



# EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Newsletter of The Parish of Emmanuel Church | July ~ August, 2012 | The Reverend Robert Edson, Priest

## A Busy Spring at Emmanuel!

Before the long days of summer, parishioners packed in many events and celebrations this past spring. We had six people confirmed at the Cathedral, and one baptism at Emmanuel. Our yard and church clean-up day was a big success with many turning out to help. The annual Emmanuel Yard and Bake Sale was well attended and brought in over \$1400 for much needed funds for the church.



*The 2012 Confirmation class with Bishop Tom Shaw.*



*Stuart Chaban-Griffith at the reception for his baptism.*



*Jane Casamajor and John Gooley working outside at the spring clean-up. Many people worked outside on the church and rectory yards, while other cleaned the offices.*



*Our Annual Yard and Bake Sale brought in over \$1400 this year.*

## Stewardship: A year-long commitment

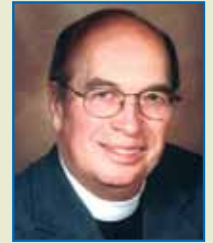
With the unmistakable signs of a summer soon upon us, it is all too easy to lapse into a languid torpor that the brief respite of warm weather brings to New England. However the work of the Church continues on unabated, despite the more sparsely populated pews that seem to be an Episcopal tradition in many parts at this time of the year. Bills still need to be paid, and the expanding mission work of our parish, and the greater outreach of the Massachusetts Diocese still need our help to be funded so as to maintain its vitality.

We take this opportunity to thank you for the generous contributions that your pledged donations and other giving over the course of the current year have enabled us to grow towards a more stable fiscal status as we embark on the first year of the New Dreams, New Visions program that supports our parish mission.

If you are a regular member of the Parish of Emmanuel church, but have not yet signed a pledge card, I encourage you to consider doing so as an act of commitment to Christ's ongoing ministry in our local community. If you are a pledging member and expect to be away for a period of time over the summer, please remember to mail that check in before you leave for your vacation destination.

*...continued on next page*

*a message from*  
**Father Robert**



### Tattered and Worn

The Bible that I have used since high school is tattered and worn, but I wouldn't trade it for any other newer version. It is marked and underlined with markings and notations in the margins that help me to find the passages that haven't been committed to memory.

Bibles were never meant to be decorative ornaments on a shelf collecting dust. It is no ordinary book. In fact, the Bible is a collection with thirty-nine books in the Hebrew Scriptures and twenty-seven books in the Christian scriptures. If you try to read it from cover to cover you won't get much out of it. It is best read in portions. You can even start in the middle with the gospels and epistles and then go back to the beginning with Genesis and eventually read all the historians, the major and minor prophets and the poets.

Each of us needs to have our own Bible in which we, "read, mark, learn and inwardly digest" the record of God's intervention into human history. We need to be familiar with the writings of the historians, prophets, poets, and evangelists who had a part in writing their interpretation of the salvation history of how humankind strayed from God and how God took the initiative to bring us back. We need to know about the life, mind and spirit of Jesus whose followers we claim to be and in whom we seek our hope.

It is said that a Bible coming apart at the seams belongs to one who isn't.

## AN INTERVIEW WITH

# Helen Lacouture



Helen in Tuscany

### Tell us about yourself.

I'm married to Kevin Newmark, we just had our 33rd anniversary. We have two kids, Paul is 27 and teaches at the Park School in Brookline. Hannah is soon to be 23 and is just back from 10 months at l'Arche, in Cork, Ireland. She will be an intern at the Park School this coming year.

I'm a librarian and work at the Boston College Law Library, coming up on my 15th year there. Kevin also works at BC; he's a French Professor. And both of our children attended BC!

### What first drew you to Emmanuel?

I grew up in Ohio but heard about Emmanuel Church from an early age. My father grew up in West Roxbury, on Anawan Avenue (he kept us very entertained with stories of exploits from his youth, sometimes involving spare tires, Anawan and a certain officer of the law, nicknamed Flannelfoot...but I digress). Dad attended Emmanuel growing up, and both his parents were involved in church activities. My grandfather, Edgar "Ned" Lacouture, was a vestry member, treasurer and senior warden. Though growing up, I was very involved in our church in Dayton, I stopped going

to church after I got married. It was my father's death in March 2001 that brought me to Emmanuel. I introduced myself to Judith Rhodes and admitted how sad I felt that I never visited Emmanuel and now Dad was dead. She responded very simply "Oh, he knows!" I found her faith so compelling that I came back.

