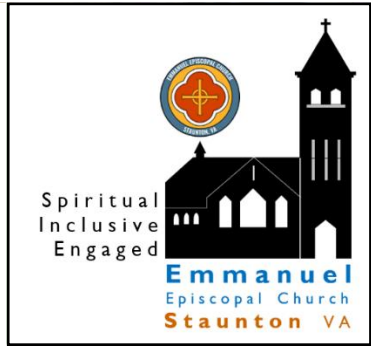


Emmanuel
Episcopal Church
Staunton VA
Part of the Augusta Convocation
in the Diocese of
Southwestern Virginia
Province III
of the Episcopal Church



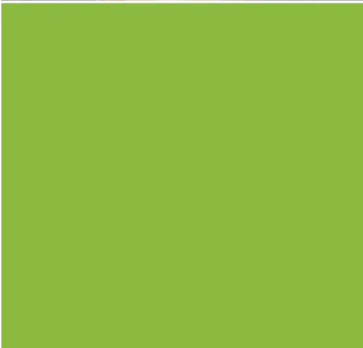
ANNUAL REPORT

20
24

For Year Ended 31 Dec 2024

bringing **People & God** together

AN INCLUSIVE AND WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF FAITH SEEKING TO KNOW & SHARE THE LOVE OF GOD



THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



SEEKING TO KNOW & SHARE THE LOVE OF GOD

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Staunton VA
in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia

Annual Report

for the year ended 31 December 2024



THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



Rector

The Rev'd Dr Jonathan N Bauer

Church Administrator

Caitlin Long

Church Office

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
300 W Frederick Street
Staunton VA
24401

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BACKGROUND

Emmanuel Episcopal Church is situated within the city of Staunton, and within the Augusta Convocation of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia.

The Diocese of Southwestern Virginia is one of 13 dioceses within Province III (Washington) of the Episcopal Church of the United States of America – a member church of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

There has been a place of worship on this site since 1896.

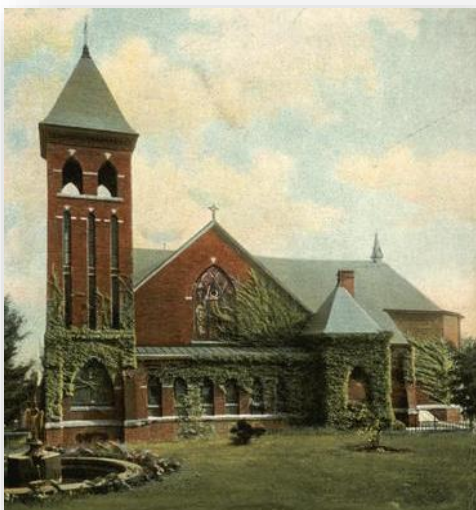
The current building dates back to 1904 when the former building was significantly changed and reoriented in response to pressing need, as well as perceived opportunities for growth and outreach.

The history of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, and the stories it holds in its very fabric, recount a history of lives touched by the love of God, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

As well as being a place of constant witness, and a beacon to our local communities, this church has a powerful history connecting it to stories of devotion, both to God and to people.

It is a building that has evolved and grown, just as the mission and ministry to the people of God in this place, and beyond, has also evolved and grown.

Today we are still committed to that ongoing journey of evolution and growth – it is a pilgrimage of faith, to which our built heritage stands witness. Upon the firm foundations of the past, we rededicate ourselves and our church (the building *and* the people) as a focus of inclusion, welcome, faith, and loving service.



THE VESTRY

The Vestry is responsible for the maintenance of Emmanuel Church and its adjacent property / grounds, as well as working in partnership with the Rector in furthering the mission and ministry of the church.

Rector The Rev'd Dr Jonathan N Bauer (CHAIR)

Wardens Jamie Frye
 Senior Warden

 Deborah Patton
 Junior Warden

Members of the Vestry

Elected members serve for three years. They cannot stand for re-election until the passing of one full year.

NAME

Year of Office *(Term of 3 years)*

Lucy Gaines

3rd *(ends at ACM 2024)*

Jamie Frye

3rd *(ends at ACM 2024)*

Marianne Miller

3rd *(ends at ACM 2024) bringing John Kolp's term of office to an end*

Katherine Turner

2nd *(ends at ACM 2025)*

Deborah Patton

2nd *(ends at ACM 2025)*

Charlotte Hadfield

2nd *(ends at ACM 2025) completing the Edwin O'Shea's term*

Cass Cannon

1st *(ends at ACM 2026)*

Teresa Hester

1st *(ends at APCM 2026)*

Skip Barnett

1st *(ends at APCM 2026)*

Meet the Team



The Revd Jonathan Bauer DMin
Rector and Chair of Vestry



Jamie Frye
Senior Warden
Vice Chair of Vestry



Deborah Patton
Junior Warden



Katherine Turner
Vestry Member



John Kolp
Vestry Member & Assistant Treasurer



Cass Cannon
Vestry Member



Skip Barnett
Vestry Member



Teresa Hester
Vestry Member



Charlotte Hadfield
Vestry Member



Lucy Gaines
Vestry Member



George Sproul
Treasurer



Nicole Rutan
Vestry Secretary / Clerk



Mitzi White
Safeguarding Advocate



Caitlin Long
Parish Administrator



Sarah Grove-Humphries
Organist *Until Sept 2024*

Nominating Committee of the Vestry

The Nominating Committee of the Vestry received several nominations to stand for election to Vestry. This year there are 3 x three-year Vestry places available.

Candidate for Election to Vestry Dec 2024 (3-year term)

Thank you for offering yourself as a candidate for Vestry.

The Vestry will make selections based on the criteria listed below,

and with a view to a representing the diversity of our parish - age, involvement, skills, and gender - on the full vestry.



Those nominated for Vestry:

- should be qualified according to the Canons (baptised and communicant members)
- should have demonstrated a level of commitment to Emmanuel which is appropriate to vestry service, including **regular giving, attending worship** at least bi-weekly, and **engaging in the ministries of Emmanuel**
- should have the ability to be a constructive and *unifying influence* even when working with those of different viewpoints
- should not be the spouse, partner, sibling, parent or child of a member of the Vestry, nor have served on Emmanuel's vestry for at least ONE year

Please note that all those in positions of leadership at Emmanuel should be signed-up participants in Realm.

When you fill out this form, you will provide the nominating committee with information they'll use to select a slate and, should you be nominated by the committee, they will use the information you provide to introduce you to the parish through our various communications (such as Realm and the weekly E-News).

Your full name

Please add a recent photo of yourself

Address _____

(if not already uploaded to Realm)

Tel # _____

Email:

How long have you been attending Emmanuel Episcopal Church?

_____ years, _____ months

Profession / occupation

Which service(s) do you usually / mostly attend at Emmanuel?

- Sunday 8am
- Sunday 10 / 10.30am
- Sunday afternoon / evening (Centering Prayer / Compline)
- Other: please specify _____

How frequently do you attend Emmanuel Episcopal Church?

- Weekly
- Most Sundays
- Twice a month
- Monthly
- Other

Key skills / interests

Biographical details: please continue overleaf, as necessary

The information you provide will be shared with the congregation ahead of the Annual Meeting, if you are to stand for election

I have read, understood, and confirm that I meet the eligibility criteria for election to Vestry (see above)

Signed _____

Date _____

The slate of candidates is as follows:

Virginia “Ginny” Wemmerus

Member of Emmanuel for 3 years, 4 months
Organizational psychologist (retired)

Usually attends the 10am/10.30am Sunday morning service
Attends most Sundays

Key skills / areas of interest:

- Property
- Finance
- Outreach

Biographical details:

Becoming a part of the Emmanuel community was one of the main reasons I moved into Staunton 3+ years ago. I am a members of the Finance Team and also serve on the Prperty and Columbairum Team.

