



The Emmanuel Epistle

Learn, Love, Serve

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Sunday Worship Service 10 am on Zoom

Looking Back to 2020

The end of the year warrants an inventory, and like a business, we can inventory what has happened over the last year, all that we accomplished, assess where we have been and where we are headed as the church. I mentioned this in my January article but I didn't give you a rundown of all we, as a church community, accomplished in 2020. We got a lot done and most of what was needed in building and maintenance on the church campus.

Here's an abbreviated list: Edwards Hall was renovated, including painting, flooring, LED ceiling lights, emergency lights, and ceiling fans, plus organizing the preschool contents. The kitchen was also cleaned and organized. The compost bins were refurbished and a productive composting program was built. Fallen and dead trees were removed from the property, along with tree trimming of the remaining trees. There was an overhaul of the internet system on the campus, with new cabling for all the buildings, as well as electrical work that needed updating in Edwards Hall. The flooring in Havermale Hall was replaced and new furniture was purchased for the space. The men's bathroom had a complete renovation to make it handicapped accessible. The Memorial Garden project was started to beautify the area where the ashes of many Emmanuelites are interred. We participated in the Social Enterprise Academy with the Diocese of Los Angeles that resulted in a grant to help finance the reimagined preschool -- an Environmental Early Learning Center. It will open in August of this year. All of this happened on top of navigating the onset of Covid-19 in March which resulted in moving our entire church life online while continuing to support financially L'Arche Wavecrest, to donate fresh produce to The Hub, our local foodbank in Fullerton, and to put together breakfast bags and deliver them to OC United for our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness.

You did this. Your hard work, your incredible generosity, and your commitment to the flourishing of Emmanuel's ministry in the world! I'm so excited to see what God has in store for us for 2021.

Blessings, Rev. Holly+



An Important Message from Your Treasurer

We have the preliminary numbers for December and it looks like we'll end the year with Operating Fund income of about \$298,000. Expenses for 2020 were about \$297,000 so we came out slightly ahead. Folks, this is amazing since we were about \$25,000 in the hole as of the 20th of December so we were very blessed by the donation that came in during the last 10 days of the year. God is SO Good! We also completed significant upgrades on Edwards Hall and Havermale, and the Memorial Garden upgrade is underway.

2021 is promising to be an exciting year for Emmanuel. Thank you SOOO MUCH all for your financial support this past year. Emmanuel is very blessed by your generosity.

Blessings!

Dave Dunlap, Treasurer
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Why Emmanuel?

Deborah Cantwell

There's no way to tell the story of how Deborah came to Emmanuel without including Gene. (Sorry, Gene). It's a love story: a story of love which starts and ends with faith.

Deborah was raised in an evangelical church, a church that taught that the Bible was the literal word of God. But even as a child, Deborah knew that the words coming from the pulpit were contradicted by the words in her Bible; if the Bible said the kingdom was for everyone, why were so many being excluded? Like many of us, Deborah experienced heartbreak and years of challenge, but with God's help and faith, she persevered to rebuild her life. She built a successful business and searched for a church that welcomed everyone, and she found the Episcopal Church.

What more did she need? But God had other ideas, as Gene, a research physicist and Deborah, a mechanical engineer, found common ground through their creative sides when Gene brought his photographs into Deborah's art gallery and frame shop to be

framed and eventually exhibited. They became long term friends with much in common, but Deborah was not seeking a relationship. Her heart was in the church.

Gene, too, had been raised in a conservative denomination. When he met Deborah, he had been estranged from the church for many years, but Deborah's life revolved around her faith and her church; there was no future that failed to include both. Gene visited and began attending her church and was then baptized there, but when he asked Deborah to marry him and come to California, she was still unsure, so Gene moved west alone. Once in California, he Googled Episcopal churches and found one that sounded promising. Not too long after, he was able to say to Deborah the words she had needed to hear: "My heart is in the church."

Deborah said yes to Gene and yes to God. And that church was Emmanuel, a place where Gene could grow and Deborah could live out her spiritual life. And here we are, many years later, richer by far for our photographer/video master-in-chief and our devoted Daughters of the King and Catechesis mentor. Thank you, Deborah and Gene. Your devotion to your faith is an inspiration to us all.

Episcopal Social Enterprise Academy Update

Social Enterprise is an initiative of the national Episcopal Church. Social Enterprise projects have two purposes:

1. Do social good for the community consistent with our mission and the mission of the Episcopal Church.
2. Help the church remain solvent into the future. Many, many churches are struggling financially. Some have gone bankrupt. Social enterprise is a plan for sustainability. Relying solely on donations is no longer sustainable.

After five months of research and exploration, Emmanuel's Social Enterprise group decided that our project should be the Emmanuel Environmental Early Learning Center. It will be a re-imagined preschool with a child-centered, nature-based approach. Our project won a \$4,000 grant from the diocese for renovating the outside spaces!

Right now, our priorities are preparing the Good Shepherd building as additional classrooms for the Early Learning Center AND planning the natural outdoor spaces. The classrooms will be painted and new flooring and window coverings will be installed. Some of the excellent quality wood classroom furniture from Edwards Hall will be brought to the new classrooms. We have everything we need except for about 10 wooden children's chairs. We will be renovating both the Children's Garden and the playground and making them natural spaces for exploration, since we plan for 70% of the children's days to be spent outdoors. We have already received donations that will cover some of this work – our heartfelt appreciation to those who have donated! If you would like to donate, please get in touch with Rev. Holly (rector@emmanuelfullerton.org) or our treasurer, Dave Dunlap (bookkeeper@emmanuelfullerton.org).

The Growing Connection

As participants increased the amount of time spent gardening, they accrued greater psychological and physical benefits. – Mather Institute

Shh.. the garden is sleeping.

Not much happening right now. The winter plantings, mostly lettuce, are coming along. Tim is still going strong like the Eveready Bunny with compost building. He has also planted some grow bags. It is an interesting what he is doing. He is using the grow bags with clay containers inside them. A process I know nothing about but look forward to learning more.

If you recall I have been talking a lot about fava beans in these pages. We planted them, they came up, flowered, but set no beans. Well about a week ago we were removing the plants and found 2 beans which we promptly picked. I carried them around the garden for a while and then needed to use my hands for something, so I asked Gordon if he could put them somewhere. He said sure, and put them in his pocket. (He is always carrying things around in his pockets. Unlike my brother he is particularly good about emptying them most of the time.) When I did the laundry this week 2 fava beans were in the bottom of the washing machine. I tossed them in the compost bucket. (When we were kids my brother would often catch a horny toad, stuff it in his pocket for my mother to find. She learned early on to always check his pockets. I, of course thought it was totally gross. But I don't think we were using that term back then.)

I also told you about building some raised beds at home. They turned out very nice. We promptly planted seeds but not many came up. They were old seeds, so we knew we were taking a chance. We don't have much left of what did come up. Someone (?) has been eating everything we planted except the beets. So, the lesson learned is - these things do not only happen at the Community Garden, but they happen everywhere. We are not discouraged, we just ordered fresh seeds with the intention of feeding the neighborhood until we can figure out who/what's doing this, rabbit, squirrel, or what.

Looking forward to a glorious spring.
Blessings, and Happy Gardening!

Gordon and Lorra

PS The quote at the top of the page came from an article sent to me by Ted Jones. You can access the entire article at <http://www.matherinstitute.com/2020/12/18/older-adults-reap-multiple-health-benefits-from-gardening/>.

Building a Vegetable Garden the No-Dig Way – Part 1

Behind every vegetable plant is a person with gardening desires — you! And behind you there are bees, worms ... and millions of other live inhabitants of your garden soil. To keep them happy, here's how to build your vegetable plot.

There is no need to wreak havoc and madly dig. Truly, madly digging messes up the natural layers of earth that nature has set down. Digging brings the surface loving inhabitants into the sub-layers; it brings up deep dwellers and plops them in the sun or cold... and I bet you aren't going to provide them with sunglasses or woolly hats!

Let the microbes and worms do what they do best in their own good way and time. Build your garden the no dig way ***on top of the ground*** and feed your soil from above. That means you can start building a vegetable garden *anywhere*. This is natural organic gardening at its simplest and best.

Preparing a vegetable garden of this sort is extremely attractive for those sites that start off with poor soil or invasive weeds. And here's the secret — which is really no secret at all — it's also a great way to build a garden for those that can't, or don't want to, dig a good size vegetable garden! ***Part 2 is coming in the March Epistle!***



February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study on Zoom	2 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study on Zoom	3 7:00 PM Taizé Service	4 7:00 AM EKKO Church	5	6 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study on Zoom
7 9:00 AM EKKO Church 10:00 AM Online Service -- Zoom and Facebook Live	8 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study on Zoom	9 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study on Zoom	10	11 7:00 AM EKKO Church 5:00 PM Early Birds Cocktail Hour on Zoom	12	13 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study on Zoom
14 9:00 AM EKKO Church 10:00 AM Online Service -- Zoom and Facebook Live	15 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study on Zoom	16 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study on Zoom	17 ASH WEDNESDAY 6:30 PM Vestry on Zoom	18 7:00 AM EKKO Church	19	20 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study on Zoom 9:00 AM Plant Sale
21 9:00 AM EKKO Church 10:00 AM Online Service -- Zoom and Facebook Live	22 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study on Zoom	23 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study on Zoom	24	25 7:00 AM EKKO Church	26 6:30 PM Movie night	27 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study on Zoom
28 9:00 AM EKKO Church 10:00 AM Online Service -- Zoom and Facebook Live						

This Month's Happenings

Most in-person events have been cancelled until further notice.

Mondays at 7 p.m.

Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

Saturdays at 9 a.m.

Wednesday, February 3, 7pm

Thursday, February 11, 5 pm

Wednesday, February 17

Friday, February 26, 6:30 pm

Evening Bible Study on Zoom

Women's Bible Study on Zoom

Men's Bible Study on Zoom

Taizé on Zoom

Early Birds Cocktail Hour on Zoom

ASH WEDNESDAY (Details TBD – check email)

Movie Night on Zoom

PLEASE HELP US OUT!

DO YOU STILL WANT "THE EPISTLE" IN PAPER FORM? OUR NEW PRINTING COMPANY WILL MAKE AN ELECTRONIC VERSION AVAILABLE TO ANYONE WHO WOULD PREFER ONE. IF YOU WOULD LIKE THE ELECTRONIC "EPISTLE," PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO office@emmanuelfullerton.org, AND WE WILL SWITCH YOU OVER IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

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