

Founded 1871
Celebrating 139 Years

Immanuel's Messenger

December, 2010

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

Happy New Year! Ringing in the darkness...

No, this is not a misprint meant for the January newsletter. While many of us look forward to New Year's celebrations on December 31 and January 1, did you know that we are already beginning the Christian new year?

Each year on the first Sunday of Advent, four Sundays before Christmas, we begin the new year, starting over with all the liturgical seasons: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and the long season after Pentecost. Not only do we begin a new journey through the seasons, but also we begin a new reading cycle in our Sunday lectionary. Year A we read mostly from Matthew. Year B is mostly from Mark. Year C we spend mainly with Luke. John is encountered at some points throughout all three years. This happens to be a special, BIG new year, as we go from ending Year C with Luke to beginning Year A with Matthew. This beginning at the top of the cycle only occurs once every three years!

While these are important points to consider liturgically, these new beginnings are also significant spiritually. This is especially true when we consider how and when we begin. With our recent time change and the lengthening hours of darkness, you are probably noticing that you spend more time in the dark these days. Like our mother Judaism, the Christian Church marks the

beginning of the new year in autumn as we experience lengthening darkness. Also, like Judaism and like the ancient Christian tradition, we know that the new day is marked with the arrival of nightfall. As Genesis tells us, "In the beginning, earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep." And, "It was evening, and then it was morning, the first day." For the beginning of time as we know it, for the beginning of the year as we celebrate it, and for the beginning of the day as we experience it, we begin in darkness (not dawn!).

Dr. Alexander Shaia comments, "Why is the arrival of darkness the moment to mark the change of year and day? Does darkness have a spiritual import? Let's begin with the human experience of darkness. As a species, nighttime and our lowered ability to see has meant increased vulnerability, physical harm, and even death. Most likely some fear or anxiety in darkness is hard wired in our collective DNA. On the other hand, each human life begins in the darkness of a womb. This experience of darkness conveys security and comfort that lead to new life. And each night in sleep, we may repeatedly touch a like sense of rest and renewal."

During this season of candles and lights, the recent newsletter released by Dr. Shaia's organization makes these suggestions:

- ≡ each night as you light a candle or your Tree – pause and consider the moment as the end of the old day and the beginning of the new.

- ≡ ponder the lengthy nights of December in the Northern Hemisphere as a holy darkness in which God is re-making your life.
- ≡ restore the earlier meaning of 'eve' so that the phrase Christmas Eve does not only mean December 24th, but also takes on its original intent as Christmas Evening that is followed by Christmas Morning.

Remember these reflections as you begin the Christian new year. Notice the changes in our Advent readings, now from Matthew. Ponder the hours of darkness as a time of new beginning, knowing life will eventually spring forth after this time. And consider how God in Christ, this season, is renewing your life and calling you to new growth.

The Rev. Megan E. Stewart-Sicking

Bud and Buzz, two of my favorite saints –

In just eight days Immanuel lost two men who, in different ways, made their marks on our lives and many others': Dr. Hayden Grant Braine and Milton Jay Firey IV. They were both loyal and generous members of our Immanuel family, and they both died after long debilitating illnesses.

Bud Braine (his nickname from childhood) grew up in Massachusetts, graduated from Harvard College and received his MD from Johns Hopkins. He soon found his calling to be in oncology, devoting both his research and patient care to overcome the power of cancer, especially leukemia. After three years' service in the Army Medical Corps at Ft. Sam Houston (where Major Braine received outstanding fitness reports for his research and clinical work) he returned to Baltimore for a life of service at the Hopkins Hospital and Medical School. His work in stem cell research and bone marrow transplants were literally life-savers.

When he moved to Towson he attended Trinity Church, where I was rector, and we became good friends. I especially treasured his contributions to our adult classes--marked by wit, insight, and modesty (I had to watch for a little wave of his hand, indicating that he had something pungent and profound to share). He was a lay Eucharistic minister and an energetic volunteer at the Assistance Center of Towson Churches.

Another of his admirers, it turns out, was the assistant rector, the Rev. Beverly Barfield Davis. The feeling was mutual and soon grew into much more; I officiated at their wedding at 10 am on Sunday morning, Feb. 19, 1990, attended by about 300 close friends and admirers ("No gifts, please"). Thanks to their persistence and generosity they adopted two young girls from China, Anni and Laiza, now 16 and 13.

When Bev served Immanuel as rector from 2001 to 2005, Bud became a part of our congregation, especially with his commitment to the Sunday school. They continued to live on Corbett Road, when he was stricken with rapidly developing senile dementia. Earlier this year he went to Arden Court on Bellona Ave., and in his last week was at Gilchrest Center, where he died on Oct. 30, quietly, peacefully, and, as he wanted it, without a lot of fuss.

