

# Open Doors

*Knock, and the door  
will be opened.*

A Plan for Emmanuel Memorial, Champaign



# Our Mission

“To restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.”

– The Book of Common Prayer, p. 855

# Our Vision

We seek to share the enduring presence of Christ and make him known and adored in Champaign and beyond.

We hope to draw all people into loving community with God and one another.

Building on our long history in this city, we strive to inspire a new generation of faithful leadership and service.

---

“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.”

– 2 Corinthians 5:18



# A Letter from the Strategic Planning Committee

May 2026

Dear people of God,

Since August 2025, you have heard a lot about strategy! You have taken surveys, participated in Red Door Forums, and provided countless pieces of advice in conversation. Your committee members and our parish's Vestry have reflected deeply during this period as well. "Open Doors," our Strategic Plan for the next three years, has come directly out of this process.

The Plan is built on four pillars: Worship, Parish Life, Ministry and Outreach, and Heritage and Future. Each pillar has goals and strategies for achievement.

Our Vestry and staff have already begun to implement some of these goals and strategies. We anticipate an exciting season for our parish as we begin this work for spiritual renewal together. Take some time to explore the plan, get involved, and share the vision with friends and future parishioners.

Join us in shaping the future of Emmanuel, and may God be with us all!

## The Planning Committee

Tom Barnard

Tracie Peecher

Bruce Bonds

Lisa Kocheril

Todd Daly

Fr Zachary Guiliano, Rector

Alexandra Goodman-Mitchell

Ibby Whitten, Consultant



# Pillars of our Plan

Pillar

1

## Worship

### Liturgy – Music – Discipleship

Promote reverent worship services that celebrate the enduring presence of Christ

---

Grow Sunday worship attendance focusing on families with children and young adults

Pillar

2

## Parish Life

### Enhancing Christian Formation – Building New Engagement

Enhance Christian formation classes and group programs

---

Organize and implement new programs and resources for young adults and families

Pillar

3

## Ministry and Outreach

### Leadership – Partnership - Impact

Warmly invite visitors and parishioners to take their first steps into ministry

---

Deepen our partnerships with local non-profits, the University of Illinois, the downtown community, and other parishes in the diocese

Pillar

4

## Heritage and Future

### Spaces – Staff – Funding

Modernize and renovate facilities to meet the needs of current and future parishioners

---

Ensure there are sufficient operating resources, staff and clergy to support Emmanuel's plans

Pillar

1

# Worship:

## Liturgy, Music, Discipleship

At the heart of Emmanuel's life together is the worship of the living God. We are formed by what we do, and in the rhythm of the liturgical year, the celebration of the Eucharist, and the singing of God's praise, we are continually shaped into the Body of Christ. Our Lord promised: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20).

Worship at Emmanuel is not merely an event we attend. It is a practice through which we are drawn deeper into the mystery of Christ and then sent outward in his name.

## Goals

Promote reverent, traditional worship services

Grow Sunday worship attendance

## How you can help

Come to church regularly, both on Sunday mornings and at special services through the year

Invite friends, family, and neighbors to join you

Share why the faith, worship, and community at Emmanuel matter to you

*"We can never downplay the importance of worship and steady commitment. Through the Scriptures and Sacraments, the Lord is forming a people who look increasingly like Jesus Christ. Worship is central to our identity as Christians and Episcopalians – and central to God's purposes for us as human beings."*

– The Rev. Dr. Zachary Guiliano, Rector

## Quotes from Emmanuel's congregation

*"Serving at the altar with fellow parishioners, strengthens our relationships with each other and with God."*

# Parish Life:

## Enhancing Christian Formation and Building New Engagement

The early Church devoted itself to “the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayer” (Acts 2:42). This same calling shapes our common life at Emmanuel, as we fulfill the vows made at our baptism, which we renew regularly throughout the year (Book of Common Prayer, p. 304).

Christian formation is not confined to childhood or to a single class as a young adult. It is the lifelong work of becoming more like Jesus Christ. In small groups, in study, and in conversation and hospitality, the Holy Spirit knits us together and deepens our capacity to love God and neighbor.

