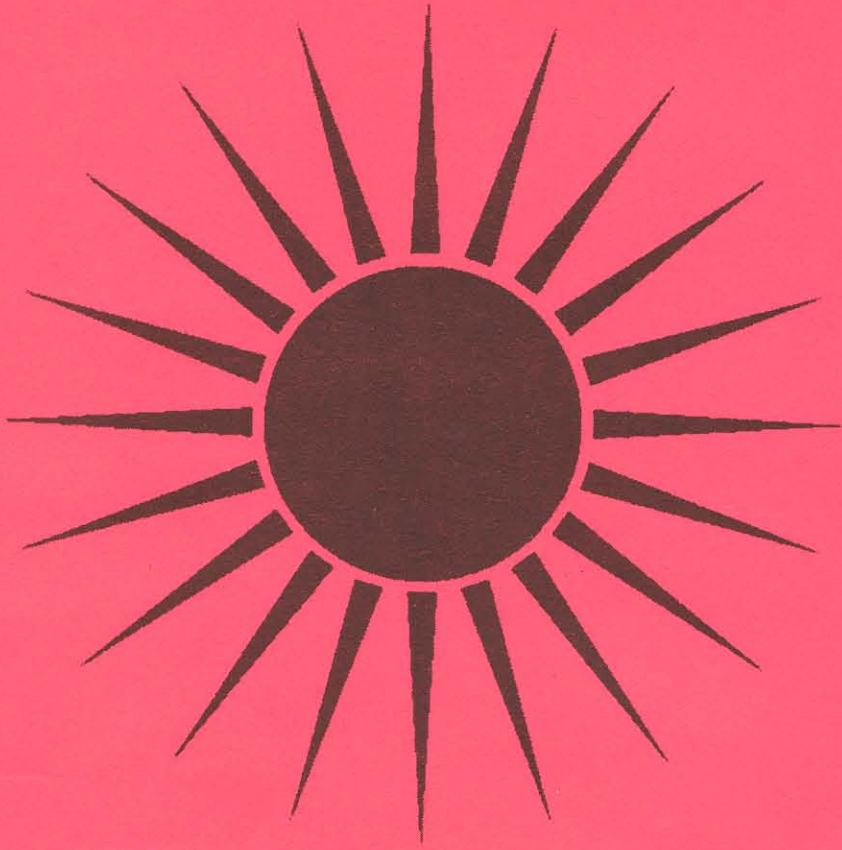


a new beginning



old things are passed away;
all things are become new.

Annual Meeting

of

Emmanuel Episcopal Church

Sunday, the 10th day of December, 2006
Annual Report

Senior Wardens Report

Worship

- Acolytes
- Baptismal Banners
- Funeral Committee
- Lay Eucharistic Ministers
- Readers
- Music Ministry
- Wedding Committee

Pastoral Care

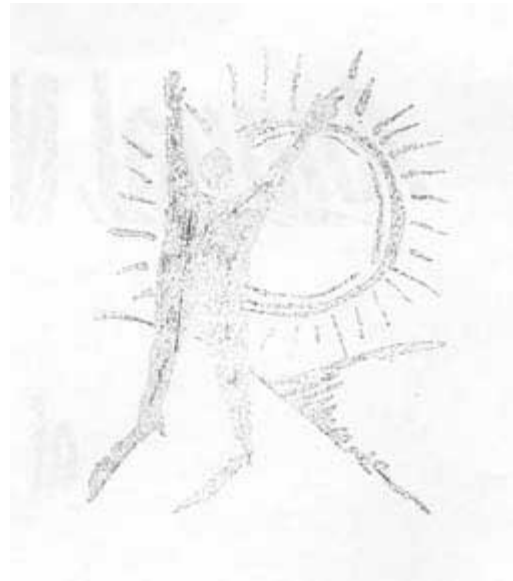
- Agape Meals
- Charioteers
- Caring Visitors
- Guild of the Christ Child
- Stephen Ministry

Spiritual Formation

- Adult Formation/Education
- Children's Formation
- Children's Chapel
- Mom's Book Club
- Natural Spirituality
- Nursery
- Vacation Bible School
- Youth and EYC
- Parents of Youth
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Extended Ministries

- Outreach Committee
- Thrift House
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Emmanuel Day School

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- All Souls
- Brotherhood of St. Andrew
- Holy Cookers
- Office Volunteers

Communications

- Stewardship
- The Tower
- The Web Site

Finance

Resources

- AGM
- Facilities
- Guild of St. Francis

Endowment Fund



SENIOR WARDEN

When I saw the theme for the Annual Report, a song that Mother Mandy taught us began playing in my mind:

Behold, behold, I make all things new, beginning with you and starting from today.

Behold, behold, I make all things new, my promise is true, for I am Christ the Way.

From the beginning of time and within our own small, magnificent lives, God calls His creation to move. A Word, a vibration, a movement, began creation. Lord knows, Abraham and his children moved all of their existence. Jesus traveled most of His active years of ministry, and He commanded the apostles to spread the Gospel. We, whom Jesus called brothers and sisters, are also called to journey.

Emmanuel has always had gifted, loving and committed parishioners who have kept things running – from Christian Education to Outreach to paying bills to Wednesday night suppers, to name a few. The evidence of that is in this report and I commend it to you.

But it should also be noted that this time last year, Emmanuel was rector-less, somewhat lost, and healing from rancor. In many areas we were, without curiosity or new life, doing things as we had always done them. Many parishioners felt lethargic about Emmanuel, and frustrated about how hard it was to get things done. We knew we were better than that. Somewhere within us, we knew that (an Episcopal gasp!) things needed to change!

The parish's first major act, by the grace of God, was to call a new rector to help us create a new beginning. A very amazing thing occurred: 25 Emmanuel-ites unanimously agreed to call Robert Salamone. I believe that this parish was finally ready to welcome a rector. To quote from the profile, we want:

A priest of experience will help us harness our resources, overcome our challenges, resurrect our enthusiasm, plan our future, and take that next bold step.

Well, here we go! The year ended with a strong, cohesive vestry working with our clergy for the health of the parish. We have started a complete assessment of the state of the parish: mission, vision, and goals. We revised and re-adopted our Vision and Mission.

Vision

Emmanuel Episcopal Church provides people with opportunities for growth in faith through our love, respect and acceptance.

Mission

Emmanuel Episcopal Church strives to honor God and nurture the spirit by ministering to God's people.

