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Pointing Upward...

...Moving Forward

Emmanuel Episcopal Church 156th Annual Meeting

January 29, 2023

New Steeple: Old Faith, Old Traditions, New Commitment, New Dreams

Emmanuel's new steeple, completed on October 8, 2022, brings a new century of commitment to the vision of Richard and Angelica Lockwood who provided for the building of the original church and steeple in 1866. They had just survived the Civil War and a move from Shepherdstown, VA (now WV) and still had the courage and foresight to envision a future faith community in their new home, the little town of Webster Groves, on the railroad line outside of St. Louis.

Since that time, Emmanuel's congregation has gone through two world wars, countless political and social upheavals, the pandemic of 1918, the pandem-

ic of 2020, and we're still here, still looking forward with faith, hope, love, and trust that God Is With Us.

The year 2022 brought new beginnings with the ministries of Valori Sherer, Sujanna Raj, and Jerre Birdsong, newly envisioned ministries through the Faith in Action Committees, new approaches to established programs such as the Food Ministry, and new commitments to formation through FaithQuest for All. The year has also brought frustrating steps backward as we worshipped together as the year began, stepped backwards to live-streamed worship and a Zoom Annual Meeting during a Covid surge in



The new steeple, October 5, 2022.

January-February, came together again for the Renewal of Ministry, and have moved steadily to the end of the year with faith and confidence that despite the changes and challenges, God Is (and will always be) With Us.

Valori Sherer: A Call to a Path of Love



Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. (1 Jn, 4:7) God is love. We are born of love, baptized into love, and steeped in love in our common life together. Love guides our

choices, our actions, and our words.

I have witnessed divine love in action here at Emmanuel in 2022. As each month came and went, we had choices to make, and we made each one in love, even the hard ones, the ones on which everyone didn't agree. On at least two occasions, we confronted circumstances that touched old wounds and threatened to divide and break us – again. Each time parishioners refused to be divided, to play an

old and hurtful game. Unity won out as we chose to remain connected in love, friendship, and service.

We had ministries to do, and we did them in love – even as the world continued to change around us, forcing us to adapt – but adapt we did, and many of our ministries grew and expanded our service to God's people and creation this year. The commitment to seek justice while serving those in need is strong at Emmanuel and is one key to the thriving we enjoy.

We also made new or renewed opportunities to gather, eat, play, and hang out together. As we did, I witnessed the beauty of God's love binding us together. Old friendships and new ones bloomed as we gathered for worship, Christian Formation, the Sunday brunches, Wednesday night dinners, pumpkin carving and Vespers – to name just a few.

The world is still virus-ing around us, and we still have to adapt more often than we'd

(Continued on page 2)

Sujanna Raj: "We call, and you show up like 911!"



Dear Emmanuel!

Words don't really begin to express how blessed and grateful I am to serve Emmanuel through Worship services, Holy Eucharist, Memorial services, and nurturing the spiritual needs of the congregation. It's a blessing and joy to serve alongside Valori+ to explore and do new ways of liturgy styles, chant, and be active in the life and work of the church. As a person of color, I was able to bring diversity through my presence and

preaching. The year 2022 gave me the potential scope to try, start, and oversee ministries under Pastoral Care.

One of the Emmanuel members said, "We call and you show up like 911." I give utmost priority to visiting people in hospitals, hospices, and homes; those are the best and sometimes last sacred moments happening. I see myself playing the role of a membrane between heaven and earth in their dying moments.

In March 2022, Holy Eucharist services started at Bethesda. I imagine myself in this beautiful imagery of going to Bethesda with this wooden kit to give spiritual food to the souls. It gives me an opportunity to have conversations and help them stay connected with the church.

The Grief Ministry was birthed

out of a need with the help of Bethann Rohlting. We were able to do a 6-week course for Emmanuel folks at church. It was a great experience to learn from one another to share stories and the resources are a great asset. The Eucharistic Visitor is a sacred ministry representing the church where the EVs take communion with those in Assisted Living and shut-ins. The EV's presence, communion, and conversations with the visitees are great moments to love and serve. We have one of them added to the EV ministry this year. The EVs are mindful of changing times due to covid-19; they take all the measures before visiting. They are fearless and always willing to go! I must admit Pastoral care is overarching and extended in myriad ways. I can't explain the joy when prayer shawls are giv-

en. It's an ice-breaker for me and for the receiver. It helps them recall the names, memories, familiarity and fun moments at Emmanuel! The prayer shawl team is amazing with the creative power of their hands, woven in love and warmth. It also teaches knitting at church.

Martha's Meals are dedicated to serving food for the sick, and cards are sent for those grieving, birthdays, and anniversaries; this year we have added cards for students away from home. I'm blessed to have a wonderful team helping me out with ideas, and without their support, my journey would have become cumbersome.

I thank The Rev. Valori, Dcn. Jerre, Donna, Staff, Vestry, Caring Committee, and all those who have been a great support to me. LOVE Serving YOU Emmanuel! Shanthi, Sujanna+

The path of love

(Continued from page 1)

like, but nothing stops the love from flowing around here. As our programs and ministries started back up, we saw lots of changes happening – some we loved and some we didn't. At no time, however, did I witness anyone being nasty or rude to me, the staff, or each other, as we all found our way forward this year. That is definitely a grace here at Emmanuel. I promise you, it isn't a grace at every church (though it should be!).

Not all of our ministries grew. Getting back into the swing will take more time. Some of us will never be able to rejoin in-person the way we used to do, and the technology update slogs along,

still suffering from COVID-related shipping issues. Others among us will continue to need personal quarantine breaks ahead of vacations or visits with family. All of that impacts how many faces we see at church and events. It's important to know that our online congregation continues to be robust and faithful, nearly matching our in-person congregation on Sundays. There is also a faithful group that shares Compline online every day.

When I was called here to serve with you, we all knew we'd need to find a new path forward, one unchained from past hurts and practices that inhibited the free movement of the Spirit among us. I proclaim to you that it seems to me that we

found that path – and it's a path of love.

We don't know what every upcoming step will look like, but that's OK. We know God has laid this path before us and is guiding us as we go. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase." This kind of faith takes courage, trust, and connectedness – all things I see in abundance among our Emmanuel family.

