

Founded 1871
Immanuel's Messenger

December, 2008

Immanuel Episcopal Church 1509 Glencoe Road Glencoe, Maryland 21152 410- 472-2828

*The Rev. Kingsley Smith, Priest-in-Charge;
Rudi Horner, Sr. Warden; Doug Whatley, Jr. Warden;
Dary Schmidt, Parish Administrator*

From the priest-in-charge

"...Gathering winter fuel"

Like "the poor man who came in sight" of good King Wenceslas, the needs of the lost and the least of our brothers and sisters, in Northern Baltimore County, in Maryland and around the world, come into our sight with a special poignancy and urgency this month, the darkest time of our year. We can say "Not our problem" or "Nothing we can do to help" or "I'd like to do something but I don't know how" or "In this bad economy, prudence trumps generosity." Or, we can do our plain duty and find ways to share.

God has created and preserved Immanuel Church for 137 years in order to take away these "faithless fears and worldly anxieties." Mostly this is through our regular altar offerings, presented throughout the year as "our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving." Here's how this works: our annual budget for 2008 provides \$24,239, about 18% of our offerings, as our portion of the budget of the Diocese of Maryland; of this, 97% was spent on direct ministries, in state, throughout the Episcopal Church, and in overseas work. Our budget also provided \$250 for outreach to the Christian Children's Fund, \$500 to Paul's Place, and \$500 to Episcopal Community Services. There are other gifts which are not in the budget, such as Crop Walk, the Sheila Vickers music scholarship, African Crafts, and the Women of Immanuel's gifts to the Catonsville Boy's Home and \

support of the Neubauers' work camp in Honduras.

At our annual congregational meeting on Nov. 16 we heard the treasurer's report for 2008 to date and the tentative budget for 2009, calling for pledge (and plate) income of \$131,000. So far we have 58 pledges for \$93,537.

So, the first opportunity for responsible stewardship is for all of us who look to Immanuel as our family in Christ to make a commitment, however modest, or to see about increasing it. But there is also a time and place for what Jesus so vividly called "going the second mile," reaching out this month in his name in other ways. We feel a special responsibility for the Maryland Fuel Fund, a local relief agency, for Food for the Poor in Haiti (where a staple in the diet is mud cakes mixed with lard), and for Doctors Without Borders, working "where others are not going", like the Congo. To this end, we should use the Christmas envelopes provided in church each Sunday.

Doing so we may well hear, playing in our hearts and minds, the moral of that old carol:

Therefore, Christians all, be sure, wealth or rank possessing, Ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing.

Cynthia Ballard, Stewardship chair
Kingsley Smith, priest-in-charge

How the New Testament Rescues Christmas

Our December Bible classes will be on passages that show us the Biblical meaning of the Feast of the Incarnation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Some are very familiar--others, not so much. We meet in the Rectory from 9 to 10 am Sundays.

The date after each text is the year of the Common Era (= A.D.) which is the approximate date of composition.

Dec. 7 Matthew 1-2 [75]; Luke 1-3 [80]: Why are they so different?

Dec. 14 The message without stories: Galatians 4:4-7 [50]; Philippians 2:5-8 [57]; Mark 1:1 [68]

Dec. 21 Symbols and allegories: Hebrews 1:1-12 [90]; Revelation 12:1-6, 13-17 [90]

Dec. 28 Christmas creeds: John 1:1-18 [95]; Titus 3:3-5 [100]

Highlights from the Nov. 11th Vestry Meeting

At the November Vestry meeting, we spent much time reviewing and discussing the Church's proposed 2009 operating budget. Rudi Horner provided an update on our search for a Rector. Prior to Pastor Smith's arrival at Immanuel in September, we had been focused on finding an Interim. Now, with assistance from Pastor Smith, we are taking the required steps to begin an official search for a Permanent Rector. This includes writing a Church Community Profile and a Parish Profile. The Vestry expects the

documents will be finalized by the end of December so that we may begin our official search in early 2009. If you have an interest in joining the committee who will prepare these documents, please contact Rudi Horner directly. Pastor Smith has generously offered to continue working with us beyond December, 2008.

Nelly Perkins
Registrar

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Immanuel Church took place on Sunday, November 16, 2008, in the church, beginning at 11:15am. There were approximately 40 members present. The following is a summary of the proceedings. Rudi Horner, Senior Warden, thanked the outgoing Vestry members Cynthia Ballard, Julie Metcalf and Doug Whatley. Doug has vacated his Vestry seat as he has recently assumed the position of Junior Warden. The congregation elected the new members of the Vestry: Jeremy Gillam, Michael Riisager and Mary Jane Shanks. Cynthia Ballard gave the Stewardship Committee report. As of this week, 57 pledges have been received for a total of \$93,537. As of this time last year, 55 pledges had been received for \$97,392. The total pledges for 2008 eventually reached \$131,000, which is the goal now incorporated into the 2009 budget for pledge income.

Cynthia also reminded parishioners that special offering envelopes for Thanksgiving and Christmas will be available in the pews. These used to be distributed via the newsletter, but now that is not possible with the e-newsletter. The offerings collected this holiday season will be divided among: the Maryland Fuel Fund (a local charity, to which we have contributed in the past), Food for the Poor (a regional charity, focusing on Haiti and the Caribbean), and Doctors Without Borders, which operates in some of the most difficult situations worldwide). All three of these charities have high ratings for their low administrative costs.

Doug Whatley gave the Treasurer's Report. Income for 2008, which is predominantly from pledges, is on target to meet the budgeted amount. Expenses are significantly lower than expected, due to the Rev. Pat Drost's departure in May and lower-than-expected electricity usage. As a result, the "savings" accrued help to reduce the transfer needed from the endowment. In 2008, this transfer to balance the deficit budget was expected to be nearly \$100,000 (drawing on interest and principle) and now it will be approximately one-half that. Not surprisingly, Immanuel's endowment has suffered in the past year. In an effort to begin to bring expenses into line with income, the operating budget for 2009 includes straight lined salaries. For budgeting purposes, we are starting the new rector's salary on May 1. We are assuming income equal to 2008 and therefore must plan for a transfer from the endowment of nearly \$100,000. The Vestry will be seeking options for resolving this financial imbalance.

Rudi Horner reported on the search for a new rector. Given the shortage of interim priests, the Diocese has agreed to allow Immanuel to proceed directly to begin the search process for a new permanent rector. The first step is to prepare three documents: a community profile, parish profile and rector's job description. We expect to have these ready for Vestry and Diocesan approval in January. Then the actual search begins; we hope to have a new rector called by late spring. If you are interested in working on these documents, or being considered for the Search Committee, please contact Rudi Horner or any Vestry member. We are indeed fortunate that Pastor Smith has agreed to continue at Immanuel into 2009 so that we can proceed with our search. In his remarks, Pastor Smith shared that he is enjoying his work with our parish. He noted that we have a number of strengths, including our four hard-working part-time staff members and our lay leadership, and not surprisingly, we have our own set of weaknesses, as in any parish. Pastor Smith encouraged us to approach our search process with confidence and optimism.

After the meeting, everyone enjoyed a delicious pot-luck luncheon, coordinated by Linda Ambrose, President of the Women of Immanuel. Thank you to everyone who helped with set-up, providing dishes, and with clean-up. And special thanks to Deborah Cunningham who became the last-minute, pinch-hit Lay Visitor for the day.

Updated Website:

Thanks to Pam Swanson, our webmaster, and input from Gayle Hagan and Doug Whatley, our website (www.immanuelglencoe.org) is now updated, much easier to read and with additional pages. There is plenty of space available on the site for additional pictures, e.g., Sunday school children, clean-up days, etc, so please send them to Pam Swanson (pam@prgraphics.net).

Women of Immanuel

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Annual Meeting Luncheon. Also thanks to Donna Sieverts for hosting the November Evensong and Oldfields Founders Day Reception in October.

Upcoming WOI Events for December

Gift Wrapping, December 10th, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall. The WOI will be wrapping gifts for the boys at the Catonsville Children's Home. The gifts are purchased by the WOI for boys ages 13-19. Anyone interested in gift wrapping, please bring a pair of scissors, tape and wrapping paper. Also bring cookies to share. Beverages will be provided.

Our next concert is **Lessons & Carols** on December 21st at 4:00 p.m. After the concert there will be a light reception hosted by the WOI. Anyone willing to help with food, setup and/or clean-up, please call Liz Sieck at 410-472-2119 or jagers@comcast.net

Linda Ambrose

Sunday School News

We are completing our rotation on JESUS CALMS THE STORM. Next will be our pageant on Dec 14 at the 10:15 service. Be sure to invite grandparents and special visitors.

Coleman Mettee
Sunday School Coordinator

Hey, Middle and Senior Highschoolers, let's put on a show!... or at least go to one:

The Diocese of Maryland presents two great events in December:

[1] "The Bishop's Ball"

Join the youth of the Diocese for a night of music & dancing.

