

Immanuel's Messenger

December 2014/January 2015

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

From the Rector

As we near the end of fall and the start of another winter, we give thanks for all the wonderful ideas, services, and events that have kicked off our program year. I am especially grateful and excited about our first-ever Prayer & Pie event, suggested by Jen and organized by us both to offer prayers and music for Thanksgiving. We had a wonderful time planning this opportunity for the congregation to gather and give thanks early in Thanksgiving Week, and I especially thank the choir for their support and all who brought pies to share! My first-time recipe (and now beginning tradition?) wassail made an appearance, along with many sorts of pies, ice cream, whipped cream, and the grateful prayers of the many who gathered.

We continue with the layout for our first photo directory in many years, and please note it's not too late to turn in your photo! We hope to wrap up the layout and planning by Christmas so we have the new photo directory early in 2015. I heartily thank Darcy Turner, MJ Shanks, and Linda Ambrose for their amazing ideas and talent!

As for our good-bye to Chuck and Barbara Gilbert on All Saints' Sunday, I could not have hoped for a better event! While the circumstances were sad, I was pleased with the turn-out and thoughtful creativity that went into the surprise skit elements of our worship service. This is the only time a snake will appear in a church service at Immanuel, and probably also the only time we will all sing along and dance to Neil Diamond. It was great fun to pay tribute to this wonderful

couple and to celebrate the many ministries of Chuck in our Church.

Finally, please note the outreach reports below. After our focus on local outreach in Hereford and Baltimore all fall, we will have a special speaker on international outreach during Advent. Please mark your calendar for Sunday, December 14, when we will have one service at 10:15am. We will welcome Sonia H. Patterson, President & CEO of Five Talents, as our preacher and for a Q&A Session during coffee hour. Five Talents will be the recipient of this year's Christmas Offering, so this is a great opportunity to learn about how they will use our donation. More information on Five Talents is available below under outreach.

Don't miss more information below on Christmas giving opportunities, Christmas Pageant information, and a look ahead all the way to the Pancake Supper!

-The Rev. Megan E. Stewart-Sicking
Rector

From the Director of Music

Congregational Preludes! During Epiphany, anyone who plays an instrument or sings is welcome to play the prelude! Any instrument is welcome. You may play solo or with someone(s) else. If you need accompaniment, or you want to

play with someone but don't know who, ask Jen. The Sundays when this can happen are January 11, 18, 25, and Feb 8 & 15. If you are interested, contact Jen.

-Jen Newgent
Director of Music Ministries

From the Sunday School

Sunday School has been busy studying Bible stories and creating wonderful artistic representations of Creation for the church. Our fall schedule also included special topics for Stewardship and All Saints' Sundays. We look forward to presenting you with our annual Christmas pageant, which is all new this year. Looking forward to more fun in the winter months!

Anne Greene
Sunday School Coordinator

Youth Group News

We thank all youth group members who helped behind the scenes and participated in skits for All Saints' Sunday. Our next event will be in early December to shop for new toys and other Christmas gifts for Paul's Place. Watch your email for more details, and please let Megan+ know if you need to be added to our group email list. Thank you!

-Mother Megan and Miss Jen

Outreach News

Christmas Gift Cards for Catonsville Children's Home

Due Sunday, December 7

Christmas is just around the corner! It is the time of year when we begin planning for gifts to our boys at the Catonsville Children's Home. Each boy will receive a gift card. We hope the entire congregation will support this effort.

Please donate gift cards purchased at Walmart or

Target. Our goal is to give each boy \$50 in gift cards. We are asking those interested in giving to donate gift cards totaling up to \$50, with each gift card not to exceed \$25 in value. **Gift card donations should be returned to one of the following no later than Sunday morning, December 7:** Donna Sieverts, Mary Jane Shanks, Linda Ambrose, or Dary at the church office.

Thank you for your generosity and support in past years, and we hope you will join us in giving this year.

