

MAY 2011

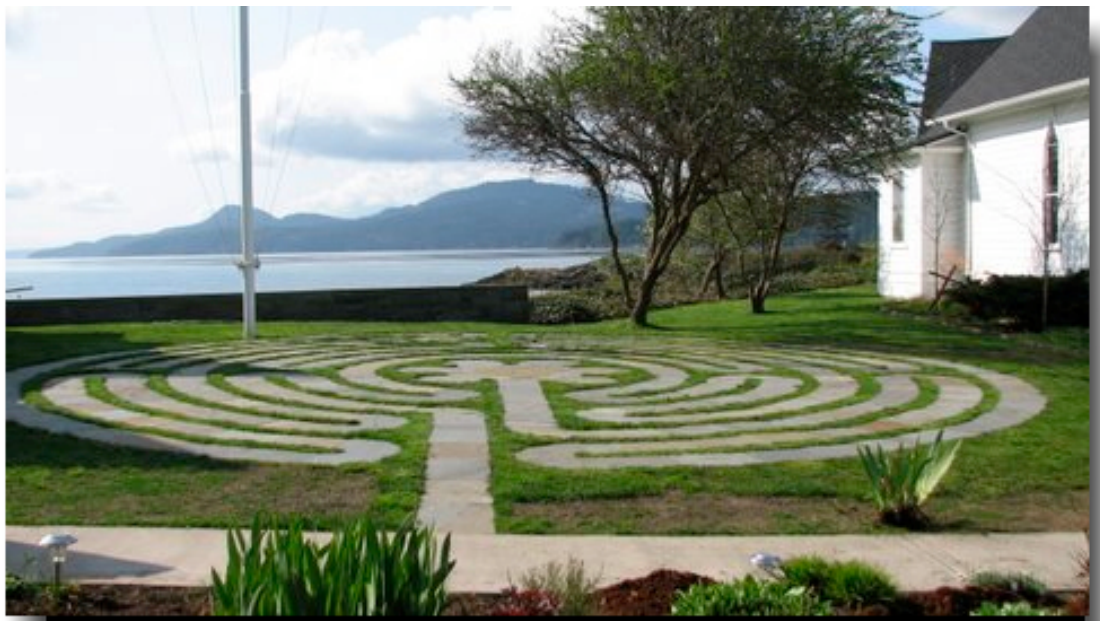
EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL PARISH NEWSLETTER

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BLESSING OF THE LABYRINTH MAY 15, 2011

At 12:00 noon, Sunday, May 15, you are invited to join the Emmanuel Episcopal Parish, members of the Orcas Island community, and honored guests Rosie Cayou and Tsul-ton, Samish Nation Elders, for the Blessing of the Community Labyrinth. The blessing will be followed by a meal of thanksgiving, featuring salmon roasted in the Northwest tradition.



We eagerly look forward to and hope that you will be able to join us for the blessing of the completed labyrinth. Rosie Cayou and Tsul-ton, elders from the Samish Nation, will be returning to celebrate with us and participate in the blessing. The meal, following, will be a Northwest influenced feast featuring Salmon and berry pie. Frank Loudin has generously donated to the church a painting of the labyrinth, which will be unveiled during the celebration. We not only hope to see a good turn out of our Emmanuel family but also members from the greater community. **Please RSVP by May 5th**. Contact the church office or after Sunday morning services a sign up sheet will be on the table when you enter the parish hall.



The Blessing of the
Community Labyrinth

RECTOR'S RUMINATIONS FOR MAY 2011

"A Taxing Time"

A couple of weeks ago, along with millions of other Americans, we settled up with the IRS by paying our 2010 tax bill. At about the same time, I received a copy of The Christian Century magazine, which had as a featured theme, "The Common Good." One article, actually an editorial, entitled "Tax Benefit" caught my attention with the statement, "...paying taxes is not just a legal duty but a moral opportunity – because paying taxes is one way each of us supports the common good. Taxation provides crucial elements of a good society, including a justice system, public education, an infrastructure that encourages commerce, and a safety net for the elderly and the vulnerable."

The phrase that struck me was "a moral opportunity." I suspect that most Americans view paying taxes, along with dying as the "two inevitable certainties" of life. But a moral opportunity? The phrase stirred something within me as a citizen and as a Christian.