I am a regular on the Emmanuel team serving lunch at the Noonday lunch program at Trinity Episocpal Church.

I am not a cradle Episcopalian. I was confirmed here in 2022.

I have worked part-time at the Augusta County Library since I moved to the area 13 years ago, but I really consider myself retired!



Elijah Davis

Elijah has been at Emmanuel since early 2024.

Elijah attends regularly on Sundays, at 8am or 10am/10.30am



Elijah writes:

Being a Social Worker means having access to professional service referrals for those who need them as well as the training needed to be ethical and effective in outreach ministry activities. I would bring valuable insight on community needs assessments and the difficulties most local Social Workers face when trying to do activities similar to those on the Mission & Outreach, Pastoral Care & Inreach Team responsibilities list found in the e-news.

I am also a therapist working at Riverside Family Support and spend a lot of time working with victims of child abuse as well as offenders and can offer insight around Safer Church concerns.

I'm clinically trained to do MSE mental status exams and this would likely be helpful for some of the non-member people that ask the church for help. I am particularly passionate about making sure Emmanuel is affirming of the LGBTQ+ community and would love make more people aware of Emmanuel's affirming stance on the church website so that LGBTQ+ people know Emmanuel is a safe place for them.

Before getting into my motives, I want to share a little about myself. One thing I want people to understand about me is that I am a social worker, not in the way of having the title and degree, but by having social work in my *being*. The most challenging and rewarding class I took at Appalachian State University was taught by Dr. Tynecca Lynch. The class, in all actuality, was a very easy one with very simple assignments. However, Dr. Lynch veered off course several times to talk about her life and career, being very vulnerable about her experiences working in hospice care and her research on the interaction between mental health and spirituality. She shared her experiences writing her dissertation and how she delved into the Christian faith, which is the origin of Social Work values. She made us write out each of the CSWE Social Work values and discuss what each meant to us. One of them is that all people have an inherent dignity and worth, just for the sake of being human, a radically Christian idea. At the time, this did not appeal to me as much as the value of Competence, which means Social Workers must challenge themselves to be the best they can be at what they are doing. Competence resonated with me because being perfect was all I was trying to be in life up until that point. This may resonate with those who were invalidated at crucial points in their development. Dr. Lynch looked at me with curious eyes as if she knew something about me I did not know about myself. She slipped content about attachment theory into an unrelated class and set me on a journey of confronting deep feelings of shame I had carried with me for 19 years. The world needs more of Dr. Lynch.

As for my goals for the vestry, I want to bring Social Work values to Emmanuel. I always say Social Workers do the Lord's work, even if they do not believe in the Lord. In doing so, I think I offer a unique perspective that is trauma-informed, backed by experiences in mental health treatment and the child welfare system. And I do this for several reasons. One, I love Emmanuel. It is the most affirming and welcoming church community I have ever been in. Although I am very new to Emmanuel and the Episcopal Faith, this is an opportunity for growth, and if I am elected, I hope to learn while serving. It is no longer my goal to be perfect but to seek out experiences that challenge me to grow because the one thing I have learned in therapy is that perfection is fleeting. Only God can do that.

Elijah was baptized in Emmanuel in 2024, and will be confirmed on Sunday 24 November by Bishop Mark, at Trinity Episcopal Church, Staunton.

Kethera Moore

Kethera has been at Emmanuel for 6 years.

She is a professor and JMU.

She attends Emmanuel regularly on Sundays (10am/10.30am), as well as for Morning Prayer during the week, when possible.



She writes:

I am organized and efficient and I strive to be useful where needed. I have a range of experiences from hospice-type care to organizing events (e.g., conferences), education, research, etc. I am a cognitive psychologist (psychological science, not counseling), with a PhD in Cognition and Neuroscience, working as a full professor at JMU, in which I also have an administrative role. If any of these skills and experiences can help the Emmanuel community through serving on the vestry, I'd love to be a part of the work going on there.

Technically, I am a cradle Episcopalian; however, in my journey of faith I attended various churches, including non-denominational and Catholic Churches. My sister and I moved to London in our 20s and it was there that I became serious about joining a particular denomination and was confirmed into the Anglican Church at St. Paul's Cathedral by the Lord Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Richard Chartres.

Upon returning to the USA, I considered the priesthood, went through a discernment process, and although the committee members unanimously supported me, I realized that was not my path. That is when I went back to school for my masters and then PhD. In moving to Staunton to work at JMU, I ended up at Emmanuel while Rev Shelby was rector and she married my husband and I there in 2019.

Covid hit us all hard and I essentially stopped attending (though often watched online); however, through talks with Edwin (who was on the vestry at the time), I began to miss the church community. The arrival of Jonathan and all he has done/is doing has rekindled my desire for an active role in God's church and, specifically, at Emmanuel.

If elected, I am committed to attending meetings, acting on decisions made, serving where needed, and doing all of which as an active participant in the prayer life of the church.

2024 REVIEW IN PICTURES



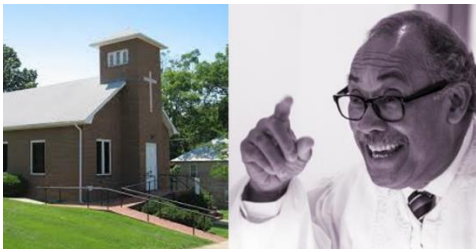
free admission!

California Dreamin'

A concert featuring performances from Autry Harper, Sarah Grove-Humphries, Xeno Müller II, and a premiere of original compositions written and performed by Decca Harper.

1/25, 7pm
300 W Frederick St.
Staunton, VA









MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

MISSION *what we are trying to accomplish / the impact we want to achieve*

The Book of Common Prayer has our Mission Statement as:

“to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ”

Through this, we are committed to being:

AN **SPIRITUAL** AND **INCLUSIVE** COMMUNITY OF FAITH
SEEKING TO BE **ENGAGED** IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY, AND BEYOND

bringing People & God together
meeting God • growing together • reaching out

VISION *what kind of future are we working towards?*

This is ultimately **God’s vision**, placed on our hearts

- A church where spirituality and the **spiritual** formation of all is central to our faith of faith, hope, and love; all underpinned with prayer
- An **inclusive** church where all are **welcome**, without exception
- A desire to **engage** with and serve the needs of our local, national, and international communities

VALUES *the **behaviours** and **attitudes** that characterise us;
how we conduct ourselves to achieve our mission and vision*

- Every member is committed to kindness and love
- Every member is encouraged to be in ministry
- All are cherished and nurtured
- Be a people of vision: *Proverbs 29:18 “without a vision, the people perish”*
- In the words of the prophet Micah 6:8
 - Do justly
 - Love mercy
 - Walk humbly with God

This is summed up in our Ordinary Time blessing at the end of the Eucharistic Liturgy:

Life is short, and we don’t have much time
to gladden the hearts of those who journey with us,
so **be swift to love** and **make haste to be kind**...

Structure, Governance, and Management

The method of appointment of Vestry members is set out in the Canons of The Episcopal Church and the Canons of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia.

At Emmanuel, the membership of the Vestry consists of the Rector and NINE elected members elected by those members of the congregation **who are canonically eligible to vote** (adult communicant members – having received communion at least THREE times during the year).

The Vestry members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to Emmanuel including deciding on how the funds of the Vestry are to be spent.

