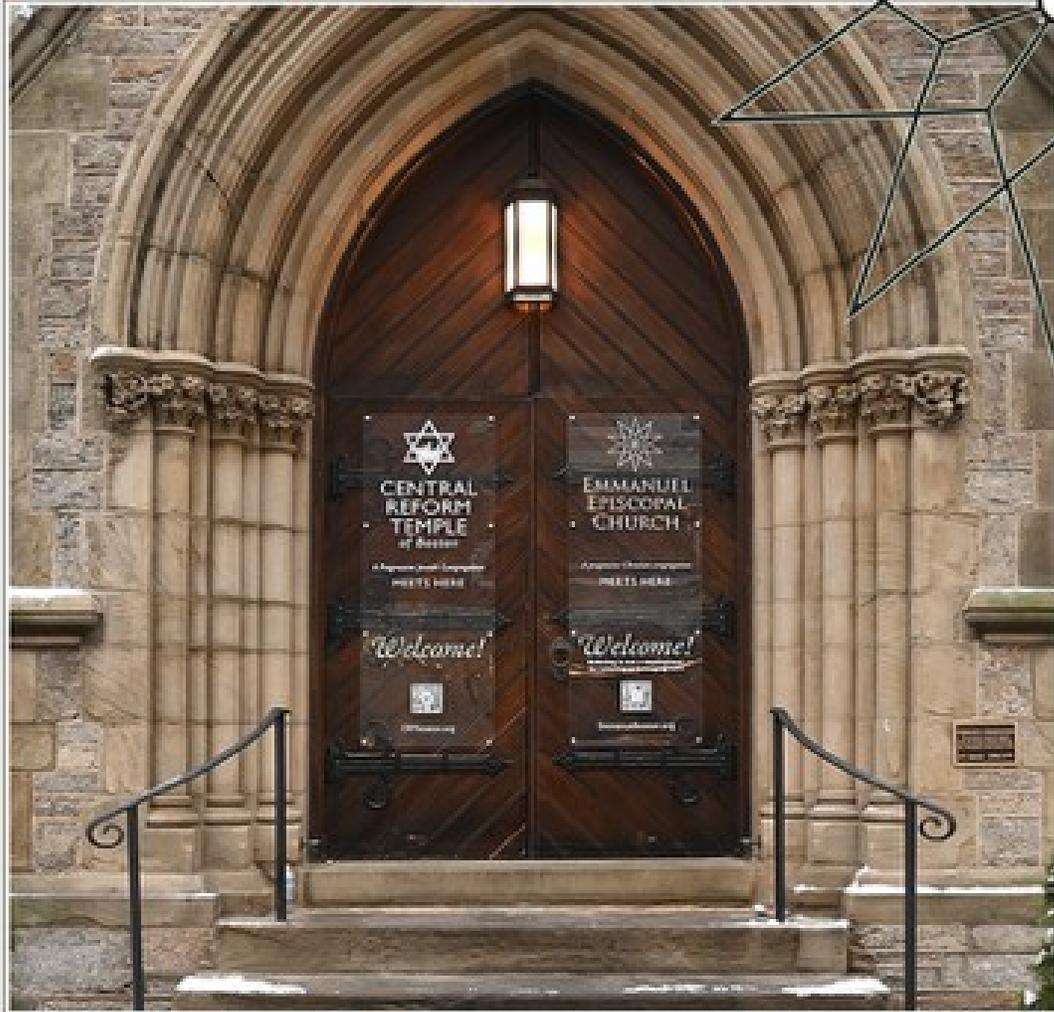
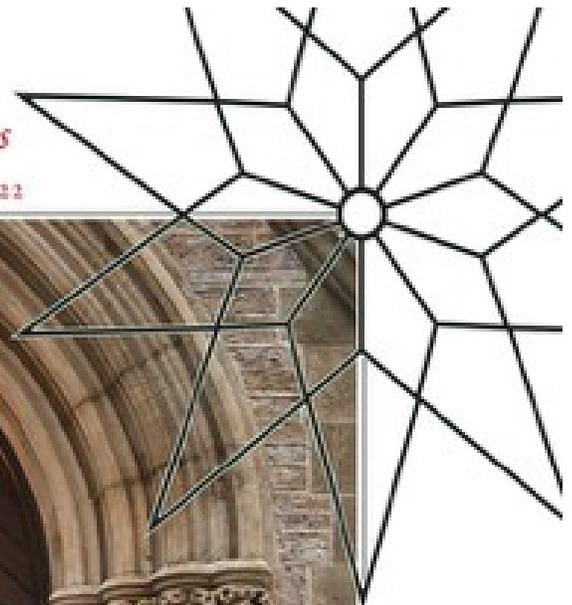


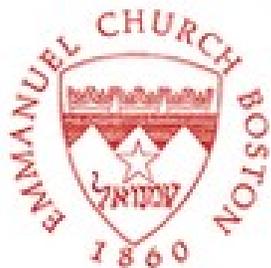
I was glad when they said to me, "let us go to the house of the Lord!"

PSALM 122



EMMANUEL CHURCH

In The City of Boston



2025 ANNUAL REPORT
February 8, 2026



Annual Meeting Agenda

Sunday, February 8, 2026, 12:15 pm

- Call to Order
- Establishment of a quorum
- Approval of Minutes from the Annual Meeting in 2025
- Recognition of Commissions and Committees
- Warden remarks
- Treasurer Remarks (including budget discussion)
- Election of Vestry members, Clerk, Treasurer, Wardens, Delegates and Representatives
- Recognition of outgoing vestry members
- Courtesy resolutions
- Rector remarks
- Table Talk
- Closing Song

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Emmanuel Church Minutes of Annual Meeting

February 9, 2025 at 12:30 pm on Zoom and March 31, 2025 in person

Part 1 of Meeting: February 9, 2025

The Annual Meeting of Emmanuel Church occurred in two parts because of weather conditions on February 9, 2025. On February 9, we met on Zoom for Part 1 of the meeting. Part 2 of the meeting was held on March 31, 2025 in the Parish Hall.

CALL TO ORDER

Our rector, the Reverend Pamela Werntz called the meeting to order on Zoom at 12:30pm. This meeting was convened on February 9, 2025, to conduct the business portion of the Annual Meeting only.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Clerk Mary Beth Clack certified that a quorum of parishioners was present, well over the requisite 26 attendees, including our rector and senior warden.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Pam called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting, which had been printed and distributed in the 2024 Annual Report. The congregation present approved the motion.

RECOGNITION OF COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Rebekah Shore, Senior Warden, expressed her heartfelt thanks to the many people who serve on Emmanuel's Commissions and Committees, including the ad hoc committees: The Racial Justice Working Group and the Discernment Committee for the candidacy for Jamie Shore, applicant for postulancy for the priesthood.

ELECTION OF VESTRY OFFICERS AND MEMBERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Pam thanked all who serve in leadership in our parish and invited the nominations of officers, vestry members, and other representatives of Emmanuel who make up the slate for the coming year. She noted that the slate is published on page 38 of the Annual Report for 2024.

Pat Krol nominated Rebekah Shore for Senior Warden.

Rebekah Shore nominated Pat Krol for Junior Warden.

Mary Beth Clack nominated Mark Fernau for Treasurer.

Mark Fernau nominated Mary Beth Clack for Clerk.

Peter Dutilloy nominated Diane Smith for a three-year term on vestry. Liz Levin nominated Cindy Coldren for a two-year unfulfilled term. Pam stated that Brian McCaig has been appointed Assistant Treasurer for 2025 by the vestry.

Pam nominated the delegates and representatives to DioMass Convention, the Boston Harbor Deanery, Episcopal City Mission, and Episcopal Relief and Development.

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING VESTRY MEMBERS & OFFICERS

Pam gave her heartfelt thanks for Edgar Brenninkmeyer's service on vestry. She noted that Edgar served on vestry for two terms, and was also Chair of the Finance Committee and Chair of the Columbarium Ad Hoc Committee in past years. He will be missed, but will continue to be a greeter and a contributor in many ways to Emmanuel.

Part 2 of Meeting, March 31, 2025 (notes compiled by vestry member Kelly Hager)

The meeting was called to order at 1:00pm.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

The rector certified that a quorum of parishioners was present, well over the requisite 26 attendees, including our rector and senior warden.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REMARKS

Rebekah Shore expressed thanks to the office staff, to Rabbi Shire and Central Reform Temple, to the vestry, and to all Emmanuelites, near and far. Her vision for Emmanuel in 2025 includes a year of being brave together with the trust we've built over the last year: with RTF, our relationship with Central Reform Temple, and welcoming our guests. She closed with the "Prayer for General Thanksgiving" in the Book of Common Prayer.

THE RECTOR'S REMARKS

The Reverend Pam Werntz spoke about three things to think about as we begin a new parish year.

- 1) 2024 at Emmanuel was an amazing year of accomplishments and growth, and the leadership team going into 2025 is strong and stable – the wardens, clerk and treasurer have all been re-elected, and there was only one open spot on vestry. What that means is that next year, there will likely be much more transition and so 2025 is a year to cultivate and encourage leadership – to build the bench. Please think this year about how you might step in or step up to share your gifts with this vibrant parish in 2026.
- 2). A cartoon strip by Jim Benton came across her screen a few weeks ago. In the first frame, two creatures are standing in what appears to be a brown and lumpy storm. They are ankle deep. One asks: "what's this? Why didn't somebody warn us about this? The other replies, "We WERE warned." In the next frame, they are waist deep. One says, "They saw this coming? Why didn't they tell us? The other replies, "They told us." Third frame, they are neck deep. One says, "They should have said it in a way we'd believe." The other replies, "some of us did believe, some of us didn't." In the last frame, they are in above their heads. One says "I blame them for letting us not believe them." The other replies, "they saw that coming too."

The good news is that they did see that coming too – and the resistance and responses are gathering momentum. Pam said we are called by our baptismal vows to join the resistance to whatever does not respect the dignity of every human being, with our prayers, our money, our time, and all manner of direct non-violent actions.

- 3) Two projects that were underway when we were derailed by the covid pandemic are still pending. The Lindsey Chapel organ, now more than 100 years old, is wearing out. John Dilworth makes it sound much healthier than it is, but it's a heroic effort. In 2017-2019 we gathered information and assessments, developed a short list of appropriate organ builders and planned to visit and listen to samples of their work. We also had initial conversations with a fund-raising consultant about a capital campaign to raise the money for the organ project, when the pandemic brought the work to a screeching halt. Perhaps you are interested and willing to get this project going again. If so, please speak with Pam or with one of the wardens.

The other project that suffered during the pandemic was the columbarium. Pat said she thinks we need a dignified resting place for the ashes that have been entrusted to our care through the years, as well as preparing a place for those who wish to be interred here. The concept and design have been agreed upon, but the typical financing model of niches paying for themselves when people purchase one in advance will need to be rethought because some Emmanuelites already have other burial location plans, and others aren't ready to make plans of any kind. We need to find some benefactors who will help underwrite the initial construction of the columbarium. If that is something that would be meaningful, Pam said to speak with her or one of the wardens.

RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL CONTRIBUTORS

Pam thanked outgoing vestry member Edgar Brenninkmeyer. She expressed thanks to Charlie Felsenthal for 27 years of service both on the Finance Commission and serving two stints as Treasurer. Also thanks to Galen Gilbert (for leadership in ushering) and Pavel Hradecky (for leadership in the ministry of accompaniment).

Pavel Hradecky said that there is a need for drivers to pick up parishioners, help them into the building and into their pew, and wait with them while their driver goes to get the car after services. He asked Emmanuelites to speak with him or Bob Greiner if there is interest in this ministry of accompaniment.

COURTESY RESOLUTIONS

Courtesy resolutions were read around by table (from page 36 of the Annual Report). Peter Johnson added thanks to Pat Krol for her efforts so that Emmanuel Music got to Leipzig. There was a unanimous vote to approve the resolutions.

INVITED REMARKS

The Racial Justice Working Group was pleased to write its first annual report this year. Member Liz Levin invited Emmanuelites to read it and to follow the group's column in "This Week at Emmanuel." In the coming months, programs will be offered at Chapel Camp, vestry discussions will occur and the group will be learning more about local efforts, such as those offered by Episcopal City Mission, DioMass, and the Reparations Interfaith Council. Connections with historically Black parishes in our city are being explored through visits to these churches. Members Mary Beth Clack, Elizabeth Levin, Pat Krol, Mary Blocher, and Cindy Coldren welcome your thoughts.

OPEN FORUM

Mary Chitty asked about air conditioning in Lindsey Chapel so we can have more weddings; Pam said yes: that, along with the organ, constitutes the capital improvement work that needs to be done.

