

EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HIGH NOTES



Inside this issue:

Thank You from Martha	3
Christian Education	4
Music Notes	5
Book Recommendations	6
Chuck's Blog	6
Fellowship	7
Birthdays/Anniversaries	8

High Notes Submissions

Articles for each month's *High Notes* must be submitted to the [church office](#) by the 15th of the month.

A Note from Chuck

Martha began her monthly newsletter message with these words, "Dear ones," and that must mean only one thing, she loved you all. I read over Martha's past six months of newsletter messages and through the combination of focusing in on holidays and holy days, scriptural exegesis and reflection, humor, sage advice and shared wisdom, one thing shines through: you meant the world to Martha. I could also tell that Martha loved transition ministry. Not everyone is made of the stuff necessary to live a life of transitional ministry: coming into an unknown community, asking difficult questions, probing topics that might rather be left in the dark, and finally, the leaving; but it is clear Martha was made for transition ministry. It is simply unheard of for a congregation to grow during a transition. Yet the statistics shared with me thus far show a steady increase in Sunday attendance during Martha's tenure. AMAZING. Martha, if you are reading this, please know you are loved and missed. Your work here



"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

St. Francis of Assisi

has and will continue to bear great fruit. Thank you Martha, thank you. Please come back and visit us whenever you are able. Know you and Dennis are in our thoughts and prayers; and thank you for keeping us in yours.

It is clear to me that Martha's success as an interim rector was enhanced by the leadership of our parish. Shared leadership means shared responsibility and the volunteer lay leaders and staff of Emmanuel did an outstanding job supporting the transition process which has brought us to this place. Thank you one and all for taking the necessary steps to look honestly at the history of our parish and then together turn to consider the future in such a way that we can step joyfully forward on that future path as sisters and brothers in Christ. It is humbling to learn that I was chosen from among 26 applicants as the new rector of Emmanuel Episcopal Church. Thank you members of the Search Committee and also to the members of the Vestry who affirmed this call. You all have prayed earnestly for the day when a new rector would be chosen and I am honored to answer this call. Don't stop praying! Prayer has

(Continued on page 2)

Emmanuel Church Staff

Bishop of Virginia
The Right Rev. Shannon Johnston
Rector
The Rev. Charles C. McCoart, Jr.
Director of Christian Education
Claire Haymes
Organist/Choir Director
Linda Maguire
Parish Administrator
Kelli Cortis
Nursery Caregivers
Lilian Urrea
Rosa Alarcon

2012-2013 Vestry

Senior Warden
Russ Haymes
Junior Warden
Vonda Delawie
Treasurer
Gene Lange
Members
Christina Bartley
Emily Buckman
Bob Carragher
Bob Feden
Joe Scott
Michelle Vaughan
Meredith Wade

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:30 a.m.—Holy Eucharist Rite II

Church Office Hours

Monday—Thursday
10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church

1608 Russell Road
Alexandria, VA 22301
703-683-0798 (phone)
703-683-6158 (fax)

administrator@emmanuelonhigh.org
www.emmanuelonhigh.org

(Continued from page 1)

gotten us this far and it will be prayer that will brighten our path forward.

So, what about transition and where are we in the process of transition now? That's a good and fair question and perhaps for all of us there's going to be a different answer. Here's my take: the process of transition is never really complete. We should always have a hunger to strive to become more and more the people and parish God is calling us to be. This will require ongoing prayer, listening, visioning, strategic planning and continued transitioning. We pray for the continued wisdom, courage and heart to travel into uncharted lands not yet even imagined ... and that's pretty exciting stuff!

I only get to start once as your new rector so it is my sincere hope to meet every member of our parish before the end of the summer. If you'd like to share, I'd love to hear your story. To hear who you are and what makes you *you*. To hear why you call Emmanuel your church home and what it is you love about our parish. Shared meals are already being set up so I have the opportunity to meet as many people as possible. Thank you to those who are hosting and to all who are making time to attend. I've never laughed so much nor eaten so much in my entire life! If we have not yet had the chance to meet, or if you have not been able to join one of the gatherings, I would still like to meet you. Please call the church or even better, please [e-mail me](#) and we can arrange a time to meet and to get to know each other. You matter greatly to God and you matter greatly to me as well.