Celebrate Diocesan Youth Ministry with a DJ and special jam with Bishop Eugene Sutton on Saturday, December 6, 7-11 pm at St Paul's School for Girls, 11232 Falls Rd., Brooklandville. Dress: "Semi-formal"--that means no jeans.

Tickets: \$10 plus a donation for a local food bank.

Group rates for 10 or more: Can Immanuel get that many together? Sure we can.

[2] Winter Jubilee at the Bishop Claggett Center near Buckeystown (just south of Frederick), Dec. 27-28.

This is a great place and a great time to celebrate the year's end, and a way to see what Claggett is like. There are separate programs for senior and middle schoolers. Recruit a few friends and arrange car pools. It costs \$100 but the church can help out with this if you need it.

To sign up for either of both of these events, call or write or speak to Coleman Mettee 410-472-3273; electrical_pe@yahoo.com

Music Notes

During the Advent season, it is traditional for the service to begin each week with the choir singing the Advent Responsory by Palestrinia, from the rear of the church, just before the Processional Hymn. Also during the Advent season we will be using the old Merbecke communion setting from the 1940 Hymnal, and is a favorite from days gone by.

Evensong was quite well attended, with the church almost filled. The choir did a magnificent job, as always. Several people commented on how much they enjoyed the Closing Voluntary, *Marche Heroique*, by Herbert Brewer. This triumphant and stately piece was played in Westminster Abbey as the Recessional for Lord Count Batten's funeral back in the early 1980s. It has been a favorite of mine for many years and I was glad I could share it with you.

Please note that the services for Christmas Eve are: 4:00pm Family Service (no choir) 9:00pm (note this service used to be at 9:30) with the Immanuel Choir. There is also a service at 10:00 a.m. December 25th. Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 21st. the Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols at 4:00pm.

Choral Music for December is as follows:

December 7 Messiah: And The Glory Of The Lord - Handel
Messiah: He Shall Feed His Flock – Handel

December 14 Lift Up your Heads – John L. Hopkins

December 21 Messiah: O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings - Handel
Messiah: Comfort Ye - Handel

December 24 9:00pm service: Up Good Christian

Folk - G.R. Woodward
Messiah: Glory To God - Handel
Rocking - Czech Carol arr.
D. Willcocks

John Holland
Organist-Choirmaster

Concert Series

To date the Friends of Music of Immanuel Church have reached our goal of \$4,700, a BIG THANK YOU to all who helped make this possible! If you have not yet contributed and would like to, make your check payable to Immanuel Episcopal Church and mark the memo line *Concert Series* or *Friends of Music*. We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Our next concert will be the *Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols*, on Sunday, December 21st at 4:00pm. Plan now to attend this beautiful candle-light service and invite your friends.

The service of Lessons and Carols originated over 80 years ago at King's College Chapel, Cambridge, England, and has become so famous that it is broadcast world wide on Christmas Eve live, 3:00pm their time, and 10:00am our time, on National Public radio (WBJC) 91.5 FM on your dial.

The lessons are read by members of the community of Glencoe and Immanuel Church. The Immanuel Choir will sing music by composers that spans several centuries. The congregation will join in singing many familiar and favorite carols.

The service begins in the dim light of ending day. The candles in the windows and on the altar are lighted, and as the tower bell peals forth, the congregation stands, and the carol "Once In Royal David's City" is sung in procession. The lessons include Christ's birth and kingdom as foretold by Isaiah, St. Luke tells of the Angel Gabriel visiting the Virgin Mary and the birth of Jesus, then St. Matthew tells of the shepherds going to the

manger, and how the Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus. In the final lesson, St. John unfolds the Great Mystery of the Incarnation. Then all join in the final carol "Hark The Herald Angels Sing." The closing Organ Voluntary at the retiring procession will be the great Chorale Prelude "From Heaven Above To Earth I Come" by J.S. Bach. Following this service the Women of Immanuel will host a Christmas Tea in the Rectory.

To our knowledge, Immanuel is the only church in the area that offers this type of service; early seating is advised.

John Vickers, Chair, Music Committee
John Holland, Organist-Choirmaster

Christmas Memorials:

If you would like to honor the memory of a loved one with a Christmas Memorial, please send the form to the Church office by **Monday, December 15^h**. We will use money received toward the beautiful greens and decorations in the Church, and print a list of all those we remember for insertion in the Christmas bulletins.

There is no set amount for memorials, so that all may feel welcome to participate. If you send us a check, please note "Christmas Memorials" on the memo line.

Your Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Names(s) to be included on the list of Memorials:

Enclosed is my check for \$_____

Thank you.