### What keeps you coming back?

What keeps me coming back to Emmanuel—the other parishioners, the beautiful service, Father Robert's sermons, the hymns, the exquisite church building. Also the feeling I get from being part of something bigger than my narrow life.

### You do a lot of work here, what things do you enjoy most?

I enjoy singing with the choir, when we have one, I love the yard sales, Christmas fairs, bakesales. I'm now co-chair of the altar guild and highly recommend the meditative frame of mind that results from setting up the altar. If anyone would like to learn how, feel free to contact Susan Kryczka or me!

### What do you think Emmanuel has to offer the community?

I hope that we at Emmanuel can resume some of our outreach. In years past I was involved in preparing supper at the Epiphany School, an Episcopalian middle school in Dorchester. And a few summers ago, I volunteered with a bunch of other parishioners at the BSafe program, during one very hot July week!

### What are your hopes for the future of Emmanuel?

I'm feeling very positive about the future of Emmanuel. It's wonderful to see new faces in the pews and to see those faces coming back regularly. The vestry today is filled with energetic and smart people; though we are still relatively small in numbers, Emmanuel folk compensate by a real commitment to the parish, accountability to each other and a can-do attitude.

### You enjoy travel. What are your favorite places?

The photo here was taken on a trip to Tuscany last December. Kevin and I love traveling, especially to Europe—Italy, France, Ireland. We enjoy both the natural beauty of the countryside and the museums, churches, and artworks that the cities have to offer. While we were in Tuscany last December, we took a day trip to Assisi. It was a lovely and moving experience.

## Stewardship *continued*

We set a goal last year to increase our number of pledging members to twenty-five by the end of this year and need only four more committed people to reach that milestone. Let's see if we can achieve our goal sooner than that.

We ask that you prayerfully consider your pledge to the Parish of Emmanuel Church and its faith community for the remainder of 2012. Pledge cards may be given in strictest confidence to the Treasurer (John Gooley) or Assistant Treasurer (Cathy McCarthy).

**Some facts about pledging at Emmanuel:** For the year 2012, we received a total of twenty-one signed pledges for an anticipated annual pledged income of \$43,129.00. The tables on the right may help you consider what meaningful offering to God you give to Emmanuel Church in thanksgiving for what God has given you.

### Percentage of Pledge Amounts at Emmanuel

Weekly Pledge \$	Annual Pledge \$	Percentage of Pledgers
1.00 – 5.00	52.00 – 260.00	9.5%
6.00 – 10.00	312.00 – 520.00	0%
11.00 – 20.00	572.00 – 1040.00	28.6%
21.00 – 30.00	1092.00 – 1560.00	28.6%
31.00 – 115.00	1612.00 – 5980.00	28.6%
Over 116.00	Over 6,000.00	4.7%

### Proportional Giving Table

Annual Income \$	1%	2%	3%	5%	10%
15,000.00	150.00	300.00	450.00	750.00	1,500.00
25,000.00	250.00	500.00	750.00	1,250.00	2,500.00
50,000.00	500.00	1,000.00	1,500.00	2,500.00	5,000.00

## EXPLORING OUR HISTORY

### *Emmanuel Memories* by Edward Barrett

In the 1940s and early 1950s, the Emmanuel Church Sunday School was something to behold, it was crowded with children. Of course it was during an era when church attendance of every denomination was much higher than today. And even though West Roxbury was predominantly Roman Catholic, it was interspersed with Protestant families, including those attending Emmanuel. I can recall at least a dozen such families in the immediate neighborhood and I knew of many others who came in from Dedham and other communities. Many of my childhood friends, girls as well as boys, were from those Emmanuel families and we grew up together over the years.

Early on, I also had many Catholic friends, but after the 6th grade they all went off to parochial school. With a singular exception, my very first friend in this world and with whom I still keep in contact, I seldom saw any of the other Catholic kids again.

