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## RECTOR'S RUMINATIONS

### “WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MEMBER OF EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL PARISH?”

### AND, WHAT DOES SUCH MEMBERSHIP MEAN TO YOU”

On July 31<sup>st</sup>, I preached a sermon entitled, “What does it mean to be a member of Emmanuel Episcopal Parish?” In response to the question I identified nine aspects of membership as gleaned from **Scripture**, especially during this season of green with the Sunday lessons after Pentecost focusing on the church’s ministry; **Tradition** as found summarized in Book of Common Prayer and particularly the Catechism or “Outline of the Faith”; The Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church in terms of what constitutes ‘a member in good standing’; the Baptismal Covenant as a membership mission and vision statement and **Reason**, our articulated experience of being a member of God’s Family.

By way of review for those who heard the sermon and to share with those who were not present, I noted:

1. Members of Emmanuel **attend worship services on a regular basis**.
2. Members **pray regularly**, for themselves, members of their faith community and the world.
3. Members **care for one another**, even those with whom they disagree.
4. Members do not consider church a “spectator sport.” They **give of their time, talent, and treasure** to further the work of the church by:
  - a. participating in ministry that utilizes their gifts
  - b. pledging [planned regular giving] or tithing [giving 10% of one’s income] to the church
5. Members **yearn to learn** by attending classes and lectures and reading and studying to deepen their knowledge and love of God.
6. Members **work tirelessly for positive change in the world** through the ministry of the church and community-based charitable organizations.
7. Members **actively welcome everyone** who walks through our doors. Members introduce themselves, engage visitors in conversation, invite them to coffee hour, and assist them if they are unfamiliar with the liturgy.
8. Members are evangelists! They **talk about their church** – it’s ministries and its people. They can (and do) articulate what being a member of this worshipping community has meant to them.
9. Members seek to **live out their Baptismal Covenant** as members of God’s family.

As we prepare for our congregational dinner and meeting on Sunday evening, September 11 at 5:30 to discern as a parish family what Christ is calling us to be and do next year and beyond, I invite you to consider a related question – “What does **being a member** of Emmanuel Episcopal Parish **mean to you?**” In short, how and why did you become a member? What compels and draws you to come to worship week after week? How does your membership influence your ministry – on a daily basis and as a member of the Vestry, Altar Guild, Flower Committee, EFM, Rector’s Forum, Music Committee, St. Agnes Guild, Usher, Worship Leader, Choir member, Acolyte, Garden Gang, etc. Said differently, in light of and as a result of your membership, what nourishes you, helps you, inspires you, humbles you, challenges you, governs you, stretches you? And what saddens you, angers you, disappoints you, depresses you, aggravates you? Said still differently, as a member, what do you want to see reinforced and expanded and what do you want to see improved as we look to the future of our life together as members of this parish family?

I suspect that the twelve questions the members of the Vestry answered (see Vestry Report for the Bishop on pages 5 through 11 in this issue of the Newsletter) will serve to aid in answering the question, “What does **being a member** of Emmanuel Episcopal Parish **mean to you?**”

Our discussion on September 11<sup>th</sup> will be more meaningful and helpful if we take some time for personal prayerful reflection before our gathering to continue, with God’s help, to discern our vision for ministry in light of our mission for ministry: to “love God, and God’s creation with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves.”

As a member of and in Christ’s body, I remain, with you,

+Craig

[Additional materials referred to in this article are found on Pages 5-11](#)



### ANNIVERSARY

Bishop Craig was recently able to acquire a John Deere, Model B, 1939 tractor from his Uncle Jigs’ estate. This tractor holds many happy memories from his childhood and is a valued addition to his farm in Minnesota. The opportunity for the tractor arrived at the same time as his fourth year anniversary on Orcas, which was August 7. We gifted him with a John Deere hat to mark the occasion.



### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>

The first Sunday of the month combined service at 10:00 am will be held outside, weather permitting, and in the Parish Hall otherwise. Please bring with you an object or symbol from your working life, past or present. These signs of our labor will be offered and blessed during the service as we remember and give thanks for the gift of work.



### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>

The fall parish season begins with worship and a blessing of the backpacks and schoolbags. Children, youth, young adults and beyond, along with teachers and instructors, please bring your backpacks, planners, lunch bags, whatever.....they and you will be blessed as the season for school begins again.