### Goals

Strengthen Christian Education offerings

---

Develop opportunities for youth participation, including a children’s choir

### How you can help

Make a steady commitment to a small group or study group

---

Bring your children regularly to Sunday School or Youth Group

---

Help spread the news about Emmanuel’s music

*“Christian formation is the Church’s vital, ongoing work of maturing in Christ. Nobody drifts into maturity. We must be grafted into the vine that gives us life, and pruned to bear its fruit.*

– The Rev. Joseph Roberts, Curate

### Quotes from Emmanuel’s congregation

*“Participating in Adult Formation and Women’s Bible Study have been extremely rewarding. Revisiting church history, the liturgy of the Episcopal Church, and biblical literature have refreshed my memory... I am very thankful for the opportunities to grow at Emmanuel.”*

# Ministry & Outreach:

## Leadership, Partnership, Impact

Jesus came not to be served but to serve, and he calls his followers into the same posture of self-giving love. “I have set you an example, so that you should do as I have done for you” (John 13:15). Emmanuel’s ministry and outreach flow from the conviction that the church does not exist for itself – it exists for the praise of God and for the life of the world that God loves. When we feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, and walk alongside those who suffer, we are not merely doing good works; we are bearing witness to the Kingdom of God breaking into our community. Every act of service is an invitation to encounter the living Christ.

### Goals

Expand the impact of our Outreach by deepening partnerships within our local community, our diocese, and beyond

Develop a simple, intentional welcome process that guides visitors into full participation

### How you can help

Pray for and volunteer with our partners

Get involved in the Welcome committee

Help in assembling and handing out “newcomer” packs

*“Emmanuel has always had a strong emphasis on carrying out Jesus’ directive to love our neighbor through our actions. Supporting outreach ministries both financially and through our volunteered time continues to be an important part of our common life.”*

– The Rev. Christine Hopkins, Deacon

### Quotes from Emmanuel’s congregation

*“Each time I make a food delivery to a needy family in the area as part of our outreach, I feel blessed beyond measure. Gratitude is a way God makes his connections of love between all of us.”*

# Heritage & Future:

## Spaces, Staff, and Funding

We have a rich past and a wonderful future. Throughout Scripture, sacred sites and physical spaces bear witness to the faithfulness of God and his people. Our buildings, programs, staff and volunteers do the same. They are not ends in themselves, but instruments of God's work. They are places where strangers become neighbors, where children discover the faith, and where the weary find rest and renewal.

Investing in our Parish is an act of faithfulness to those who will come after us, a sign that we believe God's work at Emmanuel is far from finished.

### Goals

Invest in short-term facilities improvements for comfort, convenience, and modern communication

---

Increase the number of parishioners who pledge annually

---

Adopt a comprehensive plan for the development of our buildings and staff

### How you can help

Consider how you can contribute to our Capital Campaign

---

Make an annual pledge to support Emmanuel. Your participation is crucial

---

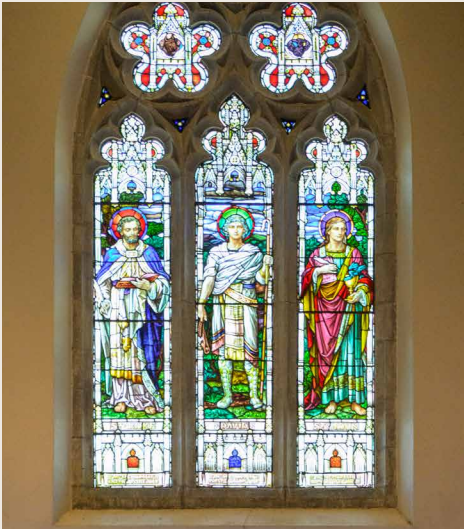
Be patient as we work on our improvements

