

August 28, 2023

Dear Faithful People of Emmanuel,

I am sitting down to write this letter amidst a new academic planner and a fresh pack of pens in my office at Holderness. Students will be arriving in the next few days, but I wanted to take some intentional space to reflect and report on August at Emmanuel before the rush of the academic year truly starts. It was a wonderful month! Here are some of my highlights.

- I preached and celebrated on August 6, 13, and 20th. Our time together in worship was prayerful, fun, and smooth. I am grateful for so many people who do the work in order to prepare us for worship - readers, ushers, altar guild, musicians, coffee hours, cleaners, etc. Thank you for all your support and faithfulness. I thought every service was great.
- Ellen Avery did a great job making sure sermons were posted on the E-pistle and communicating with me about that. I also found Amy's Uberboard super helpful.
- We had 4-5 people at the Lectionary Study every week. I thought they were great conversations and helpful sermon prep.
- We welcomed Bishop Rob+ on August 27. It was a great service - he is a wonderful Bishop and a relaxing presence. He even blessed the new roof!
- My family enjoyed staying in the rectory and spending time at the Dublin Lake Club. The highlight of my kids summer was the endless lemonade by the tennis courts. We all loved exploring the Monadnock region and being on the Dublin School Campus. Thank you for the hospitality and warm welcome!
- I met some delightful people and developed some good relationships and friendships. I hope these continue to grow as our time together increases over the years.

I close with a grateful heart for our time there. Please keep me in your prayers in the coming year, as you will be in mine. We look forward to sending along a note when the new baby joins us in November. Thank you, again, for the hospitality and opportunity to be in ministry with you all.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Abby VanderBrug