



The Beckford Parish *Beacon*

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Mt. Jackson, VA • 540-477-3335

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
Woodstock, VA • 540-459-2720

December, 2011/January, 2012

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NEXT DEADLINE The next Beacon will be a COMBINATION DECEMBER/JANUARY issue. Items are due by Monday, November 28, 2011, to Kimberly: beckfordparish@gmail.com

Help us make the Beacon as interesting, informative, and inspiring as it can possibly be by sharing news, book reviews, and appropriate stories that would uplift others. Call or send to Elizabeth (436-3969) (riverwood50@gmail.com) or Kimberley (459-2720) (beckfordparish@gmail.com).

Vestry meetings in Dec & Jan
Monday, 12/12/11 & 01/09/12 – Emmanuel
Tuesday, 12/13/11 & 01/10/12 – St. Andrew's

ADVENT: Repent and Prepare

Dearly Beloved,

Occasionally, when I sit down to write my note for our newsletter, I am reminded that this is an ancient and venerable tradition in the Church. With the exception of the Gospels and the Revelation to John, the rest of our New Testament is written in the genre of letters. Many of them are actual, verifiable letters to the Church from St. Paul and others. The letter to the Hebrews is a notable exception. We don't know who wrote it. It is unlikely that it was written by Paul, though the author takes pains to make the letter "sound" like Paul. We don't know who the intended community was, as we do with, say, Corinthians and Thessalonians (i.e. the Church in Corinth and Thessaloniki).

I could take some space here to encourage the art of personal handwritten communication, and I'm sure Elizabeth Cottrell would be glad to join me in that. Perhaps you might visit her website www.heartspoken.com for some excellent information about meaningful communication.

The nature of our New Testament letters is, in essence, much like our own personal letters: to communicate encouragement, to deepen

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December 2011 – January 2012

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

relationships. Paul could not be fully present with all the churches he founded. The only way that he could provide them with the encouragement to keep going was to write to them. The letters also provide practical and ascetical theology--how to be a community, how to try to understand and worship God.

I write to you for the same reasons, most of all to encourage, and stir up the faith that is already present within you. These are the themes of Advent. To lift up our heads and hearts.

We will meet John the Baptizer in Advent. John is a fascinating prophet. John was born to Zechariah and Elizabeth. Zechariah was a priest in the Temple--a Sadducee. John was likely expected to succeed his father as Temple priest. So it is striking that he appears in the wilderness preaching, when he was expected to be in the Temple sacrificing. He wore camel's hair and a leather belt. Is that significant? It sure is. These were the garments of previous generations--rough, rudimentary clothing from a bygone era. John's clothing was a symbol of his self-understanding as a prophet from within the tradition of Elijah. When the leaders of the Pharisees came out to ask if he was the return of the prophet Elijah, it would have made sense--he was dressed like Elijah!

Did you know that before John, most of the prophets in the Hebrew culture were preaching to the non-believers--calling them to repentance? One of the striking aspects of John's ministry is that he was preaching repentance *to the faithful!* And look at the response. The came from all over to hear him, even from Jerusalem. That would be like people from Washington DC driving out to Keyser, West Virginia to hear someone speak.

So think about this man, John. He was born smack dab in the middle of the most devout people and he takes the essence of what he must have learned from his father and mother, and likely hours and hours in Hebrew school, and instead of rising through the ranks of the Temple hierarchy, he heads out to the wilderness to make it accessible for the common man. That's one of the reasons he is called the forerunner, or herald, of the Messiah. Jesus would also take the best and most essential aspects of the historic Faith and bring it to those who "sat in darkness and in the shadow of death."

Each year, in Advent, the Church tries to bring herself back to the beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, and in doing so, it is we--the actual believers--who are called upon to repent and prepare. It is an act that--like John the Baptizer--is rooted in tradition, but always new and relevant.

So, I bid you to stir up the faith that is within you. Repent and prepare. Lift up your heads. Behold, the King is coming.

With love and affection,



Advent Study

A Sunday night study on St. John the Divine followed by Compline. No supper this year, so the study starts at 6:30 at Emmanuel's Parish Hall.

- November 27 Overview and Prologue
- December 4 The Book of Signs
- December 11 Lazarus of Bethany
- December 18 The Book of Glory

Christmas Services

Saturday, December 24th (Christmas Eve), Festival Holy Eucharists:

- 8:30pm at St. Andrew's
- 10:30pm at Emmanuel

Sunday, December 25th (Christmas Day), The Nativity of Our Lord Holy Eucharist: 10am at Emmanuel. Potluck Brunch to follow. No liturgy at St. Andrew's that day.



In Memoriam: Bob Newhall

Robert Newhall, a member at Emmanuel, died unexpectedly in late November. Many of us enjoyed his lively conversation at coffee hour. Though he had been attending regularly,

he only recently transferred his membership from Grace Episcopal Church, Elmira, New York.

May Bob, and all the faithful departed, rest in peace, and rise in glory.

Early February Birthdays:

December and January birthdays are noted on the enclosed calendars. Those who send out cards have asked that we include early “next month” dates in case the *Beacon* is late getting out. All February birthdays will be on the calendar in the next *Beacon*.

- Feb. 2- Ginny Barr
- Feb. 3- Mildred Painter
- Feb. 5- Jacob Lineberry
- Feb. 6- Cade Belyea
- Feb. 6- Ray Smith
- Feb. 8- Ruth Anne Troxell
- Feb. 8- Ellen Flugel
- Feb. 10- Adele Corso
- Feb. 10- Nolan Burch

Emmanuel Thank you

...to all those who helped with coffee hour during November at 8am and 11:15am:

- Estelle Cole and Barbara Arnold
- Barbara and Dennis Collins
- Alice Findler
- Bill and Gail Giles
- Elizabeth Cottrell and Ellen Flugel
- Julie Gochenour
- Arleene Grubbs and Tillie Kaufmann
- Arleene Grubbs, Fellowship

Christmas Day Brunch

Immediately following the 10am Christmas morning service at Emmanuel, all Beckford Parish members are welcome to join fellow parishioners for a pot luck brunch. It may be a small gathering, but it will joyful.

Tomasina is the contact person (477-4485), and she’ll put a sign-up sheet on the table inside the door of the Emmanuel Parish Hall, and we’ll ask Kimberly to put a sign-up sheet at St. Andrew’s. It would help Tomasina to know approximately how many are coming, but it’s very informal, and friends and family from out of town are welcome to join us.

Annual Meetings

- Jan 15, 2012 Emmanuel
- Jan 22, 2012 St. Andrew's
- Both start at 6pm with a covered dish supper.

A Magical Evening

Those who were fortunate enough to attend the Parish Joyful Giving Dinner last month were enthralled with the wonderful performance of magic by Ralph MacPhail and his volunteer “helpers.” Truly, it was worthy of a huge audience and a fancy stage. He had us in the palm of his hand.

Not to be outdone, our own Alexander also impressed the crowd with his own magic prowess.

The evening would not have happened without the amazing generosity, culinary skill, and planning of Ray Smith and Pennie Carroll, who donated, cooked and served the meal for everyone with several able helpers.

Thank you, thank you to everyone who made this evening so special!

St. Andrew’s Guild

The St. Andrew’s Guild will have its regular meeting on the 2nd Sundays in December and January.

Men's Group breakfast

The Men's Group will meet at the Hockman Manor Home the fourth Tuesday of each month at 9:30am. No meeting in December. Please remember to RSVP to Pat Sylvester at 984-8889. All men are welcome!

Computer Club

There will be a Shenandoah Computer Club meeting Tuesday, December 13th at 7pm in the Emmanuel Parish Hall. This is a new location (on trial) for the club, so this will be a more social meeting with a question and answer period. Usually there is a program with (lots) of discussion! It's a nice way to get support with technology without being on hold to India for hours! All are welcome! Call Ellen or Ray Flugel at 459-3953 or email eff@shentel.net for information.

Thank you

Dear Emmanuel Family,

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers arranged in an Emmanuel Episcopal mug. The flowers reminded me of your love and support during my hospital stay, and they stayed fresh and beautiful for several days when I brought them home.

