Reflections from the Rector’s Desk

Every day is the same, yet different. The sun comes up, the sky becomes light which causes the earth to warm which causes the wind to blow and then the sun sets and darkness descends, the stars come out and the Earth stills. Every day this happens. Around the world it happens. Every day the same as the others.

And yet we know each day is unique. Every day is different. Somedays the wind blows hot, and sometimes it blows cold. Sometimes it’s dry and sometimes it’s wet. Sometimes the roses are blooming and sometimes the birds are singing.

However, most of our daily differences have to do with us. These differences flow from our choices—from what we choose to do. There are days we choose to be in a good mood, others when we chose to learn, others when we choose to do yard work, others when we choose to love.

God sets the ground of our being—God makes the days. God makes the sun, the wind, the light, the dark. It is up to us to choose how to use this time. That is, it is up to us to choose how to live each day of our lives.

The same is true of our years. Each year is the same, yet different. January comes with dark and cold, but soon transitions into the rain of spring and the warmth of summer which soon slip away into darkness yet again. Year in and year out, North Carolina harvests strawberries in May, stone fruits like plums and peaches in June, blackberries in July followed by apples and pears in August. Every year the same as the others.

Yet we know that each year is unique. In some years our children are born, in some we celebrate academic success, in some we celebrate our retirement, in still others we mourn the death of loved ones.

However, most of what makes each year unique is once again ourselves. Each year we have choices to make. Is this Christmas going to be stressful or a time of reconciliation? Is this summer going to be spent in the warmth of friendship and love or by ourselves?

As the Earth turns into spring, Lent and Easter to appear on our horizons. These two seasons are central to who we are; they are the core of our lives together and with God. This year they will be the same as always. Ashes will be imposed. Crosses will be covered. Fasting will be undertaken. Then as the Earth turns, new fires will be lit. Eggs will be hidden. Bells will be rung.

Yet we know this year we have the opportunity to make something new, something never seen before. Through our choices, our choice to study scripture, to engage God in prayer, to be in sacrificial service to others, we have the opportunity to change these seasons for ourselves and our loved ones.

As Lent approaches take the time to enter into this season in prayer and thankfulness – rejoice that while God makes the days, the years and the seasons, we can choose how to make them part of who we are.

Easter Sunday at Emmanuel
April 21

6:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
10 a.m. Easter in the Garden with Egg Hunt (no brunch)
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II
No 5 p.m. service
Emmanuel Episcopal Church

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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Email: eec@emmanuel-parish.org
Website: www.emmanuel-parish.org

Bishop of the Dioceses of North Carolina
The Rt. Rev. Samuel Rodman
Bishop Suffragan
Rt. Rev. Anne Hodges-Copple
Rector
The Rev. John G. Talk, IV
Associate Rector
The Rev. Mary Balfour Dunlap
Priest Associate
The Rev. Dr. Randal A. Foster
Priest Associate
The Rev. Mary Curtis

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 ................... Chris Barber
Communications Director ... Rebekah O’Donnell

Vestry
Sr. Warden ................. Stephanie Hillard ('20)
Jr. Warden ....................... Susan Holmes ('19)

May Hankey ('19)
Pete Ackerman ('19)
Jessie Mackay ('19)
Alyssa Schwartz (20)
Robin Foster (’20)
Brenda Bouser (’20)
Kelly Dawkins (’21)
Stephen Later (’21)
Edie McWilliams (’21)
Henry Vess (’21)

Treasurer ......................... Ron Saylor
Vestry Clerk ...................... Linda Braswell

Financial Report

Year to Date Budget from January - December 2018

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>YTD Actual</th>
<th>YTD Budget</th>
<th>Annual Budget</th>
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Expenses

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<th>YTD Budget</th>
<th>Annual Budget</th>
<th>Budget</th>
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<td>968,084.00</td>
<td>(3,126.00)</td>
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Net Total             | 33,207.00  | -          | -             | -      |
Dear Emmanuel Family,

I have been thinking a lot about seasons in our lives. Seasons of sadness, seasons of joyfulness, seasons that are just what they are, a passage of time. One of the many beautiful things about Emmanuel is the diversity of ages. We are all in different seasons of our lives. Some of us are just starting out and others of us are thinking about our golden years.

If you were to examine your season in life right now, what would you say?

In a natural sense, we know that seasons change. There's winter, spring, summer, and fall. We are all so familiar with the verse from Ecclesiastes that says, “For everything there is a season.” Ecclesiastes also says, “Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time.”

There are two seasons in the Church calendar that are upon us. The season of Lent and the season of Easter. During both of these seasons you will have the opportunity to learn from your brothers and sisters in Christ. Lent is marked by penitential prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It is a time of prayer and preparation to celebrate Easter, the resurrection of Jesus. During Lent, we will gather as a family on Tuesday nights and learn from Sueson Vess and other members of our Church family. Sueson will lead us through a program called: A Transformational Life: Prayer, Care and Share. We will gather for a simple supper at 5:30 p.m. on March 12, 19, and 26, April 2 and 9.

