



DECEMBER - 2019

From the Rector

Autumn Greetings! Soon we will all be meeting one another in person, and I am so looking forward to it. I think it especially poignant we begin our life together Advent I, the Church's own New Year's celebration. The excitement of what the year holds for us as individuals, as well as a community of faith, gives us much to ponder. As the world gets caught up in the flurry of Christmas activities, we have the opportunity to live in both worlds. The world of joyous celebration of all things Christmas as well as reflecting again on the birth of the Christ child. I like to keep a foot in both worlds as the days count down to December 25th.

I just wanted to share a little bit more about me before I arrive at Emmanuel on December 1. I am originally from Royal Oak, Michigan, which is North of Detroit. Mark and I have been married 35 years; I do believe I was a child bride and, since getting married, we have lived in England twice, and I have lived in Baltimore as well as Michigan and presently in North Carolina. When I am not working, I enjoy playing the piano, poorly, as well as cooking and reading. Reading is my favorite pastime, so I hope we can share book titles and opinions. I am also a big believer in sharing my books with others.

At present, I plan on being in the office Monday-Thursday, and I have an open-door policy, so I hope you will stop in and say hello. I know you will miss Fr. Bill, as he closes out his time with you. Good interims are challenging to find, so you all are fortunate to have had him leading you in the between time.

And until we meet December 1, Happy Thanksgiving!

The Reverend Diane Tomlinson



Nine Lessons and Carols 2019

Emmanuel Festival Choir

Wayne Hatwich, Director
Trish Rooney, Organist

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



A Festival

Saturday, December 14 at 5:00 pm
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
412 N. Church Street — Rockford

www.EmmanuelRockford.org

A freewill offering will help to support the music ministry at Emmanuel.



From the (Ex) (Interim) Rector

With Sunday being my last Sunday with you, I thought I might use this forum to reflect a little on our time together. It is hard to believe that it was a mere ten months ago that I came to Emmanuel. Your openness and hospitality made me feel at home almost instantly. That sense of belonging only grew as the months rolled on. One of the things that I love about interim work is joining new communities and meeting new people. One of the things that I like least about interim work is that the time to say good bye always comes sooner than I would like.

In this season of good-byes, I want you to know how grateful Bev and I are for the time we have spent here at Emmanuel. It has been a true joy for both of us. The friendships we have made and the ministry we have shared have strengthened our faith in God and given us hope for the future of the church. If there is one thing I know, it is that the Episcopal Church is a small place. I am sure we will see each other again. As Gandalf is wont to say, "Look for me at unexpected times." And remember, life is short... and you know the rest. May God continue to bless you and your ministry richly.

See you around! (and maybe even in church one day!!)



Stewardship 2020

We have two weeks left to go in our 2020 pledge drive. Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge, or an annual estimate of giving for 2020, thus far. In the pews, you will find pledge cards that ask you to make both financial and volunteer commitments. Please place your completed pledge card in the collection plate by Sunday, December 8. Our goal for 2020 is 100% participation from the congregation! Thank you for your generosity and commitment to our parish!



Birthday

Bruce James	12/04	Tammy Hooks	12/12
Linnea Liken-Aduddell	12/05	Parker Holton	12/16
Noel Saenz	12/06	Mendy Thomas	12/16
Sybil White	12/06	Steve Wanninger	12/18
Alan Gibby	12/07	Thailer Castrey	12/20
Kay Hatch	12/07	Elizabeth Castrey	12/21
Ruth Wheaton-Cox	12/08	Marilyn Freedlund	12/23
David Hooks	12/12	Janet White	12/30



PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Dec 24 4:00p Family Service

**Dec 24 9:30p Music of the Season
10:00p Festal Choral Eucharist**

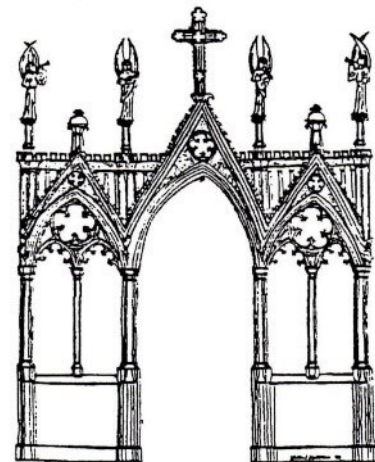
Come celebrate Christmas with Emmanuel!! Join us for either of our two services: a family friendly celebration at 4:00p.m. or the high mass at 9:30/10:00 p.m. The 4:00p.m. candlelight family service includes traditional carols and a recitation of the Christmas Story. Families are also welcome to bring the baby Jesus figurine from their home creche to be blessed. Our Festal Choral Eucharist begins with music of the season 9p.m. followed by a special 10:00p.m. candlelit service. Stick around afterward for a Martinelli's or champagne toast!

Evensong

Sunday December 1 at 5:00 p.m. Emmanuel will host an Evensong for Peace. We're sharing this most Anglican of all services to sing and pray for peace in the world.

The setting will be informal with string band music and new and ancient prayers. All are welcome.

Evensong



Labyrinth Walk

Weekly Advent Labyrinth Walks will be held on Wednesdays, beginning December 4, and continuing through December 18. 5-6pm - Nicholas Center (3rd floor). Celebrate the season and walk in anticipation of the coming of Jesus again into our lives.



Christmas Flower Offering Envelopes

Making a flower contribution is a wonderful way to honor those we love during this Christmas Season. Envelopes are located in the pews. Please have your Christmas offering envelope by Sunday, December 15 so they will be noted in all Christmas service bulletins.



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Emmanuel Reads

Emmanuel Reads will meet Thursday, December 5th, 7pm at Mary Dammann's house. We will discuss *The Paris Wife* by Paula McLain. Call Mary (815) 885-8211 for directions.



