



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
McHenry, IL



Weekly ePistle
December 19, 2018

New and Notable



Christmas Eve Reception

*You are warmly invited to a festive
Christmas Eve Reception
Following the nine o'clock Eucharist.
Family and friends are most welcome.*

*Please let us know if you can bring a plate or platter
of something sweet or savory. Thank you!
Call or email 815-385-0390 or lisa@stpaulmchenry.com*



Fr. Bill as crucifer of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Phoebus, Virginia, 1953

Thoughts from Bill

EMMANUEL

“They shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”

When I was in High School my father was stationed at Fort Monroe, Virginia, and I attended a small Episcopal Church in Phoebus, just outside the front gate, named Emmanuel. We worshiped in a small wooden building which is no longer there. But the Priest, Father George Little, was a kind man who helped me feel that God was present in my life.

Being the son of an Army officer didn't help me make friends at High School. We were bused to school on buses that had the initials PBA (Public Busing Administration). However, the town kids called us “Post Born Animals.” It was hard to make friends with the town kids for many reasons. But the most important was that they BELONGED! We didn't. They were born and raised in Hampton, we were transients. Emmanuel Episcopal Church provided a wonderful refuge for me. I loved the worship and attending there mainly because I never felt judged. We were a gaggle of human beings seeking the love and forgiveness that the Episcopal Church is famous for. I never heard a sermon that didn't in some way or another reflect God as loving and forgiving. As a priest, I've always tried to love and accept people as children of God, who believe that Jesus, God's gift of love and forgiveness, is always present when two or three or hundreds are gathered and the Holy Spirit that is engendered in this wonderful community. Happily, I've always felt this here at St. Paul's in McHenry.

So, “they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”

Advent blessings,

Bill

Please note: The office will be closed December 24th - January 1st.



This Sunday, December 23, is the fourth (last) Sunday in Advent. Right after the service we will change over to the Christmas Season. The vestments are white, the nativity scene is placed and we decorate with flowers. Please plan on staying a little while after church on Sunday so that we can prepare for our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

Thank you for your dedication to this ministry.
Deb Lang



*A Christmas message from our Presiding Bishop
The Most Reverend Michael C. Curry*

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/library/video/2018-christmas-message-presiding-bishop-michael-curry>

In case you missed it...

St. Paul's First Caroling Party on Sunday, December 9th



Advent Baby Baskets

There are mothers and babies out there who need what we can provide. Help fill our Advent baskets!

Honoring the humble birth of the Christ Child

St. Paul's will once again be donating baby supplies to mothers and babies in need. Please contribute to our baby baskets! Items needed are:

Receiving blankets
Baby bottles for water, juice, formula
Burp cloths
Wet wipes
Diaper rash ointment

Soft toys for newborns
Onesies
Changing pads
Baby lotion
Etc., etc.!

This year the contents of our baskets will be enthusiastically received by 1st Way in Johnsburg which will distribute them to young mothers in need.

The Way of Love

The program known as The Way of Love continues this Sunday. It's a spiritual practice for Advent that includes worship, *doing*, learning, praying, blessing, reflection, and rest. All in a very doable and accessible format. ([See the Advent Calendar here.](#))

If you'd like to jump in, feel free to join us Sunday during Coffee & Conversation. Look for us at the far end of the parish hall.

The usual fare...

Lessons and Hymns for this Sunday, December 23, 2018

(Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year C)

by the Rev. William P. McLemore

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

The Old Testament: Micah 5:2-5a. The prophet promises that God is sending a ruler for Israel who will "stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord." **Psalm 80:1-7.** The psalmist seeks God's restoration as a shepherd for Israel. **The Epistle:** Hebrews 10:5-10. The writer spurns the old offerings of Israel and affirms that Jesus is God's offering "once for all." **The Gospel:** Luke 1:39-45 (46-55). Here Elizabeth greets Mary with her blessing and Mary responds by offering her joy, saying, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my Spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

THE HYMNS:

Processional: No. 56. "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." This hymn is based on the seven great Antiphons which were said on successive days before and after Vespers between December 17th and the 23rd inclusive (mostly among Eastern Christians). Each of the Antiphons salutes the coming Messiah under one of the many titles ascribed to him in Holy Scripture, and closes with a petition based upon the salutation. The tune is reputed to be from a French missal and the refrain is almost identical with the opening phrases. The seven titles in this text are: Emmanuel; Wisdom from on High; Lord of Might; Branch of Jesse; Key of David; Dayspring; and Desire of Nations.

Sequence: No. 54. "Savior of the Nations Come." As attested by Augustine in 372, as well as by other early writers, Ambrose wrote this hymn in Latin in the fourth century. Martin Luther (1483-1546) translated this text into German in 1523. Consequently "Savior of the Nations" has become possibly the best known of the Lutheran Advent hymns. The tune, "Nun Komm Der Heiland" is a chorale derived from a chant and is among the simplest of the Lutheran repertoire.

Presentation: No. 268. "Ye Who Claim the Faith of Jesus." This hymn was written by an Anglican priest named Vincent Stucky Stratton Coles (1845-1929). He was the author of three hymns: "O Shepherd of the sheep", "Ye who own the faith of Jesus", and "We pray thee, heavenly Father." This hymn tells the story of the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary and is found in the Holy Days section of our Hymnal. The tune, "Julion," was composed by a Professor of Sacred Music at General Seminary, Dr. David Hurd (born 1950).

Communion: "O Lord, Hear My Prayer." This is another Taize community musical paraphrase to a psalm (102:1-2). It was set to music by Jacques Bertheir (1923-1994) in 1991, shortly before he died. The Psalm reads, "Lord, hear my prayer, and let my cry come before you; hide not your face from me in the day of my trouble."

Recessional: No. 437. "Tell Out My Soul" is a hymn paraphrasing the "Magnificat" written by Tim Dudley-Smith in 1962. The words also form a spirited plea for evangelism, "Tell out my soul, the greatness of his Name! Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done; his mercy sure, from age to age the same; his holy Name – the Lord the Mighty One." The tune, "Birmingham," is from Francis Cunningham's Selection of Psalm Tunes (1834).

Servants for December 23rd

Rick Carlstedt, Don Jaworski - *Ushers*
Rick Carlstedt - *Lector*
Judy Robel - *Intercessor*
Pam Dietmeyer, Charles Sterbis - *Eucharistic Ministers*
Jeff Zabor - *Vestry Person of the Day*
Bella Pecoraro - *Children's Crucifer*
Marilyn Bell, Marilyn Reihansperger - *Altar Guild*

On the Calendar...

Vestry - TONIGHT, 6:00 pm
Christmas Eve Service - December 24, 9:00 pm
followed by a festive reception
Christmas Day Service - December 25, 10:00 am
Office closed - December 24 - January 1
Vestry - Wednesday, January 16, 6:00 pm
Annual Parish Meeting - Sunday, January 20

From the studio of the Rev. William P. McLemore



"We've been to the 'field and fountain'
and passed the 'moor and mountain'...
We ought to be there by now!"

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