We chose 6 goals upon which to focus our energy:

- ❖ Spiritual Growth
- ❖ Strong Children and Youth Programs
- ❖ Adequate Maintained Property and Facilities
- ❖ Active, Committed Parishioners
- ❖ Outreach
- ❖ Financial Soundness

We then began to revise vestry structure so that it would support the vision and mission. We also want to share leadership with you and return oversight of all matters of property and finance to the ultimate oversight of the vestry, where it belongs by canon. We have not finished this process at present, but will soon.

Our stewardship campaign, under the leadership of Gillan Ball, Butch Bush and their hard-working and dedicated team, is very close to goal at this moment. We expect to approve the 2007 budget at the November vestry meeting, amending our late budget approvals of recent years. A comprehensive audit is underway and we will receive a report at our November meeting.

We have been given a new beginning. An opportunity to sing a new song. The past is gone except in memory. We can choose to be vigilant of our memories and habits, and encourage our doubt about how things have always been. We can choose to be willing to let some old routines go - for the common good. God promises us some new delight. It's up to us to walk with Jesus among the gifts of the Holy Spirit toward that delight.





WORSHIP

Acolyte Team

Emmanuel had 30 youth acolytes serving at the 10:30 Sunday services in the past year. Acolytes were organized into four teams. Each team was led by experienced acolytes of high school age, and included youth from fifth grade through high school seniors. Teams were scheduled to serve once a month all year long, with occasional extra service during holiday seasons and in months with five Sundays. Three acolytes graduated from high school last May and ended their acolyte service sometime during the summer. Two youth decided to drop out of the program. Four new acolytes joined the program in September, 2006. There are currently 29 youth acolytes organized into four teams of seven or eight. All teams include youth from fifth grade through late high school.

Baptismal Banners

The Baptismal Banner Committee creates the banners given to each newly baptized person at Emmanuel. The committee meets the first Thursday morning of each month.

Members of the committee are: Anne Bretscher, Jean Hunnicutt, Patti Jones, Cindy McAlister, Gene Weeks, Mary Hutchinson, Ann Joye McLeod, Anne Becker, Grace Gaby and JoAnn Yates

The committee cuts, sews and glues to assemble banners that are presented to those being baptized. It takes about 4 hours to assemble each banner. Each year 12 – 15 banners are presented.

We hope the banner will be hung in the home of the newly baptized person to remind them and their family of when they were sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. During 2006, from January to November, 20 banners were made and presented.

Anyone interested in our project is eagerly welcomed. Please contact anyone on the committee and join us. No special skills are necessary. Co-Chairs: Ann Bretscher (706-549-6825) JoAnn Yates (706-548-5954)

Funeral Committee

You may only know about our Funeral Committee at Emmanuel if you are a member or have had the experience of being served by it. The purpose of this committee is to support the clergy as they officiate at funerals and memorial services, to aid the other church staff in the execution of their duties at such a time, and in addition, to offer pastoral care to the bereaved family and friends of the deceased.

Besides the regulars who do their jobs for any service at Emmanuel (altar guild, flower guild, organist, sexton) there are three other groups which are part of the Funeral Committee and whose members have agreed to be

on call for funerals. Their chairs are: Anne Brightwell, LEM's; Jones Drewry, Ushers; and Betsy Turner, Hosts. The duties of the former two groups are obvious, but the Hosts are just that. They ready the parlor for and greet the family, provide information regarding the church and facilities, put out water, mints, and funeral bulletins, etc. In addition, they may add support to the altar guild, especially if there is to be a Eucharist. If there is to be a body, Hosts take care of placing the pall on the coffin as it is received into the vestibule (narthex) and later removing it. The Hosts have been liaisons between Emmanuel and Funeral Home representatives, if they ask questions or for help of some kind or need to get into the church before it is opened for the service.

If there is to be a funeral on a weekend, or while the Director of Administration (Melissa) is away, the co-chairs, Robin Krause and Agnes Parker, alert those whom Melissa would ordinarily advise that there is an impending funeral or memorial service.

So far in 2006, the Funeral Committee has served at probably five or six funerals or memorial services. And, we are always accepting more volunteers for the various jobs of this committee.

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND READERS

Ellen Cowne, Coordinator

Emmanuel is blessed to have nineteen lay people who serve as Eucharistic Ministers. These servers assist the priests in administering the chalice during the Eucharistic on Sunday services, both 8:30 and 10:30. A few of those nineteen also serve as Eucharistic Visitors. Their role is to take the Eucharistic to parishioners who are not able to come to church but who want regularly to have the Body and Blood of Christ.

We have twenty one Lay Readers. These are people who read the first and second lessons as well as the Prayers of the People. Five of these readers are new to this ministry though only two are new to Emmanuel. We welcome as new Lay Readers, Vanessa Beasley, Trey Beasley, Jim Jacobsen, Beegee Moore, and Bryan Moore.

We made noticeable changes in the people who would read the second lesson as well as the location from which they would read. Before Easter, Lay Readers had read only the first lesson with Eucharistic Ministers reading the second lesson, the Psalms, when they were read instead of sung, and the Prayers of the People. Fr. Robert changed the protocol so that all readings from the Word of God are now read from the Priest's lectern while words of man, Prayers of the People and announcements, are to be read from the eagle lectern. This change involves more readers and gives them an opportunity to read more often. Some of the Eucharistic Ministers have decided to be on the list of lay readers as well as Eucharistic ministers, and they take their turn reading on days not serving as Eucharistic Ministers.

Seven of the nineteen Eucharistic Ministers also serve on Wednesday evenings at the Healing Service, and five of the nineteen serve regularly at the 8:30 service with some others helping out when those five can't make it.

I want to personally thank all Lay Readers and the Eucharistic Ministers for being kind when I make scheduling errors and for being both punctual and dependable in their duties.

MUSIC

The choir at Emmanuel is divided into two groups: singers in grades three through twelve, and singers aged eighteen and up. All choir members lead the singing of hymns and service music each Sunday at the 10:30 am Liturgy. In addition, the adult singers offer anthems each Sunday, and the youth offer an anthem twice a month.

The total number of people regularly singing in the choir, both children and adults, is about twenty. Michael Brewer has been using the Royal School of Church Music curriculum with the youth as a means of training them in theory and general musicianship. They meet on Wednesdays at 6:40 pm. The adults rehearse on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm.

The task of cataloguing the music library is still in progress.

WEDDINGS

The members of the wedding committee meet with the bride to plan details of the wedding ceremony/sacrament. We assist the priest in directing the rehearsal and the mechanics of the wedding on the day of the ceremony.

Committee members are: Patty Curtis; Jean Hunnicutt; Ann Joye McLeod; Gene Weeks, Jane Kidd and JoAnn Yates, Chair.

In 2006 the committee assisted our priests with five wedding services.

Our job description: We communicate with the Flower and Altar Guilds, LEM and Acolyte groups and our organist. Arriving about one hour before the ceremony, the director ensures the wedding goes smoothly before, during and after the ceremony.

Our commitment: To assist our priests and parish in making weddings at Emmanuel an important and meaningful sacrament.



PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Care Commission has spent this year revitalizing our various ministries and they are becoming more and more active with the energy put into them by some very dedicated parishioners. We defined our Mission as “ministering to the Community’s needs of mind, body, and spirit.” Our goals are to do this through the six ministries we now have in place: Agape Meals, Charioteers, Eucharistic Visitor, Guild of the Christ Child, Pastoral Care Visitors, and Stephen Ministers. We have tried to communicate the availability of these ministries by word of mouth, an article in the Tower, and providing a refrigerator magnet with contact information to each parish family.

AGAPE MEALS

Polly Connerat, Chair,
706-769-5601

The Agape Committee is one of those committees that stay very busy, but we never have a meeting! That’s right! We spend all of our out reach time fixing meals for people whose lives have been temporarily interrupted by illness, a death in the family, or maybe there is a new baby in the family and Mom needs a break from meal planning. Agape means a “love feast.” I am not sure how much of a feast we prepare, but the love certainly abounds. Since the middle of the summer the Agape Committee has prepared and delivered some thirty meals to the Emmanuel Community. Our sixteen members have been so very generous with their time, energy, and devotion in sharing God’s love with those who needed to be fed not only with food, but care and loving, prayerful concern. They have been a wonderful group to work with and help out as needed. We are always looking for more members to serve on this committee. You do not have to be a gourmet cook. All that is required is a loving and open heart to share God’s love. Please call Polly Connerat if you would like to be one of our “no meeting” members. Or if you know of someone who is in need of our community outreach please let me know.

CHARIOTEERS

Bob Bowen, Chair, 706-543-6187

Need a ride? To the grocery store, doctor’s appointment, church? The Charioteers are ready to help you. Please call Bob. He has lined up people willing to meet these needs.

EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Ellen Cowne, chair,
706-788-3909.

Can’t get to church? Let us bring Eucharist to you. You may see these ministers receiving Eucharist Kits at the altar and leaving to take them to parishioners who were not able to be with us.

PASTORAL CARE VISITORS

Grace Hunnicutt, Chair,
706-543-1689. The Pastoral Care Commission has been meeting as a whole to identify parishioners we have not seen for a while or those we know are not able to get out and have been calling them just to see how they are and in some cases following up with a visit or one of our other ministries. It feels good to be back in touch with them again.

GUILD OF THE CHRIST CHILD

The Guild of the Christ Child is a ministry that supports families from pregnancy through birth and baptism. Guild members are available to help in many ways, including prayer lists, notification of births, delivering meals, and supplying information on choosing godparents and baptism. This is a joyful time for these families, as well as a time of celebration for our church family, as we welcome these newest members into our family in Christ at Emmanuel. If you are interested in becoming a member of GOCC, or if you know of anyone in our parish who is pregnant, please call Cindy McAlister.

STEPHEN MINISTERS

Ann Darby, Co chair,
706-543-7995,
Diane Wahlers, Co chair,
706-543-4158.

Stephen Ministers, while not trained to take the place of mental health professionals, medical doctors, or clergy, have been trained in care-giving skills that can help you find your way through a problem with loving support and a listening ear. Confidentiality is vital and required of them. They meet twice a month for ongoing training. If you are experiencing the loss of a loved one, divorce, hospitalization, chronic or terminal illness, loneliness, discouragement, unemployment, aging, relocation, recovery from an accident, or any other situation where you need support, a Stephen Minister can walk with you during weekly visits lasting about an hour and by phone as necessary between visits. Meeting with them regularly for confidential dialogue and spiritual support during difficult times such as illness, job change or loss, depression, loss of a loved one. We engage in regular peer supervision and continuing training and education. We also visit Episcopalian patients in the hospitals each Saturday in place of the clergy. The clergy can put you in touch with a Stephen Minister or you can call Ann or Diane.



SPIRITUAL FORMATION

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Christian Formation at Emmanuel consists of many ongoing efforts, including Natural Spirituality, Education for Ministry (EFM), Inquirers classes, Men of Emmanuel and Monday Bible Study, as well as Sunday presentations planned by the Adult Christian Education Committee. This fall we have heard from Father Robert on Bible scholarship and history, Anne Brightwell and Diane Ehlers on Celtic Christianity, Matthew Hicks on the Gospel of Luke and Acts, and Sam Carleton on art of the New Testament. Future programs will feature Mary Anne O Neal and David Ingle discussing spirituality in poetry, Mary Anne O Neal and Anne Brightwell on finding God in contemporary fiction, Naomi Norman on the archaeology of Paul and his letters, Adelaide Probst, Bob and Blue Wood with a study of *Resurrection*, by Rowan Williams, Father Robert and Naomi Norman on the translation, theology and spirituality of the Lord's Prayer, and Merry Stovall and Debra Harden on *Leaving Church*, by Barbara Brown Taylor.

Anne Brightwell, Committee Chair

CHILDREN'S FORMATION

Many wonderful families make up the Children's Program at Emmanuel. In 2006, we continued to find ways to offer meaningful programs for our young members. This year the children have benefited from the many volunteers who have given of their time and talent to make these programs possible. Emmanuel is grateful for Georgia Collier and her leadership of the program last school year. In August, Mother Mandy Brady returned from her summer sabbatical and is now offering her special talents to our children and their families.

Our special events in 2006 included the **Christmas Pageant, Christmas Outreach, Intergenerational Stations of the Cross, an Easter Egg Hunt, Celebration Sundays**, and other family oriented enrichment activities. The children made Advent wreaths and a gingerbread nativity scene to commence the Advent season. Emmanuel's annual Christmas Pageant was a special, fun, and exciting evening for everyone. The children seem to always like their various roles and are very enthusiastic actors and actresses! Ralph Stephens and Beth Shaw directed and coordinated this year and the Christmas story was enjoyed by the entire congregation. Our parish again supported the Diocese of Atlanta's Emmaus House with generous donations. The children learned the importance of giving to others at this time of the year. On Good Friday, all ages of parishioners participated in the Intergenerational Stations of the Cross. Shepherds led groups through different Stations and through singing and story telling, people were able to have a deeper understanding of the significance of that day. To celebrate Easter and its

promise, the children hunted and gathered Easter eggs on Easter morning. The egg hunts were divided into appropriate age groups to allow even the toddlers to have their chance at filling their baskets.

