

Immanuel's Messenger

August/September 2015

Immanuel Episcopal Church 1509 Glencoe Road Glencoe, Maryland 21152 410-472-2828
www.ImmanuelGlencoe.org Office Email: Dary@ImmanuelGlencoe.org

From the Rector

Special Services and Events 2015-2016 so far...

As our summer programs continue, it is already time to start marking your calendar for fall and winter events! Please make a note of the following dates and plan to join us for fellowship, worship, and fun.

Sunday, September 6, 9:30am- Evening Hymn Sunday. Evening hymns will be used throughout the service.

Sunday, September 13, 10:15am- Outdoor Eucharist. On the 13th summer schedule ends, and we return to our usual 10:15am service time. There will be no 8am service, and the 10:15am service will be held outside.

Sunday, September 20- Return to full Sunday worship schedule for the fall. Sunday School begins and the choir returns. The 8am service will also resume on the 20th.

October- Pledge Drive continues throughout the month. Pledges will be blessed at the Annual Meeting service.

Saturday, October 10- Annual Cook-Off and Square Dance. See details in the article below, and more information will also be provided in fall newsletters and bulletins.

Sunday, October 18 or 25- Praise Service. No 8am. A service with special music will take place in the Parish Hall. Casual Dress Sunday! Wear your jeans or other casual clothes to church! We will announce the date as soon as possible, but these are the two most likely options.

Sunday, November 1- All Saints' Sunday. No 8am. One service at 10:15am.

Sunday, November 8- Annual Meeting. No 8am. The Annual Meeting will take place during the sermon time of the 10:15am service.

Tuesday, November 24, 7pm- Prayer & Pie. A brief Thanksgiving Prayer Service with music and hymns will take place in the Church at 7pm. Pie, cider, and wassail will follow in the Parish Hall at 7:30pm. Bring friends, families, and neighbors!

Sunday, January 31- Taize Service and Candlemas. No 8am. Candlemas and the blessing of candles will take place at 10:15am.

Sunday, March 13- Morning Prayer. No 8am. One service of Morning Prayer at 10:15am.

Further listings will be available in the October/November Newsletter, but please begin filling in your calendars now so you can join the community for these special events and services.

Rector's Sabbatical Thanks...

I would like to offer a huge "THANK YOU!" to the congregation for my recent sabbath time on sabbatical. Our family enjoyed becoming a "regular family" with normal weekends, and occasionally attending services in other churches.

I was blessed with the opportunity to worship at Epiphany in Timonium one morning, just Mom & Sam, which was a lot of fun. I also attended St. Bartholomew's on Edmondson Avenue, as well as a Methodist church for the baptism of four of Jen's siblings! A couple of churches I did not get to can still be visited this fall.

I also continued to attend a number of my regular commitments including local autism groups and the SECAC (Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee), and spoke before the Baltimore County School Board regarding the extreme disadvantages of the current math curriculum for special needs students.

As the rest of the world does not stop with my time off, we also experienced some unexpected, challenging events during this 10 weeks. Joe's grandmother died at the age of 96, so Joe and Sam took a trip to Cincinnati for the funeral. Simon was sick most of the month of May, had two ear infections and three antibiotics, never quite got better, and ended up having surgery for tubes in his ears and his adenoids out the first week in June. Hopefully this will bring improvement to his life and ours the rest of this year. We also ended sabbatical with Joe spending three days at GBMC on IV antibiotics for an infection in his arm.

In any case, the break from the normal routine in life and work was very refreshing in itself, and I was glad to see some other churches and to gain a few new ideas. Thanks to Liz Sieck and Jen Newgent for keeping things organized on Sundays, to Dary for working ahead on all the bulletins, to the Vestry for financially supporting our guest clergy, to Meredith+ and Kingsley+ for spending Sundays here, and to all of you for your support!

The Rev. Megan E. Stewart-Sicking
Rector

From the Director of Music

The Immanuel Summer Concert Series, 2015!

August 16 - The final summer concert! Jen & Friends present Schubert and Sherbet. The works played will include Schubert's last piano sonata, several art songs, and a work for piano 4-hands. It will be followed by a sherbet reception. 4pm, in the Parish Hall.

The choir will begin rehearsals on Sept. 17, at 7:30, and will begin singing for services on Sept. 20. If you would like to sing with the choir, for part or all of the year, contact Jen.

