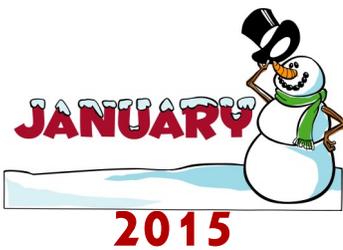


# EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## HIGH NOTES



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### A Note from Chuck

I know many of you may have read **One Solitary Life** before; but there's always a chance someone may not have ever read this piece. It bears repeating at the beginning of this New Year 2015.

#### One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village. The child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village. Where he worked in a carpenter shop. Until he was thirty when public opinion turned against him.

He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never went to college. He never visited a big city. He never travelled more than two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He did none of the things usually associated with greatness. He had no credentials but himself.

He was only thirty-three.

His friends ran away. One of them denied him. He was turned over to his enemies. And went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing; the only property he had on earth.

When he was dead. He was laid in a borrowed grave; through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone; and today Jesus is the central figure of the human race.

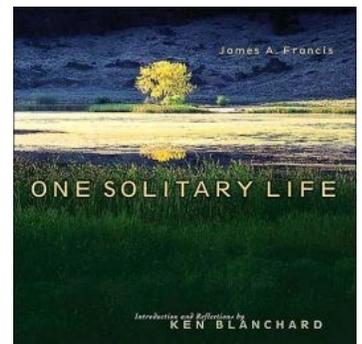
And the leader of mankind's progress. All the armies that have ever marched. All the navies that have ever sailed. All the parliaments that have ever sat.

All the kings that ever reigned put together. Have not affected the life of mankind on earth.

As powerfully as that **one solitary life**.

*(attributed to: Dr James Allan Francis)*

It begs the question: what will we do with the one solitary life God has given to each one of us?



#### High Notes Submissions

Articles for the February *High Notes* must be submitted to the [church office](#) by January 21.

Peace friends,

*Chuck*

## Our 10-Year Vision for Emmanuel

Emmanuel Episcopal Church is a thriving, engaged and creative parish working to educate and meet the needs of children, youth and adults; live and demonstrate our Christian values; and create a more humane and just world through community service and outreach.

### Diocesan Bishops

The Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston  
The Rt. Rev. Susan Goff  
The Rt. Rev. Ted Gulick

### Emmanuel Church Staff

#### Rector

The Rev. Charles C. McCoart, Jr.

#### Priest Associates

The Rev. Rosemari Sullivan  
The Rev. Joani Peacock

#### Seminarians

Alex Allain  
Scott Steiner

#### Director of Spiritual Formation for Children and Youth

Toni Buranen

#### Organist/Choir Director

Ryan Fitch

#### Parish Administrator

Kelli Corts

#### Administrative Assistant / Receptionist

Heather Starek

#### Nursery Caregivers

Lilian Urrea  
Rosa Alarcón

#### Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

#### Church Office Hours

Monday—Thursday  
10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

#### Emmanuel Episcopal Church

1608 Russell Road  
Alexandria, VA 22301  
703-683-0798 (phone)  
703-683-6158 (fax)

[office@emmanuelonhigh.org](mailto:office@emmanuelonhigh.org)  
[www.emmanuelonhigh.org](http://www.emmanuelonhigh.org)

# Our Path to Emmanuel Episcopal Church

By Pat and Kerry Adams

Patrick and I met in 1995, and as a young couple living in Old Town, we decided to start attending church.

Neither of us had a strong religious foundation, but Pat had attended Catholic high school, and my mother was raised Catholic, so we decided on a conveniently located Catholic Church in Old Town. We were both confirmed there, and a few years later we married there.

During our wedding preparation, we started to have doubts about our choice in church. The priest marrying us seemed very concerned that our parents were divorced and remarried and that among the people who would be involved in the ceremony were step-

parents, half-siblings, people with tattoos, and worst of all — non-Catholics, but this was our family, and it was important that they all play a part in our wedding. We worked through these “issues” and the wedding was a success, but we stopped attending regularly as the sermons began to feel judging and harsh. It did not appear that ALL were welcome.

A few years later, after our twin daughters were born, we decided to give it another chance, but we felt ourselves questioning more. I remember very little about the last mass we attended, but one line stands out in the priest's sermon that day. He said something to the effect of: *Catholicism is not an a la carte religion, you cannot accept parts of it and reject others and call yourself a Catholic.* I looked at Pat and our unbaptized toddler daughters and knew we would not be going back.