To highlight all that the Children's Program has to offer, a separate **Children's and Youth Ministry Fair** was held in August in the Common Room. This was a chance for the parish to see what programs there are and what volunteer opportunities are available. For its first year as a separate event, it was a good start.

The **Christian education hour** on Sunday mornings continues to be divided into the preschool and elementary age children. The curriculum for **the three and four year olds** is still based on a hands-on approach. It allows them to learn about God and Jesus' love through mostly doing. Their loving teachers were Cindy Sullivan, Erika Greene, Lisa Allen, Diane Wahlers, Allison Clements, Michele Lease, Melanie Rowell, Sara Clarke, and Claire Smith. The elementary children continue to learn about different bible concepts through the Workshop Rotation Model. Classes explore one theme for 3-5 weeks, rotating to a new workshop each Sunday. Formerly called the Bethlehem Marketplace, **the Discovery Workshops for Children** are a wonderful way for the children to experience the stories in different mediums. The Artist's Bazaar, The Bedouin's Tent (drama and storytelling), The Garden of Eatin' (cooking), and the Magic Carpet (movies and music), are taught by countless dedicated volunteers throughout the year. Shepherds guide their group to the specific workshop and we can't thank them enough for their consistent presence. They were Ralph Stephens, Baxley Dolphus, Pam Shields, Margaret Smith, Judy Fox, Meredith Kahlstorf, Diane Wahlers, Hadley Smith, Jackie Anderson, Georgia Collier, Beverly Sligh, and Vanessa Beasley.

Children's Chapel and **Children's Liturgy** were available at the 10:30 service time. In the fall for Children's Chapel, Mother Mandy wanted to create an atmosphere of a worship space and mimic the flow of the "big" service. Prayer mats and a children's version of the Creed have enhanced this worship experience in the Christian Connection for the three through five year olds. The leaders this year were Michele Lease, Fred Johnson, Sarah and Ben Ehlers, Anne Becker, and Ralph Stephens. The helpers were Jennifer and Eric Wells, Clara and Andrew Herrin, and Amy Gaynor. The pianists are Mary Anne O'Neil and Melanie Rowell. Children's Liturgy for 1st-4th graders continues in the Parlor under the dedicated and steadfast leadership of Sharon Rockholdt, and Sara and Todd Baker. They read and discussed "The Sunday Paper Junior", a cartoon-style, lectionary-based newspaper that highlights the message of the Gospel. They also sang hymns from church that day.

For young members at the 10:30 am Sunday service, we continue to offer lectionary-based **Children's Bulletins** along with crayons and pipe cleaners. This is a way for them to tune in to the rhythm of worship as

well as to the Gospel message. On second Sundays the children were invited by Mother Mandy or Father Robert to hear the Good News in the **Children's Sermons**. In the months that have five Sundays, **Family Eucharist** was celebrated in the Christian Connection for all families with young children.

We supported our families by continuing to offer a **Nursery** for infants to age 3 during Sunday services, Wednesday night suppers and special events. Thank you to Ellen Cowne for coordinating this invaluable service to our families. Our dedicated professional nursery workers were a blessing to all.

MOM'S BOOK CLUB

The purpose of this new group is two fold: 1. to enjoy fellowship with other women of Emmanuel, 2. to provide support in our efforts to grow as Christians and mothers. Throughout 2006, we read Joanna Weaver's Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World: Finding Intimacy with God in the Busyness of Life. We met in parishioners' homes the third Monday of each month. At individual meetings, our numbers ranged from five to fifteen, with an emphasis on being inclusive and participatory. Each evening we relied on book discussion questions as well as bible readings. We plan to continue in 2007 with a kick-off meeting scheduled for Monday, January 15. Our 2007 title will be chosen then. For more information, please contact Vanessa Beasley.

NATURAL SPIRITUALITY

This program of Christian dream work is offered three times a week, on Sunday, Tuesday, and Friday. Participants are invited to deepen their awareness of God's activity in their lives through the sharing and examination of dreams. Agnes Parker, Joyce Hudson, and Heidi Simmonds are the leaders.

The Natural Spirituality Program has two parts: 1) an introductory class and 2) the ongoing Sunday, Tuesday, and Friday Journey Groups (dream groups). In 2006 the class is being offered for ten weeks in the fall during the adult Christian Education hour as part of the new adult forum, *Listening For God in Daily Life*. Journey Group participants are graduates of the introductory class who wish to put theory into practice. In addition to those who have taken the class, anyone who, on their own, has read the introductory textbook, *Natural Spirituality*, is welcome to join a Journey Group.

The Sunday group meets from 12 noon–2:30; the Tuesday group meets from 10:00–noon; and the Friday group meets from 12:45–2:30. The Friday group, which is new this year, is child-friendly—young mothers may bring their children. The *Listening For God in Daily Life* adult forum is also new. It is being offered throughout the 2006-07 Christian Ed year by the leaders of the Natural Spirituality Program and will cover a variety of topics. Drop-ins are always welcome.

Other highlights of the past year included our fourth weekend conference at Camp Mikell in February, with 122 attendees from 10 states. Natural Spirituality was well represented at the Haden Institute Summer Dream Conference at Kanuga, where Joyce Hudson was a key presenter, Agnes Parker led a workshop, and both led dream groups. Heidi Simmonds is now in her second year of the Haden Institute's two-year Dream Leadership Training Program. When she graduates in March, 2007, she will be our first formally certified dreamwork leader. The 9th and 10th issues of The Rose were published this year to continued high acclaim and great appreciation. The Rose is a semi-annual publication for those interested in Christian dreamwork. Subsidized entirely by donations, it is distributed free of charge and has a circulation of 3,500. Our mailing list grows by more than 300 names per year simply by word of mouth. We have subscribers all over the US, as well as in Canada, Spain, France, Germany, Israel, India, Bangladesh, and Australia. Copies of the Rose are always available in Emmanuel's vestibules and outside the office.

Committee Chair: Joyce Hudson

NURSERY

The Emmanuel Episcopal Church nursery employs regularly four young women who we pay twelve dollars an hour to entertain and safeguard our most precious resource, our children. For most of the year, three of the four were paid less than that because they had not worked at Emmanuel long enough to earn the increase to the optimum twelve dollars an hour. They are scheduled to work three out of four Sundays putting three workers on duty each Sunday morning. For half of this past year, we employed a nursery worker to work on Wednesday nights for childcare during Wednesday evening Healing Services and suppers. During the year, it became evident that families were not using this service, and we cancelled the nursery on Wednesday evenings.