Jen Newgent
Director of Music Ministries

From the Sunday School

I hope everyone is enjoying a happy and safe summer! We look forward to seeing everyone in Sunday School after Labor Day. As always, we are looking for new teachers who may want to teach once or twice during the year. Please get in touch with me so that I may put you on the schedule.

Everyone is invited to join us for our 10:15am service kick-off on Sunday, September 13. The entire service will be held outside. We will then begin Sunday School on September 20.

Thank you,
Anne Greene
Sunday School Coordinator

Youth Group News & Confirmation Class

The Youth Group is for all middle school and high school students. We generally communicate through emails to the parents. Please let us know if you need to be added to that list. In addition, if any youth have email accounts they check regularly, we would be happy to add them too!

We are currently working on planning a series of experiences for those who are interested in Confirmation. Our next Confirmation service will likely be sometime in 2016 or 2017, possibly later due to changes in the Bishops' Visitation schedules. Anyone entering 8th grade or above who would like to be Confirmed is invited to join this Confirmation sub-group of the Youth Group. If you fall into that category, please let us know so we can add you to the list for further communication. The activities and "field trips" will be completed over the next two program years, and youth can then be confirmed at any time after that when a Bishop is scheduled to visit us at Immanuel.

Please contact Mother Megan to be put on the Confirmation list as soon as possible if this interests you. ***Youth who do not complete the program will not be eligible for Confirmation at our next Bishop's Vist!***

Those entering 7th grade and younger will be contacted in the next 1-2 years regarding their Confirmation process.

-Mother Megan and Miss Jen

Outreach News

Summer Outreach

Immanuel collected and delivered a load of drinks and snacks, and a check for \$112, for campers at Camp Success, held at the Church of St. Michaels and All Angels in Baltimore. In addition, we sent a check from the operating budget for \$428 to support one camper for six weeks at the Club at Collington Square. We continue to collect for the food banks in Hereford and Parkton. Please consider adding "food bank" to your weekly shopping list. Thank you to everyone who has contributed over the summer!

Rudi Horner

From the Senior Warden

Thanks you to everyone who kept "Immanuel going" during Mother Megan's sabbatical. In addition to the presence of our supply priests, Rev. Meredith Kefauver-Olsen and Rev. Kingsley Smith, our Choir Director, Parish Secretary, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Sunday Service Volunteers, Lemonade on the Lawn hosts, Lay Visitors, Property Committee, Friends of the Office, Officers and members of the Vestry, and all the parishioners who attended Sunday services during the Sabbatical contributed to the worthwhile effort of carrying on the work and life of Immanuel.

Please enjoy the second half of summer and know you always have a "special invitation" to join us in worship on Sundays at 9:30 AM when you are

in town during the summer months. If traveling, Godspeed.

Faithfully,

Liz Sieck
Senior Warden

Save the Date!

Immanuel's annual Cook-Off and Square Dance will be held on Saturday, October 10, 2015. Themes for the Cook-Off are being discussed and among the suggestions are: southern BBQ, mac & cheese, anything with cheese, side dishes, Hawaiian, Latin American, Made in Maryland and Down on the Farm. If you have any suggestions, or would like to vote for one of the above, please contact Rudi Horner. This year we will welcome a new square dance caller, Mr. Bruce Simpers, who has already been advised that he will be working with an eager crowd who just needs warming up! This fun event promises to be a repeat performance this year, and more information, including the winning theme, will be coming soon. Join us!

Rudi Horner

ATTENTION! MONARCH LOVERS NEEDED!

This past year, I have been considering the possibility of using part of the lower field as a Monarch Waystation. Each year fewer and fewer monarchs survive their journey to and from Mexico. Part of the reason is that their habitat is disappearing due to development. The international organization *Monarch Watch* encourages each of us to help by planting Monarch Waystations in our own gardens, in fields, at schools and churches, and anywhere else where a patch of milkweed and various native nectar producing perennials will grow.

In July, a scout from our Parish troop expressed an interest in taking this project on as an eagle project. However, whether this occurs or not, I am seeking help from anyone interested in forming a monarch committee to weed the area each year and replace or plant new perennials as needed. I am not a gardener, but have been doing considerable research and legwork to put this idea into action. I've talked and met with Mother

Megan, the Oregon Ridge Nature Center Director Winny Tan, and others to select the location, determine the size of the area to be planted, and to locate places that sell milkweed and other native plants/shrubs. I have contacted Monarch Watch for their "Get Started Kit," and read as much as I can about creating and caring for such a garden.

If the scout obtains the necessary approvals for his eagle project, there will be more information about the Waystation coming your way. But for now, it would be encouraging to know about those of you who would be willing to volunteer a bit of your time to do the minimal work to keep the garden weed free. If a scout does not take this on, I would like to know about those who would be willing to help in the creation of this project. It will entail plowing up an area and putting in topsoil for planting 2 or 3 varieties of milkweed. The milkweed can be obtained via seeds that some of us grow at home to seedlings, buying flats of seedlings, or buying some actual milkweed plants. Planting time for milkweed is in the fall, often after the first frost. The area will also need a variety of native nectar plants, including some shrubs that will provide shade and safety for the caterpillars seeking shelter when it is time for them to turn into chrysalises. There also needs to be a "puddling" area, which is a shallow depression lined with plastic to hold water. Monarchs need puddling areas to absorb needed minerals.

If you are interested, please contact me at 410-557-6047 or mjshanks1@gmail.com The monarchs will join me in thanking you!

Mary Jane Shanks

Property Perusal

The Property Committee has been addressing the recent well water concerns with the kind help of Megan+ and others as we do our best to resolve the matter with new faucets and the chlorination of the water systems. We hope to be able to report back to the congregation shortly that the well is back to normal. We will continue to keep a watchful eye over our lovely campus. Have a wonderful summer.

The Property Committee

Vestry Meeting Notes

April Meeting

Immanuel's Vestry met on April 14, 2015, for the Mutual Ministry Review, which our Rector's Letter of Agreement with Immanuel Church, dated November 10, 2009, annually requires. Consistent with normal practice, those church officers and Vestry members whose service ended in the previous calendar year were invited to participate.

Our Senior Warden, Liz Sieck, presided at the meeting. In preparation, she had asked several active members of our church who reside at Broadmead for feedback from Immanuel members who live in that retirement community. Additionally, Liz brought feedback from a couple of individuals who would normally have attended the Mutual Ministry Review but were unable to be present.

We recognized that members of our parish are generally pleased with how things are going at Immanuel and, specifically, are particularly happy with our Rector. Additionally, a number of people were enthusiastic about each of our special Sunday morning services -- Morning Prayer, the Praise Service held in our parish hall, and the Taize Service that's combined with Candlemas Sunday.

Furthermore, people responded warmly to "Pick Your Own Hymns" Sundays with sermons regarding a particular composer, hymn-writer, or translator. People recalled fondly the one Sunday when hymns not in our hymnal were submitted by the congregation ahead of time for a Sunday morning service with all hymns from outside our hymnal.

Feedback from our first-ever Prayer and Pie, held on Tuesday evening before Thanksgiving, was excellent, so it will be part of our parish life in Autumn 2015. This was a short, quiet service of prayer in the church, followed by a social hour with desserts in the parish hall. Megan explained that she's considering options instead of a Christmas pageant, such as a Christmas performance with assorted one-act segments by different groups or individuals in our parish, or a Sunday School-produced play that's not held at Christmastime.

The Rector emphasized the need for more volunteers to help to teach Sunday School, whether it's for a season, a month, or just one week. Megan explained that she and Jen Newgent will plan and teach a 2-year Confirmation Class, featuring field trips, fun, and flexibility. There are over a dozen teenagers in the parish who are the age to participate in this Confirmation Class, beginning in Autumn 2015. Last spring's Worship 101 class for adults was remembered as very informative and enjoyable. We appreciate the musical skill, hard work, and flexibility with a broad range of music exhibited by our Director of Music Ministries, Jen. We determined that we, both individually and collectively, must consciously promote the outstanding summer concerts which she plans and schedules. People remarked that they enjoyed the guest musicians who Jen arranged to participate in some Sunday services.

Our Rector pointed out that Sunday morning attendance has diminished significantly in the past couple of years because of numerous parishioners having many Sunday commitments. She understands this is a national trend, yet feels that our sense of community will be weakened if months pass when countless members of the parish attend some Sundays but virtually never see other members of the church who attend some other Sundays. Megan wishes for us to retain our strong community! -- while accepting members' travel and other plans for numerous Sundays.

We approvingly acknowledged that our parish's funding of outreach has increased since Megan became our Rector in January 2010. We recognized that she has involved Immanuel's youth in raising some outreach monies and in educating them concerning the multiplicity of needs addressed by outreach gifts. Both the Rector and the Treasurer were most complimentary of the church's Bookkeeper, Melissa Whatley.

Megan informed us that the awaited septic line work will be performed inside and outside of the Rectory no later than early May. She stated the Property Committee has been exceedingly helpful about diverse issues, outdoors and inside, throughout our campus.

We confirmed that our parish is very happy with our Rector and most facets of our parish life. We wished Megan a splendid 10-week sabbatical, beginning Tuesday, April 21, 2015, and ending when she returns for Sunday morning services on July 5, 2015. The Rector will attend Diocesan

Convention during her sabbatical; she serves as Co-Chair of the Convention Planning Committee.

No May Meeting

The Vestry did not meet in May 2015 because of the Rector's sabbatical and the fact that our Vestry had been up-to-date addressing Immanuel Church's needs.

June Meeting

Our Senior Warden, Liz Sieck, presided when the Vestry met in the evening of Tuesday, June 9, 2015. Megan continued on sabbatical. The Treasurer reported that our parish's investment account contained \$1,535,483.61 as of May 31.

The Vestry unanimously approved our parish's gift of \$500 for the annual Bishop's Appeal of the Diocese of Maryland. This worthwhile fund supports numerous self-help efforts which make grass-roots progress assisting troubled communities located within our Diocese. Our Vestry unanimously voted to spend \$428 from the church's 2015 Outreach budget to fund one child's attendance for the 6-week summer camp run by The Club at Collington Square, sponsored by Episcopal Community Services of Maryland.

Liz reported that Blevins Septic Service, headquartered in Freeland, Maryland, completed work with our Rectory's sewer line in May 2015. She explained that Noby Powell recently dislodged the church bell which could not ring one Sunday due to being stuck. Liz announced that Noby has tied one of the bell's ropes, which rings a clapper outside the waist of the bell (as opposed to the other rope, which rings the bell normally with the inside clapper) to prevent anyone from getting the bell stuck again (we hope). The church will contact the paving contractor which seal-coated the parking lot nearly 10 months ago, as too much of the seal coat has peeled off.

The Vestry agreed that the Property Committee needs to make inquiries and then take action on an emergency basis to repair the outdoor stairs leading to the parish office and Sunday School rooms. These cinder block stairs were badly damaged by ice and other weather conditions last winter. We requested that the Property Committee explore replacing the arched window near the 1881 entrance to our Parish Hall. This window was broken when a contractor did major work very near it in 2014.

Our Property Committee has already begun investigating options for repairing the stone walkway around our church. Over time, stones have become loose, and we earlier confirmed our wish to keep this lovely stone walkway. The Property Committee has been exploring possibilities for some roofing work in the next year or so over part of our parish hall which was built in three parts over 107 years. We're asking the Committee to investigate the recent, sudden deaths of several boxwood plants near the church, and to recommend how to handle the space that will be created when these brown, dried shrubs are removed.

The Vestry agreed that we each should attempt to invite people to our three summer concerts this year. Joe Chadwick had already offered to print some letter-sized signs to publicize the three excellent concerts which Jen Newgent arranged. He will try to get these signs in strategic public places to increase awareness of our free concerts. We thought that we each should invite people to visit Immanuel Church on various occasions, not just for the free summer concerts.

We learned that St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Ellicott Mills, will welcome its new Rector, as well as celebrate with Recognition of the Bishop's Ministry Team, on the evening of Wednesday, June 17. This was the parish which suffered the tragedy of a gunman killing its Co-Rector and its Administrative Assistant in spring 2012.

At the end of the meeting, we mentioned the Episcopal Church's triennial General Convention that will meet in Salt Lake City from June 25 through July 3, 2015. Electing a new Presiding Bishop for the next nine years will be the most anticipated part of our denomination's national gathering.

July Meeting

Our Vestry again met on Tuesday, July 14, thankful that our 2015 Parish Photo Directories finally arrived from the vendor -- and, predictably, they are beautiful. The Rector expressed her deep appreciation for her recent Sabbatical.

Megan reported that she and Jen Newgent are planning the 2-year confirmation class to begin in autumn 2015. Rather than being a classroom-type confirmation class, the students will take field trips to the Cathedral of the Incarnation and the Episcopal Hispanic Mission, both in Baltimore, and each will attend a variety of services. The

students will do some reading and other learning without being expected to attend weekly classes.

Our Rector advised that she wants to lead an assortment of single classes in adult education, rather than a series of classes, regarding a variety of topics in 2015-2016 and in 2016-2017. She has already scheduled Trinity Sunday, May 22, 2016, as the last day of the choir's 2015-2016 year. Megan announced that our Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 8, 2015.