MJ Shanks

What is Five Talents? Come December 14 and Find Out!

On Sunday, December 14, we will have one service at 10:15am, and we will welcome Sonia Patterson, President & CEO of Five Talents. Our Christmas Offering will benefit this international outreach organization. The information below is quoted directly from their website. For more information, visit www.fivetalents.org

"Five Talents USA is a faith-based international development organization with the mission to fight poverty, create jobs and transform lives by empowering the poor in developing countries using savings and microcredit programs, business training and spiritual development.

Five Talents was started at a global meeting of Anglican Church leaders in response to their deep concern for the poor internationally. The founders wanted to guard the dignity of the poor and assist them by creating jobs and opportunities to rise out of poverty, so in 1998 Five Talents was founded.

Today, Five Talents serves communities in some of the most risky, remote, rural areas in the world – places not served by commercial microcredit agencies. Our work has inspired churches of all denominations, as well individuals and organizations of all religious and non-religious backgrounds, to join with us in fighting poverty and empowering the poor. We are headquartered in Fairfax, Virginia, outside Washington, D.C., and have a sister organization, Five Talents UK, based outside London, England."

- Mother Megan

Pasta Cook-Off Review Receives 5 Stars!

Once again, this annual event (October 11, 2014) provided a delicious dinner by the Cook-Off contestants and then an opportunity to immediately work off some of the calories through square dancing! New contestants entered this year to challenge the regular competitors. Hats off to the 10 chefs whose delectable dishes became dinner for 36 as we sampled and pondered each and every bite.

The Honorable mention recipients were: Liz and John Sieck, Sarah Borton, Mimi and Chase Frysiek, Lucy Mettee, Natalie Zinkham and David Summers, and Kate Whatley. The winners were: 1st place – *Chili Pasta Bake* (Gwen Sieck and Tim Vallario); 2nd place – *Old Whatley Family Recipe* (Julia Whatley); and a tie for 3rd place – *Terrific Tortellini* (Emma Whatley) and *Ellie Jelly Belly's Lucky Luscious Lasagna* (Ellie Borton). The dinner was absolutely scrumptious!

This event could not happen if these chefs (and their helpers) were not willing to donate their expertise, time and ingredients to create and share their unique entries. After dinner, 28 people enjoyed square, circle and line dancing, ably led by caller Gene Fitta. The whole event netted \$89.05 for outreach. Besides the chefs, other members of the event team included: Bobbie and Todd Ensor, Mary Jane Shanks, Tim Mettee, Steve Secor, the Boy Scouts, Deborah Cunningham, Tara and Harry McDonough, Liz Sieck and Rudi Horner. The floor is now open for suggestions for next year's event!

Thanksgiving Outreach 2014

Once again, Immanuel parishioners have responded quickly and generously to the request from the Assistance Center of Towson Churches to provide Thanksgiving dinners to those in need. In the past, our parishioners actually packed bags of items we donated and delivered to families in Sparks and Hereford. Now, we are part of a much larger effort and pool our financial resources for greater efficiency. We pledged turkeys and the accompanying "Thanksgiving basket" to 30 families. In a very short time, our generous

parishioners donated a total of \$1,237 which will provide turkeys to 38 families and baskets to 37! Thank you to everyone who contributed to not only meet, but well exceed our target!

Thank you,
Rudi Horner

From the Senior Warden

Last month, on November 16, we held our Annual Parish Meeting. We had an opportunity to reflect on the hard work and beautiful results that have manifested since our last Meeting. The direct contribution of time, talent and treasure from Immanuel parishioners, known and unknown, are the reason for these manifestations.

Three Vestry members completed their terms this year, Linda Ambrose, Chad Crowe, and Suzanne Supplee. We are very appreciative of their service and dedication to our Church. Luke Harlan was elected to the Vestry for a three-year term. We are looking forward to Luke's service to Immanuel and know Immanuel will benefit from his experience and wisdom. We are still looking for two more parishioners to serve on Immanuel's Vestry. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM. Mother Megan+ conducts the meetings and is extremely disciplined in keeping the meetings on track, respectful of everyone's time constraints. Please contact Mother Megan+ or me if you have any questions and/or are interested in serving.

We have had such a busy and worthwhile fall here at Immanuel – rallying for the Turner Family, Darcy Turner still spearheading the very important photo directory, the kick-off for the Stewardship campaign, the Pasta Cook-off, celebrating Mother-Megan's+ birthday, Melissa Whatley volunteering as our photographer-in-residence, a Praise Service with Rev. Joe Stewart-Sicking sharing his faith story, and an All Saints Sunday celebration and skit featuring two of Immanuel's "saints", Chuck and Barbara Gilbert, as we tearfully sent them off to sunny Florida. Kudos to Alex, Julia, and Kate Whatley and Mother Megan and Miss Jen for such a funny and moving tribute.

The Church New Year (Advent) is imminent and opportunities to share in the manifestations of Immanuel will continue as we await, again, the celebration of Jesus' birth and promise together.

Faithfully,
Liz Sieck, Senior Warden

Behind the Scenes at the Parish Luncheon

There is a group of wonderful people who are always working behind the scenes of our events either setting up and/or cleaning up. Would like to thank the following for helping with the Parish Pot Luck Luncheon on November 16, 2014: Bobbie Ensor, Rudi Horner, Mary Jane Shanks, Laura Sheffield, Sarah and Ellie Borton, and Liz Sieck. Also thanks to everyone who brought a dish to share. Compliments to all the chefs!

Linda Ambrose

Pledge Drive 2015 Continues

Immanuel Church has received 47 pledges totaling \$119,000 for the parish's 2015 budget as of November 30.

These generous pledges for 2015 allow us to plan a richly varied calendar with interesting, assorted services and exciting other programs. Each pledge is significant, an affirmation of members' enthusiasm for our church community.

We hope, therefore, still to hear from numerous members of Immanuel who have not yet pledged for 2015. If you need a duplicate pledge card, feel free to take one from the entrance of the church, or to contact our parish office to request that a new pledge card be mailed to you.

Tara McDonough & Deborah Cunningham
Co-Chairs, Pledge Drive 2015

Looking Ahead!

BEGIN THE LENTEN SEASON AT IMMANUEL'S PANCAKE SUPPER AND SUPPORT THE ARK

**Shrove Tuesday
February 17, 2015
6:00 PM in the Parish Hall**

Celebrate Fat Tuesday at Immanuel's Annual Pancake Supper beginning at 6 PM on February 17 in the Parish Hall. Feast on pancakes, hominy made by our own "Hominy Hon," sausage, fruit, and the Stewart-Sicking's traditional ice cream sundaes. Donations of \$6 for adults and \$3 for children will be appreciated. All proceeds from the Pancake Supper will once again be combined with donations to the Souper Bowl of Caring to benefit The Ark, a state-accredited preschool for homeless children in Baltimore City, supported by the Episcopal Community Services of Maryland.

Bring your family and friends for a festive evening. Look for the *Mardi Gras Table* in the Parish Hall vestibule at this year's Christmas Pageant. It helps with planning to know your intentions, so please reserve your spots in advance. One can also call Mary Jane Shanks at 410-557-6047 or email mjshanks@zoominternet.net

A flyer will appear in upcoming newsletters and on the website beginning in January. Print it out to give to friends. There will be some flyers in the Parish Hall and church entrance, too.

WE NEED LOTS OF VOLUNTEERS TO HELP! Mary Jane will be emailing some of you to schedule servers, flippers, mixers, and for setup and cleanup. There will also be a Volunteer Sheet at the *Mardi Gras Table*. Please sign-up.