We employed two different women to care for children too young to attend Vacation Bible School while their mothers were teaching their older siblings and friends. This service was greatly appreciated by the parishioners giving their time to put on a wonderfully successful Vacation Bible School.

From the Nursery budget of \$6939, we were able to provide salaries, training, and supplies for our small children. The nursery workers one request is that parents please bring their children (no matter how old) to the nursery if they are to stay there. Please do not send them without a parent, and please sign them in, so the workers can have an accurate count of those children for whom they are responsible.

For the 2007 year, the salary line item will increase since three of the four workers have now worked for Emmanuel long enough that they are all paid the same amount per hour. The budget request for 2007 is \$7,715.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

With over 100 child participants and 60 adult and youth volunteers, Emmanuel's 2006 Vacation Bible School was full of fun, memorable activities and God's love. Led by Jackie Anderson, Claire Smith and Anne Becker, our team of volunteers created a warm, loving, safe and happy environment. With a FIESTA theme we had the opportunity to really ***get fired up about Jesus!*** The kids enjoyed music, movement, games, movies, crafts, drama, munchies, and fabulous fellowship. The energy and excitement was contagious! We carried our love of God outside of VBS by contributing gifts of household items and blankets to the Interfaith Hospitality Network.

Plans for VBS 2007 are already underway. Don't miss *Avalanche Ranch...where we will take a wild ride through God's Word!*

YOUTH

Middle and high school aged members of the parish completed their 5th year of the **Journey to Adulthood** program last spring and began the 6th year this Fall. We welcomed 5th graders into the youth program for the first time this Fall. Along with the 6th graders, they used the Living the Good News curriculum of lectionary study and will become the next "Rite 13" group in the Fall of 2007. Our 7th-8th graders continued to meet together as a "Rite-13" group, freshman and sophomores as the "J2A group" and the junior and seniors as the Young Adults in Church or YAC. Each group met on Sunday morning during the Christian Education hour and again in the evening during the EYC time. Under the direction of Katie Lawrence, trained volunteers who made one- to two-year commitments to work with our youth led each group. We celebrated the passage to womanhood and manhood with the Rite 13 liturgy in February, June, and November of 2006. With this program, youth are confirmed at the end of their 9th or 10th grade year, after 4 years of spiritual formation. Planning and fundraising for the next J2A Pilgrimage and the first YAC Mission Trip were both started this year. The trips will take place in the summer of 2007.

Episcopal Youth Community (EYC):

The EYC continued to be an important outreach in the spiritual formation of our youth. EYC is an extension of the Journey to Adulthood program and youth met in the same groups as during the Christian Education hour. Along with fun and fellowship, EYC time was a time for the youth to reach out and serve the community – through helping with IHN, cleaning up Oconee Hills Cemetery, baking for the Thanksgiving meal, Christmas shopping for the less fortunate, and so much more. Katie Lawrence was there weekly and rotated between the groups. The groups came together to eat and met separately for programming that was age appropriate.

Parents of Youth

Our group of parents of pre-teens, teenagers and young adults met monthly. We discuss topics and issues facing youth and parents in a confidential, non-judgmental way.

Both Emmanuel's Children's and Youth Christian Education and EYC continue to grow and change. They are wonderful ministries for children and youth, led by fun, spirit-filled, creative, talented people.

**“Holy,
holy, holy
is the Lord God
Almighty,
who was,
and is, and is,
to come.”**

Revelation 4:8

MEN OF EMMANUEL

When - Where

The group meets during the usual Sunday school hour (9:30am when the service is at 10:30) at Emmanuel Church in the former “real estate” building on Prince Avenue.

Mission

- **Learn** – Through reflection, reading, study, and prayer, a greater understanding of God’s word and the teachings of Jesus Christ.
- **Teach** – Share our knowledge and life experience with each other.
- **Minister** – Lift up each other through prayer and spiritual guidance.
- **Disciple** – Reach out to others to share the spirit of God’s word.

Our **goal** is to better understand the Bible so that we may take lessons and spirit from the discussions into our everyday lives and continue to support Emmanuel Church in any outreach or “inreach” opportunities that our group is capable.

History

Established in the summer of 2003, we are a group of men dedicated to bible reading and discussion. A new Bible reading is discussed each week in an open forum. We began with the study of Matthew, followed by Acts, Romans, and John. This summer we started reading our first Old Testament book; Daniel. Over time guest facilitators have added greatly to the study, including Mother Mandy Brady, Dr. Will Power, and the late Col. Harold Huff.

Future Plans

This fall, Father Robert Salamone led us in a two week discussion of the “construction” of our present-day Bible. He followed with a discussion on our church finances and stewardship and a presentation of recent decisions by the general convention of the Episcopal Church USA. At present, we are completing a reading and reflection of Daniel, and will move on to another Old Testament book.

WELCOME

There are no Bible scholars in the group. There is no homework and due to the amount of discussion, we proceed quite slowly.

Therefore, it is easy for new people to join at any time. We communicate by e-mail and would be pleased to add you to the list. Contact Tom McDonald - tmcdent@aol.com

Please join us and add your spirit and life experience.

EXTENDED MINISTRY

John Ballard- Chair

Terry Seward- Co-chair

Taking a look at the Extended Ministries Commission over the past year, one has to wonder how many of us at Emmanuel realize just how much our parish does for not just our local community, but for people all over the world.

This commission contains within it the Outreach Committee, The Emmanuel Thrift House, The Williams/Rhodes Screening Committee, and the Interfaith Hospitality Network. These first three committees are essentially money granting arms of Emmanuel, although the Thrift House also fills a very important niche by providing quality clothing and other items at affordable rates to the community. Clothing is also given at no charge to those in need. The IHN is an opportunity for Emmanuel to open its hearts and its doors to families in need of temporary shelter.

With the exception of a few events hosted and sponsored by these committees, like the hugely successful Thanksgiving dinner driven by our Outreach Committee, it is the hope for our Extended Ministries Commission to increase what Emmanuel does with its hands during the upcoming year, and bring about a balance with what Emmanuel does with its treasure.

We have all been very blessed with what we are capable of doing, and the Extended Ministries Commission has been blessed with being a leg for Emmanuel's work in the world. We have had a great year in 2006 and are looking forward to an even greater year in 2007, with a comprehensive look at Emmanuel's outreach, an evaluation of what we are doing versus what we are wanting to do, and a re-dedication to those projects, like the amazing school and mission in Haiti, that Emmanuel has been supporting over the years.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Our Outreach Committee, led by Bill Hicks, met regularly during the year to award grants to local agencies and to Pere Bruno's ministry in Haiti. This year was topped off with a super successful Thanksgiving Day lunch delivered by countless volunteers to persons in need of a Thanksgiving meal.