Bob Greiner said that as a recipient of prayers, it is very meaningful to know that the love of the congregation is remembering him—a very important prayer endeavor.

Jesse Kieffer said the Recovery Eucharist is 12-Step+Eucharist and is held Fridays at 3:30 via Zoom. Anyone in 12-Step may contact Jesse.

THE RECTOR'S FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot said that at her mother's memorial service, the final hymn was "Lift Every Voice." She wished that the congregation would sometimes sing it in the name of reparations and for the 15th anniversary of Pam's call and institution as rector.

Pat Krol spoke about Pam's tenure as rector. It has been a wonderful time, a transformation of Emmanuel during those years. Pam has been a catalyst, energizing and reviving all of us. Pat said the congregation would like to convey our thoughts to you in words. Words were shouted out around the room to celebrate Pam. A very large card with signatures and tributes was given to Pam.

MUSICAL TRIBUTE

With John Dilworth at the piano, Ryan sang A reprise of "One" from the 10th anniversary of Pam as rector.

CLOSING SONG

The congregation, led by Ryan, sang the traditional closing song, "God has done marvelous things."

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Beth Clack, Clerk

Rector's Report

הַגִּיד לְךָ אָדָם מִה־טוֹב וּמִה־יְהוָה דּוֹרֵשׁ מִמֶּךָ כִּי אִם־עֲשׂוֹת מִשְׁפָּט וְאַהֲבַת חֵסֶד וְהִצַּנֵּעַ לֵכֶת עִם־אֱלֹהֶיךָ

GOD HAS SHOWED YOU, OH EARTHLING, WHAT IS GOOD: AND WHAT DOES THE HOLY ONE REQUIRE OF YOU, BUT TO DO JUSTICE, AND TO LOVE KINDNESS, AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD. MICAH 6:8

Micah 6:8 rings in my ears when I think of the year just passed. What does the Holy One require of you? Not “what might God prefer if it's convenient?” or “what should you aim for when everything is going smoothly?” but what is required—what is the baseline, the essential work, the heart of the matter. Do justice. Love kindness. Walk humbly. Three verbs, three ongoing actions, three daily practices that never reach completion but keep calling us forward. As I reflect on this past year, I'm struck by how these requirements showed up in both grand gestures and quiet moments, in decisions made by vestry and in conversations on the stairs or in the lobbies, in worship that fed our souls, and in the patient, persistent work of building relationships across all kinds of difference.

The Hebrew word for justice, *mishpat*, includes the idea of right relationships and proper ordering—not just fairness in the abstract, but the actual work of setting things right. The word for kindness, *chesed*, is that covenantal love, that loyal steadfastness, that fierce tenderness God shows toward us and calls us to show toward one another. And walking humbly, *hatznea lechet*, is not about thinking less of ourselves but about thinking of ourselves less, about keeping our attention on the One with whom we walk. This is what was required of us in 2025, and this is what we kept doing—imperfectly, haltingly, and with genuine intention and abundant grace.

Worship at Emmanuel Church has deep integrity and remains beautiful and dignified. I give great thanks for the liturgical and preaching gifts, wise counsel, and friendship offered by my clergy colleagues this past year: Susan Ackley, Isaac Everett, Cathy George, John Golenski, Bob Greiner, Clark Grew, Rabbi Michael Shire, and Martha Tucker. Susan continues to preside over weekly 12-step Recovery services on Fridays via Zoom. Cathy joined our affiliated clergy in October. Clark transitioned from this life to the next on December 22. I give thanks to God for his companionship over the last 14 years.

I am also immensely grateful for all the lay leaders who generously offered their time and talents in music, spoken word, and silent witness, during services, as well as in planning, preparation, clean-up, and evaluation.

Emmanuel celebrated nine baptisms in 2025. I had the honor of baptizing Clark Bennett, Bodie Coulon, Hudson Meinero, Isabel Nguyen, Frances Shore, Levi Stein, and Jake Wolski. Martha Tucker baptized her grandson, Caleb Yarboro, and Katherine Black baptized Annie Rosenthal in an interfaith Jewish and Christian ceremony, assisted by Bob Greiner.

Of the many marriage celebrations at Emmanuel last year, I presided over two: the marriage of Julia Gaubatz and Tony Tao, and the marriage blessing for Peter Dutilloy and R Feynman in the context of our regular Sunday Eucharist.

We held the memorial service for James Bartlett in the spring.

For the second year in a row, we held our Maundy Thursday service at the Emmanuel House, and offered our Tenebrae service on Good Friday evening, for which it was originally developed. We also invited the congregations of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul and Church of the Covenant to join us in offering our December 21 Blue Christmas on the Longest Night service.

In the spring, we consecrated the pulpit statue of the Rev. Dr. Suzanne Hiatt, who was the organizer of the ordination of “The Philadelphia 11.” We were delighted to welcome her family members to our celebration. The statue was a gift from Sue's family, former students, and friends.

Our average Sunday attendance in-person was 92 in 2025, down from 94 in 2024. We also track livestream views by checking the number at approximately 1 pm for every Sunday that we offer livestream (that was 32 Sundays in 2025). Some views are for part of the service, and many views represent more than one person sharing the connection. In 2025, we averaged 104 views. This number is up from 91 in 2024. So, our reach expanded in 2025. Of note, the livestreams get many more views during the weeks that follow them, and anecdotally, we get a lot of positive feedback about our worship. Many thanks to Emmanuel Music (EMI) staff for their ongoing efforts to keep the livestream up and running.

Our reach also expands through our many collaborations. I'll name just a few: EMI's Bach Institute, during which common cathedral members and I offered a program on Bach and Society. Our involvement with CRECHE, particularly the Emmanuel House and Allston Abbey, is bearing fruit in the Packard's Corner neighborhood as more people receive the hospitality of space in the garden and in the former sanctuary of St. Luke's and St. Margaret's Church. Our collaboration with Lesley University's art therapy master's degree program brought us two stellar interns this past year. Mary Schwabenland and Alex Shoemaker enriched the common art and BostonWarm programs. Our ongoing collaboration with "Faith that Does Justice" (started by area Roman Catholics and open to all) means that every Tuesday morning, anyone walking by our parish can pick up a freshly made bag lunch if they are hungry.



*The Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker (right) baptizes her grandson Caleb, with assistance from subdeacon Joy Howard.
Photo: Julian Bullitt*

Tuesday morning Bible study was well-established when I arrived 18 years ago, and is stronger than ever. About two dozen people participate when they're able, resulting in a regular attendance of 12-15. We are drawing participants from three countries (U.S., Canada, and Switzerland) and five states (Massachusetts, Maine, Indiana, Tennessee, and Missouri) spanning almost 5,000 miles! The conversation is always lively, animated by curiosity, skepticism, and deep appreciation of varying points of view. We also laugh a lot!

With regard to our ongoing work of reparations, we are moving at the speed of relationship. That is, we are building and tending to our connections within and around the parish, the Diocese of Massachusetts, Episcopal City Mission (ECM), and across Boston. The vestry has allocated money for reparations for the first time that we know of in the history of Emmanuel Church. I think our founding members who were abolitionists would be pleased.

My contributions to our diocesan life include serving as Dean of the Boston Harbor Deanery (14 congregations and 1 school), focusing on relationship-building among the congregations and pastoral care for the clergy. That appointment carries with it the title, "Very," as in The Very Rev. Pamela L. Wertz. For the last 16 years I have coordinated the DioMass mentoring program for newly ordained parish priests. As of this program year, 67 newly ordained parish clergy have participated in the program, 62 clergy members have served as mentors, and 70 congregations have benefitted. I will hand over the program to a new coordinator at the end of this program year. Lastly, in May I completed work as co-chair of a task force looking at systemic and institutional mistreatment of women clergy in our Diocese, making recommendations to the Bishop's office, Standing Committee, and Diocesan Council for remedy. Between these activities and our Deacon Bob's work with diaconal formation and providing hospitality at the cathedral, Emmanuel Church has a large influence in our wider Episcopal Church!

We completed another year without any major staff transitions, thanks be to God. And thanks to Ryan Turner, John Dilworth, Vaughan Sherrill, and Robb Scholten for generously sharing their talents, working hard, and maintaining their senses of humor! Special thanks to Robb for writing a grant successful proposal to the Episcopal Church Women (United Thank Offering) for upgrading the men's rooms in the basement. We hope to be able to improve the women's room as well. Unfortunately, Project Able staff, Bill Comer and Dennis Gaskell, were furloughed indefinitely. However, Bill and Dennis continued to find meaningful ways to volunteer at 15 Newbury Street, even as they found other employment.

Please know that you are among those for whom I am most grateful. I am grateful as well for all the ways that get made out of no way in and through Emmanuel Church.

As always, I give thanks to God for the large and generous love and support of my wife, Joy, and our family, Sarah and Sarah Beth, Khalil and Rahmi; Laura and Tim, Elliott and Lawson; and Grace, who make my work among you possible and my days off so much fun!

Respectfully submitted,
The Very Rev. Pamela L. Wertz

Wardens' Report

Another marvelous year has come and gone at Emmanuel Church! This past year was filled with beauty, music, rest, hard work, and a whole lotta love! We relied on each other in new ways, and we took leaps of faith together trusting that God and each other will see us through. Evidence of these acts of faith can be found throughout the rest of this report. We hope you will take the time to read all of it! We offer our deep and abiding thanks for the hard work and dedication of the staff at Emmanuel Church, and all doing good work in the world at 15 Newbury St. We could not be Emmanuel without these partners.

The Vestry met 11 times over the past year (we annually take the month of August off from meetings), four times in person or hybrid, and 7 times on zoom. A main focus of the Vestry's time together over the past 12 months has been asking questions around the work of racial reparations at Emmanuel Church. The Vestry went on a retreat in June where we developed with a working definition of reparations at Emmanuel Church:

Racial reparations is a sustained and evolving process of acknowledging harm, building equitable relationships, and making meaningful financial, material, and spiritual amends.

It is a faithful response to the Christian call to confess, repent, and heal. Guided by those who are being harmed, individuals and institutions take action to repair racial injustices and help shape flourishing communities in which everyone's dignity is honored.

The Vestry then brought this working definition to the parish on October 5th and asked "As we become a parish doing reparations, what is one thing you think is important for Emmanuel Church to do?" This question, and questions surrounding our responsibility as Christians broadly, and Emmanuel church specifically in the work of reparations is very much alive, and answers are neither easy nor clear. Living like Christ is not a static state - it is work that takes eternity. We strive to take the next right step together, choosing abundance over scarcity, humility over pride, and love over fear.

After last year's annual meeting, the vestry got to work! In February we welcomed Diane Smith as a new vestry member, and all of us refreshed ourselves on our responsibilities as members of the vestry. In April the vestry met on zoom during the buzz of Holy Week. Easter at Emmanuel was as joyous a celebration as ever, with our beloved friends from CRT assisting in the annual puppet procession. In May, Emmanuel Church dedicated our third pulpit statue carved by our wood carver in residence, Ted Southwick. This statue is of the Reverend Dr. Suzanne Radley Hiatt. Rev. Hiatt was ordained as one of the Philadelphia 11 (July 29, 1974), and served as an inspirational mentor to many, including our rector.

In June the vestry had an extremely fruitful retreat, returning to Bethany House of Prayer in Arlington for a weekend of togetherness and discussion. The Rev. Natalie Finstead Thomas skillfully led us through a process to write a definition of racial Reparations at Emmanuel. Building on work that our Racial Justice Working Group has been doing and sharing with the vestry.

We said goodbye to Emmanuel Music and the sanctuary for the summer, and we settled into the Lindsay Chapel. Our summer chapel choir, led by John Dilworth made a joyful noise all summer, and brought much delight to singers and listeners alike.

September saw our return to the sanctuary and Emmanuel Music's Sunday cantatas.

In early October the parish gathered for lunch and to discuss the definition of reparations that the vestry put together after our June retreat. Members Karen King and Peter Dutilloy put together the program for the luncheon, and asked the question: "What is one thing you think is important for Emmanuel Church to do as we become a parish doing reparations?" Later in October, the board of Central Reform Temple and the Vestry of Emmanuel Church reaffirmed our covenant relationship for another 3 years at 15 Newbury St. In November various members of the Vestry attended the Episcopal City Mission Reparations Summit, and brought back wisdom and questions for Emmanuel and the vestry.

We ended 2025 with the celebration of Christmas at Emmanuel and a lot of hard work on the part of our treasurer and church staff as we wrap up the last fiscal year and plan for the next. This time at a parish can be

stressful and difficult, but we saw Emmanuel church yet again chose to see the abundance that is all around us - through miraculous generosity and thoughtful, faithful stewardship. Here's to 2026 Emmanuel Church!

Respectfully submitted,
Rebekah Shore, Senior Warden
Pat Krol, Junior Warden

Deacon's Report

I continue to be blessed, a member of this wonderful community and its new and ongoing ministries: serving as Deacon of the Word and Altar, occasional preaching, attending Vestry meetings, Worship Commission meetings, Building Commission meetings, attending Bible Study, and assisting members of the Altar Guild. And with Pam, mostly by Zoom, I continue to attend Deanery Clericus Meetings, Deanery Assembly Meetings, and Central Boston Clergy Meetings.

Other activities include on-site pastoral and hospital visits. And I have continued with wonderful phone calls and emails to keep us in touch.

Again, last summer I joined a group from Emmanuel and Central Reform Temple as we prepared grocery bags for the B-LOVE Summer Program under Peggy Bradley's direction. (See the B-LOVE Report.)

I was also happy once again to lead our Mass Exodus Luncheon over the Labor Day Weekend. We had a wonderful time together enjoying such a variety of food and great conversation. Tradition!

As part of our covenanted family, I continue to regularly attend Shabbat Services at Central Reform Temple as well as the Holy Days. Emmanuelites helped usher during the High Holy Days, and CRT members helped usher during the Christmas Eve Service and Easter Sunday.

I continue to assist in the Formation Schooling for new deacons. This year I will be mentoring three students in our New England Province. It is a great blessing to share what I have to offer with others in the process as well as the opportunity to spread the good news of Emmanuel.

I end this way each year. But it still is so true: I continue to be so grateful to Pam, who continues to guide me through my diaconal ministry, both formally and in unexpected ways. And know that you all continue to make me joyful with your healing prayers, friendship, and warmth!

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Deacon Bob Greiner

Organist's Report

The most exciting news to report is some upcoming work on the Lindsey Chapel organ. In November 2025, John Roper of Plenum Organ Company submitted a proposal for a first stage of refurbishment, including re-leathering of windchests, and this was approved by Vestry in January 2026. In most cases the organ's leather is original to 1922, so it is remarkable that so much has survived this long. It is hoped that Mr Roper's work will solve the majority of ciphers and dead notes in the instrument; the ciphers have at times made quiet playing (e.g. accompanying choir, or quiet improvisations) almost impossible, while the dead notes often leave gaping holes in melodies. Hopefully we can look forward to a noticeably improved instrument by summer 2026, with more work to follow on other pressing repairs.

In my first report in 2023, I reported the difficulty, when choosing preludes and postludes, of pleasing rival factions: those who want more loud French stuff (their most strident advocate the Rev Bob Greiner), and those who want anything but loud French stuff (team Werntz). Looking back on the repertoire I've chosen in the past four years, I note that the Werntzian impulse seems to predominate (was there ever any doubt?), and there has been relatively little Vierne, Widor, Gigout, or Guilman on offer. Instead, eighteenth-century Germany continues to draw my attention: in just the past year I enjoyed learning some lovely little pieces by Fasch, Krebs, Marpurg and Homilius, some lesser lights (/also-rans?) of this eighteenth-century German milieu. But I do also continue to aim for some measure of variety, and to search out interesting pieces from any period or style.

Our Chapel Choir continue to fill the summer months with their harmonious offerings in Lindsey Chapel. This year we had SATB anthems most weeks, with only the dog-days of early August giving vocal shortages that meant STB or SB anthems; we also started singing Communion motets (starting with Charles Wood's beautiful "Oculi Omnium"), which I hope will become standard practice for us in coming seasons. We finished the chapel season with Ryan Turner directing us in Johann Kuhnau's cantata, "Gott sei mir gnädig," a setting of verses from Psalm 51. Thanks are due to all the stalwart members of chapel choir, the extraordinary musical gift of our Ordinary Time: Carolyn Roosevelt, Becky Lightcap, Betsy Groves, Susan Swan, Dawn Dreisbach, Nadja Gould, Joy Howard, Lou Quartararo, Brian McCaig, Luis Pabón Rico, Peter Dutilloy, Michael Scanlon, Jim Olesen, Pavel Hradecky, and Edgar Brenninkmeyer. Thank you all!

Respectfully submitted,
John Dilworth

Worship Commission Report

Emmanuel Church's Worship Commission supports the church's public worship. In 2025 many Emmanuelites devoted time, energy, and talent by serving in one or more of the following ministries: Altar Guild; altar service as subdeacons, crucifers, and torchbearers; and lectors/readers and intercessors/prayer leaders.

Jamie Shore convened and facilitated commission meetings and continued to take the lead in training those who assist at the altar. New altar servers who have received training in assisting during worship: John Parker, Tatiana Stridh, and Renee George have been trained as new torchbearers and crucifers, while Rebecca Lightcap has been trained as a new subdeacon.

Glenn Seberg continued to lead the Altar Guild in preparing the physical space for Eucharistic worship, cleaning up after services, and caring for our liturgical implements. During the week, Glenn continued to make sure that our supply of Communion wine, gluten-free wafers, loaves of communion bread, and candles of several dimensions were all provided. He has also laundered and ironed altar linens for our Eucharistic services. In 2025 we welcomed 3 new volunteer workers, Eleanor George, Jason McLin, and John Parker, who have been trained by working with experienced members of the team and have begun serving. At the end of the year we sadly said goodbye to Mary Blocher, a faithful Altar Guild member for many years. We wish Mary and Marianne well as they make their new home in Indiana. In 2026 we seek to find a new stalwart to supervise the "greening" of the chancel in time for Christmas Eve; Mary Blocher has faithfully assumed this role in recent years. Pat Krol, Mary Beth Clack, Joy Howard, and Glenn Seberg were our bakers of Communion bread. The two chalices and paten given in memory of Leslie Lindsey Mason, relocated last year by Julian Bullitt, were used for the first time in many years on Easter morning. Glenn continued to provide floral arrangements at the high altar and in the narthex for special occasions.

Rebecca Lightcap has recorded notes of Worship Commission meetings and has overseen the monthly schedule of altar servers, Altar Guild, readers, and prayer leaders. Becky also compiled the weekly Prayers of the People.

As ever, Worship Commission has relied on the guidance and support of our deacon, Bob Greiner. Our music director, Ryan Turner, and our parish organist, John Dilworth, have also served as part of the Worship Commission. John, in addition to accompanying hymns and service music and offering weekly preludes and postludes, continued to conduct Chapel Choir during the times when Emmanuel Music was not in residence. We are grateful for Ryan and John's musical and liturgical leadership. Vaughan Sherrill, our parish administrator, has produced our weekly worship leaflets. We give thanks for her persistent efforts.

When we meet as a commission, we typically end with this beautiful prayer, slightly modified from The Book of Common Prayer, p. 819: "O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with your servants who seek through Word and art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth; and grant to us even now glimpses of your beauty, and make us worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Clark Lightcap

Emmanuel Music Report

Artistic Overview

While facing budget and resource challenges, alongside significant leadership and board transitions, Emmanuel Music remained artistically adventurous in the Boston arts community, and fully engaged in the music ministry at Emmanuel Church.

By the numbers: During the 2025 calendar year, Emmanuel Music offered 33 cantatas 3 major concerts, 5 commissioned motets, 2 premieres of cantatas expressly written for Emmanuel Music, 7 guest conductors, and 6 English Keyboard Suites as part of the Lindsey Chapel Series.

Highlights include the Bach B minor Mass, the modern instrument and East coast premiere of *Dido's Ghost*—an opera by Belize-born British composer Errollyn Wallen, CBE, Master of the Kings Music, and Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*. Alongside our signature Cantata Series, we enter the fourth season of our Emmanuel Motet Commissioning Project, highlighting a broad cross-section of established and emerging composers from a variety of cultural backgrounds and lived experiences. This season's commissioned premieres included: Lasser: *The Dinner Guests*, Williams: *Leichtflattergeister*, Weston: *Anointed*, Shadle: *Of One Blood*, and Harbison: *Introit; Psalm 19*. In addition, two longtime Emmanuel friends wrote stunning new cantatas for Emmanuel Music that we premiered: Kati Agócs: *Hosanna of the Clouds* and Elena Ruehr: *Songs of the Earth*. Of special note, Emmanuel Music performed "Illuminate Bach: A Holiday Celebration!" live on WGBH TV and 99.5 WCRB as part of their holiday programming.

The Bach Institute marked its 15th anniversary with a January Intensive theme of Bach & Society. We welcomed fellows from around the globe and explored how Bach's music with the texts he sets ask us to engage with society.

After 15 years, John Harbison announced in July he would be stepping down as Principal Guest Conductor. We are so grateful and honored to have been the beneficiaries of John's grace, knowledge, generosity, and musical illumination for so many years.

Finally, I am reminded every day how fortunate we are to be musical and community partners with Emmanuel Church – a spiritual home that cherishes, appreciates, supports, and even questions this living laboratory and human dialogue with sacred cantatas of Bach.

Organizational Overview: January 2025 to May 2025

The year 2025 saw the organization manage various aspects of transition and change while still maintaining its commitment to key aspects of its work - most notably care for musicians and members of the community, and commitment to artistic excellence as well as collaboration with key constituencies, particularly Emmanuel Church.

Among the important early milestones for the first part of 2025 was the passing of an extensive budget to support, among other important artistic endeavors, the presentation of an innovative 55th season titled "Second Looks" which included the widely successful presentation this past fall of *Dido's Ghost* - an organizational highlight for which we commend Ryan Turner for his vision.

We remain grateful to the many members of the community who exhibited profound dedication, enthusiasm, and skill as we moved through the process of the Executive Director Search through the first six months of the year. Following the conclusion of the contractual engagement with Interim Executive Solutions and with appreciation for the work of John I. Williams Jr. as Interim Executive Director, we worked with staff and members of the Board of Directors who stepped in to manage aspects of operations and administration on behalf of Emmanuel Music. Particular notes of thanks are owed to Board Members Ed Leary, Kelly Reed, and Mary Beth Clack as well as staff members Brad Dumont and Jensen Ling, all of whom worked diligently to facilitate operations supporting our ability to continue the activities integral to Emmanuel Music - maintaining our cantata offerings/concert

schedule, supporting our connections with donors as well as partner organizations, and ensuring that our musicians felt supported and seen throughout this time period. We also note the exemplary work of all other staff members during this time: Michael Beattie, Pamela Dellal, Anna Griffis, Dwight Porter, Aysha Luzia Penha, Alex Fowler, Peter Smith, and James Scoville. Our deep gratitude is also extended to Pat Krol and Julian Bullitt whose tireless dedication and wise counsel were invaluable to our ability to navigate this period so successfully.

Pivotal to the organization's activity during 2025 was the completion of the process to seek a permanent Executive Director. Following the diligent work and discernment of the Search Committee, led by Board Member Charles Blandy and composed of a cross-section of the community - musicians, Emmanuel Church parishioners, staff, Board Members, and advisors - we were pleased to name Vanessa Holroyd to this role.

As part of the valuable work of intentional leadership transition, we also marked the election of a new slate of officers for the Emmanuel Music Board. We offer profound gratitude and congratulations to Charles Blandy, President; Mary Beth Clack, Clerk; and Ed Leary, Treasurer, as they continue with the ongoing leadership of the Board of Directors and collaboration with Emmanuel Music staff.

Organizational Overview: June 2025 to December 2025

2025 was a year that truly showcased the versatility of the Orchestra and Chorus of Emmanuel Music. It also brought to light the reality of our need to broaden and diversify the organization's base of financial support to sustain our ongoing efforts in cultivating a legacy of Bach that includes exceptional artistry, diverse voices, and community engagement.

Although my full-time contract did not begin until August, I started peeking behind the scenes in May to get a jump on the orientation process. The summer months were definitely a time of discovery. We worked to clean and organize the Emmanuel Music offices into a more welcoming space with new paint and a multitude of plants (including fostering the large potted Palm Sunday palm). We finally have a phone that works and an open invitation to all for tea!

It became immediately clear that the approved budget did not fully align with our organization's present revenue capacity, though there is tremendous potential for growth as seen by the success of our "55K for Season 55" Summer campaign. The position of Individual Giving Manager was eliminated in the FY27 budget in favor of creating a new development position and we therefore saw the departure of Makeysha Montgomery at the end of August. Although the organization is not yet in a position to hire for this new development position, I have worked in collaboration with consultant and former EM Development Director, Deborah Hoover, as well as with our Marketing Manager and Graphic Designer, Anna Griffis, to refocus our development efforts, streamlining Emmanuel Music's messaging to align with our new guiding concepts of core, community, and transparency. This seems to be yielding an increase in engagement with the organization from new, former, and longtime supporters alike.

In September, we honored Dana Whiteside's remarkable service for over a decade as Emmanuel Music's Board President and celebrated longtime chorus member Charles Blandy as his successor. We welcomed three new board members: Emmanuel Church parishioners, Peter Johnson and Rebecca Lightcap; and EM Chorus member, David McFerrin, who also served on the Executive Search Committee. We hired two new part-time staff members: Bookkeeper Lea Peterson replaced Peter Smith upon his retirement and Abbey Engelmann began as our Weekend Stage Manager. We renewed our relationship with Berklee's Workstudy Program with a new Production Assistant, Adam Wu, and started a new partnership with the New England Conservatory's Entrepreneurial Musicianship program welcoming Audio Engineering Assistant, Richard Taylor.



*Emmanuel Music performs Bach's Christmas Oratorio
Photo: Julian Bullitt*

A highlight of October was hosting *Dido's Ghost* composer Errollyn Wallen for several days during the production. Errollyn practiced daily in the Music Room and was entranced with the beautiful synergy between all of the organizations that call Emmanuel Church their home. We continued to offer a pay-what-you-can option for all of our ticketed events in an effort to provide access to everyone who wants to experience live performance and are grateful to those who offset this expense by purchasing Patron and General Admission tickets.

Our "Breathe With Bach" partnership with the Boston Public Library is thriving with solo musicians performing monthly in six neighborhood locations from November to May. We are in conversation with the Lower Mills, Dorchester branch to expand this programming to include performances for a local school and nearby housing community.

To better facilitate the weekly cantata livestreams, we have acquired three new PTZ remotely operated cameras. This will not only improve the quality of the video but also reduce the need for multiple experienced camera operators. Our sincere thanks to Board Treasurer Ed Leary who stepped in to film the Christmas Eve Service on just a few hours of training (underscoring the value of this more streamlined production process).

The flywheel of Emmanuel Music's development and organizational engine has definitely regained momentum and we hope to present a 56th artistic season that is well-rounded, balanced, and reflective of our mission. We continually remind ourselves of Emmanuel Music's commitment to build on the foundational agreements of our most recent Strategic Plan "to welcome and reflect diversity, including but not limited to board of directors, staff, ensemble, and audience." I echo Ryan and Dana's appreciation for the ongoing support of the entire Emmanuel Church Community and especially want to thank the Rev. Pamela Werntz, Pat Krol, and Julien Bullitt for their daily guidance and encouragement. It is an exciting time for Emmanuel Music filled with possibility and I am encouraged at every turn by the enthusiasm people have shown for the work that we do and its vital place in Boston's cultural ecosystem. I feel privileged and grateful with this new role to have such a profound sense of alignment with my professional, personal, and spiritual lives and look forward to serving both Emmanuel Music and Emmanuel Church to the best of my ability for years to come.

Respectfully submitted,
Ryan Turner (Artistic Overview),
Dana Whiteside (Organizational Jan-May),
Vanessa Holroyd (Organizational June-Dec).

Ushers' Report

The collection ushers are Michael Scanlon, Paul Curtis, and Stephon Babcock, those three gentlemen being in church almost every Sunday. We also have had help from Robert Dietrich, Elizabeth Richardson, Margaret Johnson, Lucille Heenan, and Carolyn Roosevelt. In 2025 we collected a total of \$22,868 in open plate offerings during Sunday collection. We also appreciate that the Altar Guild puts out and puts away the collection plates that the ushers use. Each Sunday after the service, the greeters count the money collected for the parish.

Respectfully submitted,
Galen Gilbert, Head Usher

Finance Commission Report

The members of the Finance Commission are George Mutrie, Mark Fernau, Pam Werntz, and Galen Gilbert (Chair); and Jake Mutrie of Morgan Stanley, which manages our investments and presents reports at our meetings. The Committee meets quarterly via Zoom. Any member of the church is welcomed to attend. As of December 31, 2025, we had a little over five million dollars invested in restricted, designated, and unrestricted/undesignated funds. The annual increase in 2025 over 2024 was a little more than thirteen percent, which is net of fees. The Commission hears reports, asks questions, and approves changes in the ratio of stocks and bonds. Each year a small portion of the investments, slightly less than 5% of restricted funds, is provided for our operating budget. We pay a fee to Morgan Stanley for their work.

Respectfully submitted,
Galen Gilbert, Chair

Treasurer's Report

This is my final report as treasurer, having relocated to Poughkeepsie, NY, in 2025 to be closer to family. I am so grateful to administrator Vaughan Sherrill and controller Jim Maguire, who, with the help of Robb Scholten, handle the day-to-day financial operations of bookkeeping, accounting, and reporting with skill, grace, and cheerfulness. Galen Gilbert oversaw this year's very successful open-plate collection and kept the Finance Commission running smoothly as its Chair. Our annual audit confirmed that our finances and procedures are sound. Vaughan found ways to make client invoicing and our bill paying more efficient by using the power of our QuickBooks software. Our Servant Keeper software allows parishioners to easily make online contributions and use its portal to track their total giving at any time from their own computers.

For 2025 we had a final unrestricted operating surplus of \$33,214 vs a budgeted surplus of \$6. This joyous and grace-filled result is a testament to the careful management of our expenses by both staff and volunteers but especially to the outpouring of giving and love by the parishioners of Emmanuel in support and appreciation of the spiritual nourishment, congregational fellowship, missional outreach, and music programs that happen every day at Emmanuel. You all gave us over \$560,000 from pledges and plate vs a budget of \$497,500! Building use licenses and rents along with wedding ceremonies also provided us with a healthy income stream.

"Below the line," several projects were undertaken. The Hiatt pulpit statue was finished, and the Scudder statue was well under way (completed in Jan. 2026). Both were funded by donations; an additional \$9,598 collected in 2025 to finish Scudder and fund the fifth statue carried over to 2026. A \$30,000 donation to fund needed plaster and finish work to the walls in the altar area and around the Emmanuel's Land window was received. Work has not yet started, so it too is carried over to 2026. Basement bathroom improvement work funded by the \$46,230 UTO grant is only partially completed; the remaining \$27,306 will also be carried over to 2026. In 2025, there were no other non-operational expenses incurred to reduce the above-mentioned surpluses.

A one-time \$50,000 transfer from the Young Fund to Emmanuel Music, Inc., was approved by the vestry to ease an EMI cash-flow need. \$6,350 in donations to the Rector's Discretionary Fund were passed through. For the Taylor Fund, a donation of \$500 was received and a general checking expenditure of \$2439.77 was made on behalf of Taylor. An adjustment in 2026 zeroed the Taylor cash balance and reduced the "due from Taylor fund" asset to \$738.77.

For 2026, the vestry approved a \$980 surplus budget. Renewed tenant contracts with cost-of-living raises included in the rents have allowed us to increase our resident place-use budget. Pam received a 3.5% raise per diocesan guidelines, and the lay staff got 3% raises, with the exception of John who received a larger raise to bring his salary more in line with other church organists. A line item for temporary help has been added to Parish Staff. The building sexton line is handled on a job-by-job basis and has been moved to the facilities services line. The Young Fund draw has been increased to 7%, as recommended by the Young Fund Commission and the Finance Commission. Within Ministry Outside the Parish, the Millennium Development Goals funds have been shifted to "Reparations Process Work."

Thank you all for your trust and support over the four years of my tenure as treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark E. Fernau, Ph.D.

Emmanuel Church
Summary of Parish Operations 2025 & Budget Projection 2026

1/30/2025

	Actual 2025	Budget 2025	Budget 2026	Percent Change Yr/Yr
Ministry Support				
Pledges	533,223	474,000	512,000	8.0
Plate	28,949	23,500	23,500	0.0
Other Gifts	34,733	49,100	49,300	0.4
Ceremonies	46,280	35,500	44,000	23.9
Young Music Fund	91,452	91,452	109,352	19.6
Rectory Fund	11,436	11,435	10,764	-5.9
Diocesan Investment Trust (DIT)	18,997	19,556	20,010	2.3
Other Investment Income	115,420	115,462	117,307	1.6
Place Use Resident	112,034	109,750	115,024	4.8
Place Use Non Resident	80,247	80,000	84,320	5.4
Total Ministry Support	1,072,771	1,009,755	1,085,577	7.5
Ministry Expenses				
Clergy Salary & Benefits	192,291	192,606	201,406	4.6
Parish Programs	11,564	9,000	15,500	72.2
Outreach	39,345	39,345	42,302	7.5
Music Staff & Programs	97,650	99,033	106,417	7.5
Cantata Program	91,452	91,452	109,352	19.6
Parish Operations Staff	137,912	137,287	152,144	10.8
Parish Operating Expenses	46,996	40,750	45,300	11.2
Diocesan Assessment	55,812	55,811	54,105	-3.1
Building & Facilities	349,158	314,765	353,571	12.3
Event/Building Sextons	29,026	42,000	12,000	-71.4
Reimbursed Utility Expense	(2,400)	(2,400)	(2,400)	0.0
Reimbursed Boston Warm Expenses	(9,249)	(9,900)	(5,100)	-48.5
Total Ministry Expenses	1,039,557	1,009,749	1,084,597	7.4
Total Ministry Support less Ministry Expenses (Operating)	33,214	6	980	

Other Non Operating Income, Expenses, and Transfers

Donations for Pulpit Statues	17,500	11,235	3,735
Apse/Emm. Land Plaster Repair Income	30,000	-	-
UTO Grant for Bathroom Improvement	46,230	-	-
Transfer from UTO Grant Unspent	-	-	27,306
Transfer from Window (Apse Emm. Land Plaster) Unspent	-	-	30,000
Transfers from Statues Unspent	2,098	2,098	9,598
Transfer from Young Fund Special EMI Pass-through	50,000	-	-
Total Non Operating Income	145,828	13,333	70,639
Pulpit Statues Expense	10,000	13,333	13,333
Apse Emm. Land Plaster Repair Expense	-	-	30,000
UTO Grant Water Access Improvements Expense	18,924	-	27,306
Transfer to EMI via Young Fund	50,000	-	-
Total Non Operating Expense	78,924	13,333	70,639
Net Non Operating Income/Loss/Transfer	66,904	-	-

The 2025 actual operating surplus of \$33,214 will be transferred to Parish Funds

The 2025 unspent nonoperating surplus of \$66,904 will be transferred to the matching equity funds for use in 2026

Ministry Support and Expense by Major Category at 12-31-25				
Ministry Support		Ministry Expenses		Surp/(Def)
Pledges	\$ 533,223	Clergy Salary & Benefits	\$ 192,291	
Plate	\$ 28,949	Parish Programs	\$ 11,564	
Other Gifts	\$ 34,733	Outreach	\$ 39,345	
Ceremonies	\$ 46,280	Music Staff & Program	\$ 97,650	
Young Music Fund	\$ 91,452	Cantata Program	\$ 91,452	
Rectory Fund	\$ 11,436	Parish Operations Staff	\$ 137,912	
Diocesan Investment Trust (DIT)	\$ 18,997	Parish Operating Expenses	\$ 46,996	
	\$ 765,070		\$ 617,210	\$ 147,860
Other Investment Income	\$ 115,420	Diocesan Assessment	\$ 55,812	\$ 59,608
Place Use Resident	\$ 112,034	Building & Facilities	\$ 349,158	
Place Use Non-Resident	\$ 80,247	Building/Event Sextons	\$ 29,025	
		Reimbursed Utility Expenses	\$ (2,400)	
		Reimbursed BostonWarm Expenses	\$ (9,249)	
	\$ 192,281		\$ 366,534	\$ (174,253)
Total Ministry Support	\$ 1,072,771	Total Ministry Expenses	\$ 1,039,557	33,214
Total Budget Summary 2025				
Ministry Support		Ministry Expenses		Surp/(Def)
Pledges	\$ 474,000	Clergy Salary & Benefits	\$ 192,606	
Plate	\$ 23,500	Parish Programs	\$ 9,000	
Other Gifts	\$ 49,100	Outreach	\$ 39,345	
Ceremonies	\$ 35,500	Music Staff & Program	\$ 99,033	
Young Music Fund	\$ 91,452	Cantata Program	\$ 91,452	
Rectory Fund	\$ 11,435	Parish Operations Staff	\$ 137,287	
Diocesan Investment Trust (DIT)	\$ 19,556	Parish Operating Expenses	\$ 40,750	
	\$ 704,543		\$ 609,473	\$ 95,070
Other Investment Income	\$ 115,462	Diocesan Assessment	\$ 55,811	\$ 59,651
Place Use Resident	\$ 109,750	Building & Facilities	\$ 314,765	
Place Use Non-Resident	\$ 80,000	Building/Event Sextons	\$ 42,000	
		Reimbursed Utility Expenses	\$ (2,400)	
		Reimbursed BostonWarm Expenses	\$ (9,900)	
	\$ 189,750		\$ 344,465	\$ (154,715)
Total Ministry Support	\$ 1,009,755	Total Ministry Expenses	\$ 1,009,749	6

congregation to join them in doing so. Our parishioners continue to step up and support our staff and programs as they have in previous years.

I'd like to make note of my appreciation for all those named above who have worked with me on this committee over several years and especially to those who have now moved away to their new homes in New York State (Mark and Melissa Fernau) and Indiana (Marianne Iauco).

As of January 31, 2026 we have received 86 pledges from individuals and families for a total \$499,366. We anticipate that a few more pledges will be made. Last year our final number of pledges was 92 with a total pledged of \$508,205.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Levin and the Stewardship Committee

\Building Commission Report

Greetings Friends! During 2025 the Emmanuel Church Building Commission continued with our established meeting schedule, monthly with the whole commission membership, and weekly with a small group. I want to thank the members of the building commission for their attendance and advice at our monthly meetings, and I particularly want to thank Julian Bullitt, Pat Krol, and Melissa Fernau for their dedicated attendance at our weekly meetings.

The weekly meeting includes Vaughan Sherrill, Robb Scholten, and Bill Comer, representing our staff, and occasional attendance of Jonathan Moretz and other vendors as needed for consultation. I want to extend my personal thanks to Vaughan, Robb, and Bill for their patience and devotion to the health of our building and management of its systems. Robb has extended efforts beyond his title of Event Manager, finding grants and vendors, and deserves special thanks.

Our work involves some very routine tasks: we monitor the bills that are attributed to the building accounts, looking for abnormalities that might indicate problems; we chase rats, trash, and leaks; we survey areas of the building for developing problems, we discuss usage and events and what special preparations they might need; and we initiate and supervise large, or occasional projects, such as the following.

Our heating system is what is called a two pipe steam system- this indicates that the water that results from the condensing steam is returned through a separate pipe from the steam supply pipe, and is still hot enough on its journey to gas off steam. Often, when we observe a steam leak it is in this condensate system, and the plumber comes and fixes it. Unfortunately some of these pipes pass through concrete floors. Last winter one of those developed a leak and we had to break up a section of the basement floor in order to repair it. Our contractor, Boston Building Doctors, did a wonderful job of opening and then restoring the floor. We have added access panels! Meanwhile, up on the flat roofs over the lobbies we developed leaks due to snow accumulation that was deeper than the flashings were high. The snow was removed and leaks repaired as soon as the weather allowed.

Thanks are due to Dennis Gaskell for building a relationship with "Men on a Mission," a group of contractors who donate their time as a group for projects at churches and other non-profits. They spent some time with us in March doing a number of plumbing, electrical, floor and painting projects. We are very grateful to them! Also Ted Southwick made repairs to the Parish Hall floor and we have repaired the Parish Hall lighting.

Moving into spring, we re-painted the west Lobby. A problem developed with the Safe Haven fire alarm panel that took some time to diagnose and correct. We have two systems in the building, both very old and not always perfectly compatible. We have commissioned a design for a new system, but the cost is huge. This technology is changing rapidly, we are watching closely for developments that will be affordable for us! During this time we also established a new relationship with a supplier of cleaning supplies. We are now buying liquids in concentrated form and have installed diluting mechanisms in the sexton's closet. In addition to reducing costs this also reduces consumption of plastic containers.

Robb Scholten discovered the possibility of a grant from United Thank Offering, an organization established in 1883 by the women of the Episcopal Church. He was encouraged to apply for a grant to renovate the men's room

in order to increase its usefulness to the clients of Common Art and Boston Warm. The grant has been awarded to us and we commenced working on the space over the summer. I would like to call attention to the efforts of Robb, Bill Comer and Dennis Gaskell, who devote themselves to our well being in ways far beyond the descriptions of their jobs.

A call out is also due to Ted Southwick on the completion of another pulpit statue, this of Suzanne Hiatt. I encourage folks to look closely at the official photograph of our new Bishop, Julia Whitworth. She chose Emmanuel's pulpit as the location for the photo and it includes Ted's beautiful sculpture of Barbara Harris, a wonderful compliment to Ted and to us!

During the fall and early winter further electrical work has been done, including work on the Parish Hall and adding outlets in the rear of Lindsey Chapel as well as the Sanctuary. Live streaming of our services has necessitated improved power access for lights and cameras, and Julian has worked hard to provide new lights and find ways to place outlets in appropriate areas. Working with Emmanuel Music we have also finished installing a servoreeler microphone system which improves the appearance of the chancel. Additionally Julian has spearheaded an effort to improve the internet infrastructure in the building. It has been designed and approved by the Vestry and will be executed early in the coming year.

Coming up in early 2026 are two other projects which have been designed, approved, and funded. The interior surface of the wall which contains the Emmanuel's Land Window has been shedding plaster dust and grit for years. 20 years ago the window was restored, 10 years ago the exterior of the wall was repaired and restored, now, finally, thanks to a generous gift we will repair, restore and repaint the interior plaster of that wall, and also repair the pointing of the stone walls of the Chancel.

Also coming up, we have entered into a contract for repairs to the Lindsey Chapel organ. This is not a full restoration and improvement- that still lies in the future. Rather, this project will address basic problems resulting from deferred maintenance over the last few decades, and keep the instrument functional while we explore opportunities that might arise with vigorous fundraising.

While Julian Bullitt has been lavishing his time and intelligence on the needs of our building, he has also found the time to do extensive research in our archives concerning the history of music making and musicians at Emmanuel as well as the history of the crafts people and objects that furnish our building so beautifully and interestingly, and also the early architectural photographers who photographed the building. I encourage folks to seek him out for interesting discussion!

I wish to thank the congregation, vestry and officers, as well as those who have made donations funding building projects, for their confidence and support for our work.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael J. Scanlon

Garden Report

It's been a good year in the garden - a less droughty growing season than in 2024 meant more time to experiment with new plants and more time to devote to resident plants that needed some extra care. So we moved, augmented, fertilized, de-bugged, pinched, poked and even sometimes stood aside and just watched the plants live their lives in congress with their neighbors.

Several things of note:

- I want to thank all the folks who helped this year - whether once, twice, or more, but especially Tatiana Stridh, my enthusiastic and diligent collaborator in the garden. She brings skill and a good eye to our gardening tasks, whether mundane or creative. She (and she alone, truth be told) also tells me I am a genius. Who could ask for more?
- This past summer we planted a Japanese Maple in memory of Father Peter W. Gyves, SJ, MD, (Roman Catholic) founder of "A Faith That Does Justice." For several years Father Gyves celebrated a weekly Mass in Spanish at Emmanuel, until his death in 2024. His organization still offers free meals at Emmanuel on Tuesdays through its Grab and Go Meals program, which is staffed by volunteers. The maple is in a large pot near the Bride's Door. 'Twas Jackie Ross, who spent many hours on those steps before finding housing in

Cambridge, who suggested we plant a tree for Father Gyves. The ground there is full of roots, too difficult, really, to dig in. So the tree will stay in the pot for now, until we commence a serious root pruning and plant-moving project to make that area of the garden more friendly to both plants and people. Father Gyves' organization will provide a label for this tree in 2026.

- Last Spring Jill Silverstein told me about a new member of Central Reform Temple, Norma-May Isakow. She had a dream: that Central Reform Temple and Emmanuel Church join The Daffodil Project, which has a goal of planting 1.5 million daffodils around the world. This is to commemorate the 1.5 million children killed in the Holocaust. We would participate by planting more daffodils at 15 Newbury Street. The grumpy gardener resisted this idea - for several very good reasons not worth elaborating here. Then he met Norma-May and changed his mind. And so it was that a sturdy group of volunteers from Central Reform Temple and Emmanuel Church planted 250 new daffodil bulbs in the garden on a blustering late November day. We now await these daffodils' yellow exuberance come April. From the Daffodil Project website: "Daffodils represent our poignant hope for the future. They are resilient and return with a burst of color each spring, signifying hope, renewal and beauty."

May our garden in its blooming, and even in its sleeping, bring us solace in our present, uncertain times - and hope, too, for the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Johnson, Gardener

Parish Administrator's Report

The vortex that is Emmanuel Church continues to surprise and delight the parish office at every turn.

The diversity and volume of our events increased in 2025. We welcomed ISKCON, a Hindu temple and neighbors from 72 Commonwealth Ave. ISKCON rented and transformed the majority of our first floor to celebrate the temple's founder and anniversary. Bread & Puppet Theater from Glover, VT presented their Christmas play at the church in the middle of December, arriving at 15 Newbury in a whimsically decorated school bus. BEMF - Boston Early Music Festival - joined us for another successful biannual residency.

As evidenced by photos and reviews on our Google Business page, the church is growing in popularity as a wedding venue with weddings booked into 2027. Robb Scholten, our dedicated events administrator, partnered with Here Comes the Bride, a wedding planning company that has extended our reach. Robb and our wonderful event sextons (Luke Colombero, Bill Comer, Dennis Gaskell, Nicholas Holloway, Colin McEilhenney, Jesse Kieffer Joel Schenk & Evan Sneed) demonstrated excellence, patience and care toward our events and their participants; one of the most notable in 2025 being 3 back-to-back weddings on New Year's Eve!

Another highlight from 2025 includes our United Thank Offering Grant, spearheaded by Robb. The grant has allowed us to transform the Men's Restroom to better serve our unhoused guests (the majority of whom identify as male). The funds from the grant will likely allow us to upgrade the Women's Restroom as well.

We were not without challenges and learning experiences in 2025, particularly when bed bugs were discovered in the parish hall in October. We didn't know the rats invited their friends, the bedbugs, to our warming center, but fortunately we were equipped with the tools necessary for a counterattack. Thanks to our responsive pest control company Atlantis Pest Management, we were successful in defeating this unprecedented offense. Atlantis connected us with American k-9 investigators, an organization that includes a team of dogs trained to scent-detect bedbugs. Thankfully we are in the clear and equipped with more knowledge to fight this should it happen again in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Vaughan Sherrill

Pastoral Care Commission Report

“Each Sunday morning, during prayers, names are read by the lector, and names are added by members of the congregation. This too is part of the work of the Care Commission. This too is the mark of a healthy religious community, and especially, the mark of capable religious leadership. The murmured chorus of names is the hymn of the Care Commission.” –Walter Jonas, who led the Care Commission for many years

We continue the ministry of connecting with those people who make their needs apparent, writing cards of condolence or congratulation, providing meals, and visits. Following the lead of our rector, we are devoted to all aspects of pastoral care. This past year, Pavel Hradecky began to respond to parishioners who have requested transportation to Eucharist. These folks have missed being at Emmanuel and reconnecting with friends. It's been happening! Some Emmanuelites have been doing that for many years, not waiting to be asked. We appreciate your participation and encourage you to continue! However, we need more volunteers who have cars and are able to drive to Emmanuel. This is a critical need. You can participate in this important and rewarding ministry: we need folks who are at church early meet those who are being dropped off and accompanying them into the church, and who could be with them during coffee hour and then making sure to walk them to the car to return home.

If you find this ministry appealing or have questions, please contact either of us using our email addresses below. Many thanks.

Respectfully submitted,
Pavel Hradecky & The Rev. Deacon Bob Greiner
Pavel.hrx@gmail.com & rgreiner210@gmail.com

Communications Commission Report

Members: Mary Blocher, Mary Chitty, Bill Comer, Mary Beth Clack, Maureen Driscoll, Matt Griffing (chair), Jesse Kieffer, Elizabeth Richardson, with support from: Julian Bullitt, Deacon Bob Greiner, Peter Johnson, Pat Krol, Rebecca Lightcap, Michael Scanlon, Vaughan Sherrill, and The Rev. Pamela L. Wertz

In 2025 the Communications Commission helped to convey information about life at Emmanuel internally and to the wider world along the multiple channels listed below. The work of our commission was supplemented by many parishioners and staff. Thank you to all who have pitched in to spread the word about Emmanuel and to build our wonderful community, whether by posting on Facebook, commenting in the YouTube livestream, submitting photos, or submitting content for the newsletter. Please see these sections for this year's updates.

This Week at Emmanuel Church

Bill Comer continues to edit and post via Constant Contact our electronic newsletter with its announcements of upcoming events and the latest news and happenings within our parish and diocese. Photos were contributed by Julian Bullitt, Mary Beth Clack, Deacon Bob Greiner, Peter Johnson, Jesse Kieffer, Elizabeth Richardson, Mike Scanlon, and other members of our community. Many thanks to the clergy and church staff who help with editing each week, and of course to all our contributors.

Google Platform & Knowledge Panel

We continue to enjoy the generosity of Google, which has given us storage for our files, photos, and video recordings on YouTube. Our parish officers, vestry, commissions, and choirmaster maintain spreadsheets, music, and other documents on their drives. All users of our platform have access to our Parish Information and History & Archives drives. The Worship Commission and Building Commission both have 30 members. If you would like to have a personal drive with optional email on this secure, internal platform, send a request to ArchivesClerk@emmanuelboston.org. If you have images of parish activities or history, please email them as attachments with suggested captions to Photos@emmanuelboston.org.

Google’s Knowledge Panel for “Emmanuel Episcopal Church of Boston” appears in response to searches, directs people to our website, Wikipedia page, Facebook page, YouTube channel, office phone, and geographic location via its maps and links. It also gives information in a structured format about our hours, architecture, etc. along with photos and reviews submitted by the public. Thanks to parishioners who have helped by answering the questions people pose in its comment space.

Facebook

Our feed, which has 1.1K followers, shared with the public 42 posts and 348 captioned images this year. Our posts often link to our YouTube channel and relevant webpages. Thanks especially to our deacon Bob Greiner for many posts, to Bill Comer for text for other posts, and to all who contributed images or agreed to be photographed. We’re especially grateful to Julian Bullitt, Peter Johnson, and Michael Scanlon for their images. We hope that parishioners who have FB pages will share our posts as a form of evangelism.

Website

Our website has been enriched this year by the sermons of our rector and other preachers, 18 contributions of our arts-therapy interns to Musings from the Margins, and 19 blog posts from our Racial Justice Working Group to We’ve Come This Far by Faith. Seventeen additions were made to our Timeline of Emmanuel History for these years: 1865-67 & -80; 1937, 40-41, 45, 47-48, 50, 52, 84 & 90; and 2002, -11 & -25.

These webpages were added or substantially revised:

1. Index to Musings from the Margins (2013-25)
2. Our Centennial Celebration
3. Reparations Resources.

Google Analytics for Website

Visitors

Page views: 66,416 (up from 64,198 in 2024)

Engagement

Average engagement time per active user: 57 seconds

Average engagement time: 44 seconds

Engaged sessions per active user: 0.56

Event Count: 168 K

Traffic Acquisition

Organic search: 16,495 (up from 2024)

Direct: 14,822 (up from 2024)

Referrals: 1,009 (down from 2024)

Rank of page categories by page views is given in 2024’s order. Top sub-categories for each category are listed in order of usage. While use of our homepage decreased, categories 2-5 increased.

1. Homepage 25,702
2. Worship 22,532 (livestreams, sermons, music, clergy)
3. Mission 12,504 (history, timeline, social justice)
4. About 6,972 (staff, contact, weddings, place use)
5. Community 4,888 (Emmanuel Music, newsletters, 12 step, Creche)
6. Giving 1,513 (giving money, stewardship, giving time)

2026 Goals

1. Refresh imagery throughout the site.
2. Continue to audit site content for outdated information and identify areas for improvement.
3. Add embedded videos of musical offerings and slideshows of visual arts and stained glass windows.
4. Create a local sandbox of the website for trying new Wordpress themes.
5. Meet more regularly.

We sincerely thank all Commission members and the members of the wider Emmanuel community who made contributions in 2025!

Would you like to help improve communications Emmanuel? Please reach out to one of our members to find out how you could help.

Respectfully submitted,
Matt Griffing & Elizabeth Richardson

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wAam_PFFeDk9eTvDUHVjuOmUfig7ZjS9CB1ge8-I2Aw/edit?usp=sharing revised 1/20/26 EJR

History & Archives Commission Report

Mary Beth Clack, Elizabeth Richardson, and I continued our efforts to organize and inventory our archives and publicize aspects of our church history with the help of many others.

- Much of our work has been done in conjunction with Communications Commission members Matt Griffing, Jesse Kieffer, and Bill Comer.
- Mary Beth researched and composed many of our Racial Justice Working Group's posts about slavery and the Church's efforts to make reparations to *This Week @ Emmanuel Church and its blog [We've Come This Far by Faith](#)*.
- Mark and Melissa Fernau helped enormously by sorting through boxes of old financial papers, which cleared floorspace and freed up drawers for filing our backlog of documents.
- Parish Administrator Vaughan Sherrill and Events Administrator Robb Scholten were very helpful with public inquiries, relocating materials, and developing a records-retention policy. Most of the queries we fielded concerned earlier parishioners, including Emma W. Davidson Mooers, MD. For her tragic contribution to medicine, see the 1911 entry on [Timeline of Emmanuel History](#).
- Building Commission members Julian Bullitt, Michael Scanlon, and Galen Gilbert have also been very helpful. Michael provided the best answer to a question Robb raised: which of our pianos belonged to Guy Lowell? Michael declared our rosewood Steinway to be just the type of piano he would expect Lowell to have wanted in his living room.
- Mary and Elizabeth met in March with Allison Andrews of Grace Church, Medford, to discuss the best ways of using Google Workspace to edit, share, and archive documents and images.

Photos from Our Archives

Throughout the year Julian Bullitt worked with us and our materials. Having digitized many photos, he identified musicians, clergy, and other significant people and events in the history of our parish. He made a great step forward in organizing our photo archive and creating a searchable, chronological record of it. In one of the photos he had retrieved, Elizabeth identified the compiler of our centennial history, Harriet Robeson, who was pictured with Eleanor Roosevelt in 1937 (please see our [Timeline](#) for details).

Research into Music at Emmanuel

Julian has been taking photographs and researching Emmanuel's musical history. Thanks to his efforts, new information is coming to light about Craig Smith, Bach performance before his tenure, early choir members, and organists Jack Fisher, Grover Oberle, Lloyd Palmer, and Thompson Stone. Julian is also researching Emmanuel's connections to Boston's early-music movement before Craig Smith. The Rev. Mark Harvey sent us more information on Rector AL Kershaw and jazz at Emmanuel.

Other Research & Our Toolbox

Julian updated some of the histories of our stained glass on the [Guide to Our Building History](#) and found new information on [Lindsey Chapel artisans](#).

We revised several finding aids and expanded some guides stored on our Google drive, which is available to anyone with an account. For access, please contact ArchivesClerk@emmanuelboston.org.

- 1) Building Commission Archive
 - a. Building Commission Archive
 - b. Contents of BC File Cabinets in the Archives Room
 - c. Finding Aid for Images of Our Building
 - d. Index of Materials in BC Archive Location of Materials re: Lindsey Chapel
 - e. Sources of Information re: Building History
2. Our images, files & webpages
 - a. Finding Aid for Exploring Our Images
 - b. Finding Aid for H&A documents & sheets
 - c. Finding Aid for Our Electronic Files
 - d. Folder for Our parishioners, officers & staff
 - e. History & Archives on our Website
 - f. Images, scans, PDFs & JPGs on H&A Drive
 - g. Links to Our Other Finding Aids
3. Other Guides
 - a) About our leaders
 - b) Chronology of Rectors & other clergy
 - c) Newspapers: Digital Resources
 - d) Parishioners, Finding Aid
 - e) Tools for Historical Research
 - f) Wikipedia Pages for Emmanuelites
 - g) Timeline Finding Aids

Work on Our Webpages

We added a page for [Our Centennial Celebration](#) and worked with Mary Blocher on an annotated list of [Reparations Resources](#). We reviewed other pages, of which most-frequently viewed were: [History](#), [Our Building History](#), [Music](#), [Timeline](#), [We've Come This Far by Faith](#), and [About Pauli Murray](#).

To help us identify missing years and events in the Timeline, Elizabeth added text and images to 17 entries and compiled text files for each of its three centuries. In its [2025 entry](#) we observed:

1. Celebration of the 15th anniversary of our rector's installation
2. Memorial for Jim Bartlett, former chair of our Finance Commission
3. Installation of a pulpit statue honoring The Rev. Suzanne Radley Hiatt
4. Farewell to longtime parishioners Mary Blocher and Marianne Iaucco
5. Death of our beloved pastoral associate, the Rt. Rev. J. Clark Grew II.

Goals for 2026 & Ways to Help

We hope to

1. Create a web slideshow of our building, stained-glass windows, and historic photographs.
2. Create a physical display of historic images.
3. Research and write about the early history of our mission churches and work with historically black colleges, Native Americans, and the Dakota League.
4. Record oral-history interviews with parishioners.

We would also welcome

1. Written memories of your Emmanuel experiences
2. Help with identifying people in digitized/scanned photographs

3. Donation of any paper copies of Sunday bulletins, especially those from 2008-2016
4. Donation of photos of parish history you might have tucked away.
5. Your company after coffee hour on most Sundays, when we investigate what we have, update our inventory, and brainstorm about what we might learn from other libraries, museums, and churches.

Please let me know if you are interested in working with us.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Chitty, Parish Historian
archivist@emmanuelboston.org

Racial Justice Working Group Report

“Eternal God, source of truth, justice, and human dignity, we gather in this city shaped by conscience and contradictions, a city that has known the courage to challenge injustice and the cost of failing to live up to its ideals...we come carrying our history with us...Give us the honesty to face that past, the humility to learn from it, and the resolve to root out the evils that bind us still.” Bishop Julia E. Whitworth, Invocation at the 56th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast, Boston, January 19, 2026)

The Racial Justice Working Group was committed this year to supporting various activities in our church community and expanding our presence in other local settings, as opportunities arose.

We continued our study of our parish history, discovering our connections to historically black Episcopal congregations, namely St. Cyprian’s and Holy Spirit Mattapan. Our parish records were invaluable in this regard.

We enriched and refreshed our study by following reparations and racial justice developments in our church, city, and beyond. We kept abreast of programs offered in our diocese and by organizations such as Episcopal City Mission, Sacred Reckonings, Episcopal Divinity School, the Slave Legacy History Coalition, Partnerships of Historic Bostons, the Reparations Interfaith Coalition, Massachusetts Historical Society, local faith organizations, libraries, and historical societies.

Several of us are also members of the Emmanuel Vestry, which devoted its retreat to an exploration and articulation of a definition of reparations. The Vestry spent time discussing a shared vision of reparations and the possible dimensions of reparatory work in our parish and went on to sponsor a parish meeting to listen to parishioner’s ideas on this topic.

Our group witnessed the energy and potential next steps in the local reparations movement at the November 2025 Reparations Summit, sponsored by Episcopal City Mission and Christ Church Cambridge. Highlights of this day were the stirring oratory of keynote speaker, the Rev. Canon Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas; the opportunities to share perspectives and questions in smaller group discussions; and the call to further work in the coming year. We were encouraged by what we learned about the commitment to reparations that is being made in other Episcopal Churches and interfaith groups who attended this program. We were also alerted to what Emmanuelites might bring to the pursuit of justice in collaboration with them. In this way, we built upon what we learn when we visit other historically black churches in our city and meet their parishioners, as we have begun to do in 2025.

This year our regular activities included our semi-monthly e-newsletter columns in “We’ve Come this Far by Faith”. We thank Bill Comer for his faithful posting of them, and his finding images to accompany the articles. We are grateful to Elizabeth Richardson for helping us as we added to the church website, and to Elizabeth and Mary Chitty, Parish Historian, who are always eager to have a spirited conversation about our parish’s past.

We proposed and supported the June Chapel Camp discussion of Toni Morrison’s *Recitatif* (1983, 2022). We thank Kelly Hager for her expert and insightful facilitation of this session and all who attended for their considered comments on this little-known text.

We thank the Reverend Pam Werntz, who has unfailingly lent us her wise counsel, and who continues to enlighten her sermon audiences, keeping social justice in all its forms in our sightlines. We thank the vestry for their thoughtful attention to our parish’s contributions to social justice in the context of its dedication to the careful stewardship of our resources and parishioners who express their interest in this work in various ways.

We look forward to future opportunities for participation and growth in the coming year. Upcoming is the Worship Celebration of the Feasts of the Rev. Absalom Jones and the Rt. Rev. Barbara C. Harris on February 14, 2026, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul. Later this spring, Episcopal City Mission will partner with its interfaith partners to offer a program of sacred reckonings on the reparations journey.

