

Your Vestry Wants To Hear From You!

Here is a list of your vestry to contact with any concerns!

Rector — Mark Gatza

Senior Warden — Sandy Cormack

Junior Warden — Linden White; Treasurer — James Macgill

Registrar — Kevin Fleming

Michael Barton

Joseph Gwiazda

Bonnie Montalvo

Cathy Proctor

Heather Costantino

Frances Mason

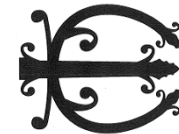
Susan Maule

Ingrid Riseley

Peggy Lauterbach

Chris Runice

(One Vacancy)



*Emmanuel
Church Staff*

The Rev'd Canon Dr. Mark Gatza,
Rector

The Rev'd Bill Smith, Associate
Brent A. Pertusio, Organist-Choirmaster
Heather Costantino, Christian Education
Coordinator

James Kennard, Sexton
Church Phone

410 838-7699

Church Cell Phone for
Pastoral Emergencies
443 752-0573

www.emmanuelbelair.org

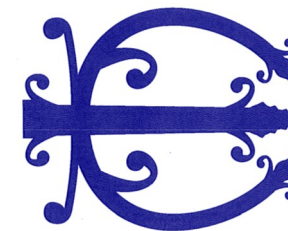
office@emmanuelbelair.org

Services:

Saturday: Resumes 21 September

Sundays — 8 AM, 10 AM & Noon

Tuesdays — 10 AM



THE TRUMPET
EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH
303 NORTH MAIN STREET
BEL AIR, MARYLAND 21014
18 DECEMBER 2019– 7 JANUARY 2020



UPCOMING SUNDAY SCRIPTURE LESSONS

[\[lectionarypage.net\]](http://lectionarypage.net)

22 December 2019 @ 10:00 Lessons & Carols for Christmas

29 December 2019 — Isaiah 61:10—62:3; Psalm 147; Galatians 3:23-25; John 1:1-18

5 January 2020 — Jeremiah:31:7-14; Psalm 84; Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a; Matthew 2:1-12

ST. JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST

Shed upon your Church, O Lord, the brightness of your light; that we, being illumined by the teaching of your apostle and evangelist John, may so walk in the light of your truth, that at length we may attain to the fullness of eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

<http://satucket.com/lectionary/index.htm>



2020 Stewardship Campaign

Emmanuel Church is entirely self-supporting. For 151 years, people in Emmanuel's pews have made offerings and paid tithes to insure that the work we do here is supported by prayers, volunteer time and effort, and the willingness of it's members to invite other to join us in our mission. We are dependent on our members, family, and friends, to provide the lion's share of the funding for our budget each year. So, each year we come to you to ask if you would give us some indication of how much you think you can contribute by filling out a "Pledge Form" — available online at www.emmanuelbelair.org, or on the table in the back of the church. This year we hope to raise \$250,000 in pledges to support our projected \$320,000 2020 budget. As of this writing we have received about 50 pledges totaling about \$160,000 on our way to that goal. In recent years we have been able to count on

about 120 pledges, and at this rate we should be able to reach our goal.

Many of you over the years have given generously, but have not filled out pledge cards. We can't stress enough how important it is to do so with respect to our budget process. The Vestry needs the very best information it can have to create a reasonable budget and to plan on how to support our ministries in the year to come. If for some reason you find yourself unable to fulfill your pledge in a given year, please don't worry. Simply drop a sealed note to the Treasurer indicating you situation, and we will make adjustments according. Rest assured, there is no eternal penalty for falling a little short. That said, you will be surprised and amazed at how God responds to your generosity, making it easier and easier to give of what God has given you.

Please feel free to ask the Rector or a Vestry Member listed above how you can make a pledge.

Holy Day Schedule, 2019

✘ **Sunday, 22 December 2019:** Sunday Services at 8:00 AM and 12:00 Noon; "The Story of Christmas:" a Pageant of Lessons and Carols for the Season at 10:00 AM.

✘ **24 December 2019 — Christmas Eve:**

Service at 5:00 PM featuring the Third Saturday Band.

Services at 7:30 PM and 11:00 PM featuring Emmanuel's Choir and Organ Hymns played by Brent Pertusio.

✘ **25 December 2019 — Christmas Day:** at 10:00 AM, a "quiet" service featuring a new original story by the Rector.

✘ **Sunday, 29 December 2019 — First Sunday After Christmas:** Services at 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM and 12 Noon.

✘ **Tuesday, 31 December 2019 — New Year's Eve:** Service featuring special prayers and Vigil readings at 10:00 AM in the Maryan Room.





The Characters of Christmas

It doesn't take much time surfing the internet to begin to wonder what, exactly, does Christmas celebrate and who is part of the program. Given the three hours a day that our television is typically on, you'd think that Christmas is a season for buying cars and saving money on insurance — who knew that what I really wanted this year was a new Buick and a policy that would set me straight after being hit by a clown car! And in the desperate search to find more things to put lights on, it turns out that Godzilla is a good mannequin — at least in Asian décor.

