

welcome!

Introducing this month's issue of ...

HIGH NOTES



EMMANUEL
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



2017

Inside this issue:

Shrine Mont Retreat	1
Strategically Thinking	2
Update from Claire Elser	3
Muslim American Society	3
Spiritual Formation for Children and Youth	4
Fellowship	5
Shrine Mont Memories	6
A User-Friendly Dictionary	8
Outreach	8
A Note from Gethin	9
Vestry Hi-Lites	9
Preschool News	10
Refugee Family Report	11
Calendar	12

Shrine Mont Retreat

A little rain didn't dampen the spirit of the Emmanuel church family during our annual retreat to Shrine Mont in early May.

One of the many highlights was seeing how engaged the kids were with Margaret Wohler's salamander program. To say that the program used a variety of learning methods would be a vast understatement. They learned about salamanders and their ecosystems through art and music, by gathering around the "pond" on the floor of Stribling, and by observing a real Orkney Springs salamander that visited us for the morning. The kids also learned about fossils and got to dig through loads of sediment to find their own fossils. Not only did the program occupy the Emmanuel kids for hours, it made science real for them and taught them observation skills they can use forever.

Another amazing scene was of parishioners of all ages line dancing together under the direction of Amy Schildge. We instantly (?!?) learned the steps, looked awesome, and had a great time dancing. We missed having Rick Bauer with us to run the Saturday program, but we made good use of the time by hanging out with one another, talking, laughing, playing games and doing puzzles. We were nurtured by the famous Shrine Mont food and lots of good cheer.

And of course, there was worship. At compline, we were all deeply moved when singing the wonderful arrangements by Paul Frank. On Sunday morning, Joani reminded us that we were in the cathedral with the highest ceiling in the world, and while the sky wasn't quite blue, it was dry and made a wonderful ceiling!

Big thanks go to Joe and Kim Scott for so ably leading our arrangements for the weekend! And to all the others who pitched in, including Barbara; Margaret; Amy; musicians Bucky, Beth, Jennifer and Stewart; Katherine and Kate; Rick; Joani; and Chuck. What a blessing to have Shrine Mont and to have a great church family to share it with.

Photo memories of the weekend are on page 6 and 7 of this newsletter.



High Notes Submissions

Articles for the *Summer High Notes* must be submitted to [Kelli](#) by Friday, June 23.

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 Very Rev. Charles C. McCoart, Jr.](#)

Associate for Worship and Spiritual Formation

[The Rev. Joani Peacock](#)

Seminarian

[Rick Bauer](#)

Director of Spiritual Formation for Children and Youth

[Toni Buranen](#)

Organist/Choir Director

[Ryan Fitch](#)

Parish Administrator

[Kelli Corts](#)

Administrative Assistant

[Karen O'Hern](#)

Nursery Caregivers

Lillian Urrea
Natalie De Leon Santizo
Sara Guzman

Sunday Services

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

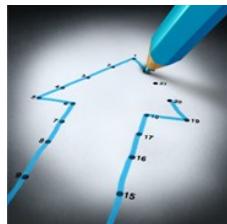
Church Office Hours

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
www.emmanuelonhigh.org

Strategically Thinking...



The vestry invites and encourages everyone to think about "stepping stones" and "big ideas" for Emmanuel to do now and over the next 5 years, following our strategic plan. In June, think about the theme, *Nurturing to Individuals and Families*.

- In what ways do we currently nurture individuals and our community as a whole?
- What could we do better?
- What is a "big idea" that you would wish for in the next 5 years?

From the Strategic Plan: Nurturing to Individuals and Families

A healthy church recognizes that each member of the church, while contributing their time, talents, and treasures in support of our ministries, is also an individual seeking spiritual growth, community ties, and pastoral care. Each individual is also a member of a family, whether near or far, and brings their cares and concerns into the pews on Sunday mornings. It is a vision of the church that we meet the needs of children, youth and adults through our programs, ministries, and pastoral care.

The church's leaders are called on to consider strategies to expand and improve the programs and services we offer to individuals and the increasing number of young families in our community. For example, we recommend developing specific plans to:

- Create a More Active Youth Ministry
- Support a Strong Sunday School Program
- Build Stronger Connections between EEC and Emmanuel Preschool Communities

Share your comments by talking to a vestry member (listed on the opposite page), filling out a pew card, using the [contact form](#) online or sending an email to [Kelli](#).



