



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



CHRISTY'S CORNER



OCTOBER 2017

It was a year ago that we gathered at the Coos History Museum for our Mutual Ministry Visioning event and asked the question, "What will we see in 5-10 years when we open the doors at Emmanuel?" As a reminder, here is the summary of what you said. "Children, lots of children, babies and families. Opportunities to serve our neighbors. Spiritual growth and vitality. Prayer. Engaging music and worship. Partnering with others in our community to serve those in need. A place of respect for all people. Hospitality."

I believe that time together last year while worshipping, praying and reflecting allowed us to begin to see who we are as a faith community. It helped us understand our identity.



We are a community that takes great joy in worshipping, praying and breaking bread together. We are committed to serving others, and to respecting the dignity of every human being.

...and once we began to see who we are as a faith community, it was also easier to see who we are not. It was easier to let go of the past and feeling bad about what we were no longer able to do. It reminds me of a meditation that I love. "The time has come to put our stones down. For hands clutching stones can't freely drum. And hearts fistng the past can't freely sing."

It's pretty amazing just a year later to look at that summary of our hopes from last year, and see how we are living into many of the things that we listed. We have begun to put down the stones that we were clutching and with open hands we offered ourselves to God...and God has answered with increased energy, enthusiasm, and engagement...and we have grateful hearts!



It's hard to believe that it's been a year, but it's time to gather again. Greg Rhodes, life-long Episcopalian and church consultant, will once again facilitate our time together, but this year we will stay at home, gathering in our own undercroft on October 8th from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM for a potluck brunch and important congregational meeting: One service for our whole community to worship, pray, break bread, and reflect together on our future. We stand at a crossroads with some decisions to make. Together we will set our course, offer ourselves to God and commit to being the change we want to see in our community and our world.

Blessings and gratitude for our journey together! ~Christy



Vestry Visibility:

THE ECUMENICAL FOOD CUPBOARD AT EMMANUEL



In the late 1970's, Emmanuel Food Cupboard began as a small outreach effort with a few cupboards in the Parish kitchen labeled "Father Murdock's Food Cupboard" set aside as a convenient place to donate and gather shelf stable foods. While the needs of the broader community have changed significantly, the Food Cupboard continues today as one of Emmanuel's key ministries.

As we approach fall and plan for our annual Stewardship Dinner on November 5th, we reflect on our many gifts and how we might best dedicate our time, talent and treasure to serving God and the needs around us. Earlier this month, I talked with Brian Sullivan and Jerry Stonebreaker at the Food Cupboard to learn more about their operations and how we might better support their important work.

Open to the public from 12:00 – 2:00pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, you can find volunteers hard at work anytime of the day and throughout the week. Volunteers come from five local churches and perform a wide variety of tasks including pick-up of fresh, frozen and shelf stable foods, stocking shelves, preparing food boxes and talking with local businesses and organizations about grants and food drives. Food comes from various stores within our community, Community Gardens and the weekly Farmers Market, private donations, food drives, and South Coast Food Share, the Regional Distributor for the Oregon Food Bank. While the Food Cupboard exists to serve residents of Coos County, no one is turned away.

Emmanuel supports the Food Cupboard by the donation of space for their operation as well as providing many volunteers over the years. During the past year, we were also able to make critical improvements to the facility due solely to parishioners who previously left planned gifts to Emmanuel. The annual spending distribution from these legacy gifts enabled us to purchase a new, secure door and improve the ceiling panels to cover wires, as well as to install a bench to the left side of the Food Cupboard entrance.

How can we help support the Food Cupboard?

- Food Donations from our home pantry – remember that packages past their expiration date (if the can or box is not damaged) can be donated
- The shopping cart (found in the vestibule or undercroft) is a visible reminder that hunger is present year-round. It eagerly awaits our food donations any time!
- Cash donations or purchased food – which provides the greatest impact? Brian reminded me that he has additional purchasing power at South Coast Food Share and can leverage our cash donations into greater food volumes. What we might pay for one case of tuna, he could purchase perhaps three times that quantity.



Heartfelt thanks and gratitude go to those from Emmanuel who have volunteered their time over the years, and those who currently serve including: Brian Sullivan (Manager), Pat Cross, Robert Cribbins, Tim Wall, Liz Cowden, Nat Jaeggli, Gracie Svatos, and Fran Whitaker. Thanks go to Al Rumsch and Doug Laird for installing the bench!