We researched other churches and religions and decided the Episcopal faith was a much better fit. We started attending Christ Church in Old Town, and it was welcoming and comfortable. Our short time there was enriching, but when I got a call from a good friend who said Father Chuck was now the Rector at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, it was a game changer.

Everyone in the local Catholic community knew Father Chuck, and having attended Chuck's alma mater, West Springfield, our paths had crossed a few times. He presided over several weddings and unfortunately funerals of close



(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

friends, and I always found his words about faith and God poignant and relevant.

We attended our first service at EEC in July 2013, and we immediately felt at home. Friendly faces welcomed us, and our daughters Ava and Samantha were given activity bags to enjoy during the service. Chuck's sermon about sparring with Jesus and keeping your heart soft resonated with us. In November 2013, the girls were baptized at the age of six. They started attending Sunday School, but sometimes they prefer to grab an activity bag and sit with us through the service. I like to believe they are absorbing at least some of what they hear.

A few months ago in the middle of one of Chuck's sermons, Ava blurted out, "I found Jesus!" Although slightly embarrassed by the outburst, I was struck by her passion. When I looked over, I discovered she had simply completed the Word Find.



In any other place of worship, this disruption might have garnered scorned looks, but all I saw were friendly faces. We love that EEC serves "in the spirit of love, friendship, compassion, fellowship and fun." We are grateful to have found the church we call home...and of course grateful that Ava found Jesus!

## Epiphany Services

### Family Sunday — Sunday, January 4 — 10:30 a.m.

Families old and young — individuals, couples — neighbors and friends .... all are invited as our young people take special participation in our liturgy as we continue to remember and celebrate the Joy that is all around us this Christmas Season.

### Epiphany / Baptism of the Lord — Sunday, January 11 — 10:30 a.m.

Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles and the visit of the Wise Men to the Christ Child. The Baptism of the Lord is the feast day commemorating the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist.

**Calling ALL Babies!** We welcome all who would like to have their child baptized on this special day. Please contact Chuck if you'd like to have your child baptized at this special service.

### 2014—2015 Vestry

Bob Carragher (*Senior Warden*)  
Michelle Vaughan (*Junior Warden*)  
Emily Buckman  
Leo Cruz  
Bob Feden  
Bryan Moore  
Adam Schildge  
Joe Scott  
Meredith Wade  
Doug Wheeler

Gene Lange (*Treasurer*)  
Vonda Delawie (*Clerk*)

### Contacts for Emmanuel Parish and Worship-Related Activities

Acolytes: [Dave Buckman](#)  
Altar Guild: [Christina Bartley](#)  
Building and Grounds: [Meredith Wade](#)  
Coffee Hour Baristas: [Adam Schildge](#)  
Counters: [Jim Bradley](#)  
Inreach: [Nancy Dupree](#)  
Music (Adult and Youth Choirs): [Ryan Fitch](#)  
Music (Guitar Circle): [Stewart Bartley](#)  
Newcomers Welcome: [Lola Beggs](#)  
Parish Office: [Kelli Corts](#)  
Preschool Liaison: [Leo Cruz](#)  
PrimeTimers: [Jim Bradley](#)  
Readers and Chalice (10:30): [Jerry Boykin](#)  
Readers (8:00): [Ted Sullivan](#)  
Sewing Group: [Gudrun Callahan](#)  
Shrine Mont Parish Retreat: [Joe Scott](#)  
Twenties and Thirties:  
[John and Katherine Flower](#)  
Ushers: [Bob Callahan](#)  
Vestry: [Bob Carragher](#)  
Worship: [Emily Buckman](#)

### Christian Education

Adult Spiritual Formation: [Beth Boland](#)  
Sunday School: [Toni Buranen](#)  
Youth: [Toni Buranen](#)

### Outreach

ALIVE!: [John and Katherine Rider](#)  
Alexandria Tutoring Consortium:  
[Kelly Dresen](#)  
Bag Lunch Program: [Karen Coda](#)  
Carpenter's Shelter: [Marco Dkane](#)  
Free School Physical Program: [Bonnie Lilley](#)  
Giving Tree: [Kerry Adams](#); [Rachel Kliewer](#)  
Haiti (Sister parish of St. Martin de Tours):  
[Rosemari Sullivan](#)  
Meals on Wheels: Fred De Luca

### Fundraising

Annual Giving Campaign: [Bob Carragher](#)  
Backpacks for Community Lodgings:  
[Barbara Harslem](#)  
Foundation: [Jane Kolson](#)  
Haiti Coffee Sales: [Mary Beth Edgar](#)  
United Thank Offering: [Bonnie Fairbank](#)  
Yard Sale: [Margaret Wohler](#)

## Meet Susan Coombs Ruble



Susan Coombs Ruble has been making Emmanuel baptismal banners for over 35 years. She is now making banners for second-generation baptismal candidates.

Susan has been a member of our

church since she was 10 years old when her family relocated to Alexandria from Maine. Other members of her family at Emmanuel are her mother, Betty Coombs, and her sisters, Mary Tinsley and Sally Masri. She was married here in 1978 to her late husband, Calvin "Ron" Ruble, and has two sons, Robert Andrew and Mathew Blades, both baptized and confirmed at Emmanuel.

Now that she has retired from her 30+ years as a Clinique consultant at Macy's, Susan is very excited to join the Craft/Sewing Group. It's obvious to all that she loves to make the banners for our baptismal candidates and that she enjoys the pleasure they bring to everyone.

Thank you, Susan, for sharing your wonderful gifts with us for these many years. Your banners are a treasure and grace many a child's room throughout our community.

Chuck with the other members of our Craft/Sewing Group at their annual Christmas luncheon.



## American Winter and Warm Clothing Drive

Sunday, January 11 — 6:30 PM



On Sunday, January 11, at 6:30 p.m., in the Memorial Room, come see the HBO film produced in 2013 by Emmy Award winning Harry and Joe Gantz. It features the stories of eight families struggling through a harsh winter in the aftermath of the Great Recession. While the stock market rebounded, millions of ordinary Americans still struggle to

meet their basic needs. Many formerly middle class families due to the financial crisis find themselves needing help to keep food on the table and their houses warm. We'll do more than watch a movie. In the spirit of Epiphany, like the Magi we invite you on Sunday, January 11 to bring gifts of new and very gently used warm clothing — mittens, hats, scarves, gloves — for the children and youth at Community Lodgings. Coats and jackets will go to help families at Carpenter's Shelter.

## January Offerings at VTS

**LIFETIME THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION**  
Courses Offered Year-Round

*Strengthen your knowledge. Explore your faith. Come learn with us.*



VTS's Evening School of Theology has a great line up for classes starting in January. Each is a great way to dive deeper spiritually and to stretch your theological horizons.

This semester's lineup includes:

*(Continued on page 5)*

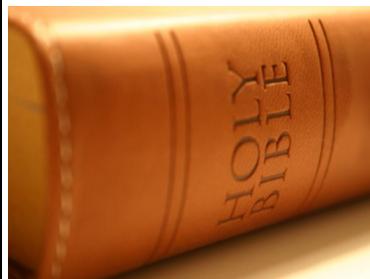
(Continued from page 4)

- Civil Rights, Justice and Inclusion: Identity and Witness in the Episcopal Church
- For Facts, For Fiction, For Faith? Six ways Christians Read the Bible
- Major Themes of the Qur'an: A Reading with Beduizzaman Said Nursia
- Abraham and the Lamb
- The World of the Reformation: Baptism
- The Preaching of Visionaries and Mystics

Classes begin January 15. For more information, [click here](#) for the schedule of classes and instructors, and to register.

## Tuesday Morning Adult Education

The Tuesday morning Bible Study will continue to examine the Gospel according to John. We have been comparing John's distinctive voice with the other three Gospels and conducting a type of scavenger hunt to find



and decode the recurring themes introduced in the amazing introduction to John's Gospel. Come join the discussion! It's held in the Memorial Room, from 10:00—11:30 a.m.

