

In Formation

What's new?

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"Then spoke Jesus again to them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. John 8:12

Against the Tide: Advent in a Christmas World

Advent couldn't be more different than the frenetic atmosphere we are drawn into by contemporary culture. Against the inflated prices, the hype and overly sentimental pleas to get our attention, Advent beckons us to quiet simplicity and anticipation. It stirs up our hunger and desire for a true relationship with God. Against the constant blaring of Christmas music, the pretense, the distraction and the

despair, Advent calls us to spiritual alertness and reminds us that we are exiles and aliens in a strange land. In my mind, Advent is a season to make my heart wake up and pay attention. It exemplifies the primary characteristic of believers everywhere: urgent expectation, watching, patience, and active listening for the coming of the Word. May your Advent be a time of quiet expectation. Don't be

afraid to swim against the tide of cultural chaos. Don't be afraid to choose not to buy into the hype the greed and the materialistic message of Madison Avenue. Take time for yourself and with your family to prepare for the coming of the Christ child! One way you can do that is to join us on Wednesday evenings for quiet contemplative Eucharistic liturgy. Our first one will be November 30 at 7 p.m.

This Little Light of Mine

[This Little Light of Mine](#) is our theme this year for the season of Advent. We are trying to be very intentional in our activity planning to tie this into all that we do. We will kick off the season with a family Advent wreath making workshop on Sunday November 27 at 7 p.m. Come and enjoy some quiet music, candle light and a chance to flex your creativity muscles! **Be sure to sign up in advance** so we know how much to have ready in the way of materials! The

Children's Workshops are working their way down the road to Bethlehem so we hope they will be light to those they meet on the way. Our Godly Play class will also be exploring light themes during their activity time. Our young people in Rite 13, J2A and YAC will be encouraged to carry the light into the darkness as they continue to explore ministry opportunities in our community. One of the offerings they will make this year is a formal Christmas Dinner for the

kids at Mission of the Holy Spirit! Club 56'ers will be making shoebox kits for JCOC. Members of the Bible Synthesis class will be exploring light themes in scripture from our Sunday readings. Adult Forum members will be talking about light as well and about how darkness gives meaning to light. I would encourage families to consider ways in which they might "let their light shine" in our community.

Meet Our New EYC Youth Ministers



"We have a fabulous youth ministry team ready, able and willing to engage and interact with our young people."

Welcome Anna Kopp!

Anna grew up in Corpus Christi, Texas where her family was very active in our church, St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church. EYC at St. B's was a major part of her life. Soccer took her to Rhodes College in Memphis after graduating from high school. She soon found that the school wasn't going to provide the future that she wanted for herself. She then attended the United States Naval Academy

Sam directed Vacation Bible School at Emmanuel Lutheran in 2006 and 2007. When she came to Emmanuel Episcopal in 2006, she became involved with the Drama Troupe, and then the youth groups. When not working with Emmanuel's youth, she enjoys crafting, piano, singing, cross-stitching, and rock climbing. She hopes to get more Emmanuel youth involved in the afternoon program and help facilitate meaningful discussions in the group!

Jump Start

Jump Start is a new program initiative for visitors, and potential new members. The group will meet in the Narthex during our Formation Hour. It will include a 5 week schedule of brief presentations including what it means to belong to a church, how the Episcopal Church is

and accepted her commission into the Navy in 2007. She went to flight school and is currently a pilot flying the MH-60S Knighthawk at HSC 26 in Norfolk. When she looks back to middle school and high school, youth group always holds some of the best memories. She is thankful to have the opportunity to work with Emmanuel youth and her goal is to work with her fellow youth ministers to create a welcoming and

Sam hopes to help some of the kids hone their kitchen skills this year as well! Sam and Anna are exceptional people, but they certainly can't pull off what they do from week to week without help! They are expertly assisted by Jamie Henthorn, Mike Peter, James Carver, Matt Grizzle and Dick Wilk.
Thanks to all of you!

loving environment for the youth in which we can all become closer to Christ.

Meet Sam Sessions!

Sam was born and raised in Virginia Beach. She attended "the other Emmanuel" (Emmanuel Lutheran) until she met her now-husband, Tim Sessions in 2006. She was officially received into the Episcopal Church by Bishop Buchanan in 2008, and is now considering the ordination exploration program in the Diocese.



clergy and members of the Vestry will join them from time to time. If you would like to participate or know of someone who would benefit from participation, please let us know.



Annual Christmas Pageant

Our annual Christmas Pageant is going to be something spectacular this year! Under the amazing and creative leadership of Gavin Henthorn and Amarilis Aponte our children will present the pageant on December 18 at the 11am service. **All children are invited** to attend and participate. We will have a couple of rehearsals in advance so keep your eyes peeled for announcements about the dates and times of these important events. We will need angels, shepherds, animals and kings in addition to Joseph, Mary

and a baby! Parents of our budding stars are also invited to participate by helping out with sheep herding, flock tending, and stable mucking. Dress accordingly! Contact Gavin or Amarilis for information. Laaponte26@yahoo.com
dramathorn@gmail.com

Choir Show!

Our amazing choir will be offering "Celebrate Life" on December 9 & 10. Join us for the show and support our 2012 Pilgrimage by purchasing some light refreshments before and

after the show!

Happy Birthday, Jesus!

As you know, Christmas falls on a Sunday. As has been our tradition in the past, we will celebrate the birth of our Lord with a cake and punch party following the Christmas Day service. Join us at 11a.m. for Eucharist, and then head on over to the Parish Hall and sing Happy Birthday!

Advent and Christmas at Emmanuel

November 27: No Sunday Morning Activities The first Sunday of Advent. Family **Advent Wreath Making Workshop at 7 p.m.** in the Parish Hall. Sign up in advance. Cost \$10 per wreath.

November 30: 7:30 p.m. Advent Quiet Eucharist

December 4: Music Workshop/Pageant Rehearsal grades 1-6.

December 7: Advent Quiet Eucharist 7:30 p.m.

December 10: J2A Breakfast with Santa from 8:30-11 a.m.

December 11: Music/Pageant Rehearsal 9:45-10:45.

December 11: The Feast of Lessons and Carols at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal 12:30 p.m.

December 14: Advent Quiet Eucharist 7:30 p.m.

December 18: Pageant Rehearsal 9:45-10:45. Christmas Pageant presentation 11am. No

regular Children's Sunday Morning Activities.

December 21: Advent Quiet Eucharist 7:30 p.m.

December 24: Christmas Eve services. 5 p.m., 8 p.m. and 11 p.m.

December 25: 11 a.m. Christmas Day service. No morning activities! Except a Happy Birthday Jesus, cake and punch party following 11 a.m. service.

"Love came down at Christmas. Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine!"

Adult Forum Program Line Up

Adult Forum is our presentation and discussion based Sunday morning program for adults. We meet in the sanctuary. **Beginning December 4** we will have a three week Advent program led by Bob and Nancy Larmore .Our Adult Forum will need to move to a diffeent location on

the morning of the 18th. Watch for announcements about the location change! We hope you will join us for these wonderful offerings!

We will have a bit of a break between December 25 and January 1 and will resume our morning activities in Adult Forum on the 8th with a

presentation by Lynne Coates on Living Wills.



The ALF Café'

We have a new program offering on Sunday mornings at Emmanuel! If you are between the ages of 22 and 49, join us in the Parish Hall at the ALF Café! You can enjoy a gourmet cup of coffee and a sweet treat along with fellowship and meaningful discussion with your friends on a variety of faith based topics! We will

SKYPE in a few celebs from time to time and hear what they have to say as well as participate in faith based coffeehouse discussion on the internet. So, take the baby to the Nursery, drop your kids in their morning activities and come on in to the Alf Café for some great fellowship and coffee! Hosted by Charlotte and

Michael Jenkins this program will be just what you need!

We have reserved a spot just for you!



Children's Music Workshop

Children's Workshop participants have gotten off to a great start this year under the guidance of the very able children's music team! Bob Sullivan, Joan Raybourn, Elaine Shrader and CJ Crissman have done a great job working with the children. You will get to hear them at the Christmas Pageant on December 18! Don't miss this one folks! Emmanuel's got talent!



"Singing is praying twice!"

Emmanuel Youth Groups

EYC...Our Young People in Action!

Emmanuel has one of the largest and most active youth programs in the Virginia Beach area and still there are some folks that we really miss seeing on Sunday evenings! And we are really missing you!

December 4: EYC dinner and meeting.

December 11: Our Christmas Party and Mission Trip Presentation

December 18: EYC Christmas Party/Dinner for the Mission of the Holy Spirit.

Looking ahead: January 8: Top Chef Prep Club 56 Ice Skating

January 27: Exam Smack Down!

Be sure to check out the Diocesan Youth Ministries web page at www.diosova.org and see the line up of cool stuff you can do with young Episcopalians from all over Southern Virginia.

This year we are planning a mission trip for youth as well. We will begin talking about that December 11.

For those of you who were confirmed last spring there are many commissions and committees that are waiting for you to join in!

Wisdom of the Ages

Our Wisdom group had a fabulous trip to the Chrysler Museum! We enjoyed a wonderful private tour of art work relating to the Saints and then a tasty lunch together at Freemason Abbey. We are looking forward our next trip together!

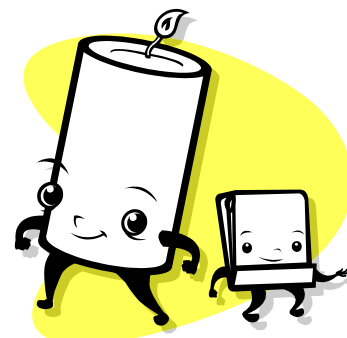
Our Acts Bible study was also a great learning experience and enjoyed by all who attended. Stay tuned for the next day time Bible Study on the Book of Genesis!

Our next "outing" is planned for December 19. More details will be forth coming!

And speaking of details, I have been wondering what other things this group might enjoy! Be sure to share your thoughts with me! Here are some of the things that have been rattling around in my brain. How about an "Old Church" tour to places like St. Luke's Smithfield, Brandon, Claremont, Merchant's Hope and others. How about a trip to the DeWitt-Wallace Gallery in Williamsburg? How about St. Paul's and the Capitol building in Richmond or the Virginia Museum? How about the Moses Myers House in Norfolk? If any of these

sound like something you might want to do, please let me know! We don't have to always do museums or historic tours. We could go to the Opera at the movie theater, or see the latest movies, or try out a new restaurant!

If you have ideas for Formation programs, those are welcome too! Bible studies, discussion groups, guest speakers; just about anything is on the table for this group! Let me hear from you!



This Little Light of Mine,
I'm gonna let it Shine!

"Who told you to retire from ministry when you retired from work?"

Formation Activities Calendar

December 8: Curriculum Committee will meet at 7 p.m.

December 11 Pageant Rehearsal 9:45 Classroom 7, 12:30 in the church.

December 18 Pageant rehearsal 9:45 in the Sanctuary. Pageant at 11 a.m.

Looking Ahead

Here is what we have in store for you during the next several weeks! In Adult Forum Lynne Coates will present "Living Wills" on January 8. Starting on January 15 we will finish our work with Marcus Borg on "Embracing an Adult Faith". On the 29th we will enjoy a presentation by

December 25: Happy Birthday Jesus cake and punch after 11 a.m. service.

January 8 Annual Parish Meeting and special activities. Activity hour is at 9 a.m!



our Belize Mission Team. On February 5, 12 and 19, Michael Jenkins will present an amazing study for us on the Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis. In Lent we will embark on a 6-week lay led study of Phrases in Three's from

our Prayer Book. Our children will be exploring Lenten themes as well in their activities. See if you can guess what the theme was! There will be clues all over!



If we don't have your cell number we can't text you!

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YES, I KNOW YOU THINK EMAIL IS OLD AND BORING AND SLOW. BUT SO AM I. GET OVER IT. IT IS HOW WE STILL DO THINGS. MOSTLY.

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We're on the Web!

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