

FEBRUARY - 2020

From the Rector

T.S. Eliot's poem, "Ash Wednesday," tells of his conversion to the Anglican Church in 1928. Eliot's poem is working out the tension of matter and spirit and the conscious choice to pursue God. Each Ash Wednesday I reflect on his words, in particular, the lines,

Because I do not hope to turn again
 Because I do not hope
 Because I do not hope to turn

I first came across Eliot's poem in "The Spiral Staircase" by Karen Armstrong. In her book, "Through the Narrow Gate," Armstrong writes of her time in a Catholic convent culminating in her decision to leave the order and pursue life as an academic. Her life outside the convent was one of twists and turns, triumphs and failures, most notably not granted her Ph.D. in Literature from Oxford. In book three of her memoir, Armstrong begins with Eliot's phrase, "Because I do not hope to turn again" to explain how she feels as a Christian unmoored by life's chances and changes. While Armstrong is descending her spiritual, spiral staircase, she realizes in the poem "Ash Wednesday," Eliot is ascending his. The question I return to, is like Armstrong's, do we not all suffer at times from the same malaise and spiritual confusion?

Lent presents a time for us to once again focus on what is important to us spiritually. In the past, Lent was a time of penance and fasting. It is now recognized as a time to examine our spiritual lives through intentional reading and prayer. The Rt. Rev. Cate Waynick shaped my way of thinking about Lent when she was my confirmation mentor. Her words still ring in my ears thirty years later, "Why give up chocolate for Lent if on Easter Sunday you are going to gorge on an Easter basket? What will you have learned? Why not add something to your life?" I took her words to heart, and since then, Lent is how I "right" my relationship with God. I am not so calendar focused, counting the days until I can have whatever it is I have given up. Instead, I embrace Lent as a time of spiritual development and study. I invite you to do the same.

But, we are all finding our ways to a deeper relationship with God. Perhaps you find meaning in giving up

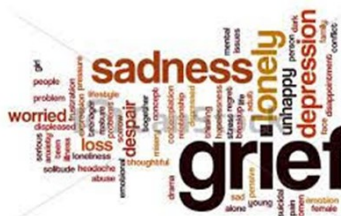
something for Lent. I applaud you for this. As individuals, we all have our paths of twists and turns as we navigate individually and corporately of who we aspire to be in this world. My hope and prayer for all of us as we greet Easter morning is we are better formed as Christians and human beings. During our season of Lent, I hope you will join us in worship and formation on Wednesdays and Sundays. As we once again turn to the light that is Christ. Diane+

Evensong

Sunday, February 2, 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.



Grief Support Group



Henri Nouwen, Catholic priest and founder of L'Arche wrote "The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in

an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing... not healing, not curing... that is a friend who cares." Loss is the physical loss of a loved one, but it is also the loss of a job, a way of life, or a dream.

Wednesday, February 12, at 7:00 pm in the Janet James Room, we will meet to share our feelings and experiences with grief. Please join us as we navigate the terrain of pain and sadness together. If you have any questions please speak with Diane.

Emmanuel Reads

Emmanuel Reads will meet on February 6th, at Mary Dammann's house 627 Trent Ln. Loves Park at 7pm. We will be discussing **Nightingale** by Kristin Hannah. Come bring an idea for our next book. We encourage anyone interested in a book we're reading to join us for that meeting or more. Call Mary at 815-520-2990 with any questions.



Woman's Spirituality



Women's Spirituality Group will be meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2020. The meeting will be at Mary Dammann's at 7 pm. Refreshments will be served. Call Mary at 815-520-2990 for directions or any questions.

Emmanuel Guild

Members enjoyed a delightful Christmas luncheon with caroling. Each member brought household cleaning items to share with the Shelter Care Ministries families.



Weather Policy

After a vestry discussion, the following inclement weather policy was agreed upon: when the Rockford City Schools are closed due to bad weather, weekday and evening activities at Emmanuel are cancelled.



Snow Ball 2020

Snow Ball 2020
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
412 North Church St
815-964-5514
Friday, February 21st
6:00 – 9:00pm

(Tickets will be on sale beginning this Sunday thru 19)
Join us for a fun filled evening of dinner and dancing
\$25.00 Per Person
Music provided by DJ Jerry from JETI
Entertainment
Food will be catered by Deli Italia
Adults only please

Intergenerational Valentine Crafting Event



Please join us for this fun all-church event! We'll be crafting fun Valentine themed items and gifts, or you can make a delicious Valentine treat.

Sunday, February 9th, 9:00 am
Emmanuel's Undercroft

No previous crafting skills necessary

Love Labyrinth Walk

Wednesday, February 12 – 5:00 – 6:00 PM

Hold the Love of God in your heart as you walk the circuits of Emmanuel's labyrinth. The Love Labyrinth has become an annual event celebrating love in our lives, reflecting on the love we receive and the love we give. Third floor Youth Center. Enter at parking lot double glass doors.