The church will print and mail a statement of their 2015 donations to each pledging or otherwise monetarily contributing household in early September 2015. This statement will be each member's opportunity to verify that our own giving records for 2015 match Immanuel Church's records.

The Rector explained that Immanuel's tap water must pass five tests within a 30-day period, following the finding of plant-based bacteria in the water at the time of routine, quarterly testing, some weeks ago. A chlorination treatment was promptly done, and the water has passed a couple of tests this summer. The well provides water for the parish hall, the church undercroft, and the Rectory, but we await further testing before it's again declared safe for drinking.

Water-testing people cautioned that we might get bacterial readings from old faucets rather than plant-based bacteria in the water coming up through the well. As a result, Megan (then on Sabbatical) saw the need to clean thoroughly the faucets in the well house because some of the testing must regularly be done at the source -- the well house. Because other required testing is done at various faucets on different dates, our Rector then urged the emergency expense of replacing some faucets, including the original ones in the 1988-built kitchen in our parish hall. Some of those faucets were loose and one had even fallen off a couple of times in recent months.

The two kitchen sinks and faucets in the Rectory were also replaced. They had been in need of updating anyway, but the water tester said those faucets were old and loose and could lead to bacterial growth as well. Their replacement assures tests can be taken reliably from either the Parish Hall or the Rectory.

Andy Crosby, representing our Property Committee, announced that this evening he's removing a hornets' nest from the eaves outside the door to our parish hall which is near the kitchen.

He's destroying three yellow jackets' nests, two of which were created in the ground of the grassy island between the main parking lot and the Rectory's driveway. The other nest is near the back of the Rectory, and Andy had begun eliminating the yellow jackets' nests shortly before the Vestry meeting.

Other property improvements, such as replacing the three antiquated heating systems in the Rectory before cool weather arrives within three months, continue to progress. Megan pointed out that we need to decide whether to re-new for five years the existing contract for our photocopier. Doug Whatley offered to investigate diverse options for office photocopiers.

Megan announced that a boxwood blight killed or is now killing at least seven of our boxwood plants, and it will attack the others if we do not remove the dead boxwood plants very soon. The boxwood blight has been active for several years over a wide area and is airborne.

Our Rector wishes to purchase a dogwood tree, either pink or white, to be planted at the church end of the grassy island between the Rectory driveway and the main parking lot. Because some members of the parish have contributed to a unique fund which the Rector can use to buy enhancements to the church's audio visual equipment, the plantings on our campus, etc., she is authorized to make this purchase because of the lack of objection from the Vestry. The first purchase from that fund was for the electronic mini-projector used to share Bishop Curry's sermon, preached at the close of our denomination's 2015 General Convention, during our Sunday, July 12 church service.

We confirmed that Bishop Michael Curry, formerly Rector of St. James Church, Lafayette Square, Baltimore, was elected a couple of weeks ago to serve as the 27th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. The Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina for the past 15 years, Bishop Curry will be installed as leader of our denomination this autumn. He's a friend of our retired Rector, the Rev. Carl Edwards, a native of North Carolina, who has done interim and supply clergy work this past decade-plus under Bishop Curry's leadership. Several church members have remembered fondly an occasion on which +Michael Curry preached at Immanuel while he was in this diocese before becoming a bishop.

Deborah Cunningham
Registrar

From the Office:

Reminder: My office hours are Mon. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Wed. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 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:
Dary@ImmanuelGlencoe.org

Dary Schmidt - Your Parish Administrator

Newsletter Deadlines

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

The *second Monday* of odd months.

Please give to Dary, or email to
Dary@ImmanuelGlencoe.org

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, Megan@ImmanuelGlencoe.org
Miss Jen Newgent, Director of Music Ministries, Jen@ImmanuelGlencoe.org
Ms. Dary Schmidt, Parish Administrator, Dary@ImmanuelGlencoe.org
Ms. Anne Greene, Church School Administrator, Anne@ImmanuelGlencoe.org
Ms. Melissa Whatley, Bookkeeper, Melissa@ImmanuelGlencoe.org

Vestry and Officers

Liz Sieck, Senior Warden, Doug Whatley, Junior Warden,
George Klein, Treasurer, Deborah Cunningham, Registrar,
Susan Baxter, Joe Chadwick, Andy Crosby,
Betty Cummings, Luke Harlan, Michele O'Connor,
Nelly Perkins, Betsy Powell, and Darcy Turner