



The Emmanuel Epistle

Learn, Love, Serve

Volume 26, Issue 1

January 2020

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<i>Rector: Rev. Holly Cardone</i>		
<i>Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9 am-1 pm</i>		
<i>Sunday Worship Services 8:15 am & 10 am</i>	<i>Tuesday Eucharist 11 am</i>	<i>Wednesday Eucharist 7 am</i>

Epiphany

2020. Nice round number, don't you think? I'm not big on New Year's resolutions. I'm really good at making them and lousy at follow through. So, I did a search on "alternatives to New Year's resolutions" and Kat Boogaard, freelance writer and blogger, had a great article on The Muse website, which is a website for the next gen workforce to research companies and careers. In her article she wrote that, like me, she's great at setting lofty resolution goals for the new year but when it comes making the resolutions a reality, there leaves a lot to be desired. Instead, she writes, she is going to pick a theme for each month of the year and do her best to do as many things as she can that relate to the theme. Some of her theme ideas are creativity, health, balance, connection, and nature.

Themes it is! January's theme is epiphany, just like the day we commemorate the Wise Men's visit to the baby Jesus. Epiphany. What Oprah calls our "aha" moments. Dictionary online defines epiphany as: "a sudden, intuitive perception of or insight into the reality or essential meaning of something, usually initiated by some simple, homely, or commonplace occurrence or experience." The awareness of staying awake we cultivated in December during Advent is something that we continue to nurture as we go forward in this new year. As we stay awake and alive to Christ in the world, the more likely we are to experience epiphanies, "aha" moments, flashes of inspiration and insight that are initiated by God. When our minds are focused on Jesus and his teachings of love, compassion, mercy, humility, and gratitude, the Holy Spirit works in, around, and through us, in commonplace occurrences of our daily lives, to reveal the Divine in all things.

Happy New Year Blessings,
Rev. Holly

Emmanuel Episcopal Preschool

Dear Emmanuel Friends,

Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful holiday season with your families. Last month we ended the year with our annual Christmas program. It was short and sweet. I'm hoping that this year we can plan a bigger production with the church. Also, we had the 3pm Children's Service on Christmas Eve and a few of our families attended. We encourage all of you to attend any of our Emmanuel events as the church and the preschool are one large Christian community.

January is the month when we celebrate the arrival of winter. During this time the children will enjoy creating snow people and snowflake art work, reading tales about his season, and singing songs about this winter. We will continue to go outside to play and visit the garden whenever possible.

In order to be a more up to date preschool we have incorporated Bright Wheel, an app that helps us communicate with parents and track our finances. This is our pilot year and I will re-evaluate its effectiveness at the end of the school year. Most of the parents are paying tuition online but unfortunately we are getting charged for this feature. We do like the messaging features as I am able to send out weekly announcements and teachers can communicate directly with parents. The teachers even post pictures of their students on here as a form of class documentation. Moreover, parents and/or guardians can edit their child's profile at any time.

I applied for a grant through the Franklin Fund and if we are chosen again this year then I will be purchasing more equipment based on the teachers' wish lists. We plan to have our annual "Pizza with a Purpose" dine out night at California Pizza Kitchen at the Brea Mall at the end of February. Last year we had lots of parishioners, families, and friends attend. It was a hit! I hope that it will be even better this year.

Thank you for all your contributions and continued support of our ministry. All your help is truly appreciated.

Best Regards,
Lisa Seggelke, Preschool Director

Outreach Committee Column

The Epistle features a monthly column about one of our Outreach Ministries, along with important Outreach Ministry events we might want to get involved with. The Outreach Committee, under the leadership of Dave Dunlap, has been reinvigorated and will be keeping our community informed of the incredible ministries Emmanuel sponsors and the opportunities all of you have to be involved in Outreach. This month, we feature the Million Meals Ministry. We will be having a Million Meals Ingathering this month.

Million Meals Ministry

Million Meals was started by Lew Lardie, an Emmanuel parishioner and retired Proctor & Gamble executive who had a dream of feeding one million people experiencing food insecurity. He was joined by his wife, Bobbie, and other parishioners in running this ministry. Lew used to show us how little food costs when it is bought through a Food Bank by bringing in sample items like peanut butter from the Food Bank and from the grocery store. Currently we have fed over nine million people! Our Emmanuel congregation collects coins in special Million Meals containers and we periodically have an Ingathering to bring in all our coin contributions, along with any checks and other forms of payment. The contributions go to the Orange County Food Bank and Los Angeles Food Bank. Our Ingathering will take place this month, in January. Watch the Sunday Bulletin for specific information.

If you have any questions, please contact Dave Dunlap, Outreach Committee Chair.



A Few Words from Your Treasurer

November was a pretty good month for us financially. Our Operating Fund Expenses only exceeded our Income by \$790. However, as of November 30th, the year to date deficit in the Operating Fund is right at \$52,000. That's \$46,000 more than it was at the same point last year. We know that we'll make up some of the shortfall in December. The only question is how much.

Our year to date Operating Fund Expenses are about \$25,000 less than we budgeted, but our Operating Fund Income is more than \$100,000 below what we had estimated.

Please join me in praying that God's abundance will be poured out on all of us and that Emmanuel will begin the new year in good financial health.

Million Meals, General Outreach and the Capital Fund also need our support. Your prayers and financial support are very much appreciated.

Blessings!
Dave Dunlap
Treasurer

New Column in the Epistle: Why Emmanuel?

