



## **Immanuel Episcopal Church**

**Glencoe, Maryland**

### **Community Profile**

**February 2009**

The panoramic view of North Baltimore County as seen from the bell tower of Immanuel Episcopal Church thrills every soul brave enough to climb up there. What's the view?

#### **NORTH**

Begin with the northerly view: this includes the communities Glencoe, Monkton, Hereford, Parkton and Freeland. Together they form a graceful patchwork of gently undulating hills dotted with cornfields and cows. Close by is the Gunpowder River, a meandering stream, which is the delight of bikers, hikers, paddlers, tubers and fishermen.

The marriage of forests and fields makes good on the road signs that promise a 'scenic byway'. This area is rich in the lore of fox hunting, strong in its need to preserve a natural beauty, always hewing to the traditions of family and church, favoring a good education and responsible living. The community reflects a desire for excellence in its churches and schools, as indeed the local public elementary, middle and high schools are all classified as "National Blue Ribbon Schools. Tremendous pride is accorded to the Hereford Bulls, whose girls' and boys' athletic teams often reach and attain the state championships.

From brick ranchers, traditional colonials and grand estates, the residents here choose to live in the country and drive to the cities of Towson, Baltimore, and even York, Pennsylvania for work. At its most northerly point you'll find the historic Mason Dixon Line, separating Maryland and Pennsylvania. Shrewsbury PA is the home of a Super Wal-Mart, Home Depot, restaurants and antique shops, drawing Marylanders daily.

## **SOUTH**

Just south of Immanuel is Hunt Valley, the newly crowned town center of Baltimore County, (a title formerly held by Towson) that brings in residents from all four corners of the county. The draw? The Hunt Valley Towne Center, an open air mall featuring Wegman's supermarket, Regal Cinemas, restaurants, and every shopping delight. Hunt Valley and the nearby Loveton Business Park are the county's northern most employment centers with corporate headquarters or branch offices for FILA USA, McCormick & Co, Becton Dickinson and technology companies. Loyola College and the Community College of Baltimore County have campuses in Hunt Valley. The light rail provides convenient transportation to downtown.

Hunt Valley exits off I83 and I695 lead to Cockeysville, Timonium, Lutherville and Towson. This densely-populated area is home to Towson Towne Center, Goucher College and Towson University, plus myriad strip malls, shopping centers, businesses, banks, restaurants, fast food emporiums, and the Maryland State Fair Grounds. Here one also finds an assortment of abodes as well, ranging from apartments and townhouses to single and double family homes. Excellent private schools draw many to the area as succeeding generations seek to expose their young to academic excellence.

Our most southern view is of Baltimore City, famous for its eclectic neighborhoods and small town feel. Nevertheless, it is a metropolitan area complete with its own national football team, the Baltimore Ravens, and its baseball team, the Baltimore Orioles. Institutes of Higher learning, including Johns Hopkins University, Maryland Institute College of Art, the Peabody Conservatory, St. Mary's Seminary, the College of Notre Dame, Loyola College, University of Baltimore and many more draw thousands of students each year in the quest for professional degrees.

The city offers a wealth of work opportunities with such companies as Legg Mason, Lockheed Martin, Black & Decker, McCormick & Company, T. Rowe Price, Constellation Energy Group, Marriott International and many more. Baltimore City is also Maryland's 'Mecca' for art, culture, science, aquatics, and renowned medical facilities such as Johns Hopkins, Union Memorial, Sinai Hospital and GBMC. The famous Inner Harbor is a tourist destination offering attractions such as the National Aquarium and the Baltimore Science Center. Tall ships anchored in the harbor and can be boarded and explored while live bands serenade dockside.

## **EAST**

From Immanuel's bell tower, looking east, our eyes fill with another region of beauty. The ebb and flow of sprawling countryside and small towns make up the communities of Jacksonville, Jarrettsville, My Lady's Manor, and Sweet Air. There you'll find steeple chase races, polo matches, a farmer bailing hay, the Manor Tavern, a local favorite for steak and ale, and our sister church and private school, St. James Episcopal and St. James Academy, respectively. Once again we are taken to a more serene destination where Ladew Topiary Gardens inspires our green thumbs and orchestrates concerts under the stars while children play in fountains and hide behind masses of flowering shrubs.

## WEST

To complete the panorama we turn westward. In the far distance, out of eye sight, in the south west corner is Washington D.C. Residents in Butler, Reisterstown, Randallstown, Glyndon and Owings Mills often commute into the Washington Metropolitan Region finding home prices more affordable and traffic a matter for patience and quiet resignation. Much of the landscape in Farms, family estates passed down through the centuries, the Victorian settlement of Glyndon, recreational facilities and the Baltimore Ravens' Training Camp. The internationally-known Grand National and Maryland Hunt Cup steeplechase races are held each April.

Suffice it to say, North Baltimore County and its surrounding regions are special in many ways, continually drawing new families, keeping long timers even longer and making 'home' one you'll never want to leave.