## JOYFUL NOISE!!

### REFLECTIONS FROM THE SR. WARDEN

One of the parables of faith is about getting out of the boat and walking on water. For me a test of faith is getting **on** the boat at 6:25 a.m. twice a week – the ferry, that is - to travel hither to Emmanuel ----

*“Hither, hither, hither,  
Love its boon\* has sent.”*

John Keats

.....hither to join in the dance – a dance whose allure promises a homecoming and a journey with moments of sacred presence.....

sacred presence in liturgy, in relationships, in learning, in encouragement, in soaring organ, in acute awareness of acceptance and belonging, in bread and wine.....

sacred presence to fill a life with purpose, to affirm priorities, to experience joyful noise.....

sacred presence that demands praise, that travels close to the center, that confirms the love which drew it, that begs faithfulness, that informs a life, that transforms a life, that beckons toward the world and the unknown.....

sacred presence that supports the risk required to shape an authentic future.....

sacred presence that challenges, “What do I want to be?” Who do I want to be?”.....

sacred presence that shouts, “don’t miss out!!”.....

hither toward life in community.....

hither toward Love’s vessel, the church.....

hither toward fellowship that nourishes, inspires, challenges.....

hither toward a place that allows one’s own unique unfolding.....

hither toward the Light.....

hither to dance with the Lord of the Dance.....

hither toward Emmanuel.

*“Hither, hither love”.....*

*\*blessing, gift*

*Catherine Clemens*



## EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY GRADUATION AND MORE!

The EFM year is drawing to a close and celebrates three new graduates. This year-end is especially exciting as we celebrate the graduation of Ingrid Karnikis, Judy Schliebus, and Susan Krieger from the program. They all have done an outstanding job in EFM over the past four years. Please join me in congratulating them for their wonderful accomplishment!

Education for Ministry (EFM) begins its seventh year at Emmanuel ... and continues to be an important part of adult Christian education in our Parish. EFM provides the opportunity to discover how to best respond to our call to ministry by providing an in-depth and practical theological education.

EFM is a four-year program with class members meeting for 34 weeks each year. During the four years, participants study the Hebrew Testament, the Christian Testament, church history, and ethics and ministry in-the-world.

Importantly, EFM teaches how to apply this new knowledge to daily life through regular Theological Reflection (TR) on current, real world issues. TR is like looking at issues with the newspaper in one hand and scripture in the other.

EFM at Emmanuel is unique in that we design the program to accommodate the busy schedules of our participants, including vacations. The program is built around you and your needs.

There is so much more to tell you about EFM and how you might participate in the program. Our new EFM year begins shortly. If you are interested in learning more, please call me.

More Joy, Tom

Tom Murdock (6166)

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## ESL CLASS

George Karnikis will teach a six-week course in ESL (English as a second language) free of charge, beginning on Tuesday, September 6. It will be open to all ages, there will be no registration. If anyone knows of Spanish speaking persons who would benefit from this class, encourage them to come to Emmanuel Church Parish Hall, at 6:30 p.m. on September 6. If you have questions, please call George Karnikis at 376-4382.

George Karnikis enseñará un curso de seis semanas en ESL (Inglés como segunda lengua) por gratis, a partir del martes 6 de septiembre. Todas las edades están invitadas y no habrá ningún registro. Si alguien sabe de las personas de que hablan español, y que puedan beneficiar de esta clase, instamos a que vengan a la iglesia Emmanuel, salón parroquial, a las 6 y media el 6 de septiembre. Si usted tiene preguntas, por favor llame George Karnikis en 376-4382.

## MATERIALS REFERRED TO IN THE “RECTOR’S RUMINATIONS” :

Dear Bishop Rickel:

This report is a group voice, based on the following 12 questions which were delivered by computer one-a-day to all vestry members, followed by a group think, and integration of the thoughts of our rector, Bishop Craig Anderson, delivered before he departed for vacation:

1. What did Emmanuel do last year that you will remember?
2. Is Emmanuel a relevant voice in the mix of places people are looking for answers?
3. What is a core value to you, and is it practiced at Emmanuel?
4. What ministry would you like to see us begin at Emmanuel?
5. How does Emmanuel support
  - a. Your personal growth in the spirit
  - b. Your energy to serve and care for others
6. Our numbers are up. Our pledges are up. To what do you attribute that?
7. What are our accomplishments in the last three years?
  - a. Communication
  - b. Faith Formation/Worship
  - c. Outreach
8. What are your pressing concerns?
9. What are our challenges at Emmanuel?
10. Does Emmanuel have an identifiable vision? How would you define it?
11. What do you think we do best at Emmanuel?
12. Is there anything that is missing for you at Emmanuel?

