

welcome!

Introducing this month's issue of ...

# HIGH NOTES



EMMANUEL  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



## Late Summer 2024

### Inside this issue:

Rector's Letter	1
Sr. Warden's Letter	2
Upcoming Events	2
Rev. Jen's Letter	3
ASF Meetings	4
Liturgical Schedule	5
Farewell –Joani and Janie	6
Outreach	6
Facilities update	7
Emmanuel Preschool	8

### High Notes Submissions

Please submit your articles for the *Fall High Notes* to [Sandy](mailto:Sandy) by Friday, September 20th.

### Message from the Rector

**Greetings Emmanuel!** I hope this message - and newsletter - find you well. One of the neighboring Episcopal churches has a tradition when, while on their summer travels, their parishioners take with them a "flat" drawing of their parish's patron saint, like the iconic "Flat Stanley" of years ago. As their parishioners take to land, sea and sky, they take with them a drawing of their parish patron saint to whatever location the family travels, remembering to send a picture back to the parish of the family with the paper saint! Similarly, this summer, you've shared with me pictures from around the world: Paris, Italy, Turkey, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, the Outer Banks, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Nebraska, Texas, the Poconos, Lake George, NY, Shrine Mont and many other fun, relaxing and interesting places. Go Emmanuel! And thanks for the pics!

What a gift a change of scenery can be. When I first came to Emmanuel I learned that Episcopalians love to travel and the pews might be a little more sparse than during the academic year. One of our clergy members noticed my concern and whispered in my ear, "Ah, yes, Episcopalians, the people you trust to return again in the Fall!" I laughed so hard. Loved that humor. And have never forgotten it, relieved, that indeed, come the start of the school year again, the pews are filled. Thank you. We count on you in every sense of the word and there's no greater sign of your commitment to our parish than by showing up in these pews and getting involved. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Over the summer thank you for gathering with us as we said farewell to Mike & Janie Piemonte, our Parish Administrator and said welcome Sandy Esquivel, a parishioner, who is our new Parish Administrator. Sandy and Janie spent a month overlapping their schedules so Sandy could hit the ground running and she is, I can assure you! Janie and Mike are getting well settled in Cary, N.C. and we wish them much happiness in their retirement. We also gathered to say farewell to Joani Peacock, our Associate Rector, who moved to Winston-Salem, N.C. the beginning of August. Thankfully Joani will continue to support us from afar and we won't formally say farewell until the end of this calendar year. Rev. Jen and I will do our level best to absorb some of the ministry Joani did in person, but we'll never do it with quite the same *panache* with which Joani lived out her ministry among us. Please feel free to reach out to Joani anytime you'd like - she does not want to say farewell yet either! ([AssociateRector@emmanuelonhigh.org](mailto:AssociateRector@emmanuelonhigh.org)) Or, please feel free to send something in the mail: Joani Peacock, 501 West Fourth Street #535, Winston-Salem, NC 27101.

As always, please remember that Rev. Jen and the staff and I are always here to be of service to you. Please reach out anytime. We're grateful to be in community with all of you. **Peace, Chuck.**

### Sharing the Good News!



Our own Rev. Jen is now a published author! Her piece, focused on Psalm 113:9, is featured in the recently published devotional, *The Essence of Ministry: A Devotional for Clergy by Clergy Embracing Children's Spirituality*. Emmanuel-proud!