Betsy Powell
Flower Guild

African Crafts

The recent sale of African crafts generated \$512 which supports artists and local community projects sponsored by the Anglican Diocese in East Africa. While this sales figure does not reach the totals from recent years, it still represents an annual commitment from Immanuel Church to our sisters and brothers in Africa. We can be proud of having participated in this outreach effort for over 25 years, without a break!

Thank you to everyone who contributed as a customer and to the team: Bill Eddison, Bobbie Ensor, Brooke Hagan, Stacey Haught and her daughter Elizabeth, Polly and Rudi Horner, Marcella Riisager, Dary Schmidt and Fran Tilghman.

Never Doubt The Scouts!

On Friday afternoon, November 14th, I was advised by three different friends to consider canceling this autumn's leaf rake at Immanuel. It had rained all week, the leaves were wet and heavy, and even more rain was predicted for Saturday morning.

But we only have one day in the scout's schedule each fall, as they are busy with camping trips and other service. So we have a "rain or shine" policy.

I loaded up on Saturday morning with tarps, rakes and a cart and stopped at Graul's to purchase our traditional after-rake snack of doughnuts and green tea, then headed to Immanuel almost certain that one or two half-hearted stragglers would arrive, and we would be faced with the difficult choice of 'cancel' or 'do the whole job ourselves'.

You can imagine the wild surprise and delight that the sight of *over twenty scouts and parents and parishioners*, armed with rakes and leaf blowers and standing at the ready promptly at 9 am, elicited!

Despite the heavy wet leaves, Immanuel's entire grounds were cleaned of leaves in record time. Even the path to Oldfields was cleared.

But wait...there's even more!

Immanuel has several erosion concerns we address, so that we are good guardians of the water quality in our stream that feeds the Gunpowder and eventually our Bay. We have a lot of water from the parking area that has been eroding the roots of the hill trees and the driveway below.

Leaf debris can be used very creatively. Scouts and parishioners dragged tarps of leaves into the woods below the parking lot to create a long natural berm. This will trap rainwater for a few hours after a storm, allowing it to soak into the ground more gently – and help our driveway last longer as well as protect our stream.

So to the scouts and parishioners who showed up, strong of heart and ready for the task at hand: BRAVO!!!! BRAVO!!!! BRAVO!!!!

Katie Ritter
Property Committee

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

The key to the Rectory has been relocated. If you need access to the Rectory during off hours, please call Dary Schmidt in the Church Office or Rudi Horner to learn where the key is now kept. Thank you.

Large Coffee Cans Needed:

Please bring in your large empty coffee cans. These are decorated and used to transport Sunday Altar flowers to our shut ins. Thank you.

Food for Thought

The opening of Matthew's Gospel, the genealogy, is literally and figuratively pregnant. It tells us where Jesus came from, as the Hebrew Bible prepares the way of the Lord.

We do not depend on shopping centers and TV shows to keep Lent for us, to prepare us for the death and resurrection of our Lord; why should we expect them to make us ready for his birth?

The key question is, "How can a baby be a savior?" How can we keep the spirit of Christmas all through the year? Nothing is simpler; remember, Christmas is Christ's mass, the Eucharistic celebration not only of his nativity but of his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension.

Submitted by the Rev. Kingsley Smith

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

The Newsletter Team Meets

The *third Wednesday* of each month

1:00pm – Rectory

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.

Vestry and Officers

Cynthia Ballard, Page Crosby, Bill Eddison, Todd Ensor,
Gayle Hagan, Rudi Horner, Catherine Klein, Julie Metcalf,
Nelly Perkins, Katie Ritter, Taylor Spencer, Pam Swanson,
Fran Tilghman, Mary Frances Wagley and Doug Whatley

December 2008

Dec. 2	7:30 p.m.	Vestry Meeting - Rectory	Dec. 21	Advent 4
			8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I
Dec. 7		Advent 2	9:00 a.m.	Adult Education Classes
	8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	9:00 a.m.	Adult Education Classes	10:15 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School	4:00 p.m.	Lessons and Carols/Reception
	10:15 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II		
Dec. 10	7:00 p.m.	WOI Gift Wrapping - Rectory	Dec. 24	Christmas Eve
			4:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II/Family Service
Dec. 11	7:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal	9:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II
Dec. 14		Advent 3	Dec. 25	Christmas Day
	8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I	10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II
	9:00 a.m.	Adult Education Classes		
	10:15 a.m.	Morning Prayer Rite I/Children's Christmas Pageant	Dec. 28	Christmas 1
			10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II
				No Sunday School
Dec. 18	7:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal		