring the possibility of developing additional properties in our local neighborhood – working closely with Lou Ness and the Shelter Care Board in this venture. It is an incredibly exciting time as these two organizations explore how they can be of great benefit to one another.

Sometime during the month of December you will receive a letter from Jeremiah Development asking you to consider giving a gift of financial support. This is the first formal annual appeal made by Jeremiah Development. Please support this shared ministry of our four downtown churches... in so doing you will be participating in renewing our community and thereby ensuring a hopeful future for our churches.

Stewardship: Feeding the World, Feeding Our Souls

Thank you for your response to the appeal to support Episcopal Relief and Development in its mission to alleviate the suffering caused by the famine in the Horn of Africa. Gifts from Emmanuel totaled \$2,940. We were able to submit this gift in time to take advantage of a “matching gift” offer to ERD, which doubled our gift!!

Thank you, also, for your pledge toward our shared ministry in 2012. If you have not yet returned your pledge card, please do so at this time. The Finance Committee is working to provide a balanced budget for the coming year.

Choir Room Renovation to Begin in December

The Vestry unanimously selected the bid presented by Peter Joachim to renovate the Guild Room and present choir rehearsal room. Work will begin in December. Peter was the project manager at 809 Winnebago – Jeremiah Development's first house renovation. A brief summary of the work that will take place includes the following:

In the Guild Room:

- Remove the carpeting and the flooring tiles.
- Level the floor and lay new flooring (vinyl) including new baseboard.
- Address issues of air circulation.

In the present Choir Rehearsal room which will become the office for the Directors of Music:

- Remove carpet, make floor level, install vinyl flooring.
- Remove drywall on window wall, clean and paint. (Moisture problem)
- Remove book storage cupboards and repair walls if necessary.
- Build new pipe chase – studs, drywall, etc., creating a changing area for choir members.

This work will create a better rehearsal space for our choir, provide a much improved work area for Wayne and Trish, and also address the continuing

See **Renovation...** p.3

Youth ... *continued from p.1*

Sunday, 12/18 - *Christmas Celebration for children, youth and their parents from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.* in the Youth Center following the Children at Heart service.

Sunday, 12/18 - Youth Group (Gr. 6-12) holiday outing for bowling and dinner, departing church approximately 12:30. All going must RSVP to Amy Gustafson and have permission slips!

No Sunday School on 12/25 or 1/1,
see you in 2012!

Renovation ... *continued from p.2*

issues of dampness, mold, and poor air circulation in these areas.

Peter Joachim has also been asked to submit a separate bid to extend the vinyl flooring into the long hall and into the present area where the choir vestments are hung.

The final cost of the complete renovation will be determined by the choice of flooring that is selected as well as electrical work and cabinetry that is not included in this particular bid. When we have a better idea of the final cost, you will be invited to participate by making a one-time gift to this important renovation project. Together we can show our support for our choir while keeping our building well-maintained, functional and attractive.

Men's Group Meets 2nd Saturday in December

By Lou Matjasko

We meet the second Saturday of every month in the Undercroft. On the 10th, we continue with Dr. Bart Ehrman and his enlightening series on the Historical Perspectives on the New testament. Dr. Ehrman is one of the most respected biblical scholars among academics. This month's lectures are titled: "The Historical Jesus- Solutions and Methods" and "Jesus the Apocalyptic Prophet". We start at 7:30 a.m. with coffee and snacks and are out no later than 9:30.



Nine Lessons & Carols: a Festival For the 4th Sunday in Advent

By Wayne Hatwich

Nothing gives me a greater sense of inner Christmas peace than the simplicity of the traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols. It's a progression of nine scripture readings interpolated with carols and hymns to illuminate the lesson texts. This undulation of reading and music is framed – the inner frame is prayers, the outer frame is the music of the organ prelude and postlude.

We invite readers from both our congregation and the Rockford community thereby extending our parish into the community at large. We also invite members of our parish to reach out to others in the community to come and enjoy this festival in preparation for Christmas.

All of our efforts converge on the festival date and time: Sunday, December 18 at 5:00 p.m. This day is the last Sunday of Advent, and we will be decking our worship hall with greenery after the morning services, so our greens will be in place as we celebrate the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. It's a perfect time to invite someone you've wanted to introduce to Emmanuel - - all new and former friends alike.

