

Supporting Emmanuel Church Stewardship Guide



Emmanuel Church is a self-supporting institution, and receives no income from The Diocese of Maryland or The Episcopal Church. Our modest endowment of about \$100,000 generates only a little bit of the roughly \$320,00 of anticipated expenses for the coming year. Accompanying this *Cornet Newsletter* you should be receiving several documents related to our effort to fund our 2020 Budget. You will find a personal letter from the Rector, a copy of our illustrated narrative budget, and a pledge card — which we hope you will return by Sunday, 15 December 2019, so our Vestry can balance our proposed budget. In addition, this year we, has assembled a packet called “The Whole Kit and Caboodle,” which is a collection of things we have published in various forms over the years about the why’s and how’s of supporting our congregation. We hope that the work we continue to do will inspire you to give generously so that it may continue in 2020 and for many years beyond. Additional copies of all these materials will be available in the church office and on the table in the back of the church — or send us an email and we will send them right to you. Finally, thank you for your support of our mission and ministry in the heart of Bel Air.



Advent Calendars

I frequently mention the importance of practicing our faith, including everything from coming regularly to Holy Communion to prayers and readings. Advent is a time that allows us to expand our range of Christian practices in a way that helps us to focus on our faith around our tables at home, rather than just in our favorite chair or our favorite pew. Many of us will create an Advent wreath for our kitchens or dining rooms, with a series of candles to light for a few minutes each evening to help us to prepare to celebrate Christ’s first coming, even as we await his second advent.

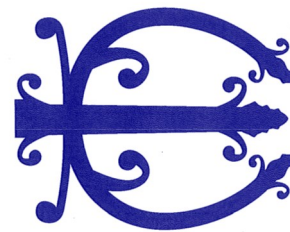
Another favorite seasonal practice is the Advent Calendar. Available in many forms and themes, an Advent Calendar counts off the days to Christmas by opening a window or a door in a large card or frame each day. Typically, these calendars have 25 windows, marking the time from December 1st through Christmas Eve. (Most years Advent is a little longer than this, but it certainly does make it easier for publishers to work with.) I have noticed that the availability of Advent Calendars has greatly increased, as has the number of themes that they bear. The venerable Bodleian Library of Oxford University in England has produced one, with Christmas illustrations from their vast collection of religious texts. Or, you can get an Advent calendar with a small bottle of hot sauce behind the first 24 windows, with a large bottle of “Santa’s Secret Hot Sauce” on Christmas Day. There is a Lego Harry Potter calendar, a Lego Star Wars calendar, and Crayola Crayons offers one with art products and crafts behind each door. There are all-digital Advent Calendars, which appear on your web browser, offering games, activities and short movies — “for the price of a pint,” according to one English distributor. And, of course, chocolates behind each window are a favorite. There are countless other examples of these, and they all serve as illustrations of how the medium has forgotten the message.



Let me suggest that you look for an Advent Calendar that does what they were originally supposed to do: prepare us for the Christmas season ahead. You might have to wander away from Amazon’s suggestions, but you can find calendars with a verse of scripture about God’s promises of a Messiah, or calendars with features of a nativity scene that you can build either on the frame itself or in a space right in front of it. Hearing the biblical story of God’s saving grace at home — rather than just in church — is important, especially if you have young children in your household, or who visit you regularly. This practice will reinforce the point that faith is not just something you put on just on Sundays.

Totidem Verbis (In so many words)

Mark Gatza+



THE CORNET
EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH
303 NORTH MAIN STREET
BEL AIR, MARYLAND 21014
WWW.EMMANUELBELAIR.ORG



20 NOVEMBER 2019 – 3 DECEMBER 2019

UPCOMING SUNDAY SCRIPTURE LESSONS

The Reign of Christ — Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 46; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43 (24 Nov)

Advent Sunday — Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44 (1 Dec)

www.lectionarypage.net

SOJOURNER TRUTH: LIBERATOR & PROPHETIC WITNESS, 1883

Almighty God, who has made the Church to be one body with many members and many gifts: we thank you for the witness of your daughter, Sojourner Truth, and for her courage to preach the truth of your liberating love in the face of great injustice. Grant that we, like her, may use our time, talents, and energy to proclaim the coming of your Kingdom, which is good news to the poor, and in which all the oppressed shall be made free; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**



Calendar Corner

- ◆ **24 November:** Last Sunday after Pentecost, also known as Christ the King Sunday or Reign of Christ Sunday: Services at 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, and 12 Noon. Canon Gatza preaching. Sunday School begins at 10:00 AM in the Parish Hall. Centering Prayer and Meditation in the Chapel at 1:00 PM.
- ◆ **26 November:** Service at 10:00 AM in the Maryan Room, Holy Communion with Prayers for healing.
- ◆ **27 November:** Adult Bible Study from 9:30—11:00 AM in the Harward Parlor.
- ◆ **28 November: Thanksgiving Day** service at 10:00 AM in the Church. Prayer from Native American sources and a brief reading will be included.
- ◆ **1 December: First Sunday of Advent** (the First Sunday of Lectionary Year A). Sunday services at 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, and 12 Noon. Canon Gatza preaching. Sunday School begins at 10:00 AM in the Parish Hall. Centering Prayer and Meditation in the Chapel at 1:00 PM. Extra-curricular trip to Washington Cathedral for Advent Lessons & Carols. (Contact the Office for more information.)
- ◆ **3 December:** Service at 10:00 AM in the Maryan Room, Holy Communion with Prayers for healing. Holy Folders prepare the newsletter for mailing. 11:00 AM Staff meeting in the church office.
- ◆ **4 December:** Adult Bible Study from 9:30—11:00 AM in the Harward Parlor. 1:00—3:00 PM the Yarn Guild meets in the Parlor.
- ◆ **8 December: Second Sunday of Advent.** Services at 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, and 12 Noon. Fr. Bill Smith preaching. Sunday School begins at 10:00 AM in the Parish Hall. Centering Prayer and Meditation in the Chapel at 1:00 PM.
- ◆ **10 December:** Service at 10:00 AM in the Maryan Room, Holy Communion with Prayers for healing.