We also know that we survived – and that is no small thing. We survived a conflict that left some with tender wounds. We survived a pandemic that made us adapt so much and so fast our heads were spinning.

We survived. We will always survive, because we and our church are precious to God whose love created us, whose body and blood nourish us, and whose mercy sends us forth. That is our path for 2023 – to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

I want to take a moment to thank you for loving me, your priest in charge and pastor. I know that trust of clergy needed to be rebuilt for some and it is my goal always to be worthy of your trust. I want you to know that I deeply appreciate how you let me be me – in all my quirkiness and imperfection. You inspire me to be my best self. I hope and pray I do the same for you.

Jerre Birdsong: “A Little Less Talk, a Little More Action”

Having been ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons in 2014, I have been assigned by Bishop Deon Johnson to serve Emmanuel as its deacon. In his Letter of Assignment to me, he directed: “You have been called to a special ministry of servant-hood directly under your bishop, to interpret to the church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world and to assist the bishop and priests in public worship and in the ministration of God’s Word and Sacraments. ... By your example you are to make Christ and his redemptive love known, by your word and example, to those among whom you live, and work, and worship. You are called to interpret to the church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world.” (Yes, he took all of this from our Book of Common Prayer.)

This ministry at Emmanuel is primarily undertaken through

Faith in Action. Jesus calls us all, every one of us, to change our hearts and lives to help bring about God’s kingdom on earth – to act with love, justice, and righteousness in all we do. And how we go about doing this, Jesus has a call for each of us individually. And it is up to each of us to discern our individual call that Jesus has for us. But we don’t have to discern this call alone; the church, and specifically your deacon, is with you to help.

At the heart of Emmanuel is a commitment to serve, and our Faith in Action is evidence of that commitment. It is the largest ministry at Emmanuel and comprises many, many ways we serve our neighbors in Jesus’ name. What is Jesus calling you to do? Is Jesus calling you to a ministry of feeding and caring? If so, Emmanuel offers the opportunity to serve through our

food center, Webster-Rock Hill Ministries, LifeWise, Peace Meal, Rise Against Hunger, Rosebud Reservation, and Isaiah 58 Ministries among others. Is Jesus calling you to a ministry of EarthLove? If so, Emmanuel offers the opportunity to serve through supporting our apple orchard, burgeoning butterfly and pollinator gardens, and our participation in the worldwide Creation Season. Is Jesus calling you to a ministry of Justice and Equity? If so, Emmanuel offers service through Metropolitan Churches United, Churches Together for Justice, Black Lives Matter vigil for Solidarity, and addressing other advocacy issues and initiative petition drives as they arise. Is Jesus calling you to band together with others around the diocese for a ministry to kids in detention through Episcopal City Mission, to the United Thank Offering, Companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, or Episcopal Relief and Development?



to Rico, or Episcopal Relief and Development?

Jesus is calling us to connect up our talents and passions with the needs of the world. If you want to address a need, but don’t know how to do it, talk to your deacon. If you want to do something to help, but don’t know what ministry to get involved in, talk to your deacon. And if you think that service ministry is not for you, expect to be gently nudged by your deacon. That’s what we do!

In Christ,
The Rev. Deacon Jerre Birdsong

Worship Committee Coordinates Ministries to Create Meaningful Liturgies

The Worship Committee helps coordinate the various ministries involved in the worship experience at Emmanuel Episcopal Church. The mission of the Worship Committee is: to seek



to enhance the worship experience at Emmanuel by developing excellence in execution and to minister to those who serve at worship services by providing an opportunity to review and

plan training for the various roles. Members of this committee include representatives from the Clergy, Music Department, Altar Guild,

Ushers, Ministers of Ceremonies, Eucharistic Ministers, Acolytes, Lectors and Intercessors. The Worship Committee meets four times per year, generally prior to one of the main liturgical seasons of the Church. The primary goal is to focus and coordinate the efforts of these various groups to make worship a unified and positive experience for the congregation and visitors. Since the members of the committee come from all parts of the congregation, they are able to get and give feedback from the worship community at large. This helps the Worship Committee to work toward providing a worship experience

that is increasingly meaningful and engaging to all who attend. The Worship Committee continued to meet virtually during 2022. Although we had a bit of time when we returned to online church in the beginning of 2022, mostly we have been in person. Our mission stayed the same: how can we enhance the worship experience for Emmanuel Episcopal Church. Undeterred by a virus, we will continue our work as the Worship Committee to enhance worship at Emmanuel Episcopal Church. Thanks to the Committee members for their talents, wisdom, and dedication!

Janet Dobbs, chair

Jae Park Leads Music Program: Covid Quartets in January to Hallelujah Chorus at Christmas

*When in our music God is glorified,
and adoration leaves no room for pride,
it is as though the whole creation cried
Alleluia.*

*How often, making music, we have found
a new dimension in the world of sound,
as worship moved us to a more profound
Alleluia.*

—Fred Pratt Green

Found in *The Hymnal 1982*, hymn no. 420
“When in our music God is glorified” is often sung, or its hymn tune “Engelberg” played, at special services and events in dedication to sacred music. Although we don’t sing the hymn each Sunday, the text of the hymn is apropos to the role and purpose of music in liturgy. Congregational hymns, choir anthems, organ voluntaries, plainchants of the Eucharistic prayer, and special music offerings all enhance the liturgy to ‘move us to a more profound Alleluia.’

The music ministry is comprised of the Emmanuel Choir – the main ensemble of 14-16 lay and professional vocalists who rehearse Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm and sing each Sunday between Labor Day and Memorial Day – and the Children’s Choir – for ages 4 to grade 6 under the leadership of the Children’s Choir Director.

Some highlights from the past year include:

February 12: Renewal of Ministry celebrated the Rev. Valori’s call to Emmanuel

April 17: Easter Sunday with the full choir and brass quartet

May 15: Youth Sunday featured our young, fine musicians—Alison Dunn (voice), Silas Garrett (cello), Adalyn Wilson (violin), Lachlan Wilson (violin), Sophia Wilson (violin), and the children’s choir.