A related article in the same issue, written by Gary Dorrien of Columbia University, points out that tax rates in the U.S. have mostly gone down since the 1980s and political candidates continue to pledge that they will lower taxes as if that is necessarily better for the country. But we all know in our heart of hearts that it isn't in terms of the common good. He notes, "...while tax rates have been going down, the income level of most Americans has stagnated" (or decreased through unemployment and underemployment). "The income of the wealthy has sharply increased and increasingly regressive tax rates have put new stresses on the middle class while helping many of the rich get richer...and allowing many corporations, such as General Electric, Exxon-Mobil, The Bank of America and Citibank to escape taxes altogether." Moral opportunity or moral outrage? Dorrien suggests that Americans are more comfortable talking about the good life than the common good. Moral opportunity or immoral greed? The definition of the good life he cites is one of individual consumption, dependent on foreign fossil fuel protected by military might.

The current debate between Republicans and Democrats in terms of the budget, deficit reduction and fiscal responsibility seems to overlook the obvious. Paying taxes is not only a moral opportunity but a moral imperative, at least for Christians.

In Journey to the Common Good Walter Bruggeman states that "The bible's vision of the common good is a society in which the poor are not taken advantage of, in which strangers are welcomed and in which people stand in solidarity with one another. Applying this vision to contemporary conditions is a prophetic vocation to which people of faith and conscience are called. Even when that means defending taxes."

Having just finished paying our taxes, two aspects of Bruggeman's notion of the common good and our shared prophetic vocation stand out for me. First, we should work for a redistribution of wealth in our country that is more egalitarian and second demand of our elected leaders tax reform that includes the obvious – raising taxes to fund the common good not only as a moral opportunity but as an ethical obligation. In short, we have taxation with representation and it is incumbent upon us to call our representative elected leaders to do that which they are elected to do – to work for, to budget for and to develop tax policies for the common good rather than disparage taxes as some sort of necessary evil to be done away with.

Having put our tax return in the mail, I hope, pray and will work for a "tax benefit" that will be a benefit to all Americans beautifully expressed in the second verse of "O beautiful for spacious skies," Hymn #719.

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
 who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
 America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
 confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.

In God we Trust,

+Craig

JOYFUL NOISE!

REFLECTIONS FROM THE SR. WARDEN

“There have been many times when,
after long on my knees in a cold chancel,
a stone has rolled from my mind,
and I have looked in and seen the old
questions lie folded, and in place by
themselves, like the piled graveclothes
of love’s risen body.

R.S. Thomas
Welsh Poet and Priest

My Lenten walk passed through some narrow places into a broader resurrection landscape. For me it was a time to let go of some old questions and be ready to experience resurrection in some new insights. It was a time to let go of unrealistic expectations and rise to more realistic opportunities. It was a time to ponder the shift in my participation in this community. Like the exodus experience, resurrection is not just an event which happened in the past, but rather an event which we are able to experience again and again as we open ourselves to its power for renewal, for change, for transformation.

My tenure as Sr. Warden was new as we entered Lent. I walked my way through it, much of it on long beach walks, asking all the while to know what I was supposed to let go of in order to make room for new responsibilities. I pestered the rector regarding job description. I praised God for the honor of being chosen. I read a lot of material and tried to prepare myself. I counted out my money for the extra ferry trips which I knew would be needed. My hope now is to do it justice. Part of the job is in what support I can be to the rector. That includes reminding the congregation of reciprocity – that, as in any happy and successful relationship, the needs of both parties must be met – his as well as ours. It also means helping to keep the rector in touch with the congregation. I hope to earn your trust so that my tenure can be productive for all of us and that it will be a true resurrection experience.

It is not enough to celebrate Easter and say that Christ is risen unless we can say at the same time that **we** have risen. If we are to live the risen life, we must feel new power from its source – to lay at least some new foundations and know that something new is growing within us. There is a passage in Timothy that advises: “do not neglect the gifts which you have been given.” We are blessed with a gifted rector and many gifts among the congregation. To constantly call these gifts forth – to encourage, appreciate and support them – is to be a resurrection community.

Catherine Clemens

May Birthdays

4 Jack Titus
8 June West
8 Mike Elliman
8 Damien Stark
11 Mike Reid
13 Mike Krieger
16 Kai Ross
16 Scott Jones
19 Erv Harlacher
24 Connor Pamatian
29 Betsy Nelson

Anniversaries

4 Mike & Susan Krieger
28 Scott & Bronwen Jones

Prayer List

Lynn Sauter, Lois Baney, Bob Schliebus, Cheryl Parker Mayer, John, John Michael, Melia & Chris, John Fox, John & Jimi Russell, Kyle Palmer, Carol Tully, Louise Tucker, Jennifer Wong, Chet Linowski, Sharon Heller, Jean Blease, Jenny Peters, Ron Johnson, Rosa Deitlein, Ruth Bergsman, Gil Beccera, Fred Munder, Elyse Van Den Bosch, John Prince, Anna Kathryn & Molly, Maureen Hannan, Barbara Padget, Michael Sky, Susy Shaperkoetter, Heather O’Malley, Dawn Lease, Kate, Albert Lindstrom, Don Brickbealer, William Henry Brown, Marilyn Storey, Peter Rutledge.