We report as follows:

We believe that our congregation, following a period of unrest and then a time of absence of a rector, has settled very nicely with our present rector and is enjoying a time of harmony. We are nourished by his leadership in worship, prayer life and study, by good lay leadership, and by our care for each other. We left behind us in 2010 a year of fond memories, accented by completion of the labyrinth and the blessing of the land by the Samish Elders. Our harmony is reflected in growth in numbers and a warm, embracing community which promotes and supports our many ministries.

We are able to claim these accomplishments of the last three years:

- Monthly Dinner Kitchen
- Significant contribution to the Community Food Bank
- Permanent labyrinth
- New roof on the church and Benson Hall
- Relationship with the Samish
- Liaison for Northwest First Nation tribal affairs
- Added opportunities for worship
- Some innovation and creativity in our worship
- A growing youth program
- Rector’s Forum (adult education)
- Development of a new website
- Expanded parish newsletter (now online)
  - New team of acolytes
- Adding to and training Worship Leaders and Lectors
- Mid-week Eucharist and healing service
  - Through vestry retreats, continuing to work on goals for worship/liturgy, community development, spiritual formation and education, and pastoral care and

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intergenerational ministry

Addition of a part-time funded position of Coordinator of Family and Children's Ministries

Contribution to relief in Haiti through the Noramisa Project, founded on Orcas Island

Expanded prayer and worship services such as Advent evening services, ecumenical

Lenten soup and worship services, Choral Evensong, Easter Sunrise Service,

expanded Holy Week worship

Creation of position of Parish Chancellor for legal advice and establishment of

bequests and planned gifts

Establishment of Orcas Island Council of Churches with our rector serving as convener

Starting an occasional "Thursday Night at the Movies" event with wine and cheese and

open to the community

In Search of Beethoven

In Search of Mozart

Pete Seeger

Upcoming "Finding our Way"

To quote our Treasurer, financially we have had "several banner years," given increased pledges and income, correcting past financial irregularities, paying a past delinquent Diocesan assessment, developing new in-depth financial reports and ending 2010 with a slight budget surplus.

Growth in numbers and pledges:

Total Attendance:

2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
5886	5702	5843	5384	4726

Average Weekly Attendance:

90	89	95	89	74
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Pledge Totals:

2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
\$146,823	\$137,677	\$131,216	\$123,313	\$71,324

Number of pledges:

89	72	74	68	54
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Note: During this period 10% of pledged income was used to fund various organizations here on Orcas Island (see attached **Emmanuel Outreach 2010**) with an emphasis on grants in support of the Environment, the Elderly and Children.

In addition, as an important part of our outreach see attached **Use of Church Facilities, 2010**.

We acknowledge these challenges:

An aging congregation

Attracting new membership – all ages

An eventual change in rector

Financial preparation for a change of rector

Increase in stewardship

More administrative support with better use of technology

Better connection to Diocesan programs and assists

Ways to reach more young people

Increased coordination of pastoral care for the six months that Jan is away

Better and intentional use of Benson Hall, including the fund-raising for remodel

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- Continue to develop programs for education, including an evening study group
- Continue to develop action regarding environmental issues on the island
- Better communication – vestry to congregation
- Some more contemplative opportunity – worship, retreats, quiet days
- Possible transitional housing
- Provide transportation to church
- Help those without a voice
- Sustained effort to reach the unchurched
- Expand ordained leadership

And we also acknowledge the concerns which some of our people carry personally:

- Deteriorating physical health
- Financial health in a deteriorated economy
- Well-being of children and grandchildren in a slow economy and changing environment

Our Mission Statement is:

As members of the historic village church, our mission is to love God and God's creation with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Through our series of questions and subsequent dialogue, we identified the fact that we, as a vestry, have not defined a vision. Our rector has articulated his vision:

“Historically, Emmanuel has been considered the “Village Church” in terms of its location, ministry and outreach to the community. Our vision is to expand both ministry and outreach on and beyond the island by providing leadership for increased ecumenical ministry in worship and social justice, providing leadership as an incarnational church in addressing environmental concerns as a Genesis Covenant parish and serving as a location for reconciliation for American Indian and Alaska native issues and concerns symbolized by Madrona Point.”

and we agree that we each probably have our own visions, but we have not discerned with our rector and congregation a vision for Emmanuel. In addition, part of our work must be to discern how the Diocesan Vision is being carried out at Emmanuel, and how to support our rector's goals in his discerned vision. But we are now aware of our need to articulate how WE envision the church in five years, in ten years. Certainly our vision must be an outgrowth of our mission statement. We also think we have pieces of what may become a vision statement: We are agreed that we like being known as the “Village Church,” reflecting relevant, intelligent thought, warm hospitality, good relationships with all our neighbors, ecumenical participation, leadership in matters of social justice and environmental concerns, a gathering place for youth, a place of reconciliation for First Nation peoples, and a source of care and concern for those in need. In spite of a formal vision statement, we support a broad outreach to the community which seems to emerge from an entrepreneurial spirit, some solo visions, a remarkable reserve of energy, and participation in our worship and communal spiritual life.