The Outreach Committee also administers the Bloomfield Fund and financial assistance was given to children with medical needs in Athens-Clarke County as well as the Athens YMCA to fund an adaptive swim program for children with developmental disabilities.

THRIFT HOUSE

The Emmanuel Thrift House, located at 450 Prince Avenue, ended its ninth year at this location on September 30, 2006. Volunteers from the Episcopal community have served Athens with a Thrift House for over 50 years.

The Thrift House is completely staffed by approximately 80 volunteers, both men and women. All of the merchandise is donated. These donated items are sorted, priced, and stocked on Mondays and Tuesdays. The Thrift House is open for business Wednesday through Saturday. Some of our workers volunteer every week, and others a few hours a month. Cathi Shinn does a wonderful job coordinating all these willing hands into a cohesive schedule. In addition to Cathi, the Thrift House Board includes Linda Ford, Susan Hodgson, Nancy Jacobson, Janet Griffith, Jane Payne, Jane Bowen, Faye Head, and Betty Carson.

Sales for the year were \$46,780 and operating expenses were \$22,810. The Thrift House leases its location from Emmanuel Church for \$1,000 per month. Volunteers meet twice a year, in April and October, to discuss requests for funding and to vote how to disperse the profits. This year, \$24,100 was dispersed. Recipients of Thrift House gifts include agencies that serve the community, missionaries, and Emmanuel Church projects. The Thrift House also works with agencies to donate clothing directly to individuals in need.

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

Our second year of participation in the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens helped ease the discomfort and uncertainty of homelessness for about thirty families. During each of the four weeks that we served as the host facility, Emmanuel's 50+ volunteers provided nutritious meals, friendly support, transportation, children's activities and above all else, safe overnight shelter. We transformed the Christian Connection for family living with the help of Emmanuel youth. Some of our parishioners also volunteered at the Day Center on Hancock Street. Jim Wahlers served another year as Treasurer of the "Network." Many of us took part in IHN fundraisers and the Annual Dinner to recognize achievements of the thirteen congregations that make up the IHN of Athens. These efforts were united with many others to help reduce poverty and provide affordable housing in our community.

Committee Members:

Ann Darby, Cecelia Dry, Lee Gaby, Claire Gaus, Vince Howard, Merry Reetz-Stovall, Sharon Rockholt, Gloria Sams, Jay Shinn

EMMANUEL DAY SCHOOL

In 1982 Emmanuel Episcopal Day School was founded with two classes. We now have 106 students in nine classes bustling with preschool activity. We continue to meet the stringent criteria for accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

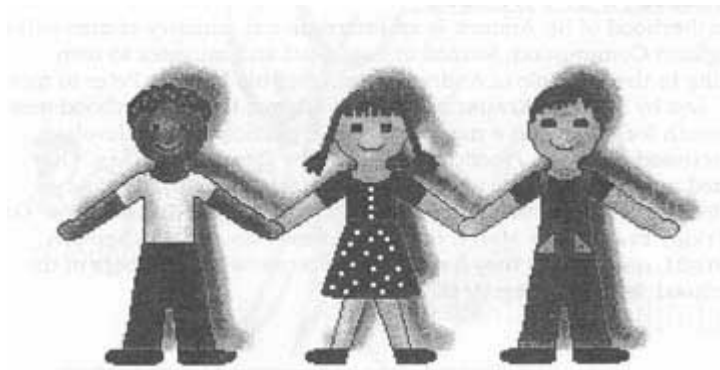
Our director, Amy Wraga, has assembled an outstanding, highly qualified and loving staff. With our small student teacher ratio our teachers are able to truly nurture and stimulate each child.

The generosity of our parents supports our school and the larger community. Through our pizza fundraiser, EEDS provides scholarship money for our sister school in Haiti. We are able to provide for 9 students to attend school as well as have a hot meal each day. The funds raised by our PTO this fall will support our musicals, graduation, and teacher appreciation projects. The PTO funds will also support the teachers who will be attending the NAEYC conference in Atlanta this November.

Thanks to all who contribute to this ministry for God's precious children. We are lucky to have such a wonderful school.

Amy Wraga, director

Allison Clements, EEDS commission chair



PARISH LIFE

ALL SOULS

The celebration of All Souls' Day at Emmanuel with a memorial Eucharist and luncheon for the recently bereaved in our church was begun five years ago at the suggestion of Jerry Pope, who was aware of such a service at another Episcopal Church.

All Souls (not to be confused with All Saints) is "Commemoration of All Faithful Departed." Since the inception of its celebration at Emmanuel, everyone who has ever lost a loved one has been encouraged to add names to be read and to attend the service, but beginning this year, everyone was also invited following the service to a light luncheon catered by Foodworks.

Those bereaved since last All Saints' Day are especially invited by written invitation to attend. This year, at the instigation of the rector, a pinned on flower and candle lighting have been added to designate this group. To Execute such an event takes the hands of many besides the clergy and us two co-chairs (Jerry Pope and Agnes Parker): i.e., the office staff, LEM's, altar guild, flower guild, and members of Parish Life. Harry Yates has ushered every year; Tommie Elaine Shattuck has decorated the luncheon tables; and Vince Howard, Jim Wahlers, Claire Gaus, and Betsy Turner have used their wonderful voices as readers.

Between 30 and 50 people have attended this service and luncheon each year during the five years we have been celebrating All Souls' Day.

BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew is an international ministry of men within the Anglican Communion, formed to reach out and minister to men according to the example of Andrew in bringing his brother Peter to meet Jesus. Led by Duncan Krause and Tom Williams, the Brotherhood met each month for dessert in a member's home, participated in devotion, and discussed the book *Practicing Our Faith* by Dorothy C. Bass. They organized and prepared the annual Acolyte Appreciation Breakfast, which for the first time this year included our junior choir members. On three Friday evenings in March the Brotherhood hosted a father-son movie night, and in May they held a family picnic with members of the Brotherhood from St. Gregory the Great.



HOLY COOKERS

The Holy Cookers are truly HOLY! Fifty four of our devoted are preparing marvelous Wednesday night suppers to the largest, most responsive crowd ever.

All new cooking teams with lots of first time young new cooks are learning to feed the five thousand, making new friends, and having fun together.

It's not easy. There is abundant fatigue, but what a ministry. We're all there together.

We invite all of you to join us as we learn and grow and share and love!

