

Emmanuel Envoy

November 2009

THE MIRACLE - Tess was a precocious 8 year old when she heard her Mom and Dad talking about her little brother, Andrew. All she knew was that he was very sick and they were not able to pay for the operation he needed. As Mom and Dad finished their conversation they said, "What can we do? Only a miracle can save him."

Tess went into her room and pulled a glass jelly jar from its hiding place in the closet. She opened the jar and counted its contents. She twisted the cap back in place and slipped out the back door.

At the corner drug store, she waited patiently for the pharmacist to give her some attention but he was too busy talking to a man in front of her.

Tess scuffed her feet on the floor. She cleared her throat but nothing could get the pharmacist's attention. Finally she set the jar of money on the counter with a sharp bang. That did it.

The druggist looked over the counter at her and barked, "And what do you want little girl?"

Tess said, "I want to talk with you about my little brother. He is very sick. He has something bad growing inside his head. My Daddy says only a miracle can save him. So how much does a miracle cost?"

"We don't sell miracles here, little one. I'm sorry," the pharmacist said.

"Listen," said the girl, "I have money to pay for it. If it isn't enough, I will get the rest. Just tell me how much it costs."

The other customer stooped down next to Tess. He was well dressed and kind. He asked Tess, "What kind of miracle does your brother need?"

"I don't know," said Tess, her eyes filling with tears. "I just know he's really sick and needs an operation. That's why I want to use my money."

"How much do you have?" asked the man.

"One dollar and eleven cents," Tess answered.

"Well what a coincidence." smiled the man, "that is exactly the price of miracles for little brothers."

He took her jar of money in one hand and her mittened hand in the other and said, "I want to meet your brother and talk to your parents." Let's see if we can find that miracle for you."

That man was Dr. Carlton Armstrong, a neurosurgeon. The operation was completed without charge and it wasn't long until Andrew was home and doing well.

A miracle is not the suspension of natural law, but the operation of a higher law. Thanks be to God!

EMMANUEL HAS A MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

God has chosen to entrust the gospel to what the Bible calls earthen vessels - human beings like you and the members of our church staff.



Earthen vessels make good carriers. They can be filled and emptied again and again. However, they need care in handling. Without care, they can be upset, their rims chipped, parts broken and the gospel treasure lost.

Our "**MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE**" is responsible for helping our paid staff members fulfill their calling to carry the gospel message of Jesus Christ to those they serve. This is done by providing each staff member with support, loving care, and encouragement as they seek to fulfill their responsibilities as staff/leaders within our congregation.

The **MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE** is made up of those from the congregation who have been specifically identified, invited and appointed by the council. They are: Chris Alberg – Chair, Kara Avelar, Elsa Delaplace, Harald Ruda, and Pastor Saling

Please talk with us regarding any questions or comments you have about how our staff is ministering among us, we will listen carefully to you and help deliver your message. Help us as we care for the earthen vessels bearing God's word to us.

PRAYER CONCERNS

REMEMBERED IN PRAYER DURING OCTOBER/NOVEMBER



Linda, Jerry, Bernie, Margaret, Addam, Kelsey, Stacey, Joan, John Todd, Norm Weible, Carol Smith, Brian, Gloria, Marie, John Zielinski, Loretta Maranhos, Stephanie Zaia, Josephine Zarrella, Reidar Tryggstad, Priscilla, Ruthie, Bernie, Richard (to be healed) Leo Desautel, Al Lane, Robert Lane, Elizabeth Anderson, Susan Denise, Joan Ferris, Stephen Ferris, Homer Everhard, Lisa Silletti, Jack

Silletti

Funerals/Memorials: Ruth Bamberg, October 3, Carol Smith, November 1,
Pray for the family of Grace Carpenter who passed away recently.

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Ruth Murphy, Britta Stanton, Larry and Alice Schillberg,
Peter and Sally Alborghetti, Eunice Hansen

THANK YOU

Dear friends at Emmanuel,

From the minute our family arrived at Emmanuel church eighteen years ago we were warmly welcomed and given many delightful opportunities to serve Jesus' church. Over the years each of us has developed long-lasting friendships with wonderful people. Emmanuel has indeed become our church home in every sense of the word. We treasure the people of God gathered as Emmanuel church and the ministry carried out by and among you.

I have been privileged to serve in so many wonderful ways during my membership; who knew that you were preparing me to serve in ordained ministry? I cannot begin to express my appreciation for all your support, encouragement and

prayers during my years of preparation; you carried me during the most difficult times and you celebrated with me during the wonderful moments.