## Everything Episcopal: Worship, History, Mission and Ministry

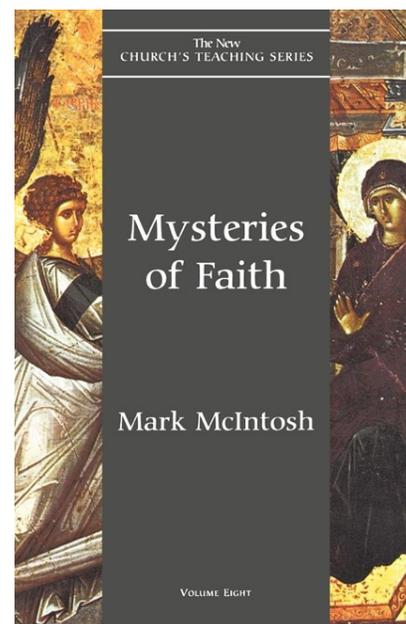
The Sunday morning Adult Forum **reconvenes January 11**. Many have voiced an interest in learning the basics of what it means to be an Episcopalian. Many likewise are looking for a way to delve deeper into our catholic and protestant roots and traditions. **"Everything Episcopal"** is designed both to help ground us in the faith as well as expand our Anglican horizons.

Starting January 11 at 9:15 a.m. in the Memorial Room, this six part series is based on the "New Church's Teaching Series". The books, written by noted theologians, are engaging, substantive, and accessible. But not to worry! No reading is required! The class can also serve as preparation for confirmation.

The forums will be led by your clergy: Joani and Chuck, as well as Emmanuel's two seminarians: Alex and Scott.

- **January 11 "Living with History"** — A look at the roots and heritage of Anglican faith.
- **January 18 "Opening the Prayer Book"** — An exploration of the Book of Common Prayer, worship and sacraments.
- **February 1 "Opening the Bible"** — An Anglican approach to reading the Bible with the "three legged stool".
- **February 8 "Mysteries of Faith"** — What Anglicans believe: Trinity, incarnation, resurrection, heaven, saints, etc.!
- **February 15 "Ethics after Easter"** — Episcopal approach to important moral issues of the day.
- **February 22 "Horizons of Mission"** — The mission and ministry of Emmanuel, the Diocese, Anglican Communion.

Any questions? Just contact [Joani](#).



# From the Office of Spiritual Formation for Children and Youth

Merry Christmas and happy new year, dear EEC Families!

I hope this finds you all rested and ready to face a new year! This is a strange time of year for many — for me, personally, it makes me feel a little wistful and melancholic in celebrating (?) the passing of time and thinking about the ways I have wanted to — yet maybe haven't — lived compassionately, consciously, gratefully. And yet, I also find it a useful time to ponder again my commitment to living a kind, simple, yet abundant life. Of course, I wish those things even more for my children and sometimes find it harder to live up to my values for their sake. My wish for you and your families this new year is that you are able to take time to reflect in a spirit of faith and to consider what is most important to you and yours. And then, that you are able to celebrate every step you take towards that mission which is God's plan for you.

As a ministry at EEC, the Office of Spiritual Formation for Children and Youth is also going to take a closer look at our mission here at Emmanuel. **On Sunday,**

**February 1, after the 10:30 a.m. service, we will be having a Parent Town Hall meeting** in an effort to ponder the formation path for our children and youth at Emmanuel. Our goal is for there to be one representative from every family present so that we can get a true picture of how to proceed in our future efforts to serve our young people. We will offer child care (we are working on this currently!) and pizza for the children and youth so that the parents may have some time to convene. Please stay tuned for more information.

Read on for a few more tidbits and know that you are all in my prayers during this holy season. Thanks for sharing your children with us on this journey!

*With peace and gratitude,*  
Toni

**January Family Service:** Our January Family Service will be Sunday, January 4 at the 10:30 service.

Children will be invited to sing and per usual are encouraged

to arrive at 10:00 a.m. for an opportunity to rehearse and be comfortable with the song. We invite families to contact us if they or their child would like to participate in the service in some way as gift bearers, banner carriers, readers (for the older children and youth), acolytes, etc. Check out the scene from our December service!



**God & Donuts:** The God & Donuts team will be meeting on the second and fourth Sundays of the month in the parish hall from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. This is an effort to make it easier for our middle school youth, grades 6 – 8, to participate! The next meeting will be Sunday, January 11. We hope your youth can join us!

## **Holiday Season Warm Clothing Drive continues through January 11!**

This is a wonderful way for our children to learn about helping people who are in need. All parishioners are invited to

participate. Adults, please join us for the screening of American Winter in the Memorial Room on the evening of January 11. Go to page 4 for details on this.

**Book Club anyone?** Because none of us are very busy (ha!), I am pondering offering an opportunity for parents in our community to read and come together to discuss books relevant to our parenting. We could either offer an ongoing, online forum, which could be user and time friendly, OR a good old fashioned scheduled gathering. If you think you might be interested in participating in this or helping to lead it, please contact [Toni](#) and stay tuned!

*"We spend January 1 walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives... not looking for flaws, but for potential."*

~Ellen Goodman

# Advent Gala Celebration

Many thanks to each and every one who contributed to a wonderful event on December 6, our first big fundraiser for Emmanuel's outreach program. Because of your generous support and many helping hands, we were able to raise almost \$14,000! Indeed an amazing accomplishment.

I want to especially thank: Mary Ann Frank and her team (Lee and Nancy) for putting together a great silent auction; Bob Carragher (with helper Alex and Beth) for stepping in as an outstanding auctioneer for the live auction; Katherine and John Rider; Kerry and Pat Adams, and the entire TnT group for taking care of the bar (you were the party — loved the bow ties Amy); Sarah Orndorff, our amazing PR person, for putting the word out and creating our announcements; Meredith, Vonda, Cappie, and Pat for gathering and making all the delicious food; Torrence for filling in everywhere; Peggy and Chris, for helping at the registration; Stewart, Bucky, Jennifer, and Beth for providing us with some great entertainment; Kelli and Heather for helping out in the office; and Bob and Jeanne for being our accountants at the end. And last but not least, Chuck together with the Vestry, for trusting me to move forward. Huge thank you everyone!

Many other people were involved as well, by donating items and showing up as support. This event was successfully accomplished due to an amazing group of people here at Emmanuel. We couldn't have done this without any of you, and it shows that we truly care for our outreach program. Thank you everyone. Great evening.

*Sincerely yours,  
Christina Bartley*





St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble in concert at Emmanuel on December 22.



Brett and Margaret Wohler on Family Crèche Sunday.

## Fellowship / Outreach

### Super Bowl Party

Join us for our annual Super Bowl party on Sunday, February 1, in the parish hall, from kick-off to the post-game re-hash. Watch the Thursday e-news for details.



### Given to the Glory of God: A Year of Flower Donations

The 2015 flower sign up sheet has been posted in the Parish Hall. Take a moment to consider how you or your family might celebrate an occasion (wedding, birthday, anniversary), remember a loved one who has died, honor a special friend or family member, or express gratitude for any number of things. Then select a date and note your intention on the calendar posted for this purpose in the Parish Hall. Donations for Altar Flowers can be made [online](#). Alternatively, note Altar Flowers and the date you choose on the memo line of your check, and place it in the offering bag. We recommend a donation of \$50. Many thanks!

### 2015 Summer Camps at Shrine Mont

Although the temperature outside has dropped, things in the Diocesan Office of Christian Formation are just starting to heat up as they prepare for Shrine Mont Camps 2015. The [dates](#) for each and every one of our camp sessions are set and [camp descriptions](#) are ready to help you decide what camp is the best fit for your camper. Applications will be available [on-line](#) and in brochures which will be available this month.

# ALIVE! Opportunities

During this time of festivity and giving please remember those people less fortunate than ourselves and take the opportunity to support one of our key outreach charities. Below are some requests.

## Food Program Wish List

Please continue to keep the ALIVE! baskets full of food by donating the following.

- Canned meat and tuna
- Canned spaghetti sauce
- Canned fruit
- Peanut butter and grape jelly
- Complete pancake mix (needs only water)
- Syrup
- Dried milk
- Money to buy meat (We are able to purchase meat at \$0.19/pound, so a \$20 donation buys more than 100 pounds of meat for those in need.)
- \*Low sugar and low salt food is much preferred and appreciated.



## ALIVE! House Wish List

- Dish soap
  - Laundry detergent (unscented preferred)
  - Bleach
  - Trash bags
  - Paper towels
  - Toilet paper
  - Diapers — size 1, 2, 5 and pull ups
  - Baby wipes
  - Vacuum cleaner
  - TVs (2)
- If you are able to donate any of these items, please contact the [ALIVE! House](mailto:ALIVE! House) (703-684-1430).

## ALIVE! Child Development Center Walkathon Sponsors Needed

Would your company be interested in supporting this event?