My knee surgery went well, and my knee is getting stronger each day. Friday was my last day of home therapy, and I begin outpatient physical therapy next week. Hopefully, I will be back in my regular routine very soon.

Thank you for your thoughts, prayers and many acts of kindness.

Love, Mary Blue Catlett

Emmanuel Decorating 12/23

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Friday morning, December 23rd about 10am. Stay tuned for information on taking down decorations after the holidays.

Local News & Needs

- Masterworks Chorus Yuletide Carols: December 9, 2011, at 7:30 pm, St. Paul Lutheran Church in Strasburg; December 10, 7:30pm at St. Paul's UCC in Woodstock; December 11, 3:00pm at Reformation Lutheran Church in New Market.
- Lebanon-St. Stephen's Choir Christmas concerts: 7pm at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church on Saturday, 12/10/11 and on Sunday, 12/11/11 at Emmanuel Church at Fishers Hill
- The Clothes Closet needs clothing for children, infants to teens. With the current economic situation, the demand for clothing has risen tremendously. Their phone number is 459-2306.
- Luke's Backpack is meeting hunger needs of families with children right here in our county. Tomasina is collecting single-serving nutritional food for them. Any donations may be left on the bench in the Emmanuel Parish Hall for Tomasina to deliver to Luke's Backpack.
- Shop Locally!

Sermons by Mail or Web

Don't forget you can hear an audio or get a printed version of Alexander's sermons using the links on our parish website (<http://www.beckfordparish.org/Sermons/>). If you don't use the Internet and would like to have a copy of the sermon mailed to you, please let the church office know.

Mark Your Calendars

The Lent Study for 2012 will be on the book *What Jesus Meant* by Garry Wills. Lent in 2012 will start on Wednesday, the 22nd of February and will continue for 46 days until Saturday, the 7th of April. Time and locations of Lenten Study sessions will be included in the next (February) *Beacon*.

"If we doubt God, or find him incomprehensible, unknowable, the very best cure is to gaze steadily at Jesus, the Rosetta stone of faith." Philip Yancey in *Reaching for the Invisible God*.

2012 Fellowship Planning at

Emmanuel – Please Read This

We've set the annual meeting for Fellowship Planning on Sat., January 14, 2012 at 10:00am at Emmanuel, but THIS IS YET TO BE CONFIRMED. At this meeting, we plan the events for the next year. **All members of the Emmanuel** are invited and encouraged to attend. We have so many activities, and it is important to review them and decide which we want to continue and if we want to make additions and changes.



One activity about which I continue to hear comments, is our weekly 11:15 Coffee Hour. These are very nice and often elaborate events, but some feel their times to do this are coming up frequently and the work and expense involved are becoming more than they can handle. In some cases we have only one individual or family responsible for a coffee hour. Some of the suggestions made are to combine several hosts and have one or two coffee hours a month or to have none during the summer. I am sure there are people providing coffee hour who would welcome a break or the chance to team up with someone else. There may be others who are not participating who would like to become involved, especially if they did not have to do this alone. So please come to the meeting to express your ideas or contact Tillie Kaufmann, Arleene Grubbs or Estelle Cole with suggestions.

There are several tasks that are difficult to find someone to take. If we are to continue them, we will need volunteers. These are:

- **Kitchen Cleaning and Organization** – There are people who are willing to work on this but we need someone to schedule and let people know when their help is needed.
- **Purchasing Supplies for the Kitchen** - This involves checking for what is needed and purchasing the coffee, creamer, tea, juice mix and paper products needed. There are funds in the Fellowship budget to cover these expenses.
- **Coordinating the Community Lenten Series Luncheon**- If we participate again this year, we will need someone to coordinate a date with the Methodist Church and put out a signup sheet for volunteers to make soup, sandwiches and

cookies and to help serve. We have a very willing group of volunteers who prepare food and serve each year.

If you can help with any of these jobs and cannot come to the meeting, please let one of the Fellowship Chairmen know. Hope to see you at 10 am on January 14 (or at a later-announced time).