EMMANUEL
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2022

Update from Claire Elser



On Thursday, May 4 I met with Bishop Johnston and he declared me a Postulant. In the Episcopal Dictionary of the Church, a Postulant is "One who tests a vocation such as a vocation to an ordained ministry... Postulants for holy orders seek ordination as deacon or priest... The time involves meeting with the bishop of the diocese, examination by the Commission on Ministry, along with physical and mental examinations, and in some cases attending discernment conferences or weekends. Postulancy is an initial time of preparation and testing for ordained ministry."

Basically, what all of this means, is that Bishop Johnston has given me permission to begin studying for the priesthood at Virginia

Theological Seminary this fall. Many thanks to Chuck and Joani for their continuing support, to Meredith Wade for supporting me at my interviews with the Committee on Priesthood, to Nancy Dupree, Bonnie Fairbank, Bridget Flaaen, Beth Boland, Jon Sills, Maile Sills, and Leo Cruz for their work on my Parish Discernment Committee, and all of you for your prayers and support.

Emmanuel Welcomes the Muslim American Society!

Independence Day weekend, Sunday July 2, Emmanuel is excited to welcome the Muslim American Society - DC, our partners in ministry, to our 10:30 a.m. service followed by refreshments and fellowship. Volunteers to bring finger foods, cookies, or fruit for a special coffee hour are needed. If you can help, please contact [Joani](#).



2017 Vestry

[Adam Schildge](#) (Senior Warden)
[Meredith Wade](#) (Junior Warden)
[Katie Kelly](#) / [Emily McNaughton](#) (Worship)
[Margaret Wohler](#) / [Chris Yianilos](#) (Education)
[Katie Deemer](#) / [Barbie Frank](#) (Service)
[Lola Beggs](#) / [Greg Shannon](#) (Fellowship)
[Joe Dresen](#) / [Aaron Flaaen](#) (Stewardship)
[Gene Lange](#) (Treasurer)
[Sarah Kolo](#) (Clerk)

Contacts for Ministry Teams

Worship

Team Coordinator: [Nancy Dupree](#)
Acolytes: [Kelly and Joe Dresen](#)
Altar Guild: [Peggy Conner](#)
Counters: [Jim Bradley](#)
Guitar Circle: [Stewart Bartley](#)
Music & Choir: [Ryan Fitch](#)
Readers (8:00): [Suji Kelly](#)
Readers and Chalice (10:30): [Jerry Boykin](#)
Ushers: [Bob Callahan](#)

Education

Team Coordinators: [Joani Peacock](#)
[Toni Buranen](#)
Adult Spiritual Formation: [Beth Boland](#)
Sunday School: [Toni Buranen](#)
Youth: [Janie Piemonte](#)
Preschool: [Ressa Jones](#)

Service

Team Coordinator: [Sean Ellis](#)
Adult Summer Service Trip: [Joe Grassia](#)
ALIVE!: [Laura Macone](#); [Sarah Orndorff](#)
Bag Lunch Program: [Karen Coda](#)
Carpenter's Shelter Breakfast: [Jennifer Jones](#)
Carpenter's Shelter: Dinner: [Sean Ellis](#)
Community Lodgings: [Barbara Harslem](#)
Free School Physical Program: [Bonnie Lilley](#)
Giving Tree: [Rachel Kliewer](#)
Haiti: [John Maass](#)
Haitian Coffee Sales: [Kim Scott](#)
Meals on Wheels: [Katie Kelly](#)
Refugee Family: [Kim Scott](#)
United Thank Offering: [Bonnie Fairbank](#)
Yard Sale: [Frank Elgin](#); [Laura Marble](#)

Fellowship

Team Coordinator: [Jennifer Jones](#)
Breakfast with St. Nick: [Courtney Keplinger](#)
Coffee Hour Baristas: [Elena Mazzeo](#)
Craft & Sewing Group: [Gudrun Callahan](#)
Easter Egg Hunt: [Leo & Susan Cruz](#)
Prime Timers: [Jim Bradley](#)
Shrine Mont Parish Retreat: [Joe Scott](#)
Super Bowl: [Gene Lange](#)
Twenties & Thirties (TnT): [Leo Cruz](#)

Stewardship

Team Coordinator: [Adam Schildge](#)
Annual Giving: [Jane Kolson](#)
Building and Grounds: [Dwayne Piepenburg](#)
Finance: [Stewart Bartley](#)
Foundation: [Jane Kolson](#)

Spiritual Formation for Children and Youth

"And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer."

