Christy’s Corner

It’s Summertime!

I’m late! I’m late. For a very important date!
No time to say hello! Good-bye!
I’m late! I’m late! I’m Late!

-the Mad Hatter,
From Alice in Wonderland

Sometimes that’s how my days can feel. I wake clear and rested, light flooding my room. I go on my walk and the day seems endless and free. Making breakfast, I respond to a text from our kids or a friend, and then something catches my attention and I realize there are a couple of bills that haven’t been paid…then I remember I need to water the flower pots and I see some details from the day before that I didn’t get to and suddenly an hour has gone by and I’m running late to get to the office on time. It’s possible to hang on to that sense of “franticness” all day long and to watch it grow throughout the day. The focus seems to be on being behind and all those things that I haven’t done. I laugh at myself. I can so easily become a slave to a schedule I create. Many times, not one of these things is necessary today. I wonder? How might I make different choices?

It’s summertime! Perhaps this is the perfect opportunity…I realize the desire on my heart is to be able to intentionally “shift down” a gear or two. I’m being drawn to take time to really notice the things and people around me and to listen and feel and reflect more deeply. I want to pay more attention to my surroundings, the things and situations that happen “between” the planned events, in the spaces and gaps. That means I need to work to expand those gaps and spaces between events so I have increased time for noticing and wondering. More and more I’m asking God to help me live in the present moment, appreciating it for what it is and having gratitude for those people and objects and creatures who cross my path 24/7.

It’s summertime! The strawberries are in season again and warmer days are around the corner. What is God drawing us to do differently this season? What is God wanting us to notice? How is God reaching out to us with love? My hope this summer is that we might all pause to notice the blessings that are all around us and take the time to share them with each other!

In pausing to be in the garden, I notice there is a ladybug on an artichoke leaf that does not seem to be late for anything.

Summertime blessings to you and yours!

Christy

(This article was inspired by a meditation on May 4th, “Filling in the Day” in The Book of Awakening, by Mark Nepo.)
VESTRY VISIBILITY: Volunteering!

Getting to know God and growing closer to him is what Christianity is about. Serving God in His church is certainly one way of growing closer to our Lord.

This brings us to my topic for this month's vestry contribution to Emmanuel's newsletter: **VOLUNTEERING!**

Like most local churches (our parish) Emmanuel is run by us. We do have our paid staff and they are hardworking, productive, and necessary. But much of Emmanuel's day-to-day operations are done by folks like you and me.

One opportunity available for us to do God's work is the food cupboard. Located in the basement of the church offices (parish house), Emmanuel houses an Ecumenical (coalition of churches) food service that distributes the largest volume of food to the needy on the southern Oregon Coast. Parishioner Brian Sullivan is the director, Brian leads a volunteer staff of about 25 people from various churches around the Bay Area, including many from Emmanuel.

The food cupboard is open for food distribution Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from noon to 2:00 pm. On these same three days of the week stocking shelves and shipment receiving takes place beginning at 9:00 am. Many of our volunteers are, shall we say, elderly. These folks are typically our best volunteers! The point is age is not a limiting factor. Many of us have reached the age where there are a lot of things we cannot do, BUT, there are many, many things we CAN do, Lord help us to focus on these things.

In addition to the food cupboard there many other opportunities to serve, a partial list includes:
- Coffee hour, choir participation, acolytes (no age limitation), lay reader, usher, alter guild, nursery and day care opportunities for those of us who have experience raising children. Shrub, garden, and lawn care. The list goes on, I am sure there are opportunities I have forgot.

Of course keeping the Sabbath on Sunday mornings is what we do and --------- by all means keep on keeping the Sabbath (attend church). We can also contribute to the ‘nuts and bolts’ perpetuation of Emmanuel parish while serving our Lord Jesus Christ and growing to know Him better and walking closer to him through **VOLUNTEERING!**

Tim Wall

Emmanuel Vestry
What an amazing year of transformation and growth in our Preschool! As we wrap up a new year filled with so many gifts received and found within the community brought together by this journey, we reflect:

Thank you to the following people for a great year!

Cathy Bishop, Nadine Trapold, Faith Crowell, Emily Wilson, Hannah Payne, and Kerri Coldren- for being our devoted, nurturing and wonderful teachers!

The Rev. Christy Close Erskine- for our chapel and Godly Play time and helping us learn how much God loves us and for being part of our lives.

All of our wonderful preschool families- for the many ways you volunteer and help to enhance the life of our preschool. Thank you for sharing your children with us. We are so blessed to have each and every one.

