Reflections from the Rector’s Desk

This morning God gave me a gift; I got to sit with Elijah.

It is no easy thing to sit with him. His lungs were ill-formed at birth. He struggles to move oxygen into his little body. His survival is far from certain. In fact, just a few days ago the odds were overwhelmingly against him. As you sit with him your emotions run from joy at a new life to fear to hope to worry and back to joy again.

Many of you have sat with your own children in similar circumstances. Some, like Elijah, were infants dealing with birth defects. Others were young children dealing with cancer or other dreaded disease. Others of us have sat with teens whose bad decisions put them in harm’s way. Still others have watched adult children slowly work to kill themselves with drugs and alcohol. And some are in a place where our adult children are simply facing the ravages which face any older adult.

Never is it easy.

But we are never alone. God knows this pain. God holds us in this trauma. God is in solidarity with us as we live these stories.

You see, the story of Jesus’ passion which we will hear during Holy Week at the end of March is also the story of God the Father losing his son. It is the story of God watching as His beloved is arrested, tried, tortured and put to death. It is the story of God’s grief at Jesus’ death. It is the story of a parent bereaved.

And then Easter.

Easter doesn’t take our pains away. Easter does assure us of God’s eternal love. Easter reminds us that come what may, we are all God’s children and are all held in the same love as God’s own child, Jesus Christ our Lord.

In Christ,
Fr. John

I want to thank Rebecca for permission to use her son Elijah’s story. Rebecca is a single mom. We are fortunate that Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is paying for Elijah’s medical care. However, no matter how his struggle turns out he and his mom will have all sorts of other expenses related to a life lived in the hospital. If you would like to help with these expenses please write a check to the Rector’s Discretionary Account and put “Elijah” in the memo line.

Easter Services

Saturday, March 31
- 7:30 p.m.
- Easter Vigil

Sunday, April 1
- 7 a.m.
- Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- 9 a.m., 11 a.m.
- Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- 10 a.m.
- Easter Brunch & Egg Hunt
- Please bring a dish to share
**Senior High Confirmation Classes Coming Soon!**

**April 15**
**April 22**
**May 6**

The senior high candidates for confirmation will meet in the library at 10:10 a.m. after the summer. Classes for senior high and adults will resume:

- August 26
- September 2
- September 9
- September 16
- September 23

In order to be confirmed, you must attend all classes.

**Confirmation is Sunday, October 7, 11 a.m.**

Bishop Sam will be at the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services.

RSVP for confirmation classes to Mary Balfour, mbdunlap@emmanuel-parish.org

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**Reflections is published by Emmanuel Episcopal Church, and it serves the Sandhills community, the Episcopal Day School and Penick Village.**

The deadline for articles is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Send articles to Rebekah O’Donnell, rodonnell@emmanuel-parish.org or Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 340 S. Ridge Street, Southern Pines, N.C. 28387.

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**Bishop of the Dioceses of North Carolina**
The Rt. Rev. Samuel Rodman

**Rector**
The Rev. John G. Talk, IV

**Associate Rector**
The Rev. Mary Balfour Dunlap

**Priest Associate**
The Rev. Dr. Randal A. Foster

**Parish Staff**
Parish Administrator ............. Marie Turner
Organist/Choirmaster . Dr. Homer A. Ferguson III
Director of Christian Formation and Global and Community Outreach ..... Laurie Holden
Episcopal Day School Chaplain . . Steve Millender
House Keeper ..................... Ester Chavis
Financial Administrator .......... Sue Ingram
Facilities Manager ................. Bob Williams
Communications Director . . . . Rebekah O’Donnell

**Vestry**
Sr. Warden .................. Carolyn Giltzow (18)
Jr. Warden ................... Susan Holmes (19)

**Commission & Liaison**
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Children & Youth .......... Alyssa Schwartz (20)
EDS .............................. John Oettinger (18)
Fellowship .................... Robin Foster (20)
Parish Development; Communications .......... Marcia Krasicky (18)
Pastoral Care ................. Stephanie Hillard (20)
Penick Village .............. Pete Ackerman (19)
Stewardship ................. Jessie Mackay (19)
Treasurer ...................... Ron Saylor
Vestry Clerk .................. Marcus Reeder