—F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*

Greetings all!

And so we begin again! Thanks again for a wonderful school year here at Emmanuel. Wishing you and your families a fun and restful summer filled with some lazy times, just the right amount of boredom and only a little productivity, good books, family games and movie nights, a lot of sunshine, a few rainy days, swimming, barbecues, and time with the people you love. May you be refreshed and renewed and find grace in the ordinary!

See you in autumn.

*With gratitude and peace,
Toni*

Coming Up

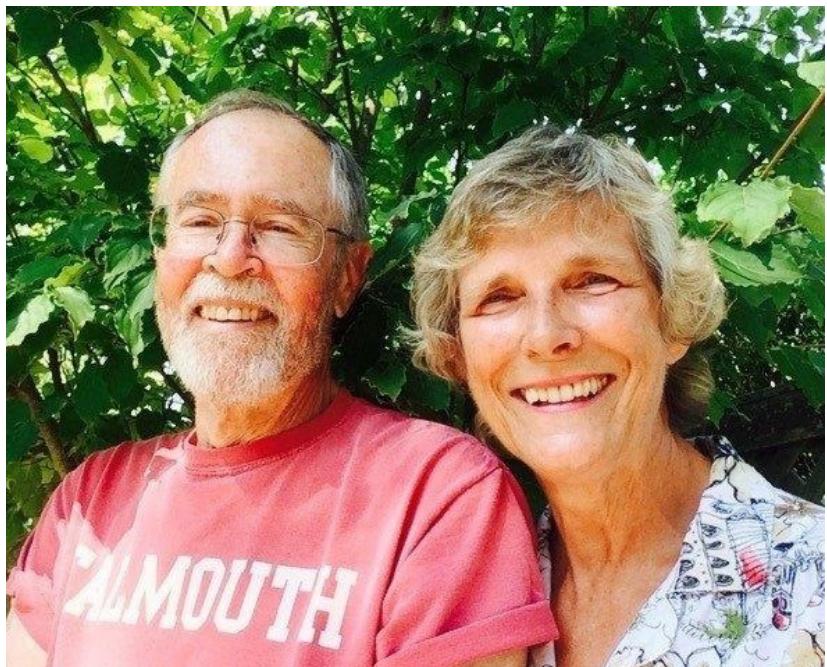
Teacher Appreciation and Youth Recognition

Sunday. Please join us Sunday, June 4, at the 10:30 a.m. service to say thank you to our God & Donuts and Sunday school teachers and congratulate our graduates! We look forward to seeing you.

We need you! We have an awesome team of teachers who could use 3 to 5 more volunteers to join them to teach Sunday school. The schedule offers a lot of flexibility for teachers and an easy to work with curriculum. No experience is necessary — just a heart for children and for God. If interested, please contact [Toni](#).



Congratulations on 50 Years Bob and Jeanne Feden!



Prime Timers'* Potluck Brunch

Before summer gets in full swing, let's gather for lunch on Sunday, June 4. Meredith and Doug Wade will host at their home following the 10:30 a.m. service. Their

address is 207 Woodland Terrace, less than a mile north of the church off Russell Road. Drinks will be provided. Bring appetizers, entrees, salads, and desserts to share. Make things that are easy to eat

by hand or fork as some of us may be eating from our laps! RSVP to [Meredith](#) (703-593-9062).

* Prime Timers are men and women over 50 — many but not all retired — who enjoy getting together with Emmanuel friends for longer than coffee hour allows. Although we often have weekday events, we hope this weekend event will encourage others to join in the fun and fellowship.

Thank You from Dwayne

Spring Work Day was supported by a group of hard working people, many who have supported Work Day before. We were able to complete all of the dozen projects on the list. On behalf of all members of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, I want to thank everyone who contributed their time and effort.