The full Vestry usually meets 10 times during the year.

Given its wide responsibilities the Vestry has a number of sub-groups (Teams), each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life.

These Commissions / Groups are:

1. CAW Team (Clergy and Wardens)
2. Property and Columbarium Team
3. Finance, Giving, and Stewardship Team
4. Mission & Outreach / Pastoral Care & Inreach Team
5. Worship and Formation Team
6. Fellowship, Events, and Communications Team

Each is responsible to the Vestry and each is expected to report back to the Vestry regularly with minutes or a summary of their decisions, to be discussed / ratified as necessary.

Pastoral Letter from the Rector

The Rev'd Dr Jonathan N Bauer



The complete Annual Report as well as our Review of 2024 makes for a celebration and expression of gratitude for all that we have achieved together, under God, over the last calendar year.

Reporting on the past year is always both a privilege and humbling honor. Having now completed a full reporting year since our last Annual Report I am extremely encouraged by the signs of new life, inclusion and welcome, growth in spirituality and service, and a renewed commitment to deep generosity, as well as open and liberal hospitality. These are our hallmarks!

I must begin by thanking the Wardens and Vestry for partnering with me in our shared leadership of Emmanuel. A lot of work, time, commitment and dedication goes in to *making Emmanuel happen*. It doesn't just happen all by itself – just as our 'daily bread' doesn't just land on our tables when we ask for it.

Our Treasurer for the last 8 years, Dr George Sproul, has given dedicated service to God through Emmanuel. We marked his official retirement from those duties in the Summer and we are grateful to John Kolp for his willingness to serve as Treasurer and to Laura Barnett in her willingness to serve as Assistant Treasurer. Doug Tuggle has also kindly offered his help as and when needed. What a team!

Our FIVE Teams overseen by the Vestry have been busy making sure that the many aspects of church life and ministry and mission are actively engaged with. These Teams (made up not only of Vestry members but of many others who give of their time and skill) are crucial to ensuring that Emmanuel has a secure future, and is fully engaged in the present.

2024 has also been a year of change for us a church household. We have mourned the death of some of our members, including Meneta Deaton, Maggie McAllister, Lawrence Cassada. May they rest in peace, and rise in glory. But we have also been graced with several new members and we are continuing to touch the lives of more and more people through worship and outreach, prayer and service.

We also said farewell to our Organist after 20+ years of service and we were able to mark her farewell with generosity and celebration. In the months since her departure there has been a wonderful sharing of the many and varied musical talents of our congregation, as well as new members drawn to offer their skill in the musical praise of God. This has led to the development of our Worship Band leading us on most first Sundays of the month. What joy their music brings! It is wonderful to see people dancing and singing and smiling as they leave the sanctuary, ready to share the love of God out in the world. The ongoing commitment of our small but dedicated choir means that our worship continues to be graced with sacred music that honors Episcopal liturgy. By the time you read this report, we are hoping to have made a new appointment of Director of Music at Emmanuel.

While there is much to celebrate and be thankful for, there remain some significant challenges ahead – not least of which is ensuring our building is maintained and developed in such a way that it does not merely 'preserve the past' but equips and supports us for our future ministry and outreach, hospitality and welcome.

Please continue playing your part!

Emmanuel is thriving and there is still much more to do. It is my aim to work towards regular 100+ attendance at our main morning worship, to continue to grow our outreach, use our buildings better as a way of resourcing our mission and outreach, and continue to grow in discipleship. Our passion for worship and formation is a strong foundation and building block as we move into 2025. Emmanuel is a wonderful Episcopal treasure in the rich religious tapestry of Staunton – as we find our niche, and as we all continue to play our part, let's build together on all that is good and reveal the glory and love of God in a world so in need of it.

Here's a summary of some of the key achievements in 2024:

- January 2024 marked the Rector's 6 month milestone at Emmanuel.... And the snow fell!
- California Dreamin' Concert in Emmanuel with Autry Harper and Xeno Muller
- Hosted the Winter Farmers' Market once again
- Formed our 5 Vestry Teams, replacing the 13 Commissions
- Shared in a Lent Study Group using the book "Meeting Jesus at the Table"
- Introduced a new musical setting for the Eucharist: The Mass of St Thomas (David Thorne)
- Supported the SWARM shelter
- Support the ministry of Grace House on the Mountain
- Shared Dinner Church together with Trinity Episcopal Church
- Honored the lives of Jim Young, Maggie McAllister, Meneta Deaton
- Hosted the Valley Chorale Spring Concert
- The Rector and Luis have hosted 56 people to Sunday lunch
- Welcomed our Bishop on two occasions: for Confirmation and for the Installation of the Rector
- Studied together, "The Ethics of World Religions" with Laura Yordy
- Shared in a Know Your Neighbor picnic in Bridgewater
- Begun to refurbish downstairs music office and Guild Room
- Shared in worship with Greater Allen AME Church, at Emmanuel
- Shared in a wonderful Pentecost Sunday – with a visitor from the UK, and received Luis (the Rector's husband) into the household of faith at Emmanuel
- Welcomed Stuart Hall students and faculty to share in worship at Emmanuel regularly throughout the year
- Hosted 3 newcomers' receptions
- Partnered with VPAS (Valley Program for Ageing Services) to host a weekly café every Wednesday at Emmanuel
- Studied the Megilloth with Riikka and Steve
- Shared in a wonderful Trivia Night
- Started Breakfast Church (monthly)
- Hosted an incredible Yard Sale to raise funds for outreach
- Observed "Back to Church Sunday"
- Celebrated an incredible Harvest Day, raising nearly \$9000
- Shared in Sunday worship at Christ Lutheran Church
- Welcomed Deacon Brian Hutcherson among us for worship
- Gathered for prayer pre- and post-election, and developed prayer resources to accompany us along the way
- Experienced an Advent Quiet Day at the Bellfry
- Organ renovation work started (and will continue well into 2025)
- Moved towards appointing a new Director of Music
- New pattern of worship developed to include an informal eucharist (with music from our Worship Band) and Brunch Church – on the first Sunday of the month

- New Instant Church Directory developed
- The weekly E-news sent to 329 email addresses
- Maintained a comprehensive Vestry Handbook and updated many of our policies
- Appointed a church architect
- two baptisms celebrated
- introduced full comprehensive bulletins for our main Sunday Eucharist to allow a more user-friendly approach to our worship for those less familiar with navigating their way around the Book of Common Prayer
- Had a strong presence with a large team of volunteers at Staunton Pride
- Had another very successful Pig Roast to raise funds for the Haiti Collaborative (over \$7000)
- Had a successful Harvest Day breakfast and fundraiser (raising over \$9000 [\$6000 in 2023])
- Commenced our annual Pledge Renewal Campaign for 2025

And much more besides!

Please read the many reports that speak of ministries, programs, and activities that speak of a church entering a new phase of life. We are certainly not declining! These reports, by and large, celebrate the wonderful ways in which God is at work here and beyond our walls.

Thank you to all who have taken time out of their busy schedules to submit reports and, more especially, to all who continue to worship, pray, serve, and share leadership at Emmanuel.

“Without a vision, the people perish”

The Annual Report is an opportunity to publicise to you, the congregation, and to friends, supporters and benefactors, all the challenges and opportunities of the previous year. It is also a chance for me to **encourage** all of you for whom your relationship with Christ is a foundation and a rock on which to build, as we continue to grow a church that is welcoming, inclusive and engaged with what really matters.

Proverbs 29:18

The Vestry and I are extremely grateful to members and friends of Emmanuel Episcopal Church who contribute in so many different ways to enhance the life and ministry of our church, especially all those whose work is faithful, but often goes unnoticed: **you are very much appreciated.**

Time now to move are focus towards growth, after a wonderful year of consolidation; as we do so, I encourage you to remember two things:

Without a vision, the people perish

Proverbs 29:18

If we do what we've always done, we'll get what we've always got.

Attributed to Henry Ford

I look forward to building the vision with you as we seek to do a 'new thing'.

Jonathan+

Senior Warden's Letter



Dear Emmanuel Family

As we close another year in our beloved church, I reflect with gratitude on God's blessings and how we've been sustained as a community of faith. Celebrating one year with our Rector, Jonathan, has brought vibrancy to our mission, and the recent installation service was a joyous occasion marking the start of many years of shared growth and community. Our mission—to be a place where spirituality, prayer, and welcome are central, and where we actively engage with the world in Christ's love—remains the heart of all we do.

A Community of Faith, Prayer, and Spirituality

At the core of our identity is the practice of prayer and spirituality. Through morning prayer, Sunday services, Centering Prayer, Bible studies, book groups, and Compline, we've provided opportunities for all to deepen their relationship with Christ. Our vibrant worship gatherings have become expressions of community, where we support each other and are strengthened by God's presence. We continue to strive to be a place where everyone feels seen and valued, no matter where they are in their faith journey.

Honoring Traditions and Embracing New Possibilities

Our annual traditions have strengthened our shared life, from Advent and Easter services to fellowship and outreach. A highlight this year was honoring the legacy of our Director of Music, Sarah Grove-Humphries, who served us faithfully for 21 years. We are deeply grateful for her leadership and look forward to the new possibilities in our music ministry as we continue our search for a new Director.

A Growing, Generous Community

This year has brought signs of growth, with increased attendance and a joyful spirit of belonging. We have also seen remarkable generosity in our giving, especially to our ministry in Haiti and the Rector's Discretionary Fund. These gifts reflect your love and care for those in need.

Gratitude and Thanks

I am deeply grateful to all of you for your leadership, prayers, time, and talents. Together, we are living out our mission of being a community where prayer, spirituality, and love for Christ shape all that we do. As we move into the new year, let us continue to be a beacon of light—a place where all are welcomed, loved, and invited to grow in faith.

With deepest thanks,

Jamie L. Frye
Senior Warden

from the Junior Warden

As Junior Warden, I have a particular responsibilities for our buildings and grounds.



Building and Grounds Overview (2024)

Water Infiltration and Basement Issues:

- Problem Identified: Water infiltration, particularly in the basement rooms of the parish house, was a key concern at the start of 2024.

Actions Taken:

- Roof leaks were ruled out, gutters cleaned, and drains checked with no clogs found.
- Guild Room: Several actions were taken to repair the water damage in this room: wall-to-wall carpet, radiators, baseboard outlets, and loose plaster removed. Walls were scraped and repaired, painted with permeable paint to allow the walls to breathe, and an industrial dehumidifier was added. The concrete floor was polished.
- Area rugs were purchased to reduce mold (instead of carpet).
- Special thanks to Bob Wiard, Jim Echols, Frank Strassler, Allan Hadfield, Marianne Miller, and Bev Coffman for their leadership and efforts to revitalize this room.
- Contracted work: Billy Friar – plastering, Paul Borzelleca and Modernboy Workshops – baseboard reproduction.

Building Maintenance and Repairs

Sanctuary Sound System:

- The sound system was upgraded with new microphones and speakers.
- Special thanks to George Sproul for leading these upgrades.

Boiler and HVAC Systems:

- Boiler Maintenance: We changed our boiler company which simplified our weekly boiler maintenance routine. A two-year certification was completed for the boilers.
- Sump Pump: Fixed and reconnected the water treatment system near the steam boiler.
- Air Conditioning: Office and Guild Room air conditioning systems will be inspected and maintained for the first time next spring.
- A leaky radiator in choir robing room has been turned off but not removed.

Inspections:

- Fire extinguishers (annually inspected each spring).
- Elevator (inspected twice a year).

Fellowship Hall:

- The Winter Market was held from January to March.
- The cracked toilet was replaced with an ADA Accessible toilet.
- Columbarium Faucet: Moved indoor cut-off to the utility room for easier access.

Additional Repairs:

- Painted the Director of Music's office after water damage (Room 102).
- Replaced the failed doorknob and deadbolt on the Smith Room exterior.
- Bob Wiard and Jim Echols reconfigured Pew spacing in sanctuary, with excess pews sold.

Upcoming Projects and Considerations

- Air Conditioning and Electrical Service:
 - Air conditioning is being re-examined to increase building usability.
 - Potential electrical service upgrade required to accommodate modern HVAC systems. Consultation with Dominion Power and an electrician indicates no need to dig up Frederick Street, though costs still need to be determined.

- Energy Efficiency:
 - Exploring interior storm windows for parish house single-pane casement windows.
 - Green Energy: Virginia Interfaith Power & Light and the Inflation Reduction Act (30% funding) offer support for heat pumps and solar energy. HVAC contractors are being consulted, but technical challenges persist.

- Donor Support: Several donors have expressed interest in supporting energy efficiency and air conditioning projects.

- Ongoing Fundraising: Further fundraising will be necessary to complete these projects.

Architectural and Long-Term Planning

- Architectural firm hired: The vestry has engaged Lineage, an architectural firm with expertise in church property, to guide decisions on water mitigation, air conditioning, energy efficiency, and other building needs.

- Initial Assessment: Lineage will document and assess building conditions to guide decisions on air conditioning and water infiltration mitigation projects.

Rectors and Bishops' Photo Wall

- The photo wall of our previous rectors and the previous/current bishops in the former bride's room (now the kids' chapel) has outgrown its space and uniformity.

- Solution: Anthea Smith, a parishioner with framing experience, will redesign, reframe, and re-hang the photos.

Deborah Patton

Junior Warden



Treasurer's Report

Report Submitted by Dr George Sproul
Treasurer (until Summer 2024)

The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer meet several times every month and communicate by e-mail and text as often as necessary.
I participate in all meetings of the Finance Commission and Vestry.

Working with the Finance Commission, we reorganized the Church's investments and savings into two distinct areas:

- (1) funds for capital projects at Edward Jones Investments
and
- (2) operating funds at Atlantic Union Bank.

We reorganized the Chart of Accounts on the Balance Sheet to reflect this change and to present with greater clarity this critical information to the Vestry. We established an "operating" reserve at AUB in a high yielding CD. Earnings of these investment accounts will total to about \$10,000 in 2024.

We analyzed all tasks of the Treasury. Compiled itemized list of these tasks and as per The Finance Team's recommendations divided the tasks up by roles:

- Treasurer
- Assistant Treasurer
- Bookkeeper.

We researched and obtained quotes for "outsourcing" the bookkeeping functions to Cornerstone (used by the Diocese and Trinity Episcopal Church) and to a competing service, Belay, that also specializes in churches but both were too expensive -- \$500 - \$750 per month. We met, and negotiated successfully with, Cardinal Financial Services of Staunton for basic bookkeeping at \$265 per month. We began using this service on September 1st coinciding with my resignation as Treasurer and assumption of that role by John Kolp.

Hopes for 2025

Simplify, where possible, accounting procedures and balance the workload between the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and an independent bookkeeper so that the succession in 2026 to a new Treasurer and/or Assistant Treasurer can proceed smoothly without a steep learning curve.