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**Confirmation Coming Soon!**

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RSVP for confirmation classes to Mary Balfour, mbdunlap@emmanuel-parish.org
Dear Emmanuel Family,

As you probably know, Baptisms are one of my favorite liturgies to take part in. I love that we are welcoming someone into the Body of Christ. I love to walk babies down the aisle and show them off to you all. I adore it when big sister or big brother is willing to hold my hand and walk with us. I treasure that moment of celebrating a child of God is among us, a child of God who is beloved!

Baptism is a holy sacrament, an outward sign of God’s inward grace. Baptism is a gift of God’s grace through the Holy Spirit. When a baptism occurs, we renew our promise to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving neighbors as ourself. Baptism is welcoming into the community of faith and the Body of Christ. Baptism is belonging to God as Christ’s own forever.

There will be several baptisms over the course of the next few months. On the day of a baptism we renew our own Baptismal Covenant. We will renew our promise to be active in a Christian community, continuing in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers. We will renew our promise to persevere in resisting evil, and when falling into sin, to repent and to return to the Lord. We will renew our promise to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ. We will renew our promise to strive for justice and peace among all people, and to respect the dignity of every human being. We will renew our promise to do all in our power to support the newly baptized.

I hope that we are always examining ourselves and praying that we are truly living in to our Baptismal Covenant. Praying we have faith in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Praying to keep our baptismal vows, which shape our lives as Christians.

I pray we know we are children of God, who loves us beyond belief!

The Rev. Mary Balfour Dunlap

See you on Sunday!

Love,

Mary Balfour

Baptismal Covenant
Book of Common Prayer, 1979

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

With God’s Help I will:

C ontinue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers;

P ersevere in resisting evil, and, whenever I fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord.

P roclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ.

S eek and serve Christ in all persons, loving my neighbor as myself.

S trive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.
Guiding the Flock

It’s been a wonderful year so far exploring Christianity with the students at Episcopal Day School (EDS), and also with parishioners both young and old at Emmanuel Episcopal Church. As we roll through the Season of Lent I am struck by the reactions the children had to the story of Jesus’ time in the desert and to the temptations he faced at the end of that time. There was shock; there was horror; there was more than a little bit of fear in the faces of some of the kids, when coming face to face with a story in which the Devil is present on the Earth in a form that can speak, act, and reach out a hand toward Jesus.

That shock turned to joy as the Devil was beaten back by Jesus. And after being rebuffed at every turn with perfectly placed scripture, the Devil (at least in the way I told the story) left in a huff and went off to pout… but even after the chuckles settled down, and the story was safely over, a few of the kids paused to wonder.

And in that moment of wonder, we talked about the season of Lent: what it means; why we give things up; what we might give up and why. It was great to see the links form in the kids’ minds between the Bible story and the spiritual practice. It was fun to hear some of the things they either put aside in the past or plan to abstain from this year: candy, Xbox, desserts, iPhone, complaining, and more. And it was fun to plant some seeds about the notion of adding in prayer, bible study, good deeds, or anything else that draws us closer to God as either an alternative to or as an addition to giving up something.

It’s awesome to see these wonderful children connect with the stories that we, as adults, have heard time and time again. It’s a pleasure to see the wonder on their faces, to get to re-experience the stories for the first time with our littlest Gators, to get to watch the wheels turn as the complexity of those stories begins to dawn on some of the older kids.

Looking ahead, we wrapped up Love at the end of February, and are turning our attentions on Gentleness, Goodness, and Faithfulness in the last three months of the year. As part of that exploration we’ll be talking about Jesus as the Good Shepherd. The strongest shepherd can hold a baby lamb in arms without hurting it. The shepherd guides the flock, leading them away from dangers and into lush pastures. And at night, the shepherd takes up station in the opening of the sheep pen guarding them with his own life to keep them safe until morning.

