

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

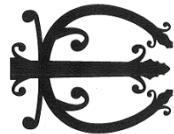
Susan Maule

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

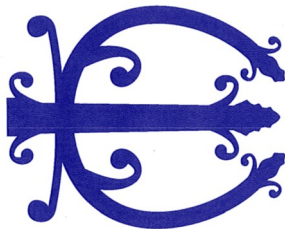
www.emmanuelbelair.org

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
5 FEBRUARY–18 FEBRUARY 2020



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

9 February 2020 — Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12); Psalm 112; I Corinthians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20

16 February 2020 — Sirach 15:15-20; Psalm 119 “Aleph”; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

ABSALOM JONES, 13 FEBRUARY 1818

Set us free, heavenly Father, from every bond of prejudice and fear: that, honoring the steadfast courage of your servant Absalom Jones, we may show forth in our lives the reconciling love and true freedom of the children of God, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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



Windows Update

The crew from Associated Crafts/Willet Hauser is back with us this week for Phase three of our ongoing stained glass project. To recap, **Phase One** involved the restoration and refurbishment of the two large windows on the East and West end of the church, including the repair of some damaged wood framing, repainting, and covering the windows with protective shields. The window on the courtyard side depicting the woman healed from her hemorrhages was also repaired, including the replacement of some broken glass. This was done in the winter of 2018. **Phase Two** was the design and installation of three new windows given by Carolyn Acker in memory of her husband Bill Acker. That was completed in November. This



Final Phase addresses the restoration and preservation of the rest of our windows, 21 in all, including repainted frames and outer protective coverings, including the window that remains blank. In addition, the crew is straightening and flattening the bulges that you may have seen in several of the windows. Pictured here are the two members of the crew: Jimmy Cope, crew chief, on the left, and Torrian Bitting on the right. They are a terrific team of genuine craftsmen practicing a rare art that requires delicacy, creativity and a little bit of daring-do on ladders and lifts. Thanks to their efforts, it should be many years before the windows need further attention.



Calendar Corner

- * **Wednesday, 5 February at 9:30 AM:** Adult Bible Study in the Harward Parlor. **At 1:00 PM,** Yarn Guild meets in the Rectory.
- * **Saturday, 8 February at 10:30 AM:** Episcopal Church 101 continues. (It's not too late to join in!)
- * **Sunday, 9 February:** 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.
- * **Tuesday, 11 February 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.
- * **Sunday, 16 February:** 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.

SEE SOMETHING, SNAP SOMETHING



Canon Gatza, preaching from his stool, at our special Candlemas Service. Note the candelabra placed down front instead of behind the altar, a visual reminder that we are doing something a little different here. We swung a little incense at this service, something that we haven't done on a Sunday in many years. We'd love to have your feedback: did you like it, did you hate it, did you stay away because of it? Your responses are important to us!



“The Funnest Time in the Service”

Bishop Sutton is known throughout the Diocese for two little bits that he often adds to a service. First, if the Exchange of the Peace begins to go on too long, he will loudly announce that it is time to “Cease the Peace.” He is absolutely right to do this. The Peace is not intended to be a moment of fellowship, where we check in and catch up with each other. We can and should do that before and after worship. Rather, it is a gesture that reminds us that we are all sinners of the same stripe, and come together by the grace and forgiveness that God has provided for us in Jesus Christ. I should probably do this too sometimes (especially at the Noon service), and I would save for the fact that I am chief among sinners at that moment.

The second bit that the Bishop is famous for is calling the Offertory the “Funnest time in the service.” “Offertory” is a fancy made-up church word for offering. It first and foremost refers to the presentation of the bread and wine from the congregation to the clergy to use in Holy Communion. At some point it also became the time to present tithes and other financial gifts, “alms,” for the use of the church especially to provide for the poor. Emmanuel practices this custom in a very traditional way, with the bread and wine placed before the service on the table next to the Lectern, and members of the congregation bringing them up to the altar at the proper moment. (In many congregations, the bread and wine are kept on a “credence” table, and only the collection plates are offered. We still do this at Noon on Sundays, hearkening back to the days when the congregation numbered just six or seven. Now that it is closer to 30, we should probably rethink this!)

When the Bishop calls this the funnest time in the service, what he is expressing is the joy that comes from giving, from offering a little, personal sacrifice for the sake of the good of the congregation, the needs of the community, and the greater glory of God. Because I am busy at the altar as the collection is taken, for me the moment of joy comes before we begin the 8:00 AM service, when I walk into the almost empty church, fish my own weekly check from my shirt pocket and put it in the plate resting on the first pew.