Our Preschool Board and Nancylee Stewart- for your leadership, the gift of your time, and all the extra things you do to support our school throughout the year.

The Vestry (leadership team of Emmanuel Church)- for believing in us and supporting our expanded vision!

The Congregation- for sharing your space with us, opening your hearts to us and having patience in so many ways.

Hannah Payne, our Director and fearless leader - for the gift of her vision for our school and the hours and hours of hard work and dedication.

to God- for blessing us all so richly. It has been a very blessed year, and we are grateful!

To all the children who touch our lives every day with their sweet smiles and laughter!

Wednesday Summer Service Schedule
There will be no Wednesday services in July. They will resume for the first 3 weeks in August. Then there will be no Wednesday services until September 5th when we will resume the regular schedule.

Have you seen the preschool’s new garden? It's pretty amazing with marigolds, basil, strawberries…Many people have been commenting on the cool strawberry pots that fit over the fencing. If you have more deck space than garden space, you can get them at Fred Meyer.
Mother’s Day Tea with the Older Preschool Class 2018

Love was in the Air!
Remember the feeling of anticipation when you have worked really hard to make or do something special for a person you really, really love? The feeling is palpable and grows and grows. That’s the way it was in our preschool as the older preschool class prepared for their Mother’s Day Tea. The kids could hardly wait to share their special items with their moms and the moms could hardly wait for them to see the special placemats they had made for their kids. A truly special day when love was in the air!

We need your gifts…use the summer to experiment with offering them in a new way: Ushering, Acolyting, Helping with the Street Fair in September, Coffee Hour, Musical Offerings…you name it, we’ve got a place for your gifts!

During the summer, we need help covering several positions in our worship service so this might be the perfect time to step up to this calling with your gifts! We will need acolytes and ushers and training will be provided to people who volunteer. The nursery also needs someone who can cover when Darlene is out of town. Questions, talk to Christy or Kerri.

Calling for Musical Talent! We are looking for those who would like to share their musical talents (voice, or instrument of any kind) during our 10:00 AM services this summer. Please contact Tom or Carla if you are interested in volunteering your time and talent. Thank you!

“Your talent is God’s gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God.” ~Leo Buscaglia
An Unlikely Summer Romance
On Trinity Sunday, Christy challenged us to reflect on the words that we use when we pray to God. Sometimes the words we use can either expand our experiences of God’s love… or they can limit our ability to experience God’s love.

Why not use the summer to experiment with praying to a different name or image of God and see what doors might open for you? Always pray to Father, Son or Holy Spirit? Perhaps experiment with Creator, Redeemer or Sustainer? Or what about Earth Maker, Pain Bearer or Life Giver? See if it makes a difference in your relationship and/or conversations with God.

The names and images for God in the Bible, in religious history and in our own experience are truly limitless. Have a little fun this summer and choose one of the words above and see what happens when you pray using that image of God. Even more fun, commit to doing it as a family or with a group of friends so you can share the stories of how God meets you in unexpected ways.

Our journeys of faith are truly a love story with our God. Let’s use this summer to fall in love all over again!

Emmanuel Preschool Class of 2018
We have 14 preschoolers headed to kindegarten this Fall, so we took a special moment from our End of the Year program to celebrate their achievements and send them off in the words of Dr. Seuss, “Oh, the Places You’ll Go!”.

“You're off to Great Places!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting,
So... get on your way!” ~ Dr. Seuss
We received additional prayer submissions for this month to share with you. If you have a special prayer you would like to submit, please send to Kerri in the office (secretary@episcopalcoosbay.org) or Christy (Christy@episcopalcoosbay.org).

~ a nightly prayer sent in by Joe McKeown

**A Collect for Aid Against Perils**

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.


**Lord, it is night.**

Lord, it is night. The night is for stillness. Let us be still in the presence of God. It is night after a long day. What has been done has been done; what has not been done has not been done; let it be. The night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in you. The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all dear to us, and all who have no peace. The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities. In your name we pray.

**Amen.**

From New Zealand Prayer Book, pg. 184

Kerri is leading the summer camps for the Preschool this summer so **new office hours** will begin June 4th through the end of August:

- **Monday** - Closed
- **Tuesday** - 1 PM to 5 PM
- **Wednesday** - 1 PM to 5 PM
- **Thursday** - 1 PM to 5 PM
- **Friday** - 1 PM to 5 PM

**July Newsletter Submissions are due Tuesday, June 26th.**