Children at Heart Christmas Party

Emmanuel Families, please join us **December 15th** In the Nicholas Center at 9:00am in lieu of our family service and Sunday school for our annual Christmas party. We will be making ornaments together and putting together candy canes for our friends at the Soup Kitchen. We will have a potluck breakfast, please bring your favorite breakfast item to share. See you then!





SHELTER CARE ANNUAL APPEAL

As a member of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Shelter Care applauds you for all you have done to

support our organization. In 2020, we celebrate 35 years of service to our community, and some of you have been here since the beginning. Because of your support, Shelter Care has successfully helped thousands of individuals and families achieve a better quality of life through three distinct programs: Supportive Housing, Jubilee Center, and MA-YA'S House. **We are truly grateful for all that you have done**, and hope that you will dig a little deeper this year and make a financial gift to our Annual Appeal.

Your support means so much to the individuals and families we serve like Dessiney.

"I was homeless and down. Shelter Care blessed me and my children with a home, clothes for every season, and food. They helped me get on track as far as employment, and have blessed me with furniture, and transportation to get back and forth to important appointments and employment. I don't feel homeless. I am back on my feet with a lease in my name and back to independence in my life. I will forever be grateful to Shelter Care."

There are more people like Dessiney and her children who truly need your help and are counting on your donation. **Your support is critical ... please pick up a pen, write a check or go to our website, and make your donation today!** Your gift will make an immediate difference to individuals and families in our community who need your help.

Thank you for considering this request. Together we can provide shelter, awaken hope and honor dignity. Have a Merry Christmas from the Shelter Care Board and Staff!

218 7th Street Rockford, IL 61104 (815) 964-5520

www.shelter-care.org



Shelter Care Ministries

You Can Awaken Hope Today! Christmas is just around the corner! This beautiful pewter pin would make a wonderful gift or stocking stuffer. You can purchase it for only \$20. (\$15 of each purchase goes directly to support the programming of Shelter Care.) This pin can be purchased at the Shelter Care Office, (218 7th St.) or online at sheldonpewter.com/shelter-care-fund-raiser.html. For more information call 815.964.5520.



Shelter Care

Artalé Fundraiser for Shelter Care: Shelter Care Ministries will be holding a wine tasting at Artalé Wine Company on January 3, 2020, from 5:30-8:30pm. Join us to sample various wines and enjoy an evening of friendship and camaraderie. Tickets are \$15 and will be available soon.



Soup Kitchen

Looking for a great way to get into the holiday spirit?! Come help at the annual Emmanuel Soup Kitchen Christmas meal! We will be serving turkey, ham, and all the trimmings on **Saturday, December 21 at noon**. We need volunteers to carve turkeys, help prepare the meal in the kitchen that morning, set up tables in the Jubilee Center for all our guests, and serve the meal. Please let us know how you would like to help. We need lots of volunteers for this special meal to be enjoyed by all. For just an hour or two of your time, you will be greatly rewarded. Contact Tammy Lewis at 815 601-8612 or John Birnbaum at 815 209-6822 to sign up or for more information. THANK YOU!! Merry Christmas!



Jubilee Christmas Party

Jubilee Center Christmas Ornaments: Help make the holiday season brighter for a member of the Jubilee Center. A Christmas tree in the Narthex will contain tag ornaments with the names of places where members would use \$10 gift cards. If you'd like to participate select a tag ornament (s), purchase the gift card and drop both off at the church office by Sunday, December 15. Members will receive the cards at their Friday, December 20 Christmas party.



Jubilee Jewelers

The Jubilee jewelers have been at it again! Please peruse their lovely new selection this Sunday in the narthex, including bracelet and earrings sets for \$20 and earrings for eight dollars a pair, or five pairs for \$35. All proceeds go directly to programming, with specific input from Jubilee members. Thank you for your support!



December 2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 Blessing of the Scarves 8am - Spoken Holy Eucharist 9:00am - Child at Heart Serv. 9:15am - Adult Forum 9:30am - Sunday School 10:30am - Choral Holy Euch. 5:00pm - Evensong	2 Parish Office Closed	3	4 5-6pm Labyrinth Walk	5 7pm - Emmanuel Reads at Emmanuel	6	7 4:30 - 6:30pm - Parent's Night Out
8 8am - Spoken Holy Eucharist 9:00am - Child at Heart Serv. 9:15am - Adult Forum 9:30am - Sunday School 10:30am - Choral Holy Euch.	9 Parish Office Closed	10	11 5-6pm Labyrinth Walk	12 5pm - Aspire Meeting	13	14 5pm - Lessons & Carols
15 8am - Spoken Holy Eucharist 9:00am - Family Christmas Party 9:15am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Choral Holy Eucharist	16 Parish Office Closed	17	18 5-6pm Labyrinth Walk	19 11am - Emmanuel Guild 6pm - Vestry	20 12pm - Jubilee Christmas Party	21 10-2pm - Christmas Soup Kitchen
22 8am - Spoken Holy Eucharist 9:00am - Child at Heart Serv. 9:15am - Adult Forum 9:30am - Sunday School 10:30am - Choral Holy Eucharist	23 Parish Office Closed	24 4pm - Family Christmas Service 9:30pm - Christmas Carols 10pm - Festal Choral Euch.	25 Merry Christmas No Christmas Day Service 	26	27	28
29 8am - Spoken Holy Eucharist 9:00am - Child at Heart Serv. 9:15am - Adult Forum 9:30am - Sunday School 10:30am - Choral Holy Eucharist	30 Parish Office Closed	31 New Years Eve				


Emmanuel
 EPISCOPAL CHURCH