



The Messenger

February/March 2023

The Rector's Epistle

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Lent has been imagined over the years in various ways: a desert journey, a wilderness experience, spring cleaning for the soul, and more. And these are all good and holy imaginings. I have had the privilege, several times, of going on pilgrimage in the United Kingdom in the footsteps of Celtic and Anglo-Saxon saints. Spiritually walking the path from Iona in the West of Scotland, through Melrose to Holy Island and finally, to Durham. One of the images from these pilgrimages that keeps coming into my mind is that of the labyrinth, specifically the labyrinth on St. Columba's Bay on the island of Iona. Set in a beautifully wild and remote place, with the Sea next to it and seabirds wheeling overhead, it is the perfect place to reflect on God's goodness in Creation, to experience being alone with yourself and with God, and to enact the movement, the journey of Lent.



The journey begins with a path inward, towards the center, embodying and symbolizing the journey inward that Lent invites us to undertake. This journey into the interior of our souls can be scary- we fear what we might find there, or sometimes what we know we will find there. But the reality of Jesus Christ is that we do not take that journey inwards alone. As we shine light into the dark corners of our being, the One who is Light, accompanies us in love. And the truth is that while we will find a lot of spiderwebs and things that need to be cleaned up or thrown out, at our very core we find the image of God. We find the thumbprint of God at the center of our beings. And once we have encountered that, we begin the journey out- because you can't stay at the center of a labyrinth or of your own being forever, and deeply connecting with the image of God-within compels us to then

move outwards. Outwards to build relationships with others, to serve as the hands and heart of Christ for others.

The good news is that you don't have to go to Iona or anywhere else to take this journey. You can do it right here at Emmanuel. We do this in our Sunday worship, our educational programs, and our opportunities to serve our neighbor. This Lent, in particular, we are offering a Wednesday evening series with a simple soup supper and a walk through time, from the earliest Christian worship service, to the most recent Episcopal worship service. We will learn a little about the Church at a given period in time, then celebrate Eucharist with a service from that era. Volunteers to provide soup and/or bread for an evening would be greatly appreciated!

And on Sunday mornings we will take a walk through our lives via discussion and reflection on Kate Bowler's guides "Bless the Lent we Actually Have". One of the guides is for individuals and one is for groups. Ideally, they are companions to her book *The Lives We Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days.*, available at many bookstores and online. Kate Bowler is a theologian whose studies and life experience have led her to a place of finding blessing in the midst of ordinary everyday life as well as in truly awful circumstances. She is funny, honest, smart, and engaging. Here is an invitation from Kate in her own words: "During Lent, we ask God to show us the world as it is. We begin with the reality of our finitude rubbed on our

Worship Schedule

Sundays

Holy Eucharist, Rite I,
8 a.m.

Holy Eucharist, Rite II,
with music, 10:30 a.m.

...continued from page 1

foreheads on Ash Wednesday—from dust we were made, to dust we shall return. Then, we walk through that reality in a kind of dress rehearsal. It's the downward slope of God—the Great Descent, where the whole Church walks toward the cross. Frankly, Lent is my favorite part of the church calendar because it is a time when the whole church is on the losing team. A time when we all get a minute to tell the truth: Life is so beautiful and life is so hard. For everyone.”

The daily guide provides a Scripture verse, reference to pages in the book, a prompt for a check in with yourself, a link to an excerpt from a podcast, and a prayer for each day of Lent. And the weekly group guide provides a theme for the week, Scripture, some discussion prompts, and a prayer. Ideally, participants will do the daily guide and then meet to do the weekly guide on Sundays- but you can just come to the Sunday discussion if a daily commitment feels like too much!

Participants can download a copy of her guide at <https://katebowler.com/blessthislent/> and I will have some printed copies on hand as well. We will meet at noon in the Parish Hall and you can feel free to bring a bag lunch with you.

I invite you to pray and participate in whatever ways you can. And “I invite you, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a Holy Lent”. It is a privilege to be on this journey with you.

Peace,
Claire+

Senior Warden's Corner

We, at Emmanuel, have now had a little more than a month of getting to know Claire and she us. It has been and continues to be exciting times.

Many thanks to everyone in the parish for patience during the extended search process and the long wait for Claire's arrival. A special thanks to the Search Committee for their perseverance and determination in the process and particularly to Libby Rice, their wise and fearless leader.

Kudos too to the Transition Committee and to John Schratwieser for bountiful and fun celebrations and for helping Claire get acquainted with Emmanuel and with the community.

Thanks also to the Vestry for cheerfully taking on extra duties during the Interim and keeping things running smoothly.

We were blessed and privileged to have two of our own, The Rev. Eleanor Ellsworth and The Rev. Allen Spicer as our preachers and celebrants during the Interim as well.

It was been and long and somewhat onerous journey complicated by the 8-ton elephant in our lives, COVID, that we can't seem to be rid of, but we have come out the other end, happy and looking forward to continuing the great beginnings.

“Weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing come in the morning.” Psalms 30:5

We are fortunate not to have had much weeping, and now have much to be joyous about.

Blessings,
Sandy

From the Junior Warden

The Town of Chestertown no longer offers curb-side pick up of recyclables. I'd like to request a few volunteers to monitor the recycling and the church, and take the items to any of the recycling containers in and around town. Thanks.

Tom Mack

Coffee with Claire

Over the next few months I would love to have coffee with you. To get to know you a bit, hear your story, learn a bit about your hopes and dreams for Emmanuel. To that end, there will be a sign up sheet in the parish hall and on my Google calendar so you can sign up (instructions to do that will follow!). We can meet in church, at a coffee shop, or at your home. If you have questions email me at rectoremmanuelchestertown@gmail.com or call the church office.

Did You Know. . .

...that **Abigail Ticknor** recently bowled a game of 174? Abigail is a member of the Mid-County Youth League, and has the third highest score in the Minors division. Way to go, Abigail!

...that Emmanuel will celebrate Valentine's Day with dinner and a movie, hosted by Joe & Vicky Smith? See page 4 for more details.

...that the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will return to Emmanuel on February 20? Ann Hedgepeth and her band of volunteers will feed the flock, beginning at 6 p.m. See page 5 for more details.

Rector Housing

In recent years, priests have been moving away from being housed in a rectory, primary because when they live in rectories there is no opportunity to accumulate equity that enables home purchases on their own.

For parishes that have a rectory what are the best options when a priest chooses not to use it?

Keep the rectory – Upside: it will be available if a future priest should want it. Downside: it will require a maintenance, heating/cooling/ yard care.

Rent the Rectory – Upside: there is some income to cover costs. Downside: the church becomes a landlord with all the complications involved as well as acquiring tax implications.

Sell the Rectory – invest the proceeds to help with meeting the obligation for rector housing.

The Vestry, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, approved beginning a process to sell the Rectory. We received permission from the Bishop and Standing Committee of the Diocese to proceed as required by National and Diocesan Canons. The property was listed, and the sale was completed on December 28, 2022.

The Emmanuel Housing Fund was created with the net proceeds from the sale. The fund will be managed by Easton Episcopal Fund and no more than 5% per year will be used to for the Rector Housing allowance.

Lenten Series

Wednesday, Feb 22 marks the beginning of our yearly journey into Lent. This year I invite you to join me each Wednesday, beginning March 1, in the Parish Hall at 6 pm for a simple supper (volunteers to provide soup are needed!) and then walk through Christian history- learning about what was happening at various points in the growth and life of the Church. We will then Celebrate Eucharist according to the custom of the era, beginning with the earliest known Christian Eucharist and ending with the most recent one approved for use in the Episcopal Church. Join me for this walk through history! Claire

Laundry Love—Update

Yesterday (January 26) was special as our volunteers helped the patrons wash and dry 93 LOADS of laundry. This was made possible with a record amount of quarters supplied by our Emmanuel. Anne Bricker, Rachel Carter, Jennifer Emley, Bill Flook, and Frank fed the machines ! We welcome any new helpers -February 23rd, 5—7 p.m., next date.

by Kathy Durkee



Twelfth Night Celebration

It's been three years since we have been able to celebrate the end of the Christmas season with Twelfth Night Evensong and the traditional dinner that followed. Both in 2022 and 2023, a surge of COVID and flu during those times made it unwise to have our usual festive events.



There might be another tradition to consider for Twelfth Night that could be held mostly outside and would have only the weather to be concerned about. That tradition is the Burning of the Greens. I have heard on reliable authority that in the distant past, this was a community event in Chestertown that took place at the foot of High Street with an accompanying fire truck.

The Burning of the Greens has a long history dating back as far as the 4th century CE and became most popular in Victorian times. The eternal life that Christ brings to the world can be symbolized Christmas greens. The season ends with the coming of the Magi and beginning of Epiphany which is the season of light. What better way to celebrate than to burn the Christmas greens to represent Christ as the light of the world while singing carols and enjoying chili and mulled cider around the fire?!!

We at Emmanuel may not want to forgo our tradition dinner, but it might be helpful to have an alternative celebration available when it isn't prudent to have a large indoor gathering. This event would require some planning – street closures, permits, possible advice from the Dickens Weekend folks, etc.

