

WHERE TO FIND IT:

Joyful Noise	1
Rector's Ruminations	2
Birthdays	2
Anniversaries	2
Prayer List	2
Vestry & Staff	3
Calendars	4
New Steps	4

SUMMERTIME AT EMMANUEL!



Emmanuel Parishioners gather under sunny skies for the annual picnic on July 3rd

JOYFUL NOISE REFLECTIONS FROM THE SR. WARDEN

We made a joyful noise on the joyful day of our Bishop's visit! We rang the bells, pulled out the stops on the organ, had the kind of long procession for which Episcopalians are known, reveled in all the red vestments, and celebrated the confirmed, the received and the invested. Quite a few visitors were included in our festivities and the church was filled to bursting. Joyful, joyful noise!!!

What precedes such a celebration? Considerable planning. First the rector received the Bishop's Customary which outlines the Bishop's expectations. The Bishop loves the celebration, but his job is also to assess how things are going with us. To enhance his understanding of who we are, he asked that the vestry produce a report to include our mission, our vision, our accomplishments, our challenges, our questions. Our report to him is published in this month's Newsletter. Cheryl and I developed 12 questions which went out to the vestry one at a time. A reply was as easy as pushing Reply on the computer. Our goal was to develop a report which required everyone to think a little, thereby providing a foundation for our later dialog with the Bishop. In addition, Craig's absence encouraged some candor about our relationship with him. This was valuable to all of us. Please read the report. We want to hear your comments. Ask yourself each of the 12 questions and evaluate the entire report. Send your responses to Craig, myself, or any member of the vestry in any way that is convenient. Use the website, letter, email, telephone, coffee hour – just let us hear from you.

Continued on page 3

RECTOR'S RUMINATIONS

“LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING AHEAD”

August Birthdays

3 Barbara Jamieson
6 Doug McDonald
7 Trevor Wareham
10 Molly Troxel
11 Ida Rae McDonald
14 Dick Hansen
16 Jan Cleveland
19 Carl Lewis
21 Karl Hoagland
21 Margie Sabine
23 Robin Erly
28 George Garrels
28 Harlan Pedersen

August Anniversaries

2 Craig & Liz Anderson
17 Carl & Penny Buttke
23 Dick & Patty Thompson

Prayer List:

Lynn Sauter, Bob Schliebus, Cheryl Parker Meyer, John, John Michael, Melia & Chris, John Fox, Kyle Palmer, Carol Tully, Louise Tucker, Jennifer Wong, Chet Linowski, Sharon Heller, Jean Blease, Jenny Peters, Ron Johnson, Nora Dietlein, Ruth Bergsman, Fred Munder, Elyse Van Den Bosch, John Prince, Anna Kathryn & Molly, Maureen Hannan, Barbara Padget, Dawn Lease, Kate, William Henry Brown, Marilyn Storey, Peter Rutledge, Ross, Monica Lucas, Marsha Cowles, Dick Zornes.

Our Bishop's Visit on July 17th provided the Vestry with an opportunity to review our parish ministry since his last visit three years ago. The results of that preparation are included in this issue of the newsletter entitled, "Vestry Report for the Bishop." Our Senior Warden, Cathy Clemens and our Director of Youth and Family Ministry, Cheryl Danskin, developed a process that included asking each member of the Vestry twelve questions. Cathy compiled the results and was the author of the report that Bishop Rickel had the opportunity to read prior to his visitation.

Cathy's article in this issue of the newsletter provides an account of the process and the questions each Vestry member answered along with other important and relevant information. Please take the time to read her article and the report itself. It is an important document for several reasons. First, it provides an overview and analysis of the past several years, which the Bishop not only found helpful, but applauded as one of the best he has read and which facilitated our conversation with him. Second, it provided the Vestry with a benchmark and sense of where we have been and are now as a parish family. Third, it will inform our efforts to plan for next year and beyond, and fourth, it will be invaluable as we continue our work on a vision for the parish, which, I feel, is always a work in progress.

With the report and the Bishop's vision, which focuses on three areas: congregational development, concentrating on those 35 and younger, and stewardship of all our resources (see "How We Serve: A Vision for the Diocese of Olympia," included in this newsletter), we are in a position to build on our strengths and accomplishments and address the challenges that face us. In so doing, I am asking each of you to consider the twelve questions the Vestry answered and communicate your answers to me, or any member of the Vestry, during the month of August in preparation for a congregational dinner and meeting on Sunday evening, September 11, at 5:30. The purpose of the gathering will be to discern as a parish within the Diocese what Christ is calling us to be and do next year and beyond. Prior to this meeting, I hope to have the results of the Orcas Island Community Foundation's "Community Needs Assessment" report that will be an important component informing our vision as the village church on Orcas Island and the larger "village" beyond.

Finally, this month marks my four-year anniversary as your rector. The evening will provide me with an opportunity to hear from you, and you to hear from me, as we move forward together in shared ministry.