Our group is committed to deepening our relationships within our church family, and to drawing upon our collective moral resources for the road ahead. Bishop Julia closed her invocation by naming what will be essential for the work: “courage equal to this moment, the courage to name what is wrong, to refuse what dehumanizes, and to stand publicly for the dignity of all.” Bishop Julia added resilience and joy, “not the naïve and complacent joy, but deep, disciplined joy that sustains hope and fuels action.” May we as Emmanuel be similarly fortified and inspired to be faithful to this call.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Beth Clack, convener, Mary Blocher, Cindy Coldren, Pat Krol, and Liz Levin

Episcopal Relief and Development Report

The mission of Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) is to be "the compassionate response of The Episcopal Church to human suffering in the world." In 2025, among its programs (too numerous to list in this short report!) ERD coordinated with affected Episcopal dioceses to support relief in: Southern California following wildfires; the Caribbean region following Hurricane Melissa, and Liberia to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls. Global priority areas include building economic empowerment, supporting caregivers, challenging behaviors that put women and girls at risk of violence, and responding to global disasters and wars. The 2024 annual report (the most recent) stated that “In 2024, Episcopal Relief and Development collaborated with 82 local partners in 54 countries to address injustice, poverty, disaster and climate risks.” It also reported that 4.9 million people were reached by its global programs. The report also states that in 2024, \$7.4 million was provided for disaster relief and \$20.8 million for international programs. The 2024 annual report states that, “Episcopal Relief & Development meets all 20 Better Business Bureau Standards for Charity Accountability and earned a four-star rating (the highest rating) from Charity Navigator and a Gold Seal of Transparency from Candid." Emmanuel Church’s relationship with ERD is a vital and long-reaching way that we engage globally with communities facing hunger, poverty, disaster, and disease. As a parish, we support ERD from our outreach budget, as well as through designated offerings from parishioners. If you want to get more connected to the valuable ministries of ERD, sign up for their newsletter at: www.episcopalrelief.org/what-you-can-do/stay-informed/sign-up/.

If you have other questions or would like to talk about this important work, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Dreisbach

B-SAFE Report **The Bishop’s Summer Academic and Fun Enrichment**

B-SAFE & B-LOVE 2025 – The Bishop’s Summer Academic and Fun Enrichment. Again this year, folks from both Central Reformed Temple and Emmanuel worked to support the summer day-camp activities organized by St. Stephen’s Youth Programs with B-LOVE—bags full of groceries for B-SAFE families (<https://www.ssyphoston.org/bsafe>).

With generous donations, a marvelous benefit concert by the wonderful tenor Fausto Miro (and flute player!) accompanied by our organist John Dilworth, and our “Dinner with the Rector” raffle, money was raised to fund our purchases.

Prices for food are rising and, in the summer children miss the lunches that come with attendance at school. These groceries help fill in those gaps. A change for us this year was that we collected the food and packed the bags at the Allston Abbey. Several people delivered items there including Stop & Shop gift cards, plus Jill and Joy attacked

Costco with enthusiasm acquiring the many many things needed to fill those grocery bags for the B-SAFE families. All was packed and delivered to St. Stephen's in the South End by our volunteers Pam Werntz, Bob Greiner, Jill Silverstein, Peggy Bradley, Joy Howard, Rebekah and Jamie Shore, Pat Krol, Brian McCaig, Peter Dutilloy, R Feynman, Rob Lubin, Sherry Krause-Mazza, and Elliot Mazza. We thank one and all for your generous support.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Bradley, Bob Greiner, and Jill Silverstein

Diocesan Convention Delegate Report

The 240th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts was held on November 14-15, 2025. This year the theme of the convention was **The Hope to which we are Called**.

Friday the 14th was devoted to workshops designed to engender discussion among parishioners and clergy across the Diocese about how we as a Diocese keep building our strength at the parish level. Your lay delegates to Convention, Liz Levin and Peter Dutilloy, attended a total of three workshops that day.

1. *Invite, Welcome, Connect* with Rev. Canon Kelly O'Connell presiding, looking at stories and tools to transform your church. *The four values of Evangelism and Hospitality are Prayer, Intentionality, Relationship, and Accountability.*
2. Prayer: may be needed to change hearts within the congregation
3. Intentionality: churches using the framework should have at least one workbook of *Invite, Welcome, Connect* and set time aside for the congregation to use it as a tool for growth
4. Relationship: invite others to join you at church
5. Accountability: set goals with action items

Invite: using social media, signage in the building, a web site which is kept up-to-date, and individual invitation

Welcome: use clear signage and keep at least one door open, use ushers, greeters, and shepherds, make your worship easy to follow, create a feeling of fellowship at coffee hour, follow up with new people

Connect: listen to people carefully, create a sense of belonging, be curious about people, and be open to changes.

St. John's, Sandwich and Christ Church, Plymouth are both using this program. One of the members presented the story of her relationship with her home church as an example of the way defining our stories about our home church can help create goals and programs for welcome.

1. *Collaborative Ministry Models* with Rev. Canon Marissa Rohrbach Canon presiding offered us the chance to look at a number of Collaborative Ministry Models and Congregation Re-Development Models. With more parishes than clergy to support them there is a need to be creative. Any changes to current status would, of course, be with the support of Wardens and Clergy. Some parishes in the Diocese are already using a model called Multi-point Call where two congregations enter into a formal agreement to share a clergy person. Examples in our Diocese include St. Mark's, Dorchester & St. Bart's, Cambridge; Trinity, Wrentham & St. Mark's, Foxboro; Trinity Chapel, Shirley & St. Mark's, Westford. There are a number of other models, some of which are in use. If you are interested, this information can be shared.

2. *Protecting Vulnerable Communities*: Supporting Immigrants and Undocumented Members with The Rev. Canon Dr. Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa shared how to support immigrant communities in the wake of the increased and aggressive ICE campaigns. It outlined the consequences of resisting or lying to ICE officers which can have negative legal consequences for the people being detained in addition to the people trying to help. Churches providing family planning for immigrants shared their experience and Episcopal City Mission also spoke about the initiatives they are working on. The importance of privacy for people in precarious positions was stressed and understanding that being vocal supporters can sometimes attract unwanted attention. The presenters and group gathered acknowledged how much is unknown and threatening for

marginalized and targeted groups, naming fear and uncertainty, advocating for sharing and gathering with others and creating communities of support.

Following the workshops an address was given by Bishop Melissa Skelton on Congregational Development during which she presented an overview of the ways in which frameworks and skills can be developed in bringing about needed changes in diocesan structure.

Saturday the 15th of November started with the Eucharist during which The Most Rev. Melissa Skelton, whom we had heard on Friday, gave the homily. At the completion of the service, the Legislative Session was called to order. The Bishop gave her annual address which started with a review of what we as a Diocese have done and what we will do going forward. The diocesan visioning process was a major piece of work which began by collecting input from the members of our diocesan family through surveys, listening sessions, and task forces. This year a visioning summit was held with over sixty diocesan leaders and input from more than eight hundred diocesan stakeholders. The outcome is the list of core values to live by: **“Welcome, Courage, Justice, and Joy...all in the service of Love.”** Our strategic Priorities are:



From left: Vestry members and delegates Peter Dutilloy & Liz Levin with our rector the Rev. Pamela L. Werntz (far right)

1. Strengthening our worshipping communities
2. “The intentional formation of new priests is one of the most important long-term investments we can make as a Diocese.” The Strategic Curacies Program is being expanded to this end.
3. Advancing formation, discipleship, and leadership development
4. “Our strategic plan includes staffing up a Formation Team—including a diocesan **Canon for Formation**...” Bishop Julia hopes to relaunch diocesan pilgrimages, speaker series, and opportunities for learning together. And she shared that “our **Diaconal Formation Program** has become part of the Province I School for Deacons...”
5. Reframing communication, evangelism, and prophetic witness
6. The addition of a Communications, Witness, and Engagement Team led by Canon Clayton McCleskey will lead a website and internal communications redesign. There are plans to call a part-time Missioner for Justice and Advocacy to the diocesan staff. And there is now an Immigrant Legal Emergency Fund seeded by the Bishop and to which we can all contribute.
7. Improving diocesan stewardship and asset management
8. Stewardship of our buildings and management of all our resources will be enhanced with some basic tools such as a diocesan database, donor development, and grant opportunities.

“Our regional canons will serve as transition ministers and work in conflict mediation, clergy care, and lay leadership development, as well as guides and helpmates for complex conversations about the futures of our more precarious congregations.”

The Bishop remains deeply concerned for clergy wellness in this Diocese. The entire Diocese will have access to excellent referral tools and resources with which to secure mental health care providers...” She wishes to examine “questions of equity and sustainability in clergy call—especially in part-time and collaborative contexts and given the very high housing costs in our region.”

Following lunch there were a number of reports given. There was no presentation from the Racial Justice Commission though the report did mention that the Reparations Subcommittee is continuing to record personal testimonies of African American and Afro-Caribbean members of the diocese.

Several resolutions were brought before the members present at Convention and all were passed with a majority vote.

1. A Resolution Affirming Human Rights for All People in the U.S. Prisons and Detention Centers.
2. A Resolution in Support of Massachusetts' Immigrant Community with Special Emphasis on Those at Risk of Losing Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
3. A Resolution for Due Process for All
4. A Resolution in Allyship with Those Working on the MA Indigenous Legislative Agenda
5. A Courtesy Resolution in Honor of Jerome Woods Berryman (1937-2024)

Details of all materials can be found in the Convention Handbook at these links:

<https://diomass.org/sites/diomass/files/documents/Actions>

<https://diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2025>

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Levin and Peter Dutilloy, Lay Delegates to Convention

CRECHE Report **Charles River Episcopal Co-housing Endeavor**

Dear Friends,

This past year marked a turning point for Creche.

Not a sudden one, not a single dramatic breakthrough. Instead, 2025 was the year many long-running threads finally came together. Years of relationship-building, patient stewardship, and quiet persistence began to show their full shape. Creche did not just grow this year, it settled more deeply into itself.

At the most basic level, Creche is now a network of four fully occupied intentional communities, with a fifth on the way and set to launch this spring. Each is distinct in character and vocation, yet bound together by shared commitments to common life, hospitality, and faith-rooted justice. And for the first time in our history, an existing intentional community chose to join Creche. That choice matters - it signals confidence not only in the people involved, but in the long-term sustainability of this model of shared life.

Across Creche, life within our houses continues to be rich, grounded, and outward-facing.

At the **Emmanuel House**, Peter, R, Lisa, Avery, and Morgan steward a community garden that has become a quiet anchor for their neighborhood. Volunteers, most of whom live within walking distance, gather regularly to tend it. Just as importantly, the garden is constantly in use: a place to walk a dog, sit with a friend, or lie in the grass with a book. It is not just a place of beauty. It is a place of rest.

At the **St Mary's House**, Angel, Martyn, and Michaye host Bible study dinners that bring together people from St Mary's and from The Crossing, a primarily young adult, LGBT+ community that meets at the cathedral. These evenings have become spaces of genuine connection: thoughtful, joyful, and deeply nourishing.

The **Trinity House**, home to Troy, Jess, Jessica, and Emma, remains deeply involved in the life of their congregation while continuing remarkable academic work. Two members will be confirmed in the coming months, and as a household they have collectively sponsored someone for baptism - small acts that speak to the formative power of shared life.

Seventy-Seven, now home to Dorie, Ana, Cathy, Alaina, Harrison, and Kelly, is one year into its five-year journey of fully integrating into the Creche model of intentional community. As an inter-religious household, they have been bonding with Emmanuel House over the shared work of building faith-rooted homes in which a wide range of spiritual traditions can flourish.

The **Jubilee House** is roughly halfway through construction. Interior framing is complete, windows are in, and major systems are underway. When finished, it will be Creche's first fully wheelchair-accessible home, our first high-efficiency, all-electric house free of fossil fuels, and a project financed entirely through community investment, including a major construction loan from LEAF and personal loans from friends and allies.

One of the quiet strengths of Creche is the diversity of life within our communities. This year included houses with members ranging from their early twenties to their mid-sixties, communities that are intergenerational, queer-affirming, and ecumenical, households that balance deep Christian practice with openness and curiosity. That diversity is not incidental. It is part of what makes these communities resilient, accountable, and genuinely supportive.

More broadly, Creche itself is coming together in new and beautiful ways. Our households are visiting each other's congregations, having one another over for dinner, sharing tools and ideas and garden supplies, and showing up for one another with increasing ease. Creche feels more like a community of communities than ever before.

As we look ahead, the prevailing feeling is not completion, but momentum. Creche is increasingly understood by churches, neighbors, funders, and peers as a proof of concept. Faith-rooted, community-centered housing can be financially responsible, theologically grounded, and socially transformative all at once. The question before us is no longer whether this model works, but how carefully and faithfully it can grow.

Thank you for walking alongside us. Your partnership makes stability possible, stability makes imagination possible, and imagination is what allows new forms of shared life to take root.

With gratitude.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Isaac Everett, Executive Director

Central Reform Temple of Boston Report

This was a year full of energy for Central Reform Temple. We continued to find new ways to engage our congregation and enhance our governance. We collaborated with you, Emmanuel Church, in new activities which will hopefully become traditions.