I first met Buzz Firey at Brighton Gardens at Charles and Bellona four years ago, when Immanuel's interim priest, the Rev. Pat Drost, asked me to do a communion service organized by him for fellow residents. When I became interim in 2008 I continued these services and saw that Buzz got to our church as often as possible. He was born in 1941, had been baptized at Immanuel and grew up in his family home "Filston" on Glencoe Road. He was cyanotic (a "blue baby") at birth but survived because of the brilliant surgery developed by Dr. Helen Taussig and Dr. Alfred Blalock at Hopkins. He was one of the oldest of the babies they saved. In spite of crippled legs and cognitive impairments, he became a man of sensitivity, compassion, courage and faith, much of which he credited to his long association with Immanuel's Boy Scout Troop 485. For years he was the telephone voice of Immanuel, reminding our readers, acolytes and ushers of their Sunday assignments--beginning with "This is Boy Scout Buzzy" and closing with

a hearty "God bless you." His last year was at Manor Care, Charles Street, and his last days at St. Joseph Hospital, where he died on Nov. 7, pain free and at peace.

In these last months I often visited Buzz and Bud, who were actually only a few blocks from each other in Towson! We always ended our prayers with "Amen:" and then "Halleluiah"--"Praise the Lord."

We mourn their loss, which leaves great holes in the lives of many people. We honor them for what they have accomplished, and we renew our own faith in Jesus Christ, the holy healer who is the resurrection and the life.

The Rev.Kingsley Smith ~~

Highlights from the November 9th Vestry Meeting

At the November meeting, Mary Frances Wagley updated the Vestry on 2011 pledges received. As of November 9th, approximately \$101,000 had been pledged by fifty-two households. The goal is \$120,000 so we are a bit short. Please consider pledging if you have not already done so.

We also spent much time at the meeting discussing a draft of the 2011 operating budget. Generally speaking, the Vestry and Officers have proposed reducing expenses wherever possible without negatively impacting any programs. The budget theme for 2011 is "making do with less"!

We also discussed changes to the Church Bylaws which were presented for approval at the Annual Meeting on November 14th. The most significant of these is a proposed change to the number of Vestry. Given the size of Immanuel's Parish, the Vestry believes it makes sense to reduce the number from twelve to nine members. There would be no change to the number of Church Officers, which is currently four, and includes the Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Registrar and Treasurer.

Nelly Perkins

Hereford Food Bank Collections

Please remember to bring your canned goods and other non-perishable food items to church for the offertory every Sunday. As the baskets fill, we will continue to make deliveries to the Hereford Food Bank. Thank you!

From the Parish Register

Deaths

*Dr. Hayden Grant Braine
October 30, 2010*

*Milton Jay "Buzz" Firey, IV
November 7, 2010*

Coffee Hour Fellowship

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

Christmas Memorials and Thanksgivings:

If you would like to celebrate a Thanksgiving or honor the memory of a loved one with a Christmas offering, please send the form to the Church office by **Wednesday, December 15th**. We will use money received toward the beautiful greens and decorations in the Church, and print a list of all those Memorials and Thanksgivings for insertion in the Christmas bulletins.

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

Your Name: _____
Telephone: _____

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

Things/People to be included in the Thanksgivings:

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

Thank you.

Betsy Powell
Flower Guild

Property Perusal

Last year at this time was so long ago: we were rushing to finish the rectory to welcome Megan, Joe and Sam to Immanuel. A major snowstorm pulled down gutters but our old buildings stood firm against the storm. Felled trees, cemetery mowing issues, a variety of repairs, scraping and repainting the rectory exterior windows, and

repairing the rectory roof leaks all managed to get done. We've made progress on the next several tasks, and are keeping an eye on what will come beyond that.

As we plan for Immanuel's 2011, simple upkeep continues to be an important part of the budget. Perfection is impossible in old buildings, but the property committee tries to plan wisely to help keep Immanuel a beautiful, peaceful place we come to for solace and celebrations.

We've thanked people across the year, and appreciate most recently those who turned out in November to tidy the church grounds for winter. A robust showing of scouts led by Bill Berger was joined by Kingsley Smith, Mary Frances Wagley, Bunkie Hopkins, Rudi Horner, Tim Mettee and Sam Stewart-Sicking on the rectory exterior, while Joe and Megan installed more smoke detectors on the interior. All of the downed leaves were removed, and a Broadmead parishioner donated funds to tuck the church beds under rich mulch for the winter. What a fine day!

We would also like to thank Rich Schiffer of The Rich Group in Monkton for lending us tall ladders this summer, which would have been very expensive to rent. Rich and his family often attend Christmas Eve services. Please say hello and thank them if you see them here. Also thanks to For The Boys Painting, who helped with the highest rectory windows, and our intrepid Dary, who carefully brings information to the right person.

On behalf of the property committee -- Chuck "Can't Thank Him Enough" Gilbert, Andy Crosby, Chad Crowe, Gabe and Mark Ritter, Noby Powell, Peter Greene and newest member Doug Gunn -- a peaceful Christmas season to us all.

