

You and Emmanuel

What does your church mean to you?

Is it a place that sparks memories of childhood – of Christmas Eve candlelight services and Easter pageants? Does the thought of church awaken remembrances of loved ones who gathered at Emmanuel to worship God and enjoy fellowship with friends and community members?

Perhaps Emmanuel is where you were baptized, confirmed or married. Maybe it is where you have celebrated the lives of beloved family members and dear friends, and said goodbye to them.

Maybe it is where you have come to do good work – to help with a Christmas bazaar, fill shoeboxes for needy children, serve at a community dinner or participate in a work project that improved the church building.

Or maybe you feel drawn to the church to hear an inspiring message that can strengthen and guide you on life's journey. Emmanuel offers a sacred space to reflect, to work things out, or to sit quietly and feel the holy presence of our Lord. Appropriately, the name Emmanuel means "God with us."

Emmanuel is all of those things and more – and for many parishioners, the church has helped us deepen our faith in God. We come together at 40 East Church St. in Adams to encourage one another in friendship and love. Emmanuel is where we regularly hear God's Word spoken and preached. By learning more about God, and through communication with each other, we seek to know what it is to follow Jesus Christ – and to act upon that knowledge.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church is an important part of the South Jefferson community. Church members recently led a community fundraiser for a family facing high medical costs due to the illness of a beloved daughter. Last spring we hosted the Crop Hunger Walk. Each year the church celebrates St. Patrick's Day with a Shamrock Supper. We offer community dinners, Christmas gifts for needy children and a place for Alcoholics Anonymous to meet. We seek to better know and serve the larger community. We have a lot to learn and a lot still to do.

Emmanuel's mission is to "Love God and Serve People, to Serve God and Love People." It is trying to do that. It is open and receptive to do more.

A recent message in the devotional "Our Daily Bread" points out that "God provides for His people through His people." For Emmanuel Episcopal Church to carry out its mission and thrive as a faith community, members need to contribute what they can – their time, talent and treasure.

I hope you will consider what Emmanuel Episcopal Church means to you. If it is important for the parish to continue its spiritual and community roles, then members will need to support it as God leads them.

And if you have not attended church in a while, please come. Our services are led by our wonderful parish priest, the Rev. Jerry Wichelns. We offer nursery care and Sunday School every week. The church building has been re-sided; the Education Wing has new carpet and a new coat of paint. Emmanuel is in a search process for a new priest. An Alpha course for adults is pending. Much is happening.

Most important, our services are spirit-filled and worshipful, our people are friendly and welcoming.

The book of Proverbs tells us: "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act." Please ask God what He wants you to do and provide for your parish, His church. May God richly bless you.

Sincerely,
John McFadden, warden