Rev. Holly had a brilliant idea about a new column for everyone in Emmanuel. We will be writing Emmanuelites' stories about why they came and stayed at Emmanuel as their church home. We will be making an announcement at the service, asking for stories, but we will also be pulling stories from our Story Day. Stories can be anonymous if you wish, but we do have wonderful experiences that we should share with each other. Here is the first story:

I was raised in a home without religion. In fact, my parents were strong non-believers. Their idea of religion was an authoritarian hierarchy and they cited the Inquisition and treatment of indigenous peoples as why religion was more harmful than helpful. However, they raised us with love and talked all the time about "good values." We were taught not to steal or cheat and to be kind and love each other. However, I always knew that there was more. When I was 16, my grandfather had an aneurysm in his carotid artery burst and for the first time in my life, I prayed that he would survive. I loved my grandfather very much. But sadly, the damage was too great and he passed away.

I got married in my 20s to a man with a strong Christian background who had set it aside during his college years. But his parents, whom I met after a few years of marriage, were strong practicing Christians and lovely people. After some 40 years of marriage, they were still kind and considerate of each other and they PRAYED! My, did they pray! Every prayer took 10-15 minutes and included everyone. No one was left out. I started to think about what it was to be a Christian. It was still hard to overcome my upbringing, though. I started to yearn for a relationship with God, and I knew I had to open my heart, but I just couldn't figure out how to do it. I asked God but it wasn't time yet.

Fast forward to the end of my mother's life. By this time, I had a close relationship with my mother-in-law and I knew the strength of her prayers. She lived far away and I got the distinct feeling that my mother didn't have a lot of time. She had just tried to get out of her

hospital bed, saying “I have to go. I have to go.” We thought she was talking about going home – she loved her house – but I have come to think it meant something else. I felt a powerful need to be with my mother-in-law so that she could pray for my mother. I took the long flight, arriving at around 1 am and going to a relative’s house to sleep. I was beset by worry about my mother, but all of a sudden I heard the words, “Count your blessings.” I knew they came from God, so I counted my blessings and went to sleep. At that moment, I knew that God was in my heart.

The following day, we drove to my mother-in-law’s home for a family meal – that would be around 30 people! At the end of the lunch, after most of the people had left, I asked my mother-in-law for prayers for my mother. She prayed her beautiful prayers and we rejoined the few people there. After about 15 minutes, my husband got a phone call. I saw him talk to his sister and then he came to me, saying that we needed to talk. He took me aside and told me that my mother had just passed away. She went just as my mother-in-law was praying for her. I then knew why I had felt so compelled to go see her. These are the moments when I knew what faith was.

When I returned home, I decided to try and find a church home. The first week, I went to a very traditional Episcopal church. The people were nice, but I felt nothing. The following Sunday, I went to another Episcopal church. Again, the people were very pleasant, but I felt nothing. The third week, I came to Emmanuel. I walked in the door and I knew I was home. Forever. It was grace, and love, and acceptance. All of you changed my life, and there are no words to express how grateful I am. Love and blessings to all of you!

Emmanuel Community Garden and Vineyard

We are striving to keep the garden up without Gordon and Lorra, our garden ministry leaders. We know that Lorra will be back to pulling weeds and planting soon! We had a fantastic garden Work Day in November. With the help of Rev. Holly’s friend, Tim, who has experience in community gardens, we cleared all the beds and some of us planted fall vegetables. We also got a lot of help pruning berries and checking the irrigation system. Holly’s carrots are growing and she’s thrilled! We are also looking at ways to bring the preschool back into the garden. We would like to help the children plant fruit and vegetables that they enjoy eating. We plan to have more Work Days in the future, so please join us! If you would like to have a plot for raising food, please contact Rev. Holly. It’s really a lot of fun and very rewarding!

Blessings from your Garden Team

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study 4:00 PM Nicotine Anonymous
5 9:00 AM Eucharist	6 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study	7 10:00 AM Bible Study 11:00 AM Eucharist 3:30 PM Girl Scouts troop 1999 6:00 PM Girl Scout Leaders' Meeting 7:00 PM Women Writers	8 7:00 AM Eucharist	9 1:00 PM OWLS (women of girl scouts) 6:00 PM Girl Scout Leaders 6:30 PM Early Birds	10 12:30 PM Emmanuel Book Club 5:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 101 Meeting	11 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study 4:00 PM Nicotine Anonymous
12 8:15 AM Eucharist 10:00 AM Eucharist	13 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study	14 10:00 AM Bible Study 11:00 AM Eucharist 6:30 PM Visibility Committee 7:00 PM Women Writers	15 7:00 AM Eucharist 6:00 PM Finance 6:30 PM Vestry	16	17	18 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Plant Sale 4:00 PM Nicotine Anonymous
19 8:15 AM Eucharist 10:00 AM Eucharist	20 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study	21 10:00 AM Bible Study 11:00 AM Eucharist 3:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 1999 7:00 PM Women Writers	22 7:00 AM Eucharist	23	24 6:30 PM Movie night	25 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study 4:00 PM Nicotine Anonymous
26 8:15 AM Eucharist 10:00 AM Eucharist	27 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study	28 10:00 AM Bible Study 11:00 AM Eucharist 7:00 PM Women Writers	29 7:00 AM Eucharist	30	31 5:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 101 Meeting	

This Month's Happenings

In addition to the usual services here are more opportunities to gather together:

Mondays	Evening Bible Study	7 pm
Tuesdays	Women's Bible Study, Eucharist	10 am
Wednesdays	Eucharist and Breakfast	7 am
Saturdays	Men's Bible Study	9 am
12/30-1/3	OFFICE CLOSED	
1/1	No Taizé this month	
1/10	Emmanuel Book Club	6:30 pm
1/18	Emmanuel Garden Plant Sale	9 am – 12 noon
1/24	Movie Night	6:30 pm
2/2	Annual Meeting	After single service

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