It was such an honor to be presented with a stole from Emmanuel Church for my ordination. It is exquisite! It fits! It will always be special to me because it embodies each of you and what you have come to mean to me. I will continue to hold you in my heart and in my prayers, especially as I wear your lovely gift placed on me by Pastor Saling. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Pastor Lauren Holm

Dear friends:

On behalf of the Norwood Ecumenical Food Pantry, thank you very much for your donations during the month of August. The Pantry currently serves over 250 families, with new clients arriving at the door each week. We are truly grateful for all your help.

Sincerely, Eileen Hickey,
Correspondence Secretary

Dear Friends at Emmanuel,

Your thoughtfulness and concern for Greta Sikora through the many years of her illness and disability gave her an anchor to her earlier life that helped more than you know. When she was at home, your cheerful cards and notes were always on the window sill in her kitchen where she and her care givers could enjoy them. Your cards and phone calls and Christmastime cheer brought her much pleasure.

More recently, in the hospital, it added comfort to her long days as cards arrived in the mail. Just a few days before she died, when we were looking at the cards in her room, Greta asked me to send a note for the Envoy to thank you for thinking of her. And so, this note is a thank you from her as well as from all of her family.

Your support at the time of Greta's death has been a wonderful reminder of the caring that we find through one another at Emmanuel. Your expressions of sympathy and your prayers have been a comfort and appreciated. A special thank you to Pastor Saling and to our church staff for all that they do to lighten our burdens at times of sadness.

Sincerely, MJ Ekstrand
for the Sikora, Trudeau and Ekstrand families

MAKE IT SIMPLE – STEWARDSHIP FOR 2010

Thanksgiving will soon be here and families and friends will gather to celebrate and give thanks for God's many blessings in their lives.

As a congregation, Emmanuel Lutheran Church has much to be thankful for. Our lives are woven together in a community of believers, who share each other's joys, support each other in times of trouble, learn from each other and grow together in the knowledge of God and how to respond to God's amazing love for us.

An online dictionary gives one meaning of "steward" as a person whose responsibility it is to take care of something. Another word for steward is manager. As we give thanks for all God has given us – our lives, our family, our friends, our church – in fact, all our resources, let us remember that we are stewards, or managers, of all that God has entrusted to us.

This year's theme of "MAKE IT SIMPLE" has emphasized the concept of living simply, as Jesus did. The focus has been on paring excess from our lives and learning that joy does not come from acquiring great wealth, but from learning to know God's amazing love for us, and showing our gratitude for the gifts that we have from God by managing those resources well

and sharing what we have with others. Part of this sharing comes in the form of promising support to the work of our church by making a commitment of financial resources.

This year, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 22nd, has been designated as "Commitment Sunday". We invite and strongly urge EVERYONE to be present at worship that day and during the stewardship hymn – bring your pledge of commitment card forward and place it in the stewardship treasure chest.

NON-PLEDGERS and PLEDGERS alike will be asked to complete a commitment card, whether or not that person feels able to make a pledge of a specific dollar amount. We recognize that some people are indeed committed to giving a portion of their resources to God and make regular donations to Emmanuel, but for various reasons feel unable to commit to a specific amount. For this reason there will be a line on the commitment card that allows people to state their intention to give as they are able, without naming a dollar amount. Though we encourage everyone to pledge a dollar amount in order for the Finance Team to be able to prepare a budget, we will ask EVERYONE to fill out a commitment card.

By joining us on November 22 and carrying your pledge of commitment card forward, you will not only present to God an expression of your gratitude, but you will enable the church to move forward with a budget plan for 2010.

As we look upon the banners which were woven last fall from material which you supplied to us, we are reminded that we have all been woven together into the fabric of Emmanuel. All who worship with us are part of the fabric of the life of our church. We rejoice in your participation in our congregational life and give thanks for all the gifts you offer – gifts of your time, talents, and financial resources.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

ADVENT CRAFT FAIR

ATTENTION ALL CRAFTERS – to all who would like to share their talent and creativity. Come join this year's "Advent Craft Fair". For four Sundays, starting November 29, we will be offering family and friends of Emmanuel an opportunity to purchase fine handcrafted items. There are plenty of tables available, so don't be shy. If you are interested in participating, please contact Leslie Daskam at 508-226-1885.



SINGERS NEEDED! As you may have noticed, the Senior Choir has become smaller and smaller the past few years, due to death, illness, family commitments, and scheduling conflicts. At this point we need new singers for all four vocal parts in order to regularly offer uplifting and beautiful anthems. If you like to sing, please think seriously about joining us. If you can join us every week, fantastic! If you'd like to sing with us, but can't make a weekly commitment, fantastic! If you can do one or two anthems in the Advent/Christmas season, fantastic! Please contact Christy Saling (781-762-9057, cesaling@netzero.com), Bill Gruhn (508-359-2847, bgruhn@gis.net), or any choir member if you're interested and we'll find a way you can add your voice to ours.