On Easter Sunday, and for fifty days following, it is suddenly springtime. Light breaks through, Jesus is alive! During the Easter season, we will learn from our Rector about the Easter, the glorious Resurrection of our Lord! Please mark your calendars for April 28, May 5, 19, 26 and June 2. May 12 we will celebrate Mother’s Day!

Let us rest in the knowledge that no matter what season of life we are in, God is always good all the time. I look forward to sharing these seasons with you all.

Love,
Mary Balfour
Reflections from EDS Chaplain

By Steve Millender

Using Our Blessings

They say the years go faster the older you get, and they also say time flies when you are having fun. I can only guess there is a cumulative effect in play; it seems impossible that I am writing this as we sit at the mid way point in the school year. Yet, EDS Sunday has come and gone, as has the better part of February; Spring is just around the bend.

It is a time of new life, new beginnings. It’s a time to plant new flowers, new gardens, new habits, new ideas. In chapel at Episcopal Day School (EDS), we are planting a few new ideas as well. Our 4th Graders are now completely comfortable with their roles leading our congregation in the Prayers of the People, and so we have looked to expand leadership and ministry opportunities within our worship services at EDS.

With many thanks to Mrs. Lisa Gessner and Dr. Homer Ferguson III, we have been adding monthly musical offerings from both the EDS music club and our very own Chorister/Cherub Choirs. With many thanks to Dr. Jill Connett, whose enthusiasm for all the Gators in our pond is infectious, we have also had some special musical offerings from individual EDS students as well. It is really wonderful to see kids using the talents God gave them in a manner which gives back honor unto our Lord. It’s wonderful to see them living out the lesson of the 10 talents.

We can all see this and use it as an opportunity to take inventory of all we have been given. We have so many blessings in this life; we have all that we need and more. Christ calls us to take those blessings and grow them, build on them, not to rest upon our laurels or hide them away. No, he gives us so much so that we can in turn give it back to Him and help grow His Kingdom now and forever more. Amen.

Lenten Book Study

By Laurie Holden

Sense and Sensibility

Please join us for five weeks starting on Wednesday, March 20 at 10 a.m. as we discuss Sense and Sensibility, by Sam Portaro. Below is a description from the book.

Lent is often a season given to denial of physical pleasure and sensation. Yet a cultural atmosphere saturated with visual images, noise and air pollution, violence, and processed foods has dulled the senses.

Physical sensation plays an integral role in the human capacity for emotion and feeling. Overstimulation of the senses gradually erodes one’s ability to feel emotionally. Empathy – emotional identification and connection with others – is crucial to liturgical engagement, especially in the highly dramatic practices of the signal events of the Christian Year.

The discipline of a 40-day preparation for Easter suggests the importance that the Church places on this season retelling of the central acts of redemption. A renewed relationship with our physical senses is prerequisite to a sensibility deeply attuned to engagement with the biblical stories read, taught, and liturgically reenacted in the rites of Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter.

Sam Portaro was the Episcopal Chaplain to the University of Chicago.

Books cost $10 and are available from Laurie Holden. Readings will start on Ash Wednesday, but discussion begins March 20.
Lenten Supper Series: A Transformational Life

with Sueson Vess and members of the Daughters of the King

Prayer changes us and the person for whom we pray. It starts with one person praying for another. That IS Evangelism, and it transforms both the giver and receiver.

Join us Tuesday evenings in Lent for a simple soup supper, and learn to share the gift of Jesus’ love and presence in our lives. One person at a time. Learn to seek and serve Christ in all persons.

March 12, 19, 26
April 2 and 9
5:30 p.m.
Parish Hall

Adult Formation: Lent

By Mike Pratt

What Is God Like? How can we know? Why does it matter?

In the Lenten Adult Forum we’ll talk about those questions using the seven I Am statements of Jesus: I am the Good Shepherd; I am the Bread of Life; I am the True Vine, and others.

It is said that Whatever comes to mind when a person thinks about God is the most important thing about that person. (A.W. Tozer)

Please join us for some robust small-group discussion of the most important thing about us. Our goal is to add some meat to the bones of our faith during Lent.

Dates are March 10, 17, 24, and April 7.

Emmanuel Pancake Supper
Tuesday, March 5
5:30–7:30 P.M.
Parish Hall
**Bach’s Lunch**

**March**
Friday, March 15
**Noon**
Michelle Cobley
Harpist

**April**
Friday, April 5
**Noon**
The Turnia Trio

**May**
Friday, May 10
**Noon**
The New Horizons Band
Outreach Spotlight for March

Family Promise of Moore County

Family Promise of Moore County (FPMC) 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.

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.

