

## Giving Matters @ Emmanuel, 1st Quarter 2018

Examples of Christian ministries and programs made possible by our collective giving this quarter:

**Rev. Stephanie's Sermon Series:** On December 31, the sermon series "What if God Was One of Us" concluded.



On Sunday, January 7, Rev Stephanie began a six-part sermon series entitled "The Short Stories of Jesus". Rev Stephanie: The stories Jesus told are challenging, convicting and amusing. Just when we think we understand their meaning, something remains left over and we must read them again. On Sunday, February 18, Rev. Stephanie began a five-part sermon series entitled

"Where the Wild Things Are". Rev. Stephanie: Children know that the world is a scary, wondrous, miraculous place, all at once larger than we can control, and yet we must live in it.



On February 14, Ash Wednesday, "Ashes-to-Go" were offered to passersby at the Emmanuel Preschool and at Maple Lawn. A "Blues Ash Wednesday" combination concert/worship service was presented Ash Wednesday evening featuring Rev. Kim Capps and her band.



On Palm Sunday, March 25 at 9 AM, the choir presented a Cantata: "The Passion According to St. John", by William Byrd, conducted by choir director Andy Spang and accompanied by Dana Scott on the organ. At the 10:45 service, Rev. Stephanie presented a sermon entitled "Put On the Spot". The Sunday School children opened this service with a palm frond-waving procession through the Sanctuary. Following the service, an interactive event organized by Donna Meoli, "A Walk to Jerusalem", was held in the Fellowship Hall and Youth Room which included lunch, arts and crafts, Passover food samples, prayer writing opportunities, and foot washing. On Good Friday, March 30, a family-friendly worship service was conducted at 12 noon, and a sing-a-long to the video "Jesus Christ Superstar" was held at 6 PM.



Plans were in place for a full schedule of Easter Sunday services beginning at 7 AM and including a free breakfast at 8 am in the Fellowship Hall.

**First Sunday Live:** Emmanuel's First Sunday Live speaker series continued this quarter with:

- Rev. Leo Yates on Sunday, January 7 - "A Conversation About Behavioral Health: Discussing the Biases, Stigma, and Causes"
- Emily Leclercq on Sunday, March 4 - "Navigating Senior Services"
- Catherine Hyde on Sunday, February 4 - "Parenting, A Journey Through Gender"



**Laurel Winter Shelter:** Emmanuel hosted the Laurel Winter Shelter from Sunday, February 4 through Sunday, February 11. Emmanuel provided shelter, food and transportation for up to 25 men each night. This effort was organized by Paul Sutton and Robyn Pochettino who recruited congregation members to provide over 300 donations and volunteer slots. Pictures are available at the Winter Shelter Album on Emmanuel's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/eumclaurel/>.



**Mission Trips and Youth Activities:** On January 14, thirteen volunteers from Emmanuel went to Houston, Texas to repair a house affected by Hurricane Harvey. Planning is underway for a youth mission trip in July to Chavies, Kentucky, led by Donna Meoli, where volunteers, youth and adults, will work with the Appalachian Service Project to repair houses of people in the area. Rock 2018 was held January 26 to 28 in Ocean City, Maryland with guest speaker Bishop La Trelle Esterling of The Baltimore-Washington Conference. Music and worship were provided by Sorenson and Urban Street Level. An all-you-can-eat pancake supper was held on Shrove Tuesday, Feb 13, in the Fellowship Hall with proceeds benefiting the Youth Mission Team. Souper Bowl collections were taken by the youth group in support of the Laurel Winter Shelter on January 28 and February 4. Planning has begun for Vacation Bible School to be held the week of June 18-22.



**Other Activities:** As of March 25, 95 pledges have been received for a total pledge amount of \$358,519. Boy Scout Troop 602 donated \$370 collected at their holiday party to LARS. Emmanuel continues a special relationship with the Little Flowers Preschool in Baltimore, led by Sue Hill. Emmanuel continues to serve at Elizabeth House in Laurel once a month, led by Becky Harding, Patricia Delk-Mercer and Ray Mercer. Emmanuel 101, a class to introduce new-comers to Emmanuel, conducted by Rev. Kim Capps, continues to meet periodically. The Women's Book Club, led by Donna Meoli, continues to meet once a month.

