



# EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Newsletter of The Parish of Emmanuel Church | September ~ October, 2011

The Reverend Robert Edson, Priest

## Welcome to Rev. Robert Edson

We are very excited that Reverend Robert Edson will be joining Emmanuel as our Priest as of September 18th, 2011.

Most recently, Fr. Robert served as Interim Priest at Saint John's Church in Franklin. Prior to that, he served as Rector of Saint John's Church in Hingham, with earlier spiritual leadership roles at churches in the Washington, DC, and Maryland areas.

Fr. Robert comes to Emmanuel thanks to our invitation to participate in an exciting new pilot program being rolled out by the Episcopal Church called New Dreams – New Visions. New Dreams – New Visions connects vital, retired clergy with small worshiping communities that have strong lay leadership so they can mutually work to further God's mission. Only 14 Dioceses nationwide have been invited to participate in this pilot program, so we are very excited to have this unique opportunity to further shine the spotlight on Emmanuel and increase our prominence within the Episcopal community.

The Vestry has been working closely with Fr. Robert to acquaint him with Emmanuel, our needs and what makes our parish so special. Fr. Robert is eager to get to know each and every one of you, and help lead us in continuing to be a strong—and growing—community of faith. Fr. Robert will be with us in a quarter-time capacity, which will include weekly worship and helping us to increase our lay ministries in pastoral care; Christian Formation offerings such as a children's Sunday School, adult programs, and mission outreach. As we continue our work to make Fr. Robert's entry into the Emmanuel community as seamless as possible, we will be approaching you for your input about our priorities and areas of greatest need.

I believe we're at the start of a very exciting and spiritually-fulfilling period in Emmanuel's history, and I know we're all eager to play a role in making our mutual ministry a success. Please join me in welcoming Fr. Robert on September 18th to the Emmanuel community!

Best Regards,

Jonathan Cleveland  
Senior Warden

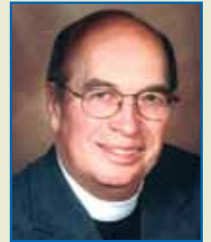
## Sunday School at Emmanuel

We are happy to announce that as of September 18th, Emmanuel will offer Sunday School starting at 9:45 am on every Sunday for all children. We currently will have lesson plans for children of ages.

Delores Miller and Carla Revelioty will be heading up the program and we will be looking for volunteers to help out as well. Please spread the word that we now have Sunday School and let Delores or Carla know if you would like to sign up to help or be available as a back-up volunteer.



### *a message from* **Father Robert**



#### **Who is Jesus?**

When entering the life of a new parish, I am aware that the one thing we have in common is our belief in Jesus Christ. That is where it all begins. As we discover other things we hold in common, we always go back to our prime purpose in being a community of faith in knowing Christ and to making him known.

The question is not who Jesus was, but who Jesus is. He is no ordinary person. God became one of us in the person of Jesus to save us from all that is false, unloving, and wrong. While the relationship between God and Jesus is like that of a parent and child, it is really beyond human description. The Jesus in whom I believe is both fully God and fully human because he bridges the gap between God and us.

Jesus brings a whole new way of living different from the way people have lived. He gives us but one rule by which we are to live: unconditional love for God in heart, soul and mind and respect for others, whether or not we like them or they like us.

Here was a man who was arrested on false charges and put to death for teaching revolutionary concepts. Because he overcame the forces of hatred and death, God reached out to us in way that we could never reach God on our own. I can't describe how all this happens any better than I can describe the love I have for the people in my life. What I do know is the grace that is in the person of Jesus is more real and powerful than anything else I could ever hope to know.

# NEW DREAMS NEW VISIONS

**“We seek clergy and congregations who will gather around ministry, not the minister.”**

Small congregations with an average Sunday attendance of 70 or fewer make up slightly more than half of the worshipping communities of The Episcopal Church. Twenty percent of all Episcopal churches in the United States report an attendance of 30 persons or fewer.

Despite their size, data on most of these congregations reveal them as dynamic: changing lives in their communities, engaging mission and ministry, and sharing the Good News by word and example. Yet, many dioceses and bishops express helplessness regarding how to meet the needs of small congregations. Data from the Church Pension Fund and The Episcopal Church show two converging trends in the next decade:

- A significant number of clergy will retire
- A significant number of congregations will not be able to afford to pay for full-time clergy.

Episcopalians from various areas of the church's ministry met in June 2009 to see if there was a way to collectively and collaboratively respond to this challenge. The meeting far exceeded expectations and the result is a fresh collaborative called New Dreams – New Visions.

The New Dreams – New Visions (NDNV) Coordinating Committee started identifying dioceses across the country to be included in the new pilot program. Currently the NDNV Pilot Project includes the dioceses of Kansas, Massachusetts, Southern Ohio, Indianapolis, East Tennessee, Vermont, Western Massachusetts, Atlanta, Southwest Florida, Eastern Michigan, Oklahoma, Spokane, Southeastern Mexico, and Iowa to bring the total to 14 pilot dioceses.

The tools for addressing this challenge demand an organized, creative and strategic approach designed to help small congregations engage significant ministry:

- Increase retired clergy interest in part-time ministry including a cohesive system to connect congregations with retired clergy
- Assist dioceses in developing new strategies for staffing small congregations and supporting lay leadership
- Enhance professional development for retired clergy
- Create training and mentoring opportunities for lay leaders and new clergy
- Encourage broader congregational participation in leadership development
- Nurture a bold vision for small congregation ministry development, particularly among bishops, diocesan transition ministers and lay leaders
- Create a deliberate, thoughtful process to develop healthy models of congregational ministry with clergy serving less than full time
- Result in research, data and information to benefit transitions in the wider Church.

**“The call of a less-than-full-time priest is not the end of the process— it is the beginning of a new and exciting period of discovery for a congregation of any size.”**

**SAVE THE DATE! NEW DREAMS – NEW VISIONS MEETING  
OCTOBER 16 AT 11:15 AM**

Christi Humphrey, our liaison for NDNV at the Diocese, will be joining us at Emmanuel to present and discuss NDNV. Please attend!

To learn more about NDNV, please visit [www.episcopalnewdreams.org](http://www.episcopalnewdreams.org)

## SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

# Hunger in the Land of Plenty

What if suddenly we were faced with the horror of having an empty pantry and no assets to purchase food to feed our families? Can we ask our children or elderly parents to endure for a few days until we had the resources to purchase food?

More and more of our neighbors are facing these questions and turning to the Roslindale Food Pantry for help. The Parish of Emmanuel Church has been supporting the Pantry for the last few years through the generous donations of our Congregation. Recently, we have received appeals from the Roslindale Food Pantry because the number of members of our community they serve has tripled over the past year.

Emmanuel's support of the Roslindale Food Pantry has been a very quiet ministry. Every week we present our donations during the offering to be blessed. Then Chris and Carla or Terry has brought the donations to the Pantry for distribution. Due to the appeals from the Roslindale Food Pantry, we are hoping to increase our ministry through more food donations.

We would like to try something new and have our monthly donations be food specific. In the newsletter and bulletin we will mention the food type that we will provide to help our community. With the help of our Savior Jesus Christ, we hope we will be able to increase our donations. Please, give generously to help our neighbors.

SEPTEMBER Canned Tuna or Beef Stew  
OCTOBER Canned Vegetables



## welcome TO OUR NEW ORGANIST

### Heather Montana

Let's all give a warm welcome to our new organist at Emmanuel, Heather Montana.

Heather is a recent graduate of Binghamton University with a Masters of Music. Besides being an accomplished organist and pianist, Heather's concentration at Binghamton was in Vocal Performance. She is the winner of many awards and grants, and has years of sacred music experience.

With all of these talents, will we hear a choir at Emmanuel in our future? Welcome Heather, we are happy you are here.



## EXPLORING OUR HISTORY

# Our "LaFarge"

"The Harpist," the stunning stained glass window in the south side wall of the church was installed in 1896. Samuel Bradford Dana, a Boston wholesale dry goods merchant, commissioned John LaFarge, an oil painter, muralist and stained glass window maker to create the memorial window to his late mother-in-law, Katherine Cooper Lyon, who died in 1892 and his late wife, Katharine Wallen Lyon Dana who died in 1895.

John LaFarge was born in NYC in 1835. He studied painting in Newport, RI where he met and married Margaret Perry, the granddaughter of the 1812 naval hero Commodore Oliver H. Perry. Despite many awards and recognition of his oil paintings and windows, LaFarge spent most of his life avoiding creditors. He died in 1910.

LaFarge is credited with having perfected a technique using opalescent glass which he patented in 1880. Louis Tiffany filed a similar patent in 1881 which ended what had been a friendship between the two artists. Tiffany created a factory of workers to carry out his designs and installations of windows. LaFarge remained the sole artist of his window creations and contracted out the installations to small studios.

LaFarge windows can be found in numerous Christian churches, the private homes of rich industrialists, and now, museums. Each is an exquisite original piece of art.



*The Harpist, by John LaFarge, was given in 1897 by S. B. Dana.*



*Father Bob Bela and Nonso Chukwujamaiq preparing for Pentecost at Emmanuel.*



## A Big Thanks to Father Bob Bela for a Great Summer!

Emmanuel could not have been more blessed then to have Father Bob Bela step up to the plate and celebrate the Holy Liturgy for us over the summer. Since he arrived last year, Father Bob has been a wonderful addition to Emmanuel by giving so much of his time and expertise to us. From helping to celebrate holidays to creating a Lenten Program for us, Father Bob brings his wit and wisdom to everything he does. We look forward to more in the future and thank you again for making our summer at Emmanuel special.

## EMMANUEL EVENTS

**FATHER ROBERT EDSON'S FIRST SUNDAY**  
September 18, 10:00 am

**FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS  
BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**  
October 2nd, 10:00 am

**NEW DREAMS – NEW VISIONS MEETING**  
October 16th, 11:15 am

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**EMMANUEL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE**  
December 3rd, 3:00 - 5:00 pm

## DIOCESE EVENTS

**CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCE DAY**  
October 1st, 9:00 am - 2:30 pm  
**Bentley University, Waltham**

There will be workshops in stewardship, outreach, and communications. All are welcome. Cost is \$20 which includes lunch. Register at <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e3wuf24a03d12975&llr=s4blzzbab>

**SAFE CHURCH TRAINING**  
October 1st, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm  
**St. Peter's Church, Cambridge**

For those involved in Sunday school or other activities involving children at the parish. Contact: Dick Vanderlippe at [rvan@aol.com](mailto:rvan@aol.com) or 617-482-4826, x507 • Cost: \$40.00. Payment is due two weeks in advance of training. Online training is also available at [http://www.praesidiuminc.com/armatus/safeguarding\\_login.php](http://www.praesidiuminc.com/armatus/safeguarding_login.php)

### *welcome to* Our First Newsletter!

We hope you love our new newsletter. We currently plan to distribute a newsletter every two months, and hope to increase its frequency in the future to monthly. If you have any news or events you would like to see included, send them to [info@emmanuelwr.org](mailto:info@emmanuelwr.org) or let Jonathan know. This first edition was brought to you by Beth Doris-Gustin, Susan Kryczka, Kathy Wilson, and Jonathan Cleveland.

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