Family Winter Dance

Saturday, February 15th is our second annual Family Winter Dance! Come dance the winter chill away from 4-7pm. A dish to pass sign up sheet will be in the narthex and hot dogs, chips and beverages will be provided. Please feel free to bring a friend from school to join in on the fun and get those dancing shoes ready!



Lenten Booklet

The Aspire Committee invites you to join in Emmanuel's preparation of the 2020 Lenten Booklet,

Bountiful Spirit. Would you write a paragraph on a daily scripture reading or perhaps a personal reflection around your spiritual journey? If your answer is "YES", please add your name to the booklet in the Narthex.

Bountiful Spirit has been an annual Lenten companion which explores small and large ways to grow in faith with offerings of personal reflections from our parishioners, church friends and families.

Signup sheets will be available at church on the first three Sundays of this new year. The deadline for written submissions is **February 10th** so the **Bountiful Spirit** Lenten Booklet can be made available Sunday February 23rd.



Shelter Care

On Behalf of the Board of Directors and the Shelter Care Staff, we THANK YOU for contributing to our success in 2019. Some of you gave your time, talent, or treasure or all of the above, and we are grateful for your support. Volunteers, sponsors, and donors are vital to our existence, and we truly appreciate all your contributions.

Also, if you didn't hear the good news... Shelter Care won the Excelsior Award presented by the Rockford Register Star for outstanding community service. This honor is given to an organization whose work has a positive impact on life in the Rock River Valley. We are very proud of this award and thank those of you who have been part of the Shelter Care journey.

As we move into 2020 Shelter Care celebrates 35 years of service to our community through the Jubilee Center, MAYA'S House and Supportive Housing. Watch for upcoming details on our 35th celebration. Shelter Care Annual Spring Luncheon

Mark Your Calendar Today! Wednesday, May 6 at Prairie Street Brewhouse We're bringing back our popular Spring Market Place If you are interested in donating to the market place we are doing a garden theme and looking for items that fit in that category or we would love to have baked goods. Please contact the office and we would be happy to sign you up. 815.779.210.8835 or ldennis@shelter-care.org

Birthday

Eliot Hardesty	2/06	Bryson Gates	2/18
Kathy Torrence	2/06	Leadell Schmitt	2/18
Rick DeRango	2/07	Rob Sinks	2/20
Ellen Erkert	2/08	Susan Chambers	2/21
David Hatch	2/08	John Chapman	2/22
Suzanne Magill	2/11	Russell Schmitt	2/26
Phil James	2/14		

Anniversary

Danny & Gale Degner	2/01
John & Mary Dammann	2/13
Stan McGroarty & Trish Rooney	2/14

Financial Planning | Estate Planning
Retirement Planning | Investments



Jason J. Crouch, CRPC®
Vice President/Investments
(815) 654-5500
6952 Rote Road, Suite 100
Rockford, Illinois 61107

Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated
Member SIPC & NYSE | www.stifel.com

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10-2pm Soup Kitchen
2 8am - Spoken Holy Eucharist 9:00am - Choir Rehearsal 9:00am - Child at Heart Serv. 9:15am - Adult Forum 9:30am - Sunday School 10:30am - Choral Holy Eucharist 5pm - Evensong for Peace	3 Parish Office Closed	4	5 10am - Mid-week Holy Eucharist	6 6pm - Emmanuel Reads	7	8 4:30 - 6:30pm - Parent's Night Out
9 8am - Spoken Holy Eucharist 9:45am - Choir Rehearsal 9:00am - Child at Heart Serv. 9:15am - Adult Forum 9:30am - Sunday School 10:30am - Choral Holy Eucharist	10 Parish Office Closed	11	12 5-6pm - Love Labyrinth Walk 7-8pm - Grief Support Grp 10am - Mid-week Holy Eucharist	13 5pm - Aspire Meeting	14 Valentines Day 	15 4- 7pm-Family Winter Dance
16 8am - Spoken Holy Eucharist 9:00am - Choir Rehearsal 9:00am - Child at Heart Serv. 9:15am - Adult Forum 9:30am - Sunday School 10:30am - Choral Holy Eucharist	17 Presidents' Day Parish Office Closed	18	19 10am - Mid-week Holy Eucharist	20 11am - Emmanuel Guild 6pm - Vestry	21 6-9pm pm - Snow Ball	22
23 8am - Spoken Holy Eucharist 9:00am - Choir Rehearsal 9:00am - Child at Heart Serv. 9:15am - Adult Forum 9:30am - Sunday School 10:30am - Choral Holy Eucharist	24 Parish Office Closed	25 7pm - Women's Spirituality at Mary Dammann's	26 10am - Mid-week Holy Eucharist 12pm - Ash Wed. Serv. 5:30pm - Shelter Care Board at 7th St. 7pm - Ash Wed. Serv.	27	28	29



Emmanuel
 EPISCOPAL CHURCH