It's summertime and I know many of you will be away at different times during these summer months. May your time be filled with life-giving experiences so when you return home you come refreshed and renewed, ready to continue the good work you have already begun. Know you will be missed and that we look forward to breaking bread with you again.

In closing, St. Francis of Assisi is credited with saying, *"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."* I'm guessing, that in looking back over the past two years of transition, some of you may at times have wondered if you'd ever come this far. You have. You have come a great distance and for some blessed reason God has brought your life and mine together. You have done what is necessary to get here. You have accomplished all that was possible. Now, together, I can't wait to tackle what might seem like the impossible. Always remember, with God, all things are possible.



Peace friends,

Chuck

PS: We're gonna have fun.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

By Martha Wallace

It seems like only yesterday I was beginning a column in this newsletter saying thank you to people who have done things above and beyond for the church. The idea was based on Annie LaMott who wrote that her favorite prayers were "Help me! Help me! Help me!" and "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! This will be my last thank you column, and as I write it I am so thankful for so many of you and the ways you have gifted me and made my life easier and more interesting and richer and more joyful.

Thanks to all of you who contributed to give me a very generous purse for a going away gift — a big cushion for Dennis and me in our transition until I can apply for my pension when I turn 65 in December. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Thank you to the Altar Guild for the lovely basket of goodies to remind me of many communions shared with you. It included a lovely table runner with grapes on it (like unto a fair linen); some gorgeous embroidered napkins (or shall we say Purificators), not one but **two** bottles of Oregon Pinot Noir (which is one of the best wines on the planet), candles, a fragrant bar of soap on a pretty dish for guests, and a colorful guest towel, several very sweet herb markers for my new garden and, of course, Wine Away — the altar Guild's secret weapon against spills. It is a lovely basket filled with lovely things and I offer special thanks to Christina for selecting these beautiful things. I am so grateful to you all for your loving care for the

vessels and linens for the altar and all your help to me.

Next of course the gifts from the children were a book of pictures, including ones with me and them, and lots of them doing their various ministries in the church, including the ministries of having fun. The children also made me a beautiful apron painted with fanciful designs and signed by all of them. Dear children of Emmanuel, I will wear that apron often and think of you when I do. I will miss you very much. I am so proud of all of you, your gifts of music and fun and the things you have done for others like the care packages for soldiers and college students, caroling to the neighborhood, gathering food for the food pantry, your wonderful musical *Let's Go with Mo*, the wonderful joyful songs of the children's choir and your many good questions.

Last but not least I thank all of you for your patience while I challenged you, your willingness to try new things, your openness to how we can be more welcoming to strangers and your loving acceptance of me. Thanks for the many individual cards you have sent me. It means so much to find out how God has touched your lives through me. I will miss you. I will treasure my memories of our time together and I will continue to pray for Emmanuel as you continue your journey with Chuck as your Rector. Blessings on all of you!

Martha



Adult Education Opportunity...with wine!

Michelle Vaughan, our education liaison on the Vestry, is coordinating the formation of an evening group, the format of which will include bible study, discussion, wine tasting, as participants decide. Nothing too formal as summer descends on everyone, but with enough interest we can get a couple of informal study groups of this type going by the Fall. Contact [Michelle](#), or your Christian Education Director, [Claire](#), for more information or to sign up.

Christian Education

By Claire Haymes

Pew Friends — Our worship bags made their debut at the end of June. Busy bags full of books, paper, stickers, pens, crayons, pipe cleaners, they open up a multitude of possibilities for active listening and learning in the service for children and youth alike. The one thing still missing in each, though, is a pew friend. We'd like to drop one small furry friend into each one as a service companion. So, if you're cleaning out and have about twenty such small friends to spare, let [Claire](#) know.

Shout out this month to Kathy Brown who has agreed to keep our worship bags stocked and ready. Thank you, Kathy!



For relaxed summer-style thanksgivings try the Superman Blessing at your next meal

Thank you, Lord, for giving us food (*right arm up*)

Thank you, Lord, for giving us food (*left arm up*)

For daily bread! (*fly right*)

And all you said! (*fly left*)

Thank you, Lord... (*fly straight up*)

A-men! (*hands on hips, stand strong like Superman*)

Schedules change in the summer. You won't always find the same people in the pew next to you or at coffee hour each week. Whether you're the one travelling, or the one staying close to home, do something to stay connected this summer. Parents will find **address labels** for all the children and youth at the back of the church – grab a couple and have your children write postcards to their Emmanuel brothers and sisters a couple of times (helps keep their skills up, too!). Adults, dust off your Emmanuel **directory** and drop a line to someone you haven't seen for a while.

All too retro and too much like hard work for you? Then stop by

[Emmanuel's Facebook page](#) and share a greeting, a prayer, an insight, a word with your Emmanuel family.



*Having a
great time!
Wish you
were here!*

Music Notes

By Linda Maguire

We had a rousing first Sunday with our new minister, The Rev. Charles C. McCoart, Jr. on June 23. Our children and adult choirs combined with piano and bells to “make a joyful noise” singing *First Song of Isaiah*, with our favorite and timeless lyrics:

Surely it is God who saves me.
 I will trust in Him and not be afraid
 For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense
 And He will be my Savior.
 Make His deeds known among the people
 See that they remember that that Lord is exalted
 Sing the praises of the Lord for He has done great things
 And this is known in all the world.



Welcome Rev. Chuck!

During the summer months, our choirs take a well-deserved break.

We do, however, still have music during our services and need volunteer musicians to contribute to our musical worship. At this point, we need volunteer musicians for the following dates: July 7 and 28, and August 4, 18 and 25. Thanks for praying and searching your spiritual heart and ask if you are willing and able to work with me to create a special musical offering to our Emmanuel family on one of these dates.

I am very excited to be attending the 2013 Virginia Wesleyan Sacred Music Summer Conference in Norfolk, Virginia July 22-27. This conference focuses on worship, theology and sacred music concepts and strategies and is attended by about 150 multi-denominational church musicians. The conference features a full week of seminars featuring experts and ideas for choirs, hymns, handbells, chants, taize, organ technique, spiritual therapy of music, and congregational and worship strategies. There are several concerts during the week performed by attendees and over a dozen anthem-reading sessions! It is a busy conference featuring some top-ranked clinicians, authors, and composers such as: Mark Hayes, Anna Laura Page, Robert Hobby, Michael Trotta, Philip Brunelle, Tom Long, and Kathie Hill among others.

I attended last year and have been asked to present a full day of seminars this year on “Music and the Brain.” This is one of my first paid presentation platforms for the work I have been doing these past years leading up to the Psychology Masters degree in Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience and upcoming degree at Johns Hopkins — so there are no conference costs to the church. I am looking forward to both attend and present at the conference. At the end of this amazing experience, I plan to bring back many materials, ideas and new music for our archives and reference as Emmanuel continues to grow and thrive!

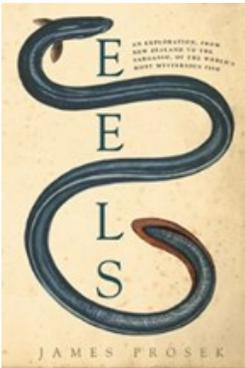


Good Reads

By Claire Haymes

Recommended by...

The Tuesday morning group has such a great time together that they often have to follow up by e-mail during the week on all the references and discussions they are enjoying. Here are a couple they shared last month.

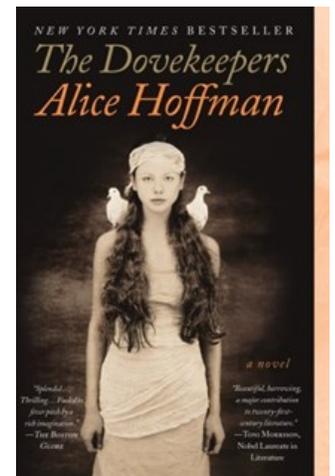


Margaret Wohler passed along this [link](#) to the work of writer/artist James Prosek, specifically his book *Eels*.

Margaret continues: "Also very interesting over the weekend was an NPR interview with a fascinating guy named Christian Wiman, who is a devout person and editor of Poetry magazine. His life story was so interesting, his speech so beautifully eloquent, and his Christian beliefs were very illuminating for me....something else to ponder in your abundant free time! <http://www.onbeing.org/program/a-call-to-doubt-and-faith-christian-wiman-on-remembering-god/4535>

Rev. Martha Wallace can't seem to recommend *Dove Keepers* by Alice Hoffmann highly enough. A novel set during the siege of Masada, Martha says it's "historical and fun." From an online description of the book: The lives of four complex and fiercely independent women intersect in the desperate days of the siege. All are dovekeepers, and all are also keeping secrets — about who they are, where they come from, who fathered them, and whom they love.

*Don't be shy if you have recommendations of books, authors, programs, videos you've encountered that made you think – [share](#) with your Emmanuel family!



Chuck's Blog:

www.chuckmccoart.com

Look Who's Blogging

If you have not already found it, I would like to invite you to check out my blog. The blog gives me an opportunity to further communicate the things that pop into my mind. In a world filled with so many negative messages you will find in my blog a blend of three things: information which is positive, inspirational and occasionally funny. Please feel free to subscribe and to also invite your friends to subscribe and then you'll receive an e-mail which will alert you to a recent post. Pass the word. Thanks.

Peace,
Chuck

TnT Barbecue

On Saturday, July 27, the Twenties and Thirties will gather at 5:30 p.m. for a barbecue hosted by Adam and Amy Schildge and Carrie and Adam Siegrist, 305 East Mason Avenue (the first house on the right heading east from Mount Vernon Avenue). A sign up sheet will be made available closer to the date. Please RSVP to [Katherine Flower](#).



Attention: God and Donuts Class (6th graders and up)



Here is a sweet deal for you (and a friend if you like)! Plan on volunteering at the church parish hall / yard sale (set up August 29 and 30 during the day) and/ or at the sale itself on

Saturday, August 31 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. You can pick and choose between helping customers load their purchases, staffing tables (toys, sports, games, and books), or helping in the kitchen. Lots of opportunities to hang out and help Emmanuel serve our community. Afterwards we will go over to the Bartley's house for lunch and an ice cream party. Oh, and did I mention there is a pool? Watch for a sign-up sheet in the parish hall soon and for announcements and e-mails with the pertinent details as the time nears. For now, think "cool" and be cool and save the date. Contact [Meredith Wade](#) for details.

Annual Yard Sale

It's that time of year again for our annual effort to find new and welcome homes for things you no longer want or need. Many of our customers are people with very limited resources who really need these things, and it's a great form of outreach to our neighbors.



Please start setting aside your gently used **working** appliances, electronics, housewares, sports equipment, toys, books, games, jewelry and furniture. (As always, no clothes, encyclopedias or analog TVs.) We will make the parish hall stage available for donations starting in August — more information on how to arrange that will be sent out in a few weeks. Once the volunteer sign-up sheet appears at coffee hour, please volunteer to help set up, price, sell, work security, or clean up. Clean-up on Saturday afternoon is especially important because a crew will start to strip and wax the parish hall floor on Sunday afternoon for the start of the new preschool year. Contact [Margaret Wohler](#) or [Vonda Delawie](#) to volunteer.

Save the Date
for the
Holiday
Bazaar:
November 16



1	Bud Clatanoff	14	Lyle Vander Schaaf
2	David Masri	14	Christina Wohler
3	Beth Tuttle	16	Lois Kelso Hunt
3	John Ajello	17	Jeanne Feden
4	Paul Frank	18	Celia Schultz
5	Sheila Beattie	19	Tom Bilodeau
5	Paulette Garthoff	19	Ron Clark
7	Bucky Mills	20	Fred Delawie
7	Sandra Robbins	21	Thomas Ajello
8	Moina Ratliff	27	Carol Clark
9	Bayanne Hauhart	27	Christina Bartley
10	Barbie Frank	27	Rachel Pfeiffer
10	Catherine Wheeler	28	Emily Ajello
11	Peggy Conner	29	Elizabeth Anderson
13	Sandy Morrison	31	Gene Lange
13	Grant Edgar		



Christina and Stewart Bartley
July 3



July

- 4 Independence Day (office closed)
- 27 TnT Barbecue

August

- 31 Yard Sale
- 31 God and Donuts Class Pool Party

September

- 3 First Day of Preschool
- 8 Family Sunday, Fall Kickoff; Sunday School
Open House; Backpack Blessing
- 15 First Day of Sunday School; Teacher
Commissioning

October

- 6 Blessing of the Animals

November

- 16 Holiday Bazaar

December

- 8 Breakfast with St. Nicholas
- 24 Christmas Pageant

May 2014

- 2-4 Shrine Mont Retreat