

The Good News

EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Life-Long Christian Formation & The Adult Forum

By The Rev. Pamela Hillenbrand

Faith is often more about exploring the question than having the answer. It is more about valuing paradox than trying to attain certainty. Emmanuel's Sunday Adult Forum is a place where people of faith gather to explore some of the big questions of faith. We often turn to DVD's and the help of renowned people of faith and scholarship to introduce us to a theme. But we take it from there, offering our own questions and our own perspective.

As Christians, we are called to a life-long commitment to broaden our understanding of what it means to be people of faith; to move beyond a fifth-grade understanding of Jesus, and develop a theological understanding of our own that is always growing and always serving to better our lives and those of others. It is a never-ending process. It never gets boring. I believe it to be a theological imperative.

If you have never participated in the Sunday Adult Forum, determine to do so now. You can participate at whatever level you wish. However, be warned – you may come deciding to be safely silent, and discover that you really have a lot to add to the conversation!! This February is a great time to begin, because we are starting a new series called: "Victory and Peace or Justice and Peace?"

John Dominic Crossan, recognized by many who have participated in Emmanuel's adult studies, is back on the scene, this time inviting us to a better understanding of the historical time of Jesus so that we might better understand Christian faith in the 21st century. Within the context of this fascinating conversation about the Roman Empire

in the first century, Crossan invites us to consider four questions: What is the character of your God? What is the content of your faith? What is the purpose of your prayer? and What is the function of your church?

Gather at 9:15 a.m. with your coffee, your questions, your curiosity and your commitment to nurture an informed, mature Christian faith!

Jeremiah Development at 809 Winnebago

By The Rev. Pamela Hillenbrand

Work continues at 809 Winnebago. Unfortunately, a broken water pipe under the concrete sidewalk in the front yard diverted work on the house for a bit and threw a monkey wrench into the budget. However, with the water turned off until the ground thaws, we are back in business.

Volunteers are needed on most Saturday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. However, please contact Peter via peterpeg@aol.com to let him know you are coming. He will be able to let you know if the morning has been cancelled for some reason. (Not another water pipe, we hope!) There are other ways besides "hands on" to help. Many items are needed for the house. Please make a contribution either by providing one of the items yourself (as in the case of light fixtures) or providing the money for Jeremiah to make the purchase (as in paint). The list of items needed is on the table in the narthex. Please take one.

The goal for the completion of the house is March 30. Before it is open to the public, we will have an open house so everyone can appreciate the transformation and celebrate its completion.

From the Rector

The Reverend Pamela M. Hillenbrand

Teri Cox: A Golden Apple Finalist

This morning I called Teri Cox to talk with her about her nomination as a Golden Apple recipient. Of course she wasn't home – she was spending Saturday with her students!! But Greg, Teri's husband, told me about some of the rigors of this nomination process. Intrigued more than ever, I followed up by logging onto the Golden Apple website, where I learned even more (www.goldenapple.org).

The Golden Apple has been awarded in Illinois since 1986. It is more than just an award of distinction; this award gives the recipients a sabbatical opportunity to continue their professional education and a platform from which to influence future teaching trends.

Over 600 teachers were nominated for the 2011 award. To continue in the process, each nominee then needed to complete a detailed application to include three essay responses and three letters of recommendation. Twenty finalists have now been selected, of which Teri is one. Next will be interviews with each finalist, as well as their colleagues, administrators, students, parents, and former students. Then a panel will observe each teacher in the classroom a total of four times. (No wonder, as Greg told me, not everyone who is nominated chooses to submit an application.)

Teri Cox teaches Civics, Chemistry and Physical Science in the Durand High School, working with students from their freshman level through their senior year. She serves as advisor to the Student Council, Science Olympiad, WYSE, and the National Honor Society. Teri is a Nationally Board Certified Master Teacher.

The Golden Apple recipients will be notified sometime in March, and the award will be presented in May. Congratulations, Teri. We are with you all the way. Thank you for your professional excellence, your passion for teaching, and for making such a significant contribution to the lives of our young people.

Holy Water Font

Not long ago a holy water font was given to Emmanuel in loving memory of Ron Billy by his wife, Sandy, and their family. The font was hung

by Ron's son, Jerry, on the left wall just inside the double stained glass doors to the sanctuary. Many of us appreciate the symbolic ritual of using the holy water as we enter and/or exit our worship space. But, if you have not experienced this as part of your religious tradition, you may be wondering about the significance of such a ritual.

As Episcopalians, we are people who believe that our faith is richest when we can experience and express it using all of our senses. This is why, along with the spoken word, we value artistic beauty, music, natural beauty, scents, tastes, and tactile experiences. So, we swing incense (sometimes!), we place real flowers in the chancel, we celebrate with wine and bread, we treasure light coming through beautiful stained glass, we delight in the voices of our choir and the way the bass pedals of the organ vibrate in our space, we pour copious amounts of water into the baptismal font and anoint with beautifully scented oils.

And ... upon entering or leaving this sacred space, many make the sign of the cross, having first dipped their fingers into the holy water ... appreciating this tactile sign of who we are and to whom we belong. Holy water is water that has been prayed over ... it is water that God has been asked to bless, to set apart for God's purpose. Through its use then, we ask for God's blessing that we too may be set apart for God's purpose.

Parish Nurse Ministry Expanding

Many of you who have attended the CHIP Wednesday evening program at First Presbyterian Church know first-hand one of the great benefits parish nursing brings to our churches! Some of you at Emmanuel have already benefited by turning to Rich Theyerl, our parish nurse, as a resource for your own wellness and health care.

Do you have questions about your health and wellness? Need to know where to turn for information and resources? Do you want to talk about end of life decisions? Perhaps you are needing to consider care for an aging family member. Or, you may want Rich to meet with your family as you consider health care implications and options.

See "Parish Nurse" on p. 3

Parish Nurse ... *continued from p.2*

Rich's commitment to his role as parish nurse has recently led him to leave his job as surgical nurse at St. Anthony's hospital and take a job as a hospice nurse. Rich will be working four days per week beginning in March or April, giving him one day he intends to devote to his ministry as Emmanuel's parish nurse. Rich has already been making visits to see people in care facilities and hospitals and visit with their family members. All of us have been blessed by Rich's presence, faith, and professionalism.

Please do not hesitate to call Rich or contact him via e-mail if you have something you would like to discuss. Rich knows the parameters of parish nursing and, if he is not equipped to assist you, will help you determine who is best qualified. Please contact Rich through the parish office (815/964-5514) or by Emmanuel's e-mail at parishnurse@emmanuelrockford.org.

Youth Choir Festival 2011

By Trish Rooney

The Rockford Chapter of the American Guild of Organists has changed the format of the Youth Choir Festival for this year. "Raise a Voice of Gladness! Young Voice in Song" will be presented on Sunday, February 13th at 4:30 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Ten area youth choirs will be participating with approximately 150 singers. The festival will feature youth choirs from several Rockford churches: St. Mark's Lutheran, Court Street UMC, the Polish Choir from St. Stanislaus Church and the Allen Chapel Youth Choir. In addition to the pieces that each individual choir will be performing, Marti Bein (guest conductor) will prepare the choristers from the featured choirs and several other churches to perform pieces together. Admission is free and a free-will offering will be taken. Please join us for a wonderful afternoon of inspiring music.

Simple Feasts Potluck

By Mary Johnson

There will be a large potluck at the church on Feb. 27 for all who are interested in Simple Feasts. At that time we will take the names to divide into small groups for this year's feasts. If you want to get better acquainted with more people in the church, we invite you to join in the fun of eating together

in small groups, four times during the year. If you have questions, call the church office or Mary Johnson 815 289-3886.

Emmanuel Reads the Classics

By Mary S. Johnson

Our first meeting of the new year will be Thursday evening, February 3, 2011, 7:00 p.m., at Border's. Our first book of the year is Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoevsky. Our book for March 3rd is a tad shorter, The Giver by Lois Lowry. Call Mary S. Johnson with questions, 226-1112.

Men's Group Meets 2nd Saturday in February

By Lou Matjasko

We conclude our video series discussions on "Naming Evil" on Feb. 12, starting at 8:00 a.m. in the Undercroft. Coffee will be ready and waiting. Our plans for March and later programs will be finalized. This is not a work projects group. No homework, either. Hope you will join us for informal fellowship and learning. We are out by 9:30.

Embodied Spirituality: Movement Prayer & the Labyrinth

Emmanuel's Barrie Carter Gibby will guide a gathering on Sat., Feb. 12, 9:00 - 4:00 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 3300 Rural St., Rockford, using the labyrinth as a spiritual tool to focus and quiet the mind away from the chaos of our busy lives. The day is a pilgrimage using scripture, Powerpoint, music, dialog, and movement to deepen our understanding of the labyrinth and the body/spirit mutuality, a connection we have forgotten. Labyrinth walking is a spiritual practice, a circuitous path to a New Jerusalem, a metaphor for our lives, opening our hearts to transformation and new dimensions with God. Rev. Loren Nielsen joins Barrie for the day. Cost is \$25, including lunch & snacks. Contact (815) 399-0531. For those of you who missed Barrie's gathering for Emmanuel women last spring, this would be a good opportunity to walk and pray!



Health Corner

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Hygiene and the Cup: Thoughts on Our Most Sacred Practice

We Episcopalians have a long tradition of receiving communion from a common cup. Indeed, it is this very act that draws me closer to my fellow congregants and provides a profound sense of connectedness to those with whom I commune. Periodically and usually in the presence of the “epidemic du jour” we begin to rethink this practice of sharing a cup. Please allow me to share some information that I have gleaned from various resources including the National Episcopal Health Ministries and peer-reviewed research from the Journal of Infection, the American Journal of Infection Control and the International Journal of Hygiene and Environmental Medicine.

- Since we have been keeping track of such things, we Episcopalians seem to be no more sickly than any other religion, faith, or denomination. A well-trained altar guild, chaliceist and Eucharistic staff will help to ensure that contamination in the cup is kept to a minimum. In fact, for the average communicant, the act of partaking from a common cup can be considered safe.
- Intinction (the act of dipping the host) is not a reasonable method of avoiding illness or protecting others. The fingers are generally more laden with pathogens than are the lips and by holding the bread and dipping it into the wine we transfer these germs to others. Bad juju.
- If you are sick or have any qualms about receiving from a common cup it is theologically valid to receive communion in one kind (the bread). This doctrine of *concomitance* has been employed by the church since the

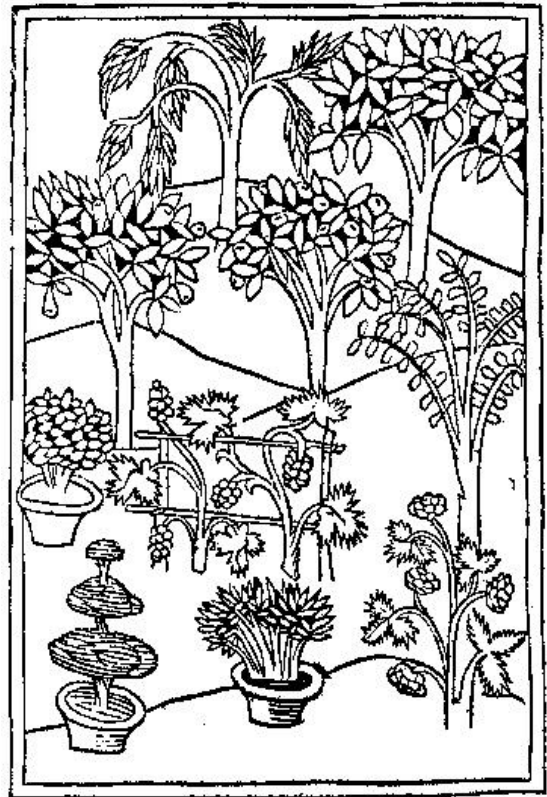
thirteenth century and is an effective way of protecting yourself or those around you. Simply fold your arms across your chest to signify to the chaliceist that you wish not to partake of the wine. Also, if you are in some way immune compromised then it would be a good idea for you to receive only the bread during communion.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns about this or any other health or wellness issue so that we may explore them together.

Faithfully yours,

Richard Theyerl, BSN FCN RN

[J Infect.](#) 1988 Jan;16(1):3-23.; [Am J Infect Control.](#) 1998 Oct;26(5):538-9. [Zentralbl Hyg Umweltmed.](#) 1998 Jun;201(2):167-88.



