

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

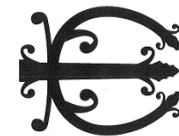
Susan Maule

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

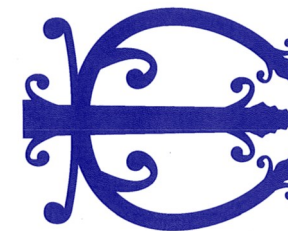
www.emmanuelbelair.org

office@emmanuelbelair.org

Services:

Sundays — 8 AM, 10 AM & Noon

Tuesdays — 10 AM



THE TRUMPET
EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH
303 NORTH MAIN STREET
BEL AIR, MARYLAND 21014
8 JANUARY 2020 – 21 JANUARY 2020



UPCOMING SUNDAY SCRIPTURE LESSONS [\[lectionarypage.net\]](http://lectionarypage.net)

12 January 2020 — Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

19 January 2020 — Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS, 1274

Almighty God, who has enriched your Church with the singular learning and holiness of your servant Thomas Aquinas: Enlighten us more and more, we pray, by the disciplined thinking and teaching of Christian scholars, and deepen our devotion by the example of saintly lives; 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 Update

First, some very preliminary but very hopeful good news. After a quick run-through of our 2019 finances, it looks like we have finished the year with a very small surplus. Hooray for **Black** ink! There are still some accounts to be reconciled and canceled checks to double-check, but we seem to have pulled out of our usual summer slump with flying (non-) colors. Thank you for your faithfulness, which makes it all possible.

Our effort to raise pledges for our 2020 budget continues slowly but surely. To date we have 69 pledges totaling \$177,361. There are 25 pledgers that we heard from last year that have not submitted a form. If they pledge the same amount for 2020, that would give us an additional \$55,240 commitment to our budget, bringing our total to \$232,601. We will be writing gentle reminders to these pledgers in the

week to come. Meanwhile, we would love to hear from the many folks who have joined us in the last year or so who have never pledged to Emmanuel before. Your support in particular is important to us, as it signals the continued growth of our community, especially among younger families.

The funds promised by pledges represent the largest share of our budget, but there are other sources of income that we count on: money simply put in our collection plates is the second largest factor, followed by income from our Thrift Shop (even though we give much away for free), income from donations for the use of our facilities, and a very small bit of income from our endowment. Added together, we are hoping to fund a budget of about \$320,000. That is a stretch from our 2019 budget, but it will add some much needed staff support to programs like outreach and enable us to hire another administrator. We hope this will inspire you to complete a pledge form if you haven't done so yet, or perhaps consider an increase to your offering.



Calendar Corner

- * **Wednesday, 8 January at 9:30 AM:** Adult Bible Study in the Harward Parlor.
- * **Thursday, 9 January at 7:00 PM :** "Introduction to the Vestry" Meeting in the Harward Parlor.
- * **Sunday, 12 January:** Sunday Services at 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM (including Holy Baptism this week); and 12 Noon. Sunday School meets during the first half of the 10:00 AM Service. Centering prayer and meditation at 1:00 PM in All Saints Chapel.
- * **Tuesday, 14 January at 10:00:** Holy Communion and Prayers for healing in the Maryan Room.
- * **Wednesday, 15 January at 9:30 AM:** Adult Bible Study in the Harward Parlor; **At 1:00 PM,** Yarn Guild meets in the Rectory.
- * **Sunday, 19 January:** Sunday Services at 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, and 12 Noon. Sunday School meets during the first half of the 10:00 AM Service. Centering prayer and meditation at 1:00 PM in All Saints Chapel.

WHAT DOES A VESTRY DO?

If this question has ever crossed your mind, here is your chance to come and find out. Join us for about an hour and a quarter or so on Thursday, 9 January 2020 at 7:00 PM in the Harward Parlor for a basic introduction to the formal workings of a congregation in the Episcopal Church. We will cover:

- ✂ What does "Vestry" mean and where did the come from
- ✂ How an Episcopal Church is incorporated
- ✂ Roles and Responsibilities of Vestry Members
- ✂ Qualifications for Vestry Members (& Don't worry: if you are reading this you probably already qualify!)
- ✂ Relationships between congregations and the Diocese of Maryland
- ✂ And anything else that you have wondered about that we can answer in 100 words or less

This in no way obligates you to volunteer to serve, though we bet that you will be fascinated enough to think about it!





How Long Should Worship Take?

I fret a lot about many things. Fretting doesn't keep me up at night, but it does fill the time I spend when sleepless or stirring. I fret mostly about people. If I know you are in hospital or otherwise indisposed, I hope and pray that you are getting the attention you need, not only from family and caregivers but from God's angels surrounding you. If you have been absent for a while and I don't know why, I fret about how you are doing and work hard to imagine best case scenarios rather than worst case ones. Among those I fret about the most are people who visit Emmanuel once or twice and then never come back.

I can't count the number of times that this has happened. These visitors are old or young, come as individuals or as some part of a family, and often throw a little something in the collection plate. Sometimes they fill out an information card and hand it to me or Fr. Bill or drop that in the plate. Often enough their response to our handshake and greeting after the service seems to indicate that they are ready to fill out a pledge card or volunteer for the property committee. But then I never see them again, and I can help but wonder why. And, I confess, it is hard not to take it personally. As the chief leader of worship and the obvious public voice of Emmanuel Church, I wonder if I said or did something that annoyed or offended them. In those situations where I have had some contact information and have reached out a couple of weeks later, I have never received a response. (Even that makes me feel uncomfortable, since I know how I react every time a website or service provider asks me to fill out a brief survey.)

