



# EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Newsletter of The Parish of Emmanuel Church | December, 2012 | The Reverend Robert Edson, Priest

## MISSION: YOUTH ON FIRE

Emmanuel has dedicated its resources during the holidays to help at-risk youth through a service mission for Youth On Fire (YOF). YOF was established in the fall of 2000 to provide a welcoming and non-judgmental environment for homeless and street-involved youth. The center is open five days a week and serves teens and young adults up to age 24.

YOF serves the physical and mental needs of these youth by providing onsite hot meals, clothing, showers and laundry facilities, as well as weekly medical care, mental health counseling, disease prevention services and referrals to community resources. Through generous donations from parishioners, friends of Emmanuel, and the West Roxbury community donating through Boomerangs, we have reached our goal of filling 150 backpacks with the essentials needed to help make a big difference in the lives of these youth this holiday season.

The backpacks were filled with hand warmers, socks, lip balm, gloves, winter hat, hand sanitizer, notebook with pen, and batteries. Although we have filled the backpacks, we are still looking for financial donations to help cover some of the costs of items we purchased. Please help us continue the good work and give to this mission if you can.



**“The holidays can be very difficult for young folks on their own, highlighting the lack of family support in their lives... These backpacks help our members feel cared for and supported during this season, on both practical and emotional levels.”**

*Ayala Livny, Program Manager for Youth on Fire*

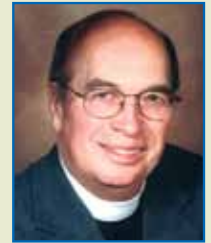
## A season of successful events at Emmanuel

It has been a busy autumn at Emmanuel and we are enjoying the success of the events we hosted these past few months. The Blessing of the Animals on October 7th brought many dogs and one cat our way to be blessed. Our annual Christmas Open House on December 1st was very popular with over 70 people from the community taking part in the crafts and visits with Santa. The Service of Advent Lessons, Carols and Hymns, held on December 9th, was a meaningful event created by Father Robert and Andy Castiglione (featuring a great choir!) followed by a wonderful reception hosted by Kathy Wilson.



*a message from*

**Father Robert**



### What do you expect?

The people of ancient Israel looked for a savior who would restore their nation to their former greatness. Many did not understand when Jesus revealed to them that the sometimes stern and demanding God is also merciful and compassionate. Advent is a time of hope and expectation. Just as the ancient people hoped for the coming of a savior, we wait in expectation for God's love in Christ to be real in all of us.

Just as children wait in anticipation for the coming celebration of Christmas the department stores anticipate the revenue this season brings. The commercialism of this season need not bother us if we remember that the focus of this season that God's compassionate love was incarnated in the person and life of Jesus of Nazareth.

Our job during this Advent season is to prepare ourselves spiritually for the celebration that God came to us in the person of Christ to change how we live. He challenges us to focus our concern on our relationship with others. Take time during this busy season to draw close to the heart of God. Reconnect with those with whom you have not been in touch. Do not be overwhelmed, but renewed in the spirit of Christ whose own life serves as a model for us. Rejoice in your capacity to love others as God loves you.



*Ed and Louise Barrett were married at Emmanuel in 1995. Between them they have three children, seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren. They are both retired. He was administrative officer of a US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) laboratory in Winchester, Massachusetts and she was a librarian in the Jamaica Plain Branch of the Boston Public Library. They both enjoy the hobbies of gardening, photography, reading and other individual pursuits.*

***Tell us about your history at Emmanuel.***

Emmanuel has been a part of my life, since I was three or four years old. I attended Sunday School, sang in the children's choir, served as acolyte and crucifer and was confirmed here in 1951. Along the way I participated in The Order of Sir Galahad and the Young People's Fellowship. My dad and I were ushers together for several years. There was a gap in my affiliation with Emmanuel between 1961 and 1992 when I moved away from West Roxbury. I returned to the area in 1992 and eventually reaffiliated with Emmanuel. I served on the Vestry for a year or two after that.

***What brought you back, keeps you coming back?***

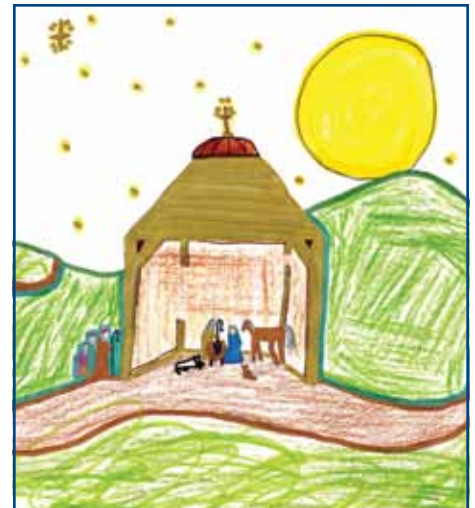
One Saturday in 1993, after a snowstorm, I was exploring the old neighborhood and happened to drive by Emmanuel. I noticed a fellow shoveling the walks so I stopped to chat with him. He introduced himself as parishioner Paul Snow (a remarkable coincidence). I mentioned that I had once been a parishioner here so he invited me to come some Sunday and see what Emmanuel was like these days. The day I walked up the old stone steps I was a bit nervous, yet I felt guided and confident. Once inside, I was warmly greeted by parishioners who remembered me or knew my parents. Thirty years away vanished completely and I was home again. That welcoming warmth continues, and I hope our new parishioners feel it too.

***What are the best things about Emmanuel?***

Emmanuel provides a sanctuary of calm and peace that envelopes one as they enter this holy place. The welcoming nature of my fellow parishioners makes me feel we are one in Christ. The satisfaction received from the liturgy, sacred music, an inspiring sermon and Holy Communion provide a spiritual nourishment that lasts throughout the week. The mission to feed the hungry is so important to the community.

***How do you think Emmanuel's history will help build its future?***

I'm not really sure. It will never be filled every Sunday for multiple services as it once was, no mainstream churches are, but with God's blessing today's modest attendance numbers will continue to grow. Emmanuel is no longer a white, mostly Anglo parish, but is now enriched by people from diverse races, cultures and even other denominations. I am confident the best days for Emmanuel lay ahead. It is so satisfying to see children, even if only a few, in the Sunday School again and participating as acolytes and crucifers. They are the future of Emmanuel.



**It all began in a little town**

It wasn't much of a town by most standards. There were a few shops and homes in what was normally a small, sleepy town. At this particular time, Bethlehem was bustling with travelers coming from afar to be registered for the census and to pay their tax. All the inns were booked solid and there was no place to stay for those who arrived late. The young expectant mother and her husband were glad to be able to find a place in a stable as shelter for the night. It wasn't much, but it would have to do.

Neither the young mother nor her husband had any idea of the impact that his child would have upon them or anyone else. That one single life has had a greater impact upon the world more than any other. Of all the wars won and lost, of all the nations and rulers that have risen and fell and of all the fortunes made and lost, no one has affected so many lives as the man Jesus born into poverty in that little town.

From that time and place came a light that has banished our fears and raised our hopes. The example of this one man's life has changed the course of human history and the world has never been the same since.

*Story by Robert Edson*

*Art by Alexis Fredericks*



## EXPLORING OUR HISTORY

### *Emmanuel Memories* by Edward Barrett



We, at Emmanuel, are truly fortunate to have our glorious little pipe organ. It may be small as far as pipe organs go but it is big enough to inspire and energize us every Sunday. When I first saw the organ in the mid-1940s, the console was located on the right side of the chancel just under the pipes. The organist and choir director at that time was an older lady named Mrs. Mitchell. How old was Mrs. Mitchell? Well, in even earlier days she had given organ lessons to my father when he was a teenager. While playing on Sundays, Mrs. Mitchell wore her black cassock with a white cotter and a small black cap with a tassel. And she could really get that tassel swinging! I believe it was in the early 1950's that the organ console was moved to its present location on the left side of the chancel.

One Christmas Eve in the early 1950s, my mother and dad went to a midnight service. Part way through the service the organ suddenly stopped functioning. Now what would a Christmas Eve midnight service be without music? So my dad and a couple of other men in the congregation went to find the source of the problem. They concluded that the blower for the air to the pipes had failed. So my dad, being an electrician, traced the problem to a switch that had burned out on the blower motor. Problem was that the blower was located in the crawl space beneath the organ. So my dad took off his suit coat (men wore suits to church in those days) and scrambled on his belly over to the blower motor. There he held the electrical contact in place for the rest of the service! I hope God in Heaven rewarded him for that.

Again, in the early 1950s as a young teenager out on my bicycle, I happened to ride by Emmanuel on the Clement Avenue side. I noticed that the side door was open and someone was playing the organ. It struck me as unusual because it was a weekday in the afternoon. Out of curiosity I got off my bike and went into the church. There I saw workers, one playing the organ (the console was in the new location) and another inside the organ pipe room. Apparently they had just finished tuning the organ and were testing it. I had never been in the organ pipe room before and was fascinated to see what the instrument actually looked like. The fellow who was in the pipe room left to go talk to the player at the console, but he left the pipe room door ajar so I went inside. It was then that I was treated to the most ecstatic music experience. They proceeded to play some classic hymns on the organ and I was surrounded by whistling, blaring, rumbling pipes that sent shivers up my spine. The "surround sound" of today pedaled at Best Buy is nothing compared to what I experienced that day.

## A fond farewell to the Rectory



The rectory was finally sold on November 19, 2012. The process was a long one for the Vestry members involved in the sale, and it included multiple clean-up days, with the help of many parishioners, to get the house empty and ready for the new owners. We salute all of those involved and especially Mark Skillman who guided the entire process with expertise and patience. A big "thank you" to all!



*top: Mark Skillman, Cathy McCarthy and Father Robert cleaning out the garage.*

*bottom: Frank Busconi, Nina Leek and Ed Fleming take a break from cleaning.*

## Restoration of LaFarge window scheduled



Emmanuel's famous LaFarge window, The Harpist, will be going out the first week of January 2013 for a much needed rehab. The restoration will be done by Serpentino Stained Glass and will take approximately 5 months. We look forward to her return in late spring with all her splendor and glory shining through on Sunday mornings.