George Sproul

Treasurer

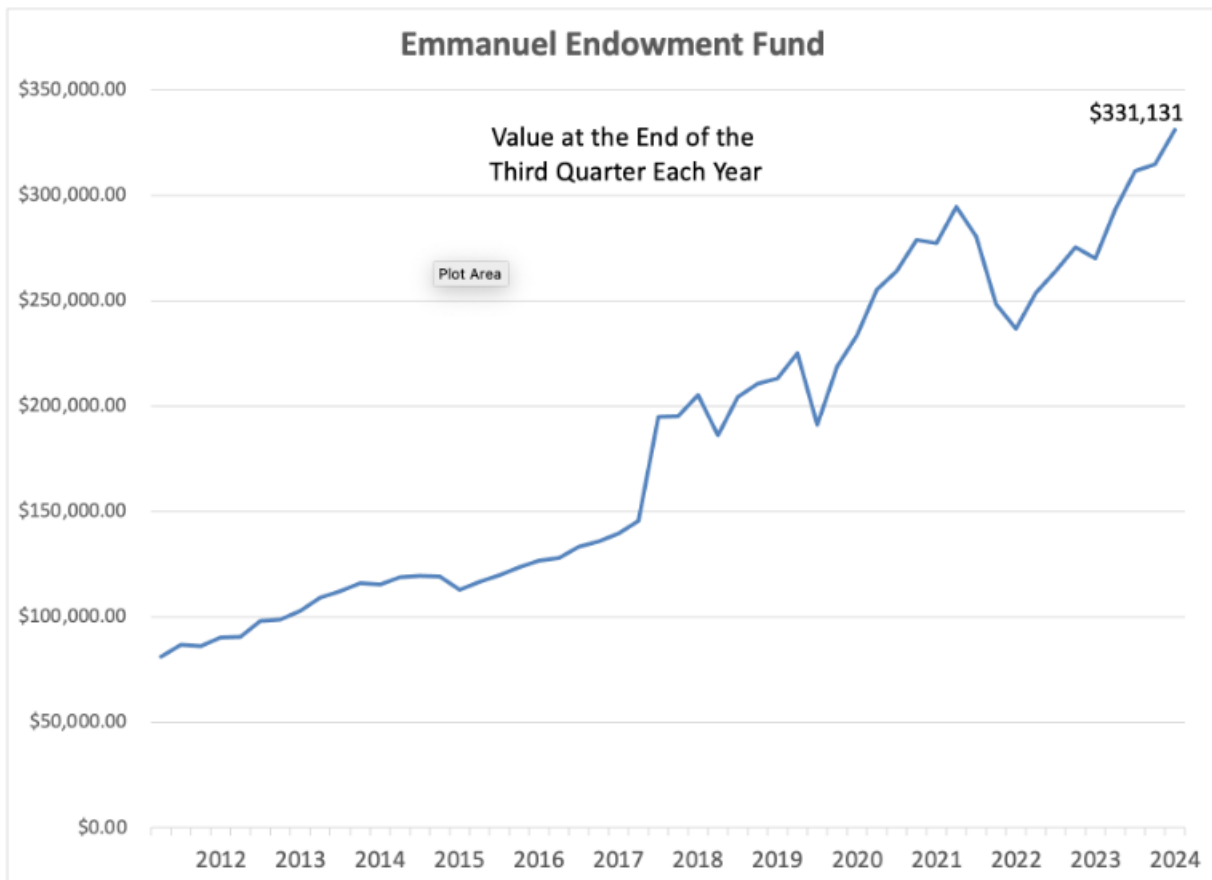
Endowment Fund Report

The Endowment Board met in person November 20, 2024, to review the status of the Endowment Fund. Present were Jonathan Brauer, rector, Jamie Frye, senior warden, John Kolp, treasurer and trustees, Mary Evans Lott, Jeff Gaines and George Sproul. The Endowment Fund was established in the fall of 2011 by re-designating the existing Building Maintenance Fund. The initial value was \$81,279.

The investment of the fund has been managed in the Diocesan Pooled Endowment Fund. Since its inception additional gifts totalling \$56,101 have been added. Income derived from the investment totalling \$49,149 has been consistently re-invested. Market gains, as of the end of the third quarter 2024, stand at \$144,603 and are considered part of the corpus of the Fund.

The total Fund value on September 30 was \$331,131.

No change in policy or procedures are recommended. Continued participation in the Diocesan Pooled Endowment Fund is recommended.



SAFEGUARDING: Safe Church: Safe Communities
Safeguarding Advocate: Mitzi White

Report submitted by Mitzi White

Purpose

Keep congregation trained in this important ministry required by Bishop Mark for the safety of all church members and staff across the diocese.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church is committed to implementing Safe Church and Safe Communities policies and good practice guidance.

The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of **everyone** who participates in the life of the Church.

Our Commitments, as a Vestry:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse or other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns/allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk.

In 2024 I held trainings for over 25 people in our Convocation. Caitlin met with Canon Pattie Ames to ensure that all of our folks were properly trained. This was especially helpful for members at Trinity heading to England with the choirs.

In 2025, I hope to hold at least one or two classes that are offered to others across our Convocation.

If you are in a position of responsibility / leadership and/or a key holder to the church building you **MUST** have completed (within the last 3 years) appropriate Safe Church training. Please make sure you are trained and up to speed and committed to the safeguarding of all God's people.

Thank you.



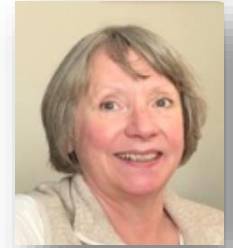


TEAM REPORTS

PROPERTY & COLUMBARIUM *Please see the Junior Warden’s report, above.*

FINANCE, GIVING, AND STEWARDSHIP

Report submitted by Marianne Miller, *Team Leader*



John Kolp – Vestry liaison Jan-Aug (Treasurer from Sept 2024)

Marianne Miller – Vestry liaison Sep-Dec, Team Leader

Members include Laura Barnett, Sam Dawson, George Sproul, Ralph Steger, Doug Tuggle, and Ginny Wemmerus.

The Team met 11 times (approximately monthly) during 2024.

Our team works with the Vestry and the Treasurer to ensure:

- 1) regular review and updating of the parish’s business policies and procedures
- 2) timely submission to the Diocese of required financial documents and
- 3) proper stewardship of Emmanuel’s financial resources.

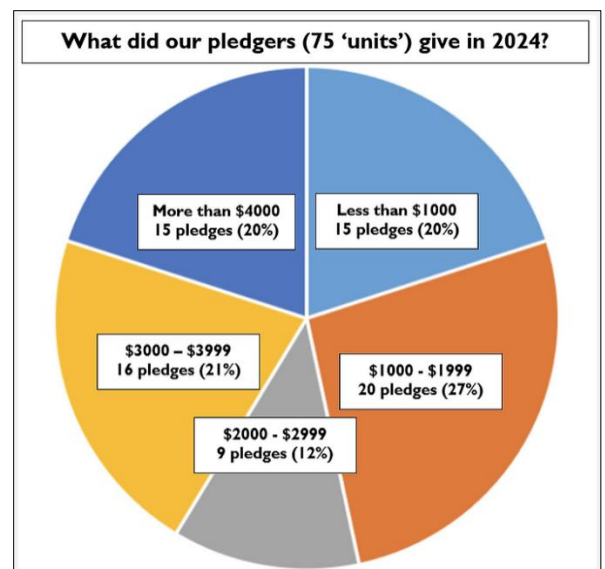
This year we....