Katie Ritter
Property Chair

Women of Immanuel

For over 20 years WOI have been purchasing and wrapping Christmas gifts for the Catonsville

Children's Home. This year we will be purchasing gifts for 12 boys ages 15-19. We are provided with a wish list from each of the boys.

If you are interested in shopping or if you can't shop and would like to make a donation please call Donna Sieverts or Linda Ambrose. Each shopper will select one boy to shop for. We will then get together on December 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish House to organize the gifts and have hot cider and treats.

Sunday School News

We are starting to prepare for the Christmas pageant on Jan. 2. There are many roles for speaking parts and non-speaking parts. Jen Newgent has provided a great play for us.

Also the children had their first choir practice on Nov. 14. Jen taught them breathing, the most important part. Look for the children's choir debut during the Christmas pageant on Jan. 2.

Coleman Mettee
Sunday School Coordinator

“Cash for Kids”

Thank you Sarah Ebert for again volunteering to collect and tally the cash register receipts for the “Cash for Kids” program. The receipts will be **PINK** this year. Please collect them and deposit them in the container provided in the church vestibule. For each \$25,000 collected in pink Graul’s cash register receipts, we will receive a check in the amount of \$250 to benefit our Sunday School. The “Cash for Kids” program runs through March 27, 2011. So far we have collected \$3,693.51 in receipts. Please keep bringing your pink receipts to church!!

Your participation in this worthwhile program is greatly appreciated!

From the Office:

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

Dary Schmidt - Your Parish Administrator

Newsletter Deadlines

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

The *second Monday* of each month.

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

Following our long-standing, intentional practice, Immanuel Episcopal Church in Glencoe, Maryland, extends a warm welcome and an invitation to join us in community and worship to all people who desire to love and worship God, follow the example and teachings of Jesus Christ, and seek loving fellowship with others in His church. We extend this welcome and invitation especially to all who may have particular reason to think they may not be welcome because of physical appearance, physical or mental ability, ethnic or religious background, sexual orientation, financial circumstance, or past or present sins. We confess that we are not a community already perfected in love. But we want to become more fully loving, and we welcome into our community all who wish to join us in this endeavor.

Clergy and Staff

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

Vestry and Officers

Rudi Horner, Senior Warden, Doug Whatley, Junior Warden,
Chuck Gilbert, Treasurer, Nelly Perkins, Registrar,
Deborah Cunningham, Todd Ensor, Doug Gunn,
Gayle Hagan, Bunkie Hopkins, Catherine Klein,
Katie Ritter, Donna Saddler,
Mary Jane Shanks, Pam Swanson,
and Mary Frances Wagley

December 2010

Dec. 2	7:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal	Dec. 16	2:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Deadline Newsletter Choir Rehearsal
Dec. 5		2 Advent	Dec. 19		4 Advent
	8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I
	9:00 a.m.	Adult Education Class		10:10 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:10 a.m.	Sunday School		10:15 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II
	10:15 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II		11:15 a.m.	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	11:15 a.m.	Children's Choir Rehearsal			
Dec. 7	7:00 p.m.	Adult Education Group	Dec. 24		Christmas Eve
Dec. 8	7:00 p.m.	WOI/Gift Wrapping		4:00 p.m. 9:30 p.m.	Family Friendly Service: H.E. II Festival Service: H. E. II
Dec. 9	7:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal	Dec. 25		Christmas Day
Dec. 11	10:00 a.m.	Tea & Talk		10:15 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II
Dec. 12		3 Advent	Dec. 26		Christmas I
	8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist I		10:15 a.m.	Morning Prayer w/H. E. II
	9:00 a.m.	Adult Education Class	Dec. 27	1:00 p.m.	Newsletter Team Meets
	10:10 a.m.	Sunday School			
	10:15 a.m.	Morning Prayer w/H. E. II			
	11:15 a.m.	Children's Choir Rehearsal			
Dec. 14	7:30 p.m.	Vestry Meeting – Parish Hall			



**North County Santa
Camp Puhtok Lodge,**

Breakfast

1743 Big Falls Road, Monkton, Monkton MD 21111



Sponsored by Boy Scout Troop 485

★
Pancakes
Sausage & Bacon
Scrambled Eggs
Biscuits & Gravy
Belgian Waffles

★
Crafts to Make
Cookie Wheel
Lollipop Tree
Princess Manicures
Portraits with Santa ★

★
Tickets:
\$8.00 pre-purchased
\$9.00 at-the-door
Children 5 & under FREE!



Visits With Santa!
Storytelling by the Fireside ★
Ample Parking
with Shuttle Service

Saturday, December 4

7:00 AM – 11 AM



SEND YOUR MONEY BY NOVEMBER 30

Mail Orders will receive 2 FREE Game Coupons!

Mail to: North County Santa Breakfast P.O. Box 327, Sparks, MD 21152



Questions? Call Bob Ryan 410-472-2748