



A Publication of
Emmanuel Church, Chester Parish
Chestertown, Maryland

The Messenger

December 2022/January 2023

Advent Epistle

Dear Siblings in Christ,

I am delighted to be joining you soon at Emmanuel and I am looking forward to doing ministry with you, together being the hands and heart of Christ for our little corner of the world. And I am especially delighted to be joining you in Advent, one of my favorite seasons of the Church year.

Advent is a season filled with hope and promise. It is what I think of as a “hinge” season that wants us to look backwards and forwards at the same time, a hinge between God’s “then” and God’s “next”.

First, Advent looks backwards at the past- at what God has done. Writ large that means we hear in Advent the thundering cries of the prophets, the laughing disbelief of Sarah as God tells her she will bear a child and the joyful laughter when she gives birth to Isaac. We hear John bellowing in the wilderness announcing the One is coming into the world. And we hear Mary’s roar of “YES” to the Divine invitation to be part of the God project.

But Advent also calls us to look forward into God’s future, to look to whatever it is that God is up to next in our lives and in the world. What exactly that will be, I don’t know- for myself or for you- but I trust that it will ultimately be for the good. And I do know that this season, right now, calls us, like Mary, to allow our lives to be turned upside down by God, to become God-bearers. Which sounds a little unsettling and a bit intimidating. But the good news is that God has always worked through the unknown and the unlikely- in other words, through you and me, and that God is always present to us and with us.

Here at Emmanuel we are at a hinge point. You, the people of Emmanuel, know where you have been, the ministry you have done together in this place. And you can probably close your eyes and see the faces of the saints who have gone before you at Emmanuel. At the same time, we, together, are in a season of new beginnings, watching and listening for how the Spirit is moving among us in ways both old and new. My prayer this Advent is that we listen with one ear tuned to the past- to the voices of the prophets and Mary, and with one ear tuned to the future into which God is always calling us. And then, together, may we step forward into that future with courage, hope, and joy.

In Christ,
Claire+

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.

Worship Schedule

Sundays

Holy Eucharist, Rite I,
8 a.m.

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

Emmanuel Church, Chester Parish
PO Box 875
101 North Cross Street, Chestertown, Maryland 21620
Telephone: 410.778.3477

Change to the 2023 Annual Meeting

Dear Parishioners of Emmanuel,

As you know, our Annual Meeting has most recently been held following the service on the last Sunday in January. The purpose of the meeting is elect a slate of leaders for the parish, Junior and Senior Wardens, one class of Vestry members, and Delegates and Alternates to Diocesan Convention as well as for a presentation of the year's budget and review of the activities of the parish. Our bylaws require presenting the slate to the parish at least 60 days prior.

Our next rector, The Rev. Claire Nevin-Field will be joining us on December 1st. She will need some time to get to know us and we her, and to become familiar with activities at Emmanuel. We will be busy with Advent, Giving Tree, Christmas, and Twelfth Night during her first weeks here.

After some consideration and consultation with Claire, it has been decided to delay the 2023 Annual Meeting for a time to a future date to be determined. Our bylaws allow this as long as the Annual Meeting is held before November 30th. This will allow Claire to have time to decide on the Wardens.

The Vestry Class of 2023, Nancy Dick, Earl McGimpsey, and Betty Weller are eligible for a second term and have agreed to stand for re-election. The Delegates to Convention, Sandy Bjork, Jim Block, and Lynn McLain agree to represent Emmanuel at the March 4th Diocesan Convention. Two Alternates to Convention, Nancy Dick and Darlene Housley also agree to serve. As allowed by the bylaws, the Vestry has appointed Vicky Smith as the third Alternate.

We feel this arrangement will work best for our new rector and for the parish.

For the Vestry,

Sandra Bjork
Senior Warden

Tom Mack
Junior Warden

Cc: The Rev. Claire Nevin-Field

Get to Know Claire

On Sunday, Dec. 11 at noon (ish) in Dwyer Hall, join Claire for an informal session of about an hour to get to know a little more about her. Claire will talk a little about herself and her journey to Emmanuel, as well as answer your questions (though she does not promise to answer every question). Feel free to bring a bag lunch.

Bible Basics

The Bible is the foundational text of Christianity and yet many of us are not familiar with its history, its context, or how we approach it as Christians. Join Claire for a 2 week class in Bible 101. This class is for both those who have been in church forever and those who are new to the whole thing! In the months to come we will then focus on specific books of the Bible as well as the Parables, the Healing & Miracle stories and more! We'll meet on **Sunday January 8 & 15 in Dwyer Hall at noon** and each class will last about an hour. Feel free to bring a bag lunch. If you have questions contact Claire at rectoremmanuelchestertown@gmail.com or call the church office.

Did You Know. . .

. . . **Lisa Webb** is portraying Potiphar's wife in the Garfield production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat opening Friday, December 2? <http://chestertownspy.org/2022/11/09/the-garfield-centers-joseph-and-the-amazing-technicolor-dreamcoat-to-open-december-2/>

. . . The rectory has been approved for sale by the Bishop and the Standing Committee? It is listed with Coldwell Banker realtors.