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Led by Melissa Fulcher, helped out enormously by answering the telephone at the Church, and performing some office tasks to reduce the load on Emmanuel's office staff. Our volunteers extended a personal touch for visitors and callers. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to commit to this ministry.





PARISH LIFE CONTINUED

PARISH LIFE

The Parish Life Commission encompasses committees and activities related to the life of the parish including groups with fellowship and service roles. We invite all those interested in promoting activities to involve parishioners in the church to participate in any of the committees and groups. Brief descriptions of the functions and activities for each group follow along with the name(s) of the coordinators.

FOYER GROUPS

The Foyer Groups are formed of eight to ten people and each Foyer meets in the homes of members once a month for a simple meal and relaxed conversation. New friends are made of those who may have been just names or faces in the congregation. The Foyers are regrouped twice a year, in September and January.

Coordinator: Lisa Allen

RECEPTION COMMITTEE

The Reception Committee comes together to celebrate the special people and events in the life of our church family. They have helped make each celebration of the year a joy with offerings from heart, hands, and cooking skills. This committee hosts the brunch before the Parish Meeting, receptions for Rite 13 and Confirmation classes, the luncheon for those graduating each year from high school, college, and graduate school, and lunch or refreshments for special training sessions held during the year. This past year receptions were held in honor of Father Gene Britton, Pere Bruno, and Father Robert on the occasion of his installation by Bishop Alexander. *Chair: Ivey Adams*

SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS

Members of the Sunday Refreshments Committee prepare the refreshments served before and/or after Sunday worship services by providing the doughnuts and coffee during the school year and lemonade in the summer.

Coordinator: Lee Albright

WELCOME! COMMITTEE

The Welcome! Committee strives to make our church a more welcoming place for everyone, but especially for our newcomers and visitors. The Sunday bulletin now includes a map of the church campus. Interior signs to help newcomers and guests find their way around continue to be monitored. Greeter teams welcome guests and newcomers. Callers contact newcomers and help them plug into parish programs and ministries. A tracking system coordinates that process, increasing communication with newcomers specifically to invite them to activities such as the Ministry Fair and the Hoedown. A new parish directory formatted and produced by volunteers should be published in the near future. *Coordinators: Kim Ripps and Duncan Krause*

DUDE, WHAT'S FOR DINNER

A new set of foyer groups, Dude, What's for Dinner, has been organized for younger adult parishioners. The latest round included thirty-one participants with sixteen people waiting to begin in the next round. *Coordinators: Erika Greene and Mother Mandy*

VESTRY NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Vestry Nominating Committee is an ad hoc committee formed each fall to present a slate of candidates for the five incoming seats on the Vestry to the current Vestry for approval before the Annual Meeting. The committee includes the outgoing members of the Vestry and other representatives from the parish. Members this year are: Outgoing Vestry: Lee Albright, Butch Bush, Allison Clements, Brian Tison, and David Woodruff.

At Large from the Parish: Georgia Collier, Matt Humphrey, Cindy McAlister, Beverly Sligh, and Allen Stovall.

Chair: Lee Albright



COMMUNICATION

Stewardship

In January, the vestry spent a majority of the retreat week-end under going a study about stewardship. We contemplated the Biblical and spiritual background of stewardship and how that relates to our lives today. From that came our Vestry Stewardship Statement:

We believe that God gives us all that we are, all that we have, and all that we create, abundantly and freely from His love. These gifts have been given through His grace to use with responsibility and intention. We commit to the joy of sharing our time, talent, and treasure in thanksgiving to God, for His gifts to us. We pledge to tithe, or work toward that goal, as our hearts call us in our walk with God. We invite and encourage the Emmanuel family to join us on this journey of faith, trusting in the love and grace of God.

The stewardship committee hopes to continue to explore and study the meaning of Christian stewardship with the parish in the upcoming years.

As of Sunday October 29, 2006 we have reached beyond the \$600,000 mark in our 2007-2008 pledge drive. The stewardship committee joyfully anticipates reaching our goal amount of \$650,000 which will give us a balanced budget for the year 2007-2008. This year, we have had at least 46 new pledging units and at least 101 families and individuals have increased their pledge. Our participation percentage is higher than it has been in recent years. Your time and talent sheets are being totaled and the correct information will get to the appropriate commission chair or committee. We celebrated the end of our annual campaign and our many blessings at Emmanuel by having another Hoe Down on Nov 5th to which all were welcome to enjoy. Thank you to everyone who has helped make this campaign such a success.

TOWER

The Tower, Emmanuel's monthly news publication, is edited by Blue Wood (bluewood@earthlink.net), printed and mailed by Melissa Fulcher, and written by members of the parish and staff. *The Tower* exists to connect members of the parish community through regular contributions from the clergy, the vestry and its commissions, news of the many ministries, such as the Thrift House, IHN, the music program, Youth and Children's Formation, as well as notice of special events. Regular features also include a monthly calendar, acolyte and usher schedules, birthdays, a listing of staff and vestry, and the website address. The deadline is always the 15th of the month, and publication precedes the beginning of the next month. The January 2007 issue marks the

beginning of Volume 40, and current issues are now also accessible on the website.

WEB SITE

The Parish Web Site address is www.emmanuel-athens.org. It is maintained by Bob Wood, but its success depends on contributions from the parish. The “News” page is updated at least once a week. There you will find schedules, current news items and a list of coming attractions. Every ministry at Emmanuel is described in text contributed by ministry leaders. Do you want to telephone or email clergy, staff, vestry member or ministry leader? Click on the “Feedback” link in the navigation bar. Phone numbers and email addresses are there for you to use. You might enjoy the pictures in the parish picture album, or look through the archive of past Towers. The web site has a search function that makes it easy to find the information you want. Please continue to contribute news items and pictures.





FINANCE

The Finance Commission has been very active this year. We meet on a monthly basis to review the financial position of the parish, to monitor the cash flow, and to advise the Vestry on budget matters. During the fourth quarter of each year, we initiate the budget process on behalf of the Vestry. Additionally, we assist the Vestry in engaging a certified public accountant to conduct our annual audit.

The Vestry adopted a budget for 2006 with total expected revenues of \$936,831 and with budgeted expenses of \$979,505. This approved budget would have required the use of part of our accumulated surplus. At the end of 2004, our surplus was \$74,797, and at the end of 2005, it was \$51,300. Based on the approved budget for 2006, it would have reduced our surplus by \$42,673.

Our latest projections for year end 2006 are total revenues of \$947,000 with expenses of \$932,000. If this holds, we will have added to our surplus instead taking away from it. The underlying factors for this surplus are increased giving and expense control.