We will have additional choristers from the community as well as a guest boy soprano soloist from Kantorei to begin the service by singing the first verse of "Once in Royal David's City."

And as a symbol of our parish's hospitality, Emmanuel Guild will prepare a knock-out reception for all. Hope to see you there!

Inquirers' Gathering

By The Rev. Pamela Hillenbrand

The first gathering of our "Inquirers" will be Tuesday, January 24 at 6:30 p.m. If you are interested in learning about the Episcopal Church and its traditions, if you are a long-time Episcopalian who would like a refresher course, or if your intention is to prepare for confirmation or make a formal renewal of your Baptismal Covenant, please join us. Call Gale at the parish office to register. 964-5514.

Christmas with Neighbors

By Stanton McGroarty

The Emmanuel Episcopal Community Kitchen, our Soup Kitchen, will serve Christmas Dinner on Christmas Eve this year. Our neighbors will be joining us as usual for a real feast. If you can be available on Saturday, December 24, from about 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, please consider joining us. As usual we'll have choir members and friends caroling during the meal, and the food will be sumptuous. But more than these, the Christian love of our parish will be richly available to our neighbors, many of whom



will be feeling particularly alone and unloved at this season. Poverty is always hard, but poverty at Christmas is especially demoralizing. Come share your joy, and it will be multiplied. I promise!

We will serve turkey and ham with all the fixings, as well as home made desserts provided by parishioners. 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! If you're new, this is your year! Many of the regular volunteers will be unable to help when we serve on the actual holiday. Rookies are welcome!

Here is where you can pitch in –

- **Cooks, Carvers, Servers, Cleanup Crew:** please email Stanton McGroarty at stanton@pobox.com or phone 815-985-6997. When we have a list, I will do job assignments and a schedule.
- **Dessert Chefs:** Please contact Stan if you'd like to donate some cakes or cookies for dessert. We plan to serve them with ice cream.
- **Musicians:** please email Trish Rooney at tearooney@charter.com or phone 815-985-0143. We'll need lots of singers to make the season bright.
- **Financial Donors:** 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. This meal will cost well over \$500. It will take some generosity to make it possible.

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, Saturday, December 24, 2011. Volunteer, and we will get back to you with the details in December.

Youth Choir Festival

By Trish Rooney

Emmanuel Youth, ages 6-14 are invited to participate in the 53rd Annual Youth choir Festival sponsored by the Rockford Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. The event will be held on Sunday, February 12th at Trinity Lutheran Church. There will be three featured choirs: The Kantorei Training Choir (The Singing Boys of Rockford), Holy Family Youth Choir and the Schola Youth Choir of Grace Episcopal Church in Oak Park. Choristers from several area churches will join with the featured choirs to sing two anthems and lead three hymns. Recordings and rehearsals will be provided for Emmanuel youth who would like to sing in the festival, "Raise a Voice of Gladness! Young Voices in Song". If you are interested in participating please contact Trish Rooney.

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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 4th

8:00 am – Server, Chalicist, Jordan Neal, Julie Beck, Lector – Tammy Hooks
10:30 am – Server, Hannah Mesa Crucifer, Noah Mesa MC, Zak DeRango
Torches, Sam Theyerl, Carter Rockwell Chalicist, Cindy Joesten, Sandy Billy

December 11th

8:00 am – Server, Chalicist, Mike Lewis, Tyler Hillman
10:30 am – Server, Elora Chapman-Neal Crucifer, Logan Chapman-Neal
MC, Amber Neal Torches, Jordan Martin, Emily Licon Chalicist, Bill Schnauffer, Barrie Gibby

December 18th

8:00 am – Server, Chalicist, Julie Beck, Tyler Hillman
10:30 am – Server, Sarah Torrence Crucifer, Corrine Berardi MC, Stacey Sauer
Torches, Emily Licon, Hannah Richter Chalicist, Stacey Sauer, Dale Thomas

December 24th

5:00 pm – TBD with youth group
10:30 pm – Server, Logan Chapman-Neal Crucifer, Briana Martin MC, Amber Neal
Torches, Sam Theyerl, Jordan Martin Chalicist, Mike Lewis Sub Deacon, Stacey Sauer Thurifer: Rich Theyerl