November 21: Thanksgiving Community Prayer Service at Christ Lutheran Church with combined choirs, including the Emmanuel Choir.

December 24: Festival Eucharist with brass quartet, soloists, full choir including contracted singers, and the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus



January 1: Christmas Lessons & Carols with soloist, voice trio, and recorder trio

And...in between Sundays, something else goes on during the week!

Sopranos

Jen Dunn
Nancy Grow
Lynn Stephenson

Altos

Kim Bleyer †
Alison Dunn
Shari Kelts
Lauren Romano *
Ava Weiland †
Katherine Ziegler

Tenors

Sue Clauss
Anthony Murgo * †
Ann Marie Ruhlin

Basses

Davis Allen †
Lou Clauss
Al Ludwig
Charlie Walch

* paid section leader

† new/returning/incoming member

And I sincerely thank the following outgoing regular members for their time of service:
Mary Jane Crews, Caleb McCarroll, Jesse Norman, and Freddie Rice.

Respectfully submitted,

Jae Park
Organist & Director of Music

Lauren Romano Brings Flexibility, Imagination, and Love to Children's Music

The Emmanuel Children's Choir has been under the direction of Lauren Romano for eight years. The choir ended the 2021-2022 school year transitioning from Zoom rehearsals to in-person choir on Wednesday evenings, but without the Fellowship dinners, attendance was low. There were four children who usually came, and we sang for the Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, and Youth Sunday services that spring. The program started off the 2022-2023 school year with singing during Faith Quest, but when Fellowship dinners returned, it moved back to Wednesday evenings from 6:30

-7:00 pm. As always, the Children's Choir strives to meet the needs of the families and kids of our congregation, and after three years of change from the pandemic, we are back to what worked best! We have anywhere from 5-15 kids (ages 4-10) in attendance during Wednesday rehearsals, and they sing at least once a month during the 10:30 Sunday morning service.

In rehearsals, we practice songs for the upcoming services, play musical games, and learn about basic elements of music. We discuss how to express the lyrics and glorify the Lord with our

voices and instruments. Each week, I work to create a loving atmosphere of vocal learning, faith growth, and mutual care. This congregation has been so wonderful, and I couldn't be happier worshiping with you and teaching the Children's Choir every week. The kids are incredibly enthusiastic, and I love that our church encourages them to participate throughout the worship service. Thank you to

Katie and Jae for their help and support of the Children's Choir. The constant encouragement from everyone at Emmanuel is tremendously appreciated.

Much Love,
Lauren Romano



Katie Gregston Navigates Youth and Family Ministry Through a Year of Challenges

2022 brought about several exciting changes for our children and youth at Emmanuel. We began monthly intergenerational events to strengthen the connections between our members of all ages. There's so much love and wisdom waiting to be shared with the young people of Emmanuel! We also began a monthly brunch as part of our



On May 22, the Middle School Faith Quest students, parents and leaders took a bus tour of the Big Mound Monument, Deaconess Anne House, and the George B. Vashon Museum, finishing with lunch at Sweetie Pie's Upper Crust.

formation and fellowship time. These brunches allow kids to break bread with others who they may not have had a chance to meet yet. Twice a month, kids meet with their FaithQuest leaders for a lesson and/or service opportunity. Kids in preschool through fifth grade meet for Preschool Elementary FaithQuest, kids in grades six through eight meet for Middle School FaithQuest, and kids in ninth through twelfth grades meet for High School FaithQuest.

Some of the events we've enjoyed in 2022 include the Easter Egg Hunt, VBS, Pentecost Picnic/Powder Party, Backpack Blessing, movie nights, mini golf, a historical tour of North City, Pumpkin Carving with Vespers, ice skating, and our Advent Celebration. We've had a lot of fun, all while exploring and strengthening our faith!

A few of the service projects our kids have participated in include assembling birthday



Children enjoy the Playground while parents worship.

kits, stocking the food pantry, organizing at LifeWise StL, cleaning Greenwood Cemetery, donating food to the Deaconess Anne House Little Free Pantry, yard work at Webster Rock Hill Ministries, contributing to the Giving Tree, and much more. Our kids don't volunteer for the accolades; they help because they care and they want the world to be a better place.

Our children and youth programs exist because of our amazing team of leaders. Please give thanks to the following. If I've missed anyone, please know it's unintentional, and accept my sincerest apologies. There are many adults in this congregation who see a need, step in without hesitating, and may be subsequently missed in recognition. I'm honored and grateful that Emmanuel kids have a group of adults they can count on to help them navigate childhood: Dave Buck, Dan Burst, Alina Castro, Joel Crews, Keith Harr, Sarah Harr, Alex Hughey, Linnet Husi, Rachel Ludwig, Kathleen Martin, Jae Park, Pam Penrose, Lauren Romano, Ann Marie Ruhlin, Susan Shillito, Mimi Shipp, Chris Wagnon, Tessa Weiland, Nicholas Williams, Molly Wilson

Youth prepare for Pentecost Paint Blast!



Emmanuel Preschool Continues to Grow and Serve the Community

Since 1949, Emmanuel Preschool has been proudly providing three-, four- and five-year-old children in our community with a caring and creative early childhood education. We operate a half-day program (9-11:45 a.m.) with opportunities for children to stay for extended days until 2:30 p.m.



Our preschool has been enjoying a wonderful year! We have all our classrooms operating in our traditional manner with both our music and yoga programs back up and running. This is also the first year since 2020 that the preschool will be making bread, a tradition that goes back to the early days of the preschool.

This year we have the joy of welcoming 2 new teachers, Mrs. Kim Bleyer and Mrs. Virginia Smith. Mrs. Bleyer has taken on the task of leading our Blue Room and is developing a curriculum to ensure all our children enter kindergarten ready to take on the world! Mrs. Bleyer came to our preschool



just when we needed her most and her position here is a real example of God's work in our world. Our teachers continue to be a collection of remarkable women who have risen to the challenge of teaching in an ever-changing world. They continue to love learning and embrace finding ways to keep our preschool centered around our students' joy.

Preschool families come from across the area including Webster Groves, Kirkwood, Shrewsbury, Maplewood and St. Louis. Emmanuel Preschool is very much a community preschool; of the 55 families we serve only 5 are members of Emmanuel Parish.

