



# *The Messenger*

## *January 2022*

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

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### **Rector Reflection**

You are officially notified of the upcoming Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 30, 2022.

We will be meeting in the sanctuary after the 9:00 AM church service that morning in order to maintain appropriate social distancing.

As you may know, an annual meeting is required of all Episcopal congregations. We must review the financial report for the year just passed and hear about the Budget for the year ahead. We nominate and elect Vestry leadership for the year ahead as well. We also receive reports from all the ministry areas of the parish in a written packet so everyone is updated on every aspect of our common life. And most importantly, we pray and ask God's wisdom, guidance and direction for the life and work of our parish.

But this year will be different in that we have a huge challenge and opportunity in front of us we cannot ignore. The budget passed by the Vestry in December once again contains a sizable deficit budget. In consultation with the Finance Committee, which expertly reviews our finances in detail, the budget was recommended to the Vestry on the basis of a couple factors.

- 1) Last year we had 53 pledges for a total of \$182,448. This year we have 44 pledges for a total of \$178,596. The difference is \$3,852 which is remarkable considering the loss of 9 pledges. This speaks to the robust commitment and generosity of the people of Emmanuel Parish!
- 2) Even though COVID has been a time of unpredictability and constant pivoting in the life of the parish for the past two years, we continue to offer the Lord the worship due His name. We minister to people NOT active in our congregation through livestreaming. The Coos Food Cupboard has continued vital outreach and support to the community and we are now in partnership with the Devereux Center who is doing hard, on the ground work to address homelessness in our community. This is amazing!
- 3) We have cash resources on hand to cover the deficit even if no other pledges are received in 2022 and no other non-pledge donations are given. But this is obviously not the best situation nor is it sustainable. So what do we do?

First of all, we open our hearts to the Holy Spirit and pray for God's direction. We give thanks for everything this parish means to us.

Second, we dream big about what is possible as well as a fearless and searching inventory of our focus and passions. We must discern who God is asking us to be and to do as a parish in this time and moving forward. To that end we will engage in an all-year-long, all parish conversation about who we are and what God is leading us to do. I have already spoken with the Bishop about our situation and asked for a consultant to walk alongside us to facilitate honest and creative conversation. This conversation will begin at the Annual Meeting with an exercise that can help us to visually see where our hearts and minds are at this point in time as we begin. Don't worry. It's not hard and it involves NO technology. Just "post-it" notes and your prayerful thoughts.

I am so looking forward to the year ahead and to the Annual Meeting this year. Even though the challenges are many, Jesus is bigger than them all. Please save the date of January 30th and plan to join us.

Peace to you, *Patti*+





## Parish Holiday Potluck Brunch Welcomes the Season

Christmas baubles, bows and sparkling stars made a cheery atmosphere for our Parish Holiday Potluck Brunch, held December 5. Wonderful fellowship reflected our gatherings through many years, and, as is our custom, the Emmanuel cooks set a generous buffet with favorite side dishes and desserts -- all to accompany the center of the feast, delicious French toast and ham prepared by our Brunch hosts, John and Michelle Sweet. Loanne Lark and Janet Huggins adorned the undercroft in a style that recalled our favorite Christmas traditions. A warm thank you to all who took part in our festive gathering, a bright beginning to the Christmas season.



### Music Ministry

Dear Emmanuel,

January will be my last month as your Parish Music Director. I am heading to San Diego to be close to my hanai mom, with a new job opportunity. I am grateful for all of you - especially for the adventurous spirit of the choir, Kerri's unceasing kindness and good cheer, and the inimitable Rev. Patti, who gives new depth and meaning to the term "awesome sauce" - and leave with wonderful memories, knowing I will miss you! Speaking of missing you, Dolly doesn't know what to say, except "i wuvf u"!

Wishing you many blessings in 2022, as I have been blessed by all of you, *Kate Moody*

P.S. Thank you for the sweet stocking gifts!

### Offering envelopes are available for pickup in the church entryway.

If you prefer your envelopes to be mailed, please email Kerri at [Administrator@episcopalcoosbay.org](mailto:Administrator@episcopalcoosbay.org).

Office hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

\*Afternoon hours until 5 PM are available by calling the office at 541-269-5829.

### Coos Food Cupboard

Thank you for all of your generous support of the Coos Food Cupboard in 2021. Donations of insulated gloves, hats, socks, and waterproof ponchos for the month of January would be greatly appreciated.

*Thank you!*

We wish to thank you all for all the help you provide our family thru the food cupboard. We are always treated with dignity, warmth, and love. Every one is such a loving vessel for the love of God towards all who are in need at your doors. We love you all so much.