December 25th

8:00 am – Server, Chalicist, Tyler Hillman, Jordan Neal
10:30 am – Server, Briana Martin Crucifer, Bill Schnauffer MC, Corrine Berardi
Torches, Hannah Richter, Emily Licon Chalicist, Susan Rubendall, Sandy Billy

Lectors

Old Testament

New Testament

Prayers

December 4th

Cathy Ritts
Barrie Gibby
Nancy Sauer
Alan Gibby
Theresa Sinks
Dennis Horton
Marge Henning
Mary Kaul
Nancy Dale

December 11th

December 18th

December 24th

Mary Nielsen
Millie Zimmerman
Susan Chambers
Barbara Penn
Mary Dammann
Ben Rubendall

December 25th

Altar Guild

Scheduled by Mary Johnson, 963-0728

December 5-11 Barb Penn, Nancy Smith

December 12-18 Susan Rubendall, Nancy & Stacey Sauer

December 19-25 Joyce Apitz, Mary Johnson, Kathy Fillmore

Closers

Scheduled by Rosa Burnbaum, 873-8077

Maryanne Theyerl &
The Rev. Pamela Hillenbrand

Counters

Scheduled by Ron Wanninger, 968-4753

Robert Parker, Alan Gibby & Jan Wanninger

Ushers

8:00 am Service: Tom Beck & Byron Dale

10:30 am Service: Mendy Thomas & Lee Joesten

5th Usher:

12/04: Tom
12/11: Byron
12/18: Alan
12/25: Robert

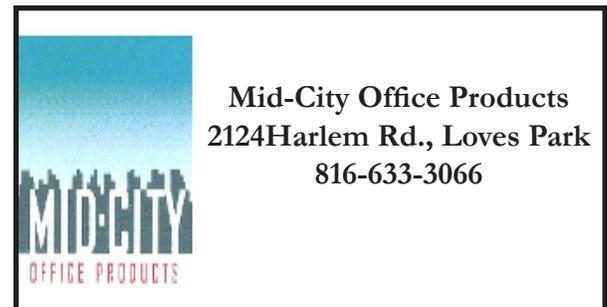




Celebrations

Birthdays

12/01	Zak DeRango
12/04	Bruce James
12/05	Linnea Liken-Aduddell
12/06	Sybil White
	Noel Saenz
12/07	Kay Hatch
12/08	Ruth Cox
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 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7p Emmanuel Reads the Classics	2	3
4 2 ADVENT 8a Spoken HE 9a Children at Heart 9:30a Christian Formation 10:30 Choral HE	5 PARISH OFFICES CLOSED	6	7 10 a HE, Chapel 10:30 First Lights Adult Study 4:15p Jubilee Church	8 5:30p Jeremiah Board 7p Finance Comm re:budget	9	10 7:30a Men's Group 9a L&C rehearsal
11 3 ADVENT 8a Spoken HE 9a Children at Heart/Choir practice 9:30a Christian Formation 10:30 Choral HE 11:45 Pastoral Care Comm 4p Confirmand/mentor dinner	12 PARISH OFFICES CLOSED	13	14 10 a HE, Chapel 10:30 First Lights Adult Study 4:15p Jubilee Church	15 11a Emmanuel Guild Silent Auction 6p Vestry Mtg	16	17 9a L&C rehearsal
18 4 ADVENT 8a Spoken HE 9a Children at Heart 9:30a Christian Formation 10:30 Choral HE 12p Greening 5p Lessons & Carols	19 PARISH OFFICES CLOSED	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 4p SCM Housing Christmas Party	21 10 a HE, Chapel 10:30 First Lights Adult Study 4:15p Jubilee Church	22 12p Jubilee Center Christmas Party	23	24 10:30a Emmanuel Soup Kitchen 5p Christmas Eve Family Service 10:30p Christmas music 11:00p Festal Choral Eucharist
25 CHRISTMAS 10:30 Sung HE <u>NOTE: ONLY ONE SERVICE TODAY</u>	26 PARISH OFFICES CLOSED	27	28 10 a HE, Chapel 10:30 First Lights Adult Study 4:15p Jubilee Church 5:30p SCM Board Mtg	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE