



EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Newsletter of The Parish of Emmanuel Church | September ~ October, 2012 | The Reverend Robert Edson, Priest

Mission: The Roslindale Food Pantry by Terri Halliday

Food...It is one of the few absolutes to sustaining life. Nutritious meals on a regular basis are essential for a body & mind to thrive.

Twenty nine years ago, responding to a growing need, the Reverend Tim Norton started the Roslindale Food Pantry at the Congregational Church in Roslindale Square. About seven years ago Emmanuel made the food pantry a part of our Mission. Many of you have seen the food baskets that are carried to the Altar at the Offering and the baskets that hold the bulk of our donations in the Parish Hall. Every few weeks Chris and Carla, or myself, have brought the donations to the Roslindale Food Pantry.



Today the RFP Executive Director is Carol Poole. Carol and her husband Ron have been a part of the RFP for 27 years and Carol assumed her leadership role approximately 20 years ago. What started out as a mission to serve some 20+ families has grown into a lifeline of a 2 day emergency supply of food (2 breakfast, 2 lunch, 2 dinner) for 700+ families and elderly clients in Roslindale and surrounding areas. Donations come from community groups, churches, schools, restaurants, supermarkets, the Boston Food Bank and individuals just 'dropping by' with a contribution. Carol and Ron oversee a committed group of volunteers collecting, organizing and distributing food as well

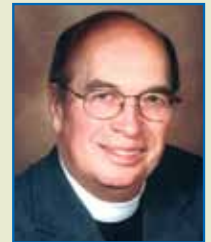
as seeing to the day to day operations. Both are certified to shop for food pantries, which Ron does, because RFP also receives monetary contributions.

When I go down with Emmanuel's donation they call me the *Basket Lady* because I bring it all down in our baskets. They help unload my truck and all the food I bring in. They will then get it all separated and put into bags for their clients that come in between 12:00 and 2:00 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week. It is a big task.

It is hard to explain all the emotions I feel when I participate in this mission. There is always the sense of desperation as I go over. With all the riches of this country, this state, this city; with all the various subsidies to assist those in need....how is it possible that there are so many who have fallen through the cracks? Then I arrive and I am met by this incredibly uplifting group of volunteers doing what they know they need to. My emotions shift because I know that we can never make all of societies ills go away but each small contribution is part of societies way to remind those in need that they are not invisible and not forgotten. It is why when the RFP thanks Emmanuel each time I am there, I thank all of them for leading the way.

Mission is part of the Christian life. The RFP is a mission program that I am very committed to because of how important the need is. There is always a need for breakfast foods, fun foods for kids, peanut butter, pasta, juices, soups, tuna, all non-perishable foods. I invite you to join in Emmanuel's mission for the Roslindale Food Pantry so that we can continue to be thankful to those that lead the way.

a message from
Father Robert



The Wall

There is the story of the very old man who came every day to pray at the Western Wall of the temple in Jerusalem. When he finished praying, he asked how long he had been coming there. He replied, "About 60 years." I pray for peace between Christians, Jews and Muslims, for all the wars to cease and for everyone to learn to love one another. I also pray for all the politicians to be honest and put the interests of the people ahead of their own. When asked how he felt about doing this for 60 years, he replied, "It's like I'm talking to a wall."

It is easy to become cynical about world problems especially in this election season when we decide which candidate best shares our values. Many of us feel that our faith determines our politics and that religion and politics are inevitably intertwined. Passages can be found in the Bible regarding race, gender and sexual orientation. This reminds us that political problems are also religious problems. Issues such as the economy, school prayer, abortion, birth control, the environment, health care, poverty and war ultimately reach into the realm of faith and religion. How we order our social life together is a religious concern.

The struggle for justice in our society and in the world makes politics and government necessary. Wherever there is a unit of people, beginning with the family, there is politics. In a democracy, whether we support or oppose an issue or an elected leader, there is power in the ballot. That is why an educated voter is so vital to our system of government.



AN INTERVIEW WITH the Chaban Griffith family

Emmanuel welcomes new members Kim, Diana, and Stuart Chaban Griffith. Diana is a communications consultant, working with area nonprofits and small businesses, and Kim is a staff assistant for MassDOT's Accelerated Bridge Program. Stuart, 6, is in first grade at Young Achievers Math & Science Pilot School.

What brought you to Emmanuel?

We had been looking for a church for some time, struggling to find a warm, welcoming community that “felt right” to both of us. Kim was raised Roman Catholic, while I was raised mostly non-denominational Christian, so many times it felt we were looking for different things. But when we came to Emmanuel, something clicked, and we both felt like we were getting what we needed.

What were you looking for in a church home?

It was important to both of us to have a fairly traditional service, with communion each Sunday, with relevant and interesting sermons. Beyond that, we wanted a church with other young families and children, and a Sunday school so that Stuart can learn at his pace—and we can actually hear the sermon!

What have you enjoyed the most at Emmanuel?

Our highlight so far has definitely been Stuart's baptism, which took place this past May. We'd held off until we found a church home, but we never expected it to take so long to find! It was an important and proud moment for our whole family, and it meant a lot for us to have the congregation so involved and supportive. We've also enjoyed helping at the church clean-up day and we're looking forward to helping with the Sunday school.

Tell us a bit about yourselves – how did you meet, and what brought you to Boston?

We met 10 years ago, when Diana was attending Mount Holyoke College and Kim was working at UMass Amherst. We moved to Boston in 2004, were married in 2005, Stuart was born in 2006, and we bought our house in 2009. We don't have much time for hobbies, but when we can, Kim likes to ride her bike or motorcycle, and Diana likes to read.

Stuart – what's your favorite part of Emmanuel Church?

According to Stuart, the best parts are: 1) Social hour, “especially if there's something good, like cookies or brownies”, 2) taking communion, and 3) playing with his friends—especially his buddy, Max!



Blessing of the Animals

Join us October 7th for the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi and the Blessing of the Animals at Emmanuel.

The blessing of the animals on the Feast of St. Francis has been a long tradition at Emmanuel. The event has brought in a number of area families with their pets and this year we are hoping to have more than ever. Spread the word and invite all of your family and friends to attend with their pet, or just a photo, to be blessed.

Boston homeless animals need our help and support, so this year we are asking all those attending to help Emmanuel support the animal shelter at MSPCA – Angell. We have picked a few items from the shelter wish list:

**Blankets • Towels • Sheets
Soft Bedding • Cat Beds
Dog Beds • Dog Training Treats**

Please bring in your used, but clean, items and help us support the MSPCA – Angell.



EXPLORING OUR HISTORY

Emmanuel Memories by Edward Barrett

123...131...108...These numbers were typical of the counts of communicants attending the 9:25 a.m. Sunday services at Emmanuel in the late 1950s when my dad and I were ushers. At times the numbers were even higher. There were three Sunday services then: the 8:00 o'clock for early risers; the 9:25 which was the big family service; and the 11:00 o'clock which was commonly attended by the more senior parishioners (and probably those who overslept the 9:25).

The 8:00 o'clock service was a solemn affair. It was a Communion service with no music, choir or procession and drew the least numbers of communicants, perhaps 40 or so. Acolytes dutifully served in the rotation, but the 8:00 o'clock was not their favorite. The 9:25 service drew the largest attendance, the 11:00 o'clock had slightly fewer. The music at the 9:25 was provided by a children's choir of about 20 boys and girls. Most of the Parish young people served in the choir when they reached the age of 10 or so, it was a satisfying and enjoyable experience. The 11:00 o'clock had the adult choir. On special occasions the two choirs were combined. At both services it was customary for the choirs to sing an anthem during collection. My favorite anthem for Palm Sunday was "The Palms" which began with the words "O'er all the way, green palms and blossoms gay." It has been a very long time since I have heard this beautiful piece of music.

The regal procession of crucifer, full choir, two acolytes and priest wasn't Westminster Abbey, but it was close.

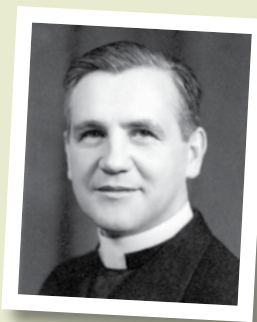
The 9:30 and the 11:00 o'clock were both Morning Prayer, complete with singing of the canticles, for three of the four Sundays. The last Sunday of the month was Holy Communion. For these services it was considered a great honor to lead the procession as crucifer. We were instructed to hold the cross with the right hand over the left, elbows extended so the forearms were parallel, and to walk with a

formal, measured pace that paused slightly before the step was completed. The regal procession of crucifer, full choir, two acolytes and priest wasn't Westminster Abbey but it was close. Of course it wasn't until years later that girls, as well as boys, would be permitted to feel the same sense of satisfaction and service to our Lord.

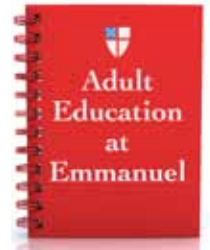
On each side of the altar was a tall three-light candelabrum and, of course, two Communion candles for those services. As acolytes, we were trained to light both candelabra starting with the outside candles and working inward—snuffing the candles was just the reverse. At one early 8:00 o'clock service I was serving alone with the Rev. David Kingman. The candles had been properly lit, but just as he started the litany I felt a trickle from my nose. What followed was a cascade of blood down the front of my white cotter. So I excused myself for a quick exit from the Lord's service. The Rev. Kingman was very gracious about it later.

Another of the acolyte duties was, for Communion, to move the middle kneeling cushion into position, and close and latch the gates, as done even today. One recent Sunday, just as I was about to leave the Communion rail, the gates mysteriously opened. In an instant it all came back to me: in one practiced motion I deftly closed the gates and secured the latch—just as I had done over 60 years ago!

pictured: The Reverend David Kingman, Rector of Emmanuel from 1946 -1953



Fall 2012 Adult Education Series



Our new line up of Adult Education classes for Fall 2012 is here! Father Robert will lead the classes on **Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm** and will begin each one with Evening Prayer. The classes will meet in the Chancel in the Church. The classes in the past year have been rewarding for everyone involved and we know you will find them an enriching experience.

October 3rd: How to read the Bible

October 10: What the Psalms have to say to us

November 7: When you don't feel like forgiving and forgetting

November 14: The Second Coming of Christ—What is it?

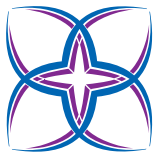
MISSION OUTLOOK



Emmanuel is currently in the process of creating mission opportunities to partner with Boomerangs on Centre Street in West Roxbury, and the AIDS Action Committee of Boston, to support Youth On Fire.

Youth On Fire offers a drop-in center with basic necessities such as food, clothing, showers, and laundry, as well as weekly medical care, mental health counseling, and referrals to community resources. Ayala Livny, Youth on Fire's Program Manager, explains "young people become homeless because their homes either are not safe, not supportive or don't exist." Ayala elaborates that youth also find themselves homeless after leaving the foster care program when they become 18 years old or they are simply from a family that cannot financially support them. These youth share the commonality of lacking a stable support system, and Youth on Fire is an outstanding safe haven of support.

We will be sending out more information on this mission in the near future and we look forward to partnering with Boomerangs.



EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

21 Stratford Street • West Roxbury, MA 02132

EMMANUEL EVENTS

October 3 at 7:00 pm

Adult Education Series: HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

October 7 at 10:00 am

Feast of St. Francis — BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

October 7 at 3:00 – 5:00 pm

**CATHEDRAL 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
AND SERVICE OF REDEDICATION**

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.

October 10 at 7:00 pm

**Adult Education Series: WHAT THE PSALMS HAVE
TO SAY TO US**

November 7 at 7:00 pm

**Adult Education Series: WHEN YOU DON'T FEEL
LIKE FORGIVING AND FORGETTING**

November 14 at 7:00 pm

**Adult Education Series: THE SECOND COMING
OF CHRIST — WHAT IS IT?**

SAVE THE DATES!

December 1 at 3:00 pm

EMMANUEL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

December 9 at 4:00 pm

**ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE
ON THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT**



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
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