If anyone is interested in joining me for a little research into the feasibility/possibility of an event like this, please let me know.

Sandy Bjork

Valentine's Dinner and a Movie

by Vicky Smith

Emmanuel Church invites you to a multigenerational festive Valentine's Day dinner with champagne and sparkling cider, on Tuesday, February 14 at 6:00pm. We'll be serving pasta, salad and bread with meat and vegetarian options. As we eat dinner we will watch the movie *Up*, followed by dessert.

There is a sign up sheet in Parish Hall, so we have an estimate of how many people to expect. Please stop by and sign up. (If you forget to sign up, but remember on Feb. 14 that you want to go, come ahead anyway!)



Sunday School

by Jenny Lee Freebery

Our Christmas Pageant was a huge success. The kids did a wonderful job reading and walking down the aisle in their roles as angels, sheep, wise people, and the holy family. Although several of the lambs did indeed run away from the front of the church, all were quickly herded back and never truly lost. It does bring up the potential need for a sheepdog next year! We started off strong in the new year with an escape room themed around the journey of the Magi. The very smart group of students not only quickly solved all the puzzles, but they used the rest of class to create an escape room style journey for me to



follow, complete with clues and puzzles leading between the different classrooms! This past week I made some baaa-d sheep puns, and the kids learned about Jesus as the good shepherd and the lamb of God. The kids (and I) dressed as shepherds and sheep for communion. More fun and antics are in the works as the spring semester continues!



Spreading Holiday Cheer

by Penni Walker Doyle

MANY, MANY thanks to those who left Christmas/holiday cards with postage for Jennifer Road Detention Center. The Chaplain and Receptionist (!) remarked at what an amazing contribution we made. While talking with the Chaplain, I found out that Mother's Day is an even more popular day for incarcerated people wanting to reach out to loved ones. SO, if you'd like to donate Mother's Day cards or cards of appreciation, WITH postage, for Mother-type figures, I'll deliver them to the Detention Center. If we start soon, we may accumulate enough to reach out to the Detention Centers I don't currently work with in Kent and Queen Anne's Counties. I'll leave a donation box in the Fellowship Hall. Emmanuel is a community that gives. Our commitment to being in the community and supporting community is one of the reasons I joined Emmanuel. THANK YOU again. Penni

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (abridged)

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is back!! **February 21th 5:30 to 6:45pm.**

Freewill offering will be donated to a local organization our youth decide upon. They will discuss and let us know on the 21st.

With all our parish has going on during the first two weeks of February, we thought it best to not go as BIG as we typically do.

Part of keeping it simple is *not* extending the invitation beyond our Parish *this* year --That said – we won't turn anyone away!

The other part of our *abridged* Shrove Tuesday is a **simplified menu:**

Pancakes and Sausage (with Syrup and Butter)
Scrambled Eggs (primarily for non-pancake lovers).

Cheesy Grits – (we've got to have grits!)
Juice, Coffee and Tea.

We are working with our wonderful Jenny, and Sunday School kiddos and families to help with the evening. We will need some additional hands to help both in the kitchen and with set up and clean up. (Richard LaMotte has agreed to help flip pancakes, but I'm sure he'd love some help!)

Sign-up sheets will be in the Parish Hall this Sunday. Please let us know you plan to attend and if you can pitch in with either time or ingredients and if you have an electric griddle to loan for the evening be sure to let me know.

Ann Hedgepeth – annhedgepeth@gmail.com - 443-480-1304

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

EVERY WEEK

KNIFTY KNITTERS—Meets each Monday at 1 p.m. in Dwyer Hall.

CHOIR REHEARSAL—Choir rehearses every Tuesday, September through early June, from 5—6:30 p.m., and every Sunday morning, beginning at 9:30 a.m. (*subject to change*)

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS—Meets each Thursday evening, 8 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

FEBRUARY

MARCH

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

2 p.m.—Heron Point Eucharist

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 12 NOON—2 p.m.

Vestry meeting following 10:30 a.m. service and Coffee Hour

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 8 a.m.

Brotherhood of St. Andrew's Breakfast

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Celebration of New Ministry, 4 p.m.

Come celebrate with Claire as she is formally inducted into her official role as 34th Rector of Emmanuel Church, Chester Parish.

No morning services on this day

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Office closed in observance of Presidents' Day

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, SHROVE TUESDAY

Join your fellow parishioners for a delicious Pancake Supper. Watch the E-Mail News for more details.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

ASH WEDNESDAY

Worship with us as we begin and invite you to a Holy Lent. Services at 12 noon and 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 5—7 p.m.