Wishing you a Christmas filled with one merry moment after another.



## Emmanuel's Christmas Baskets

It was Emmanuel's twentieth year for the Christmas Basket Program and it was a huge outpouring of generosity! The elementary and middle schools in the Coos Bay and North Bend area were contacted in October, with a total of nine schools. They submitted names of families and children that were in need of assistance to make a memorable Christmas. In total, there were 29 families and 78 children.

There are so many in the Emmanuel family that help in so many ways – in the planning, the giving, the shopping, the wrapping and distribution. Some of the super shoppers were Elizabeth Roman, Susan Vineyard, Terry Laird and Susan Foreman; some of the super wrappers were Liz Cowden, Janet and Bob Huggins, Sam & Jennifer Pollard. And I can't begin to name all those that provided support in other ways - financial support, decorating the preschool in a Christmas theme (Thank you Rev. Patti and your team of elves), arranging the room (two or three times, thank you Terrye and David Laird), volunteering to distribute the gifts, making phone calls ... the list goes on. It takes a village and I'm so humbled to be part of this one.

~submitted by Patti Nichols

I was impressed with the wonderful gifts all received and appropriate for their individual needs and requests. Parents were very impressed and thankful when they picked up their basket. Several were surprised and pleased with toilet paper and other hygiene products included.

~Liz Cowden

Everyone connected with the Christmas Baskets knows that it couldn't have been accomplished without Patti Nichols' very diligent leadership. Her long hours of work and attention to meticulous detail were the hallmark of her efforts. Her foresight in ordering gifts early in order to have them shipped and received in time for this Christmas was another of her insightful contributions. Thank you, Patti.

~Elizabeth Roman

## Christmas Eve Faux Pas

Well THAT was awkward! What was supposed to be a shared meal among Christmas Eve service attendees ended up to be a small group of a few people who happened to stop by and ask what was going on in the kitchen.

Long story short, Rev. Patti and I got our wires crossed.

Here's what happened:

In mid-December, I got a huge ham on sale at Fred Meyer with no plan for how I was going to consume it. Then it occurred to me, it would make a great meal for celebrating Christmas Eve! So I asked Rev. Patti if I could cook dinner for those in attendance at the 4:00 pm service. I had asked her NOT to announce in the newsletter or at previous Sunday services because it really was just a simple offering to people who attend the service and who may not have had plans for Christmas Eve... At least that was what was in my head. What Rev. Patti heard was "don't announce it" and that carried right up and through the Christmas Eve service. WIRES CROSSED. So nobody knew about it except for Rev. Patti and her crew, and Mark and Judy Jennings. So bunches of food and not enough people to eat it. And then it gets worse...

God had my back (and yours too).

While some preparations were not ready for prime time, others were way past being worthy of human consumption. It would have been a total culinary disaster had it not been for ham and deviled eggs. So mostly it was just a culinary embarrassment. It's been a while. I lost my edge.

That said...

While I don't regret that anyone missed out on the food, I'm terribly sorry that our fellowship didn't include anyone who would have liked to attend (or at least been given the option). The service was well attended! We missed an opportunity to make new friends and visit with old ones.

That WAS NOT the plan.

My humble apologies to anyone who may have been baffled or offended. I will not attempt to do this kind of thing alone again. You're teaching me to collaborate-- WHAT??

It appears I need help.

On that note, hopefully "Sunday Dinner" will resume in April (the next tentative date, assuming COVID is under control). We were able to purchase some nice chafing dishes for future events, thanks to donations to the Hospitality Guild for its good works (you know who you are). We still need a guild leader so step up if the spirit moves you!

The new year brings with it many challenges. Please pray for guidance in our parish as Rev. Patti, the Finance Committee, and the new Vestry navigate the uncertainty of 2022.

Cheers and Happy New Year! *Kathleen Susan Vineyard*, Senior Warden



**JANUARY**  
Birthdays & Anniversaries

**Patti Nichols & Jerry White Anniversary - January 2**

**Ingrid Sullivan Birthday - January 5**

**Chuck Wall Birthday - January 5**

**Grant Cable Birthday - January 8**

**Brian Sullivan Birthday - January 15**

**John Whitty Birthday - January 18**

**Kathy Bennett Birthday - January 20**

**Fran & Wendy Whitaker Anniversary - January 24**

**Grace Hanson Birthday - January 25**

**\*\*February Newsletter Submissions Deadline is Friday, January 21st\*\***