



IMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH GLENCOE, MARYLAND

PARISH PROFILE

February 2009

Immanuel Episcopal Church is home for a parish family coming mostly from the rural areas of central Maryland--northern Baltimore and Harford counties. The church on Glencoe Road, several miles north of Cockeysville and Hunt Valley in Sparks, is a pastoral church of approximately 100 households.

At Immanuel, which means "God with us", the Lord is at the forefront of our lives, in our worship, our outreach programs, our music, our educational programs and our community activities. Immanuel currently seeks a priest who will challenge, inspire and nurture our parishioners in all these pursuits of our communal life.

MISSION STATEMENT

(adopted by the Vestry on 1/18/92; reaffirmed in 10/94)

Our purpose is to come together as individuals in unity to love and serve the Lord and one another in Christian fellowship. By the grace of God, through prayer, worship and stewardship, we will minister to our fellow parishioners, our community, our Diocese, and God's whole world.

Our Welcoming Statement below is an invitation to anyone who comes to us, including our next rector:

IMMANUEL'S WELCOMING STATEMENT

Following our long-standing, intentional practice, Immanuel Episcopal Church in Glencoe, Maryland, extends a warm welcome and an invitation to join us in community and worship to all people who desire to love and worship God, follow the example and teachings of Jesus Christ, and seek loving fellowship with others in His church. We extend this welcome and invitation especially to all who may have particular reason to think that they may not be welcome because of physical appearance, physical or mental ability, ethnic or religious background, sexual orientation, financial circumstance, or past or present sins. We confess that we are not a community already perfected in love. But we want to become more fully loving, and we welcome into our community all who wish to join us in this endeavor. (1999)

In our midst, you will find:

A mixture of cradle Episcopalians, former members of other Protestant denominations and the Catholic Church, and some parishioners who have had little experience with organized religion

Farmers, stockbrokers, realtors, teachers, administrators, salespeople, lawyers, health professionals, care providers, horse trainers, graphic artists, construction managers, writers, cooks and others retired from similarly diverse occupations

Employed, unemployed, underemployed and retired persons and some on disability

Some households with large, small and extended families, and some with single, divorced and widowed parishioners

WWII and Vietnam Veterans, and several now in the armed forces

A congregation which is seeking to better live out God's word as individuals and together as a worshipping community

HISTORY

From its founding on, the McCulloch family has been a source of strength to Immanuel. Anna McCulloch, founder of Oldfields School, a boarding school for young ladies, was also one of the founders of Immanuel. Her son, the Rev. Duncan McCulloch, was headmaster of Oldfields and second Rector of Immanuel. It was with a gifts of land from the McCulloch family and neighbors, and of stone from a nearby quarry contributed by the Mowell family, that Immanuel Church's cornerstone was laid in 1871. In



1875, the Diocesan Convention approved the formation of a vestry for a separate congregation of about eight families. Two years later, a Rectory was built for the first full-time Rector, the Rev. Randolph Mason. In 1881, a small church school building (later to serve as the parish house) was constructed. The cemetery was established in 1886. Since religious training was an integral part of an Oldfields education, the proximity of the school to the church—just up the road—eliminated any further need for the young ladies of Oldfields to journey Sundays by horse and buggy to St. James' Church in My Lady's Manor.

The congregation expanded after World War II, requiring an addition to the parish house. This new space made it possible for Immanuel to found Cub Scout Pack #485 and Boy Scout Troop #485. Both groups flourish to the present, with 25 and 40 members, respectively. In 1979, the construction of Broadmead Retirement Community, just a few miles south of Glencoe, increased membership. The parish house was expanded again in 1988.

RECENT HISTORY

For almost half a century (1955 – 2001), Immanuel was served by just two rectors. During this period, the parish undertook two expansions of the parish house, sponsored junior and senior youth groups, and supported numerous outreach activities to aid local and regional charitable organizations. In the most recent eight years (prior to September 2008), the congregation has been served by one Interim rector, a rector who resigned, and a Priest-in-Charge who, with the mutual agreement of the Vestry, chose to leave after two years. These extraordinary events created controversy, hurt and loss of both members and income. The relationship between the ordained ministers and key members of the laity suffered. Nevertheless, in 2006, Immanuel launched a very successful Capital Campaign to fund much-needed renovations in the church and parish house. Amidst the underlying unrest, pledges were raised, work was executed, construction issues were resolved and the results achieved are generally viewed as spectacular!

The recent rotating rectorships have helped the congregation determine its expectations regarding the roles and responsibilities of the next rector, now expressed in the Rector's Position Description. Our commitment to extensive renovations underlies our belief that growth will proceed from deliberate planning.

FOND MEMORIES

Over the past half-century, Immanuel has supported a variety of long-term programs and activities in support of the growth of our parish and its outreach to the surrounding community and beyond: Square Dancing ('50s), Parish Day School ('50s and '60s), Immanuel Horse Show held at Bacon Hall Farm ('60s and '70s), Cotillion dancing lessons ('60s), annual July 4th fireworks on the lower field ('50s - '70s), luncheons and bridge parties, Youth Group rafting trips down the whitewater of the Youghiogheny River in Pennsylvania ('70s), Antique Shows ('80s), fall Harvest flings parading down Glencoe Road with police escort ('90s), auctions and dinner theater fundraisers for Habitat for Humanity and Paul's Place (late '80s and '90s), and, most recently, the Art Shows and Concert Series (early 2000's).

WORSHIP AND LITURGY

Immanuel Church enjoys a rich and varied life of worship and liturgy. Lay involvement is an essential feature of worship, as a fairly large percentage of the congregation volunteers in some capacity every Sunday as acolytes, lay chalcists, lay readers and intercessors, ushers, lay visitors and members of the Altar and Flower Guilds. From September through early June, two worship services are held each Sunday morning, using The Book of Common Prayer and including a formal sermon. The 8:00 am service is a Rite I Eucharist. The 10:15 am service follows a rotating format, celebrating Holy Eucharist (Rite II) on the first and third Sundays of the month and Morning Prayer (Rite I or II) on the second and fourth Sundays. Fifth Sundays are not set, providing flexibility in liturgical services. During the summer months, a celebration of the Holy Eucharist is held at 9:00 am. Coffee hour hosts provide refreshments following the 10:15 service and the summer services.

Throughout the year there are special commemorative services. For example, in January, The Festival of the Baptism of our Lord is also a celebration of godparents and godchildren. Scout Sunday, commemorated nationally on the second Sunday in February, honors Boy Scout Troop 485 which holds its meetings at Immanuel Church. Every year, in mid-October, members of Oldfields School and Immanuel gather in Immanuel's cemetery at the McCulloch family's graves for a Founder's Day service. On the Sundays before Veteran's Day and Memorial Day, the Boy Scouts provide a color guard and pay tribute by placing flags on the graves of the many veterans buried in the cemetery, dating back to the Civil War. Perhaps the most famous person in the cemetery is Henry Perky, inventor of Shredded Wheat.

MUSIC

Immanuel's congregation is a singing congregation and enthusiastically joins the choir at the 10:15 am service every Sunday. The 11-member choir comprises volunteer and professional members whose singing is enhanced by Immanuel's new 12-rank Casavant organ. Immanuel's annual Concert Series complements the musical program with five concerts each year, featuring either the choir or external musical groups, such as the Peabody Ragtime Ensemble.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Church School classes for children use a program based on the Workshop Rotation Model and are in session from September through May. Guided by the Church School Administrator and a team of volunteer teachers, the children are introduced to one theme, e.g., Noah's Ark, which runs for three weeks. Each week the children participate alternately in cooking, drama and storytelling activities to illustrate the theme. One Sunday each month, the children come to church to participate in the service, often helping to celebrate special events through songs and dramatic presentations. Middle school children have their own church school class. They engage the parish in several fundraising projects for outreach each year, and they learn how to serve as acolytes.

OUTREACH

Outreach has always been an integral part of Immanuel Church. From the very beginning in 1881, there has been a program to help needy local families. Now, while still helping people who live in our community, our prayers and support go further afield. Our little church has accomplished much —both financially and through hands-on projects. Immanuel has provided long-term outreach support to: Paul's Place (a community outreach center in southwest Baltimore); Episcopal Community Services (the Diocese's multi-faceted outreach programs to needy persons in Baltimore); Catonsville Children's Home (providing Christmas presents for the teenage boys in residence); Sparks Needy Families (targeted support throughout the year for local families); various charitable organizations designated by the Thanksgiving, Christmas, Good Friday and Easter offerings; an Anglican Diocese in East Africa through the sale of African crafts; and local food banks and national and international organizations supported by the annual CROP walk, organized by the middle school group.

Newer outreach projects include the Sheila Vickers Memorial Scholarship fund to support the tuition of a student studying organ at the Peabody Institute as well as support for Immanuel youth to participate in Diocesan work trips to Honduras.

WOMEN OF IMMANUEL

This volunteer group coordinates many of the parish's social events, including weekly coffee hour after the 10:15 service, and also supports several outreach projects each year through membership dues. For the past 20 years, the annual bus trip to points of historical and cultural interest in Maryland and neighboring states brings together members of the congregation and the community at large. Given that many women in the parish work full-time, this group meets in the evening.

FACILITIES AND GROUNDS

The church property is located on eleven wooded acres on top of a hill overlooking Oldfields School. In addition to the 137-year-old stone church, which seats 100 persons in the pews and 12 more in the choir, there is a parish house and a rectory. The rectory is a 132-year-old, five-bedroom house with a detached three-bay garage. Since its construction, the rectory has served as the home for the rector until 2001. Two subsequent short-term rectors chose to live in their own homes. The first floor is currently used for meetings and special events. Church offices for the rector, Parish Administrator and bookkeeper are housed on the second floor. Moving the church offices from the parish house to the rectory was designed to conserve energy. All rooms used as offices can revert to living space, if desired. The parish house includes a commercial kitchen on the first floor, adjacent to the large open space used weekly for Sunday's coffee hour, receptions, Boy Scout meetings and yoga classes. The Sunday School uses the six rooms located on the lower level. An enclosed play area with swings, jungle gym, etc. is located outside the lower level, bordering the cemetery.

MEMBERSHIP, BUDGET AND STAFF

Today we number some 225 members (in 100 households), with 85 in attendance on an average Sunday. The Sunday School is composed of 29 children from 4 to 10 years of age. Over the past several years, the annual budget has run in the general range of \$225,000. Our endowment provides income from interest and also from the principle, when necessary. The present trend in these membership and income figures is moderately downward, following the general patterns in most churches everywhere. About 10% of our income goes to the support of diocese and general church programs (by diocesan formula), and some 51% provides for the position of rector and our four part-time staff (Parish Administrator, Organist and Choir Director, Sunday School Administrator, and bookkeeper). The remainder is dedicated to programs and maintenance expenses.

RECENT EVENTS

2006: Capital Campaign is launched to renovate our church and Parish House and to purchase a new pipe organ. Building upon a bequest of \$300,000, Immanuel raised an additional \$450,000 in (eight months) from within the congregation to carry out the campaign. We borrowed from our endowment for our Capital Campaign and are now paying it back.

April 2007: Renovations completed in the Parish House, including air conditioning

May 2007: Immanuel included as a stop in the Maryland House and Garden Tour of historic Glencoe

November 18, 2007: Bishop Rabb presided over the rededication of the church

September 7, 2008: Arrival of current Priest-in-Charge, the Rev. P. Kingsley Smith

October 5, 2008: Inaugural concert for new Casavant pipe organ, featuring Henry Lowe, organist

November 2008: Michael Neubauer, 16-year-old parishioner, received an Outstanding Youth Award from the Hereford Optimists for his support of Immanuel's pre-K and kindergarten classes

ONE PARTICULARLY MEMORABLE EVENT

September 7, 2008 – This was our traditional “welcome back” after the summer schedule; and it was the welcoming day for our new Priest-in-Charge. The day before, we had had a terrible storm and Saturday evening we heard that power was out throughout Glencoe and that trees were down – blocking both approaches to the church. When the power is out, there is also no water.

Not knowing what to expect on Sunday morning, the intrepid 8 o'clockers set the tone – and parked either at the Oldfields entrance or came into the field below the cemetery and hiked up the wet hill, on to the Mary Horner Memorial Path, through the woods, and then reached the summit. Those coming for the 10:15 service followed suit, coming from both

directions. Everyone helped out – providing an arm going up the hill, giving a hearty greeting to those who emerged from the woods and helping to carry items for the silent auction or coffee hour. The sun provided light for reading for both services and for the 10:15 service, our magnificent choir led us in singing without the organ. We had a wonderful assortment of goodies for coffee hour (minus the coffee) and we had lots of lemonade thanks to an extra huge thermos that was hauled up the driveway. The collective will to hold these services and be together to welcome Pastor Kingsley Smith was truly remarkable!

We have a tremendous array of talented and dedicated people in our midst. Among the many examples of how this talent finds expression are: our faithful Sunday School teachers; a parishioner coming to spread salt before 8am on icy Sunday mornings; lay visitors taking flowers to the sick and shut-ins; glorious flower arrangements that adorn the church weekly; excellence in music and in the service of lay readers, chaliceists, acolytes and the Altar and Flower Guilds; and our volunteer FOTOS (Friends of The Office) who assist with routine office tasks. We struggle in our efforts to reach out successfully to find ways for each and every member to contribute time, talent and treasure. Consequently, some of us are overworked while others are overlooked in the routine tasks of parish life.

GOALS

As we look to the future, we need to focus on the following:

Expanding our outreach – now that our buildings are completely renovated, we need to turn our focus outward again and consider how our parish resources, including our physical plant, can become better instruments of expanded outreach for our community and beyond.

Providing opportunities for parish children of middle-school and high-school age. While our Sunday School provides active engagement for children from 4-10 years old, we are currently lacking a structured educational program for older children in middle school and high school. Without this offering, we tend to lose these older children and their parents.

Attracting new members and keeping current ones– our niche among the Episcopal churches in our area is that we are fairly small and that almost everyone knows each other and truly cares for one another; however, there is room for growth to equip us to carry out a more expanded offering of ministries to the congregation and the wider community. Our peaceful setting is what calls many to us; conversely, our rural isolation can work against us.

Increasing our financial stewardship – while our endowment provides investment income to help cover annual operating costs, we have depended upon it for too much in recent years. The current economic downturn is the proverbial “straw” that will push us to reconcile our income and expenses in order to be faithful stewards of the financial resources present in our endowment and newly pledged each year for our operating budget.