Areas of focus:

- To develop a vision statement
- To connect with the Diocesan Vision
- To understand and determine how to support our rector's goals as stated in his vision
- To prepare, both financially and otherwise, for the eventual change of rector

We affirm the following core values around which our ministries are shaped:

- Worship first
- Religious tolerance, respect, and being a wellspring of reconciliation
- Communication
- Caring for each other and anyone in need

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**September Birthdays**

12	Lori Oakes
16	Emery Emmes
16	Nancy Malott
16	Cathy Clemens
17	Jon Wilkins
18	Jenny Hovelman
26	Ken Brown
26	Marilyn Andrews
28	Judith Cook
28	Effie Johnson
30	Lynn Emmes

**September Anniversaries**

11	Ian & Kim Wareham
18	Ed & Barbie Benshoof
21	Noel & Pat Jeffrey
27	Don & Fran Pritchett

**Prayer List:**

Bob Schliebus, 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 Deitlein, Ruth Bergsman, Fred Munder, 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, Monte Miner, Joe Goodrich, John Russell, Bill Gincig and family.

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Community which is all-embracing  
 Priority of the family  
 Leadership inside and outside the church  
 Nourishment of the spirit through prayer and study

And we acknowledge and applaud:  
 A gifted rector  
 An inspired organist/choir director  
 An energetic family, children and intergenerational coordinator  
 An able office staff  
 A talented webmaster  
 A committed vestry  
 An extraordinary lay leadership  
 A trained and disciplined team of Worship Leaders and Acolytes  
 The plus of island-based supply clergy and substitute organists  
 And HOSPITALITY PLUS!!

We ask our Bishop  
 How we can support him and his vision  
 To consider our many questions

We ask our rector  
 What we can do to support the goals of his discerned vision  
 What we can do to support him personally

We agree that we are very happy with our present rector and we ask what he needs from us to continue with us as long as he desires to be in parish ministry

We ask you both:  
 What is a contemporary Episcopalian?  
 Most of our accomplishments seem to be about doing:  
 how do we measure and report spiritual growth?

In conclusion, we feel Emmanuel is at an important juncture in its ministry. Any potential for growth or deepening of our ministry requires an awareness of the three congregations that make up parish membership: year-round residents, part-time residents, (second and third homeowners), and tourists

We are, as part of the whole church, in the midst of a paradigm shift, both in how we express ourselves theologically, in how we worship, and in how we interface with other denominations and other faiths.

Our growth and expansion will require strong clergy and lay leadership. We believe we have such leadership, as well as devotion, gifts, and participation, and can meet the challenges to which we are called.

Finally, when asked in Question #12, "Is anything missing for you at Emmanuel?" the predominant answer was "NO". That sums it up!!!

*Submitted by Catherine Clemens,  
 Sr. Warden*

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### Bishop's Visitation Customary Planning Form

Date of Visit: July 17, 2011

Church: Emmanuel Episcopal Parish of Orcas Island

Contact: Bishop Craig Anderson  
360-376-2352 (church)  
360-376-7860 (home)  
rector@orcsepiscopal.org  
www.orcsepiscopal.org

#### Agenda of the Day:

Saturday, July 16 - 6 p.m. reception at Bishop Craig and Liz Anderson's home with members of vestry and their spouses, and the staff and spouses.

Sunday, July 17 - Combined service at 10:00 a.m. Bishop Rickel will be asked to preside and give the homily.

Sunday, July 17 - following the coffee hour after the 10 a.m. service, Bishop Rickel will meet with the vestry and staff. Lunch will be served.

Readings of the day: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 11

Genesis 28:10-19a  
Psalm 139: 1-11, 22-23  
Romans 8:12-25  
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Physical address of Emmanuel Episcopal Parish of Orcas Island

218 Main Street  
Eastsound, WA

There are (hopefully) no issues, challenges, special recognitions, dedications or celebration planned for Sunday, July 17.

The following people request to be confirmed into the Episcopal Church:

Bronwen Courtney Jones  
Douglas Schliebus

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The following people request to be received into the Episcopal Church:

Sally Elliman  
Karin Fuhring  
Jenny Hovelman  
Marilyn Parman  
Judy Schliebus  
Jack R. Titus  
Linda Watts  
Donald Jack Yerly Jr.

In addition, we are enclosing the following:

Vestry Report  
Outreach 2010  
Use of Church Facilities 2010  
Three church newsletters: May 2011, January 2011, and October 2010

Next week, we will email a copy of the order of the service for July 17.

We will send in the Confirmation Record Form after the Bishop's visit with the names of those received and confirmed.

Please let us know if we have forgotten anything.

Karen Blinn & Noel Jeffrey  
Parish Administrators  
Emmanuel Episcopal Parish of Orcas Island

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**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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## USE OF CHURCH FACILITIES 2010

### Episcopal Services

Two Episcopal services on Sunday  
Rector's Forum & Eucharist (weekly)  
Altar Guild meetings  
St. Agnes Guild  
Music Committee meetings  
Worship committee meetings  
Brown Bag Book Club (monthly)  
Brown Bag Concerts (weekly in July and August)  
Lenten services  
Evensong  
Lessons and Carols  
Choir rehearsals  
Weddings  
Memorial services

### Other regular meetings and services

Lutheran church services  
AA, Al-Anon groups (9 meetings per week)  
OA (Overeaters Anon) (weekly)  
Labyrinth (ongoing)  
Dinner kitchen (monthly)  
Assistance at Food Bank (weekly)  
Funhouse Board meetings (monthly)  
O.I. Realtors Assoc. (monthly)  
A Cappella rehearsals  
Tai Chi classes (weekly)  
Latin class (weekly)  
Music performance group (bi-monthly)  
Salon de Orcas (monthly)  
Grief recovery group meetings  
Music recitals

### School Functions (intermittent)

OASIS School  
Montessori School  
Salmonberry School  
School of the Salish Sea  
Baccalaureate services  
Graduation events  
Fundraiser events  
Soccer, basketball banquets

### Miscellaneous (intermittent)

Noramise (Haiti fundraising project)  
OPAL fundraiser dinner  
Fire Fighters banquet  
Orcas Community Foundation meetings  
Orcas Choral Society rehearsals  
Island Sinfonia rehearsals  
Homeowners' Association meetings  
Community Church KindlingFest functions  
Movies (Mozart, Beethoven, Seeger)  
Consensus training meetings

### Library

Retreat  
Author reception  
Planning meeting

### Orcas Center

Chamber Music Festival workshop  
Children's workshop

**EMMANUEL  
EPISCOPAL  
PARISH OF  
ORCAS ISLAND**

Emmanuel Episcopal Church  
PO Box 8  
Eastsound, WA 98245

**Address Service Requested**

**EMMANUEL  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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360.376.2352  
E-MAIL:  
PARISHOFFICE@ORCASEPISCOPAL.ORG

***WE'RE ON THE WEB!***  
Visit Us at  
**[www.orcasepiscopal.org](http://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](mailto: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 25<sup>th</sup> of every month.**

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## **FALL FAITH FORMATION**

### **EMBRACING EMERGENCE CHRISTIANITY DVD AND GROUP DISCUSSION**

Author, historian and keen cultural observer Phyllis Tickle invites us to join her in examining the changing face of Christianity and culture. Phyllis surveys 2000 years of Western history, identifying the great upheavals that occur in Western culture and Christianity every 500 years. The last was the Great Reformation of the 1500's; the next is happening now.

What are the implications of this "Great Emergence," both culturally and spiritually? What are the key questions and issues that need to be addressed? Where might we be headed next?

And, perhaps most importantly, where are you, at this moment? Might you be an emergence Christian?

There are six sessions on the DVD. Each session begins with a video presentation by Phyllis Tickle, lasting from 10-15 minutes and will be followed with group discussion facilitated alternately by Bishop Craig and Cheryl Danskin

#### **THE SIX SESSIONS:**

- Session 1: Emergence 101
- Session 2: Where Now is the Authority?
- Session 3: The 20th Century and Emergence
- Session 4: Gifts from Other Times
- Session 5: How Then Shall We Live?
- Session 6: Hallmarks of Emergence

The sessions will begin Wed., Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the parish hall.

The additional Wednesdays are Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12 and 19. If you are interested in attending there is a sign up sheet on the parish hall table.