- 1) supported the Treasurer’s updating of our chart of accounts to enhance clarity and readability.
- 2) advised the Vestry on
 - (a) maintaining operating reserves and
 - (b) funding of Property projects and capital improvements.
- 3) formed an ad hoc Internal Review Committee to complete an internal financial review of the church’s finances and processes and submitted their report to the Diocese.
- 4) developed a Treasurer succession process which the Vestry approved.
- 5) investigated several bookkeeping service options for the church. The Vestry adopted our recommendation and engaged Cardinal Financial to support the Treasurer & provide proper segregation of duties.
- 6) Ginny and Marianne produced a video for our fall pledge renewal campaign.

- 7) prepared a proposed 2025 budget to submit for Vestry approval.

Into 2025...

To provide financial guidance as the Vestry begins work with an architect and structural engineer to create a 5-year plan for our building and grounds.



WORSHIP & FORMATION

Report to be submitted by the Rector

Worship continues to be at the heart of all we do as a household of faith. The call to love God with our heart, soul, mind, strength, and our neighbors really is the cross-shaped dynamic that we live out at Emmanuel.

Making changes to the worshipping life of any congregation can be a challenge, but here at Emmanuel we really are a creative group!

This year....

- We intentionally moved towards designing monthly worship with children and young families in mind: sharing in Brunch Church, and an Informal Eucharist with our Worship Band supporting musically really has brought new life and energy to our sacrifice of prayer and praise.
- We actually experienced consistently high numbers of worshippers and guests throughout the Summer months while we worshipped in Fellowship Hall
- We have begun to redevelop the bridal room into a Kid's Church space. The aim is to renew that area as a space where children can explore faith through carefully selected toys and activities, and resources to support them on their journey toward getting to know God in Jesus and better understand the worshipping life of the church
- We have kept the feasts and fasts of the church year, with regular teaching input through the bulletins and E-News explaining the seasons of the liturgical year.
- We elected Matthew Poteat as Chair of the Worship and Formation Team
- We have continued to offer training to our Eucharistic Assistants, Lectors, Acolytes etc and continued to encourage more lay participation in liturgy through acting as liturgical deacon, and through writing bespoke intercessory prayers.
- We have welcomed guest preachers to worship, both to cover services when the Rector is away as well as when we have shared in worship in others ways too. Colleagues involved have included: Rev Edward Scott, Sr Phyllis Cox, Rev Kristin Holbrook, the Very Rev AJ Heine, Rev Cara Modisett, Rev Dn Brian Hutcherson, Dr Steve Berneking, Rev Roget Bowen, the Rt Rev Mark A Bourlakas
- We maintained consistently two Eucharists each Sunday (Rite I and Rite II)
- We installed a Tabernacle (aumbry) thanks to the generosity of Jim Lott (in memory of Pam and David)
- Compline continues to be offered on the first Sunday of each month, at 6.30pm
- Morning Prayer is a place of ceaseless prayer, Mon through Thurs throughout the year with a core of very regular attenders
- We continue to pray daily for our church household and an updated prayer calendar is sent out once a year to remind people of that core prayer task for us all.
- We have added to our number of Eucharistic Assistants - here's the whole team:

Matthew Poteat	Teresa Hester
Jim Lott	Rick Marks
Steve Berneking	Bonnie Starcher
Jim Echols	Kethera Moore
Michel Harmon	Bob Wiard
Bonnie Dawson	Bev Coffman
Sally Hurme	Christianna Herrera
Julie Pittman	
Mitzi White	<i>(also authorized to take Communion to the housebound)</i>

A lot goes on 'behind the scenes' to make our worship happen, and I want to thank our Altar Guild for the faithful work they do to ensure our worship space is always prepared and ready. It is an important ministry and is very much appreciated....even when we fail to notice or forget to say 'thank you'.

In terms of formation there has, as always, been a range of books club gatherings, and opportunities for prayer and study, and I am grateful to the many who help lead and facilitate these. We have a great pool of skill and expertise to draw on. Thank you everyone!

We will also benefit this year from an Advent Quiet Day at the Bellfry retreat house (near Lexington) – with almost 20 people signed up! Thank you to Riikka Halme-Berneking for being the driving force behind that wonderful opportunity to use a local retreat center resource = about which most of us weren't even aware!

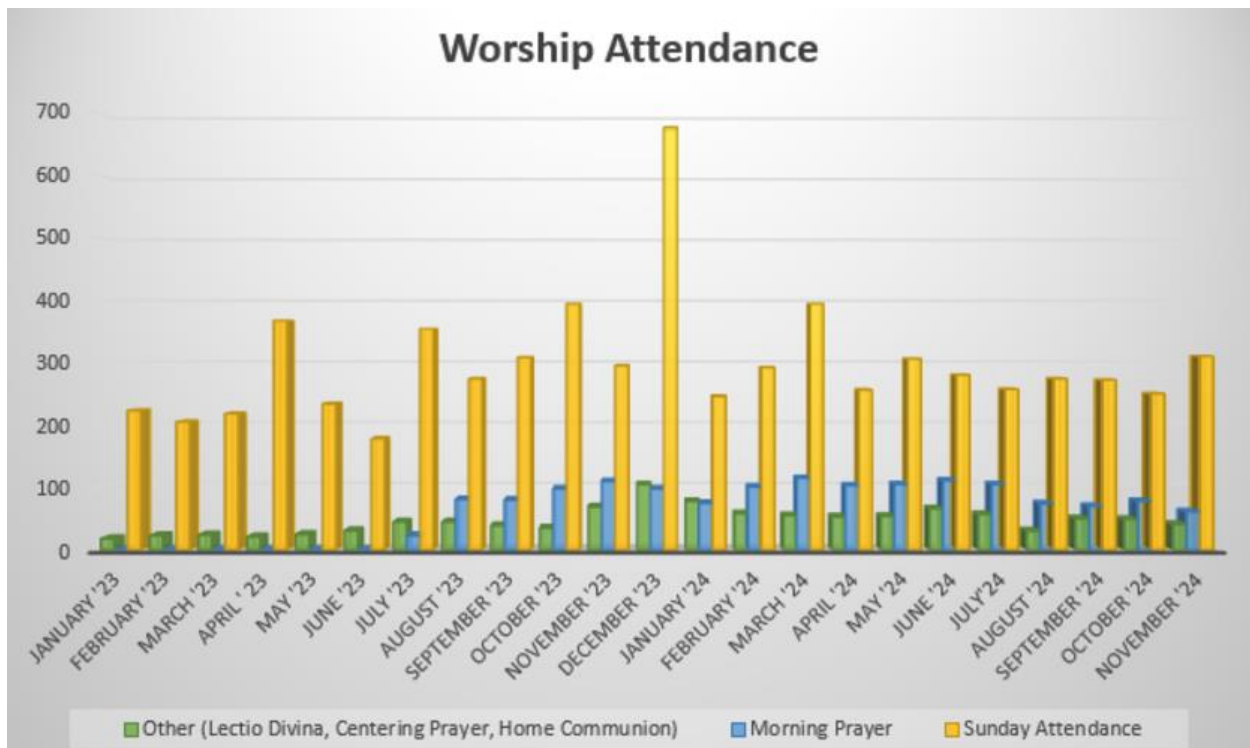
For 2025...

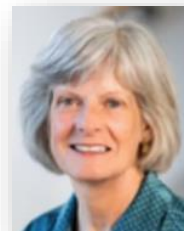
To consolidate and build upon our solid worship foundations; develop our wedding policy to reach out to our community with more occasions to help with celebrating life events (baptisms, weddings, funerals, celebrations of life etc). We are also looking forward to a Rise Against Hunger food pack in Lent (see Eileen Frueh for more information)...and keep an eye on E-News too!

