

Founded 1871
Immanuel's Messenger

February, 2009

Immanuel Episcopal Church 1509 Glencoe Road Glencoe, Maryland 21152 410- 472-2828
Email: office.imm@verizon.com

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

From the priest-in-charge

“Healing Faith”

All through February the gospel lessons from Mark are about Jesus' beginning ministry in Nazareth--and they're all about healing: a man with an unclean spirit, Peter's mother-in-law's fever, many who were possessed by demons, a leper, and indeed "all who were sick." The stories come fast; it seems Mark's favorite word was "immediately," which means "at once" and also "without anything or any one between" Jesus and the poor souls dying of fear, pain, rejection by the community or shame about themselves.

Mark 1 sets the scene for his whole gospel. It's about Jesus the crucified messiah who gave his life to bring life to the lost and the lonely --to all of us. We'll be reading most of Mark's gospel this year, including the mysterious ending at 16:8. Let's all take the few hours right now to read it through, imagining the evangelist himself showing up one day in Glencoe and holding us spellbound by his story, ending with the women at the empty tomb, when "astonishment and trembling had come upon them," What did they do then? What will we do now?

In the end is the beginning: good news for a sick world, fallen humanity suffering mostly from self-inflicted wounds. How (in heaven's name!) does the death of Jesus bring eternal life to us? We begin by asking "How did the compassion of the

Galilean preacher cure the aches and pains and anxieties of those who first came to him?" The Bible does not try to describe the therapies or prescribe the medicines but tells the story: there is a need, not denied but honestly admitted; there is hope for help, not despair; there is welcome by Jesus and trust by the those in need; there is a flow of mutual affection as his generosity and their gratitude leap like a spark between them. And then the sick and injured, who had been treated as "in-valids," are validated by being restored to the community.

The Church has never forgotten these stories, though sometimes the connection between faith and healing has been forgotten. Sometimes it has been distorted into "faith healing," which implies that faith is only a means for overcoming our mental and physical handicaps, and which is exploited by the greedy and superstitious. "Healing faith," on the other hand, puts first things first. That is what we will keep in our minds and hearts this February (which is, after all, "heart month"). To make this part of our parish life, we will do two things in our worship services"

[1] At all our Eucharists we invite anyone to receive prayers for healing, with the laying-on-of-hands. It works like this: when you come to kneel or stand at the altar for communion, if you wish to receive such a prayer, for yourself or on behalf of someone for whom you are a caregiver, hold your hands palms together and the priest will say the prayer, and then give you the consecrated

bread. It is a simple, brief and quite private way of uniting God's blessing and your faith. Anyone may do this; no-one has to; some should.

[2] Prayers for all those who are sick or injured, members of the Immanuel family and others who have asked for our prayers are an important part of our worship. We carefully list in the bulletin the names that have been given us and the intercessors have repeated the first names aloud. Some of these folks who were put on a long time ago we have lost track of. Maybe some have died but others have recovered! Help us to update the list. Also some have chronic afflictions while others are acutely ill or injured, currently in hospital or active therapy. It seems better that we focus on that group by name in our spoken prayers, while still remembering the others, listing their names and always adding aloud "and all those for whom our prayers are asked." We'll do it that way this month and then see how we feel about this.

~~Kingsley Smith

"When Lent comes marching in"

February 25, Ash Wednesday, will soon be here. In French, the day before is "Mardi Gras," or in Spanish, it's Carne-val", with the focus on fat and meat (and candy and whatever other indulgences we fancy).

But for us Anglicans, who know our Olde English, it's "Shrove Tuesday." No--a shrove is not a buttery sweet pancake; it's the past tense of "shrive," to confess, and to be shaven, forgiven, by God's mercy mediated by Jesus through his Church. In fact, one of the specific and vital functions of an Episcopal priest is "to declare God's forgiveness to penitent sinners."

Here's how we'll do this at Immanuel: on Tuesday, Feb. 24, at 6 p.m. we all gather in the parish hall for a gala supper, with the traditional pancakes to eat, and some surprises to go with them, with music, paper hats, masks, and of course beads,

Then, to the tune of (what else) "When the saints go marching in," we proceed into church, where we cast off the gala hats and beads and settle into a solemn mood of prayer, hearing the commandments of God and reflecting on how far short we have fallen. We replace our "alleluias" (Praise the Lord) with "hosanna" (Help us, Lord) and confess our sins--each of us our secret faults, and all us our failings, as a nation, as a community, and as a church. Only then we can truly hear "the comfortable words Christ says to all who truly turn to him."

As a sign of our humility and sincerity we go forward to the altar rail to be marked in ashes with the sign of the cross of Christ, remembering that we are frail mortals who live only by our faith in the God of power and love revealed in his Son

For those who cannot come at night, we will also gather at the altar of Ash Wednesday at 10 a.m. for a celebration of the Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes

Thus we prepare ready for the observance of a solemn Lent.

Please sign up to attend the supper, at church or by phone or e-mail, and to help make it happen.

Kingsley Smith, priest-in-charge

Bible Classes, Sundays 9 to 10 in the Rectory

Healing in the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament will be the subject for our study and discussion, drawing on a variety of texts, events and teachings.

Stewardship Update

"Where your treasure is..."

As we enter the Year of Grace 2009 and Immanuel's 138th year, our parish has great opportunities--and challenges. Today, the stewardship motif "prudent generosity" is bound to focus on the prudence part for most of us, whatever our financial base is, so a key question is "What is a realistic goal for my sacramental offering at Immanuel?"

To move forward in our ministry and mission we clearly need two things: broader support and increased income. The vestry has, with great regret, decided that no staff salaries will be raised, and has begun a vigorous program of cost-cutting in routine maintenance. The search for our next rector is ready to begin, but a key factor in that is to figure what we can realistically offer candidates. No-one is in the ministry for the money, but, as Jesus tells us, "The laborer deserves to be paid" (Luke 10).

For 2009 the church has received 67 pledges for \$114,797. This compares to 68 for \$124,102 this time last year. This is our solid base of support. But now the key challenge is for those folks who look to this church as their home in the Lord Jesus but who do not make a pledge. We encourage them to make a commitment, however modest (prudence *is* a Christian virtue) as an act of loyalty. Pledges are in no way a legal or even moral obligation, but an affirmation of support, saying "This is the church where I belong. I wish I could give more, but I want to be counted among the number of the servants of God who gather at Immanuel's altar, for my own identity and as witness to the community." This is something like the difference between renting a house and owning a home.

It strikes us that to say we have increased the *number* of contributors would be as important as

to raise the *amount* contributed. As Jesus said "...there will your heart be also."

Rudi Horner, senior warden; Mary Frances Wagley, stewardship chair;

Chuck Gilbert, treasurer; Kingsley Smith, priest-in-charge

Highlights from the Jan. 13th Vestry Meeting

At the January meeting, the Vestry welcomed three new members – Jeremy Gillam, Mary Jane Shanks and Michael Riisager – as well as a new Treasurer, Chuck Gilbert.

A nine member committee is being formed to lead Immanuel's search for a permanent Rector. Pastor Smith has graciously offered to serve as our search consultant, and his years of experience will serve us well in this regard. Members of the Vestry have finished an initial draft of the Parish Documents, including a Community Profile, Parish Profile and a Rector's Position Description. These documents will be finalized by the end of January. Completion of the Parish Documents will enable us to launch our official search.

Nelly Perkins

Confirmation 2009

"How do you become an Episcopalian?" Simple--you just show up. Our parish welcome statement makes it clear that Immanuel is not a closed society but an open fellowship, for growth and for service. For most of us, this began when we were baptized.

We all enjoyed our "Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows" on Jan. 11, hearing the Spirit saying to each of us, "You are my beloved child; in you I am well pleased." But there is a real need for

more--both for security and for responsibility. That is the the sacramental rite of Confirmation is for. It is for youth who have come of age (generally 15 or 16) and for adults whose background has been in other denominations or in no church in particular. It is the time for inquiring about the faith, for learning about the Bible and the church, and for being enrolled as committed Episcopalians. The rite is always conducted by a bishop as a clear sign that we are part of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church--in Maryland, in America, and throughout the world.

Our regional Confirmation this year will be on Tuesday, April 28 at 7 p.m. at our neighbor church, St. James' Monkton. To prepare for it our priest-in-charge invites candidates (or some who may be simply "inquirers") to meet with him on Sunday mornings in the rectory from 9 to 10, for study and dialogue based on the Biblical sources of our faith, beginning in Lent (March 1). In April we will have other ways of preparing, according to the needs and desires of the candidates.

I look forward to seeing many "pilgrims" ready to make "progress" in their lives in Christ.

~~Kingsley Smith

Update on the search for a new rector:

On January 13, all Vestry members and Officers received copies of the draft parish profile package. This includes the parish profile itself, a community profile and the rector's position description. Once these documents are reviewed, edited and approved by the Vestry (target date: January 31, at the Vestry retreat), then they will be submitted to the Diocese for its review and approval. Concurrently, almost all members have been identified for the Search Committee. When complete, the Committee will begin its work, guided by Pastor Smith as our search consultant and by guidelines as determined by the Vestry for this purpose. If you have any

questions about this process, please contact Rudi Horner.

Canon Glasspool's Visit

Every year either one of our bishops or Mary Glasspool, Canon to the Bishop, makes an official visitation to every one of the 110 congregations in the Diocese. It's her turn this year on Sunday, February 8th to come and see how Immanuel is doing, to proclaim the Gospel, and to lead our worship, at both 8 and 10:15, and will take part in the 9 a.m. adult class and at our reception in the parish house after church. She will meet with the Vestry for lunch in the afternoon. Mary is an esteemed colleague and a good friend of mine who shows how wonderful it is to be part of this venerable and lively Diocese of Maryland. This is a Sunday not to be missed; we get extra credit if we can top 100 in attendance!

~~Kingsley Smith

From the Parish Register

Deaths

Mr. Duncan McCulloch

January 20, 2009

Holiday Offerings

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our Holiday Offerings. We collected \$350 for Thanksgiving and \$643 for Christmas. The money will be divided equally and sent to the Maryland Fuel Fund, Food for the Poor and Doctors without Borders.

2009 Parish Directory

We are currently working on our 2009 Parish Directory. If anyone has a change from their listing in the 2008 directory, please let the office know as soon as possible! Thanks.

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

The Women of Immanuel have several upcoming events. Be sure to mark your calendars:

March 11th, WOI Meeting in the Rectory 7:00 pm.

March 14, Women's Spirituality Day, 9:00 am - 12:00 noon in the Rectory. Carol Dunsworth will be leading a retreat on Forgiveness. Carol is the Director of University Relations at Towson University and an Ecumenical Spiritual Director. She is a member of Spiritual Directors, International. She is also a graduate of the Ecumenical Institute of Theology at St Mary's Seminary with an M.A. in Church Ministries and a long time member of the St. Pius Parish. She has served on the Parish Council, as the Coordinator for Newcomers, Eucharistic minister, lay prayer leader, and is the founder/director of a

program called "Apostles to the Aging". Carol has completed a two-year certificate program in spiritual direction from the Haden Institute/Carmelite Spiritual Center in Ontario.

Everyone knows that forgiveness is a virtue and a key to emotional, spiritual and even physical well-being. But learning how to actually forgive - or to accept forgiveness as the case may be - is a sacred art that few of us have mastered. We'll be discussing a new perspective on forgiveness and reconciliation, an approach rooted in the Spirit that can be learned by anyone no matter how deep the hurt. We'll explore coming to terms with anger and resentment; understanding the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation; taking the initiative even when you're the one who has been wronged; knowing when to forgive and forget and when to forgive and take action; ways of allowing the power of the Divine to work through you. If you would like to attend, please call Linda Ambrose 410-374-1814 or sign-up sheets will be available in the Parish House and Rectory.

March 15, Evensong Reception. The WOI will be hosting the reception after Evensong. We are looking for a coordinator, as well as help to setup, clean up and/or bring food. Anyone interested, please call Linda Ambrose 410-374-1814.

Linda Ambrose

Coffee Hour Fellowship

There are so many wonderful parishioners, that it takes quite a while to get to know each other! Coffee hours are a time of fellowship and are held immediately after the 10:15 a.m. service. It is a great opportunity to catch up on news with friends and acquaintances that we do not get a chance to talk to during the week. You may even make a new friend or two. We need Coffee Hour hosts for 2009. 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 would like to host a coffee hour, please call Bobbie Ensor 410-472-2206.

Thank you for your gifts of time.

Linda Ambrose

Sunday School News

The Sunday School hosted the coffee hour on January 11th using the tablecloth we made in our rotation of Adam and Eve. We just completed our rotation for Jesus Feeds the 5,000. We will continue with Jesus' miracles through the spring.

Coleman Mettee
Sunday School Coordinator

Music Notes

We were delighted to have Amy Sieck, home from college, to sing with us on Sunday, December 21st and on Christmas Eve.

Page Crosby, one of our sopranos, is taking the spring season off to tend to her new job of Lacrosse Mother. She will be greatly missed, but will be back in September. On another note, we are pleased that Mary Agnes Evans, a new resident at Broadmead, and a well seasoned soprano, has graciously agreed to sing with us during Page's absence.

Since we are still in the Epiphany season, I thought I'd share a few words with you regarding the history of Christmas Carols.

Of the many pagan practices that Christianity adopted and adapted for its own use, the most enduring is the carol. The pagan carol was associated with fertility rites and used in celebrations to mark the passing of the winter solstice and the advent of spring; in the early church it was likely to be used at Easter as it was

at Christmas. Today, of course, the carol is firmly associated with the Advent of our Lord's incarnation and is undoubtedly the most popular of all the subdivisions of hymnody.

However, the established church has not always embraced carols enthusiastically and for much of the 16th and 17th centuries they were actually banned, with the accent in church music being placed on Gregorian chants, plainsong, and metric psalms.

Although the ban was lifted at the Restoration of 1660, it was not until 1700 that the authorities softened their opposition when they allowed Nahum Tate's "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night" to be used in Church of England services. It remained the only permitted carol for much of the 18th century until joined on the "approved list" in 1728 by "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing".

Today, these two remain favorites. Both have been parodied, a sure sign of popularity, and many of us may remember singing irreverent versions when we were children. For example...

*While shepherds washed their socks by night
All seated round the tub,
A bar of Sunlight soap came down
And they began to scrub.*

Adults of a certain age will also recall that during the 1936 Abdication crises people sang
*Hark! The herald Angels sing
Mrs. Simpson's pinched the King.*

Choral music for February is as follows:

- February 1 Imperial Mass (Lord Nelson):
Sanctus - Franz Jos. Haydn
Hear My Prayer - Jacob Arcadelt
- February 8 We Wait For Thy Loving Kindness
- Sir William McKie
(composed for the wedding of
Queen Elizabeth II)
- February 15 Like As A Hart Desireth The

Water Brooks - Herbert Howells
He Delivered The Poor - C. H. H.
Parry

February 22 Te Deum in B Flat - Sir. Charles
Stanford

John Holland
Organist-Choirmaster

Concert Series

We are delighted that Nick Bergin, a senior at the Peabody Conservatory of Music, has once again, been chosen to be the recipient of the Sheila Vickers Scholarship Award. He is one of several organists that will be playing in the Baroque Organ Festival at Immanuel Church on Sunday, April 26th time to be announced.

Mark your calendars for Evensong on March 15th at 4:00pm, sung by the Immanuel Choir, followed with a Royal Tea in the Rectory, hosted by the Women of Immanuel. The March Evensong will include choral and organ music that was composed and used for various Royal occasions. We think you will be quite pleased with this exciting musical menu. More information in the March Newsletter.

Also, the date of our next Wine Dinner will be Friday, April 24th at the Manor Tavern. Look for more details in upcoming newsletters

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

PROPERTY MATTERS

HVAC Update

First, I have to apologize for inconsistency between reports in the newsletter - and actual weather stripping and window sheeting results. Property volunteers often plan activities and need

to report them in the newsletter before they are finished - so if we have to postpone or cancel we can look a little discombobulated!

Please be assured that steady progress has been made, and will continue to be made, on having our buildings conserve energy well. As of this writing, only one major door (the main church door) remains to be finished, and will be soon. Thanks to Walt Troyer for working on then before his surgery, and thanks to all of you for continuing to make sure thermostats are returned to 60 or "Run".

We apologize that we still have a problem with hearing when the heat is running in the church...and the heat seems to run a lot in the church. The vestry requested last night that, now that weather stripping is nearly done, we focus again on that issue.

Over Our Heads

We have lost several slates on the church roof and need to address that. If you know anyone with a slate roof, please ask them for a reference (pro or con) for us - ASAP!

Immanuel looks beautiful in all seasons thanks to many efforts, large and small. Thank you for your help.

Katie Ritter, Property Chair

Inclement Weather Policy

We have had a couple of icy storms since our last newsletter, and have tested out the inclement weather policy successfully so far.

Chuck Gilbert is the point person to check on ice and snow conditions at the church on Sunday mornings. He arrives early and puts traction (salt or sand) on steps and walkways, and checks if the

snowplow has arrived. We are so lucky to have Chuck's faithful work in this parish.

Chuck and Kingsley communicate early Sunday morning so that Kingsley is alerted of the local weather, and decide on a game plan. We hope that we will escape any more ice storms early Sunday mornings...but if you arrive and ice has prevented our intrepid Kingsley from getting here, please draw straws for a leader and offer morning prayer together. You'll always remember that morning!...and you'll be glad you stepped up.

2009 Episcopal Calendars are now here!!

Please stop by the Parish Hall and pick yours up today. As always, thanks to Mr. Jay Huff of Brooks-Huff Tire & Auto Centers for providing us with our calendars each year.

Christmas Cards..... and More

Thank you so much to those of you who saved your Christmas cards for me. I will need more for school art projects next December so if you still have yours, YES, I do still want them!

I'd like to expand on the winter project the students did and try some more spring or summer projects. So if you have other cards that have pretty covers, and would rather see them recycled to a worthwhile project than be thrown away, I can use them.

Mother's Day, Father's Day, pretty birthday...all are good.

Several folks have asked if they should tear off the back or not. The cards will be combined with others and then sorted by type and color. The students then cut off the backs before using the

cards. So no one would know it was "your" card...but if you prefer to remove the backs first, please do!

Thank you so much,

Katie Ritter

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.

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

Page Crosby, Bill Eddison, Todd Ensor,
Chuck Gilbert, Jeremy Gillam, Gayle Hagan,
Rudi Horner, Catherine Klein, Nelly Perkins,
Michael Riisager, Katie Ritter, Mary Jane Shanks,
Pam Swanson, Fran Tilghman,
Mary Frances Wagley and Doug Whatley

February 2009

<p>Feb. 1</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist I 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist II</p> <p>Feb. 5 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Feb. 8</p> <p>5 Epiphany Visit by Mary Glasspool, Canon to the Bishop</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist I 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Morning Prayer Rite I</p> <p>Feb. 9 2:30 p.m. Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>Feb. 10 7:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting - Rectory</p> <p>Feb. 12 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>Feb. 15</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist I 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist II</p> <p>Feb. 18 1:00 p.m. Newsletter Team Meets</p> <p>Feb. 19 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Feb. 22</p> <p>Last Epiphany</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist I 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Morning Prayer Rite I</p> <p>Feb. 24 6:00 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist II</p> <p>Feb. 25</p> <p>Ash Wednesday/Lent Begins</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist II</p> <p>Feb. 26 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</p>
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