



The Emmanuel Epistle

Learn, Love, Serve

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The Old Has Gone, The New Is Here

The coming of a new year is replete with days of reflection on the previous year. That reflection includes the reliving of achievements, our own and those of the ones we love, as well as failures and setbacks. We relive the milestones, births, deaths, weddings, funerals. Joys and losses. The patchwork of human experience that make up our lives. 2020 has all that and the weddings cancelled, the funerals not held, babies being born in the middle of the pandemic, nervous parents entering hospitals where they are treating people with a highly contagious disease at the same time. People dying alone in hospitals and nursing facilities because Covid-19 kept families and loved ones out of the hospital room, unable to hold their hands, comforted only by nurses in PPE head to toe. As I write this there are no available ICU beds in Southern California and reports say over 3,000 Americans are dying from Covid-19 every day.

A new year usually brings the exciting anticipation of change, a clean slate, a blank canvas on which we can project all of our hopes, dreams and expectations for the coming year. My big hope for 2021 is to go to the movies, eat out inside a restaurant, and maybe take a trip somewhere outside of California. Whether any of those activities will be achievable in 2021 we just have to wait and see.

But waiting isn't all bad. This isn't sitting around waiting for something to happen. That kind of waiting is dangerous, fertile soil for self-pity. This is living in joyful and wonderful expectation, that God is at work in the world. This is living fully in the moment and embracing every moment as pregnant with possibility of the new thing preparing to be birthed into the world. We don't know how God will make right all that has been so troubling, so distressing over this last year, we just know that God will. Because that's who our God is. In the promise of life, death and resurrection in Jesus Christ, God will always make a way out of no way and bring goodness out of the seemingly bad, just as Paul

writes in his second letter to the church in Corinth, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

Blessings for a very Happy New Year,
Rev. Holly+



An Important Message from Your Treasurer

Our Operating Fund had income in November of \$19,121 including \$2,000 from EKKO Church who is leasing space in Edwards Hall to put together their streaming services. Our expenses, however, were high because we had our quarterly Property and Liability insurance bill of \$5,625 as well as a bill for \$3,300 to remove the dead tree in the front lawn and the large tree just behind Holly's office in Havermale. We also had to trim two other trees that were way overdue. We ended the month with a deficit of \$8,610.

As of November 30th, our Operating Fund is in the red \$27,732. We were in the red \$33,474 at this same point last year. As usual it all comes down to December. As of today, December 20th, it's looking like we will do well financially in December but I don't know yet if it will be enough to pull us out of the red. I have the knee pads out!!

Thank you for all your support this past year. Emmanuel is very blessed by your generosity. May you have a Safe and Prosperous 2021.

Blessings!
Dave Dunlap, Treasurer
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Why Emmanuel?

Jane Shellhouse

It was raining cats and dogs on Sunday, December 10th, 2010. I really wanted to attend church at Saddleback Community, but it was 45 minutes away. I hate driving on the freeways here in California in the rain. I thought about it and then remembered that Deborah Cantwell during one of our morning prayer meetings with another friend had asked me several times if I would like to visit her church. She would always smile when I made excuses and say, "Well, at least Emmanuel is closer. Hmmm, maybe it would be nice to show up and surprise Deborah." I knew where Emmanuel was located and thought I remembered the times that most Episcopal services begin. I had already missed the 8:15, so 10 AM it was.

I remember coming in at the right of the main door. Judy Gibbs was sitting there and instantly greeted me warmly. The service began. Having been confirmed an Episcopalian when I was young, I was familiar with the service, but was thrilled to know that most of it was communicated visually. What a coup that was! No more trying to figure out what page I was supposed to be on! About midway through the service, Deborah spotted me and came over; she asked why I hadn't let her know I was coming. "My coming was not planned," I said. "The rain brought me."

After the service, Deborah asked me if I had time to stay for coffee and for her to introduce me to a few Emmanuel folks. I thought since I was already here, why not? After introducing me to a few people, she came to a man who was either standing in line waiting for coffee or he was just there. Deborah introduced us. I didn't say anything; I just stood there rudely looking him up and down. I finally said, "You are not from around here, are you?" I think he was a little taken aback but said, "No, why?" "You look really nice," I said; "Nice jacket, nice slacks, nice shoes. Most men in California look like they are going to a picnic instead of to church. Are you from the East Coast? I am from the East Coast." "How about Wisconsin?" he said. I said that that would do nicely! We both laughed. At that point, Deborah left us saying she had to go pour coffee. She then said, "Howard, would you take care of Jane?" I thought she meant keep me company. Now I am not so sure...

We wound up going for lunch that next week. He mentioned he was returning to Wisconsin for the holidays to visit family and would return after January 1st and would I have dinner with him. The rest is really history. He went to church with me once at Saddleback and said it was like attending a football game! I decided that I wanted to get to know him better, and finding a guy who actually went to church was a real plus, so I began attending Emmanuel with him.

After crying for several Sundays for some unknown reason, I settled down and really started enjoying the service and the people. Howard and I decided that meeting the way we did was definitely a "God thing", and Deborah was the catalyst. She swears that was not her intention but we're not sure. Father Rob married us on October 24, 2015. I hadn't been married since I was 31, so this was epic for me. Howard, not so much. They say the third time is a charm. So far, "they" have been right.

