



**EMMANUEL**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WELCOME! Introducing...  
this month's issue of  
**HIGH NOTES!**



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**High Notes Submissions**

Articles for the *February High Notes* must be submitted to [Kelli](#) by Friday, January 20.

## Mark Your Calendar

### Annual Parish Meeting — Sunday, January 29

Following both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services, the Annual Parish Meeting of Emmanuel Episcopal Church will take place on Sunday, January 29. During this meeting, members of the Emmanuel leadership will present an update of 2016 activities, present the 2017 budget, distribute the 2017 Parish Pictorial Directory, announce the candidates for Vestry which will be ratified by the congregation during the meeting, PLUS receive a copy of 2022 — Emmanuel's Five-Year Strategic Plan. Please plan to join us for coffee and a light snack while hearing briefly about all of the good work accomplished in 2016 with an eye toward continuing such efforts in 2017 and beyond.

*Happy New Year to you all,  
Bob Carragher and Adam Schildge, Senior and Junior Wardens*

## Meet Our Vestry Nominees

### Katie Deemer

Hello and peace! My name is Katie Deemer and I'm so very pleased that I've been asked to serve on the Vestry for Emmanuel. As an introduction for anyone I haven't met — and some I have — let me tell you a bit about myself. I've only been a member of Emmanuel for over a year but I was born and raised Episcopalian. I grew up in El Paso, Texas where I was a member of Saint Alban's Episcopal church for too many years to count. While there I was a member of — and on the leadership committee — for the youth group, an ad hoc Sunday school teacher, a member of the choir, an acolyte, and a member for the junior Daughter's of the King. My parents set a good example for me, and though they live in El Paso still, they continue to give me a good foundation for my beliefs. I very much loved being involved with Church activities, (lock-ins, luminario and other decorations for church, caroling, etc.) and it's something I have carried with me all my life. Church is a family to me, something to be cherished and it is for that reason that I chose to answer the call to join the Vestry. Emmanuel has been a saving grace for me



*(Continued on page 2)*

## 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.](#)

#### Associate for Worship and Spiritual Formation

[The Rev. Joani Peacock](#)

#### Seminarians

[Gethin Wied](#)

[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)

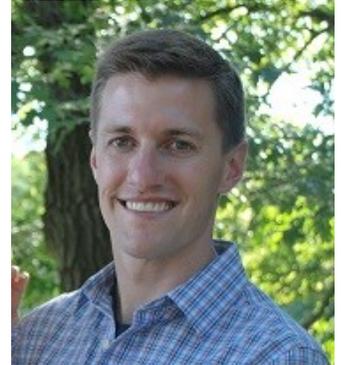
[office@emmanuelonhigh.org](mailto:office@emmanuelonhigh.org)  
[www.emmanuelonhigh.org](http://www.emmanuelonhigh.org)

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and I hope I can give back to it what it has give me — faith, love, and strength. I look forward to meeting everyone and helping Emmanuel continue to grow in God.

## Aaron Flaaen

Aaron Flaaen and his family have been a part of Emmanuel since early 2015. He has served in the congregation by hosting coffee hour and teaching the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> graders in Sunday School. His wife Bridget helps out with Sunday School music, and kids McKenna (5), and Ben (nearly 2) try their best to be first in line for coffee hour snacks. Aaron is an economist at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. A graduate of the University of South Carolina, he also holds a masters and PhD in economics from the University of Michigan.



## Barbie Frank

Barbie Frank is a cradle Episcopalian who was baptized at St. Luke's and confirmed at St. Paul's. She began attending Emmanuel in 1978 when she decided to start attending services again and felt a warm welcome.

Both of her children, Sarah and Carter, were baptized at Emmanuel and attended preschool here.

During her years at Emmanuel Barbie has served on the board of the preschool; chaired the Silent Auction portion of the Christmas Bazaar (with husband Paul); served on the Vestry; been Senior Warden; served as convener for two seminarians; been a choir member for 30+ years; is a Lay Reader and Chalice Bearer; served as the voting delegate to Diocesan Convention; is now the alternate and has also been serving for a number of years as Treasurer to Region IV of the Diocese.

Professionally Barbie is a Senior Human Resources Manager for the ICMA Retirement Corporation where she has worked for close to seventeen years.

Barbie is looking forward to returning to the Vestry and participating in shaping Emmanuel's future.