With Thanks and Gratitude,
Xandra McKeown
Senior Warden

Welcome, Nicole Devine, our new Head Teacher to our preschool team!



Nicole shared the following with us, "I have lived in Coos Bay for 9 years. I attended Southwestern Oregon Community College where I obtained my Associate's Degree in General Studies. Some of you might have met me at Christ Lutheran Church & School where I was a Preschool Teacher for 2 years. On my down time, you can catch my fiancée, Stephen, and I at the movies or chilling and watching our Superhero TV shows. In the last three years, I have discovered my love of teaching and being around children. I know there is a desperate need of childcare in Coos Bay, and it is an honor for me to help with that. I have a passion for helping children learn and giving them the foundation they need to grow into successful adults. I am so very excited for my new journey at Emmanuel and very grateful to be a part of this family."

The Preschool had its first fire drill, and we are so proud of our kids for doing such a great job!

As our preschool begins its fall session, it is vital we teach our students how to react, behave, and what to expect in the case of a fire. Our teachers complete evacuation of the preschool by taking the students safely to Shepherd's house where in the event of a real fire then would become the base of communication for parents.



Godly Play Classroom

Join us Thursday, Oct. 5th from 11:30 AM-2:30 PM and Thursday, Oct. 12th from 12:00 PM-2:30 PM Help us get the Godly Play classroom ready for the training session. Experience joy and great fellowship with us while we find all of the materials and get them in order once again.

Questions, talk to Christy.

Want to participate in Godly Play Training at Emmanuel on Oct. 13 & 14? Registration forms are available in the church entryway or you can request one via email or mail by calling the church office at 541-269-5829. Hope to see you there!



"Emm M & M"

**Emmanuel's Mission and Ministry Gathering
Potluck Brunch, Worship and Important Congregational Meeting**

Don't miss church on Oct. 8th at 9:00 AM!

Please remember and share: no 7:30 or 10:00 AM service on this morning, as we will worship together in the undercroft.

Sunday Morning, Oct. 8th – 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Don't miss this annual opportunity to gather and worship together as one community. This is an important time for us as a congregation as we reflect on our future and what God is calling us to do in 2018. Your presence matters...please plan to attend and bring something to share with the rest of us for brunch!

A prayer for our Country from a resident of Charleston:

Our God and God of our ancestors: We ask Your blessings for our country, for its government, for its leader and advisors, and for all who exercise just and rightful authority. Teach them insights of Your Torah, that they may administer all affairs of state fairly, that peace and security, happiness and prosperity, justice and freedom may forever abide in our midst.

Creator of all flesh, bless all the inhabitants of our country with Your spirit. May citizens of all races and creeds forge a common bond in true harmony to banish all hatred and bigotry and to safeguard the ideals and free institutions which are the pride and glory of our country.

May this land under Your Providence be an influence for good throughout the world, uniting all people in peace and freedom and helping them to fulfill the vision of Your prophet: "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they experience war anymore." And let us say: Amen.

~Submission from Julianna Seldon, source unknown



There are several opportunities to give in October, all of which will be turned in at the diocesan Convention in Salem:

- Undies for Rahab's Sisters – All sizes, styles and fabrics are needed and appreciated. They go through medium sizes (7s and 8s) most quickly, but have guests all across the size spectrum. You can turn in your donations in the church entryway. Please see Terrye Laird for more information.
- Our companion Diocese in Cuernavaca Mexico needs our help. The earthquake of September 19 caused significant damage throughout the Diocese of Cuernavaca, and the clergy and parishioners have been going throughout their communities to identify the immediate needs for aid and survey for the longer-term recovery efforts. We invite the churches of the Diocese of Oregon to designate October as a month focused on gathering financial gifts to help the Diocese of Cuernavaca provide food, water, and medical aid to their communities.
- United Thank Offering - time to turn in your little blue box prior to convention. Please bring it to church by October 14th so we can add it to the rest of the Diocesan UTO. Your pennies make a huge difference in the lives of many! Every time you're grateful for something you put a coin in your blue box and they raise hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to give out in grants.

Nov. 5th will be our celebration of All Saint's.

If you would like the sacrament of baptism for you or your child, please let the church office or Christy know. We will also have the reading of the necrology at both of our services. If you would like your loved ones who have died to be remembered on that day, please contact the church office.