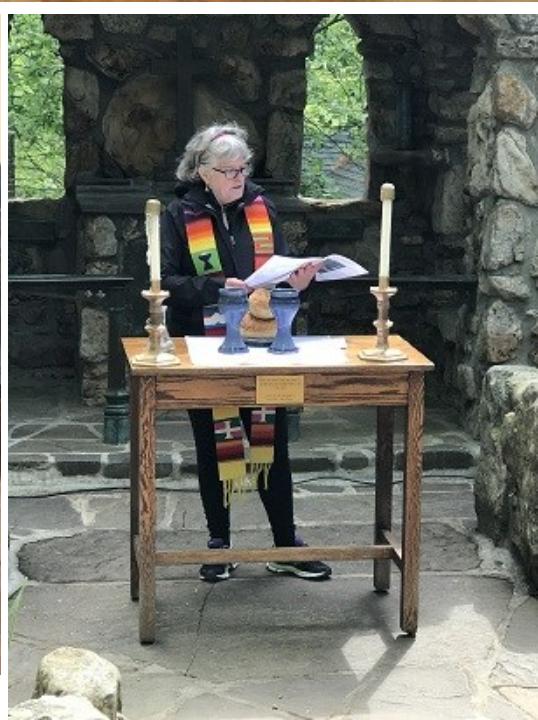


Goodwin House Dinner



Shrine Mont Retreat Memories





A User-Friendly Dictionary

The term comes from the Latin *fons*, "spring of water," and designates a receptacle for baptismal water. Fonts in the early church were pools or sunken basins, often in the shape of a cross, in which candidates were immersed in running water. Many fonts remained large even after infant baptism became the norm, but they were raised above ground for convenience. Eventually the typical font was the size of a wash basin, and even adult candidates were baptized by pouring a little water on their heads. The ancient practice never died out, however, and the BCP lists immersion as a method of baptizing. Today some new or renovated church buildings have a large font, suitable for immersion, located where the people can easily see it or gather around it.

Emmanuel's font stands at the back of the nave by the doors so we are reminded of our baptism every time we enter. It is moved to the front of the nave so more people can see the ritual better. Watch the faces of children in the congregation as they see what happened to them when they were babies. You'll see curiosity, amusement, and wonder up close.

Glossary definitions provided courtesy of Church Publishing Incorporated, New York, NY, (All Rights reserved) from "An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church, A User Friendly Reference for Episcopalians," Don S. Armentrout and Robert Boak Slocum, editors.

Mark Your Calendar for the Annual Yard Sale

Mark your calendar for the annual Emmanuel Yard Sale on Saturday, August 26, 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. This community-wide effort combines fundraising with outreach to provide serious housecleaning, a source of inexpensive stuff to our low income families, Saturday foot-traffic in the parish hall, and lots of fun for everyone. We'd love to motivate all Emmanuel families to participate. Contact [Frank & Laura Elgin](#) to help.



Update from Haiti

Rev. Sonley Joseph reports from Haiti that Ste. Croix now has several instruments and more than 20 students registered for the music class. This includes 5 trumpets, 2 professional flutes, 1 guitar, 1 keyboard, 1 keyboard stand, and two clarinets. They have a teacher and a helper to run the course. They will offer \$150 monthly to the music teacher and the helper will get \$75 monthly. They also spent \$122.25 for music books and bought the instruments for \$2,132.75. The school continues with the lunch program with the funds EEC donated. Sonley writes "I would like to ask you to extend my gratitude to the community of Emmanuel which supports the ministry of the church in Leogane."



Bake Sale for Refugee Family

The Outreach Team will hold a bake sale after both services on June 4, with all proceeds going to support our refugee family, the Jafari's. Please bring your baked goods to church on June 4 (or drop them off in the church kitchen beforehand, marked for the sale). Any questions, contact [Pat Hadley](#).

United Thank Offering

UTO boxes were distributed to our Sunday school classes to collect change for the United Thank Offering. The kids collected \$200! The funds will be used to help others in need world-wide. A big thank you to all who helped with this collection!

Bonnie Fairbank

A Note from Gethin

Words cannot begin to convey how blessed I feel to have been a part of the Emmanuel community over these past two years as your seminarian. In that time, you have raised me up and it has been a privilege to be among you. This is a special place full of amazing people and I echo the words of former presiding bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori when she visited the congregation a year ago, "There is an incredible energy coming from this church." Truly, the Holy Spirit is present!

Meredith and I were touched by your generosity and are very grateful for the gifts that you gave us in celebration of our approaching marriage. Thank you for the fantastic wedding shower and for everything that you all have done to support us. We will think fondly of Emmanuel and its people in the years to come and hope from time to time to drop in and say hello.