Estelle Cole

Outreach at Emmanuel

The Lighthouse Shelter was again very grateful for the goods given by the Emmanuel congregation. The people who received

Thanksgiving baskets from Emmanuel were extremely pleased; thank you all again.

We now have our Christmas family wish lists in the church hall and we have been asked by Response to deliver the gifts to them by the 16th if possible. The Outreach Committee is now working on our plans for 2012, and we would be very glad to have your input. Please contact any of the committee members with new ideas. We are always glad to talk to you about our plans for your generous donations.

The Outreach Committee—Akis, Brenda, Estelle, Mary and Minh—would like to thank the congregation of Emmanuel for all your support and encouragement this year and wish you all a happy and blessed Christmas.

Best wishes for the New Year,
Your Outreach Committee

Joyful Giving Outreach

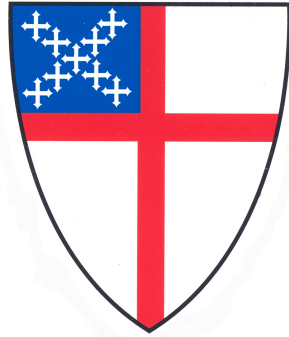
Ray Smith was invited to return to his previous church in Maryland to deliver their annual stewardship sermon. It is available to hear on GraceElkridge.org, click on 'Sermons,' then click on Nov.13, 2011 OR type this URL into your Internet browser: <http://bit.ly/u1y3d7> (It loads slowly.)

“This sermon was something I felt called to do to help a church with a budget in the red for over 6 years.”

Diocesan News

- **Winter Stay at Shrine Mont** – Enjoy a peaceful weekend or week in one of our cottages, or spend some time skiing or snow tubing at Bryce Resort. December through March, Hillside and Stidley cottages are winterized and available. Two night minimum stay: \$400. Stay the 3rd night for an additional \$100. Weekly rental \$700. Call Donna Trent at 540-856-2141 or email

The Episcopal Church



shrine@shentel.net.

- Continue to pray for the search for a new Bishop Suffragan for the Diocese.
- **Diocesan Annual Council**, Jan. 26 - 28
- The Diocesan Committee on Mental Health seeks prayerful support of its ministry. Learn more at <http://www.vamentalhealth.org/>.

A special message from the Rector

Dearly Beloved,

As the holiday season begins I am mindful that this is an overwhelming time for many of us. There are preparations to be made, gifts to be purchased, etc., and there is a great measure of joy in that; however, this season is, for many, an emotionally difficult time. We look back on our lives with mixed emotions. We remember with considerable nostalgia loved ones who have died. Though we hold fast to the holy hope of the resurrection of the body, there is still a sense of grief that can be heightened by our traditional observances.

I am writing to express my care and affection; and to remind you all that I am available to you to be a tender and compassionate listener, if you'd like to share your thoughts. I am always available for that, year 'round, but want to remind you that I'm happy to meet with you at St. Andrew's, or Emmanuel, or your home, or at some other local place. Or, if you'd just like to make a phone call, I will be happy to hear from you.

I tend to be in my study at Emmanuel Monday through Thursday, and in the afternoons, when not making pastoral visits, 459.2720. I try to have my cell phone with me at all times, and it works in both churches, 540.325.7257. My home number is 459.7141, and I hope you will never shy away from using it, or any of the other numbers. I am also quite good at receiving and responding to email: adm0963@gmail.com.

Also, please know of my prayers for you each morning, often in the company of my little girl, who occasionally sits in my lap and reminds me that we are all sitting in the lap of a loving God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Very truly yours,

Alexander +

“After twenty years of listening to the yearnings of people's hearts, I am convinced that human beings have an inborn desire for God. Whether we are consciously religious or not, this desire is our deepest longing and most precious treasure.”

Gerald C. May, psychiatrist

Late breaking news

Congratulations to Richard and Trudy Pence on the birth of a great-grandchild (I know, they're way too young...). Wyatt Allen Manbeck, son of their granddaughter Stephanie, was born Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2011, and weighed 9 lbs., 10 ounces!

