

The Emmanuel Way

A monthly publication of
Emmanuel Episcopal
Church, Greenwood, Virginia

August 2014

Shrine Mont: August 29-31

Please join us in the beautiful mountains of western Virginia! Our annual parish weekend at Shrine Mont will start Friday evening, August 29, with supper and wrap up Sunday, August 31, after the traditional fried chicken lunch. In between we will laugh and play and sit and talk and worship and bike and walk and... well, you fill in the blank! All ages are welcome! Families and singles; kids, youth and adults; hipsters, youngsters and oldsters... there is something for everyone! Registration forms are available following each service with a copy within this edition of the newsletter.

If you are interested in helping, or have questions, please send an email to Anne and Donovan Dagner at crozetbulldogs@gmail.com. Or give a call to the church office.

Remembering the Deep Magic

By Dara Powers Parker

During the third week of June, the Emmanuel parish was transformed into a storybook setting for the first-ever Camp Emmanuel: "Aslan Is on the Move." The theme was taken from the beloved children's classic *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, by

C. S. Lewis, in which four children enter Narnia, a mystical, snowy land, inhabited by talking animals and held captive by the White Witch.

More than fifty campers, kindergarteners through fifth-graders, arrived upon the scene each day to discover the Deep Magic in Lewis's tale. Here they were met by nearly thirty, mostly teenaged volunteers, who strove to cast each child as a character in our story—a son of Adam or a daughter of Eve, and ultimately a cherished king or queen of Narnia.

During the morning, the campers visited "Narnia," beginning in the Professor's Study (also known as the sanctuary). The children then entered the Narnian Forest (or rather the arcade lined with evergreen trees) through the Wardrobe (vesting room), and from there, activities transpired at other "sets": the Lamppost (courtyard), the Beaver House (Ledford), and the Stone Table (in the cemetery).

Through music, video, art, games, imagination, and a taste of Turkish Delight, the children explored story elements and themes, touching on sacrifice, forgiveness, restoration, and belief. The ancient prophecy in Narnia stated that Aslan, the great lion, would return to take back the land, and our campers learned that they too had an important part to play in this plot.

Families also had the option to send their campers on afternoon excursions "out of Narnia." These adventures took us to the Rockfish Valley Foundation Natural History Center, where we learned about biodiversity; Grand Caverns in Grottoes, America's oldest show cave; Lake Monocan in Stoney Creek, and the historic Blue Ridge Swim Club's spring-fed pool. The last afternoon was spent in field games and active play.

Meanwhile, back at Emmanuel, your church property was unreservedly garnished with glitter, paint, papers, sequins, and snowflakes—traces of the mythical come to reality. The grounds were slicked with spills; traipsed by eighty pairs of feet; littered with swords, shields, Kona Ice, and even rubber chickens; and echoing with laughter,

shouting prayers, and the fantastical rustling of an unseen Lion moving amongst us.

And we all said—clergy, staff, volunteers, and parents alike—that it was *very good*. Because we all understood that the mess and inconvenience and chaos meant that the freedom of Narnia had indeed come to our beautiful, serene Emmanuel. Fifty-plus sons of Adam and daughters of Eve experienced the even deeper magic that is ageless and cannot be defeated.

In her post-camp sermon, Reverend Stacy described a few of the magic moments that made it all worthwhile. For instance, one little girl told her mother, "Do you know that Aslan walks around Emmanuel? Even when we can't see him, he's here."

And that little girl is right—Aslan *is* real, and he walks the Emmanuel grounds. But Stacy warned us also, "He's wild, you know. Not like a tame lion" (Mr. Beaver, chapter 17). Then she posed a question for us all: Can we accept a wild deity, who might make a mess of things, roar too loudly, and not always mind his manners?

The children of Camp Emmanuel accepted him in the form of Aslan.



Emmanuel guys at Shrine Mont summer camp. From left to right its Carter, Calla, and Reilly – their smiles indicate the fun they had there.

Rector's Reflections



The Rev. Christopher M. Garcia
Rector

God's amazing abundance overwhelms me. Words fail me when I think about all the ways that God's love is made known to us.

At this time of the year, it is easy to see God's abundance in the beauty of nature, in the staggering amount of fresh produce at farmer's markets, local stores, and in the fresh vegetables given away by parishioners on Sunday mornings outside the parish hall. Friends recently gave us two zucchinis – each of which weighs more than three pounds. A few days ago I went to the market at Chile's Peach Orchard and was amazed at the variety of fruit, preserves, and other tempting goodies. God paints the beautiful hills around us with an unending shades of green and blue that touch my heart every day, especially early in the morning and in the fading light each evening. Many visitors are drawn to our church simply by the natural beauty of our campus – from the great oak in front to the calm peace of our verdant cemetery to the lush beauty of our courtyard garden.

Our parish has shown my family and me God's amazing abundance, too, in your tremendous generosity as we have moved from northern Virginia to our new home here in Albemarle County. Your generosity with help driving trucks, carrying furniture and boxes, bringing meals, and in thoughtful, delightful, special

local housewarming gifts have touched us and made God's love so very real and present. We cannot begin to thank you enough for all you have done for us. You have shown us what "*The Emmanuel Way*" truly means.

I am overwhelmed, too, by God's abundant love revealed in our very successful *Camp Emmanuel*, held on our campus during the week of 16 June. Fifty children enjoyed morning Vacation Bible School themed on C.S. Lewis's *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Many of those children stayed on for optional afternoon camp sessions, exploring local sights and activities. More than half of our *Camp Emmanuel* participants began the week as outsiders to the parish. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this week possible, and who passed on God's love to visitors and little parishioners alike.

As we prepare for the coming school year, a growing band of volunteers has made God's love known and real as they have taken on the task of cleaning up Ledford House and making the upper floor a safe, inviting, attractive setting for Sunday School classes, adult small group offerings, and other meetings.

Volunteers have trimmed bushes and trees, raked up leaves and weeds, ripped out old carpet (revealing hidden hardwood floors underneath), hauled out trash, prepped walls for painting, cleaned, cleaned, and cleaned, and begun redecorating. Much work remains to be done before the 7th of September, when our new Christian formation year begins.

Can you paint? Wash walls? Build shelves? Arrange furniture? Clean? Please contribute a few hours: contact George Lindroth, our Junior Warden (and chair of the building and grounds committee); Doug Connell, our senior; or vestry member Pete Aagaard. Any of them will be happy to give you a tour and put your talents and special abilities to work. The transformation of Ledford House is more than cleaning up an old building: you are making God's love tangible and accessible as we reach out to parishioners both old and new.

I have touched on just a few ways that God's love is made tangible and real in the world around us – in the beauty of nature, in our generosity and care for each other, in our efforts to share the Good News with our neighbors and friends. I could have written, too, of course, about the beauty of our liturgy, music, and the sacraments. How has God been touching your heart this summer? Where have you seen God at work in your life, and in the lives of your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers? How have you shared God's amazing abundance?

Yours in Christ,

Fr Christopher +



A pounding table for our rector and his family as they move into their new home in western Albemarle County – a tradition brought to Emmanuel.

Disciples Kitchen

By Amanda Poor

Planning ahead, we are scheduled to serve breakfast on these Saturdays; September 20 and November 15. We are scheduled to serve lunch on these Mondays: August 18, October 20, and December 15. Children aged 10 and older are welcome to come and help.

August Bread Fund Report

On August 2, Emmanuel served 96 households consisting of 258 people. This number includes 72 children under 18 and 38 seniors 65 and older. All this was accomplished with 30 volunteers. The numbers are up slightly from the July 5 report.

Rev. Stacy's Message



The Rev. Stacy Williams-Duncan

I have spent lots of time this summer thinking about what happens when the mission of a person or organization becomes unfocused, too broad, or unclear. When this is the case, it becomes difficult to know when to say no and when to jump into an opportunity with both feet. Not knowing your mission makes it difficult to communicate in a way that sticks.

As Emmanuel works to develop more Christian Formation programs, we will face the challenge of making sure we stay focused or our message will become diluted. We must keep constantly ask, "How does this program reflect our mission?" You will notice, the question isn't - Is this a good idea? Will this be fun? Will it help people? There are many good, worthwhile, and honorable education activities in which we could invest resources on that would not directly reflect or serve our primary mission.

The Church's primary mission – as the living Body of Christ – is to reconcile people to God and each other. We do this through worship, community, and learning opportunities that invite people of all ages to live as disciples of Jesus. Christian worship and discipleship must be at the core of every liturgy, class, or program we offer. How a program serves this

mission should be equally apparent to those who are leading or attending.

One of the hardest things for people and organizations to accept is that we do everything and can't be all things to all people. One of my professors, an expert on organizational culture and change, often reminds me that an organization can do lots for a few people or it can do a few things for more people. As we at Emmanuel grow our programs, we need to be reminded that our mission doesn't require we do everything that is possible.

Our mission calls us to help people worship, learn, and live as Christians. As hard as it is to say no, anything that doesn't directly and obviously accomplish this mission is not where we should invest our resources. By saying no to some things, we will be able to say yes to what God is calling us to be – the living body of Christ!

Faithfully,

Rev. Stacy



Ledford House is groomed these days. Work continues on the inside to get it ready for service this fall.

Our Senior Warden's Report

By Doug Connell

*Who Are We? Who Are Our
Neighbors? What is God Calling*

What a busy time it is, preparing for a new ministry year and adjusting

to our gratifying growth in Christian Formation programs. Each year we experience overcrowding in our limited Sunday School rooms, and constraints on bible study and adult forum meeting space. Re-purposing Ledford house provides an exciting and cost-effective way to gain more space.

Our plan is to re-claim some of the upper level space in Ledford this fall, and to continue reclamation as parish growth requires. Over time, our goal is to provide dedicated teaching space for each Sunday School class, Bible Study and Adult Forum group. The new transitional space also provides options that can support a wide spectrum of ministry group and community partner activities.

Our amazing youth group made great changes to the lower level last year. The focus now is on the upper level. Volunteer Emmanuel Tiger Teams, led by Junior Warden George Lindroth, began the work last month, and are on the way to converting four Ledford rooms to multi-purpose meeting and classroom space, and remodeling the kitchen and two bathrooms.

Self-help is the key. The Tigers made a great start in July, removing the distressed upper level carpet, refinishing the hardwood floors, preparing the walls for painting, trimming the overgrown vegetation at the front door and restoring two bathrooms. Next we'll clean and remodel the upper level kitchen, and paint the four meeting spaces. New shelves in the classrooms and furnishing for all the spaces are still ahead. An Emmanuel team of Nellysford residents has "adopted" one classroom and will paint and furnish it this month. Who will be next?

We need more help. "Opening Sunday" is just five weeks away! Please contact George or me for a tour of Ledford, and to find a way for your talents to help make a difference between now and September. The view from the center pew is exciting!

Come join the fun!

Many blessings,

Doug

Father Don's Message



The Rev. Deacon Donald Cady

Dear Friends in Christ,

"Summertime and the livin' is easy," immortal lyrics from George Gershwin. And yes, summer is the time of easy living; vacations at the beach or mountains, summer concerts under the stars, family picnics and barbecues, swimming parties, just relaxing. Our lives seem to show down and the weather becomes easy.

It is the time of good times, fun times, joyful times, but do we, can we remember and think about those for whom the living is not so easy—the poor, the homeless, the incarcerated, the hungry, the lonely, the dying? In the midst of our easy summer living, I hope and pray we can remember the lives of many, many less fortunate individuals and families in our community.

Soon it will be September with back to school and back to our regular routines. It is also the time when we begin our new program year at Emmanuel Church—back to two services, regular adult forums and Sunday school.

As we begin our program year, I would like to ask each of us, all of us, individuals, families and groups within our parish to step forward,

volunteer to help and aid those for whom the living is not so easy.

Think about how you might make a difference for those people served by Habitat for Humanity, the Senior Center, Emmanuel Connections, the Bread Fund, Meals on Wheels, Hospice of the Piedmont and our many other mission partners. Let me know if I can make an introduction at any of these organizations. Join with me and the many others in the Emmanuel family who are already helping to serve the less fortunate in God's family.

Then, yes, we can begin to say the living is indeed easier in the summer time and at any time of the year! As our Lord Jesus Christ says to us, "I come not to be served but to serve."

Faithfully,
Don+

Christian Education News

**By Cathy Boyd
Director of Christian Education**

Lessons Learned Through Camp Emmanuel

Here we are, making our way through "ordinary time," enjoying an extraordinarily cool summer and all the fun that it brings. But attention is shifting to our "program year" and the opportunities that it brings. I'd like to reflect on what we learned at Camp Emmanuel, with a view for how we might apply it as we plan the year ahead.

In our Camp Emmanuel training in early June, I shared two poems that expressed, to me, some sentiments of what we might be trying to accomplish at camp. The first is Billy Collins' *On Turning Ten*. (I hope you will look it up at: <http://www.smith.edu/poetrycenter/poets/onturningten.html>). The voice in the poem laments the event of turning double digits: "The whole idea makes me feel like I am coming down with something...a disfiguring chicken pox of the soul." He recounts all the very imaginative things he was at each age before: Arabian wizard at 4, invisible

at one sip of milk; soldier at 7, prince at 9. Now, turning the "first big number" is the beginning of sadness: "It seems like only yesterday I used to believe there was nothing under my skin but light. If you cut me I would shine. But now when I fall upon the sidewalks of life, I skin my knees. I bleed."

Wow. When I was ten, my best friend, Wendy, with whom I could be particularly imaginative, moved away, and my family moved, so for me, it was the beginning of sadness. Billy Collins, me...I am sure there are others who feel sadness at age 10. What gives hope?

The other poem I shared is Rubem Alves' *Tomorrow's Children*. (You can look it up here: <http://opreach.org/2013/03/11/tomorrows-children/>) He asks, "What is hope?" and answers, "It is the presentiment that imagination is more real and reality is less real than it looks...that the frontiers of the possible are not determined by the limits of the actual; and in a miraculous and unexplained way life is opening up creative events which will open up the way to freedom and resurrection..." Alves says, "...but the two, suffering and hope, must live from each other." He urges us to "plant dates even though we who plant them will never eat them. We must live by the love of what we will never see. That is the secret discipline."

What gives hope? Camp Emmanuel. A team of fantastic, imaginative, flexible leaders came together. They took a complicated (as they found out) curriculum, but a rich...and at times, sad...story, and translated it into games and artistic activities. They recruited more fantastic, cooperative adults and fabulous middle and high school helpers. They welcomed campers, aged 5-10, who still know how to be fairies, wizards, soldiers, princesses. These campers' parents came back every morning saying things like, "She says this is the best camp she's ever been to."

How can we continue that magical hope through the year? Rubem Alves might answer, by a "refusal to let the creative act be dissolved in immediate sense

experience and a stubborn commitment to the future of our grandchildren. Such disciplined love is what has given the prophets, revolutionaries and saints the courage...for the future they envisaged." Based on our Camp Emmanuel experience, I answer, on a more practical level:

- Recruit a team of sensitive, imaginative, flexible leaders and volunteers, OF ALL AGES (well underway!)
- Find a strong curriculum that helps us tell the stories of our faith and Jesus Christ, with all sadness AND JOY (in progress!)
- Plan the year and remain open to changes that will come as gifts of the Holy Spirit (in progress!)

These efforts are well under way. Please pray for life to continue to open up "creative events which will open up the way to freedom and resurrection" in very miraculous and unexplained ways! ~Cathy

Greenwood Grapevine

Love to all, from **Susie and Dick Hodgson**. Hi! We are enjoying Williamsburg and wanted to share our phone number and address with everyone. Address is 116 Thomas Dale in Kingsmill, Williamsburg, VA 23185. Phone is 757-229-0536. Dick and I miss Emmanuel and all of you.

Doris Savage offered, "John and I wish to thank all of you who took such good care of us for the four weeks of John's surgery and recovery – trips to the hospital, doctors, grocery, pharmacy, food prep, calls, notes and even communion. We are grateful for your love and care"

The Rev. Jane Sigloh reports, the Rev. Kate Kelderman, associate rector at Bethesda by-the-Sea in Palm Springs, Florida, has accepted a call to be chaplain for Kent School in Connecticut. Emmanuel Church sponsored Kate for the priesthood in 2001. She graduated from Virginia

Seminary in 2004, was rector of Prince of Peace in Gettysburg for five years, then moved to Florida with her husband Theo (who sang in the Emmanuel choir). Kate has longed to combine her two careers - teaching and preaching - as well as two disciplines of study - science and religion. Kent will afford her a gracious opportunity to do just that. "And," says Kate, "I will be only one hour and one minute from my sister's back door!" We wish Kate and Theo the very best. May God bless their mutual ministries.

Katy Stone reports, "Four Emmanuel youth were inducted into the Henley Middle School chapter of the National Junior Honor Society at a ceremony held the evening of May.

They were: Simon Rader, Emma Sherman, Madison Stone and Will Wallace who were all found to excel in the four tenets of the NJHS: character, scholarship, leadership and service. Keep up the good work!"

Amanda Poor reports, "On July 5, Emmanuel served 81 households consisting of 236 people. 65 were children under 18 and 34 were seniors over 65. Numbers typically fall in July as clients are required to verify all of their information.

Centering Prayer Workshop offered

Come join fellow spiritual seekers for an *Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshop*, Saturday, September 20 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Westminster-Canterbury of the Blue Ridge in Charlottesville.

Centering Prayer was developed by Cistercian Monks, particularly Fr. Thomas Keating, and is supported by *Contemplative Outreach*, an interfaith network of individuals and groups practicing this prayer. Herb Ely, a member of the Church of the Incarnation, is certified as presenter by *Contemplative Outreach* and will facilitate this workshop. (Six follow-up sessions are available as well.) This method of prayer is an updated form of ancient Christian meditation practices.

Space is limited. RSVP to liz.adam@wc-br.org or 434-972-2560 to reserve a spot. Bring your own lunch, or, a box lunch with beverage will be provided for \$10.

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Good sports one and all, it was great fun dunking the church leadership for a good cause.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church ✠ 2014 Shrine Mont Registration

All parishioners are invited to join our annual parish weekend retreat at Shrine Mont in Orkney Springs, VA from August 29-31, 2014. The weekend begins with dinner at 5:30pm on Friday night and ends after lunch at 12:30pm on Sunday.

Shrine Mont has increased the rates slightly from last year but we do not want finances to be an impediment to anyone! Full and partial scholarships are available by contacting Father Christopher at rector@cstone.net or 540-456-6334 or speaking to the Dagners.

There is a \$450 maximum fee per family subsidized by fundraising at Emmanuel. While we welcome friends and guests, we regret that we can not include them in the family maximum. If you are planning to bring friends, please add the appropriate per person rate.

Rates for the weekend are per person and include two nights lodging and six meals, plus access to the pool, trails and all on site activities (** zip line at Bryce for the youth group will be an extra fee).

one adult, single room	\$190	one child, age 8-12	\$85
one adult, shared room	\$165	one child, age 4-7	\$60
one teen, age 13-17	\$130	one child, age 0-3	free

Registration

Names of participants:	Sharing a room?	Age (if < 18):	Fee:
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Add more participants on the back if needed

Please inform us of any special rooming requests such as disabilities, cots etc:

Total cost (\$450 max/family): _____

I would like to add a contribution to the scholarship fund: _____

Total amount: _____

Please return your completed registration form with a check payable to Emmanuel Episcopal Church (memo line: Shrine Mont). Mail to: Emmanuel Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 38, Greenwood, VA 22943

Please provide your email address: _____

and your preferred contact phone number: _____

You will receive an email acknowledgement when your form is received.

Please see www.shrinemont.org for more information about the camp facilities and packing suggestions. As August nears we will post driving directions, schedule of activities and other fascinating information. **Cancellations must be received by August 11, 2014.**

No refunds can be made after that date.

We are looking forward to another great weekend of Emmanuel fellowship in the mountains!

✠ Anne and Donovan Dagner, 2014 Parish Weekend Chairs ✠

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First Class Mail

May 2014