



EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Newsletter of The Parish of Emmanuel Church | March ~ April, 2012 | The Reverend Robert Edson, Priest

The Saints come marching home

SAINTS ALIVE! A LENTEN SERIES ON TUESDAY EVENINGS



We have already had a couple of the Tuesday evening classes on Saints, but it's not too late to join us for this wonderful Lent series. Father Robert has created this series with interesting facts and stories of the Saints, that are both informative and entertaining. The evening consists of a simple meal of soup and bread, followed by Evening Prayer before the discussion on the Saints. If you haven't experienced Evening Prayer, that alone can bring your hectic day to a calm focus. We are lucky to have the opportunity to offer such a great series, so please join us!

March 13: Anselm, Thomas Becket, John Wyclif, William Tyndale, Hugh Latimer, Nicholas Ridley

March 20: Thomas Cranmer, Richard Hooker, Lancelot Andrews

March 27: John Donne, William Laud, John Keble

6:15 p.m. Simple meal of soup and bread

7:00 p.m. Program beginning with Evening Prayer

Welcoming Training

On February 26th we had the opportunity to have Diocesan Consultant Helen Daley be with us to give training on welcoming new parishioners and visitors. Helen gave a great presentation with many ideas that we want to put into action. The Membership committee will be meeting to map out a strategy based on the information Helen presented and we welcome your help as well. One point that she made is that *Welcoming* starts with everyone at the parish. We all need to make sure we are giving our best effort to engage visitors and become acquainted with new members. Some of the ideas we want to pursue include an Information Packet, Gift Bag or Coffee Mug, and handing out tips to parishioner so they feel more comfortable saying "hi" to a visitor. Let us know if you have ideas as well. A big thank you to Helen for all her insight and expertise!

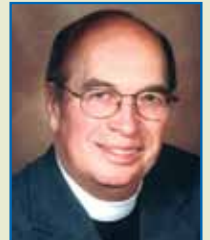
Shrove Tuesday (Sunday!) Pancake Breakfast

In celebration of Shrove Tuesday, this year we decided to make the pancake dinner a pancake breakfast on the preceding Sunday before Lent. Many parishioners joined in before church to make this event fun for all. Let's extend a big thank you to all the cooks in the kitchen for the delicious breakfast they served up.



a message from

Father Robert



It doesn't have to be that way

The season of Lent carries with it images of people wearing long faces and feeling badly about themselves. It doesn't have to be that way. Lent begins with receiving ashes on your forehead as a sign of repentance, prayer and fasting and continues for the next forty days. This is a time to reflect on your life by giving up old bad habits in place of developing new good habits.

The discipline of giving up something and taking on something else in its place can be of very practical help. If we give up something that we enjoy but which is not good for us, we are better off for it. Give up idle talk and learn to listen more carefully. Give up being self-absorbed and be more aware of others. Practice the fine art of keeping your eyes open to the beauty of God's creation, your ears shut to malicious gossip, your tongue held in respecting confidences. Keep an open mind about people and situations instead of jumping to conclusions. Think about how you can make someone's day with an encouraging word. Such disciplines can be part of your everyday life long after the season if Lent is over.

Take time each day to be alone with God and reflect on what has meaning in your life. Think about what and whom you have in your life that you sometimes take for granted. Rather than dwell on those who may have offended you remember those whom you have hurt and make amends. Don't put it off. The season of Lent is a time for reflection and changing the way you think and live. It need not be all about groveling and breast-beating. Who wants to do that anyway?

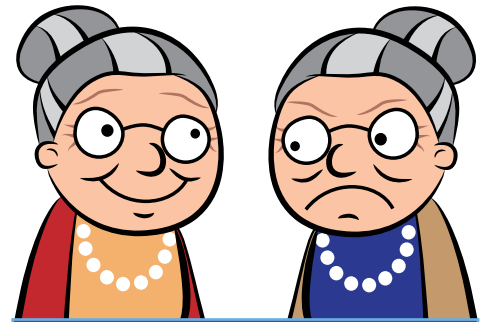
CHILDREN IN CHURCH

There are a few important points regarding children in church. They are, first of all, full members of the body of Christ and are essential to our life and growth. They are our responsibility to be brought up in the knowledge and understanding of Christ. They will thrive if given the best opportunity in which to grow in faith. They need to be encouraged and trained to take part in the liturgy as a shared experience with the whole family of God. Here are a few points to remember for your shared worship experience:

1. Sit near the front so they can see what is going on.
2. Explain the purpose of the books in the pew racks.
3. Help children locate hymns and important places in the Prayer Book such as the prayers of the people, the consecration prayer and the thanksgiving prayer.
4. Explain to them special events in the service such as a baptism and other special days and celebrations.
5. Note changes in church seasons and colors of altar hangings and vestments.
6. Let them know what will happen next in the service. They like to know when to stand, sit and kneel.
7. If children are present for the sermon, ask them to listen and share what was learned when you talk about it later at home.
8. If children are present for the offertory, help them give their own offering, no matter how small and have them take part in taking up the offering.
9. Encourage children to join in taking part in the Eucharist. They are ready to receive communion when they ask about it.
10. Emphasize by words and actions the positive, important, things in worship.
11. Feel free to hug your children during worship and let them know that you are glad to have them with you.
12. Answer questions in a quiet whisper instead of “shushing” them.
13. Make Sunday worship a regular part of your family life and let God’s love be evident. Note ways in which you see God acts as a present reality in your lives during the week.
14. Children learn by example—your example.

Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to children such as these.” Mark 10:14

And... “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.” Matthew 18:5



Two Sisters

There are two sisters who live together who come to church every Sunday. Their names are Grace and Guilt. Grace is very nice to have around because she is always so positive while everyone avoids Guilt because she is so negative. Grace is kind and forgiving while Guilt enjoys pointing out our faults and shortcomings. Grace has all the redeeming features that Guilt lacks.

Oddly, the two of them get along because they somehow complement each other. Guilt enjoys watching everyone grovel during Lent while Grace makes this season bearable. Guilt has her points, unwelcome as they are, while Grace makes life worthwhile. When you are alone with Guilt, you feel awful but when Grace shows up, you feel more hopeful. You would stop coming to church were it not for her. Life would be very unpleasant without her companionship.

Both sisters have something to offer our spiritual life. Guilt may remind us of our mistakes and shortcomings, but Grace redeems us with a sense of value and worth. Both sisters are necessary to have around and we are better for knowing both of them.

None of us likes to be on a guilt trip and that is not the purpose of Lent. This is a time to examine our lives, to repent and make amends. A good place to begin is to see the faults in ourselves that we see so easily in others. Lent is a time to take inventory of the quality of our spiritual lives. That may feel like opening an envelope containing an overdue bill, but the longer we put off paying it, the greater the chance of losing our credit with God.

The best way to break a bad habit is to drop it. Learn the fine art of talking less and listening more. Eat less and exercise more. Focus on what you need to do that you have been putting off and keep on with what you have been doing that has been helpful to you. Any important discipline you develop during Lent is worth continuing long after the season is over.