## Greg Shannon

Greg Shannon is a native Northern Virginian. He and his wife Megan and daughter Arden joined Emmanuel in early 2015 after moving into the

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community from Washington, DC. Arden loves attending Emmanuel Preschool. Megan serves on the Emmanuel Preschool board and recently helped lead the design of Emmanuel's new logo.

Greg has a degree in Landscape Architecture from Virginia Tech and currently manages a Design Build Firm in Vienna, Virginia.

Greg is a member of Emmanuel's Newcomer Team and is excited to have the opportunity to expand his role at Emmanuel.



## Meredith Wade

Emmanuel has been my church home for 40 years. Over that time, I have been active in leadership and service to Outreach, Education, Parish Events, Vestry, and Music and Worship ministries. Currently I sing in the choir and am a lector/assist with the Eucharist, am Clerk of the Vestry (a non-voting role), lead an Altar Guild team, and assist with the Carpenter's Shelter dinner and Bag Lunch. My professional careers were as a church office manager and preschool teacher and administrative assistant. My spouse, Doug, belongs to the Christian Science church a block away but is a 'social' Episcopalian. We have four adult children who all 'grew up' at Emmanuel and six grandchildren.



## Thank You from Bishop Goff

*"I am deeply grateful for your gift of \$403.16 to the Diocese of Virginia for the Discretionary Fund of the Bishop Suffragan. Over the years I have used such gifts to fulfill a wide range of needs — from coaching for clergy of small congregations, to counseling for clergy families in time of crisis, to travel for clergy and lay leaders attending formative conferences, to direct aid to people and programs in the diocese and around the world. Your gift will be used well and fully for ministry that is not otherwise covered in the budget of the diocese, and will be a blessing to many.*

*Thank  
you*



*It is a great pleasure and privilege for me, in my ministry as Bishop, to be able to support so many good works, and I greatly appreciate your part in making this possible.*

*With many thanks for your strong witness, and blessings upon your life as part of the family of Christ, I remain faithfully yours."*

## 2016 Vestry

[Bob Carragher](#) (Senior Warden)  
[Adam Schildge](#) (Junior Warden)  
[Lola Beggs](#) · [Leo Cruz](#) · [Joe Dresen](#)  
[Katie Kelly](#) · [Emily McNaughton](#)  
[Bryan Moore](#) · [Joe Scott](#)  
[Margaret Wohler](#) · [Chris Yianilos](#)  
[Gene Lange](#) (Treasurer)  
[Meredith Wade](#) (Clerk)

## Contacts for Ministry Teams

Communications: [Leo Cruz](#)

Fellowship : [Lola Beggs](#), [Chris Yianilos](#)  
 Coffee Hour Baristas: [Elena Mazzeo](#)  
 Craft & Sewing Group: [Gudrun Callahan](#)  
 Inreach/Compassionate Care: [Nancy Dupree](#)  
 Intergenerational Events: [Jennifer Jones](#)  
 Newcomers Welcome: [Lola Beggs](#)  
 Prime Timers: [Jim Bradley](#)  
 Shrine Mont Parish Retreat: [Joe Scott](#)  
 Twenties & Thirties (TnT): [Leo Cruz](#)

Preschool: [Adam Schildge](#)

Service: [Katie Kelly](#), [Bryan Moore](#)  
 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 Harسلم](#)  
 Free School Physical Program: [Bonnie Lilley](#)  
 Giving Tree: [Rachel Kliever](#)  
 Haiti: [John Maass](#)  
 Haitian Coffee Sales: [Kim Scott](#)  
 Meals on Wheels: [Katie Kelly](#)  
 United Thank Offering: [Bonnie Fairbank](#)

Stewardship: [Joe Dresen](#), [Emily](#)

[McNaughton](#), [Joe Scott](#)  
 Annual Giving Campaign: [Bob Carragher](#)  
 Building and Grounds: [Dwayne Piepenburg](#)  
 Finance: [Stewart Bartley](#)  
 Foundation: [Jane Kolson](#)  
 Yard Sale: [Frank Elgin](#); [Laura Marble](#)

Teaching: [Meredith Wade](#), [Margaret Wohler](#)

Adult Spiritual Formation: [Beth Boland](#)  
 Sunday School: [Toni Buranen](#)  
 Youth (Middle School): [Janie Piemonte](#)  
 Youth (High School): [Rachel Piemonte](#)

Worship: [Bob Carragher](#), [Chuck McCoart](#)

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

# Spiritual Formation for Children and Youth

## Simply Stated:

In the words of Neil Gaiman,

"I hope you will have a wonderful year, that you'll dream dangerously and outrageously, that you'll make something that didn't exist before you made it, that you will be loved and that you will be liked, and that you will have people to love and to like in return. And, most importantly (because I think there should be more kindness and more wisdom in the world right now), that you will, when you need to be, be wise, and that you will always be kind."

Wishing you each a blessed and joyful new year!  
*With gratitude and peace,*  
 Toni



Mike Wade and Katherine Conner at fall Parish Youth Ministries (PYM) Sr. High Conference at Shrine Mont. Mike, a member of the Diocese of VA Youth Ministries staff, is the son of Meredith and Doug Wade. Katherine, daughter of Peggy Conner, is a member of the PYM Council.

## Upcoming Events:

**Meeting Dates:** The next Sunday school classes and God & Donuts group meet January 8.

**Next School Year:** It is never too early to consider becoming a Sunday school teacher. We ask that you prayerfully discern if perhaps God might be calling you to this particular ministry. If you think you might be interested, please contact [Toni](#). Many thanks!

## Christmas Festival of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, January 1 | 10:30 AM

A traditional service of six scripture readings interwoven with the beloved carols of the season. No sermon and no communion. Come prepared to sing!

## Epiphany / Baptism of the Lord

Sunday, January 8 | 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

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 ... babies and anyone of any age desiring to be baptized on this special day. Contact [Chuck](#) or [Joani](#) for details.

## Flower Donations

Bringing the beauty of God's creation to our worship



Every worship gathering at Emmanuel is graced by the gift of flowers that represent the beauty of God's creation. We are truly blessed with several volunteers on the Altar Guild who decorate and create designs that reflect the seasons of the church with fresh flowers every week.

Sponsoring the altar flowers is a beautiful way to honor loved ones. Flowers are often given to mark special life events such as births and birthdays, anniversaries, baptisms, confirmations, the memory of a loved one, or as a thanksgiving for life's blessings.

The 2017 flower sign-up sheet is now up in the parish hall, and the suggested donation for altar flowers for a specific Sunday is \$60. More than one family can sign up for each Sunday, and you may sponsor more than one Sunday. These honorariums, remembrances and thanksgivings are acknowledged in the Sunday bulletins. You may contact [Karen](#) and [Kelli](#) in the office to make arrangements, or go to our website and donate through [e-giving](#).

Our way of worship has always been one that engages all the senses. We offer our praises and honor God with all our senses too. The lush and beautiful arrangements on Sundays are another way we thank God for the beauty of creation.

*Thank You!*  
Christina Bartley

## "Emmanuel 2022"

Emmanuel will be releasing a new five-year strategic plan at our Annual Meeting on January 29. The plan is titled "Emmanuel 2022 — Welcoming our Growing Church Family", and is the result of almost a year of collaboration between our Vestry, clergy and ministry teams.

For a "sneak peek", the plan envisions five themes that we chose to describe our church over the next five years:

- *Strong as a Community*
- *Active in Ministry*
- *Nurturing to Individuals and Families*
- *Connected to Tradition*
- *Financially Sound and Well-Tended*

For each theme, we are challenging our community and church leaders to think strategically and build a path toward more fully living these values.



The plan also describes what it means to be a "member" of the EEC community, and how the church's success will continue to depend on the contribution of time, talent and treasure by those who make Emmanuel their church home.

We are excited to share the finished plan with you, and are eager to invite all members of the church to participate in making our next five years a time of positive change and growth, while remaining true to who we are as a community.

Please consider including Emmanuel Church or Foundation in your will or living trust. For more information, contact [Jane Kolson](#).

## From a Syrian Refugee: What I Was...

I was a student, once.  
I graduated from a prestigious university and shook hands with its founder when I received my diploma.  
Now my hands grasp at others' unwanted clothes;  
Cling desperately to donated gifts for my children;  
Shove aside other mothers who might win these prizes instead of me.

I was a teacher, before.  
I taught English to Syria's brightest and used up the electricity marking books late into the night.  
Now strangers speak to me slowly, like a baby, asking "Do...you...understand?"  
And I fool myself that I'm sleeping when night falls  
And there is no light but the stars' to see by.  
Really I am doing the same as in daylight, just on my back.

I was a neighbour, back then.  
I made baklava and brought it to Aleema when she was ill.  
We car-shared on school runs.  
Now I live next to strange men who shout and fight late into the night, whilst I clutch my children;  
Next to foreign women who pull my hair and accuse me of cutting in the lunch line.

I was a woman, long ago.  
I wore make up, I went shopping with friends in Damascus.

I brushed my black hair before a dressing table mirror.  
Now I wash with wet wipes.  
I search for donated shoes that fit; style is a rare and happy coincidence.  
I queue to use portable toilets filled hourly by thousands of ill and unwashed strangers.  
Those that bother to use them, at least.

I was a wife.  
Ahmad brought me bracelets from the market on his way home from work.  
He got grumpy when I woke him in the morning but smiled when he heard me singing.  
He hugged our children,  
And kissed me before he left,  
And went out humming, as he always does.  
As he always did.  
Now I tell my name to the English girl before me and shake my head when she asks for my husband's.  
She nods and tries to look understanding. But what can she understand?  
This girl, barely more than a teenager,  
Never having known war, never having loved, never having had to run from chaos to strife, never having lost?  
What can she know?  
But then I remember, and I forgive.  
For I was her, once.

## Volunteers Needed for the Bag Lunch Program



Bag Lunch is one of Emmanuel's longstanding outreach programs. Emmanuel and six other Alexandria churches provide lunch every weekday at Meade Memorial Episcopal Church in Old Town. About every seventh week, we prepare and serve 60 lunches per day: a sandwich, applesauce, and cookies, plus juice in the warm months and soup and crackers in the cold.

We've got a great group of about 30 Emmanuel volunteers who make this possible. Some make sandwiches, some put everything into brown bags, and some deliver the lunches to Meade and serve anyone who comes in. Each job takes an hour or so. If you would like to get involved, please contact [Karen Coda](#).

## Helping a Refugee Family in Alexandria

Have you ever wondered how you could help a local refugee family? This past December, I was able to find out when I attended a Refugee Care Team meeting at the Church of the Resurrection (off of Beauregard Street). I have long wished to help refugees in our area out of sincere empathy and a desire to help new families feel welcome and part of our community in Alexandria. I truly value the power of inclusivity, connectedness, and actions that speak to loving one's neighbor as thyself. This particular ministry peaked my interest and concern.

One evening, Sean Ellis and I met Ms. Melanie Gray, Director of Outreach and Mission at Christ Church, to learn how I/we at Emmanuel could help. Gray leads refugee care team meetings where new and experienced volunteers learn and share updates on local refugee families. She provides refugee family background information to new volunteers and gives us advice as to how we can most effectively help our refugee family. These families face various hardships, including unemployment, housing insecurity, and food and clothing scarcity. When I learned about the families and their situations, heard their names and ages, and saw their photos, it became so real. I kept thinking, what if this were my family? How would I possibly manage? I eagerly signed up along with another new care team member, Ms. Hill, to provide my support to a family in need.

*Meet the Jafari family.* They have been in the United States for the past two months, after having left their



home in Afghanistan to escape violence and oppression. Their children are ages 6 ½, 4 ½ and 7 months old. Our primary goal is to advocate for this family of five, responding to their various needs, and to reassure them that they are not alone — that there is help and hope for a better future. Upon learning of their basic needs, Ms. Hill and I were quick to solicit and receive blankets, winter clothing and other items to give the family. The parents are semi-proficient in English, and will soon begin English classes. Our immediate concern is to help the husband find long-term employment so they can pay next month's rent.

Please keep them in your prayers!

I will conclude by saying how absolutely transformative this ministry is! The Jafari family is very appreciative, hopeful, and always eager to learn more. And as their children are adapting to a new and unfamiliar world of different senses, I love seeing their faces light up at the colorful books I bring them! As well, I have grown to have a better understanding of refugees and their stories and what I can do to make a difference. Sharing goodness with others in need is a humbling experience — it's a time to reflect and grow together. I hope that you will consider sharing some of your *goodness* with a local refugee family. If you would like to learn more about this ministry, please contact me and/or [Sean Ellis](#), our EEC Outreach Team Leader.

*All the best,*  
[Kim Scott](#)

## Outreach Team Meetings

Come join us! The Outreach Team begins meeting every two months (6 times) in 2017. Meetings are tentatively scheduled for February 5, April 2, June 4, August 6, October 1, and December 3 and we usually meet from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. between services in the Memorial Room or Parish Hall. Our Outreach meetings are open to everyone and are a great way to learn about how to be involved in our many activities and initiatives. They are also an opportunity for you to bring attention to a cause or issue that we may collectively help to address as a parish. If interested in attending, please check the [calendar](#) or contact the Outreach Team lead, [Sean Ellis](#) (703-731-2321).