So, maybe it's time for a little reminder on who's who in the Christmas Story, and a refresher on how they got to be there in the first place. Here's you'll find a bit about Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds, the stable animals, but nothing about Santa Clause, Rudolph, Frosty, or chestnuts roasting over an open fire.

✂ **Mary:** Of course, without Mary's willingness to say "yes" to the message that Gabriel brought her from God, this story wouldn't have come out this way at all. There is no genealogy of her in the New Testament (as is typical of women at the time), but her relationship with her cousin Elizabeth — whose husband Zechariah was a Temple Priest — suggests that she grew up on the wealthier and more educated side of Jewish society. She was young, when betrothed to an older man, Joseph, but that was not in itself unusual. When she found herself pregnant before the intended marriage, she understood that — despite her story — this was a perilous situation that might lead to her ouster from the community or even death by stoning. That she persevered following the call she had received was a sign of great courage.



✂ **Joseph:** The stories all refer to him as a carpenter, but in truth his profession was more like that of an engineer. Everyone could use a saw and cut a piece of wood, but men like Joseph designed and constructed complicated pieces,

often fabricating things from metal and rope as well as wood. By this token, Joseph would have lived an upper-middle class life, and no doubt had the financial wherewithal to pay the dowry for a bride such as Mary. When he learned of her pregnancy, his first thought was to show mercy and let her go away quietly, to save both her and him the exposure to shame. As God then revealed to him in dream what the plan was, Joseph learned to trust God.

✂ **Shepherds:** Watching sheep required less skill than almost any other job in the ancient world, so being a shepherd meant that you were at the bottom of the social and financial ladder. Sheep smell, and so did shepherds, and so for them to be the first to hear the good news of the savior's birth was one of God's little smiles. Such moments of divine irony are frequent in both Old and New Testaments.

✂ **The Ox and the Ass:** No prophet had a clearer vision of the coming savior of the world than Isaiah did. The "prequel" to this vision comes in Chapter 1 of the book that bares his name: "The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's crib..." The stable animals recognize what the people of Israel and Judah could not see, that the infant Jesus was in fact the incarnate son of God.



The Magi come later in the story (and you can hear my story of the astrologer from Kandahar [here](#), or on in the Audio Sermons link on our website for 2013). But that's it. All of the other characters you can see in pictures from the web are pious fantasies at best, or creepy juxtapositions at worst. Santa Claus did not visit Bethlehem — he wouldn't even be born for 300 years. Reindeer can't survive in the temperate climate of Palestine, and the SUV's of the time were the lightweight two-wheeled iron chariots perfected by the Hittites years before. The original colors of Christmas were sandy brown, stony brown, and old hay brown, not green and red. The light of the Christmas Star was so noticeable because there were not street lights or mall signs or twinkling bulbs on houses on every block.

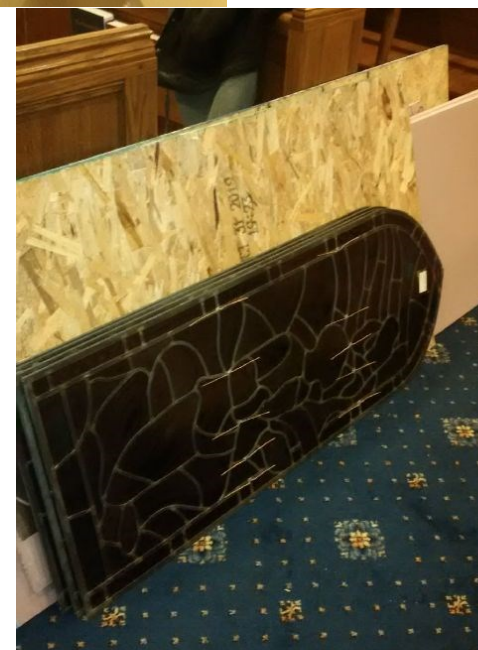
It is hard not be distracted by the frills and add-ons of December. I know that by about this week I have heard every pop Christmas tune I can stand, and my eyes water while driving at night as they are bombarded by displays everywhere. It is thinking back to the silence and the darkness and the simplicity of Bethlehem 2000 years ago that prepares me.

Totidem Verbis

Mark Gatzert



We are
Wonderfully
Made! Psalm 139



See Something, Snap Something

... And so are our new Stained Glass Windows! Installed the first week of December, the windows are everything we hoped they would be. Designed and fabricated by the Willett-Hauser company, these new additions to our interior iconography give us four generations of work by Willett artists, including several designed by the long-time principal of the company, Henry Lee Willett, who was a good friend of Emmanuel Church. Watch for news of a full tour of all of our Stained Glass in January, and for the dedication service slated for 2 February 2020.