Beckford Parish Leadership

Rector: The Rev. Alexander D. MacPhail

Parish Secretary: Kimberly Siever

beckfordparish@gmail.com

Tuesdays 8-4 at St. Andrew's

Wednesdays at Emmanuel alternating 8-2 and 8-5 (See calendar)

Thursdays 8-12 at Emmanuel on alternating weeks only (See calendar)

ST. ANDREW'S VESTRY & OFFICERS

Class of 2011: Kemp Miller-**Senior Warden**, Selma Whitaker, Carolyn Wilson

Class of 2012: Andy Dawson, Tom Rea, Jay Zuspan, **Junior Warden**

Class of 2013: Marcia Brownfield, Nancy Fadely, Tom Constable

Region XIV Delegate: Ray Brownfield. **Outreach Coordinator:** Chip Belyea. **Register:** Kimberly Siever

ST. ANDREW'S GUILD

President: Judy Cannon; **Co-Vice Presidents:** Doris Miller & Marcia Brownfield; **Co-Secretaries:** Nancy Rea & Naomi Blay; **Treasurer:** Nancy Fadely. Committee Chairwomen: **Altar Guild**, Nancy McCord; **Christian**

Social Relations: Virginia Bremmerman; **Saint Andrew's Thank Offering:** Wanda Sandridge.

ST. ANDREW'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School Teachers: Dee Crane, Judy Cannon, Kitty Dawson, and Wanda Sandridge

LEADING WORSHIP at ST. ANDREW'S

Director of Music and Organist: Mildred Painter. **Lay Eucharistic Ministers:** Marcia Brownfield, Ray Brownfield, Neil Fadely, and Richard Torovsky. **Lectors:** Chip Belyea, Marcia Brownfield, Ray Brownfield, Kemp Miller, Richard Torovsky and Nick Yarnold.

EMMANUEL'S VESTRY & OFFICERS

Class of 2011: Dennis Collins, Betty Page, Ray Smith

Class of 2012: Cameron Barr (**Senior Warden**), Linda Clark (**Register**), Minh Nguyen

Class of 2013: Bill Giles (**Junior Warden**), Debbie Boyd, Jo Stickley

Region XIV Delegate: Bob Lovan **Disbursement Treasurer:** Ray Smith

Receiving Treasurer: Bob Lovan **Register:** Linda Clark

EMMANUEL'S COMMISSIONS & LEADERSHIP

Worship: Trudy Pence. **Outreach:** Brenda Lovan. **Fellowship:** Estelle Cole, Tillie Kaufmann. **Stewardship:** Ray Smith & Elizabeth Cottrell. **Capital Campaign:** Jim Lincoln. **Pastoral Care:** Pat Sylvester. **Education:** Barbara & Dennis Collins. **Altar Guild:** Sallie Raynor. **Senior Usher:** John Cottrell. **Sacristans:** Trudy Pence & Brenda Lovan.

LEADING WORSHIP AT EMMANUEL

Director of Music and Organist: Wilson Troxell **Handbell Choir Director:** Ruth Anne Troxell

Acolytes: Jim Lincoln, Mal Sarna. **Junior Acolytes:** Alexis Lincoln, Zachary Stewart.

Chalicians: Wayne Clark, Jean Allen Davis, Betty Page, Jim Lincoln, Richard Pence, Ray Smith.

Lectors: Cameron Barr, Ginny Barr, Linda Clark, Dennis Collins, Elizabeth Cottrell, Julie Gochenour, Alexis Lincoln, Jim Lincoln, Betty Page, Richard Pence, Sallie Raynor, Chuck Sheridan, Brigetta Stewart, Ruth Anne Troxell

Choir: Ginny Barr, Cameron Barr, Dennis Collins, Jean Allen Davis, Ellen Flugel, Amy and Steven Murray, Pat and Humphrey Sassoon, Ruth Anne Troxell

Handbell Choir: Estelle Cole, Betty Page, Sallie Raynor, Anne Repaske, Mary Rhoades, and Joan Sarna. Ruth Anne Troxell, Director

Sunday School: Barbara Collins, Dennis Collins