## Giving Tree



Thanks to each and every one of you who contributed to this year's very successful Giving Tree. Our parishioners' generosity enabled us to help our Haiti partner parish in St. Croix, Leogone, by providing items such as scholarships for elementary school students, books for the school library, and musical instruments for the music program. Additional items such as

renovations and propane to support the student lunch program provide students an environment conducive for learning.

## EEC Partners with Habitat for Humanity

Ten intrepid souls gathered on December 16 in Reston for a Habitat for Humanity "build day." Fortunately, this was actually a renovation project in an existing townhome, not outdoor construction. We would be working inside with heat (lots of it upstairs, barely any in the basement).

After our initial briefing, in which we learned that HfH is the only non-profit agency whose purpose is to enable families to become home owners, rather than renters, we were given an idea of the jobs available. We could be sanders and painters, a heating vent repairer, or insulators. Those of use with fewer (or zero) construction skills gravitated upstairs to paint, and the more accomplished handy persons descended into the chilly basement to put up the insulation. Sidebar: Did you know that HfH uses insulation made from recycled blue jeans? They attempt to be "green" whenever possible.

We gathered at lunchtime to share experiences and devour our bag lunches, and were soon back at work. Everyone worked to a good ending point for our particular tasks, and helped in the cleanup. The entire day was well organized and well supervised. The HfH staff members were pleasant and helpful. We all worked with crew chiefs who are regular volunteers and very knowledgeable. All of us left with a warm feeling of accomplishment in having a hand in helping a deserving family on their path to home ownership.



## Vestry HiLites

At its regular meeting on December 14, the Vestry...

- heard a report by Senior Warden Bob Carragher stating that the Annual Giving Campaign has gone well and that the 2017 budget will be ratified by the Vestry at its January meeting after final pledge numbers are known.
- set the Rector's 2017 Housing Allowance at \$45,000.
- increased the pledge to the Diocese of Virginia by 5%.
- made plans for the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29. It will be held in two sessions, one after each church service. An updated photo directory will be available as well as a new Strategic Plan from the Vestry.
- Kelli Corts, Administrator, reminded Ministry Liaisons about responsibilities relating to the Annual Reports. Submissions are due to [Karen O'Hern](#) by January 9.



*Meredith Wade  
Clerk*



The Stratford family following Ethan's baptism.

## A User-Friendly Dictionary: Lectern

Often called the pulpit, in the Episcopal church, lectern is the more commonly heard designation for this important piece of furniture. Some churches have two — one used for reading on the left and a second for preaching on the right. When Emmanuel was remodeled 20 years ago, the decision was made to only have one to serve both uses. Read on for more details:

"A book stand or reading desk that holds the book used for reading scripture in public worship. It may also be used for preaching the Word, and it may hold the preacher's notes or sermon text. The lectern where the Word is read and preached is the focal point for attention during the liturgy of the word at the eucharist. The term "lectern" is from the Latin, "to read." Lecterns vary in design from plain stands to ornate representations of an eagle or a pelican with outstretched wings. The Prayer Book service for the Dedication and Consecration of a Church includes a form for the dedication of a lectern. The prayer for this dedication begins, "Father, your eternal Word speaks to us through the words of Holy Scripture. Here we read about your mighty acts and purposes in history, and about those whom you chose as the agents of your will" (BCP, pp. 570-571). Another term for a lectern is an ambo."



I think I can speak for the Emmanuel readers (lectors) and say that it is a privilege to read from our lectern with its wonderful view of the congregation. We are close enough to clearly see the people and their response as we read. Perhaps *you* would like to serve by joining our ranks and reading every few weeks. Speak to any of us or to [Chuck](#) or [Joani](#) and we'll gladly welcome you.

*[Meredith Wade](#)*

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.



EMMANUEL  
PRESCHOOL

### Emmanuel 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](mailto:preschooladministrator@epsonhigh.org)  
[www.emmanuelonhigh.org](http://www.emmanuelonhigh.org)

## Preschool News

In January the Preschool starts looking ahead to the coming school year. On January 12, at 9:30 a.m., we have our Open House for prospective families. The Open House gives families a chance to come and hear about the preschool program, meet the Director, and get a tour from teachers or current parents. Applications for new families are due on January 25, and we hold our lottery to fill available spots on January 30. It is an exciting time as we begin to meet new parents and children who want to become a part of our EPS family!