While I still cannot say much about my new call back in Southern California, once I am free to make an announcement, I will pass on to you mailing information. In the meantime, I can still be reached on my cell (209-747-3441), or by my new e-mail address rev.gethin@gmail.com. Meredith and I are excited about this new opportunity, but will miss you, so please don't hesitate to drop me a line for a friendly greeting or catching up!

Please keep me and Meredith in your prayers as we prepare for our wedding in late September. As the date quickly approaches, we have become more and more eager to join our lives together.

I also ask your prayers as I prepare for ordination to the transitional diaconate on Saturday, June 3. The service is in Los Angeles at St. John's pro-cathedral at 10:00

a.m. and if you happen to be in the neighborhood, please come. All are welcome. Otherwise, there is talk of it being live-streamed if you wish to watch it from afar. I can send Chuck the link as the date approaches. My plan is to be back in Northern Virginia for the month of July and Chuck has invited me to serve as deacon and maybe preach on a Sunday during that time. I am looking forward to being with you all then!

During my time in seminary the people of Emmanuel had a lasting impact on my formation as I worked toward becoming part of the clergy of the Episcopal Church. Thank you to Chuck and Joani for your guidance and mentorship, to Kelli and Ryan for everything that you do to make our common life better, to the other seminarians with whom I have worked, Alex, Jordan, Rick, and KC, whom I wish nothing but the best as she starts her time with you. Thank you to the members of my Lay Committee. Finally, and most importantly, thanks to all of you. You have given me a home in a place where God dwells. Two years ago, you welcomed this stranger into your midst and made him one of your own. I love you all and thank you for embracing me as a part of your family. May the blessing of Christ be with you always. God bless.



Vestry Hi-Lites

At its regular meeting on May 10, the Vestry...

- Shared stories and impressions from Shrine Mont;
- Learned that the Annual Giving Team will meet on May 16 with Julie Simonton, the Diocesan Officer for Congregational Development and Stewardship, to learn about stewardship resources available through the Diocese;
- Learned that the Communication Team is meeting on May 21 to review and consider a possible re-design of Emmanuel's website; and
- Discussed feedback on the theme, "Active in Ministries," including ideas to promote involvement and to thank volunteers and recognize their contributions.

Vestry

Sarah Kolo, Clerk



EMMANUEL
PRESCHOOL

Preschool Board of Directors

Melissa Bennett (Chair)
 Carrie & Ben Lewis (Treasurer)
 Megan Shannon (Secretary)
 Chris Yianilos (Vestry Liaison)
 Cappie Stiers (Teacher Representative)
 Jen Zwiselberger (Resource Parent)
 Matt Stratford (Parishioner)
 Chuck McCoart (Ex Officio)
 Ressa Jones (Ex Officio)

Preschool Staff

Director
Ressa Jones

Office Administrator
Dawn Doucette

Financial Administrator
Kelli Corts

Teachers
 Michelle Brayman
 Mary Beth Conry
 Nicole Crochet
 Amy Ernst
 Christy Finn
 Mollee Hansen
 Anne Hubbard
 Jacqueline Kittredge
 Dana Mutscheller
 Nancy Palmer
 Kate Schneider
 Cappie Stiers
 Susan Stockton
 Sara Tiedemann
 Mary Anne Troxell
 Sarah Watson

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

Emmanuel Episcopal Preschool
 1608 Russell Road
 Alexandria, VA 22301
 703-683-0303 (phone)
 703-683-6158 (fax)
preschooladministrator@epsonhigh.org
www.emmanuelonhigh.org

Preschool News

It's hard to believe we are wrapping up another school year at EPS! In May we enjoyed our Family Art Show, which was a wonderful opportunity for the children and teachers to showcase the art explorations they have been pursuing over the course of the year. Parents and children also had the opportunity to engage in art together by adding loose parts to a tree branch. The whimsical result is now hanging in the preschool office! At the end of May we said farewell to our 4/5s students with a Stepping Stone Leap as they prepare to leap into their next adventure. We have had a wonderful year with these kiddos, and wish them all the best in Kindergarten or wherever this next step takes them. In June we will have 3 weeks of summer camp. This year each week has a different theme — Mad Science, All Around the World, and Water Water Everywhere. The teachers and I are excited for some summer fun during camp! After camp is finished, things quiet down in the preschool for July, and then we come back in August and gear up for another great year!

