

Emmanuel Church

“Open Doors at Main Street & Broadway”

Welcome to Emmanuel Church!

Thank you for filling out an information card. This is our way of introducing you to who we are, what we can do for you and how to be in touch with us.

We are known as Bel Air’s “Church with the Open Doors,” but our open doors are just the beginning! Keep reading to discover more.



301 North Main Street – At Broadway
Post Office Box 628
Bel Air, Maryland 21014
Office: 401 838-7699

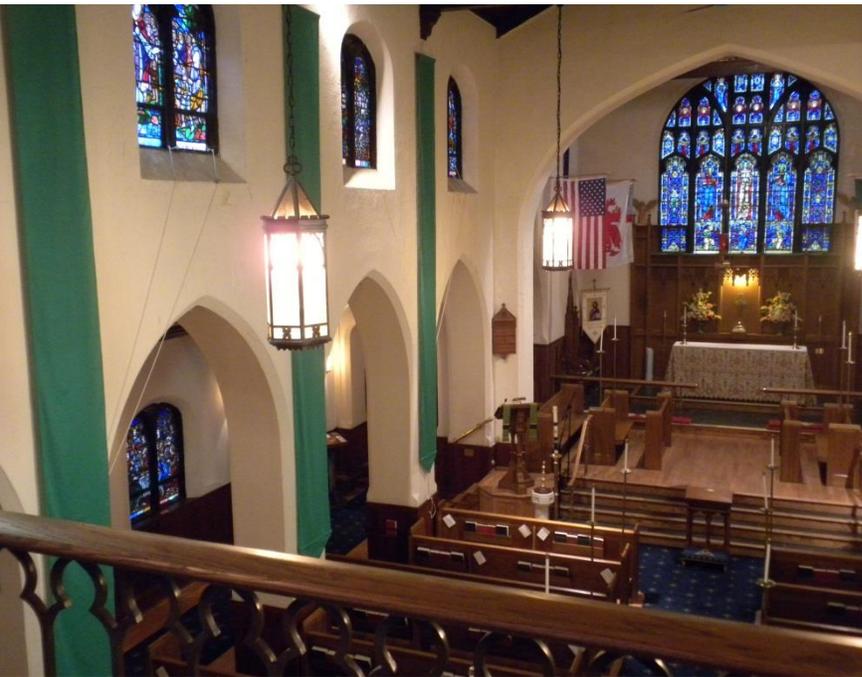
A Quick Look:

- ✚ We have served the Bel Air community since 1868
- ✚ We are a congregation of The Episcopal Church, the American branch of the world-wide Anglican Communion
- ✚ About 150 people worship with us on Sundays at one of our three services; another dozen join us on Tuesdays
- ✚ Beyond worship, our ministries include Christian Education for all ages, extensive outreach to the community, music programs for both children and adults, pastoral care to those in need and connections with other congregations
- ✚ Our “Open Doors” represent our invitation to the community to take advantage of our facilities, which we are eager to share with a large variety of community associations and family groups
- ✚ Our Columbarium is not just for members of Emmanuel! All Saints Chapel is one of the few burial places left in Bel Air with space available, and niches may be purchased by anyone in the community



Worship at Emmanuel Church

Worship is at the heart of everything we do at Emmanuel. The comfort, support and insight that people find here is what motivates our service to the community. Our services come from the *Book of Common Prayer*, the authorized prayer book of The Episcopal Church.



Almost all of our services feature **Holy Communion**. In response to Jesus' command at the Last Supper, the priest takes bread, blesses it, breaks it and gives it to the congregation. The same is done with a chalice of wine. Communion is our way of enjoying a taste of the banquet that awaits us in heaven while we are still on earth. Anyone who has been baptized in any Christian Church is welcome to receive Holy Communion at

Emmanuel.

Our current Sunday schedule includes:

8:00 AM A **more formal service conducted in traditional language** (lots of "thees" and "thines"), the early service derives most directly from our Anglican roots. We don't sing at this service, but our organist joins us in progress and plays during Holy Communion and offers a postlude.

10:00 AM Our largest Sunday service is offered in **a more contemporary language and features a variety of music** throughout. Led by our Organist and choir, we sing several hymns and chant simple responses with the priest and during the psalm. Each week there is a musical offering by the choir or other musical group. The music is taken from both traditional and contemporary sources, and several times a year worship features our own "Third Saturday Band." Since our Sunday school meets during the first part of our worship, there is always a moment of chaos as they enter the sanctuary for announcements and communion.

12:00 Noon The noon service is **a quieter, more contemplative time**, and attracts a more diverse congregation than the other two. Also offered in contemporary language, there is a relaxed informality to this time of worship.