CALLING MUSICIANS OF ALL AGES!! Believe it or not, it's time to begin planning music for Advent and Christmas. You can help our worship music be especially meaningful during Advent and for all three Christmas Eve services (5 PM, 7 PM, 10:30 PM). We can use instrumentalists to play along with a hymn or two or to perform a solo. We can use singers to join the Senior Choir; to sing a solo, duet, trio, or quartet; to be part of a one-time group for a Christmas Eve service. If you can join us, or if you know someone (your child or grandchild?) who can enrich our music, please contact Christy Saling (781-762-9057, cesaling@netzero.com). Thank you!

CHRIS GERSTNER'S CD RELEASE PARTY

On Saturday November 21st, from 7:00 to 9:30 pm, host a CD release party for Chris Gerstner's new CD "My Heaven". Many of you have heard songs that Chris has worship; this CD contains the other side of Chris' repertoire and loss and laptops. Joining Chris will be several played and sang on the CD, including Chris' daughter Paulina, Steve Rapson, Sandra Haddon, Brad Meyer and Charlie Koch. It will be a full evening of folk music, with many of Chris's original songs from the CD as well as acoustic music from the other talented musicians. Come celebrate with Chris, enjoy the music, and perhaps take home a CD for someone's Christmas stocking!



Emmanuel will Own Little written for - songs of love musicians who

AN INVITATION TREE TRIMMING PARTY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12TH AT 10:30AM TO 1:00PM



In this busy season take time to pause and spend a special morning of fellowship while preparing our church for Emmanuel's Christmas celebration

Children with parent are welcome
Brunch will be served

R.S.V.P. -- HEATHER CRISAFULLI
heatherc@norwoodlight.com 508-533-2097

CONSIDER JOINING THE ALTAR GUILD TEAM

Have you ever looked at our beautiful altar and wondered who cares for it, who prepares Holy Communion for Sunday worship and who lovingly decorates our church for Christmas and Easter? Is this something you can be a part of? DEFINITELY!

As an Altar Guild team member, you would be assigned with another team member to serve one month per year. Your duty would be to prepare and clean up for Holy Communion, change the paraments to the appropriate color for each Sunday, clean and press the linens, polish the silver, fill the oil candles and place and remove the flowers from the altar.

Altar Guild team members are not limited to ladies only. Men, teens, newcomers and couples are urged to join us. Everyone is welcome to share in the joy of serving our Lord and the members of Emmanuel.

Training is offered and we will team you with an experienced member to help with your orientation.

Please contact Heather Crisafulli at heatherc@norwoodlight.com or 508-533-2097 if you have any questions or you would like to join the team.

SMALL GROUP CORNER

*Sow the seeds of friendship and
reap bouquets of happiness*



This time of the year reminds me of when I was a kid and on my street all the adult neighbors would rake their leaves into one huge pile so we kids could jump in them and bury ourselves under the bright colored leaves. We had so much fun on that little dead end street in Roslindale. We were a close knit "family of neighbors". The Small Groups at Emmanuel are a way to experience that feeling of a close knit family. Each group has a different makeup; there is something for everyone.

The Book Discussion Group meets on the first Friday of the Month. They have been reading "The Samurai's Garden" by Gail Tsukiyama for their November gathering and the book for December is "Mountains Beyond Mountains" by Tracy Kidder. Contact Lois Thomas thomaslois@comcast.net

By the time you read this, The Dining Disciples will have had their Halloween Party (can't wait to see the pictures)! I am sure, as usual, the members will have enjoyed being together and sharing great conversation and food, glorious food! Contact Janet Johnson janetdjohnson1@netzero.net

Our newest Dining Group, now so aptly named, The All Night Ditzzy Diners had a gastronomic splurge as they dined al fresco at their second gathering. They are now looking forward to visiting "Nonie's Cucina" for some fine homemade Italian food and fellowship at their November 7th gathering. Contact Carolyn Stahl stahl5@norwoodlight.com

The Women's Retreat Group had a one day retreat on September 26th in the barn at Joan Carlson's beautiful home. Twenty two women of all ages attended. The day was a perfect fall day and the theme was "Our Spiritual Journey"...looking back at the paths we've followed...looking forward to what lies ahead. The next Retreat will be an overnigher in the spring. More information will be coming soon. Contact Sharon Stoller sharonstoller@comcast.net

The Walking Group had to cancel the walk at Rocky Woods Reservation in Medfield several times. On Oct 4th, with a small turn out, it happened!! From the reports I hear we all missed a great walk in lovely surroundings. So clean up those walking shoes and try for the next walk. Look for information coming. Contact Peg Flood mflood@norwoodlight.com