Emmanuel Preschool's teacher, Preschool Board and I continue to be grateful to the community and our parish for allowing us to offer an outstanding preschool experience for children. I would like to offer special thanks this year above all others to the dedication of my Preschool Board. They have successfully guided the preschool through the worst of the pandemic balancing the needs of the staff with the needs of the students. They have been attentive to all the additional meetings and e-mails, offering insight, direction and guidance with grace and dedication.



2022-2023 Emmanuel Preschool

Board of Directors:

Katie Franke, President
Betsy Lindner, Vice President
Jennifer Padrucco, Secretary
Marisa Yoder, Treasurer
Cathi Boyd
Bethany Keller
Margot Smith
Tessa Weiland

For parish families interested in enrolling their 3-5 year old children in Emmanuel Preschool or 2-year-old children in Emmanuel PDO please contact me anytime at 314-680-1042 (cell) or (314) 961-2393, ext. 123 (office), or email rachael@emmanuelpreschool.org

The Rainbow Room Fills Children With Joy and Learning in Second Year



The Parents' Day Out program continues to evolve and is now called the Emmanuel Rainbow Room. The Rainbow Room, is in its second year operating as such and has two new teachers, Mrs. Ginger Garrett and Mrs. Lucy Parker. Both teachers have had children attend Emmanuel and their commitment to the

growth and development of our youngest learners can be seen every day. The children in our care come from a variety of families and backgrounds, our room truly does resemble a rainbow. We are working with these young learners by introducing them to basic classroom manners, such as sitting for snack and walking in a line. Children are encouraged to socialize, create, read and

dance. The structure is limited but the play and creativity are boundless! Our real joy and teaching come from practicing kindness and sharing. We enjoy sharing the message of God's love with all our families and hope they leave us filled with joy! Rainbow Room operates from 9-12 pm Monday-Thursday. We hope to have 20 children enrolled, 10 in each of our 2-day classes.



Altar Guild Adapts to Changes

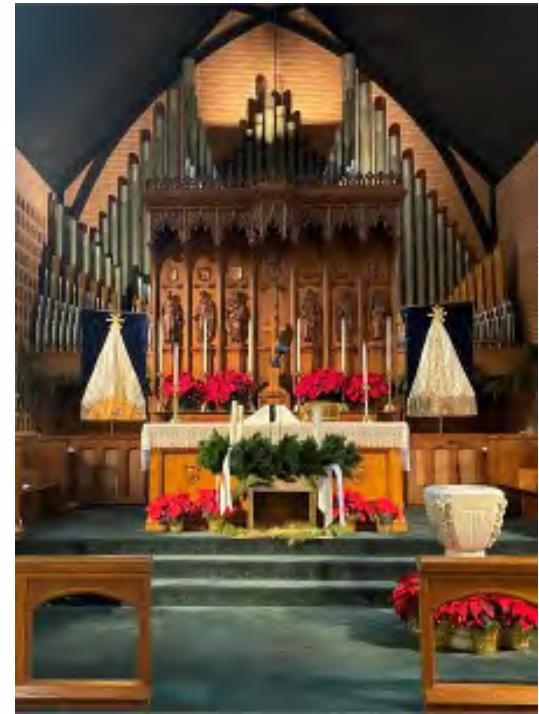
"Almighty God, grant that we may handle holy things with reverence, and perform our work with such faithfulness and devotion that it may be wholly acceptable to you and obtain your blessing through, Christ our Lord. Amen."

Welcome to Altar Guild. We are a group of approximately 20 individuals who are dedicated to the loving ministry of serving God by caring for our beautiful altar, sacred vessels, clergy vestments, and altar linens of the parish. We partner with our clergy and under the direction of our Priest-in- Charge, to make

the worship life of the church run smoothly. We prepare the sanctuary for each service with knowledge and understanding of the church year, the liturgy, and colors, incorporating attention to detail of our worship space. Dedicated and faithful members work to decorate the church for Christmas and Easter, as well as make preparations for Holy Week such as washing of the feet and stripping of the altar. We have both the privilege and the pleasure of serving at special liturgical events sharing the joy at weddings and baptisms, as well as the sorrow at funerals. It is an honor to be with parishioners at these times. We also prepare the kit

for the twice monthly service at Bethesda to enable communal worship for our parishioners residing at Bethesda. Set-ups for all services occur on Saturday mornings by faithful teams according to a well-organized schedule.

New this year is the presence of a church florist who designs and delivers our Sunday altar flowers. A new system was developed to allow any parishioner to donate flowers for the altar. The flowers are rearranged by Altar Guild members after the 10:30 service and sent with Sujanna for the continued glory to God at Faith Christian Church of India. Many thanks to Peg Cooper for her faithful work in assuring the availability of flowers. Many thanks also to Peg and Debby Martin who obtained and ar-



anged flowers each week until a florist was secured.

The Guild will be ready to accommodate changing needs as the church continues to adapt to more in-person worship needs.

The annual Altar Guild meeting was held in October. We welcomed 2 new members, Megan Jones and Lyn Anthoney. If you feel called to join us in this "behind the scenes" ministry, please contact co-chairs Linda Schuchmann or Jeannie Keyes.



The World Needs More of "Papa Dale"

Dale Penrose, a/k/a Papa Dale, a/k/a Johnny Appleseed made an appearance during formation time on October 9 to talk about apples, cider, environmental issues, and give a demonstration of his cider press (plus samples). The video posted on Facebook receive a whopping 250+ views and the two presentations shared on YouTube got 4572 and 3310 views each. The world

clearly has a "thirst" for Papa Dale's information and cider!



Caring Committee Reaches Out with Gifts of Love and Support

Caring—by the numbers....