## 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. E. Mark Stevenson  
The Rt. Rev. Gayle Elizabeth Harris

### Emmanuel Church Staff

#### Rector

[The Rev. Charles C. McCoart, Jr.](#)

#### Associate for Worship

[The Rev. Joan L. Peacock](#)

#### Associate Rector

[The Rev. Jen Leahey](#)

#### Organist/Choir Director

[Ryan Fitch](#)

#### Parish Administrator

[Sandy Esquivel](#)

#### Administrative Assistant

[Karen O'Hern](#)

#### Sexton

Carlos Guzman

#### Nursery Caregivers

Lillian Urrea  
Jeni Rivera

#### Sunday Services

8:00 am, 10:00 am

#### Church Office Hours

Monday—Friday  
10:00 pm —2:00 pm

### Emmanuel Episcopal Church

1608 Russell Road  
[Alexandria, VA 22301](#)  
703-683-0798 (phone)

[www.emmanuelonhigh.org](http://www.emmanuelonhigh.org)

## 2025 Stewardship Message

### From our Senior Warden, Chuck Thomas



As God sustains us,  
so too we sustain  
Emmanuel.  
STEWARDSHIP 2025



As we gather each Sunday, we are reminded of the blessings God has bestowed upon us. Our Church is not just a building; it is a community, a sanctuary, and a beacon of hope and love in our lives. To continue the mission and maintain the spiritual, educational, and outreach programs that benefit so many, we rely on the generosity of our congregation.



Good stewardship is not merely about managing resources wisely; it is about recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God and using those gifts to further his kingdom. By contributing to Emmanuel, either financially and through volunteer support to one of our many ministries, you are living the theme of our 2025 stewardship campaign: *As God sustains us, so too we sustain Emmanuel.*

There are many ways to sustain Emmanuel. We will talk about those in future bulletins and other communications. Emmanuel Vestry asks that you begin thinking about the role you might want to play.

## Upcoming Events

**Social Club outing —August 24th– Polo at Great Meadows**

**Hymn Sing– August 25th**

**Out of the Darkness Walk– September 14th**

**Kick-off Sunday—September 15th– Academic year begins for Godly play and CHAOS, Mission Possible and Stewardship Drive.**

**EEC Book Club– September 15th– After 10:00am service in Memorial Room**

**Parish Picnic– September 22nd after 10:00am service in the Parish Hall**

**ALIVE! Furniture Delivery– September 28th**

**Water and Wilderness Church—October 20th**

## Message from Rev. Jen

Happy Summer, Emmanuel family!

As we prepare to kick off a new program year on Sunday, September 15th, I could not be more jazzed!

We are beginning Year Two of **Godly Play** as a parish, and I continue to be thrilled by the reception this curriculum has received among the children. Their ability to retain and reflect on the stories in creative ways is awe-inspiring, and I consider myself blessed to be able to learn from, and grow with, the children of EEC. But this program does not run by itself – it requires two volunteers a week. Yes, just two! I am thankful for the committed, faithful volunteers who gave of themselves to story tell and help with the Godly Play program last year; thanks to each of you again for your awesomeness, y'all are amazing. AND I am seeking MORE volunteers this year! NO experience is required. Leading 30 minutes of Godly Play once a semester (twice a year would only be an hour of your time!) is a perfect way to invest in the future of the Church, and the lives of Emmanuel's precious kiddos, and I am asking you to please really consider this opportunity. As my role within worship has increased due to Joani's departure, I am unable to story tell as much as I did last program year, meaning the addition of more volunteers is crucial in order for this ministry to continue to thrive. Strong, active lay-leadership is a sign of a healthy parish, and something that Emmanuel has in abundance – I pray that this participation can extend to the Godly Play program, and that more volunteers might be willing to step out of their comfort zone and give this a go. If you want to know more, or have specific questions, please do reach out to me! I am a believer in this program, and a believer that every person at EEC already has everything they need to be a great "Godly Player," and I would love to share that support with you.

**CHAOS** (Christ, Hope, and Occasional Snacks), EEC's youth ministry, will be engaging in some new and exciting opportunities in the 2024-25 program year, including camping at Pohick Bay Park, assisting with the EEC children's ministry, and several unique fundraisers in support of a mission trip in the summer of 2025! The middle and high schoolers at Emmanuel are a truly special group, and it has been a privilege and a true joy to get to know each of them better over the past year. Seeing them mature and grow into themselves is incredible, and I am really looking forward to kicking off a new year of adventures together!

For the past year, I have also been the clergy liaison to **EEC's Outreach Ministry**, and what a wonderful year it has been! Outreach Ministry is unique in that, while some needs in this world remain the same, there are always new needs and opportunities to serve others that crop up. This ministry ebbs and flows, and is truly a sign of a changing world, and parish. My deepest joy this year has been watching Emmanuel's relationship with ALIVE! deepen. In just the month of August Emmanuel is actively supporting three of ALIVE!'s ministries – their food, furniture, and housewares programs. It is humbling to see an organization like ALIVE! doing so much good in our community, and it is a true blessing for Emmanuel to assist in their work in a variety of ways. I am bursting to share with you all some new outreach opportunities that Emmanuel has the chance to engage in, but all in due time...

I am overjoyed to share that I am now the clergy liaison for **Adult Spiritual Formation!** The ASF team is a faithful group, and I absolutely cannot wait to join them in their work. Providing creative and engaging opportunities for adult spiritual growth and formation is something that is dear to my heart, and I could not be more thankful for the chance to be involved in this work at Emmanuel. If you have ideas for adult spiritual formation opportunities, let's hear them. The goal is to provide programming that is of interest to you, so your input is invaluable!

There is so, so much more, friends... formation, fellowship, and worship opportunities (new and continuing) more than I can count that I would love to go into detail about, but for the sake of brevity, I will wrap this up. Thank you for being you – for being a parish that is committed to its community and neighbors both within and outside our big, red doors. Thank you for welcoming me now well over a year ago, and for continuing to support me in my endeavors to serve you, and serve with you.

*In peace, Jen*

### 2024 Vestry

([Chuck Thomas](#) Senior Warden), [Ann Reinke](#): (Junior Warden)

[Laura Bishop](#), [Bob Carragher](#), [Nancy Dupree](#), [Emily McNaughton](#), [Kerin Ord](#), [Pauline Porter](#), [Doris Rudolph](#), [Christian Simpson](#).

[Gene Lange](#) (Treasurer) [Sarah Kolo](#) (Clerk)

### Contacts for Ministry Teams

#### Worship

**Team Coordinator:** [Nancy Dupree](#)

Acolytes: [Susan Cruz](#)

Altar Guild: [Nancy Dupree](#)

Bell Ringers: [Susan Cruz](#)

Guitar Circle: [Stewart Bartley](#)

Music & Choirs: [Ryan Fitch](#)

Readers (8:00): [David Newcomb](#)

Readers (10:00): [Jennifer Jones](#)

Ushers: [Frank Esquivel](#)

#### Education

**Team Coordinator:** [Joani Peacock](#)

Adult Spiritual Formation: [Beth Boland](#)

Children & Youth Ministry: [Jen Leahey](#)

C.H.A.O.S: [Lauren Maxey](#), [Jen Leahey](#)

Preschool: [Nicole Crochet](#)

#### Service

**Team Coordinator:** [Jen Leahey](#)

ALIVE!: [Vonda Delawie](#)

Bag Lunch Program: [Karen Coda](#)

Carpenter's Shelter Breakfast: [Jennifer Jones](#)

Carpenter's Shelter Dinner: [John Read](#)

Compassionate Care: [Nancy Dupree](#)

Giving Tree: [Jen Leahey](#)

Haiti: [Laura Macone](#)

Refugee Family: [Kim Scott](#)

#### Fellowship

Coffee Hour Baristas: [Maile Johnson](#)

Prime Timers: [Meredith Wade](#)

Shrine Mont Parish Retreat: [Joe Scott](#)

Emmanuel Social Club: [Lauren Maxey](#)

#### Stewardship

Annual Giving: [Joe Dresen](#)

Finance: [Aaron Flaaen](#)

Foundation: [Tyler Dorn](#)

## Adult Spiritual Formation

### Paperback Spirituality

This fall join Joani for a lively, literary, and lighthearted discussion with fellow book lovers on Zoom.

[\*The Ministry of Time: A Novel\*](#), Kaliane Bradley, September 22. 7:00 p.m.

“A time travel romance, a speculative spy thriller, a workplace comedy, and an ingeniously constructed exploration of the nature of truth and power and the potential for love to change it Welcome to *The Ministry of Time*, the exhilarating debut novel by Kaliane Bradley. An exquisitely original and feverishly fun fusion of genres and ideas, *The Ministry of Time* asks the universal What happens if you put a disaffected millennial and a Victorian polar explorer in a house together?” Click [here](#) to join the conversation.



[\*Awe: The New Science of Everyday Wonder and How It Can Transform Your Life\*](#), Dacher Keltner

November 17, 7:00 p.m.

“In *Awe*, Dacher Keltner presents a radical investigation and deeply personal inquiry into this elusive emotion. Revealing new research into how awe transforms our brains and bodies, alongside an examination of awe across history, culture, and within his own life during a period of grief, Keltner shows us how cultivating awe in our everyday life leads us to appreciate what is most humane in our human nature. And during a moment in which our world feels more divided than ever before, and more imperiled by crises of different kinds, we are greatly in need of awe. It is awe that activates our inclination to share and create strong networks, to take actions that are good for the natural and social world around us. It is awe that transforms who we are, that inspires the creation of art, music, and religion. At turns radical and profound, brimming with enlightening and practical insights, *Awe* is our field guide, from not only one of the leading voices on the subject but a fellow seeker of awe in his own right.” Click [here](#) to join the conversation

*A few copies of each book are available to the church office. Please, check with Sandy if you would like to borrow one.*

**Water & Wilderness Church** is a nationwide ministry started by the Rev. Pete Nunnally, our previous seminarian. Emmanuel is becoming a supporter and participant in this ministry. Rev. Jen Leahey celebrated the first service of this exciting new ministry on August 11th at Great Falls National Park. Next one is scheduled for Oct 20th. It is a great way to worship our God in a natural setting.



## **Summer/Fall Worship 2024**

### **The Blessings of *Ordinary Time***

Ordinary Time, the green season of Pentecost, is the longest of the liturgical year. It sails through summer and deep into the fall, concluding November and concludes on the cusp of Advent, though “ordinary” there is still liturgically a lot going on!

**August 18th, 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.**

**Holy Eucharist with Guest Preacher, Nan Derenzi**

Recent VTS graduate with a Masters in Biblical Studies, parishioner Nan Derenzi will share some words of wisdom from the pulpit at both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services.

**August 25th, Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m.**

Cozy and contemplative our customary 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Homily in the Chapel.

**August 25th, Hymn Sing 10:00 a.m.**

Like a summertime Lessons & Carols, extra hymns will be interwoven with the scripture and prayers. Requests from the congregation will be taken. Music replaces the homily. Come make a joyful noise!

**September 1st, 10:00 a.m. (NO 8:00 a.m. ONE SERVICE ONLY)**

**Labor Day Sunday Holy Eucharist**

This late summer Sunday service will include special scripture, prayers, and music to celebrate our worldly vocations and all the ways we make our daily bread.

**September 15th, 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.**

**Mission Possible Sunday Holy Eucharist**

As summer ends and on the cusp of a new program year, we will bless and celebrate Emmanuel’s many ministries in the parish, the community, and the world.

**September 29th, 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.**

**Instructed Eucharist**

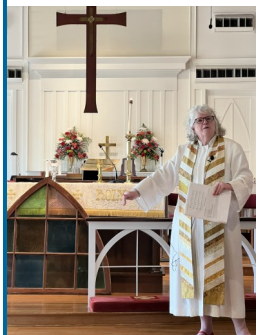
Everything you wanted to know about Holy Eucharist but were afraid to ask. What’s the lectionary? Why are there two candles on the altar? Why do we stand to sing? Organized by Emmanuel’s youth, you won’t want to miss this special service.

**October 6th, 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.**

**Feast of St. Francis/Blessing of the Animals/Youth Sunday**

At 10:00 a.m. the first Youth Sunday of the fall season, we will celebrate all creatures great and small on the Feast of St. Francis. Kids will read, sing, and lead the prayers. Well behaved animals of all kinds are welcome in the pews! Donations of unopened pet food and treats, toys, and blankets will be collected for the Alexandria City Animal Shelter.

### Parting Ways but Wishing Them All the Best!



July 28th, we celebrated the ministry of Joani as she moves to Winston-Salem, NC. But not to fret, she is still with us in a remote capacity until the end of the year. As expressed in the tribute video, she expressed her wisdom through the written word and her story telling that she ascertained with over 30 years of being an ordained priest in the Episcopal Church. Thank you Joani for all you have given to our church community!

June 28th was Janie's last day as Parish Administrator and we had a grand celebration with her family coming into town and singing beautiful songs to commemorate her four years a PA and ten years as a parishioner. The whole Piemonte family contributed to our community in so many ways: their musical talent, heading up CHAOS, President of the Foundation and so many more areas. We wish Janie, Mike, Chris, Rachel, Josh and baby all the best as Janie and Mike also begin a new adventure in NC.

We will miss both Joani (not till Jan.) and Janie in our everyday lives at Emmanuel. I am sure we will see them back in the pews in the future to celebrate the service with us!



### Outreach

**ACPS School Supply Collection**– Thank you to everyone who contributed to the school supply drive. Rev. Jen blessed them on Aug 4th, at the 10:00 a.m. service. Wishing all our students in our parish a wonderful and learned year ahead!



**ALIVE! Household Drive**– On Aug 3rd and 4th, Rev. Jen collected household items to deliver to ALIVE! This was a rocking success!! Emmanuel was able to still contribute to the community even though we decided to do away with the yard sale. This was a win-win all around! Emmanuel would love to continue this tradition next year, do you have time to volunteer to help this cause?

**Rev. Jen and her son, Doug packed up all the donated items and delivered them to ALIVE!**





***What's been happening around the church this summer to get ready for the new academic year?***

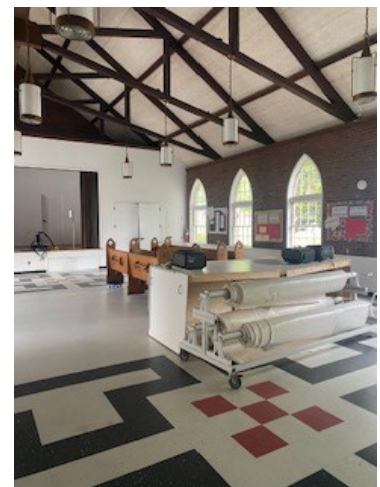
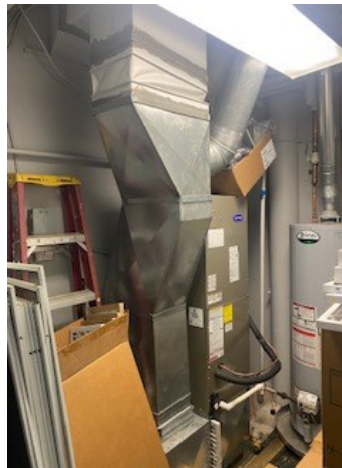
***CHAOS gets a new room!***



Rev. Jen is at it again! The New ***“Den of Chaos”*** is loaded with games, drinks and snacks. CHAOS come and hangout in your new space!

***Three New HVAC Units Installed and Sanctuary Unit Repaired***

Your pledge money hard at work replacing essential equipment to keep us all cool in the lazy days of summer.



***All The Carpets and Floors Cleaned***

In preparation for the new academic year, all the tile floors have been cleaned and polished. The carpets in the hallways, stairwells and office spaces have been cleaned.