



The Messenger

March 2018

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
P. O. Box 1028
400 Highland Avenue
Coos Bay, OR 97420

Christy's Corner

Thinking about hope in the midst of a difficult week, I happened to notice a crocus growing up among the rocks. The strip of rocks next to the memorial garden offered me a tangible glimmer of hope. We're in the midst of Lent, the season where we deal with all the rocks in our lives that tend to hamper our growth as people and our union with God--but still God is there for us whether we're doing a good job with our Lenten discipline or not, and then whether we think we deserve it or not.



How often in life do we end up cheering about events (Palm Sunday) only to have our hopes dashed (Good Friday)? But then disaster becomes hope fulfilled even beyond what we imagined could be (Easter).

Our kids used to love it when we read them a children's book called, Samuel Johnson and the Blue Ribbon Quilt. While his wife is away, Mr. Johnson gets excited about sewing a pig awning that is ripped; he embellishes it with an artistic flair. Inspired suddenly by the hope of further creativity, he decides to join his wife's quilting guild. His hope is dashed at their first meeting when they all decide, his wife included, that quilting is no job for a man: his presence will only muck up the whole group and slow them down. The guild's huffiness is an affront to him so he gathers the other male farmers in the county and starts a men's quilting guild. The women's group and the men's group now have a new hope: make the best quilt, win the blue ribbon at the fair, and show up the other group.



As both groups are bringing their respective quilts in their respective horse drawn wagons, a wind comes up and blows both quilts into a mud puddle. Hopes are dashed for both quilting guilds, disaster has befallen them and now neither group will win anything. Then the women see how beautiful the men's quilt is and the men observe the same thing about the women's quilt.

Like a crocus growing up amid the rocks, Samuel Johnson has an idea. Together they take both quilts back to the barn, cut out the soiled squares, and piece together one quilt with all the good squares. Both groups offer the new quilt and it wins the blue ribbon.

It's the story of our lives and the story of Easter. Lenten blessings as we continue to look for hope among the rocks of life and find joy in the midst of lives spattered with mud. *Christy*



HOLY WEEK

Getting Ready for Holy Week and Easter Opportunities to Participate and to Help!

Holy Baptism will be celebrated at the Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 31st, at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in baptism for yourself or your child please contact Pastor Christy at 541-728-7988 or Christy@episcopalcoosbay.org prior to Sunday, March 18th.

First Communion Preparation: Many times children have been receiving Holy Communion from the time they were infants or young children, but have never had any instruction in it. Since they are no longer required to wait for a certain age to receive their first communion, we still do first communion preparation to help them understand a little bit more about this sacrament. One of the differences is that we do this “in honor of their First Communion” rather than celebrating the first time they actually receive Holy Communion. If you would like your child to participate in this preparation prior to Easter, please let Christy know by Sunday, March 18th, 541-728-7988.

Help Read the Passion Gospel on Palm Sunday, April 9th. Readers of all ages are needed at both services, 7:30 AM and 10:00 AM for large and small parts. Sign up for specific parts in the entryway beginning Sunday March 18th and see Christy or talk to Kerri in the office to receive your script before Palm Sunday.

A Prayer Vigil begins immediately after the Maundy Thursday worship service on March 29th and continues until noon on Good Friday. Jesus asked his disciples in the garden at Gethsemane, “Could you not watch with me one hour?” We answer that question by attempting to pray throughout the 15 hours in the chapel or at home in 1-2 hour shifts. There will be a sign-up sheet in the church entryway beginning on March 18th. Questions, talk to Christy.

Help Needed for the Easter Vigil Bon Fire and the S'More Reception after the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening, March 31st. Please sign-up in the entryway beginning March 18th if you can help provide firewood, set the fire, keep the embers glowing for s'mores following the service, or help with the reception following the service.

Easter Memorials – Memorial gifts for Easter altar flowers or individual lilies can be arranged through the Church office by talking to Kerri before Wednesday, March 28th. If you would like to make an offering toward Easter flowers, please drop it off at the office or put it in the offering plate, noting who it is in memory or honor of. Questions, talk to Kerri in the office.

Help is needed to fold Easter bulletins and the Triduum booklets on Thursday, March 29th at 1:00. If you can help, please sign-up in the church entry beginning on March 18th, or call Kerri in the Church Office to volunteer, 541-269-5829.

Easter Egg Hunt – If you would like to help organize the Easter Egg Hunt after the 10:00 AM service on Easter Sunday April 1st please let Kerri know, secretary@episcopalcoosbay.org or call 541-269-5829.





Meet Your New 2018 Vestry Members!



Josh Payne

I feel called to serve because I want to have a positive impact in the community, and have a greater opportunity to help those who are in need. I envision more families calling Emmanuel their church, nurturing and raising their children in the warm fellowship that exists within this body. And continuing in the long and rich history that Emmanuel has established of meeting the spiritual needs of the surrounding community. The gifts that I bring are sincerity, discernment, a long history as a youth volunteer, and a project coordinator for service projects.



Tim Wall

As a newly elected vestry member I look forward to serving our parish. I am active in the acolyte/lay reader team and respect greatly the liturgy aspect of our church. I also help with the food cupboard and will help in promoting and building the outreach the food cupboard provides. I am a lifelong Episcopalian, this is my third term as a vestry member and I am happy to do my part. I encourage all of you to volunteer to your particular calling to keep our parish strong and moving forward.



Al Rumsh

I would like to see Emmanuel face the challenge of meeting the spiritual needs of new generations of our community. I bring the experience of a 35 year career as an elementary school teacher serving the diversity of cultures that made up America's armed forces stationed in Germany, Turkey, and Japan. I am also interested in working with the church's music program.



INVITATION to all choristers who would like to sing in the choir for the noon Ecumenical Service on Good Friday March 30, 2018

Our anthem is *Ah, Holy Jesus* by Johann Cruger; choral setting by Gary Matheny
We will also support the hymns selected.

This will be an inspirational time to meet and get a chance to sing with other choir members from our community.



Rehearsal will be Tuesday, March 20, 2018
7:00 PM at Emmanuel

Contact:

Carla Courtney, Emmanuel 541.269.5829

Home: 541.266.9290

carlacourtney294@gmail.com



Financial Update as We Begin 2018

We are so grateful for everyone's financial pledges and support for the coming year as it's what allows us to carry out the ministry of Jesus Christ at Emmanuel. Our budget is primarily funded by individual pledges made by you, our members and their families. This year we were able to balance the budget, barely, with only \$27 to spare.



What this means is that we will need to carefully manage our income and expenses. In January, our pledge income was down substantially by \$6,328 to budget with pledge payments of \$12,254 compared to \$18,582. Typically at this time of year this kind of discrepancy is because people aren't in church and therefore don't keep up with their pledge.

Please consider this a friendly reminder to stay current with your pledge as it allows us to stay current with our budget. If you find that your situation has changed requiring an adjustment to your pledge, please let Christy or Pat Cross, our pledge secretary know. If you find yourself able to give a bit more that's always helpful as well or if you are new to our community and would like to make a financial commitment to help with the ministry of Jesus Christ at Emmanuel, you can find a pledge card in the office or in the rack at the back of the church. Talk to Christy with questions. **We are so blessed by the faithfulness of our church community. Thank you for your support!**

The Preschool Expansion Needs Your Help!

We passed the fire inspection for our upstairs space and our site visit for State Certification is just around the corner on March 9th. This will allow us to begin the 2-3 year old class on March 12th. The timing is important because families are depending on us, we already have 5 children enrolled and 3 additional children on the waiting list. We are working incredibly hard to stay on schedule and within our budget. We clearly need your help as we finish up the final details and turn the space into a classroom.



"How can I help?" you ask...

- **Pray, pray, and pray some more!** It is amazing what we have been able to do in less than a year to help young children and their families in our community. That's primarily the result of your prayers and we are grateful!
- Buy Braids (\$14 each) and Pies (\$15 each) to help support the costs of the expansion. They are great for Easter or offering hospitality to friends or family who stop for a visit. They are also an easy and yummy way to provide coffee hour. We have already paid for them so every dollar goes towards the expansion costs. Do you have friends or neighbors who might be interested in purchasing them? Our hope is to be sold out by Easter Sunday. Talk to Kerri in the office, Christy, NancyLee, or John Sweet.
- Make a one-time cash donation to help with the cost of preparing the 2-3 year old classroom.
- Help us collect interesting items for the second Annual 2018 Silent Auction at Emmanuel on April 19th. (See article below.)
- Come to the Auction on April 19th and bring friends willing to help support the Preschool by bidding on fun objects and items.

Preschools Second Annual Silent Auction, April 19th

To Benefit the Preschool's Expansion

If you work for a company that would like to donate or if you have an item you want to donate as an auction item, please let Ann Blanc know, her number is 541-525-4658. In the past, we have auctioned off everything from massages, to pottery, to tugboat rides! The donation is tax deductible and for a great cause!

We would like to have all donations collected by April 17th.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support!

Hannah Payne (Director), Ann Blanc (Event Coordinator), and the Emmanuel Preschool Board
Tax ID #93-0458490

****April Newsletter Deadline is Tuesday, March 27. ****

Have you wished your bulletins were stapled on Sunday morning? Well here's your chance!

Join us for a bulletin folding and stapling gathering on Friday afternoons. The first gathering will be on Friday, March 16th at 11:30 AM in the parish office with some goodies provided. Please contact Kerri in the church office if you plan to attend at secretary@episcopalcoosbay.org or 541-269-5829.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS REMINDER!
Remember to "Spring Forward" on March 11th



New Books to Check Out in Our Emmanuel Library

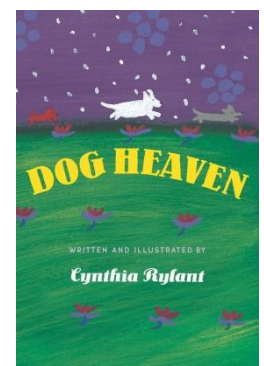
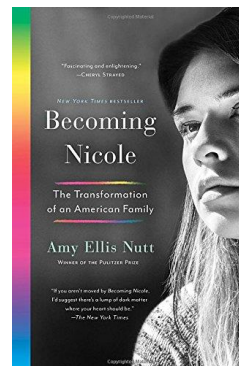
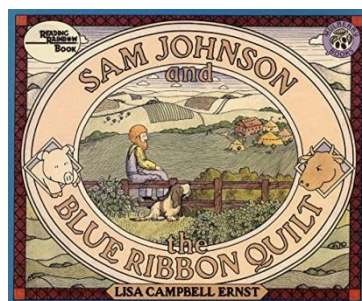
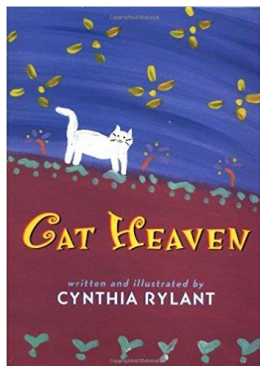
We have a new shelf in the library for new or topical books that you might be interested in.

Samuel Johnson and the Blue Ribbon Quilt: Interested in the book that Christy mentions in her article? It's on loan to the library if you'd like to read it.

Becoming Nicole: A story of a family living in Maine who adopts twin boys and finds themselves on an unexpected journey to support their transgender child and her brother.

Dog Heaven and Cat Heaven - Great books to help with grief if you have had a beloved dog or cat die. Take a moment to write the name of your pet and a bit about them in the front of the book as our own Emmanuel pet memorial.

If you have a book that you think others would be interested in reading, let us know. We're always interested in new titles. ~The Library Committee



2018 Award for Christian Service Annual Meeting, February 11th, 2018

At our Annual Meeting, it was a great joy to present Emmanuel's Award for Christian Service to our very own "Nat & Pat" team!



They are a talented team, and we are grateful for their years of service, most of it behind the scenes. Here's some of what we love about them, taken from what Christy read at the Annual Meeting:

"Talented, thoughtful, deep thinker, word smith, prepared, spiritual, a craftsman, introverted.

The recipient has built many things around this place from the manger we use at Christmas time to the Godly Play shelves to the shelves in the Baby/Toddler class.

This year's recipient is also tenacious, compassionate, practical, and might even be called the salt of the earth. They are brusque at times, have a great sense of humor, can be impatient, and love a practical joke!

The recipient is also a very patient listener and many times has helped me out by just listening.

There aren't many jobs that this person hasn't done more than once, large and small, public and behind the scenes - Vestry, senior warden, junior warden, gardener, leak fixer.

Long time Episcopalian, great story teller, and loyal friend.

Our recipient enjoys road trips, is handy in almost any situation, a good listener, faithful, caring, hardworking, smart, practical.

The recipient many times "humors me!" Like my first stewardship campaign with all of you when I decided I wanted a blessing tree in the entry-way. I think they suggested we might use a branch...ummmh, I said. Next morning I went on my walk. Who knew the city was cutting down the big trees downtown that very day because of the "root/sidewalk problem"? I couldn't believe my good fortune and asked if I could please have one of them? The workers looked at me a little strangely as they watched me haul it back to Shepherd's house driveway. I asked the recipient if they might find a way that we could put it up in the entryway. A blessing tree for our blessings! They definitely humored me and I was very pleased! The recipient is also a great cook, serves as a lay reader and is very committed to the Food Cupboard.

Thank you, Nat and Pat, for all you do for our church and community!