Worship Statistics

These are important. They help us to see trends and plan realistically for the future.

The good news is, the trend is generally an upward one – but there is MUCH to do together as we grow.





FELLOWSHIP, EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENT (FEE)

Report contributed by Cass Cannon

Aims and purpose

Build a sense of community through hospitality and celebration. Develop and assess ways and means to encourage participation, keep members informed, and build awareness of our church community.

The Team meets approximately bi-monthly, usually via Zoom.

The FEE Team supported many social and fundraising events throughout the year -- recognizing retirements and milestones, welcoming the Bishop and new members, supporting special occasions and fundraising events like the Fish Fry, Pig Roast for the Haiti Collaborative and Harvest Day, raising \$6,888 for Haiti and \$8,995 for the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

We also conducted an audit of signs (or lack of them) around the church and have made recommendations so that people are aware of our church activities and can find their way.

We are conducting an inventory and assessment of our kitchen so that we can clarify volunteer roles, define procedures, supply the proper equipment, and encourage more participation. Bonnie Starcher and Nicole Rutan helpfully labelled cupboards to begin this process. We will continue to look at ways we can make our social life easier and efficient for all.

We reviewed our practice of streaming worship services as it has become increasingly more difficult to find volunteers and to consistently record our Sunday services. Recommendations are in the works!

...and in 2025

Communications are an important function for every team! We will work especially hard to support Caitlin (who does an excellent job with communications) and to review our communications and activities to inform and encourage participation.

We would also like to design a church orientation program for new and old members who want to learn more about the history and the foundations of our church community and how they might support and participate more.

Mission & Outreach Team

Report submitted by Skip Barnett



Aims: This Team's purpose is to raise money and support for various local charities, including direct charitable work by Emmanuelites. We seek to help the needy in our community and to encourage our church household to be involved in our outreach efforts. Outreach at Emmanuel is very diffuse; some of it is done by individual Emmanuelites, some is done via donations to other local agencies, and some of it is done in conjunction with the Rector's Discretionary Fund or spending by the vestry.

Achievements in 2024:

- The "Seek and Find" yard sale (raised \$2,100 for outreach)
- Stocked Emmanuel's Blessing Box (paid for out of the rector's discretionary fund)
- Collected items to make 100 breakfasts for "tiny houses" builders for local affordable housing
- Cooked a monthly lunch for the homeless via the Trinity lunch program
- Cooked a dinner for 50 homeless in connection with the local SWARM program

- Supported the donation of \$500 to Helping Hands summer camp at Covenant Presbyterian
- Taught ESL to our Afghan family
- Supported the loan of \$5,000 to our Afghan family to offset a car loan
- Plan to hold the annual Christmas Bazaar to raise outreach funds
- Sunday Soup Fundraiser

Other outreach activities at Emmanuel that are not directly administered by this team:

- The bi-annual Grace House on the Mountain building project
- The annual Pig Roast for Haiti support
- The Harvest Day breakfast that raises money for the Rector's Discretionary Fund
- The delivery of lunches to shut-ins twice a month via Meals on Wheels
- The Kairos Outside prison family ministry



Hopes for 2025:

As of this writing, our only idea under consideration for 2025 is to print and sell Emmanuel t-shirts mainly as a way to advertise our fine church. Although, if we can hold some other fundraisers, there are lots of other projects we'd love to give money to (e.g., Valley Mission, Meals on Wheels, etc.). Other than that, we are committed to continue with the above enumerated items.



Pastoral Care

Report submitted by Katherine Turner



This year, Pastoral Care has continued to minister to the church household in need of practical help, friendship, prayer and mindful care.

We have:

- taken meals to families during periods of illness and bereavement
- visited people who have been isolated in the hospital or in rehab
- sent cards to people experiencing difficulty or loss or unable to come to church in person.
- We have responded to and shared prayer requests for members as well as our friends and relatives, praying for those on the public prayer list as well as others who have asked for more private intercessory prayer.

Hopes for 2025

We are always looking for new members, especially as several of our longstanding members are now needing the kind of care that they generously showed to others for many years. Joining the Pastoral Care Team is a wonderful way to draw closer to the heart of Emmanuel.



PARISH REGISTER

In 2024:

Baptisms:	2	Louisa Nellie Coles, Elijah Davis
Confirmation:	1	Josh Curts
Weddings:	0	
Deaths:	4	Jim Young, Maggie McAllister, Meneta Deaton, Owen Thomas III
New Members	2	Elijah Davis, David Greiner, James Gray, BJ Harvick



REVIEW of 2024

Achievements and Performance (ministries and other activities)

CHOIR & MUSIC

Report submitted by the Rector



Aims

Singing and making music together create community. Singing sacred music deepens spirituality, fosters joy and beauty, and gives participants the experience of being part of something larger than themselves. The purpose of our choir is to lead the congregation in the singing of service music and hymns and to share sacred choral music that reflects and enhances the themes found in scripture and the church year. Singing sacred music not only anchors the community in our vast Christian musical tradition but also enables us to experience the evolution of our tradition through new works such as the Mass of St Thomas by David Thorne that we have recently introduced.

This year's achievements

Week by week through the majority of the year, our Organist and small but dedicated choir have enhance our worship with the singing of hymns and sacred music. Easter 2024 was a spectacularly beautiful time in our church year...and we were blessed with wonderful music to greet the annual celebration of our Lord's resurrection.

With significant enhancements to our sound system, the music is captured much more efficiently and effectively for our online viewers.

This year also marked the departure of our organist of over 20+ years. Sarah Grove-Humphries decided to move to pasture new at Hebron Presbyterian Church. We celebrated her long years of service and made a presentation to her before her departure.

At the time of writing we are about to enter the second round of interviews to appoint a Director of Music.

Since the Organist's departure, the Worship Band has been keen to support our offering of praise in worship at least once a month (usually on the first Sunday of the month). It has been a joy and delight to see this particular music ministry develop and grow. They bring a real sense of joy to worship and also afford us the opportunity to offer to God a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving through the musical talents of many of our members. Thank you Emmanuel Worship Band!!

Hopes and aspirations for the future

At a time of change and flux, while releasing many musical skills in our congregations, we are also looking forward to recruiting a Director of Music to help develop, enhance and renew our music ministry. This is an exciting time as we seek to grow and develop through this particular aspect of our sacramental life together.

If you enjoy singing or want to learn how to sing I invite you to come and try singing in the choir. Come and sing with us for a few rehearsals and Sundays and see if it's right for you with no obligation to stay if it's not. You might also consider being part of our worship band too....the more the merrier!

The organ that provides our indispensable accompaniment needs major repairs – approx. \$15,000 worth.

The work includes:

- adjusting manual key depth and strike point
- shimming wooden flute stoppers with temporary shims as necessary to be able to tune
- repairing Trumpet tuner scrolls which have become damaged and regulating the entire stop for evenness of tone and volume
- regulating speech as necessary to accommodate secure tuning
- setting equal temperaments and thoroughly tuning the entire organ
- adjusting Great expression shades to allow complete range of operation
- soldering junctions (seemingly left unsoldered in the 1993 control system work)
- correcting the wiring error in the Lieblich Bourdon
- re-mounting/installing DC power supply (currently just sitting on a popcorn can!)
- investigating cause of tremolo failures, and adjusting if possible
- replacing main blower windline, which is fragile and leaking
- miscellaneous minor repairs and adjustments found necessary during the work

In addition to these servicing issues, there are at least two larger problems that need immediate attention:

- Fix the swell expression doors to improve functionality
- The pedalboard to be fixed
- Repair of the contacting system in the pedalboard (there may either need to be major repair or a new pedalboard installed)

Interestingly, most of the pipes in the organ are from the original instrument that was installed in the late 1890s. The painted pipes that we see originally played and may be able to be reincorporated with the repairs. Our current organ, built by the Moeller Organ Company, dates from 1941 and incorporated the pipes from the old organ while adding new stops.

