

Founded 1871
Celebrating 139 Years
Immanuel's Messenger
January, 2011

Immanuel Episcopal Church 1509 Glencoe Road Glencoe, Maryland 21152 410- 472-2828
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From the Rector:

The New Calendar Year

While our Church Year began with Advent in late November 2010, our secular calendar brings us to this time of a new year in January 2011. This also happens to be halfway through our academic/program year, which makes it a time not only for New Year's resolutions, but also for mid-year reviews of programming.

A few new, interesting, and well-done things so far in 2010-2011:

- Informative and fun adult ed discussions offered seasonally on Sunday mornings
- A dedicated and reflective group learning and praying together monthly around our study of *The Hidden Power of the Gospels*
- Thriving Sunday School program
- A growing adult choir
- Brand new children's choir
- Intentional planning around worship, hymn choices, and prayers used
- Weekly donations to our local food bank provided at the offertory
- A cohesive, prayerful, and visioning vestry
- More dedicated volunteers and ministries than I can possibly name here!

A few new goals or things to work on before summer:

- Meeting of a new outreach committee to determine goals and programs for the future
- Additional pastoral visits by the Rector (Would you like to be visited? Please contact the Rector or Dary Schmidt in the parish office!)
- Updated records for all staff members in keeping with diocesan and legal policies
- A review by the vestry of last May's goals from Parish Celebration Day
- Launch of a new parish website with updated look and new information and photos

There are always more goals than can be accomplished, but these are some of my top priorities. What are yours? Please share your thoughts anytime. Also, I heartily thank the Rev. Kingsley Smith for his continued work on our parish register. As some of you know, an entire book of records has been missing for some time. This has made it difficult for us to create parish directories, fill out diocesan paperwork, and to make transfers if requested by other parishes. When asked for information, please make one of your goals to help in re-creating accurate parish records for us and for future generations who look back on our books. Thank You!

The Rev. Megan E. Stewart-Sicking

"Feed my sheep" --John 1:15

The apostolic church knew that its greatest responsibility and its most wonderful privilege were to share the good news about God in Christ Jesus: we are, always, everyone, everywhere, beloved and loving, forgiven and forgiving, truly alive.

The disciples, who had been "as sheep without a shepherd," were themselves changed into shepherds called to share with one another and all the lost sheep--including those who somehow thought they were not lost

As Immanuel enters into a new year and a new era, we realize that "feeding" those entrusted to our care requires counting them (that's how the shepherd knew one of his 100 lambs was missing).

Unfortunately for many years we have not kept careful track of our communicants, that is, those 16 or over who have been confirmed by a bishop, here or, if elsewhere, transferred in. I hope to bring our parish register up to date, but I need your help.

I am making four lists:

#1 is of those who have been entered as confirmed or transferred from another church and who are currently active in supporting our ministries and worship (I count about 38).

#2 is of those active but not recorded as communicants (there are at least 60 of you). They are to tell us when and where they were confirmed or received and, as needed, we will send a Letter of Transfer to the former churches--or we will ask if you might be interested in Confirmation when the Bishop of Maryland visits us this spring.

#3 is of those who are on our current mailing list but who, for whatever reason, are not active supporters, perhaps because they belong to other parishes but attend Immanuel with family or friends (about 40).

#4 includes all those who were on old communicant lists who have not, so far as we know, moved away or died or joined another church--at least 30 folks.

If all this sounds a bit too bureaucratic, be assured that *all people* who look to Immanuel as their home in Christ are members of his body--

welcome to receive at his table and to share in our fellowship, learning and outreach. It has been truly said, "Administering is ministering."

The Rev. Kingsley Smith ~~

Highlights from the December 14th Vestry Meeting

There will be two services on Christmas Eve and one on Christmas morning. The Vestry agreed the Christmas Offering would be allocated to one local charity and one international charity. The local charity is the Maryland Fuel Fund and the balance of the funds would be sent to Haiti via Tracy Bruce, Rector of St. John's in Glyndon. Reverend Bruce has been instrumental in helping a Haitian Music School rebuild following the earthquake's devastation.

Pastor Smith is working on updating Immanuel's Church Register, the official record of all Church members, baptisms, confirmations, etc. The Register has not been updated since 1995 -- more than 15 years ago! This is a large undertaking and we are most fortunate Pastor Smith is willing and able to take on such a project. More information will be forthcoming on this in the future.

ANNUAL MEETING - 2010

The Annual Meeting of Immanuel Church took place on Sunday, November 14, 2010, in the church, beginning at 11:15am. Our rector, The Rev. Megan Stewart-Sicking, presided. There were approximately 60 members present. The following summarizes the proceedings.

Mary Frances Wagley gave the Stewardship Committee report. Mary Frances reported approximately \$110,000 in pledges had been committed as of the date of the meeting.

Chuck Gilbert presented the Treasurer's report. This included projected income and expense

information through the end of 2010. Chuck estimated income and expenses for 2010 will total \$140,468 and \$219,572, respectively. This will require a transfer of \$79,104 from the Church's Investment Account. The amount of this transfer is consistent with prior years going back to 2006, with the exception of 2007 and 2008, in which we withdrew \$59,212 and \$44,030, respectively. The estimated balance in the Investment Fund Account at 12/31/10 is \$1,017,646.

Chuck also circulated summary budget information for 2011. He and the Finance Committee have reduced 2011 budgeted expenses as much as possible without negatively impacting any programs. Income for 2011 is budgeted for \$130,300, requiring a transfer from the Investment Account of \$78,108. Chuck encouraged any one who is interested in more detail to contact him for a complete copy of the 2011 budget once it is finalized. Additionally, all Vestry meetings are open and any one interested in learning more about the Church's budgeting process is welcome and encouraged to attend the meetings.

Rev. Megan Stewart-Sicking, Rudi Horner, Senior Warden, and Doug Whatley, Junior Warden, presented proposed changes to the Church's by-laws. The first change involved an update to the wording in Article I, Section 2. The second, more significant change entailed reducing the number of Vestry in Article II, Section 2, from twelve to nine. Note, the number of officers would remain unchanged; there are currently four officers: Senior and Junior Wardens, Treasurer and Registrar. The congregation voted in favor of the changes as proposed.

Rev. Megan Stewart-Sicking presented Carole Hayes as a candidate for the Vestry. This was approved by those present at the meeting.

Dr. Alex Haller, Immanuel's Representative to the Horizons Gathering, provided a report on the Diocesan program, Horizons 2015, following the acronym PEACE. He gave an update on Bishop Sutton's progress and thinking towards establishing a new Episcopal school in Baltimore

City and encouraged everyone to continue to be aware of, and responsive to, the Diocese's efforts to turn these plans into realities.

The Annual Meeting was not officially closed since the parish needs to vote on a second candidate for Vestry, once that candidate is identified.

After the Annual Meeting, we had a pot-luck lunch with major portions prepared by the "Men of Immanuel".

Reflecting on the Season of New Beginnings

This message is being written in Advent, the season of new beginnings. We have been reminded in the sermons and our Adult Education sessions that this period of shorter days and longer darkness is actually not an end, but a beginning. And, last year at this very time our parish embarked on a new beginning with a new rector. Let us give thanks, especially during this season, for the new ministry and ministries that Megan, Joe and Sam have initiated with us and the combined ministries that we all share as the faith community of Immanuel Church.

Rudi Horner

Members whose terms are complete: Todd Ensor, Catherine Klein, and Katie Ritter.

The Rector

Hereford Food Bank Collections

Please remember to bring your canned goods and other non-perishable food items to church for the offertory every Sunday. As the baskets fill, we will continue to make deliveries to the Hereford Food Bank. At this time they especially appreciate canned fruits, boxed rices and potatoes, and coffee. Thank you!

Coffee Hour Fellowship

Coffee hours are a time of fellowship and are held immediately after the 10:15 a.m. service (after 9:00 a.m. in summer). It is a wonderful time to catch up on news with friends and meet new ones. We need Coffee Hour Hosts. The coffee, tea and lemonade are provided. All you have to do is setup and cleanup. If you would like to bring a snack or two, that would be most appreciated. If you need assistance in setting up and/or cleaning up, please let us know. If you would like to host a coffee hour, please call Bobbie Ensor at 410-472-2206.

Property Perusal

Ah, we have reached the time of good intentions. The endless lists which we all keep have been taken out, refreshed, re-written in a convincing bold hand. Things will get done! Accomplishments will happen!

But don't they often seem to take far longer than we expected, and turn out differently? And worst of all, when finally accomplished, do they feel of not nearly such a big deal as when they gleamed large and important on our list?

Rather than the details, for this month of promises and goals, the property committee pledges that we will do our best to implement ongoing initiatives plus respond to the unforeseen, to care for, protect and preserve Immanuel's buildings and grounds. We will faithfully try to keep them safe and comfortable to serve you in community or in quiet solitude. We will fall short of some goals, and others will take us too long. Should you feel tasked by this, we always welcome hands to help.

Welcome, January. Welcome earth hard as iron, water like a stone. Welcome snow that falls, snow on snow. Welcome to another winter that will not break us, but make us stronger. These old buildings will endure.

Sincerely,
Katie Ritter

P.S. please do try and remember leaving church or meetings to follow the notes that tell you how to return the heat to chilly levels when the buildings are not used, to close doors tightly at all times, and to dress warmly so we can keep heat costs down.

Women of Immanuel

The Women of Immanuel donated Christmas gifts to The Catonsville Children's Home. There were 12 boys from two cottages. On December 8th we "wrapped" the gifts and Donna Sieverts took the gifts to the Children's Home. With the donations that we received we were also able to give a check as a group gift to the boys. Thank you to Donna Sieverts, all the shoppers and to everyone who donated. We could not do this year after year if it wasn't for you. Thank you!

Our next meeting is Sunday, January 16th after the 10:15 am service. All women of Immanuel are invited to attend. We will be discussing the future plans for Women of Immanuel.

Sunday School News

We have many things happening in Sunday School: the children's choir, the pageant, and the donations for the food bank.

First, Jen has organized the children's choir. They practice each week after a quick cookie at coffee hour. Last week we had 11 children practicing. Their debut will be at the pageant on January 2.

Secondly, the pageant will be Sunday January 2. It is Good News of Great Joy. Our classic parts are Mary, Joseph, shepherds, sheep, and innkeepers. We have some unique roles in this pageant. We have the Sister of Innkeeper 2 and a sheepdog. Sam is the Sheepdog. He has been a very patient player waiting for his line during the practices. Actually for being one of the youngest, he is one of the most patient during the practices. Jen has been sneaking out and missing the

sermons. She has been helping us, during the sermons, showing how each role moves around in the pageant. We are also learning some stage phrases. Many thanks to Gwen Sieck and Michael Neubauer for helping practice all the lines. They have been instrumental in substituting for children who have been absent during the play practices.

Lastly, the children have been very motivated in bringing in canned goods and non-perishables for the Food Bank. The children process with their donations during the Offertory.

Please call your relatives and godparents to come to the Pageant with Children's Choir on January 2.

Coleman Mettee
Sunday School Coordinator

Choir Notes

After debuting during the Christmas pageant, the newly formed children's choir will be taking a break for 2 weeks. We will resume on January 23, at 11:45am. Practices will continue each week at that time, with the children singing 2 or 3 times during the winter/spring time. Parents of any children interested in singing (including those who have already joined the choir) should plan on being there for the first few minutes of rehearsal on the 23rd. If you know that your child(ren) are interested but you and/or they cannot be there on the 23rd, please let me know!

The adult choir is looking for more members. Anyone who likes to sing is welcome! Have a busy schedule? You do not have to commit to every single week for the rest of the season – perhaps you could just sing during Lent and Easter, or just for 1 month at a time. The adult choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7:30pm to 9pm and meets at 9am on Sundays to warm up, rehearse a bit, and prepare for the service. After a brief break following Christmas,

we will begin singing again on Thursday, January 6.

Jen Newgent

Interim Director of Music Ministries

“Cash for Kids”

Thank you Sarah Ebert for again volunteering to collect and tally the cash register receipts for the “Cash for Kids” program. The receipts will be **PINK** this year. Please collect them and deposit them in the container provided in the church vestibule. For each \$25,000 collected in pink Graul's cash register receipts, we will receive a check in the amount of \$250 to benefit our Sunday School. The “Cash for Kids” program runs through March 27, 2011. So far we have collected **\$8,711.71** in receipts. Last year we did not make our \$25,000 in collected receipts until the very last one. Please keep bringing your pink receipts to church!!

Your participation in this worthwhile program is greatly appreciated!

From the Office:

Reminder: My office hours are Mon. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Wed. and Thurs. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. You may reach me at 410-472-2828. If I am unavailable, please leave a voice message and I will return your call as soon as possible. You may also email me at: office.imm@verizon.net

Dary Schmidt - Your Parish Administrator

Newsletter Deadlines

All articles, photos, inserts, and updates are kindly requested by 2:30pm on:

The second Monday of each month.

Please give to Dary, or email to office.imm@verizon.net

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 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.

Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Megan E. Stewart-Sicking, Rector, immanuelrector@gmail.com
The Rev. Kingsley Smith, Assisting Priest, pksmith@comcast.net
Ms. Jen Newgent, Interim Director of Music Ministries, jen.newgent@yahoo.com
Ms. Dary Schmidt, Parish Administrator, office.imm@verizon.net
Ms. Coleman, Mettee, Church School Administrator
Ms. Cathy Tipper, Business Manager, crtipper@aol.com

Vestry and Officers

Rudi Horner, Senior Warden, Doug Whatley, Junior Warden,
Chuck Gilbert, Treasurer, Nelly Perkins, Registrar,
Deborah Cunningham, Carol Hayes, Doug Gunn,
Gayle Hagan, Bunkie Hopkins,
Mary Jane Shanks, Pam Swanson,
and Mary Frances Wagley

January 2011

Jan. 1		New Year's Day	Jan. 17	2:30 p.m.	Newsletter Deadline
Jan. 2	10:15 a.m.	2 Christmas Christmas Pageant & H.E. II	Jan. 20	7:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Jan. 4	7:00 p.m.	Adult Education Class	Jan. 23	8:00 a.m.	3 Epiphany Holy Eucharist I
Jan. 6	7:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal		10:10 a.m.	Sunday School
Jan. 9	8:00 a.m.	1 Epiphany Holy Eucharist I		10:15 a.m.	Morning Prayer w/H. E. II
	10:10 a.m.	Sunday School	Jan. 27	1:00 p.m.	Newsletter Team Meets
	10:15 a.m.	Baptism w/H. E. II		7:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Jan. 11	7:30 p.m.	Vestry Meeting – Parish Hall	Jan. 30	8:00 a.m.	4 Epiphany Holy Eucharist I
Jan. 13	7:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal		10:10 a.m.	Sunday School
Jan. 16	8:00 a.m.	2 Epiphany Holy Eucharist I		10:15 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II
	10:10 a.m.	Sunday School		11:15 a.m.	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	10:15 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II			