Bethesda:

- 225 communions
- Average attendance: 12

Martha's Meals:

- 47+ meals
- 25 volunteers
- 8 individuals and families

Cards:

- 253 cards
- 17 50th anniversaries
- 3 25th anniversaries
- 15 bereavement
- 38 "thinking of you"

Shawls and Flowers:

- 20+ prayer shawls
- 50 spring flowers
- 72 poinsettias

The Caring Ministries Committee of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, originally formed to oversee the needs of older adult parishioners, broadened its focus to include all members of the parish several years ago. With the coming out of the corona virus pandemic the Committee's activities have come to life with a new one started in March, 2022. Under the direction of The Rev. Sujanna Raj, **Eucharist at Bethesda** began. On the first and third Thursdays of the month, Eucharist is celebrated with the residents of Bethesda at Old Orchard Retirement Community. There are quite a few Emmanuel members who live there. Since its beginning, **225** communions have been served with an average attendance of **12** at each service. Susan Shillito has joined the group each time to provide music for the service.

Martha's Meals: Delivery of meals was resumed in October, 2021 under the leadership of Lisa Liss. In 2022 over **47 meals** were been taken by **25** volunteers to **8** individuals and families.

The card ministry: Parishioners aged 70 or older received a *special birthday card* from Emmanuel. Couples celebrating 50 years of marriage or more, as well as those couples celebrating their 25th anniversary received a *special anniversary card*. Parishioners who lost a loved one received a *bereavement card*. *Thinking of You Cards* were sent to individuals who were ill, had surgery or were just in need of a cheerful greeting. All cards were designed by Committee members and signed by the chair of the committee for the clergy and the committee. Individuals who received a prayer shawl received a card. A total of **253** cards were sent out in 2022 including **17** fiftieth anniversary

cards, **3** twenty-fifth anniversary cards, **15** bereavement cards and **38** thinking of you cards. Pat Wiltse and Peg Cooper prepared the cards each month.



day afternoons. **Twenty plus shawls** were given to individuals experiencing illness, bereavement or other crisis situations. The shawls represent Emmanuel wrapping around individuals in their time of need.

Fifty spring flowers instead of Easter Lilies and **72 Christmas Poinsettias** were delivered to individuals in 2022 prior to Easter and Christmas so their season would be brightened. The Caring Committee coordinated the delivery of both the spring flowers and poinsettias.

Caring Ministries Committee Members:

Peg Cooper, Chair
Shari Kelts
Lisa Liss
Debby Martin
Bethann Rohlfing
Sue Smith
Pat Wiltse
Katherine Ziegler, Parish Nurse



Jodie Johnson reads from the lectionary, Sujanna Raj leads the worship and distributes communion to the faith community at Bethesda/Orchard.

Food Center serves 600+ Households—an increase of 45% over 2021

The Food Center served 609 households in 2022 which included 206 children and 1036 adults. This is an increase of 45% and 271 households compared with last year. Our volunteers would undoubtedly say that they are "very busy". Not since 2017 with 624 clients served, have we seen this much need. As in previous years, most of the clients were referred by Webster-Rock Hill Ministries (WRHM) and many are coming from outside the 63119 zip code. Some of the other agencies making referrals were Holy Redeemer and Webster University.

The Food Center continued to extend its outreach committing \$2,400 in support of WRHM for produce/meat/and dairy vouchers.

We are extremely grateful to our volunteers who continue to serve during some pretty up and down times. Gail Range continued her service as Volunteer Coordinator: developing distributing, and posting monthly volunteer work-schedules, maintaining and changing Food Center procedures, and providing orientation of new volunteers. Her monthly email encouragements continue to be a welcome communication to all of us. Christi Maginn has also continued her outreach in support of our ministry and organizing continuing education for our volunteers.

We continued to get great support from our friends and neighbors who held food drives from The College School, Starbucks in Webster Groves, Crestview Senior Living and two or our own parishioners who held food drives amongst their family and

friends!! Andrew Shipp and John Long, you know I'm talking about you!! Our own Emmanuel Preschool continues to educate the children and their parents about our important ministry and they did a couple of food drives this year. Other food donations came from our personal angel, Dorothea Bean, as well as neighbors of our church. We have continued our monthly food shopping excursions and these have routinely included stops at several Aldi's locations just to get the food we need and sometimes we can't get enough or any. Margarine and grape jelly appear to be the new problems!! Many of our parish-

ioners have stepped up to help with the monthly shopping as well as trying to obtain some of the food that isn't available at the time of the shopping trips. Special thanks to Pam and Dale Penrose who organize the volunteer shoppers and haul the food to our center and John Snodgrass who will take emergency calls from me at almost any time!! Our parishioners were so generous in their continued donations of over 3760 food items as well as \$6,900.00 in monetary donations.

Without your support throughout the year and the much needed donations the Food

Center receives from the parish and the community, we could not provide the requisite nourishment to improve the quality of life for many throughout the community. Through God's grace, the Food Center was the recipient of close to 13,000 food items donated in 2022 in addition to a large number of monetary gifts provided in honor or in memory of loved ones.

2022 Financial Report:

Beginning Balance	\$ 28,555.27
Money Received	\$ 6,888.39
Ending Balance	\$ 15,387.04

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte A. Martin, Food Center
Administrative Coordinator

The College School's Annual "Wagon Train" Of Food



Steeple Reconstruction: It Was More than We Thought....

Everything needed work



Existing wood



Existing flashing

By July 15...

Just as we got used to the scaffolding...



Construction began June 13

View from the top of the scaffolding



Materials were prepared...



The copper started going on...