The ALIVE! CDC will hold its annual Walkathon fundraiser in May 2015. They are looking to gain business sponsors for the event starting at \$250. If your business wants this opportunity to be seen by crowds of people then please contact the [CDC](mailto:CDC) (703-548-9255).

## ALIVE! Furniture Distribution

Emmanuel is responsible for staffing the ALIVE! Furniture Program on Saturday, January 17. We will be picking up donated furniture items and delivering them directly to people who need them. The day starts at 8:00 a.m. from the First Christian Church parking lot (2723 King Street), and you should be finished by noon or earlier if there are a lot of helpers. You do not need to be particularly strong, but the more volunteers there are, the quicker and more fun it will be. Please e-mail [John Rider](mailto:John Rider) if you are able to help.

## Last Saturday Food Distribution

Volunteers are needed to help bag and distribute nonperishable food and fresh produce to low-income families at one of three locations in Alexandria:

- Cora Kelly Recreational Center (25 West Reed Avenue);
- Ladrey Senior Residence (300 Wythe Street); and
- Church of the Resurrection (2280 N. Beauregard).

Date: January 31

Time: Approximately 8:30 a.m.–12:00 noon

Contact: [volunteers@alive-inc.org](mailto:volunteers@alive-inc.org), 703-837-9300 ext. 2





EMMANUEL  
PRESCHOOL

---

### Emmanuel Preschool Staff

**Director**  
Jeanna Reidy

**Administrative Assistant**  
Bryn Baisley

**Bookkeeper**  
Kelli Corts

**Teachers**  
Michelle Brayman  
Mary Beth Conry  
Amy Ernst  
Christy Finn  
Mary Carol Gavin  
Mollee Hansen  
Sarah Higgins  
Anne Hubbard  
Ressa Jones  
Alyce McLean  
Dana Mutscheller  
Nancy Palmer  
Alithea Price-Pearlstein  
Deborah Rumph  
Denise Stanley  
Cappie Stiers  
Susan Stockton  
Sara Tiedemann  
Mary Anne Troxell

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**School Hours**  
Monday—Friday  
9:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

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**Emmanuel Episcopal Preschool**  
1608 Russell Road  
Alexandria, VA 22301  
703-683-0303 (phone)  
703-683-6158 (fax)  
[preschooladministrator@epsonhigh.org](mailto:preschooladministrator@epsonhigh.org)  
[www.emmanuelonhigh.org](http://www.emmanuelonhigh.org)

## Preschool News

Happy New Year!

We ended the year with a wonderful Christmas Program performed by the 3s and 4/5s classes! Such a nice way to go off for the Christmas break.

January is a busy time of year with enrollment season: Open Houses, tours, and lottery, oh my...

On Monday, January 5, the preschool re-opens. Acceptance confirmations for priority families are e-mailed out the week of January 5, and returning/priority families have until January 23 to confirm the enrollment of their children with necessary paperwork and a tuition enrollment deposit. Our Open House for prospective families is on Thursday, January 22 at 9:30 a.m., and our lottery will be on Wednesday, February 4.

*Jeanna Reidy*  
*Director*

## Yellow 4/5s Spotlight

*" In January  
It's so nice  
While slipping on  
The sliding ice  
To sip hot chicken soup with rice."*

*Chicken Soup With Rice by Maurice Sendak*

Happy New Year from the Yellow Four Fives! Everyone was so glad to be back at school and excited to share everything about Santa's visits and Christmas travels.

While we were home for Christmas, there were lots of new beginnings! The new season of winter blew in, the calendar turned to the new month of January and of course, New Year 2015 began! Oh, our Amaryllis plant grew as well!

The Yellow Class began the New Year by turning the page of our classroom calendar to January, the first month of the year. Our class uses the same kind of calendar



*(Continued on page 11)*

(Continued from page 10)

that you might use at home! It helps us with lots of concepts: counting, days of the week, and words such as, yesterday, today and tomorrow. As always, we marked off any special days for the month.

We also like to use books and songs to help us learn and understand new concepts. So, reading *Chicken Soup With Rice* by Maurice Sendak, a rhyming book about the months of the year and singing Dr. Jean's *Macarena Months* song was a fun way to learn about the twelve months ahead. By the way, the Yellows Class also likes to make their own books as they practice writing and drawing. The teachers help by writing the words the children dictate.