Inevitably, I fret about two aspects of our public worship that I hear murmurings about: the service is too long, and/or the sermons are too long. Like the people of Israel murmuring in the desert as they followed Moses, such conversations can influence the course of the journey. More than once God responded to the people's perspective and modified the plans, mostly for the good. With that in mind, I want to share a little bit of our thinking about why we do things the way we do.

There is no question but that you will hear a little longer sermon at Emmanuel Church than you will at most other Episcopal Churches. This has been built into our schedule from the time I became your leader in 2009. Emmanuel's pattern of offering Christian Education for young people during the first half of our 10:00 AM worship is an important part of our life together and distinguishes us from many other congregations. In other places, Sunday School and an Adult Education offering happen during an hour between services. So Adult formation is a regular part of the weekly schedule. Without that offering here, the Vestry and I agreed to include some additional education during the sermon as a substitute. One way to think of this it to compare an additional hour of Sunday church time to an additional 12 minutes of service time.

Worship at Emmanuel is pretty faithful to the norms established by *The Book of Common Prayer*. Our schedule on Sundays enables us to offer three substantially complete versions of the Holy Eucharist, without having to compromise or omit any of the bits and pieces. Our worship at 10:00 includes quite a bit of music, including canticles, "service music," an organ prelude and postlude, and a choir anthem as well as five hymns. This is not the most we could sing, but it's very close! We are blessed to have talented musicians to lead us, whether on contemporary or traditional instruments, and a great many in the congregation sing well. That said, I fret about people who might feel uncomfortable at not singing for whatever reason. We don't make it explicitly clear that simply being in the presence of music is sufficient to enhance our worship experience. Since singing portions of the prayers does not add any time to the service, it is largely the hymns that add length to our time together — length, by the way, which our Sunday School takes advantage of as they squeeze valuable lesson time out of the morning.

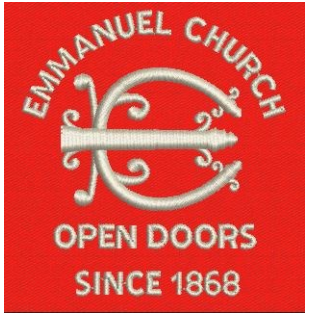
So, like so many other columns, this one ends with a request: please let me know what you think about the length of our worship and of our sermons. I promise not to be offended if you need to tell me we are too wordy or stray into strange metaphors. The goal is clear: we want Emmanuel to offer the best worship we can.

Totidem Verbis

Mark Gatza+



We are
Wonderfully
Made! Psalm 139



152nd Annual Meeting

Even our Meetings are wonderfully made! Join us for our Annual Meeting, schedule for 11:15 AM on Sunday, 26 January 2020. There will be only one service that Sunday, so that everyone will be encouraged to attend the meeting. Compared to most Episcopal Churches, our Annual Meeting is *blessedly short*, usually under 45 minutes. Reports will be available for your review in advance, and our process for selecting new Vestry Members involves no voting or ballot counting. If you'd like to contribute something, bring a sample of your favorite coffee cake to share, along with other good things that will be provided.

Volunteers Opportunities

We can't do it without You! From the days of St. Paul (who volunteered his time as a preacher apart from his job as a tent-maker!) the Church has counted on people to offer their time and talent to their communities to make ministries happen. Some roles are very public, like leading prayers or reading lessons on Sunday mornings, or serving the chalice. Others are behind the scenes, like the Altar Guild's work preparing the "hardware and firmware" for worship, or the faithful outreach crew who make sure our food supplies for the homeless are managed and replenished. Whatever gifts God has given you, we can use in the Church. So let us know and we will match you up with a ministry that will assist us all to do the work God has given us to do.

EMMANUEL CHURCH SHIRTS

Our opportunity to purchase Emmanuel Church Logo shirts, vests and lightweight sweaters ends this Sunday, 12 January 2019. Go to www.tidewaterwebstores.com to look at the selection and choose your favorite fashions to show off your appreciation for Emmanuel. The selection of colors, fabrics, and sizing options is greatly enhanced from the last time we did this. Don't delay — we may not be able to do this again in the near future.

Episcopal Church 101

Our basic introduction to the history and practice of the Episcopal Church will be offered over **five consecutive Saturdays beginning February 1st**. The classes will run from 10:30 to Noon.

Topics include:

- ✂ The Episcopal Church Tradition of Worship
- ✂ "40 Feet of Church History"
- ✂ Use of Scripture in Worship and Theology.
- ✂ The Catechism
- ✂ Connections with the Anglican Communion & the World

In the (likely) event of weather or other cancelations, the class will have make-up sessions in March if necessary.

We have often included a "Field Trip" in addition to the classes to visit other churches. Details will be discussed and determined by class members.

The class is an essential part of the preparation for adult confirmation or reception into the Episcopal Church (ask the Rector what that's all about). It can also be a nice refresher for long-time members who want to remember where it all comes from. RSVP to the Rector.