The need for tuckpointing became apparent



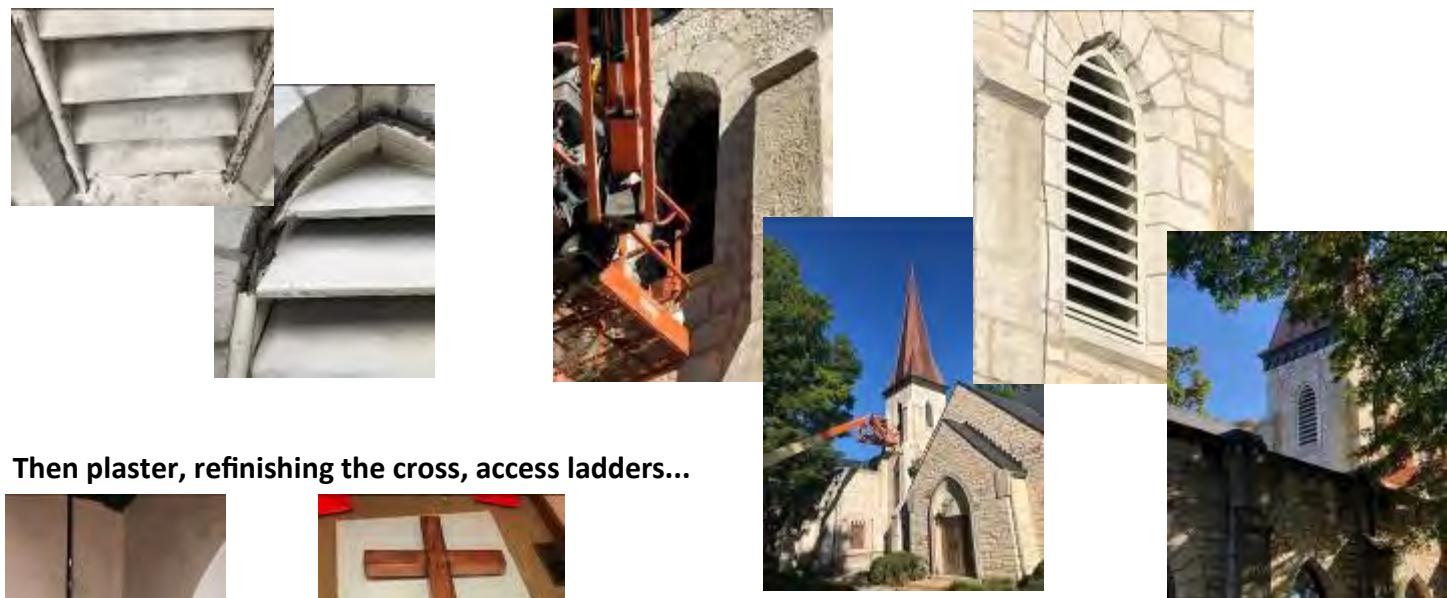
By late July, despite the heat, the copper was moving up the steeple



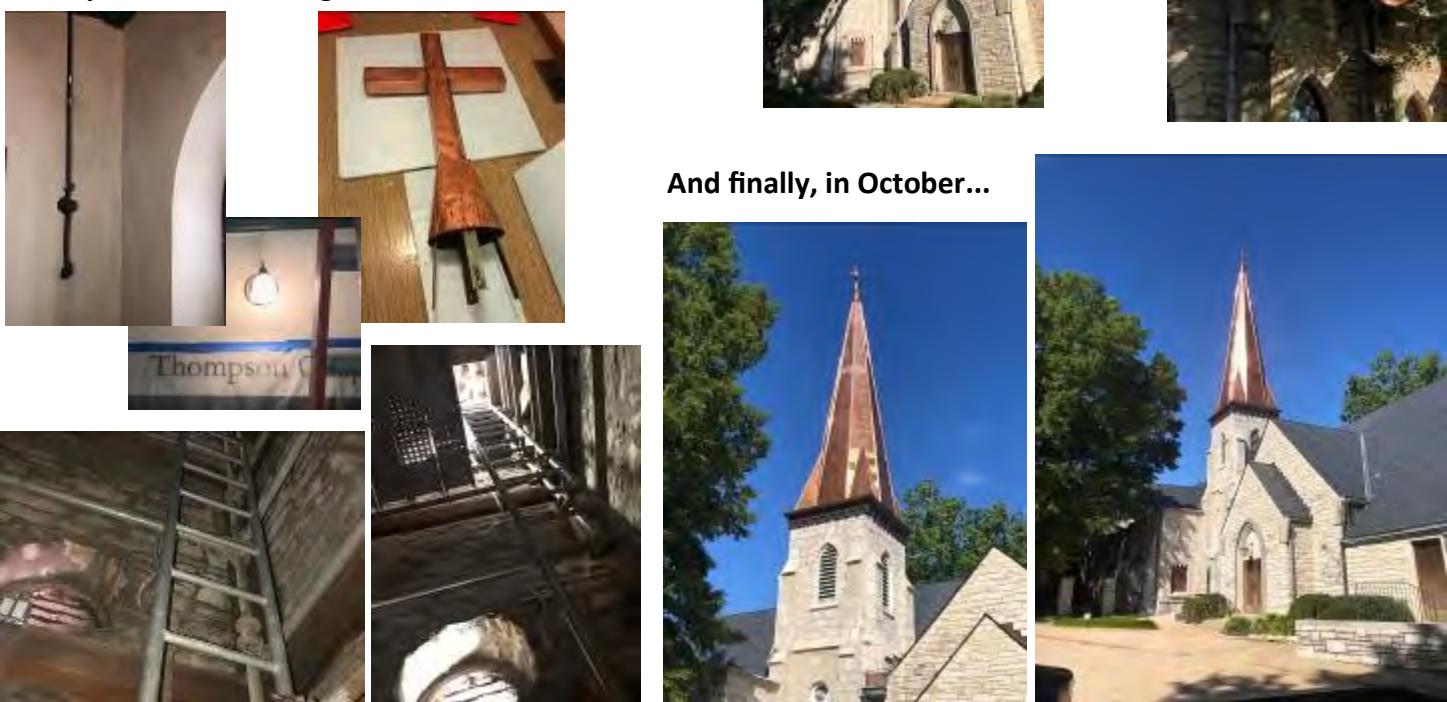
By early August, copper was reaching the top, copper flashing was installed, tuckpointing was complete.



But what about the louvers! 150 years of rain had taken their toll. Out with the old and in with the new:



Then plaster, refinishing the cross, access ladders...



And finally, in October...

Compline Viewership Remains Strong and Reaches Around the World

The practice of recording and publishing Compline on our Facebook page began in March 2020 as a response to the pandemic shut-down. Except for a summer break from June-August 2022, this has continued nightly and has expanded to YouTube as well.

In 2022, the service has been led primarily by lay readers: Sandy Cooper, Mary Killion, Debby Martin, Paul Metzler, Lee Nel-

sen, Bethann Rohlwing, Ann Marie Ruhlin, and JoAnne Warren. They have been joined this year by Margaret Blistain, Betsy Lindner, Jessica and Matt Schunke, and the Bethesda/Orchard community of Jim and Mary Ann Groetsch, Sue Hooker, and Jodie Johnson. We are blessed to have Mtipe Koggani continue to lead us following his ordination.