Of course, the season of winter brings lots of changes, for us and for the animals. Over the next few weeks, we'll read *The After Christmas Tree* by Linda Tyler and several versions of the old mitten story, including, *The Mitten* by Jan Brett. All of these stories will help us see how animals cope during these old months. Snowmen, ice and penguins may make an appearance as well! As January wraps up, we'll be talking about Phil, the groundhog. Will he see his shadow? Hmm, you never know! Stay warm.

Mary Beth Conry, Dana Mutscheller, and Sarah Tiedemann



## Christmas Pageant

A heartfelt THANK YOU to all who have made Emmanuel's Advent and Christmas celebrations so festive and moving this holiday season. From the altar guild and sewing group to the musicians and pageant directors and readers to little actors — we thank you all. A delightful addition this year was the return of candle light to the Pageant and Christmas Eve vigil, thanks in no small part to the coordination of ushers and altar guild. Our littlest parishioners and visitors were the true "stars" Christmas Eve as they so beautifully presented the story of Jesus' birth. Emmanuel's lovely vintage costumes received a handsome restoration by several talented parishioners. We would be remiss were we not to recognize Chuck who gave so generously of his time and inspiration in leading not one, not two, but eight special services this Christmas season.

Lee and Marybeth Edgar



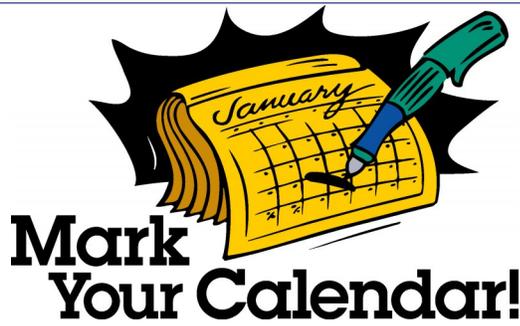
Emmanuel Episcopal Church follows Alexandria City Public School (ACPS) system regarding closings for inclement weather. If Alexandria Public Schools are closed, then Emmanuel Episcopal Church is closed as well. All day and evening activities and meetings are

cancelled. This applies to weekdays and weekends.

If Alexandria Public Schools have a late opening or an early closing then we will follow their lead as well.

This inclement weather policy includes the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday services as well. If it is unsafe for the school system to be open, then it is unsafe for our church to be open as well. God will completely understand — yes, even applaud — your taking care of yourself and others by staying home.

In the event of a Sunday closing, an e-mail will be sent to all who currently receive the weekly e-news; and the closure will be placed on the website as well.



## January

- 1-2 New Year's Day (Office Closed)
- 4 Family Sunday
- 7 Carpenter's Shelter Dinner
- 11 Epiphany Sunday
- 11 God & Donuts (4:00 PM)
- 11 "American Winter" Documentary Viewing (6:30 PM)
- 14 Vestry Meeting
- 19 Martin Luther King Day (Office Closed)
- 22 Preschool Open House
- 23-24 Annual Diocesan Council
- 25 Annual Meeting
- 25 Patronal Feast
- 25 God & Donuts (4:00 PM)
- 26 Preschool Board Meeting



For a look at our continually-updated church calendar, click on the calendar to the left.

## February

- 1 Family Sunday
- 1 Parent Town Hall Meeting
- 1 Super Bowl Party
- 4 Preschool Lottery Drawing for New Family Enrollment
- 4 Carpenter's Shelter Dinner
- 8 God & Donuts (4:00 PM)
- 11 Vestry Meeting
- 13-16 TnT Ski Trip
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 16 President's Day (Office Closed)
- 17 Shrove Tuesday
- 18 Ash Wednesday
- 22 First Sunday of Lent
- 22 God & Donuts (4:00 PM)
- 23 Preschool Board Meeting
- 25 Alexandria Lenten Series (St. Clement)

## March

- 4 Carpenter's Shelter Dinner
- 4 Alexandria Lenten Series (Immanuel)
- 6 Family Night (5:30 PM)
- 11 Alexandria Lenten Series (Resurrection)
- 16 Preschool Board Meeting
- 18 Alexandria Lenten Series (Emmanuel)
- 23 Alexandria Lenten Series (Grace)
- 29 Palm Sunday