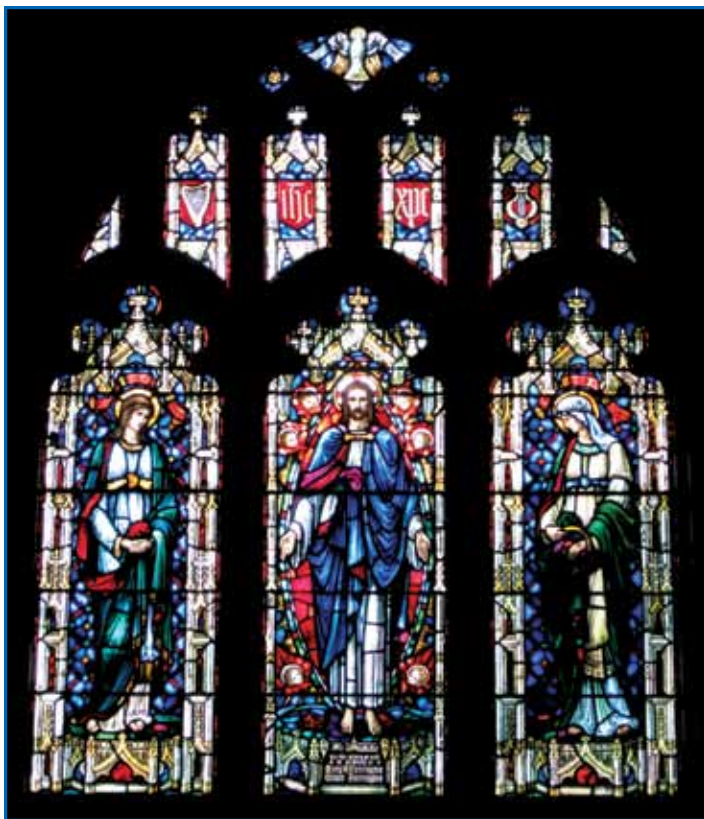
EXPLORING OUR HISTORY

Our Lord with Mary and Martha of Bethany

No doubt many of you have noticed the large stained glass window at the back of the church, facing Stratford Street. Presented to the church as a memorial window by parishioners Robert D. Farrington and Harold Farrington in 1915, it depicts the “Glory of Christianity.” It was designed by Charles Jay Connick only two years after he opened his Boston studios. C.J. Connick, until his death in 1945, was one of the most well known designers of stained glass windows in the country.

Born in Pennsylvania in 1875, Connick began learning his craft at the age of 19. He created his first window for the First Baptist Church in Pittsburgh in 1912. In 1913 he moved to Boston and opened his studio in Back Bay. He went on to design windows for the Princeton University Chapel, St. Patrick’s Cathedral and St. John the Divine in New York and the Boston University Chapel.

Emmanuel Church is lucky to have such fine examples of stained glass created by the most predominate artist of their times—John LaFarge, Harry Eldredge Goodhue and C.J. Connick.



Continuing your journey

If you are interested in being received or confirmed in the Episcopal Church, or would like to learn more about exploring this path, Father Robert will be holding a series of three classes in April for people interested. The classes will be held April 1, 15, and 22, after church.

For those who would like to be confirmed or received in the Episcopal Church, the Bishop will confirm candidates at Saint Paul’s Cathedral in Boston on Saturday, April 28 at 10:30 a.m. If you have never been confirmed in any church, the bishop will *confirm* you. If you have been confirmed in another church, you will be *received* by the bishop. If you would like to learn more about this in advance, please call Father Robert at 781-749-2488, or seek out another parishioner who has been received in the past.

OUR 119TH ANNUAL MEETING

We had a successful and well attended annual meeting on January 22, 2012. Reports were given, votes were taken and everyone enjoyed the gathering. Many of the goals we met over the past year were announced, and future goals were presented as well. If you missed the meeting, we urge you to pick up a copy of the Annual Report for 2011. Next year will be our 120th Anniversary! We hope you will join us in 2012 in continuing the efforts to make Emmanuel a better place for all.

At this meeting the following persons were elected to the offices and terms stated:

2012 Vestry and Officers

Senior Warden: Jonathan Cleveland

Junior Warden: Terri Halliday

Treasurer: John Gooley

Assistant Treasurer: Cathy McCarthy

Clerk: Kathy Wilson

Vestry Three year term:

Courtney Barth and Ed Fleming

Vestry Two year term:

Frank Busconi and Michael Delia

Vestry One year term:

Helen Lacouture and Mark Skillman

HONOR YOUR LOVED ONES WITH EASTER FLOWERS

Honor your loved ones this year by giving towards the flowers that will be used to beautify our church for this year’s Easter celebration. You may give flowers in thanksgiving or in memory of the loved ones you designate.

Forms will be available in the bulletin, or contact Susan or Helen to give your list and donation. To ensure that the loved ones you are honoring are listed in the Easter Bulletin, please be sure your completed form reaches the church by April 1 (Palm Sunday). If you would like to make a donation without honoring a loved one, we will gratefully accept donations until Easter Sunday.



EMMANUEL EVENTS

SAINTS ALIVE! LENTEN SERIES Tuesdays – March 13, 20, 27 at 6:15 pm

MAUNDY THURSDAY April 5 at 7:00 pm

GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY April 6 at 7:00 pm

PALM SUNDAY April 1 at 10:00 am

EASTER SUNDAY April 8 at 10:00 am

CONFIRMATION SERVICE AT ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL April 28 at 10:30 am



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: phone 617-323-1440

email: info@emmanuelwr.org

web: www.emmanuelwr.org



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21 Stratford Street • West Roxbury, MA 02132