For 2007, the Finance Committee has developed a budget for the Vestry's approval that projects revenues from all sources in the amount of \$1,054,141. This would be an increase over 2006 of \$107,141. This increase is made possible by increased pledges from you. This positive turnaround will enable us to increase the funding of those budget lines that were reduced in years past for such parish programs as outreach.

We continue to have to take into account increased costs of utilities, general upkeep and maintenance of our facilities while at the same time making sure that we provide for additional adjustments of salaries for our dedicated staff.

We do recognize that this 2007 budget takes into consideration only normal operations. We have many needs in this parish that can not be addressed with the level of revenues that we have. Our needs are much greater. We have so many good things that we could do for our parish programs with increased funding. Our facilities have had deferred maintenance for the last few years that will be address as a parish in the coming months.

There is so much more for Emmanuel to do, and we will.





RESOURCES

AGM

Activities of the AGM committee during 2006 are summarized below:

- ❖ Those who have been remembered with memorial gifts between October 2005 and October 2006 are Virginia Morgan, Shirley Greer, James B. Allen, Larry McLeod, Winette Hogue, Frank Golley.
- ❖ An information guide to the memorials on the grounds of the church is being prepared and will appear as a bulletin insert in early Spring, 2007.
- ❖ Stones in the All Saints Terrace were engraved in memory of Lt. Colonel George Turner and Larry V. McLeod.
- ❖ An aumbry, made of oak with a brass door, was given in memory of Larry V. McLeod by his family.
- ❖ A Perpetual Sanctuary Light to accompany the aumbry was given in memory of Nell Harris by Ms. Charlotte Leedy. The light along with the aumbry were dedicated at a 10:30 service in September.
- ❖ A new Advent Wreath was purchased at the request of the Rector.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the committee members:

Jenny Broadnax, Anna Dyer, Bobby Gibson, Betsy Turner, Allen Stovall, John Waters, Carol Winthrop, David Kidd, Chair

FACILITIES

The Church has been busy this year with the following maintenance projects. The following projects are listed as information for the parish:

- ❖ Day School carpet installed and completed.
- ❖ Common Room carpet installed and completed.
- ❖ Copy Room upstairs cleaned out from old carpet and tile waxed and buffed. This is now a Day School storage area.
- ❖ Windows cleaned, ledges cleaned all around building and Day School areas.
- ❖ Outside window frames painted.
- ❖ Christian Connection pressure washed.
- ❖ IHN now has a storage area behind the stairs behind the stage.
- ❖ Christian Connection kitchen is now supplied for Sunday School. We have new book shelves for resources for Sunday School, this will be their main room.
- ❖ Leak in 5 day 2 classroom is now fixed. Wall replaced and repainted.
- ❖ Outdoor patio to playground, some areas, along the wall had to be cemented because of leaks.
- ❖ Playground areas raked, and debris removed.

- ❖ New storage shed built for church.
- ❖ New privacy fence on playground and in front of storage shed.
- ❖ Receptacles in church office replaced for copier to be moved downstairs.
- ❖ Gutters cleaned out and downspouts cleaned out and some replaced.
- ❖ Some of the slate roof replaced from storm.
- ❖ New speaker system placed on back entrance to church offices.
- ❖ Floors in Day School stripped, waxed and buffed.

Other Projects

- ❖ Began renovation of the stained glass windows.
- ❖ Installed the eternal light over the Aumbry.
- ❖ Installed additional receptacles in the Parlor for weddings and special events.
- ❖ Installed additional pin lights over the altar for better lighting effects.
- ❖ Presently working to install Heating and Air Conditioning replacement for the Sanctuary by December.
- ❖ Furnace was replaced in the Music Building.
- ❖ Tree by the UGA President's House was removed. It had become unstable with a rotten section.

GUILD OF THE ST FRANCIS

What a great group, creative, caring gardeners. We are hoping all of you are enjoying the grounds of Emmanuel as much as we are!

Our group numbers twenty-five. Very shortly we will be planting all the barren beds on our Pope Street site. Andrew Wahlers, son of Jim and Diane Wahlers, has designed for us some interesting areas.

Emmanuel Thrift House members have been so supportive. They have truly made so much of the beauty happen.

When the grounds of a church are lovingly cared for, even passing automobiles surmise there is something special inside.



ENDOWMENT FUND

The Emmanuel Endowment Fund is a legally constituted organization responsible for the administration of gifts given to Emmanuel Church in legal trust agreements accepted by the Vestry at the time the gifts were made. Trustees of the Fund are elected by the Vestry and meet each quarter with financial advisors from Montag & Associates and with trust officers of SunTrust Bank which holds the Fund. The trustees' obligation is to administer each trust in accordance with each trust agreement. Trustees also transmit to the Vestry the income earned from the trusts each quarter. It is Vestry responsibility to see that the income is distributed as indicated in the trust agreements. Among the trusts, 98% of the funds are restricted, so that only the earned income can be spent.

Earnings of the Endowment Fund from October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006 were \$229,007 after administrative expenses. The Fund is composed of four sub-funds, shown in the table below: (1) The General Fund, with earnings used for major church maintenance; the (2) Williams and (3) Rhodes Trusts with earnings going to outreach, and (4) the Special Funds comprised of miscellaneous trust funds and bequeaths with the majority of earnings specified for outreach. The Vestry makes final decisions concerning the use of the income from these funds.

	Capital Balance (\$) 9/30/06	Earnings (\$) 10/1/05 to 9/30/06
General Fund	873,316	23,641
Williams Trust	4,654,576	130,730
Rhodes Trust	1,479,007	41,718
Special Funds	1,158,451	32,918

The trustees' responsibility is to invest the money from these trust gifts in a manner that is consistent with preserving the value of the gifts. Currently, the Fund is constituted with 70% in equities, 23% in U.S. Treasury and other government obligations, 5% in cash, and 2% in real estate. The present dividend yield from the Trust's stock portfolio is one point higher than other securities of similar quality. While U.S. government securities typically provide a higher initial income than equities at the time of purchase, they have no inflation protection. With the long term U.S. inflation rate over 3% per year, equities are better investments than are bonds. For example, the market value of \$1000 invested in 1990 in a typical stock of the quality in the Fund would be worth \$4000 today (or corrected for inflation, \$2600 in purchasing power).

The present Board of Trustees, elected by the Vestry, includes Jim Bowers, Mike Fitzgerald, Bobby Gibson, Amery. Harden, Gene Weeks, Norm Wood, and the Rector *ex officio*, Father Robert.