Our average nightly viewership is 25 people, with an annual

viewership of almost 6500. Our highest viewership is routinely Mtipe's, which proves the truth of evangelism: He SHARES the good news with others on social media. Another unscientific comment: viewership on New Year's Eve was 3 times the average viewership for a Saturday evening. Perhaps people felt a need to connect with a prayer community that night. Our viewers are in the parish, the STL community, across the



Mr. Mozart joins Debby Martin for Compline.

country and around the world and it is a privilege to pray with them at the end of each day.

"Rise Against Hunger": Parish joins together for service and fellowship



Emmanuel's Food Ministry sponsored a food packaging event to benefit Rise Against Hunger, an organization driven by the vision of a world without hunger. Their mission is to end hunger by providing food and life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable and create a global commitment to mobilize the necessary resources.



Volunteers of all ages work hard to package over 14,000 meals!



After all the hard work, refreshment and fellowship for all!



Emmanuel raised the funds to purchase the food and conducted a meal packaging event on Sunday, April 24. The amount needed to package over 12,000 meals was \$4760; \$3000 had already been pledged. The Middle School and High School Youth Groups also conducted fund-raising by creating and selling stress kits.

This event was a fellowship opportunity for Emmanuel while supporting our food outreach mission. It was fun for the whole family and was a major intergenerational event with over 60 people participating. Ultimately, over 14,000 meals were prepared.



Emmanuel's youth create stress kits, including stress balls and toys) to raise funds to support Rise Against Hunger ... and have some fun while they're doing it!

Whitney Rice's Instructed Liturgy : ... and a little child shall lead them

On April 8, the Rev. Canon Whitney Rice visited Emmanuel to conduct an "Instructed Eucharist." Who knew that this would turn out to be one of the most attended and viewed experiences of the year?! Bringing her own blend of scholarship, leadership, and "Whitney Magic," she robed the children and let them do the leading. From reading, lighting candles, holding the Gospel book, and processing, Emmanuel's children taught us new ways to engage in worship.



Max lights the altar candles.



Ava Weiland reads scripture.



Beckett Schunke holds the Gospel book.



Emmanuel's young ministers-in-training join Whitney Rice in an Instructed Eucharist.

Lenten Series Boldly Go to Envision the Future And Look Within



Emmanuel offered two opportunities for study during Lent. A 4-part series, **"Star Trek: Lenten reflections"** explored the connection between the culture that created Star Trek and the culture Trek envisions for the future, looking through an Episcopalian lens at who gets a seat at the table in Star Trek's vision of a utopia and who does not, how we treat the "other" among us (using episodes from the original Star Trek and The Next Generation),

how sin can be "othering" (Voyager), how we can be the "Other" (Deep Space 9). The presenter was **Marie Gnann Brownhill**, a cradle-

Episcopalian, devoted Trekkie, and co-host of the [podcast, "Trekkers De-light"](#).

The second offering comes from **The Rev. Canon Whitney Rice** who recorded a series of six short videos, which were used as a resource for an in person study. The video series looked at how we practice evangelism with spir-

itual integrity, going to the deep places of life and exploring how to find (and struggle to find) God there. Donna Erickson, John Long and Mimi Shipp were the facilitators for this small in person group.

Confirmation, Take 2!



Confirmands:

Grayson, Bailey, and Parker Allen

Whit and Davis Ragan



Bishop Johnson returned on March 27 for another Confirmation, and another of his famous selfies!

Emmanuel and Christ Lutheran Host Fun-filled Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School brought the Word of God and joy to the hearts of young children from Tuesday, June 7 through Thursday, June 9, from 9 am to 1 pm. Emmanuel hosted and it was done in partnership with Christ Lutheran Church of Webster Groves.



Emmanuel Brings God's Love to Those Who Love Us Best, Our Pets

On Sunday, October 4, Emmanuel shared God's love with our animal friends who offer us a constant reminder of what covenant love really looks like.



Youth Sunday Provides Inspiration for Entire Parish

Youth Sunday was supposed to be in February, but Covid intervened. Rescheduled for May, the service began with a prelude by cellist Silas Garrett playing Concerto No. 1 in C major: I. Moderato, by Joseph Haydn. Alison Dunn sang "Prayer" by David W. Guion. Sophia and Adalyn Wilson, violinists, played "Spring" (The Four Seasons) by Antonio Vivaldi. During Communion, Sophia and Lachlan Wilson performed a violin duet "Morning Has Broken." Youth readers included Ava Weiland, Phoebe Dunn, Beckett Schunke, Patrick Stephenson, and Whit Ragan. Owen Crews, and Emery, Madeline, and Logan Gregston were ushers.



Alison Dunn, alto, sings "Prayer."



Graduating Seniors Alison Dunn and Sophia Wilson talk about their journeys and their plans for the future.



Ben Stephenson and Whit Ragan lead prayers from the lectern and the Children's Choir sings "And I Will Praise Him."



Pumpkin Carving & Vespers = Fun for the Whole Family

On Sunday, October 30, brave and fun-loving families came to Emmanuel to carve pumpkins together and say Vespers at twilight in the Memorial Garden.



Renewal of Ministry and Confirmation Combine in Joyful Celebration

The Renewal of Ministry for The Rev. Dr. Valori Mulvey Sherer and The Rev. Sujanna Raj took place on Saturday, February 12 at 6 pm. The Confirmations and Receptions which were to have occurred in January but were canceled due to a Covid surge were added to this liturgical lollapalooza! There was red everywhere!!

Bishop Deon K. Johnson and other clergy from the diocese joined to welcome Valori, Sujanna and the confirmands.



