

WHERE TO FIND IT:

"Caring" Award	1
Shaping a Vision	2
Rector's Ruminations	3
Four Years of EFM	4
Joyful Noise	5
Holy Conversation	6
Birthdays/Anniversaries	6
Prayer List	6
Retreat	7
Stewardship	7
Blessing of the Animals	8



**CARING AWARD
TO
EMMANUEL CAMPER**



Congratulations to one of our young parishioners, Christian Heisinger, who was nominated by fellow campers and YMCA staff for considering the needs and feelings of others. He demonstrated leadership and put a Y core value into action as a camper at Orkila. Christian and his family will be traveling to Seattle October 1st to attend the ceremony where he will receive the award for Caring. Way to be, Christian!





image source: jeffcrawtd.wordpress.com

SHAPING A VISION

We, at Emmanuel, are on a journey to shape our vision for the future – where do we want to go? Who do we want to be? Our goal is the evolution of a vision which will articulate our center and direct our energy through the next few years. We do this in the belief that we will be lifted to clarity by the Holy Spirit.

We enjoyed an all-parish event on September 11 where, after a fine meal, we divided into seven small groups which met in various locations for an hour and responded to two questions: “What do you appreciate, affirm and want to see continue at Emmanuel?” and “What about Emmanuel would you like to change, add to, or alter?” Below is a summary of the responses. If anyone would like to add to the summary, please do so by phone, email, or at coffee hour to Cathy or Cheryl. All comment is valued.

Affirm:

Overall positive feeling of family – support, social opportunities, connectedness, absence of conflict, hospitality

Appreciate the rector, liturgy, music, garden, labyrinth, altar guild, outreach, liturgical variety, opportunity for education, children’s program, use of church by community, stewardship, all churches on Orcas working together, prayer list.

Change:

Add more contemporary music, encourage more involvement, more reaching out to the unchurched, whole congregation join in reading prayer list, event once a year to benefit another country, expand quiet time before church and in liturgy, revamp coffee hour, more guest speakers, recognize graduating seniors, reminder to food bank contribution, offer rides to church, improve communication, help new people with the liturgy.

When everyone returned to the parish hall, each group shared their ideas. The evening was concluded with Compline.

RECTOR'S RUMINATIONS FOR OCTOBER 2011 "A VISION TO S.E.E."

I have been thinking about and reflecting on our Parish Meeting and dinner on September 11th a good bit over the past few days. Like many of you, I too, felt it was a special time. – the beautiful late summer evening, the simple elegance of the dinner, the fresh local summer produce that we enjoyed, the friendship and sharing at our tables, the openness that characterized the honest affirmation of the various aspects of our ministry as a parish, identifying areas where we can expand and deepen our life together as a parish family and our mission as the "village church." And finally, the gentle movement of the Spirit as we ended the evening with Compline by candlelight.

How did God speak to us through the voice of one another? The accompanying article by Cathy and Cheryl summarizing the table discussions provide a distillation of what you affirm in the areas of preaching, teaching, pastoral care, outreach, hospitality and worship. They also point to opportunities to build on the strength of our music program to continue to experience innovative liturgies, to encourage participation of younger church members and to provide even broader religious leadership within our community.

The voices that I hear, our voices were affirming of where we have been over the past few years, where we are now and what God is calling us to be and do as we look to the future. Such affirmation can be measured in terms of the growth we have experienced in attendance, membership, financial support and new programs; perhaps more important, the growth of the spirit and genuine love that we feel as a parish family in response to God's love for us. Such affirmation, however, is not complacency. The notion of "emerging," changing, evolving, reforming church reminds us that the Church is not a static institution but a dynamic community of Christians working to extend the ministry of reconciliation until the end of time. In short, we are pilgrim people, on a journey charting a course, ever moving toward a point Omega drawn by God's love. The challenge, I believe, is to reappropriate the tradition that is dear to us while being open to new ways of being and doing the ministry that defines us as *ecclesia*, the people of God, the Church.

Before and following our dinner meeting, some of you asked me what I feel and think we should consider as we envision the future of Emmanuel Parish.

First, I affirm what you have identified and articulated in the summary article in this newsletter by Cathy and Cheryl and agree with most of the suggestions for deepening and strengthening our shared ministry. However, I S.E.E. three things that are needed as we continue on our journey guided by a vision embodied in our mission statement, "to love God and God's creation with all our heart, and soul, and mind and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves." In short we need to SEE our mission in our vision. In breaking down the S.E.E. acronym, the "S" stands for Stewardship- stewardship of our earth, stewardship of our common humanity, stewardship of our resources to include time and money. Such stewardship theologically is our response to God's call to us to be co-creators as an incarnational Church.

The second 'E' represents the need for Evangelism in recognition that as co-creators and stewards of our environment, we are all daughters and sons of God. Our task, our ministry as an incarnational church, is to share the love of Christ with all persons and invite those without a church home to become members of our parish family. Such evangelism is premised on our respect for other families of God within the Christian fold and other religious faiths. In short, Evangelism is sharing the good news of God's love for us made incarnate in the person of Jesus as the Way, Truth and Life that is love incarnate. If we love our Church and that which we affirm, it follows that we will want to share it and invite others to know and be a part of it.

