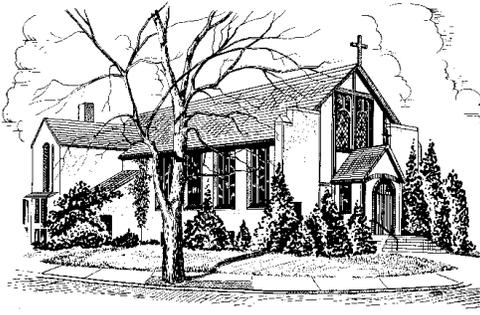


Emmanuel Life



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Summer / Fall 2011

Reflections on September 11 The Reverend Thomas P. Mulvey, Jr.

It is nice to be back in the parish after a week away in Seaside, Florida. Ironically, we left a hurricane here in New England only to find ourselves in the middle of a hurricane on the Gulf Coast for four days. And though that sounds terrible, we actually had fun and were able to spend a good deal of quality time together before the kids got back to school. I was also given the great luxury of reading broadly, and got to start and finish five books that had been on my back burner for a while.

One of those books, written by a Palestinian man named Sari Nusseibeh, was entitled *What a Palestinian State is Worth*. On the whole I found it to be a sober and reasoned presentation. He doesn't really offer solutions as much as he presents questions. What might a one state solution look like? What might a two state solution look like? And, more importantly, how might we get to either solution. More on Mr. Nusseibeh later.

Also while I was away Bishop Shaw sent an email to the clergy of the Diocese talking about his personal experiences of September 11, 2001. On that tragic day the bishop was apparently in Turkey. A shopkeeper of one sort or another, who spoke no English, guided him to a television so that he could see what had happened. If I might paraphrase his description, his experience was one of devastation and separation: separation from his homeland, his diocese, his friends and family, and his religious brothers. And he encouraged the clergy to share their individual experiences with their congregations as best as they are able.

September 11, 2001 was a gorgeous late summer, early fall day - much like today. I was at Logan Airport that morning, having taken the commuter boat from Hingham to Rowe's Wharf and the water shuttle from Rowe's Wharf

to the airport. I was on my way back to Newfoundland by way of Halifax, Nova Scotia.

In those days Air Canada Jazz and its fleet of tiny DC 8 aircraft were situated at the far end of Terminal E. Passengers would literally walk out on the tarmac in order to board the planes. We had already begun boarding my flight when the airport was shut down. We were ordered to get off the plane and leave the airport. No one would give us any further information. I asked why the airport was closed. "It just is," an abrupt Massport representative said, "and you need to leave." I asked him when the airport would reopen. "I have no idea. You need to leave."

My mind was spinning. I needed to get back to Newfoundland to bury three parishioners who had died that weekend. There is no funeral home in Burgeo. And our decedents would lie in state in the church until the funeral.

I didn't have a cell phone in those days - and the lines at the few airport payphones were endless. I finally managed to get a cab. The cab was rear ended in the confusion that was the expressway. My driver hit his head on the dash and was knocked unconscious. We drifted several hundred feet down the expressway before he regained consciousness. I eventually got home and was able to call Liz and my clergy warden to let them know that I was one of the lucky ones. I was alive and well.

I eventually got back to the parish that week by taking a bus to Montreal and flying from Montreal to Halifax, and then from Halifax to Newfoundland.

A few weeks later, on Sunday, October 7, we began our Middle Eastern military adventures in Afghanistan in an action dubbed Operation Enduring Freedom. I will never forget how I learned of it. Thanksgiving Day in Canada that year fell on Monday, October 8. My parish in Burgeo loved cooking and fellowship every bit as much as this parish does.

So on Sunday night a large number of us gathered at the parish hall to prepare Thanksgiving dinner for the poor and the elderly of the parish. I was part of the potato peeling group. And as we peeled a way, a lovely woman named Hilda Bag looked at me with tears in her eyes and said: "We're at war now."

We're at war now. A so-called war on terror. A war we cannot possibly win as long as there is one man or one woman on earth committed to terrorism. Once again we chose the violent alternative.

On the following Sunday I told the congregation in no uncertain terms that I was opposed to military adventurism in Afghanistan and Iraq. And I remain opposed to those military adventures. Invading Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2003 was not our work. And we were not within our rights to do so.