Other Bits and Pieces

Come as you are! There is no dress code at Emmanuel Church. We are more interested in seeing you than in seeing how you look, so you'll see folks dressed in coat and tie or in their rec council uniforms and everything in between.

Diaper Bags at all services! Young children are always welcome at any service. We know they grow up quickly, so we are okay with children acting like children. That said, we also offer **Nursery Care during the 10:00 service.**

Park Here! Emmanuel has a small lot on the north side of the Parish hall, accessible from Ellendale Street. We also have an open invitation to use the paved lot a block east on Broadway at McComas Funeral Home. The Klein family maintains the lot at their Shoprite supermarket for their customers, so we hope that if you park there you will patronize their store.

Who Does What?

Rector

The Reverend Canon Dr. Mark Gatza has been Emmanuel's priest since July, 2009. He holds a *Master of Divinity* degree from Yale Divinity School, a *Master of Arts in Theology* from the Ecumenical Institute and a *Doctor of Ministry* degree from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary (at Northwestern University). His title "Canon" comes from his six and a half years of service on the Bishops' staff of the Diocese of Maryland. He has been a school chaplain, served in four different congregations and worked as a consultant and trainer prior to coming to Emmanuel. He *tries* to keep office hours Tuesday – Thursday, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, and most Saturday mornings, 10:00 to Noon. In the event of a pastoral emergency, you can reach him on the church's cell phone: 443 752-0573. You can email him at mgatza@emmanuelbelair.org (but he'd prefer to talk on the phone!).



Deacon

Emmanuel is currently without a deacon. We hope that one will be assigned in the near future. Previously we have been served by the Rev'd Gail Landers and the late Rev'd Joan Kelly.

The Vestry

The Vestry is our corporate board. It consists of twelve members elected by the congregation who serve three year terms, and four officers appointed by the clergy. The Vestry serves to oversee the congregation's finances and make decisions about property and programs. It is responsible for ensuring that the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Maryland are followed as well as Emmanuel's own local by-laws. They also play a role as spiritual leaders, taking time to pray and for Bible study at the beginning of each meeting. Vestry meetings are open to anyone who wants to offer their own input, and specific agenda items are publicized well in advance.

The Senior Warden

Sandy Cormack, Emmanuel's Senior Warden, serves as an advisor to the clergy and the senior officer of the Vestry. Trying to maintain the "view from 35,000 feet," much of this work involves planning for the future of the congregation and evaluating what is currently offered. Sandy is a freelance consultant in management and organization and plays guitar with a band that has regular gigs around Maryland.

The Junior Warden You'd never know it from the name, but this is one of the most important responsibilities in the congregation. The Junior Warden monitors the state of church property, making recommendations for work that needs to be done to the Vestry, and overseeing the labors of volunteers and contractors. **Linden White** fills the role for Emmanuel.

The Organist/Choirmaster **Brent Pertusio** is Emmanuel's organist. He directs the church **choir**, which practices Thursday evenings, and is open to anyone who would like to sing. He is also available to play at weddings and funerals. *Choir practice is Thursdays at 7:30 PM and Sundays at 9:15 AM.*

Christian Education Coordinator **Heather Costantino** directs Emmanuel's Sunday School program, and works from her office at the church three days a week. Her responsibilities include recruiting and training teachers, preparing the curriculum each week for each grade level and coordinating with the children's music programs.

The Altar Guild Directed by **Edie White**, the Altar Guild prepares the altar and the vessels we use for Holy Communion each service. This involves maintaining the silver and brass, changing the colored hangings according to the season, and monitoring the supply of wine and bread wafers.

The Flower Guild The flowers that decorate the altar on Sundays and during the week are arranged by our Flower Guild, led by **Donna Wilson**. The arrangements are generally done Saturday mornings and remain in place during the week, where they are often admired by people who take advantage of our open doors.

The Children's Choir A couple of times a year we are graced by our youngest voices, led by **our Sunday School teachers**. Rehearsals are included in Sunday School time.

Handbells Emmanuel owns a three-octave set of professional handbells. In past years handbell ringers played often at our 10:00 AM service. We are looking for a music to lead a new group of children or children and adults together.

Besides Sundays



Tuesday 10:00 AM Holy Communion: Held in the Maryan Room in the Parish Hall, our Tuesday morning service features lessons and a homily based on the Episcopal Church's calendar of "*Holy Women, Holy Men.*" After communion anyone who wishes may receive a special prayer for healing, either for themselves or on behalf of anyone else. Every Tuesday we enjoy a little coffee and fellowship in the Parish Hall afterwards, and every other Tuesday our "Holy Folders" prepare the newsletter for mailing.

Wednesday, 9:30 AM Bible Study: Held in Emmanuel's Harward Parlor, in the slype hallway, this Bible study meets during the academic year. Books are selected according to wishes of the group.