The Board brainstormed and created new initiatives with dedicated teams to support temple life and administration. These include initiatives like webpage revision, increasing social media, and Friday "Shabbat Schmooze". "Shabbat Schmooze" is designed to be a gathering place before Friday night services, with light snacks, drinks, and an opportunity to chat with Rabbi Shire and get to know fellow congregants and guests. It has been very well received. Our Friday night services continue to attract our congregants and numerous visitors to Boston, many drawn to us by the joint signage on our Newbury Street doors.

We partnered with Emmanuel Church on two social justice projects: Sun Way, to address climate change, and the Worldwide Daffodil Project, to remember the children lost to the Holocaust and the vulnerability of children in genocide situations today. We are the first such location in Boston and we together planted 250 bulbs. Additionally, through a grant by Combined Jewish Philanthropies, we were able to acquire a defibrillator for 15 Newbury Street, now located in the front lobby. And of course, we were pleased to continue our regular pulpit exchange practice, with the Rabbi and the Rector preaching at, and participating in, services for one another.

Our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services attracted hundreds of worshippers in-person and online. This year we introduced our new Yom Kippur prayer book, written and revised by Rabbi Shire.

In October, 24 congregants and friends traveled together to Prague and Vienna to explore Jewish history and culture under Rabbi Shire's leadership. We participated in services in each city, experienced opera in Prague and a concert in Vienna, and got to know each other better. Our guides showed us the depth and resiliency of Jewish life over the centuries in these places. Our next trip will be in 2027.

We concluded the year with our new Shabbat-Chanukah celebration, with our guests, the Emmanuel Vestry. The evening was filled with laughter, good food and fellowship, and uplifted voices led in song by our wonderful singers. Importantly, the evening included the reaffirmation of our written covenant.

Finally, and this cannot be said too many times, our covenant relationship with Emmanuel Church makes us stronger and gives us a way of being that is unique among synagogues in metro-Boston.

Respectfully submitted by the Board of Central Reform Temple of Boston,
Lilli, Jill, Marty, Gail, Hal, Dan, Debbie, Dick, Diane, Sherry, Bob

Emmanuel Center Report

Our Emmanuel Center partnership between Central Reform Temple and Emmanuel Church, is in its 18th year. We are grateful for the work we continue to do and for new opportunities that bring us together

We began 2025 with an online program in January – “Ask the Rector/Ask the Rabbi”, a wonderful opportunity to engage in dialogue with our clergy. Monthly Emmanuel Center movie nights continue to be popular, this year exploring challenging themes raised by the choice of films (“Bella”, “Oriental”, “Unspoken”, “The State of Texas vs. Melissa”, “The Six Triple Eight”, “The Truce”, and “Agora”). The facilitators have been great, and conversations have been stimulating. To better serve a wider group, in 2026 we will meet on Thursday evenings instead of Sundays.

In May/June, Michael and Pam exchanged pulpits – both communities really enjoy hearing them preach. In June, we hosted our annual Leadership gathering at Emmanuel House, where board members from CRT and vestry members from Emmanuel Church broke bread together and learned more about the Emmanuel House and Allston Abbey. It is always great to share in times of informal friendship and community. In July, our communities joined together to buy groceries and fill grocery bags for families attending the annual B-SAFE and B-LOVE camp sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. Our mitzvah of ushering and greeting at each other’s sacred holidays carries on. We deeply appreciate these expressions of our covenant relationship.



We participated with faith communities across the city in a wonderful afternoon in September – Sun Way, a national initiative for climate justice. As an outgrowth of our work, the Boston Interfaith Climate Allies group has emerged, and is building on our 2025 program *Shomrei Adamah* – Guardians of the Earth, and on Sun Way this year.

We are planning a set of programs for 2026 including (1) a performance called “Who Will Remain,” a Shoah (Holocaust) memorial program, (2) the daffodil garden, and (3) a concert by the Zamir Chorale. CRT’s cantorial soloists, Amy Lieberman and Angelynne Hinson, creators of *Who Will Remain*, brought the idea to us last spring and we forged ahead, raising funds from within our congregations as well as from external sources. At the same time, Norma-May Isakow, a CRT member and ambassador of the Worldwide Daffodil Project (a global effort to plant 1.5 million daffodils in memory of children who died in the Holocaust),



brought the idea of planting bulbs in the gardens at 15 Newbury. Thanks to our partner, Emmanuel’s master gardener, Peter Johnson, 250 bulbs were planted in November. The bulbs should be blooming at the time of the April program. And the capstone will be the Zamir concert in June.



Finally, we are so grateful for our gifted, generous board: Mary Beth Clack, Jennifer Coplon, Liz Levin, Mike Scanlon, Rabbi Michael Shire, Rebekah Shore, The Rev. Pam Wertz, and Lilli Weigert. We are reminded of what it means to walk together along the paths of Love and know that our partnership and outward demonstration of living and working together is more important than ever.

Respectfully submitted,
Joy Howard and Jill Silverstein, Co-Chairs

Courtesy Resolutions

WE EXPRESS OUR PROFOUND GRATITUDE TO:

1. Rebekah Shore, Senior Warden, and Pat Krol, Junior Warden, Mark Fernau, Treasurer, and Mary Beth Clack, Clerk, for their spirit-filled and steady leadership over the last year.
2. Brian McCaig for his completion of a three-year term on vestry; and Cindy Coldren for her completion of a two-year term; and to Mark Fernau for completing his fourth consecutive year as Treasurer.



From top left: CRT puppet ushers on Easter Sunday; packing groceries at Allston Abbey; Daffodil planting in November; Rabbi Shire blowing the shofar;

3. *All who serve on vestry, as delegates, and as representatives of Emmanuel Church.*
4. Michael Scanlon, Chair of the Building Commission, Julian Bullitt engineer extraordinaire, Peter Johnson, master gardener, and all the members of the Building Commission and gardeners for their good and helpful deeds at 15 Newbury Street too numerous to list.
5. Ryan Turner, John Dilworth, John Harbison, Michael Beattie, Jensen Ling, all of the musicians of Emmanuel Music, all the singers of Chapel Choir, and all who have glorified God through music in the last year.
6. Vanessa Holroyd, Executive Director of Emmanuel Music, and The Rev. Tina Rathbone, Executive Director of Ecclesia Ministries for their collaborative hearts and minds.
7. Vaughan Sherrill, Robb Scholten, Bill Comer, Dennis Gaskell, and the building and event sextons and volunteers of Emmanuel Church and Emmanuel Music for smoothing our way at every turn.
8. Michael Shire, Rabbi-in-Residence, Lillian Weigert, President, and all of the members of Central Reform Temple whose covenant relationship with Emmanuel Church is a blessing.
9. The Rev. Bob Greiner for serving as Deacon among us; The Rev. Dr. Cathy George, The Rev. Dr. John Golenski and the Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker, Priests Associate, for their generosity in prayer and in person; and The Rev. Isaac Everett, Creche Executive Director for being with us once a month.
10. The late Rt. Rev. Clark Grew for 14 years of faithful ministry at Emmanuel Church.
11. The Rev. Susan Ackley for faithfully continuing the weekly Recovery Healing Services via Zoom.
12. Becky Lightcap, Glenn Seberg, and Jamie Shore, for sharing leadership of the Worship Commission, and for their gifts of administration and training, and for floral arrangements! Thanks to all who served on altar guild, as altar servers, and as bread bakers. Thanks to Galen Gilbert, coordinator, and all who serve as ushers.
13. Peter Banos, Gail Carpenter, Liz Levin and Jill Silverstein, who facilitate classes in Biblical Hebrew and Biblical Greek and Latin via Zoom.
14. Peggy Bradley for her faithfulness coordinating our after-worship refreshments.
15. Liz Levin, Chair, and all who have worked to build a meaningful pledge stewardship season.
16. Galen Gilbert, Chair, and all who work on the Finance Commission.
17. All who led Chapel Camp activities during the summer.
18. Ted Southwick, artist-in-residence for his stunningly beautiful pulpit carving of The Rev. Dr. Suzanne Hiatt.
19. Julian Bullitt, Matthew Griffing, Elizabeth Richardson, and Michael Scanlon for superb graphic design and photo documentation of parish life and Emmanuel Music for videography for our livestreaming.
20. Elizabeth Richardson, Bill Comer, and the members of the Web Committee for their fine management of Emmanuel Church's web pages and other social media.
21. Mary Chitty, archivist and historian, and all who volunteer in our archives.
22. Mary Beth Clack, convener, and members of the Racial Justice Working Group for their leadership and persistence in the work of repairing the breach caused by the sin of racism.
23. Peggy Bradley and all from Emmanuel and Central Temple who planned, fund-raised, shopped, packed, and delivered grocery bags for the families of B-SAFE day campers at St. Stephen's Church in July.
24. Members of the Emmanuel House and its steering committee for all the ways they nourish our community and their neighborhood.
25. Emmanuel Center board members for implementing our vision of interfaith collaboration.
26. Sara Peattie, whose puppets and fabric creations have kept us company and added color, whimsey, and comfort.

27. All of the people of Emmanuel, known and unknown, who consistently show up and pitch in and give what they can to further the mission of Love within and beyond the walls of 15 Newbury Street!

28. All who prepared material for the 2025 Annual Report and today's Annual Meeting.

29. _____

30. _____

31. _____

Leadership Nominations for 2026

Nominating Committee 2025: Rebekah Shore, Pat Krol, Jamie Shore, Peter Dutilloy, Edgar Brenninkmeyer, Liz Levin, Mark Ferneau, Pam Wertz (*ex-officio*)

Continuing on Vestry: Dawn Dreisbach, Peter Dutilloy, Liz Levin, Karen King, Kelly Hager, Diane Smith

Office	Nominee (all have been asked and their willingness confirmed)
Senior Warden (1-year term)	Rebekah Shore (third term)
Junior Warden (1-year term)	Pat Krol (third term)
Treasurer (1-year term)	Peter Johnson (first term)
Clerk (1-year term)	Mary Beth Clack (fifth term)
Vestry (3-year term)	Ben Ericson (first term)
Vestry (3-year term)	Brian McCaig (second term)
DioMass Convention Delegates (1-year term)	Peter Dutilloy and Liz Levin
DioMass Convention Alternate (1-year term)	Rebekah Shore
Boston Harbor Deanery Delegates (1-year term)	Bill Comer, Liz Levin, and William Fitzner
Episcopal City Mission Delegates (1-year term)	Joy Howard and Mike Scanlon
Episcopal Relief and Development Rep (1-year term)	Dawn Dreisbach

Closing Song

God has done marvelous things

SOPRANO
Mar - vel - ous, mar - vel - ous, mar - vel - ous

ALTO
God has done mar - vel - ous, God has done

TENOR
God has done

BASS
God has done

4

S.
mar - vel - ous things! Praise the Lord!

A.
mar - vel - ous things! Praise the Lord!

T.
mar - vel - ous things! Praise the Lord!

B.
mar - vel - ous things! Praise the Lord!



EMMANUEL CHURCH

Emmanuel Church Staff

The Very Rev. Pamela L. Wertz, Rector
The Rev. Dr. John Golenski, Priest Associate
The Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker, Priest Associate
The Rev. Dr. Cathy George, Priest Associate
The Rev. Isaac Everett, Creche Executive Director
The Rev. Susan Ackley, 12-Step Recovery Services
The Rev. Robert Greiner, Deacon
Ryan Turner, Music Director
John Dilworth, Organist & Chapel Choir Director
Vaughan Sherrill, Parish Administrator
Robb Scholten, Events Administrator
James Maguire, Controller
Event Sextons: Bill Comer, Luke Colombero, Sue Earley,
Dennis Gaskell, Nicholas Holloway,
Jesse Kieffer, Colin McEllhenney,
& Joel Schenk

Emmanuel Church Vestry

Rebekah Shore, Senior Warden
Pat Krol, Junior Warden
Mark Fernau, Treasurer
Mary Beth Clack, Clerk
Cindy Coldren
Dawn Dreisbach
Peter Dutilloy
Kelly Hager
Karen King
Liz Levin
Brian McCaig
Diane Smith

Emmanuel Music has been Ensemble-in-Residence in Emmanuel Church since 1970.

Craig Smith, Founder and Artistic Director (1947-2007)

Ryan Turner, Artistic Director

John Harbison, Principal Guest Conductor Emeritus

Vanessa Holroyd, Executive Director

www.emmanuelmusic.org 617-536-3356

Central Reform Temple of Boston, a Progressive Jewish Congregation,
makes its home in Emmanuel Church.

Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire

info@centralreformtemple.org 617-262-1202

Parish Office

15 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116

Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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