

Founded 1871
Immanuel's Messenger

January, 2009

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

A Cure for Depression

John the Baptizer took center stage in Advent as his Aunt Mary and Uncle Joseph prepared the way for his young cousin, and here he is again in Epiphany, when he proclaims the debut of the one greater than he--the Lamb of God whose shoelaces he is unworthy to tie. There--does he have your attention now? What is going on here?

So much is going on that it's a challenge to sort it out. We should blend one charismatic prophet, Elijah, electrified by the Still Small Voice, with another one, John Brown, utterly burning to liberate the humble and meek. "In the fullness of time...when the people were in expectation" comes the preacher of those two uncommon virtues, common decency and common sense, telling God's own truth to the greedy tax collectors, the vicious thugs in uniform, and even his Royal Highness, Holy Herod, a monster of lust and pride, who thinks to silence him by making John the scapegoat for his sins. It did not work. John was right about Jesus, who was to baptize with fire.

What drove this "greatest of all the prophets"? Try the concept "depression." John the Baptizer launched three attacks on depression:

>>literally, from the Jewish monastic community at Qumran, which is below sea level, where he grew up as a dedicated warrior for God against

the dark powers of superstition, corruption and injustice of 1st Century Palestine;

>>his personal battle against psychological and spiritual despair, wrestling, like young Martin Luther, with his own guilt, fear and anger;

>>an economy of grinding, degrading poverty for most Jews, based on religious repression and Roman tyranny.

America in 2009 is not quite that bad! Our wonderful heritage of freedom and justice stands fast--we're just a little weak on the prosperity side. We may not understand what "market corrections" mean, but we all know that adjusting foolish and selfish expectations is overdue, healthy and, in fact, exhilarating. Austerity, prudence and generosity are what make life worth living, for each of us, for our families, businesses, investments and political programs, and for the Church. Immanuel is set for a solid year of careful stewardship and creative growth this year. The key is to listen to Brother John, who came to bear witness to the Light.

Kingsley Smith, priest-in-charge

Epiphany Bible Study

January is a month for New Year explorations in history, scholarship and faithful understanding, as we explore the Epiphany adventure. The four Sunday gospels, one from Matthew, two from Mark and one from John, tell about the magi's mysterious visit, the exciting baptism of Jesus, the curious incident of Nathaniel under the fig tree, and the retraining of some Galilean fishermen. The stories are told differently, each revealing the Gospel truth in special ways. How did this work? And how does it work on us? We meet in the rectory each Sunday from 9 to 10 and see what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Stewardship Update

Many thanks to the 66 families who have already pledged \$112,797 to the 2009 Operating Budget. This compares to \$119,000 from 66 families this time last year.

In January the Vestry will wrestle with balancing the expected income and the expenses of the Proposed Budget as presented at the Annual Meeting.

To make the job easier, it would be wonderful to have more families adding support. Is your family one of those from whom we need to hear? If so, please make a pledge soon.

Cynthia Ballard, chair

Highlights from the Dec. 2nd Vestry Meeting

Senior Warden, Rudi Horner, recognized with appreciation the retiring Treasurer, Taylor Spencer. Although he had made known his desire to retire some time ago, Taylor continued

to fulfill the duties of his office faithfully until his successor was found. Chuck Gilbert will be our new Treasurer. Rudi also thanked retiring Vestry member, Cynthia Ballard. Cynthia contributed to the work of the Vestry with distinction often anticipating what needed to be done and carrying through with attention to every detail.

Property Committee chair, Katie Ritter, expressed her concern about the heating bills and urged everyone using the Parish House to return thermostats to 60 degrees on leaving.

Mary Frances Wagley

Thank you to our outgoing Vestry Members and Officers, and welcome to the new!

At the Annual Meeting in November, the congregation elected three new Vestry members: Jeremy Gillam, Michael Riisager and Mary Jane Shanks. Additionally, Chuck Gilbert was selected by the Vestry to assume the Treasurer's role effective the first of the year.

Jeremy Gillam is a Lay Reader. Jeremy's wife, Ginny, teaches Sunday School. Jeremy and Ginny have three young children - Rosemary, James and Louisa - all of whom are regular Sunday School participants.

Mary Jane Shanks and her husband, Ashby, have been members of Immanuel since the birth of their daughter, Christine, 30 years ago. Mary Jane is a member of the Altar Guild, a ministry she has enjoyed for 25 years for its quiet, "behind the scenes" attributes. Mary Jane recently retired as Administrative Assistant from the Oregon Ridge Nature Center and currently serves on the Board of the Oregon Ridge Nature Center Council.