FIRST SPROUTS

There are weeks and weeks of Easter yet to come. It's a 50 day season and we have just begun to wake up to the new possibilities and the new life we have to share. I wonder what the Easter season will look like through the eyes and lives of Emmanuel Parishioners this Easter season? What will we notice, experience, and share? Keeping our eyes and hearts open is the adventure now. For our parish children, new life has begun as well, and will continue to unfold as we prepare to plan our summer activities. Before launching into those lazy, hazy, crazy days, I want to express gratitude to all who helped the children experience and participate in Holy Week at Emmanuel.



For the parents who brought their young to services, some even at sunrise; you carry the load. Your assistance in the details and your encouragement is always needed. For the Altar Guild's supply of whole palm branches which the children carried in procession, and for the flowers the children brought to the Paschal candle on Easter, thank you.... especially Beth and Beth. The flowers will be new life in the church garden. Thank you to Louise for helping us make Palm crosses at the beginning of Holy Week, and to Luann for the great Alleluia Egg, handcrafted and painted all for the purpose of cracking open on Resurrection Day. To Linda, thank you, for inviting kids to help with the Maundy Thursday dinner, and thanks to Patty for the Alleluia banner, once again restored. For Barbara's idea of a seaglass Alleluia, which will grace our Sunday Circle time, and the colored eggs donated by many of you for the big hunt, a big thank you to all. Finally, special thanks to all of you who connected with the kids, who welcomed and encouraged them, who took time to show interest in their lives and their interests, from airplanes to music. I noticed, and I know it matters a great deal, these memories the kids are gathering up. These are the first sprouts of a new creation and you are participating.



To the kids who led the Palm procession, lit candles, served dinners, raised the Alleluia, invited friends, shared their Easter treasures, and helped us remember the joy and excitement of being with one another to celebrate the risen Christ, thank you..... Emily, Maggie, Christian, Cailin, Meagan and Andrewsome of God's best and youngest creation!

Easter joy,
Cheryl

Ps. When told on Easter Sunday there were 50 days to Easter, it came as a surprise to some children. When told the Easter fire that was lit and placed in 8 candleholders decorated with the letters, A-L-L-E-L-U-I-A would be the fire given to them at Pentecost, one child became very excited and yelled, "I love Pentecost, I love Pentecost and waving the flames!" A little child shall lead us. Thanks be to God for kids, 50 days to celebrate, and the more yet to come.

WORLD LABYRINTH DAY

The third **World Labyrinth Day** will be held on **Saturday May 7, 2011**. World Labyrinth Day is an annual global event celebrated each year on the first Saturday in May, sponsored by The Labyrinth Society, an international organization founded in 1998.

The Labyrinth Society invites the world to **'Walk As One at 1'** in an attempt to create a wave of peaceful energy moving around the planet. To participate, people are invited to walk a labyrinth at 1:00 p.m. in their local time zone. While large group events are planned, no event is too small. Individuals who wish to participate may use a finger labyrinth in the comfort of their home.

HEATHER O'MALLEY

Heather O'Malley was a long time member of our church and sang in the choir. She would like everyone to have her address and phone number, as she still feels she is part of our parish and would like to be remembered.

Heather O'Malley
2233 Main Street
Ferndale, WA 98248
360-312-8649

SUNRISE SERVICE 2011

See more images in the Holy Week slideshow found on the church website....



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*

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PARISH OF
ORCAS ISLAND**

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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NEWSLETTER ITEMS

It's a community effort! **Please submit your newsletter contributions in a Word .doc file to Karen Blinn 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.**

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
PO Box 8
Eastsound, WA 98245

Address Service Requested

RECTOR'S SCHEDULE:

May 18 Departing Seattle for New York City where I will be officiating at the marriage of our son, Court, and Phoebe Lawrence Donham on May 21st.

May 23 Departing New York for Minnesota for time on our farm.

June 15 Departing Minnesota for NYC for Annual Conference on Foreign Relations meeting

June 19 Departing NYC to Minnesota for time on farm and meetings with the Big Stone County Agricultural Department and National Wildlife Refuge

June 30 Arrive home on Orcas

During my time off-island the following clergy will lead worship on Sundays:

May 22, 29, June 5, 12, 19 – The Reverends Kate Kinney and Wray MacKay

June 26 – The Reverend Nancy Tiederman

While I am away, Cathy Clemens, Senior Warden, will be in charge and will be available if you have questions or concerns. I shall be in touch with her on a regular basis.