Family Promise Needs

FPMC is in need of adult volunteers and families with children who can come to the Family Promise house one weekday evening. A volunteer can sign up to spend 5:30-8:30 p.m. with the families, or to bring dinner by 5:30 p.m., or to stay overnight in the private guest room. Please contact Monika Brown, FPMC volunteer coordinator for Emmanuel Episcopal Church and the Sandhills Jewish Congregation at brownmrs@juno.com or 910.703.0087.
Outreach Spotlight for April

Habitat for Humanity

Seeking to put God’s love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

Vision: In recognition of the value of every human life, our vision is to have a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

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, cell: 910.528.5500 bethwhitman1313@gmail.com

Upcoming Events for Habitat for Humanity

Apostle’s Build 2019

Emmanuel Episcopal Church has committed to be a part of the 2019 Apostle Build. That commitment includes providing $6000 and 3 days of labor.

We are scheduled to work Thursday - Saturday on April 25-27. The work schedule is usually 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a significant food break mid-morning.

Please consider helping us work on this project. We will need 10 people each of those three days. If the build is on schedule, we will be putting up siding those three days.

Contact Beth Whitman to sign up to work, and she will get you on the schedule.

www.sandhillshabitat.org can give you further information.

Spring Forward!

Daylight Savings ends Sunday, March 10

Set your clocks forward before going to bed on Saturday. We don't want you to be late on Sunday!
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.

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.
Emmanuel Episcopal Announces New Capital Campaign

This past December, as the 2013 Strategic Initiatives Campaign was coming to a close, a Congregational Meeting was held; and there was much discussion about the debt due to a shortfall in the previous campaign and how best to address it. In response to the parish’s expressed comments, concerns, and suggestions, the Vestry voted to engage in a Capital Campaign with a goal of $800,000, to retire the debt and associated costs of that debt, to replenish the endowment, and to pay campaign expenses. In January, a resolution to that effect was proposed and voted on by the Vestry.

Embarking on a new Capital Campaign requires transparency, inclusiveness, and prayerful thought. We are fortunate to have a team of people (Stephanie Hillard and Nancy Ellis, co-chairs, Jim Heisey, Bill Kwasnick, Stephen Later, Frank Muir, Caroline Packard, Kelly Mosteller Russ, Ron Saylor, and John Talk) who bring wisdom, willingness, and expertise that will help us to secure our current level of operations and build a foundation for tomorrow’s needs and vision.

St. Paul reminds us we are the body of Christ. In the past, now, and in the future, we have been and will continue to be generous about doing good works and enriching lives—in this place, the community, and the world with God’s grace. That is our heritage: Emmanuel (God with us), reflecting the light of Christ from generation to generation. Unencumbered, we will move forward in faith together to a brighter and even more vibrant future.

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**5TH SUNDAY**  
**BREAKFAST**  
**MARCH 31**  
**10:10 A.M.**  
**PARISH HALL**  
**PLEASE BRING A BREAKFAST DISH TO SHARE**

---

**book study:**  
**save the date**  
**may 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, june 6, &13**  
**come learn about meditation!**  
books will be available from laurie holden or the country bookshop

---

**ONE BREATH AT A TIME**  
*J. Dana Trent*  
*A Skeptic’s Guide to Christian Meditation*
### March
1. Charlotte Hineborg
2. Elena Moubry
3. Anne Monti
4. Vicky Mills
5. Fritz Healy, III
6. Bob Flesca
7. John Hatcher
8. Linda Howden
9. Charlotte Hineborg
10. Edith Davis
11. Carolyn Wade
12. Patricia Dunne-Towne
13. Josiah Justice
14. At Carter
15. Nancy Manning
16. Gracie Bell
17. Donna Bartrip

### April
1. Anne Burton
2. Debbie Bolden
3. Vickie Isaacs
4. Pat Davis
5. William Bahner
6. Addie Huntley
7. Marit Bahner
8. Jim Kaiser
9. Jim Halstead
10. Carolyn Hatcher
11. Morgan Miller
12. Roger Denisar
13. Heath Trevarrow
14. Nathan DeLaBarre
15. Susan Atkinson-Alcock
16. Bruce Geddes
17. Brenda Denisar

### May
1. James Burrill
2. Lisa Gessner
3. Joan Owen
4. Maddie Arrington
5. Kate Kilpatrick
6. Tim Kaiser
7. LeAnne Brady
8. Jim Davis
9. Carolyn Darst
10. Elena Moubry
11. John Hatcher
12. Carolyn Wade
13. Patricia Dunne-Towne
14. Josiah Justice
15. Nancy Manning
16. Gracie Bell
17. Donna Bartrip

### Additional Notes
- Happy Birthday to all listed individuals.
- This list includes names of individuals associated with the mentioned months.
**Holy Week Worship Schedule**

**PALM SUNDAY**  
**Sunday, April 14**  
7:30 A.M.  
9 A.M.  
10:45 A.M. | PALM PROCESSIONAL FROM DOWNTOWN PARK  
5 P.M.  

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**  
**Tuesday, April 16**  
6 P.M.  

**TENEBRAE SERVICE**  
**Wednesday, April 17**  
6 P.M.  

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
**Friday, April 19**  
NOON  

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
**Thursday, April 18**  
6 P.M.  

(FOOTWASHING PARTICIPATION ENCOURAGED, BUT OPTIONAL)  

**EASTER VIGIL**  
**Saturday, April 20**  
8:30 P.M.