In Sunday School, the younger children from kindergarten to probably the fourth grade, were down in the lower level of the Parish House. The older kids were up on the main floor. Graduating from the lower level to the upper level with the big kids was a big deal. I don't remember how the Sunday School for the younger ones on the lower level was organized, but on the upper level each grade had one or two tables with four or five students at each table. Including both levels, I would estimate there were at least 60 children, and possibly more. Some of the teachers were exemplary. I had a teacher in the sixth or seventh grade who, after Sunday School, would volunteer his personal time to occasionally take us for hikes through the wilds of Stony Brook Reservation so we could experience and appreciate the beauty of God's creation. One journey was on an early Spring day when the green of new life and freshly flowing streams were the attraction. Another time we hiked through the colorful New England Fall foliage. Those particular days were precious.



A painting by former Emmanuel parishioner Robert Douglas Hunter

One of the Sunday School superintendents was Mr. George Hunter (Sr.), a wonderful gentleman who, with his equally gracious wife, donated a lot of time to Emmanuel in various capacities. They had two sons, George and Robert, who followed their parents into dedicated Emmanuel service, including that of Sunday School teacher. George eventually became an Episcopal priest and having experienced George's compassionate and generous nature, that did not surprise me. His brother Robert attained award-winning recognition as an accomplished still life, portrait and landscape artist. An example of Robert Douglas Hunter's work, which I purchased at an Emmanuel auction, is shown above. You can see other examples of his art on the internet.

My childhood and young adulthood friends are all dispersed today, having gone their separate ways. But they took with them the foundation of spiritual values they received at Emmanuel from its dedicated mentors. God bless them all.

## A Matter of Degree

In the account of his early years, *Surprised by Joy*, C.S. Lewis tells of his own personal conversion experience. Alone in his room at Magdalen College at Oxford one night, he felt the unrelenting approach of the One whom he earnestly desired not to meet. "That which I greatly feared had at last come upon me. I gave in and admitted that God was God and I knelt and prayed, perhaps that night the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England."

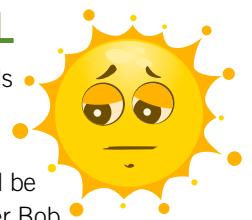
God has a way of choosing those who are brought kicking, struggling and resentful, darting their eyes in every direction for a chance to escape. It is precisely in the struggle of working in one direction that a person can be turned around one hundred eighty degrees to face in another direction.

This is why an atheist is more likely to be converted to belief in God than an agnostic. An atheist goes from being sure of what he or she does not believe to being just as sure of what he or she does believe. An agnostic, on the other hand, while not denying the existence of God but denying the possibility of knowing God, is never quite sure of anything.

Robert Edson

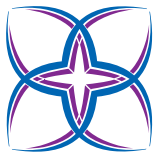
## FAREWELL

Sadly, this summer finds us saying farewell to a few parishioners: Chris and Carla Reveliotty will be moving to Maine, Father Bob Bela is moving to Kentucky, and Megan Roman is moving to Clinton, MA. Please send warm wishes their way and hopefully they will all come back and visit us soon.



The new Emmanuel Coffee Mugs are here! If you don't have one, now is the time to purchase one, or more, for \$10 a piece.





# EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

21 Stratford Street • West Roxbury, MA 02132

## EMMANUEL EVENTS

**HOLY EUCHARIST at 10:00 am each Sunday**

(We will not be doing the 9:30 summer start time as in previous years.)

## SAVE THE DATES!

**CATHEDRAL 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND SERVICE OF REDEDICATION October 7 at 3:00 - 5:00 pm**

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul is celebrating 100 years as the cathedral church of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, with a gala service of rededication.

**ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE ON THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT December 9 at 4:00 pm**

Celebrate Advent with Father Robert Edson, with Andy Castiglione playing the organ. Reception to follow.

## HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!



### SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

Help us help others. Please be generous and bring a weekly donation of food for the Roslindale Food Bank.

### Join us each Sunday!

Sunday School at 9:45 am  
Holy Eucharist at 10:00 am

### Contact us at:

email: [info@emmanuelwr.org](mailto:info@emmanuelwr.org)  
phone: 617-323-1440  
web: [www.emmanuelwr.org](http://www.emmanuelwr.org)