The kids will continue to memorize bible verses in these last three months of school, and we’ll be starting work soon on our final version of the prayers of the people which we pray in our chapel services on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Please, come by and join us for worship sometime. It’s a chance for you to get back in touch with your inner child and the simple joy of worshipping our Lord. A quick reading from the 19th Chapter of the Gospel According to Matthew, verses 13-14 might help you decide that’s a good idea:

Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.’

God Bless you and keep you one and all.

https://minnowswim.com/collections/boys vSteve M.
April 8 | Sunday
Lector and Lay Eucharistic Minister Training
Fr. John is holding training for Lectors and Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEM) in the church after the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services.

April 15 | Sunday
Congregational Meeting
10:10 a.m. | The Treasurer, Vestry, Financial Administrator and Rector have worked hard to finalize a budget. Join us in the Parish Hall for this important Congregational Meeting regarding the budget.

April 22 | Sunday
Capital Campaign Meeting
10:10 a.m. | Discussing the success and giving an update of the Capital Campaign ending this year.

April 29 | Sunday
5th Sunday Breakfast
10:10 a.m. | Parish Hall | Please bring a dish to share.

May 13 | Sunday
Muffins & Mimosas with Mom
10:10 a.m. | Happy Mother’s Day! Bring your mother, or anyone who resembles a mother to you for muffins and mimosas.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Performing Artists</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Friday, March 16</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Eryn Jones Fuson, Harpist</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Friday, April 27</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Salome Sandoval McNutt</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>Friday, May 11</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Maryanne Cantrell-Colas, Lydia Gill</td>
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<td>Piano</td>
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Family Promise of Moore County provides shelter, meals and case management to homeless women with children. FPMC offers to these families and other disadvantaged persons comprehensive assistance in the areas of transportation, compassionate supportive services, and advocacy to assist them in achieving their potential of independent living.

**Shelter Program**

In 2016, FPMC purchased a 3,500 square foot home located at 400 Saunders Blvd., Aberdeen, NC. The home has five bedrooms and 6.5 bathrooms, kitchen, dining room, play room, den, laundry and a fenced-in playground. It also has office space for staff and a clothing closet for residents.

The shelter is supported by volunteers from 20 area congregations. These volunteers perform a variety of duties including preparing an evening meal, spending time in fellowship with the families and spending the night to ensure the comfort and safety of all.

The Executive Director, Susan Bellew, maintains the operation of the shelter and a case manager oversees the case management for the families, linking them with various social service agencies and community resources.

Families who are without a home of their own find in FPMC the support, encouragement and assistance which will enable them to achieve independent living.

Eligibility requirements include:

- Mothers and their children who are without housing or who will be in the near future.
- Employed or actively pursuing employment or receiving social security disability.
- Drug and alcohol free and those not suffering from untreated mental illness.

All families who participate in our program are first screened, and their eligibility determined by the Executive Director. This will ensure that families who enter the program have the best chance in achieving independence.

Families are allowed to stay up to 90 days although extensions are granted if families are working on their goals and have been waitlisted for an apartment.

**Bridging the Gap Program**

This program is made possible through a grant from St. Joseph of the Pines and has two goals. The first is homeless prevention and can help those families facing a one-time crisis which puts them at risk of losing their housing by providing funds to prevent eviction.

The second goal is rapid re-housing which provides help with security and utility deposits to shorten a family’s stay in shelter.

**Wheels to Work Program**

Lack of adequate transportation is a challenge FPMC clients share with many disadvantaged persons in Moore County. Without a car or other dependable means of getting to and from work, disadvantaged persons either cannot secure or keep a job.

One way FPMC is addressing this problem is through its Wheels to Work program.

This program supplies vehicles to qualified families in need of transportation. To qualify for a vehicle, applicants must be referred by an approved agency, have a clean driving record, and be employed.

Vehicles are titled in the recipient’s name; however, FPMC retains a lien on each vehicle for 10 months. Recipients are required to repay to FPMC $40.00 per month, for 10 months, for a total of $400.00.