And, from Elaine Echols:

Emmanuel's choir enjoyed another year of happily making music for worship. Our music director of over 20 years, Sarah Grove-Humphries, led the group of almost a dozen singers, using and composing arrangements for 2-part, 3-part, 4-part anthems. Periodically she employed the talents of a half dozen professional and amateur instrumentalists and singers to supplement musical offerings. To our great sadness, Sarah left in September to take her musical skills and talents to Hebron Presbyterian Church.

During September and part of October, the choir met before services to review hymns and provided the occasional anthem while waiting for a new director. It is hoped that a new music director will be in place early in 2025. In the interim, Elaine Echols has volunteered to keep the choir together singing until a new leader is found. Steve Berneking graciously offered to serve as accompanist.

Choir members throughout the year have been Riika Halme-Berneking, Bob and Barbara Henkel, Skip Barnett, Bonnie and Frank Strassler, Matthew Poteat, Candace Vandouris, Nancy Dennis, Elaine Echols and Susan Hanger.



Church Administrator

In the Church Office, Mon-Thu, 9am – 3pm (lunch break: 12noon-1pm)

Report submitted by Caitlin Long, Church Administrator



As your Church Administrator, I serve the church in a variety of ways.

This is some of what I've been up to:

New A-frame signs have been designed and professionally printed for annual church events and regular services including

- Harvest Day
- Haiti Pig Roast
- Sunday Worship times
- Lectio Divina/Compline.



Have a suggestion for other signs? Share your ideas with me in the Church Office.

Our new online directory through Instant Church Directory is available (in addition to the directory in Realm). This new option is a little more user-friendly. We currently have over 50 families already signed up! By the end of the year, we hope to have a full directory including photos! Please upload your family photo if you have not already.

We continue to support our local community members in need of assistance with rent and utilities from funds gifted to the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

Preparing for worship services, including preparation of the service bulletins with the addition of new colorful graphics!

...and in 2025

In 2025 we will update our interior church signage to make navigating the building easier. Our new church directory (including photos) will be ready for publishing!

EMMANUEL WORSHIP BAND

Report submitted by Skip Barnett



Our little band of musicians is, first of all, a whole lot of fun! This past year we've enjoyed practicing together once a week and also led worship songs once a month starting in the summer. We've led the music for two Breakfast/Brunch Church services and three "Informal Eucharist" services both in the downstairs Fellowship Hall and upstairs in the Sanctuary.

Our aim (beyond having fun) is to choose music that will be an inspirational aid to the worship and fellowship at Emmanuel. To that end, we endeavor to choose songs that will be relevant to the Sunday scripture readings and also either familiar or else easily learnable and singable.

Music can be a very moving and inspiring aspect of a worship service; it can also serve as a strong source of bonding in a congregation. Our hope is that we are accomplishing these purposes with the music we offer.

Our members are:

Marty Krupinski	Matthew Poteat	Andrew Clem
Mary Evans Lott	Elaine Echols	Riikka Halme-Berneking
Steve Berneking	Josh Curts	Skip Barnett

And there's always room for more!

Skip Barnett

LECTIO DIVINA

Report submitted by Riikka Halme-Berneking

Purpose of the Group

Listening together to the Divine Word and prayerfully asking how to respond to God's nudging.

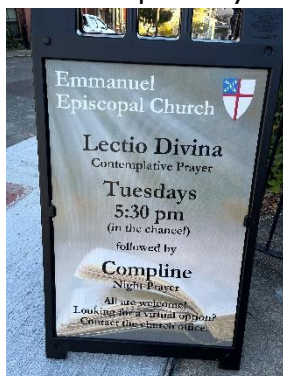
We meet in the church chancel each Tuesday at 5.30 pm for about 45 minutes. The participants take turns in leading the Lectio and the following Compline. We read a Bible passage chosen by the leader and quietly reflect on it with the aid of a set of simple questions. Anybody who wishes to share their response is welcome to do so. We finish by praying the Compline together. We welcome both those who come on a regular basis and those who come occasionally.



It has been a joy to have a mix of older and younger generations listening together to the Word in our beautiful sanctuary. During the hot summer months, we gathered downstairs. The attendance has varied from four to ten each Tuesday. For many of us, Lectio is a vital part of our spiritual care. Week by week we are surprised by God, often through the sharing of fellow participants.

Hopes for 2025

We continue to work on being a safe and welcoming place to all who want to try this contemplative way of reading the Bible.



LECTIO DIVINA (online through Zoom)

Report submitted by John Smallwood

Meets every Tuesday at 5:30pm. Zoom link is sent out weekly.
If you would like the zoom link to visit, email a request to the Church Office.

Every week, a small group of us, usually from four to seven participants, meet via zoom to meditate upon a scripture verse and to say Compline.
This spiritual community expands the Emmanuel family far beyond Staunton to places in Virginia and even overseas to London, UK.

We have come to know each other well and support each in our journey with Christ.
Come visit our warm fellowship!

In 2025...

To continue regularly on Tuesdays to offer this worship opportunity to those who cannot attend easily Lectio Divina at the church building.



ALTAR GUILD

Report submitted by Mary Jane Joyce



The purpose of the Altar Guild is to prepare the church for worship under the direction of the priest. This includes the Eucharist and Morning Prayer as well as special services designated by the church calendar or the priest.

Two Guild members are assigned each month to serve. Usually the Sunday service is prepared on Saturday. Communion vessels, linens and wafers and wine are put on the altar and credence table. Candles are filled, hymn boards marked, colored hangings displayed, Gospel book marked, and Tabernacle candle replaced. The altar is reset after the 8am service. After the 10:30am service, members distribute the altar flowers and clean vessels. Additionally, the Altar Guild decorate the altar for the Christmas and Easter seasons.

New responsibilities this year include marking wafers with wine to be used during Communion and to weekly refresh the candle on our new Tabernacle. Members have been successful in preparing for services in the Fellowship Hall including newly started Breakfast Church.

In 2025

Currently the Altar Guild has nine members.

We would like to see that increase to twelve.

This is a devoted group of men and women who serve in friendship and a desire to be of service to the church in a meaningful way. Do contact us if you'd like to be involved.

CENTERING PRAYER

Report submitted by Jim Lott

Emmanuel's Centering Prayer group meets online every Sunday from 5:30pm to 6:10pm

Centering Prayer is a practice which does not use words. We pray by sitting in silence, consenting to God's presence and action within. The practice may be thought of as resting in God's Presence. The group meeting provides an opportunity for those who feel drawn to contemplation to sit in silence together for 25 minutes, then listen to and reflect on a short reading. Attendance currently ranges between 5 and 8 persons committed to supporting one another on our spiritual journey.

Jim Lott facilitates the group meeting, which is designed to complement and support individual daily practice. We welcome all who feel drawn to deepening their spiritual lives through contemplation.





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Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Staunton



@emmanuelstaunton

A PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH

My church....I will help make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.

It will make generous gifts to worthy causes, if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into worship and fellowship, if I invite and bring them.

It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith,

and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is,

am filled with these same things.

So Lord, with your help, I will dedicate myself
to the task of being the things that you call our church to be.

Amen.