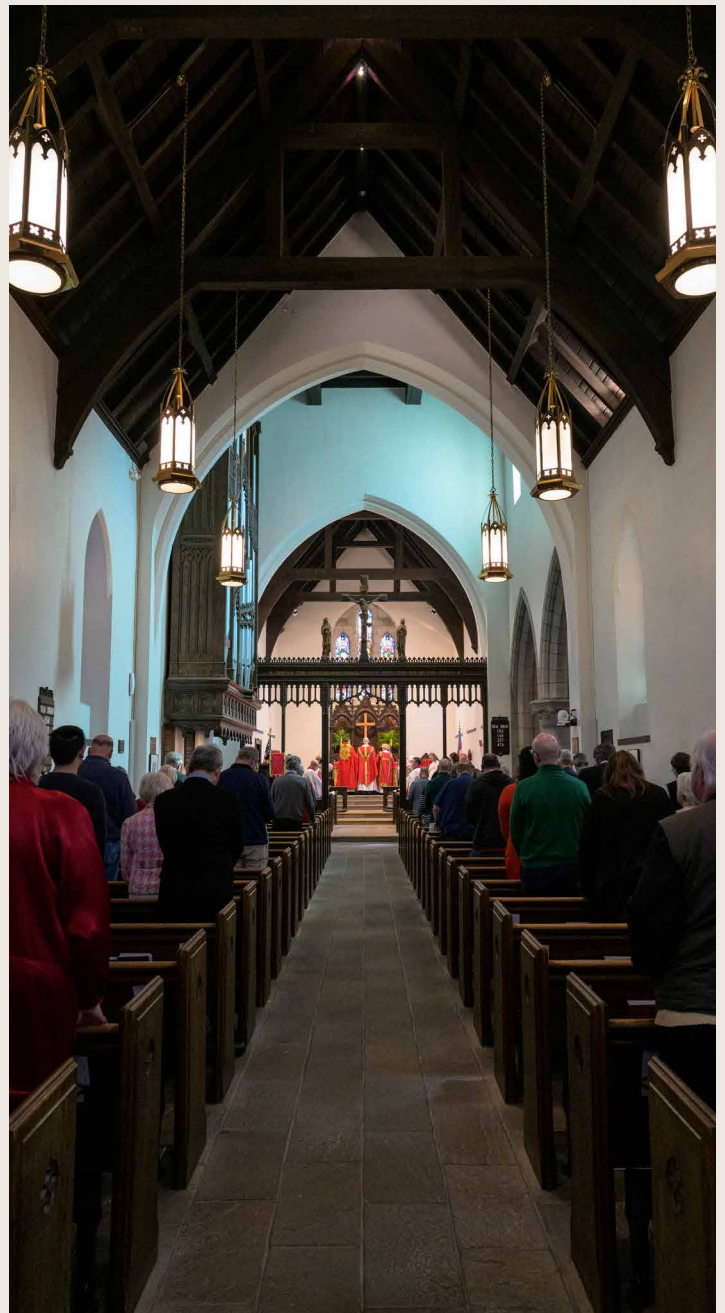
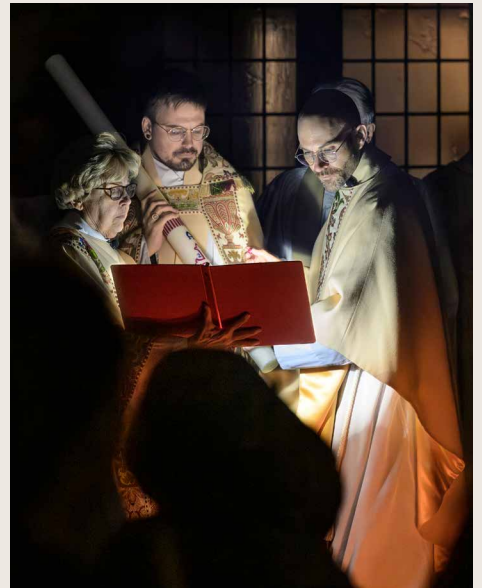
*"Giving in the Church is an act of faith. We trust that our actions are placed in the greater context of God's merciful plan for the world."*

– The Rev. Dr. Zachary Guiliano, Rector

### Quotes from Emmanuel's congregation

*"When we arrived in Champaign, we were looking for a church to raise our child. When I walked into Emmanuel, I had not met anyone. I looked at the Nave, Rood Screen, and High Altar and knew in my heart that this was going to be our church home. The beauty of the church is matched by the kindness and thoughtfulness of the parishioners."*







Emmanuel Memorial  
Episcopal Church

[EmmanuelMemorialEpiscopal.org](http://EmmanuelMemorialEpiscopal.org)  
102 N State Street, Champaign, IL 61820