Once upon a time, as collection plates were circulated around the congregation, pretty much everyone had something to put in. Pledges were paid week by week, sometimes with cash stuffed into offering envelopes (which we still provide for those who want them). In those days, part of the fun was knowing that you were participating with everyone else in the congregation, each putting their offerings into the plates just the same as you did. As a child, I remember having envelopes for my Sunday school classes. I would put in my nickel (a substantial part of my allowance in those days) and though it was hard not to miss the Hersey bar that it might have become, the smile on my teacher’s face was worth a lot each week, as were the looks on the faces of other students knowing that we were all foregoing that candy bar. So, in my experience, giving has been fun for a long time, even when it involve giving something up.

But I have noticed a little awkwardness developing over the last couple of years. With an increasing number of people paying on their pledges monthly, or through PayPal or direct bank check, fewer and fewer people actually have something to put into the plate as it comes around. That dilutes the joy of feeling that you are all in this together, at least a little bit. I can almost see the thoughts in people’s heads as they wonder if everyone knows that they’re passing the plate because they give in some other way. At least one person has told me that they have decided to switch back to writing checks and using offering envelopes because they didn’t like not having something to put in the plate.

I have had some amusing thoughts about this issue. Maybe we should print little tickets and have them available in the back of the church. The blue ticket could mean that you pay with PayPal. The white ticket could mean that you have your bank sends us a check each month. The green ticket could mean that you pay once a month or once a quarter, and this just isn’t the week the you wrote it. Maybe we could have gold tickets for people who have the wherewithal to pay their whole pledge in one check each year. None of these would be signed, and we could collect them from the plates and reuse them week after week. It would be fascinating (to me, at least!) to see what variety we would find from week to week. And it would preserve that joyful moment of the service as we see that we are all sharing in the support of the church’s work. Or maybe I just need to trust you all that you get it, and that you know we are all supporting Emmanuel church in ways that work for us. Any which way, the Vestry, staff, and clergy of this congregation are grateful.

Totidem Verbis

Mark Gatza+



We are
Wonderfully
Made! Psalm 139

152nd Annual Meeting

Our 152nd Annual Meeting was held as scheduled on Sunday, 26 January. As promised, we kept the meeting to just 45 minute, with a few interesting conversations that followed after we adjourned. Copies of the Annual Reports are still available on our website — follow the “Archive” link at the bottom of the home page. We also have hard copies available. Congratulations to Emily Fleming, Cynthia Perry, Linden White, and Ed Yoakum, who will begin their terms on the Vestry at February’s meeting. We still have two partial terms to fill, one for one year, another for two. If you are interested, please call the office.



Episcopal Church 101

Our basic introduction to the Episcopal Church continues on remaining four Saturdays in February, beginning at 10:30 AM in the Harward Parlor. It’s not too late to join in, and make-up sessions can be scheduled to fit your needs. 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

Interested? Call the Rector for more details — 410-838-7699.

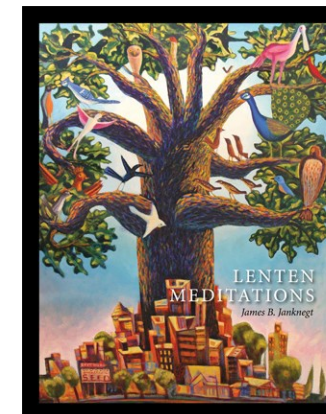


LENT BEGINS

WITH

ASH WEDNESDAY

The First Service of the Season of Lent is Ash Wednesday, this year **26 February 2020**. We offer three services. The first is early, 6:00 AM. The same service is offered again at 12 Noon and at 7:00 PM. The “**Imposition of Ashes**” is the powerful symbol of the service, and is especially interesting for children. Bring the young people in your family and join us as we start a Holy Lent.



Lenten Meditations by James B. Janknegt

Our Lent Program will be based on this book by artist Jim Janknegt. It consists of 40 paintings and written meditations to accompany them, raising a host of interesting possibilities and directions for further thought and prayer. If you would like your own

copy, please go to bcartfarm.com. A limited number of copies have been ordered to share, and will be available from the Rector. The actual times of the programs — usually offered at two separate times a week — are still TBD, so let us know what works for you.



LENT MADNESS BRACKETS ARE ONLINE

Time to start brushing up on you Church History as we prepare for [Lent Madness](http://LentMadness.com). Go to the website and search backwards on the postings to see the Most Rev’d Michael Curry, our Presiding Bishop, fill out his bracket chart. Move over NCAA: we got game!