Laundry Love. Call Kathy Durkee for more information

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 6 p.m.

Lenten Study series begins. See page 3.

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

2 p.m.: Heron Point Eucharist

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

Spring Forward! Set your clocks AHEAD one hour before you go to bed, or you will be very early for Church! Remember—the first one in gets to preach!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

Submission deadline for articles/photos for April/May *Messenger*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 8 a.m.

Brotherhood of St. Andrew's Breakfast

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 7:30 p.m.

Organ concert featuring Katherine Johnson

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

9:30 a.m.: Single service of Holy Eucharist, Rite II, followed by the Annual Parish Meeting

4 p.m.: Eastern Shore Wind Ensemble Concert
Free admission

FLOWER MEMORIALS, PARISH PRAYER CYCLE

Worship in February

February 5 (G) Epiphany V

Altar Flowers: Anthony Gray Scott

Parish Prayer Cycle: Penny & Jim Block; Julie, Brent, Adele, Gardner & Oliver Blyman; Ann Bourne; and Barbara Jorgenson & David Bowering

February 12 (G) Epiphany VI

Altar Flowers: Dorothy Vickers Anthony

Parish Prayer Cycle: Bernadette & Paul Bowman; Ann Boyden; and Janet Brandon

February 19 (G) Last Epiphany

No Morning Services

Celebration of New Ministry at 4 p.m.

Altar Flowers: In honor of the Rev. Claire Nevin-Field, 34th Rector of Emmanuel Church, Chester Parish

Parish Prayer Cycle: Robyn Brayton; Anne Bricker; M.G. Brosius; and Carolyn Spencer Brown & Teijo Niemela

February 26 (P) Lent I

No Flowers during Lent: Christmas Memorials

Parish Prayer Cycle: Phyllis Brown; John Buckley; and Anne Charles

Notes: Uppercase letters in parentheses indicate liturgical colors:

B=black, BL=blue, G=green, R=red,
LA=Lenten array, P=purple, W=white

Worship in March

March 5 (P) Lent II

No flowers during Lent

Parish Prayer Cycle: Melissa Clarke; Ginger & Tom Collier; Sid Cooper; and Steve Croker

March 12 (P) Lent III

No flowers during Lent

Parish Prayer Cycle: Mary Booth Davis; Betty de Jong; Betty Quimby-Demmler; and Nancy & Tom DiAngelo

March 19 (P) Lent IV

No flowers during Lent

Parish Prayer Cycle: Alec Dick; Nancy Dick; Karen & Gerry Dockstader; and Penni Walker Doyle

March 26 (P) Lent V

**Single Service at 9:30,
followed by Annual Meeting**

No flowers during Lent

Parish Prayer Cycle: Sandee & David Durfee; Kathy & Frank Durkee; and Mackey Dutton

April 2 (P) Palm Sunday

Flowers: Palm Sunday

Parish Prayer Cycle: Eleanor Ellsworth; Jenifer Endicott Emley; Brenda Fazekas; and Barbara Fertig

April 9 (W) Easter Sunday

Flowers: Easter Memorials

Parish Prayer Cycle: Claire Nevin-Field & Andrew Field; Suzanne Fischer; and Karen & Richard Fitzgerald

**Remember to set your Rooster ahead
one hour on Saturday night, March 11!
(Clocks and watches, too!)**



Remember—The deadline for the April/May issue of *The Messenger* is **Wednesday, March 15**. Submit your hard-copy articles to the Parish Office, or e-mail them to emmanuelchestertown@gmail.com. We would also love to have copies of any pictures of the Parish at work or play for inclusion in future articles.

Staff:

The Reverend Claire Nevin-Field,
Rector
Stephanie LaMotte, *Director of Music
and Choirmaster*
Avis Wheatley, *Organist*
Jenny Lee Freebery, *Youth Christian
Formation*
Laura Kaufmann, *Parish Secretary*
Sue Byerly, *Financial Assistant*
Melvin Thompson, *Sexton*

Parish Officers:

Sandra Bjork, *Senior Warden*
Thomas Mack, Jr., *Junior Warden*
Tim Lavery, *Treasurer*
Penny Block, *Registrar*

Vestry:

Term end dates are in parentheses

Nancy Dick (2023)
Earl McGimpsey (2023)
Betty Weller (2023)
Jim Block (2024)
Ann Hedgepeth (2024)
Phil Ticknor (2024)
Anne Bainbridge (2025)
John Schratwieser (2025)
Joe Smith (2025)

Emmanuel Church, PO Box 875
Chestertown, Maryland 21620
emmanuelchestertown@gmail.com
www.emmanuelchesterparish.org
410-778-3477