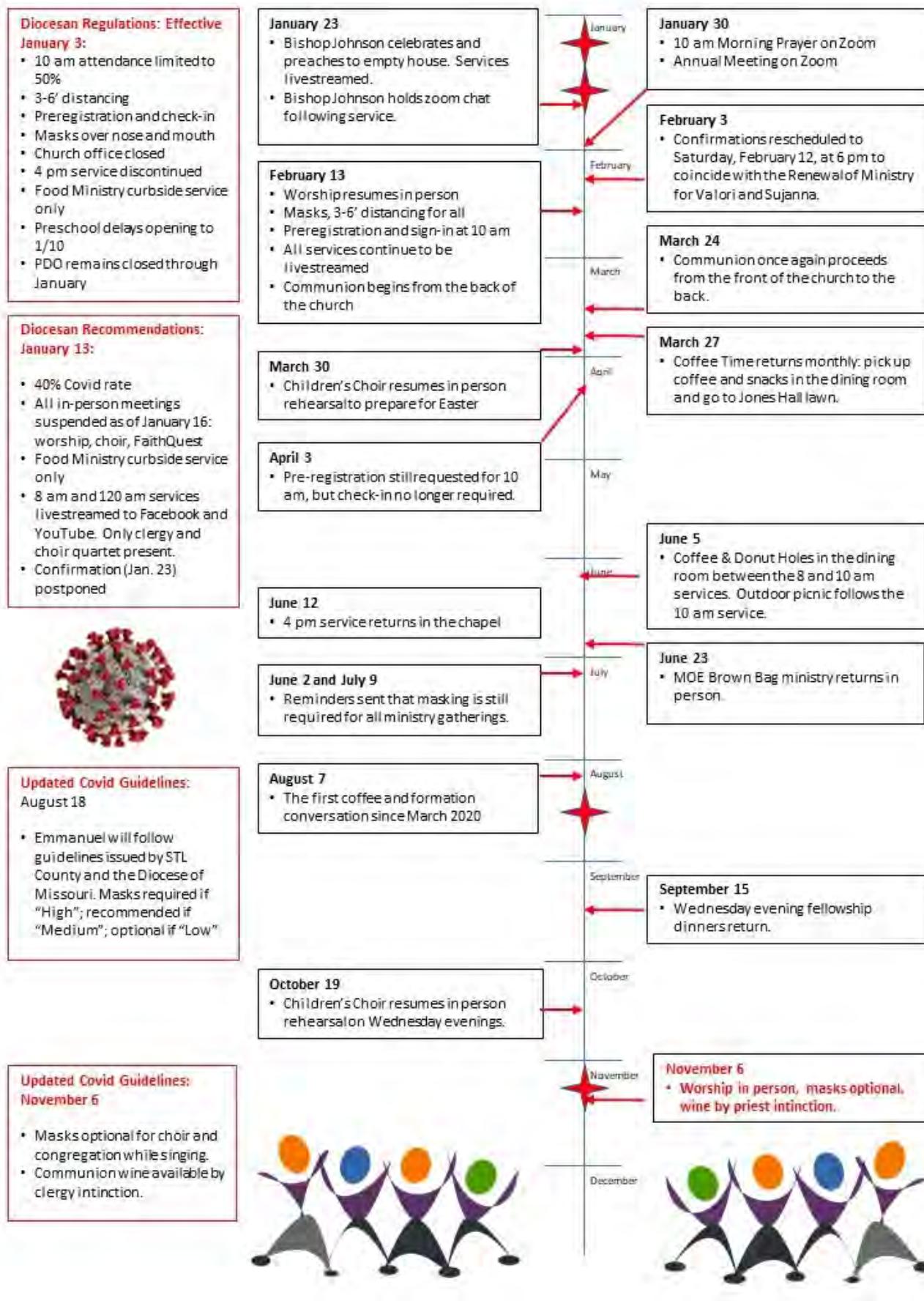
It Wouldn't Be Confirmation Without a Bishop Johnson Selfie



Those confirmed and received include:

Deanna Balke
Terry Balke
Madeline Gregston
Jonathan Knapp
Lauren Knapp,
Will Ludwig
Hailey Nash
William Nash
Lydia Sabath
Riley Sabath
Dylan Smerek
Tim Williamson
Cate Williamson
Adalyn Wilson

Our Great Big, Fat, Covid Year: a brief history...



Vestry Members 2022



Donna Erickson, Sr. Warden



Rev. Jerre Birdsong
Deacon



Rev. Dr. Valori Mulvey Sherer
Priest-in-Charge



Rev. Sujanna Raj
Associate Priest



Tom Smith, Jr. Warden



Peter Bogetto



Kristyn Brennan



Maryann Vognild, Treasurer



Mary Killion, Secretary



Peg Cooper



Scot Copeland



Elizabeth Kaul



Lee Nelsen



Joyce Pluhar



Charlie Walch



Allison Williams

Special Thanks to our Ministry Leaders:

- The Rev. Dr. Valori Mulvey Sherer, Priest in Charge
- The Rev. Sujanna Raj, Associate Priest
- The Rev. Jerre Birdsong, Deacon
- Mimi Shipp, Director of Communication & Invitation
- Jae Young Park, Organist and Director of Music
- Lauren Romano, Children's Choir Director
- Katie Gregston,
Children & Youth Ministries Coordinator
- Rachael Ludwig, Managing Director,
Emmanuel Preschool and Parents' Day Out
- Jeannie Keyes and Linda Schuchmann, Chairs,
Altar Guild
- Peg Cooper, Chair, Caring Committee
- Charlotte A. Martin,
Food Center Ministry Administrative Coordinator
- Janet Dobbs, Chair, Worship Committee
- Ann Marie Ruhlin, Coordinator, Evening Compline
and Office Volunteer

Someone Has Been Missing.....

On August 29, Emmanuel announced that Mimi Shipp, our beloved Director of Communication & Invitation (and guru of everything that goes on in the parish) would be out for 6-8 weeks with spine surgery. Little did any of us know how long that journey would eventually be—especially Mimi. Even more, although we thought we knew how much Mimi did for the parish and everyone in it, little did we know how huge a hole she left. Katie Gregston, Ann Marie Ruhlin, Dave Pluhar and others stepped up to help in her absence, but it was often like trying to fill a swimming pool hole with a garden trowel. With much courage on Mimi's part, much dedication on her husband Dave's part, and many prayers from everyone at Emmanuel, Mimi is on the mend.

**Thanks be to God!
Come back to us
soon, Mimi. We miss
you!!**