Continued on page 4

Rector's Ruminations, continued from page 3

In the upcoming weeks I shall focus on how we might more clearly S.E.E. the vision that beckons us. I also note S.E.E. corresponds to the Diocesan Vision of Stewardship, Evangelization with an emphasis on those 35 years and younger, and third, Congregational Development.

A final reflection on our parish meeting on September 11th. We began the morning 9/11 noting the importance of the need to remember the events of 9/11 and to forgive not only others but ourselves. We concluded the day with a gathering that called us to look to the future by remembering and affirming the past and present and praying that "The Almighty grant us a peaceful night and perfect end."

In Christ,
+Craig

FOUR YEARS OF EFM

It has been a privilege to be part of the EFM group for the past four years.

Each year began with a "Spiritual Autobiography" which led to a discovery of our classmates' lives, and allowed us to form a cohesive group. At EFM we were able to speak about anything without fear that it would be repeated or laughed at.

In year one we studied the Old Testament---difficult reading, but it offered much in the way of insight especially with regard to the current unrest in the Middle East.

Year two was the New Testament where we all felt more at ease with the familiar words and parables.

The third year was church history with an interesting overview of many philosophers and theologians, some familiar, some not. There were discussions of various doctrines and the surprising knowledge that sometimes a schism would be brought about by One Word!

Year four contained more philosophers and theologians and the connection between world events and the development of Christianity and other world religions. We also discussed what our individual contributions might be in the line of service to others.

Theological Reflection is of primary importance in EFM. It consists of taking a contemporary problem/situation, and examining it through the lenses of tradition and the modern world view, and arriving at a position and plan of action.

Our lively discussions were guided by the able hand and gentle words of Tom Murdock. We owe him much for encouraging us to think creatively.

I would recommend EFM to anyone who is curious about the history of the church, Christianity, and other world religions, and who wishes to become part of a vibrant, loving, and thoughtful group of friends.

Ingrid Karnikis 9-21-11

JOYFUL NOISE

REFLECTIONS FROM THE SR. WARDEN

Change

I am a farmer. Farmers' lives are all about changing weather, changing seasons, changing hours of daylight, changing crops, changing prices - in other words, all about change. Farmers are always on a journey from one set of circumstances to another. To keep up with the changes, we take advantage of every opportunity to make a good adjustment. We surf the web, listen to weather reports, read the latest farm periodicals, and talk to each other. And we understand the cycles. When the trees begin to shed their leaves, we know that foliage will appear again in spring. When we sow our seed, we have faith that a crop will emerge as the weather warms. We enter into death yearly, but come back rejoicing.

Change in the church is not usually as noticeable or immediate as change in the weather. Nevertheless, it is ongoing. We are always on a journey and journey is part of our scriptural heritage. It began with Abraham. We know that in response to sacred presence, Abraham set out from his home in present-day Iraq - *not knowing where he was going* - with only an imagined promise of blessing, some real estate and an expanded family at the end of the journey. Fulfillment of the promise meant conquering his distrust of the unknown and some exploration into a different landscape. So he traveled as an immigrant through foreign lands, living in tents, coping with foreign languages, and always searching out new grazing for his herds and flocks. His reward was the blessing of children and the knowledge that his descendants would inherit what had been begun in him.

We are a culture of immigrants – every one of us has an immigrant somewhere in our personal history. Exploring new horizons is part of who we are. So exploring some new horizons in the church should come naturally to us. Some of the landscape ahead is as yet a bit unfamiliar – but, like Abraham, we can experience the occasional change of space, expose ourselves to some new language and new music, explore expanded opportunities for nourishment. The journey beckons and promises that, if our search is authentic, we will ensure a future for the church we love.

With farmers, good crops are all about good soil – careful preparation is essential. This fall Emmanuel offers several opportunities to prepare for changes taking place in the church. There is a new evening offering on Wednesdays at 7:00 which explores the “Emergent Church” with Phyllis Tickle. The Forum is reviewing Marcus Borg’s new book, **Speaking Christian**, Thursdays, 12:00-2:00 in Benson Hall. These are to be followed by some DVD’s which feature current theologians such as John Spong, Barbara Brown Taylor and Richard Rohr, with opportunity for questions and discussion. There is also a list of resources for exploring individually. Search the table in the foyer of the parish hall and notice the book display there as well as some new offerings in the tract rack. As with farming, God does the growing, but it is up to us to prepare the soil so that growth can take place. The opportunities mentioned above are preparation for growth and smooth journey. They are seeds sown to the future.