Later, at Saint John's in Hingham, when I spoke against the Iraq invasion a parishioner got right up in my grill and said: "This is a great day for democracy. We'll be there for fifteen years."

When I told him that, as the father of a four-year old son, I did not take that as good news - he accused me of not supporting our troops. "I unequivocally support our troops," I told him. "With my support, these men and women would be home safe and sound with their families. They would be reading bedtime stories to their kids. They would be carving Thanksgiving turkeys. They would be lovers with their spouses. And so sir, I ask you, whose support do you think the troops would rather have? Mine? Or yours?"

Eight years later I still await the answer to that question. But he never did get in my grill again.

The basis for my antipathy toward military adventurism is that peace will never be attained by violent means. Violence begets violence. The peace of God which passes all understanding -as Saint Paul writes in the Letter to the Philippians - will never come from the barrel of a gun or a missile silo. At best, violence will bring a temporary tranquility. But that is not the peace of God. It is the peace of the graveyard. It is a dead quiet. There is no life there.

From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent bear it away. (Matthew 11:12).

We must hunger and thirst for peaceful and just ways to resolve our differences. Not because I want that. My wishes are inconsequential. We must strive for justice and peace because that is what God wants. Indeed, it is what God demands.

Returning to the book by Mr. Nusseibeh - he proposes that there are two essential elements needed to achieve meaningful dialogue toward peaceful solutions: equality and freedom. I think he misses one: faith. We must go forward in faith. Because unless we believe that God demands justice and peace from his faithful people - we will never get there. We will slide back into our old ways, ways that have failed us time and again. And we will never explore new ways.

The equality the Nusseibeh proposes means that the rich and the powerful must sheath their advantages. Justice and peace cannot be attained by constantly reminding our dialogue partners that we are ever armed with the big aggie of might and money - and that if we do not like what we are hearing we simply knock their smaller marbles out of the game.

And the freedom he proposes is two fold: freedom from and freedom to. On the one hand we must all be free from oppression and exploitation and cynicism. And on the other hand, we must be free to be what God would have us be.

And so we pray. For those of us who are fortunate enough to go on our interfaith pilgrimage to Israel next spring, and will witness some of the debates and the dialogue, we pray that God will give us the gift of wisdom and prudence and good counsel. And we pray that God's grace will permit us to enter this sacred journey with open eyes and ears, open minds and hearts, and open souls.

And on this holy day we pray for all those who have suffered in any way due to the tragic events of September 11, 2001. We pray for the dead and the injured. We pray for those who mourn. And we pray for the safe return of our troops.

Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.



A Joyful Message from Your Wardens

Dear Friends and Fellow Parishioners:

It is with great joy and excitement that we announce that the Discernment Committee made its recommendation to the Vestry, and the Vestry unanimously agreed, to call our next permanent Rector, The Reverend Thomas P. Mulvey, Jr. Tom has enthusiastically accepted our call to continue his leadership here at Emmanuel.

We would like to thank the members of the Discernment Committee, as well as our Diocesan liaison, Helen Daley, for all their time and efforts in discerning that it is the wish of the Parish and the will of God that Tom continue his ministries at Emmanuel. We would likewise like to thank all of you for your time and commitment to participating in the discernment process.

It is also very exciting to advise you that Bishop Bud Cederholm will officiate at Tom's installation to be scheduled on Wednesday, October 12, 2011. Please mark your calendars; we will follow up with more details in the near future.

Meanwhile, please join us in congratulating Tom as we continue our parish work and spiritual journey together.

Blessings,

Christine Bentley, Clergy Warden
Sheila Smith, People's Warden

*For truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.
Matthew 17:20*

SAVE THE DATE TO CELEBRATE! WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2011

Bishop Bud Cederholm will officiate at the installation of The Reverend Thomas P. Mulvey, Jr., Emmanuel's Thirteenth Rector, on **Wednesday, October 12, 2011**. Details will follow in an invitation to the parishioners and friends of Emmanuel.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 HOMECOMING SUNDAY AND ALL PARISH BASH

Two great celebrations
on one fantastic day!

Our choir returns,
and Sunday School, with Nursery Care,
welcomes all children back
to our 10:00 a.m. Services

All Parish Bash
will be held 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Castle Moonwalk will be awaiting our
princes and princesses!

Our two favorite ponies will be back!

Our face painting ladies return for
fabulous face painting!

Plus good food,
challenging games
and loads of fun!!

Don't miss out!

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### **FALL ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Father Mulvey will lead a basic narrative of the Old Testament, Genesis through 2 Kings, for our Fall Adult Education Program. The first meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 27, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. The program will begin with a simple meal in Dallinger Hall. All are invited.



## **NOW PLAYING** Disney's Tangled

No tickets required! Free Admission!!

The whole family will get tangled up in the fun, laughter, suspense and adventure with Rapunzel, the spirited teen with 70 feet of magical golden hair. Let your hair down and get ready to cheer for Tangled!

**Showtime: Sunday, October 23 at 4:30 p.m.**

Dallinger Hall will be transformed into a movie theater for this feature film, complete with a full concession stand offering pizza, steamed hot dogs, theater popcorn, and an impressive array of candy.



### **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS UPDATE**

We are under construction!! The architectural plans have been finalized, the rooms have been emptied, the floors have been abated, and the construction students from Blue Hills Regional Technical School have begun Emmanuel's project to reconfigure our Undercroft and classroom spaces.

The Kids Clothes Closet has been temporarily moved to the stage area of Dallinger Hall and all of our community groups that meet at Emmanuel will meet in Dallinger Hall as well. Our Godly Play classes will be held in the Conference Room, while our Nursery will be set up in the Gym/Dance Studio. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we work to improve our space to better serve our parishioners as well as our community.

**Naming Opportunities:** Our renovation project will result in the creation of a three-room Children's Ministry Campus (consisting of a new nursery, classroom, and outreach/ministry room) together with an enlarged

community meeting room where the present Godly Play classroom is. The new classroom will continue to be in memory of Mr. Robert Stanley. However, there will be new naming opportunities for the Campus, the nursery, the outreach/ministry room, and the community meeting room. Anyone interested in sponsoring one of these naming opportunities should speak with Father Mulvey or our wardens, Christine Bentley and Sheila Smith.

## **EMMANUEL'S HOLIDAY GIFT MARKET SAVE THE DATE SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

Our fall fundraiser has been given a new name and a new look! On **Saturday, November 19, 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**,

we will welcome a variety of artisans and crafters from near and far. We will also continue our tradition of offering a beautiful selection of hand-knitted items, baked goods, fudge, chocolates and fabulous gift baskets, providing one-stop shopping for all your holiday gift-giving. The Parish Kitchen will once again be serving breakfast and lunch at portions and prices that can't be beat!



This fundraiser is expected to raise the largest portion of our budgeted fundraising income and we ask that everyone contribute by donating their time, talent and/or treasure, or at the very least, their appetite, and join us on the 19th. Better yet, bring a friend or two as well. See you there!

### ***Sweet Success at Emmanuel's Heavenly Sweets Booth!!***

*Emmanuel Parish joined the community of Braintree in its Annual Fourth of July Celebration again this year. Thank you to all who participated in this fun event!*



## GODLY PLAY

Emmanuel's Godly Play students being the church school year with the lesson of the Holy Family, as the Holy Family holds deep significance for our work throughout the year. That is why it sits right in the center of our focus shelf in the room, right behind the storyteller every week of the year. The axis of life in the Christian tradition is birth-death-rebirth. The children begin to perceive this axis through the naming of the Holy Family, although we do not talk about this meaning, but wait for the children to discover it for themselves. We will then go straight into lessons from the Old Testament and, between now and Advent, we will learn about *Creation, The Ark and the Flood, The Great Family, Exodus, The Ten Best Ways to Live, The Ark and the*



*Tent, The Ark and the Temple.*

We are looking forward to beginning the new church school year and welcoming both returning and first year Godly Play students.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

Our middle school children, after finishing year one of the Old Testament, and year two of the New Testament, will begin year three discussing relevant social issues facing young Christians today. Our first lesson is *Thinking Theologically About Money*. We will also be discussing ways in which our young adults can contribute to and participate in Emmanuel's outreach efforts.