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS from September

- Continued to monitor income and expenses as well as the response to pledge appeal
- Approved the Apportionment asking for 2023
- Chose Coldwell Banker as the listing agent for the rectory. Listing goes "live" on December 2.
- Continued to discuss the Transition
- Received reports from the Vestry liaisons to the various parish committees including the Bazaar

Diocese of Easton

The 155th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Easton will be held Saturday, March 4, 2023 at St. Peters, Salisbury.

The theme is "Reaching Rising Generations – Mission Imperatives of a Post-Covid Church", (Isaiah 40:30-31; Matthew 13:51-53)

Please Note: due to limited seating only clergy and delegates will attend convention in-person. Alternates and guests are encouraged to attend via Livestream.

- Convocation Meetings via Zoom will in December and January. The meetings will begin at 7:00pm
- December Meeting - Wednesday, December 14, 2022 Livestreamed via Zoom
- January Meeting - Tuesday, January 31, 2023 Livestreamed via Zoom

Safe Church

A revised and more inclusive program, based on Safeguarding Our Children, tailored for our Diocese is on the Diocesan Council agenda for the November 28th meeting and is expected to be approved. Details will follow soon.

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Changes in Diocesan Leadership

The Bishop has made the following appointments:

- The Rev. Frank St Amour as Dean of the Northern Convocation
- John Dragone as Lay Canon to the Ordinary
- Mark Hansen as Hispanic/Latino Missioner

Q&A With Our New Rector

We are all excited about Claire's arrival, and we all want to get to know her. Is there anything in particular that you would like to know about her? Perhaps:

What drew you to Chestertown?

What are your favorite books, other than the Bible?

Where do you like to go on vacation?

Claire has graciously agreed to participate in a Q&A! Everyone is invited to submit questions. Please email them to elizabethriedel@hotmail.com. We will post question and answers on our parish Facebook page.

Senior Warden's Corner

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

As you read this, we will have bid our dear Darcy goodbye and will be about to welcome or will have welcomed The Rev. Claire Nevin-Field as the 34th rector of Emmanuel.

We survived the transition which taught us, especially me, about the enormous job that a priest has in managing a parish. Thanks to all of you for your willingness to jump in to help with the tasks. We were blessed to have wonderful guest celebrants and preachers, two of whom, Eleanor Ellsworth and Allen Spicer, the 29th rector of Emmanuel, are fellow parishioners and two others, Sheila McJilton and Sam Hartman, are well known and good friends.

As we start a new church year and a new chapter in the life of Emmanuel, I know that we will be supportive of Claire, and I hope will be open to learning new approaches while treasuring traditions. This is the beginning of a new adventure. I'm sure we will make the most of it.

Wishing all of you a blessed Advent and a joyous Christmas, and every good thing in the year to come.

All the best,

Sandy

Choir News!



Music Notes

by Stephanie LaMotte

Upcoming Special Services

During this busy holiday season, I hope you will find time to focus your heart on the true meaning of the season. Our upcoming special services are a great way to help with this!

Lessons and Carols - Sunday, December 18 at 4:00 PM

A beautiful service with nine Scripture readings read by various members of the congregation. Filled with the music of Advent and Christmas, you will leave with your heart encouraged!

Christmas Eve - Saturday, December 24 at 5:00 and 9:00 PM

What a joyous time of celebration together as we rejoice in the birth of Jesus and sing the eagerly-anticipated carols of Christmas.

Twelfth Night Evensong - Thursday, January 5 at 6:00 PM

A special service of music that celebrates the Feast of the Epiphany

The Giving Tree

by Judie Willock

Mark your calendars and put on your Santa hats: Emmanuel's Annual Giving Tree will happen this year beginning on the First Sunday of Advent (November 27, 2022).

This year, working with the Kent Family Center again, we hope to be able to donate gifts of toys and clothing to the girls and boys under the age of 5. But this year we are asking you NOT to wrap your gift. We will also be purchasing gifts cards from Acme and Redners for the families. Cash donations are appreciated as well.

Please check the weekly bulletin as it gets closer to Advent and the Christmas shopping season for more information, especially gift suggestions for the children. Thank you as always for your generous support.



Christmas Memorials

The Flower Guild invites parishioners to donate toward the decoration of the church for the Christmas season. If you would like to make a gift in memory of a loved one, please call Laura in the Parish Office at 410-778-3477. The Guild suggests donations of \$50. Please make checks payable to Emmanuel Church with "Christmas flowers" on the memo line. Memorials received by **Monday, December 19 will be listed in the Christmas season programs.**

Wednesday, December 21, 9 a.m.—Wreath-Making

Come and make wreaths for decorating the church on Thursday, December 20, beginning at 9 a.m. The Flower Guild will provide the greens, frames, instructions, and assistance. Bring your own clippers! All are welcome.