In conclusion, my gratitude to our vestry and staff for their hard work and thoughtful answers in preparing the report and especially Cathy and Cheryl in developing the process that informed it and Cathy's authorship of the final document. Please read it carefully and prayerfully.

In Christ,

+Craig

Continued from page 1

After coffee hour on the day of Bishop Rickel's visitation, the vestry and staff participated with the Bishop in a "working lunch". This was an opportunity to hear his response to our report, to listen to how he experienced Emmanuel as a congregation, to ask questions, and to gain some understanding of his vision and learn how we can further it. Our report and his vision are now meshed in our collective mind.

We all know that the church must encourage some alternative ideas and attract some younger people into its embrace if it is to have a future. This is not a new thought. The church is always changing, emerging – think back 50 years to when the priest celebrated the eucharist with his back to us, did all the reading and all the distribution of communion. Not only were women not allowed ordination, girls were not allowed to be acolytes. Our entire liturgy was in Elizabethan English. And always suits and ties, hats and gloves!!! Those were days before computers, facebook, twitter, texting. The world keeps changing and we all resist in some ways. I still do my banking the old fashioned way, I prefer a book to Kindle -- but I love email. In the church, I love the hymnal and traditional Evening Prayer, but I also like some of the new music and Taizé evening worship. It is a mix. One of the ways the mix is expressed in the church is "the emerging church." Change takes place whether we choose to acknowledge it or not. But the best way forward is to name it, to talk about it, and envision and plan together our direction for the next few years.

To that end, the vestry will sponsor an all-parish dinner for the purpose of overview, evaluation, and a look forward. This will be held on September 11 - much more information to be forthcoming in the weeks ahead. What is our vision going to be? Let's decide together!!! There is a lovely song in one of the newer books which contains the line: *"Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around?"* This could be our mantra. The church is always counter-cultural, always attempting to instill values of fairness and justice in contrast to the greed and excess which our society presents as a norm. People are confused, especially those of the younger generations who have never heard of Jesus and have no idea what the church has to offer. They search for meaning in the wrong places. Our Bishop tells us they long for authenticity. Our goal can be the authenticity for which they long. How shall we present ourselves to them as an alternative to the confusion, to the wrong turns? How can we live an authentic Christian life which draws others to want to share it? The line quoted above is from the song, **"Will You Come and Follow Me?"** Be in church on August 7 to hear the entire song sung at the offertory. Then mark September 11 on your calendar in CAPITAL LETTERS as a dinner date to launch a future which articulates and promotes living authentically in the emerging church.

Catherine Clemens

2011-2012 VESTRY MEMBERS

CATHY CLEMENS
KATE HANSEN
SCOTT HEISINGER
SCOTT JONES
BETH JURGENSEN
DARLEEN KENT
HARLAN PEDERSEN
JOHN PRINCE
JAN REID
JAN TITUS
KELLY TOOMBS
LINDA WATTS

PARISH ADMINISTRATORS:

KAREN BLINN
NOEL JEFFREY

FAMILY & INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY:

CHERYL HUNNICUTT DANSKIN

ORGANIST & CHOIR DIRECTOR

MARIANNE LEWIS

RECTOR:

BISHOP CRAIG B. ANDERSON

NORAMISE NEWS

"We thank you for your response to our request for laptop computers. Our team of ESL teachers left for Haiti on the 18th with three laptops in hand.

As we embark upon a second season of making preserves to sell in support of Helping Hands Noramise, If you have any fruit (peaches, raspberries, red plums, crabapples, or figs) that we might glean for this use, please contact: Gwen Stamm @gstamm@seanet.com. Thank you!"

**EMMANUEL
EPISCOPAL
PARISH OF
ORCAS ISLAND**

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
PO Box 8
Eastsound, WA 98245

Address Service Requested

**EMMANUEL
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

PHONE:
360.376.2352
E-MAIL:
PARISHOFFICE@ORCASEPISCOPAL.ORG

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
Visit Us at
www.orcasepiscopal.org

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

It's a community effort! **Please submit your newsletter contributions in a Word .doc or .docx file to Karen Blinn via email at parishoffice@orcasepiscopal.org.** (Since you would type it anyway, submitting electronically saves the office staff from needing to retype – Thanks!)

Your photos of Parish Events are appreciated! Photos are gratefully accepted and may be submitted electronically to Karen B. as well, preferably in .JPG file formats.

Please note that **the deadline for submissions to Emmanuel's Newsletter is 12 Noon on the 25th of every month.**

CALENDARS NO LONGER NEEDED

The Seamen's Institute of New York no longer wants calendars sent to them, so please do not bring your 2012 calendars to Emmanuel Parish Office. The Institute has been very grateful for your contributions. Thank you for your participation in the last few years.

Carol Tully

~~~~~  
**NEWLY PAINTED FRONT STEPS AT EMMANUEL**



*Thank you George Garrels!*

Guess whose legs these are on the freshly painted steps. Not sure? Check the website to see if you guessed correctly!