If you would like a fun, relaxing evening with other couples try The Couples Group, they would love to have you join in with them. At their last gathering they played Monster Mini Golf and went for Chinese after. To be added to their e-mail list for information about future gatherings Contact Joy Peter at joypeter@att.net

The Bible Study Group meets on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am. The group began their fall sessions with a video presentation by Pastor Walter Wangerin, Jr. called "The Four Acts of Prayer". Each week the group is exploring, with Pastor Wangerin, one aspect of prayer from the biblical and experiential stand point. Contact Pastor Saling pastah@norwoodlight.com

Emmanuel The Next Generation will be holding another Helping Hands Fair on Sunday, November 22nd right after second service. We will be making books for Children's Hospital and goodies for our shut-ins. We will also be creating some beautiful Christmas cards with all proceeds going to a charitable project. Contact Nina Alberg missneens@comcast.net

Now on to the "new kids on the block".....

The Jezebels met for the first time (boas were optional). There were 11 women who braved a cold, rainy night to come out and talk about "Evie" the first bad girl of the bible. Next discussion, on November 13th at 7:30pm in the Founders Room, will be the second chapter in "Bad Girls of the Bible". Our bad girl is Potiphar's wife, and she is bored to distraction! Contact Val Dutcher doug_val@comcast.net

The Men's Breakfast Club met for the first time on October 17th at Bristol Square Café in Walpole. Nine men attended. There was lively conversation over a great breakfast with endless cups of coffee. The next breakfast will be on November 14th at 7:30 am in the same restaurant.

Contact Paul Crisafulli paulcrisassoc@verizon.net

The Men's Retreat Group is in the planning stages. More information will be coming shortly.

Enjoy the time you spend with your small groups. Feel free to invite your friends, neighbors and relatives to have a small group experience with you. You'll be glad you did and they'll be glad they came.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Heather Crisafulli

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS **For patients at Taunton, Westborough,** **Worcester and Tewksbury State Hospitals**

MEN AND WOMEN'S CLOTHING: socks, underwear, jeans, sweaters, sweatshirts and sweatpants. We especially need XL and plus sizes.

TOILETRIES: hairbrushes, combs, lipstick, nail polish, tissues (pocket-size), after shave/cologne for men, shampoo, spray deodorant, body splash/spray, soap, body wash and body lotion. **PLEASE NO GLASS BOTTLES.**

JEWELRY: male and female crosses, watches and rings

GAMES: hand held games, playing cards, Uno, word search books walkman and small radios.

MISC: wallets, change purses, stationery, note cards, calendars (pocket) twin comforters and throws for patient beds.

Friends of the Mentally Ill, Inc. serve the mentally ill from your community. We hope you will help make wishes come true. Gifts don't need to be wrapped. Selections will be made to meet the wishes and needs of each patient.

Donations must be delivered to Emmanuel by December 6. Thank you to Joan Wefald who will be delivering the holiday gifts.

WOMEN'S ONE DAY FALL RETREAT

On Saturday, September 26th, 22 women of Emmanuel gathered at Joan Carlson's home, in Norfolk, for their first *self-run* one-day retreat. By all accounts, it was a wonderful event. Thanks to all those who contributed to the success of the day: **Janice Wright** for the eye catching retreat poster at church, **Bob & Joan Carlson** for the use of their beautiful, old barn, **Keith & Carol Jorgensen** for their continued work on our wonderful song books, **Christy Saling** for taking time out of her busy schedule to record all our song book music, **Linnea Keyes** for making copies of the song sheets, the pages on the meaning of the bead colors, and our "Looking Ahead" papers, our Retreat Leaders – **Cyn Zafft, Sharon Stoller, M.J. Ekstrand, Lorraine Lynch, Peg Flood, Lisa Silletti, Barbara Carow, Carol Jorgensen, and Linda Morse**, our Fall Retreat Committee – **Peg Flood, Lisa Silletti, Linda Morse, Lorraine Lynch**, our Fall Expanded Retreat Committee – **Sharon Stoller, MJ Ekstrand, Carol Jorgensen, and Barbara Carow** and finally to **Pastor Saling** for his *early* morning computer/printer "magic."

Don't forget to save May 1st & 2nd, 2010, for our spring retreat at Craigsville Retreat & Conference Center. All women are welcome!

MINISTERS OF EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The members of our congregation, working and witnessing in the world.

CHURCH STAFF

Edward Saling, Pastor

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Rev. Dr. Raymond Kask

Pastor Emeritus

Linnea Keyes, Parish Administrator

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Heather Crisafulli, Coordinator of Newcomer
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