Reverse Advent Calendar

from Art Leiby

I saw this posted to Facebook by someone; she credited The PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.com

Each Day Add an Item to a Box. On Christmas Even Donate the Contents to a Food Bank.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| December 1: box of cereal | December 13: canned beans |
| December 2: peanut butter | December 14: box of crackers |
| December 3: stuffing mix | December 15: package of rice |
| December 4: boxed potatoes | December 16: package of oatmeal |
| December 5: macaroni and cheese | December 17: package pasta |
| December 6: canned fruit | December 18: spaghetti sauce |
| December 7: canned tomatoes | December 19: chicken noodle soup |
| December 8: canned tuna | December 20: tomato soup |
| December 9: dessert mix | December 21: can of corn |
| December 10: jar of applesauce | December 22: can of mixed vegetables |
| December 11: canned sweet potatoes | December 23: can of carrots |
| December 12: cranberry sauce | December 24: can of green beans |

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.

DECEMBER

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

2 p.m.—Heron Point Eucharist
The Rev. Claire Nevin-Field
joins Emmanuel

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

Last day to bring gifts for the Giving Tree
4 p.m. Service of Advent & Christmas
Lessons and Carols

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 8 A.M.

Brotherhood of St. Andrew's Breakfast

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

5 p.m.—Family Worship Service with Pageant
9 p.m.—Traditional Worship Service
with Festal Music

JANUARY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

2 p.m.—Heron Point Eucharist
6 p.m.—Service of Twelfth Night Evensong

MONDAY, JANUARY 16

Office Closed—Martin Luther King Day

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

Submission deadline for articles/photos for February/
March Messenger

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 8 A.M.

Brotherhood of St. Andrew's Breakfast

Ah, the Mondegreens of Christmas!

"Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming"

Misheard Lyrics:

She swore to menace Xavier
One has-been Worcester knight.

Original Lyrics:

She bore to men a savior
When half-spent was the night.

"Ave Maria"

Misheard Lyrics:

No beast pack a tory booze

Original Lyrics:

Nobis peccatoribus

"Mary's Baby"

Misheard Lyrics:

Mary's baby, Son of Sam

Original Lyrics:

Mary's baby, Son of Man

"I Head the Bells on Christmas Day"

Misheard Lyrics:

The bell frees up all prison scum.

Or

The bell freeze up all Christians dumb.

Original Lyrics:

The belfries of all Christendom.

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Misheard Lyrics:

Gloria, in egg shell cease day-o

Or

Gloria, in Aunt Chelsea's stable

Original Lyrics:

Gloria in excelsis deo.

FLOWER MEMORIALS, PARISH PRAYER CYCLE

Worship in December

December 4 (BL) Advent II

Altar Greens: Debby Pritzlaff

Parish Prayer Cycle: Tracy, Ron, & Harriss Walters; Mary & Anthony Ward; and Laurel Ward

December 11 (BL) Advent III

Pink Roses: Irene Betzer

Parish Prayer Cycle: Jeffrey Warden; Lisa & Bill Webb; Betty Weller; and Clif West

December 18 (BL) Advent IV

Altar Greens: Margaret Metcalfe Brogan, William John Brogan, and Fredrica Brogan Tumolo

Parish Prayer Cycle: Avis Wheatley; Darcy Williams; Debbie & Mike Williams; Melissa Willis; and Judie Willock

December 25 (W) Christmas Day

Flowers: Christmas Memorials

Parish Prayer Cycle: Linda Parry & David Wing; Joan Wise; Genie & Michael Wootton; and Erin, Karl, Bo, Mackie, & Tills Zierfuss

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 January

January 1 (W) The Holy Name

Flowers: Christmas Memorials

Parish Prayer Cycle: Pam & Ron Abler; Bunny & Frank Adams; and Peggy Albertsen

January 8 (W) Epiphany I

Flowers: Harriett V. Kratzer

Parish Prayer Cycle: Anne Landon Allen; Janie Ashley; and Anne Bainbridge

January 15 (G) Epiphany III

Flowers: Dorothy Q. & A. Colclough Dick

Parish Prayer Cycle: Leslie Baldwin; Stu Baldwin; Bob Barnes; & George Barnum

January 22 (G) Epiphany III

Altar Greens: Ann Wilmer & Alexander H. Hoon, and Isabel Perry & Philip George Wilmer

Parish Prayer Cycle: Barbara Belden; Marcia Bell; and Nancy & Ben Bennington

January 29 (G) Epiphany IV

Flowers: This Date is AVAILABLE

Parish Prayer Cycle: Drew Berding; Helen Billings; Sally Bitter; and Sandy Bjork

February 5 (G) Epiphany V

Flowers: This Date is AVAILABLE

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

THE ADVENT POLICE



Waiting for Christmas is hard, even for grown-ups. Have a blessed Advent.

Remember—The deadline for the February/March issue of *The Messenger* is **Tuesday, January 17**. 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*
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)

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