*Ressa Jones, Director*

### Sky Blue Three's Class

The Sky Blue Threes will spend January learning about snow, snowflakes, snowmen, and hibernation. We will read *Hibernation Station*, *Bear Snores On*, *Millions of Snowflakes*, *The Snowy Day* and *Snowballs*. We will continue our exploration of loose parts (materials that can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, lined up, and taken apart and put back together in multiple ways) by making snowmen and snowflakes with loose parts.

The Sky Blue Threes love to cook, so we will practice our culinary skills, making snowball cookies and snowmen fruit snacks.

We will work with clay during January under the guidance of our Artist-in-Residence, Kathryn Coneway. Our students love playing with play dough in the classroom, so being able to

pinch, pull, and pound soft clay into different shapes is certain to be a hit with them. During this time, students will not only experience the tactile and visual nature of the clay, but they will also learn how to care for the clay tools and their workspace, while learning how to properly store leftover material.

We will continue our science and math curricula during January, making geometric shapes with pegs and yarn on the geoboard and conducting science experiments. A favorite experiment in years past has been making crystals using salt and water.

*Jacqueline Kittredge and Susan Stockton*



# Joani's Extracurricular Activities



The life of this parish priest extends beyond the walls of Emmanuel. As many of you know, I am passionate about storytelling and a nerd about libraries. Story District ([storydistrict.org](http://storydistrict.org)) and the Library of Congress ([loc.gov](http://loc.gov)) have become my

ministry in the world.

Storytelling is an ancient craft that entertains, enlightens, and builds bridges. Libraries are free and accessible temples of learning and discovery. Lucky, lucky me! This week, I performed on the Story District stage: a tale of divine Intervention of a different kind. And I also graduated from four months of docent



training at the Library of Congress: sound government is based on sound learning.

If you would like to tour, I am at LOC on Thursday afternoons for public tours. Or possibly a special outing for Prime Timers, TNT's, the choir???



Advent





- 1 Service of Lessons & Carols (10:30 AM)
- 2 New Year's Day Holiday—Office Closed
- 2 Meals on Wheels Deliveries
- 4 [Carpenter's Shelter Dinner](#)
- 8 God & Donuts (4:00 PM)
- 11 Vestry Meeting (7:30 PM)
- 16 MLK Day — Church Office Closed
- 22 God & Donuts (4:00 PM)
- 26-28 Annual Diocesan Convention (Reston)
- 28 [Carpenter's Shelter Breakfast](#)
- 29 Annual Meeting (9:00 AM & 11:45 AM)



- 1 [Carpenter's Shelter Dinner](#)
- 5 Outreach Team Meeting (9:00 AM)
- 5 Youth Sunday (10:30 AM)
- 5 God & Donuts (4:00 PM)
- 5 Super Bowl Party
- 6 Meals on Wheels Deliveries
- 6 Bag Lunch Week
- 8 Vestry Meeting (7:30 PM)
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 19 God & Donuts (4:00 PM)
- 20 President's Day — Office Closed
- 25 [Carpenter's Shelter Breakfast](#)
- 28 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (6:00 PM)



- 1 Ash Wednesday (12:00 Noon & 7:30 PM)
- 1 [Carpenter's Shelter Dinner](#)
- 5 Lent 1 / Youth Sunday
- 5 God & Donuts (4:00 PM)
- 6 Meals on Wheels Deliveries
- 8 Region IV Lenten Series (Church of the Resurrection) (6:30 PM)
- 8 Vestry Meeting (7:30 PM)
- 12 Lent 2 / Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 15 Region IV Lenten Series (St. Paul's) (6:30 PM)
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 19 Lent 3
- 19 God & Donuts (4:00 PM)
- 20 First Day of Spring
- 22 Region IV Lenten Series (Emmanuel) (6:30 PM)
- 25 [Carpenter's Shelter Breakfast](#)
- 26 Lent 4
- 29 Region IV Lenten Series (Immanuel) (6:30 PM)



Emmanuel Episcopal Church follows the Alexandria City Public School (ACPS) system regarding closings for inclement weather. If Alexandria Public Schools are closed, then Emmanuel Episcopal Church is closed. 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. If it is unsafe for the school system to be open, then it is unsafe for our church to be open. 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. The closure will be placed on the website as well.



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