### **Reflections on September 11, 2001** **911: Prayer for America**

There's a hole in the tip of Manhattan  
A hole in the soul of America  
A hole in the center of our psyche  
A hole in the foundation of our confidence  
There's a hole in the faith of our country  
That fills churches in search of our God  
There's a crack in the national mirror  
empty chairs around the family table  
dark houses of our missing neighbors  
Vacant desks of our absent workers  
On our streets, there's a wail from the widows with candles  
sobs from the orphaned with pictures  
the face breaks on the lawyer, the dead women's husband  
flags and flowers for the public servants  
There's a hole in the soul of America  
Afraid with the televised pictures  
Numb with the morning papers  
Grieving for the land they loved  
Grieving for the land they lost  
Grieving for the innocent victims  
Grieving for the broken families  
Grieving for the friends still weeping  
Grieving for the ones who fight fire

Grieving for the ones who fight crime  
Grieving for the volunteers by the thousands  
Grieving for the City that never Sleeps  
Grieving for the City on a Hill  
There's a hole in the soul of Humanity  
And I pray for all of our leaders  
Good people and well intentioned  
Condemned to retaliation,  
Doomed to retribution  
Sentenced to seek revenge  
And we fear for those who go marching  
Toward an enemy they can't even see  
Brave in the shadow of their fathers, Brave in the duty of history  
Brave in the Madness, Brave in the Sadness,  
Brave in the Blindness  
And I pray to the Prophets of History  
Privy to the word of God  
Moses on the Mountain with those Ten Commandments  
We tend to ignore them, they're so inconvenient  
Jesus on the Cross for the Love of his neighbors,  
Jesus on the Cross for the Love of his enemies  
And we love our Neighbors, when it's in the National Interest  
And we love our Enemies, when it's in the National Interest  
Mohammed in the Koran with words that escape  
fanatics abusing religion with hate  
But the Koran is clear: "If you destroy one life it's as if you've  
destroyed the whole world."  
If you save one life it's as if you have saved the whole world"  
And God Cries from the tablets on Top of Mt. Sinai  
"Save the World"  
And God cries His last breath from the Cross on Good Friday  
"Save the World"  
And God Cries from the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem  
"Save the World"  
And God cries, and God cries, and God cries  
There is a hole in the soul of His Children  
Love can fill the hole  
And God is Love  
And we ask, where is God?  
Strangers with shovels on the Tip of Manhattan fill the hole  
Firefighters from Chicago who drive to New York fill the hole  
Hollywood stars raise millions for victims  
Benefits and fund-raisers and letters and cards  
Boston Red Sox fans in Fenway Park  
sing we love NY fill the hole  
And the Mayor fills the hole, and the governor fills the hole,  
and the president fills the hole, and the media fills the hole  
The interfaith prayer services on the steps of city hall fill the hole  
Neighbors in the park with candles try to comfort  
the missing girl's roommates  
"she was on the 106th floor last Tuesday morning"  
Candlelight vigils for peace fill the hole  
Young people in uniform for war fill the hole  
Flags at half mast and flags in our windows  
the Star Spangled Banner and the prayer of St. Francis  
The Star of David, the teachings of Islam,  
and the Letters of Paul fill the hole  
And the hole in our soul is our Cross  
And our Cross Fills the Hole

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## Emmanuel Parish Leaders and Staff

### Clergy

The Reverend Thomas P. Mulvey, Jr., Rector  
The Reverend Judith S. Krumme, Rector Emerita

### Vestry

Christine Bentley, Clergy Warden  
Sheila Smith, People's Warden  
Lauren Durgin, Clerk  
Keith Boone, Treasurer  
Dianne Connell, Assistant Treasurer  
Susan Baker      Frank Schafer  
Carol Whittall      David York

### Staff

Susan Bill, Director of Music Ministries  
David Melrose, Sexton  
Marilyn Gould, Altar Guild Director  
Debbie Puglisi, Sunday School Coordinator  
Christine Bentley, Youth Ministry  
Jennifer Holbrook, Parish Secretary

*Emmanuel Episcopal Parish  
is a place of worship for all members  
of the community on their  
spiritual journey as Christians.*

*Our mission is to welcome  
and encourage all persons to grow  
in their faith in Jesus Christ,  
to love, accept, and minister to each other,  
and to reach out and serve those in need.*

*If you would like to receive future issues  
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