"The Trumpet" Newsletter: Emmanuel's newsletter is published about every other week. We prefer to distribute it by email, but are happy to send it by first class mail if you'd prefer. It includes advance notice of events and activities, general information, contact information for vestry members and an essay from the Rector.

"Episcopal Church 101:" For folks new to the Episcopal Church, the Rector offers this introductory class twice a year. In four or five sessions it covers some of the history of the Anglican Church, *the Book of Common Prayer*, the history of the Diocese of Maryland and of Emmanuel Church, and the Catechism of the Church. Much of the time is spent in conversation, answering questions that come up as we cover various points.

Lent Programs: The season of Lent, before Easter, is a time of self-examination and renewal in our tradition, and at Emmanuel that means that many people take a little extra time in the week to gather for prayer, study and holy conversation.

Other Adult Education Opportunities: From time to time other programs are offered as interest or need arises. In early winter there is generally a program based on the Gospel used in the coming year. We generally do an Adult Vacation Bible School alongside (and often with the same theme as) our children's VBS.

Community Outreach: Emmanuel is involved in outreach in many ways, but we are known in the Bel Air community particularly for three. First, we stock a food pantry in the rectory and have someone available two days a week to help homeless persons and families in need get the groceries they need. Second, we provide holiday treats – Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter! -- for the residents of one of Bel Air’s senior housing units.

Space Available: Emmanuel is blessed with a variety of sanctuary, classroom and parish hall space. It is part of our mission to the Bel Air community to make that space available for a variety of uses at a reasonable cost. Several 12-Step groups meet at Emmanuel, as does the Chesapeake Wine Society and (previously) the Ryan-Kilcoyne School of Irish Dance. Bridge groups meet three days a week and piano recitals are occasionally held in the parish hall. Members are welcome to reserve the space for family gatherings too!



Our sanctuary is also available to other groups, and has been used by synagogues, Baptist and Pentecostal church groups, often for regular worship but even occasionally to host a wedding or funeral service.

Membership

At Emmanuel Church, we understand Membership in terms of what the Prayerbook catechism describes as our Christian Duty: “...to come together week by week for corporate worship; and to work, pray and give for the spread of the kingdom of God.” [P. 856] Regular attendance at worship is the most important part of membership, but so also is fellowship with other members and a willingness to volunteer your time and talents to the work God calls us to do.

In practical terms, once we have included your contact information on our congregation list, and once we have a record of your giving, you are a member. If you donate by check, we will keep track of your contributions and give you an annual receipt for tax purposes. If you prefer to donate in cash, we can provide numbered offering envelopes that will allow us to keep track of what you give, likewise for tax purposes.

We hope that you will make a “pledge” of your support each fall to assist us as we prepare our budget for the year ahead.

A more formal sign of membership is done in the presence of a bishop at the Rite of Confirmation, or the similar Rite of Reception for those confirmed in other denominations. Opportunities for these rites are available at least once a year.

If you have been a member of another Episcopal Church, let the Rector know and a letter of transfer can be arranged.

Other Rites of the Church

Emmanuel’s “Open Door” policy extends to other Rites of the Church, and in particular to **Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals**. We recognize that, as people prepare for such rites of passage, they may see for the first time or in a new way that the Church has much to offer.

Baptism

A generation ago, when most of American culture was rooted in Christian values, Baptism functioned more as a “christening,” a name-giving for a child. In an increasingly secular world, the importance of the service as the beginning of a journey in faith is strongly emphasized. “Holy Baptism is the sacrament by which God adopts us as his children and makes us members of Christ’s Body, the Church, and inheritors of the kingdom of God.” [P. 858] It is shaped around a shared covenant to which the parents and godparents of a small child, or to which the adult candidate, pledges faithfulness. Though we are willing to talk with anyone about being baptized, and though we understand the power of family traditions around rites of passage, it is our hope that baptism will lead to full and active church membership. A brief pamphlet expanding on these points is available from the church office.

Weddings

Emmanuel is available for weddings under many circumstances, from couples who are already members to couples considering membership to actually renting the

church for use by members of another congregation. A comprehensive booklet describing our policies and covering Frequently Asked Questions is available from the church office.

Funerals

An important part of the mission of Emmanuel Church, in particular, and the Christian Church, in general, is to provide comfort and words of hope in the face of death. We will go to great lengths to try to meet the needs of a family dealing with the death of a loved one, regardless of their relationship with the congregation.

Emmanuel in Cyberspace

Emmanuel's current website is a repository for a wealth of information, from the most recent newsletters to policies and forms available to download. Audio recordings of most sermons can be found there, including those by our occasional guest preachers. And, like many other things, you can find us on Facebook.

mgatza@emmanuelbelair.org

The Rector

office@emmanuelbelair.org

Newsletter and Mailing List Requests