Michael Riisager lives with his wife Marcella, two dogs and a cat, in the Yeoho School house (1881) which they are constantly renovating. He is a physician who practiced for many years in

North Dakota. He later served as a Medicare Director (Part B) for MD, DC and DE. He and his wife visited Immanuel Church in 2005 where they discovered that the church is lovely and the congregation very welcoming. They decided to transfer to Immanuel in 2007. Michael is an author, a beekeeper, a furniture maker (currently finishing a harpsichord and the kitchen of their home) and sings in the choir.

Chuck Gilbert and his wife Barbara have four daughters and seven grandchildren. Chuck retired from the Air Force in 1999 and moved to Maryland in 2000 to renovate his family's horse farm. He has served on the Vestry and Immanuel's Property Committee.

Outgoing Vestry members and Officers include: Cynthia Ballard, Julie Metcalf and Doug Whatley. Doug has vacated his Vestry seat as he has recently assumed the position of Junior Warden. Chuck Gilbert will replace Taylor Spencer as Treasurer. Thank you to Cynthia, Julie and Taylor for their service to Immanuel over these past busy years!

Nelly Perkins
Registrar

Update on the search for a new rector:

The first step is to prepare three documents: a community profile, parish profile and rector's job description. Once we have complete drafts of these documents ready, they will be made available to anyone in the parish who is interested in reviewing them and giving feedback. We expect this review and comment period to take place in January and then the documents will be sent for Diocesan approval. Then the actual search begins; we hope to have a new rector called by late spring. Please contact Rudi Horner if you have any questions or concerns.

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

On December 10th the Women of Immanuel had a gift wrapping party. We wrapped gifts for 15 boys from the Catonsville Children's Home. Thank you to Donna Sieverts, Erin Spencer, Eva Whiteley, Liz Sieck, Rudi Horner, Polly Horner, Marcel Riisager, Mary J Moses and Katie Ritter. A special thanks to Martha Spencer for shopping for all the gifts.

The WOI also hosted the Reception after Lessons and Carols on December 21st. Thank you to all who helped with the reception. A special thanks goes to Liz Sieck for organizing the reception.

In January, a letter will be mailed to all the Women of Immanuel listing our upcoming events including Women's Spirituality Day and our Annual Bus Trip.

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 wonderful 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

NEUBAUER RECEIVES AWARD FROM OPTIMISTS

Michael Neubauer received the Outstanding Youth Award from the Hereford Optimists during the Youth Appreciation Week at Friendly Farms. Michael is a 10th grader at Hereford. The Optimists chose 5 youth from the area. Michael was selected for his continued support of our Pre-K and K classes. This group rotates to three teachers for Cooking Games and Art. Michael rotates with the class. He is a great draw for bringing children to Sunday School. He lives in Monkton and is known for making a "mean bagel" in Jacksonville.

Congratulations to you Michael!!

Sunday School News

Christmas is upon us and that means another outstanding Christmas play. Will Ensor, our outstanding play producer, will have packed the house by the time you read this. Our Kings, shepherds, Mary and Joseph along with the angels

and animals were their most angelic on the 14th. The children selected their favorite hymns. We sang Silent Night, The Friendly Beasts, Away in a Manger and We Wish You a Merry Christmas.

In January we will continue our Rotations learning about Jesus's parables and miracles. The lesson will be Jesus feeds the 5000.

Coincidentally, the SS will host the coffee hour on Jan 11 after our lesson on the 5000. Come see our table cloth made during SS and enjoy the snacks.

Coleman Mettee
Sunday School Coordinator

Music Notes

Happy New Year to all of you! Well, we survived the Christmas Holidays, one more time. Hope you all had a joyful and spiritually enriching Christmas, with all your family traditions. Things at Immanuel were very busy, and a BIG Thank You to the choir for all their hard work. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful, talented, and loyal choir, that works hard every week, rehearsing and preparing music for all the services, Evensongs, and other events at Immanuel. A special thanks to the Women of Immanuel for the Teas they hosted after Evensongs and the Festival of Lessons and Carols.

Many thanks for you beautiful cards and notes during this festive time of year.

Choral Music for January:

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|------------|---|
| January 4 | Coventry Carol - Hector Berlioz What Is This Lovely Fragrance – Healey Willan |
| January 11 | Veni Sancti Spiritus – Johann Michael Haydn |
| January 18 | Arise Shine For Thy Light Has Come - George Elvey Give Almes Of Thy Goods – C. Tye |
| January 25 | Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind - C. Hubert H. Parry |

John Holland
Organist-Choirmaster

Concert Series

The Festival of Lessons and Carols was a huge success, as always! Many thanks to all who participated in reading the lessons, ushering, and the Women of Immanuel for the elegant Christmas Tea. A special thanks to Sue and Scott Hunter who, once again, so generously donated wine for the receptions following all the concerts this season.

Our next concert is Evensong, with Music for Royal Occasions, on Sunday, March 15 at 4:00pm. The Immanuel Choir will sing music by Henry Purcell, from the funeral of Queen Mary, and music by Charles Stanford, William McKie, and others from the wedding and coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Organ music will include *Entrada* by Grayston Ives, which was composed for the processional for the Queens Silver Jubilee service in St. Paul's Cathedral. Make a note on your new calendar of this event and plan to attend.

Best Wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year!

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

Lean and Green

Many thanks to the volunteers who worked to keep Immanuel warmer this winter - without turning up the heat! Weatherstripping was installed on the rectory, church and hall exterior doors to keep cold air from whistling in, outlet insulators now are under many electric outlet and light switch covers to prevent substantial heat loss from them, and plastic sheeting has been installed on many of our beautiful historic (but cold!) windows in all three buildings.

Weatherstripping is a little bit art and a litter bit fun. If you want to save some fuel and carbon emissions at your house, here's what we learned:

- it comes in wide and narrow
- it comes in skinny, medium and thick
- it comes in foam and ribbed plastic
- it comes in white, gray and brown

Look at your door and try to measure the width (side to side) and thickness of the crack you need to fill. Be aware: it may vary across a door from top to bottom!

What color will blend in best with your paint? Then off to the store and get the weatherstripping that best matches your need. Hint: buy two different sizes and return unopened ones.

Lastly, neatness counts. Measure carefully, cut precisely, and put it on as straight as you can (it stretches!) Press carefully to adhere. IT REALLY STICKS so place it carefully the first time!

Then run your hand over where the crack was before and feel....nothing. No cold air seeping in. Enjoy your toasty warmth!

Katie Ritter
Property Committee

Trash...or Treasure...or Both?

Katie Ritter thanks those of you who donated saved Christmas cards from last year, and ask that you consider saving some this year as well (including corporate cards).

They were used in a project at The Salem School in western Maryland (www.mdsalem.org/). We worked to understand the concept of mosaics - how cut pieces of color can be used to create a design. The students made truly beautiful art pieces of bare winter trees from the many colors of the cards - and were delighted with their work!

We are also working on art as a metaphor for life: that junk, with technique and work, can be used to create something useful and even beautiful. The school is very environmentally conscious, so the concept of recycle/reuse fits in with their respect for the earth.

If you are donating cards after the holidays, please remember to remove photographs from the cards before sending them. Just put the cards in a brown manila envelope with Katie's name on it and leave on the rectory table, or drop in the mail to her address. No hurry and thank you!

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.

Food for Thought

Snowdrops from the Parson's Christmas Garden

Our celebration does not ignore the darkness; rather it rises out of it and triumphs over it. The world has a rather romantic image of the Holy Family, a picture to fit onto a Christmas card alongside a pretty photograph of Mom and Dad and the kids. The Bible knows nothing of this--it says nothing about the Holy Family as a model.

“The darkness does not overcome the light.”
But notice: this means that the light has not

overcome the darkness yet either. The Word and the World are still in battle.

The central Biblical image at Christmas is loneliness, homelessness and alienation. The figure behind the nativity story is more the wandering Aramean Abraham than the triumphant king David.

John the Baptizer launched three attacks on depression: from the Quman community below sea level where he lived, against his own battle against psychological and spiritual despair, and upon the economic and political disaster area called 1st century Palestine.

P. K. Faber fecit MMVIII

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

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

January 2009

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|----------------|------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|---|
| Jan. 1 | | New Year's Day-Office Closed | Jan. 15 | 7:30 p.m. | Choir Rehearsal |
| Jan. 4 | | Christmas 2 | Jan. 18 | | 2 Epiphany |
| | 8:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist I | | 8:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist I |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Adult Education Class | | 9:00 a.m. | Adult Education Class |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Sunday School | | 10:00 a.m. | Sunday School |
| | 10:15 a.m. | Holy Eucharist II | | 10:15 a.m. | Holy Eucharist II |
| Jan. 8 | 7:30 p.m. | Choir Rehearsal | Jan. 21 | 1:00 p.m. | Newsletter Team Meets |
| Jan. 11 | | 1 Epiphany | Jan. 22 | 7:30 p.m. | Choir Rehearsal |
| | | God Parent's Day | Jan. 25 | | 3 Epiphany |
| | 8:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist I | | 8:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist I |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Adult Education Class | | 9:00 a.m. | Adult Education Class |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Sunday School | | 10:00 a.m. | Sunday School |
| | 10:15 a.m. | Morning Prayer Rite I | | 10:15 a.m. | Morning Prayer Rite I |
| Jan. 12 | 2:30 p.m. | Newsletter Deadline | Jan. 29 | 7:30 p.m. | Choir Rehearsal |
| Jan. 13 | 7:30 p.m. | Vestry Meeting - Rectory | Jan. 31 | 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Vestry Retreat – Lead by The Rev. Mary Glasspool, Canon To the Bishops |