FPMC secures cars for the program through donations. Cars must be in running condition to be accepted. Donors may receive a tax deduction on their tax returns. Tax deductible cash donations are also necessary to fund the operation of the program.

For more information on the Family Promise, or to volunteer:

**Emmanuel Contact:** Monika Brown, 910.703.0087, brownmrs@juno.com

**Family Promise:** 944.7149.

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### Family Promise Needs

- Diapers
- Wipes
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Laundry Detergent
- Dish Detergent
- Cleaning Supplies
Outreach Spotlight for April

Habitat for Humanity

The Habitat for Humanity mission is to partner with families in need and the entire community to build or repair decent, affordable homes.

Vision: In recognition of the value of every human life, our vision is to end substandard housing in the Sandhills region and to make shelter for everyone a matter of conscience.

Habitat for Humanity welcomes new volunteers to assist us in building low-income housing for God’s people in need. Volunteers are the core of our mission in Moore County.

Volunteer Opportunities: Construction, Internal Committees, Public Relations, Special Events, Church Relations, The Habitat Moore Store. Volunteers needs: Construction on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Office help. Hours can be arranged to meet your schedule for the office.

Emmanuel Contact:
Beth Whitman, 692.6618, bethwhitman1313@gmail.com

Upcoming Events for Habitat for Humanity

Spring is a happening time at Habitat and Emmanuel Episcopal Church (EEC) is heavily involved.

Spring Gala
The Spring Gala is Saturday, April 14, and all who are interested may attend.

Women Build
The 2018 Women Build home will begin at an address on West Iowa Ave on Saturday, April 28 and hopefully be completed in 30 workdays (Thurs-Fri-Sat for Women Build).

Two EEC members have made serious commitments to the Women Build and invite you to participate with them.

Hard Hats & High Heels
On Thursday evening March 15 at CCNC there is a fashion show fundraiser Hard Hats and High Heels. Cele Bryant (692.8328 or cele@bryants.com) would like you to join her and others from the church. With the purchase of a $60 ticket (there are other options) the group can sit together in a row of seats. Call her, get details, and join the group and bring a friend.

EEC Work Days
Donna Engelson (910.391.4148 or donna.engelson@gmail.com) has reserved two work days for EEC workers and friends. Saturday, April 28 is opening day and she will need 15–20 workers. That is a most wonderful day to work because with so many workers, the four outer walls will all be up before the work day is finished (8 a.m.–1 p.m. are working hours each day).

She has also reserved Friday, May 4, which will need fewer workers, maybe 12.

Habitat for Humanity hopes people will pay a nominal fee for the privilege of working on a Habitat house; a way for us to help with the expense of building the house.

Contact Donna for more detailed information or go directly to her wonder woman build team site, www.razoo.com/story/wbdonna

For any Habitat details, check on our website, www.sandhillshabitat.org.
Bethany House is a nonprofit, charitable corporation dedicated to providing a clean and sober living environment for women recovering from substance abuse in the south-central region of North Carolina. Residents are adult women who are motivated to continue their recovery.

Bethany House provides a clean, safe, structured and supportive home-like setting before returning to active family, social, and community life.

The mission for each and every resident is:

- To be gainfully employed, actively seeking employment, or enrolled in school.
- To seek newfound sober activities enhancing one’s future.
- To be actively involved with 12 Step Meetings and Sponsorship.
- To build self esteem by adhering to above principles.
- To become a productive, clean, sober member of society.
- To secure savings and seek or return to own living arrangements.

Volunteer Opportunities: Collection and coordination of donated items and assistance with facility maintenance.

Needs: shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap and kitchen garbage bags.
Life of Emmanuel

Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Supper
Tuesday, February 13

Hosted by the Emmanuel Youth Group; $1,300 was raised for its summer mission trip and/or outreach project.
## Happy Birthday!

### March
1. Charlotte Hineborg  
   Andrew Garner  
   Eric Von Salzen  
2. Elena Mouby  
   Marshall Tway  
3. Nora Guseh  
   Paul Trevarrow  
   Shirley Vaughan  
4. Vicky Mills  
5. Fritz Healy, III  
6. Bob Flesca  
   Fritz Healy, Jr.  
   Alexandra Hirst  
   Betsy Mitchel  
7. John Hatcher  
   Linda Howden  
   Carl Lanning  
   Mike Pratt  
8. Edith Davis  
9. Megan Grieshaber  
   Carolyn Wade  
10. Patricia Dunne-Towne  
    Nanci Harp  
    Caroline Neely  
    Joe Vaughan  
11. Josiah Justice  
12. Al Carter  
    Robert Lutz  
    Charlotte Mills  
13. Nancy Manning  
    Hallie Gaylord  
    Melissa Giltzow  
14. Gracie Bell  
    Thomas Busterud  
    Leo Oettinger  
    Lynn Tidwell  
15. Donna Bartrip  
    Pat Fitzgerald  
16. Mollie Wilson  
   Ryan Wade

### April
1. Anne Burton  
   Ellen Harrison  
   Paul Jones  
   Jody Mincey  
2. Elizabeth Sugg  
   Jamie Holton  
   Bill Shore  
   Maddie Wade  
3. Jan Staub  
4. Susan Holmes  
   Dave Hoffman  
   Addie Huntley  
   Jim Kaiser  
5. John O’Malley  
   Charlie Rodman  
   Shea Carroll  
   Louis Compo  
6. Jessica Fessenden  
   Charlaine Hirst  
   Tim Kaiser  
   Jonas Davis  
7. Jim Halstead  
   Madelyn Lomasnev  
   Jamie Nesbit  
   Scott Breascale  
8. Carolyn Hatcher  
   Sandy Lampos  
   Carlene Sparks  
   Lucy Ix  
9. Blake Schwartz  
   John Martin  
10. Pat Alperi  
    Braddock Carroll  
    Caroline Miller  
    Keith Beardsley  
11. Nancy Mendsen  
    Connor Minnicozzi  
    Jeff Shaw  
12. Marilyn Bridgeman  
    Linda Brown  
    Caitie Mitchell  
    Jennie Whitehead  
13. Willie Engleson  
   April Netherton  
   Fred Womack  
   Chalk Broughton  
   Mary Ann Halstead  
   Carolyn Darst  
   Tom Daughtrey

### May
1. James Burrill  
   Madison Rippl  
2. Lynda Witten  
3. Scott Samuel  
4. Lynn Walker  
5. Joan Owen  
6. Katie Sams  
7. Maddie Arrington  
8. Will Dawkins  
9. Tucker Fessenden  
10. Ann Savage  
11. John Taws  
12. Chris Willis  
13. Elizabeth Oettinger  
14. Marla Hunter  
15. Fred Fellows  
16. Elizabeth Carter  
17. Bob Lovell  
18. Deborah Penn  
19. Franches Samuel  
20. Mark Ix  
21. Elizabeth Carter  
22. Beth Garrison  
   Emma Kilpatrick  
23. Marka Krasicky  
24. Roger Mitchell  
25. Ed Roberts  
26. Lauree Kruyer  
   Joseph Millender  
27. Johnny Bradburn  
   Pascal Gayman  
   Siesta Hawkins  
   Edward Pickett  
28. John Taws  
   Paula Womack  
29. Wendy Harp  
   Matthew Karres  
   Michelle Sakala  
30. Andrew Ambrose  
   Roger Dreisbach  
   Stephanie Hilliard  
   Shannon Huntley  
   Andy Page  
31. Samuel Phillips
Palm Sunday
March 25
7:30 a.m. | Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9 a.m. | Holy Eucharist, Rite II
10:45 a.m. | Procession from Southern Pines Post to EEC
5 p.m. | Service of Holy Eucharist

Stations of the Cross
March 27
6 p.m.

Tenebrae Service
March 28
6 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Service
March 29
6 p.m.

Good Friday Service
March 30
Noon

Holy Week at Emmanuel Episcopal Church