Ressa Jones, Director



Offering Support for Refugee Families in Alexandria

Update on the Jafari Family

First and foremost, thank you for the kindness and generosity you have shown the Jafari's as they are finding their place here in Alexandria. There continues to be an outpouring of support and guidance that has been most helpful and appreciated by Reza and Zahra Jafari. We are happy to share some exciting and encouraging news about the family and their current status.

On April 29, a second local Refugees Potluck gathering was held, this time at EEC. It was a wonderful evening

of fellowship amongst some new and familiar faces. Along with her three children, Zahra Jafari was able to attend and network. She says she has kept in touch with some of families since that event.

Following the dinner, all families were offered home goods, thanks to large donations from our EEC parishioners and

the St. Stephen's and St. Agnes high school community. Families left with an abundance of items ranging from clothing, dishware, books, housecleaning supplies, baby products, and toiletries.

At home, the Jafari's have been busy planning their next steps. They registered their son, Nawid (age 5), for Kindergarten this fall at John Adams Elementary School. They also registered their youngest child, Omid (age 1), for the Early Childhood Program through Alexandria's Campagna Center. A big thanks to Jennifer Jones for helping Zahra in that endeavor! The hope is for Zahra to find a job this fall when their children are all in school.

On another note, the Jafari's expensive rent has been an ongoing challenge. In order to save additional funds the family will be moving into more crowded, but cheaper accommodations. Fortunately, they will still be in the same neighborhood. Regarding employment, Reza continues to struggle to find a job with regular



work hours. His position at the restaurant denies him much needed time with family.

So, how can you help the Jafari's? In early June, they will need help moving all their belongings to a new apartment, located 5 minutes from their current residence. Moving day will most likely be June 9 or 10. Any help is greatly appreciated! Please reach out to me if you are available to help. Regarding employment, we appreciate any news of job opportunities for someone with expertise in bookkeeping/banking/finance. Reza's resume is available upon request.

On a final note, Ms. Melanie Gray, Director of Outreach at Christ Church, who leads all care teams and support for incoming refugee families in Alexandria, would like us to pray for our community in Alexandria. There is a newly arrived, scared family of 4 with no English language skills, nor educational background. Our refugee program has never assisted a family in such dire need of help. How can we help them? Lazarus Ministries and the refugee assistance program welcomes volunteers with open arms. If you have questions or are interested in sharing your time, possibly as a care team member, please contact [Melanie Gray](#) (703-778-4937) or [me](#) (703-589-3637). Please consider this special ministry to support our new neighbors.

*All the best,
Kim Scott*





4 Bake Sale (9:00 AM & 11:45 AM)
 4 Sunday School and God & Donuts Teacher Appreciation (10:30 AM)
 4 Prime Timers Brunch (12:00 Noon)
 5 Meals on Wheels Deliveries
 7 [Carpenter's Shelter Dinner](#)
 11 Music Ministry Picnic (12:30 PM)
 14 Vestry Meeting (7:30 PM)
 18 Father's Day
 19-23 Bag Lunch Week
 24 [Carpenter's Shelter Breakfast](#)



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



3 Meals on Wheels Deliveries
 4 Independence Day (Church Office Closed)
 5 [Carpenter's Shelter Dinner](#)
 12 Virtual Vestry Meeting
 22 [Carpenter's Shelter Breakfast](#)



2 [Carpenter's Shelter Dinner](#)
 7 Meals on Wheels Deliveries
 9 Vestry Meeting (7:30 PM)
 16-18 Bag Lunch Week
 26 Yard Sale (8:00 AM)
 26 [Carpenter's Shelter Breakfast](#)

SAVE THE DATE — OCTOBER 28, 2017

Come to the Halloween party
 In October this year
 We're expecting a big crowd
 You'll want to be here.

We'll have a silent auction
 And a live one as well
 With lots of fun things
 Intended to sell.

Details to follow
 As they tell
 If you don't come
 You won't be well....

Come in costume
 Join in the fun
 We'll have prizes
 Maybe you'll win one!

Bats in our belfry?
 Who knows?
 It could be spooky
 You'll find out if you go.

If you don't come in costume
 Woe is you
 You'll pay admission
 Times two!

We might have visitors
 From the Silver Screen
 But you'll only know
 If you are at the scene.