We have enjoyed being available for many events here at Emmanuel. I feel blessed to have been asked by Vestry to be the incoming Secretary. Filling the shoes of Joy Jones is no easy task, but I am up for it. Regardless of what we have all been enduring for the last 9 months, I have been grateful that we have had technology to depend on so we can at least see each other and hear our wonderful Reverend Holly's weekly message. It is unfortunate that she has had to tap dance through much of her first year with us because of the pandemic, but we have all had to learn to cope and move forward. I am looking forward to seeing all of my Emmanuel friends and giving them a great big hug...soon!

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.

As we wrote last month in the Epistle, 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!

Chris Becerra and members of the committee presented the Business Plan and financial projections to the Vestry in December and the Vestry endorsed the concept. Our next steps are to develop the marketing plan, work on the outdoor spaces, and prepare classrooms in the Good Shepherd Building to add to our existing spaces. If you have questions on Social Enterprise, please email Rev. Holly.

Vineyard News

Lorra and I went down to Temecula Thursday, November 12 to get the results of the testing that was done on the three wine varieties we had in the vineyard: Merlot, Zinfandel and Cabernet Sauvignon. Testing was done by Agri-Analysis, a testing company in Davis, CA. The news was as we expected, and not good. All of the vines have *Xylella fastidiosa*, which is Pierce's Disease.

We had a long conversation with Greg Pennyroyal, the leader of the Temecula Small Winegrowers Association, an association we recently joined. It was through this association we were able to have our vines tested at a third of the usual cost. He is the vineyard manager of Wilson Creek Winery in Temecula, and the de facto leader of the TSWA. He was unbelievably helpful. He explained that the disease is not harmful to people but is a death sentence for vines. He was surprised that the Zinfandel were affected by PD as they are usually tolerant. He also could not understand how we got the disease in the first place because we have no vineyards near us. However, the good news is that the disease does not enter the ground like many other plant diseases do, so the ground is disease free, and we can replant immediately. We have removed all the vines and we plan to get the vineyard ready for planting disease-resistant vines in January. He will try, via his contacts, to secure a donation of the resistant vines for us. Barring that, he will negotiate reduced pricing for us for the 120 or so vines we need. If all of this fails, we

know of two growers in Bakersfield who sell disease resistant vines. If it comes to purchasing the vines, we will be asking for donations to help with the cost. We asked him if he knew anybody that would be willing to serve as a consultant, helping us with the management of our vineyard. We need to know things like how much watering and how often, knowing that it varies throughout the year. He said he would ask around to see if someone is available to help us. We also asked about ground cover, and he was extremely positive about this, saying that it's one of the best ways to fertilize the ground, and how attractive it was. Again, he had a source for relatively cheap wildflower seeds. This was triggered by Lorra's story about seeing a vineyard in New Zealand using a ground cover of California Poppies. It was very beautiful. He was not so happy that we had put weed cloth so close to the vines. He agreed that rainwater and/or drip irrigation did soak through the cloth, but it did not allow natural fertilization that ground cover would provide. So, this is something that we must talk about.

To close on a positive note: Greg was very excited to hear about our Vineyard and Community Garden and hopes to come for a visit.

Sincerely, Gordon

The Growing Connection

We have been busy at home redoing our front garden and courtyard. We started this project several years ago and could not agree on what we wanted, so we stopped. As I recovered from my surgery and learned to walk again, we began to look at the project with new eyes. It is hard to navigate steps and uneven walks in a wheelchair and with a walker. Our front garden had numerous steps, both up and down. The sidewalk was being destroyed by the parkway tree. A talk with the city of Fullerton was not very satisfying. In the end we took out the tree and replaced the sidewalk, took out all of the steps, and put in a new walk from the sidewalk to the front door. We will be ready to plant soon. I am very excited because I get to have my favorite tree in the yard.

In the back we have taken over the kids' sandbox and installed two raised beds for vegetables. Gordon is excited about this new growing space for food. We are using the no-dig method of layering hay, straw and compost. Speaking of straw, Trader Joe's came through again this year. They have donated the straw bales they use for October/Halloween decorating to our Garden since the Garden began 11 years ago. This year they were especially generous – 31 bales. When Gordon went to buy hay, he found that a bale of straw was just over \$15. That is a bunch of money TJ's saved us. (In case you are wondering, a bale of hay is just under \$20.)

Happy Growing!
Lorra and Gordon

January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study on Zoom
3 9:00 AM EKKO Church 10:00 AM Online Service -- Zoom and Facebook Live	4 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study on Zoom	5 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study on Zoom	6 7:00 PM Taizé Service	7 7:00 AM EKKO Church	8	9 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study on Zoom
10 9:00 AM EKKO Church 10:00 AM Online Service -- Zoom and Facebook Live	11 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study on Zoom	12 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study on Zoom	13	14 7:00 AM EKKO Church 5:00 PM Early Birds Cocktail Hour on Zoom	15	16 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study on Zoom 9:00 AM Plant Sale
17 9:00 AM EKKO Church 10:00 AM Online Service -- Zoom and Facebook Live	18 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study on Zoom	19 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study on Zoom	20 6:30 PM Vestry on Zoom	21 7:00 AM EKKO Church	22 6:30 PM Movie night	23 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study on Zoom
24 9:00 AM EKKO Church 10:00 AM Online Service -- Zoom and Facebook Live	25 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study on Zoom	26 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study on Zoom	27	28 7:00 AM EKKO Church	29	30 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study on Zoom
31 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. During Advent, services will be held as Parking Lot Pulpits at 10 am on Sunday.

Mondays at 7 p.m.

Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

Saturdays at 9 a.m.

Wednesday, January 6, 7pm

Thursday, January 14, 5 pm

Friday, January 22, 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

Movie Night on Zoom

PLEASE HELP US OUT!

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