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

February 6th

8:00 am – Server, Chalicist, Jordan Neal, Tyler Hillman
10:30 am – Server, Hannah Mesa Crucifer, Noah Mesa
MC, Zak DeRango Torches, Sam Theyerl, Carter Rockwell
Chalicist, Barrie Gibby, Sandy Billy

February 13th

8:00 am – Server, Chalicist, Kylie Beck, Julie Beck
10:30 am – Server, Elora Chapman-Neal Crucifer, Logan
Chapman Neal MC, Amber Neal Torches, Jordan Martin, Emily
Licon Chalicist, Bill Schnauffer, Susan Rubendall

February 20th

8:00 am – Server, Chalicist, Mike Lewis, Susan Rubendall
10:30 am – Server, Sarah Torrence Crucifer, Corrine Berardi
MC, Nick Theyerl Torches, Emily Licon, Claire Mesa Chalicist,
Stacey Sauer, Cindy Joesten

February 27th

8:00 am – Server, Chalicist, -Jordan Neal, Julie Beck
10:30 am – Server, Brianna Martin Crucifer, Taylor Licon
MC, Corrine Berardi Torches, Sam Theyerl, Carter Rockwell
Chalicist, Rich Theyerl, Sandy Billy

Lectors

Old Testament

New Testament

Prayers

February 6 th	Susan Chambers Mary Nielsen Cathy Ritts
February 13 th	Mary Kaul Theresa Sinks Alan Gibby
February 20 th	Barbara Penn Millie Zimmerman Mary Dammann
February 27 th	Marge Henning Judy Schnauffer Nancy Sauer

Altar Guild

Scheduled by Mary Johnson, 963-0728

Feb. 7-13	Sandi Kelly, Barb Penn
Feb. 14-20	Susan Rubendall, Maryanne Theyerl
Feb. 21-27	Joyce Apitz, Mary Johnson
Feb. 28-Mar. 6	Stacey and Nancy Sauer

Closers

Scheduled by Mary Johnson, 963-0728

Feb. 6	Dan Kelly
Feb. 13	Micky Miller
Feb. 20	Mickey Swart
Feb. 27	Betsy Parker

Counters

Scheduled by Ron Wanninger, 968-4753

Nancy Sauer & Robert Magill

Greeters

Scheduled by Mary Dammann, 885-8211 or
msdjgd@comcast.net

Rich Theyerl & Adrienne Walker

Ushers

Scheduled by Bob Crawford 969-7450

8:00 service: Judy Pike & Dan Nicholas
10:30 service: Alan Gibby & TBA
5th Usher:
Alan Gibby - 2/6
TBA - 2/13
TBA - 2/20
TBA - 2/27

Celebrations

Birthdays

Elaine Hoyt	02/03
Kathryn Torrence	02/06
Ellen Erkert	02/08
Gloria Stadel	02/11
Suzanne Magill	02/11
John Dempster	02/13
Karlah Garza	02/13
Shane Venovic	02/14
Ian Cox	02/16

Wedding Anniversaries

Danny & Gale Degner	02/01
John & Mary Dammann	02/13
Trish Rooney & Stan McGroarty	02/14
John & Sharon Dempster	02/20

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Emmanuel Episcopal church

February 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 4:30 pm Jeremiah Organizing Committee	2 10 am HE, Chapel 10:45 Bible Study 6 pm CHIP @ First Presbyterian	3 7pm Emmanuel Reads Classics @Borders	4	5
6 8am Spoken HE 9:15 Chr Formation 10:30 Choral HE	7 PARISH OFFICES CLOSED	8 6pm Grace Guild	9 10 am HE, Chapel 10:45 Bible Study 4 pm Wardens' Mtg 6 pm CHIP @ First Presbyterian	10 5:30 pm Jeremiah Board	11 6pm DiscernmentMtg	12 8am Men's Group
13 8am Spoken HE 9:15 Chr Formation 10:30 Choral HE	14 PARISH OFFICES CLOSED	15 5:30 Jeremiah Training	16 10 am HE, Chapel 10:45 Bible Study 6 pm CHIP @ First Presbyterian	17 11 am Emmanuel Guild 6 pm Vestry Mtg	18 5:30 pm Happening Staff Training →	19 9 am Mendelssohn's Scholarship Competition
20 8am Spoken HE 9:15 Chr Formation 10:30 Choral HE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 PARISH OFFICES CLOSED	22	23 10 am HE, Chapel 10:45 Bible Study 4 pm Wardens' Mtg 5:30pm SC Board 6 pm CHIP @ First Presbyterian	24 3 pm HE @ Wesley Willows	25	26
27 8am Spoken HE 9:15 Chr Formation 10:30 Choral HE 6 pm All Parish SimpleFeast Potluck	28 PARISH OFFICES CLOSED					