Catherine Clemens

October Birthdays

- 2 Amanda Reid
- 7 Dana Sabine
- 15 Peggy Wareham
- 17 Linda Bryant
- 17 Jennifer Johnson
- 17 Steve Sabine
- 18 Aaron Bennett
- 19 Catherine Peterson
- 20 Steve Malott
- 21 Lizz Hanks
- 24 Sarah Geiser

October Anniversaries

- 7 Gil & Karen Blinn
- 7 Robert & Louise Tucker
- 11 David & Barbara Evans
- 15 Steve & Lynn Emmes
- 18 Mike & Jan Reid

Prayer List

John, John Michael, Melia & Chris, John Fox, Kyle Palmer, Carol Tully, Louise Tucker, Jennifer Wong, Sharon Heller, Jean Blease Jenny Peters, Ron Johnson, Nora Deitlein, Ruth Bergsman, Anna Kathryn & Molly, Barbara Padget, Dawn Lease, Kate, Willian Henry Brown, Marilyn Storey, Peter Rutledge, Ross, Monica Lucas, Marsha Cowles, Dick Zornes, Monte Miner, Joe Goodrich, John Russell, Judy Phillips, Kaye Mattson, Bob & Heather Smith, Michael Plautz

SHAPING A VISION THROUGH HOLY CONVERSATION

On the second Sunday of September, Emmanuel parish launched the beginning of what is being called, *Shaping A Vision*. Shared affirmations and changes regarding our faith community served as an icebreaker to what will be a journey to an Emmanuel vision.

While many things are good and unique in the life of this parish, the leadership of Emmanuel has come to recognize we do not have an articulated vision, and as we know from the familiar Proverb, where there is no vision, the people perish. What we do know however, is that we have strengths and gifts in this parish community—we attest to their presence often, and there is no better place to come from for vision development. ... building on strength.

But how to shape a vision is the question in my mind. How is it defined so we know what it might look like when it surfaces? And how do we all share in the participation of vision shaping? Those questions, plus how to plan for vision development and gather the necessary data for the three big questions a vision must address: who are we, what is God's call to do and be, and who is our neighbor?

A vision I believe is about something unique born out of the dynamics of the unique individuals gathered in a unique place and time. It is developed out of the WE of our life together.... our faith, our intelligence and our creativity that is more complete than any one individual, committee or one time meeting can ever be. The manifestation of vision will come through all of us, a community shaped vision made possible by our willingness to be part of something larger than ourselves and our individual preferences.

I believe the best of our years in wisdom and experience is waiting to be brought to a sacred dialogue for the future. Through holy conversation we can gift the young with a direction, as well as all the rest of us tracking in the 2nd half of life. We can be a community of holy conversation, many conversations, ongoing and transformative. Even our planning to shape vision can serve as a spiritual practice, and if structured well, vision development through conversation can allow us to be in one another's presence, hearing in our togetherness and our voices, the Spirit's Voice. Shaping a vision through holy conversation is one way, a stepping stone to a future God is waiting for us in, a future waiting to unfold through us. Are you ready for the next conversation?

Cheryl

RETREAT WITH RHEA MILLER



The Rector's Forum will sponsor an all-day Retreat with Rhea Miller entitled "You Are The Light of the World: The Inner Paradigm Shift." It will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 20, with lunch provided. This all-day retreat will explore what it means for each of us to be the Light of the world through a series of exercises, reflections, song and prayer. Participants should bring along a notebook or journal.

Rhea is a graduate of Episcopal Divinity School and has preached recently at Emmanuel, as well as leading the Rector's Forum for two sessions. She is author of the book, *Cloudhand, Clenched Fist*, which is a valuable resource for the present study at Emmanuel about the Emerging Church.

The Retreat is open to anyone – please bring a friend. Also, please sign up in the office - we need the numbers for lunch.

STEWARDSHIP

We are nearing the end of the "green" season and the Stewardship thrust that traditionally wraps it up. The cycle of our church year derives from the Hebrew calendar which was centered around three agricultural festivals. These were times when the first and the best of the harvest were offered in thanksgiving to the Lord. The third agricultural festival is Sukkot, which falls this year in mid-October: "You shall celebrate the festival of ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in your labors out of the field" (Exodus 23:16). This was the greatest of the three festivals and is commonly known as the "Season of our Rejoicing." It is the perfect focus for Stewardship.

The "kick-off" for stewardship will be on October 2nd, when, along with the blessing of the animals, Bishop Craig will offer his thoughts on stewardship as part of his vision for Emmanuel's future. This will be followed in succeeding Sundays by thoughts from several of the laity on how the offering of our first and our best contributes to the realization of a vision.

2011-2012 VESTRY MEMBERS

CATHY CLEMENS
KATE HANSEN
SCOTT HEISINGER
SCOTT JONES
BETH JURGENSEN
DARLEEN KENT
HARLAN PEDERSEN
JOHN PRINCE
JAN REID
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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.**



**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
OCTOBER 2ND – EMMANUEL LABYRINTH**

In keeping with the tradition of St. Francis of Assisi, Emmanuel Parish will hold its annual Blessing of the Animals on the labyrinth at 11:15 am. St. Francis himself along with parish children will be handing out treats for animal friends following the blessing. Please consider your pet's needs and others, by providing a carrier or leash. In addition, all animal lovers are welcome prior to the blessing of pets to the service of worship at 10:00 am celebrating all God's creation. It will be held in the parish hall. For more information, call the church office at 376-2352, Tues.-Fri., 9:00-1:00 pm., or go to the church web site at www.orcasepiscopal.org.