After supper, sometime between 7 and 7:30 PM, we will parade over to the church for an Ash Wednesday Prayer Service with the imposition of Ashes. We hope to see you all there.

MJ Shanks

Property Perusal

The physical plant for our little Church continues to require weekly attention. We are awaiting the arrival of our new door to the well house after having secured the services of an electrician to re-wire the well house to accommodate a light and small space heater (freezing pipes). The Boy Scout Clean-up event in late November allowed us to remove several large shrubs and prepare the grounds for the winter. We will continue to address light bulb replacements in the Church, vermin in the undercroft, drainage issues around the grounds as well as ongoing general repairs that any aging facilities would require. Please note that we are always looking for new talent and with the upcoming winter storms, we can always utilize a strong back and a shovel.

Your Always Diligent Property Committee

From the Parish Register

Deaths

Louise Sharp

October 22, 2014

2015 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 Memorial and Thanksgiving Flowers:

If you would like to celebrate something or honor the memory of a loved one with a Christmas flower offering, please send the form to the Church office by **Monday, 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

Vestry Meeting Notes

September 2014

The Vestry met on Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2014, at which time our Rector announced that she's accepted the resignation of Suzanne Supplee from our Vestry due to other commitments and time constraints. Her term was scheduled to end in Dec. 2014, and the Vestry agreed with the Rector that the Vestry seat will not be filled until January 2015 when newly-elected Members join the Vestry.

Megan proposed using the remaining \$600, allotted for outreach efforts in the parish's 2014 budget, for our Youth Group to shop for Christmas Gifts for Paul's Place. These funds could also be used to purchase Thanksgiving baskets if the congregation falls short of the donation goal for our parish, and/or for additional Christmas gifts for the Catonsville Boys Home. The Vestry approved these uses for the funds, at our Rector's discretion.

Andy Crosby of the Property Committee reported that the parish hall chimney needs a new cap and new liner. Once installed, these new pieces will allow the new boiler to operate more efficiently. The Vestry approved spending up to \$2500 for this work.

The well pump was replaced, and now the basic well house enhancement project is finished. Tree work was completed before the paving contractor came to re-pave the circle around the church and to pave for the first time our handicapped parking area near the 1881 entrance of the parish hall. The paving contractor has widened the circle part of our driveway, according to our parish's specifications. The main parking lot and adjacent areas were also seal coated. Megan pointed out that we and our tree expert need to watch several big, old trees that will, in the upcoming years, need to be removed.

A professional beekeeper removed the honeybee colony from the interior wall of the 1881 entrance to our parish hall. The bees and hive are now part of a domesticated honeybee farm. Interior plaster work was scheduled for late Sept.

October 2014

Our Vestry met again on Oct. 14, 2014, at which time the Rector asked Vestry members and officers to contact her with nominations for the three seats on our Vestry that should be filled at our Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, Nov. 16.

Megan explained that the Mowell family has generously offered \$1500 toward the new church sign, at the foot of our hill, to continue using the memorial plaque that was on the back of the decades-old, wooden church sign. The large

wooden sign was a memorial gift for a member of their family. Our Rector pointed out that accepting this gift allows the Frank Palmer, III, memorial funds to pay \$2500, not just \$1000, toward some high quality, new signs to direct visitors in our upper campus. The Vestry accepted the Mowells' kind gift of \$1500, and our Property Committee will explore getting a memorial plaque in honor of Frank Palmer, III, to use with the older Mowell memorial plaque.

The Rector informed us that we will celebrate All Saints' Sunday with just one service on Nov. 2, during which we will extend our thanks to Chuck Gilbert, who will move the next day, with his wife, Barbara, to the Florida Keys. We recall his immense volunteer efforts for our church, including service as our parish Treasurer, Property Committee member, and Vestry member. We honor him, too, for his ceaseless, skillful, and joyful volunteer work in support of numerous and diverse aspects of our church. Our Rector will present Chuck and Barbara Gilbert with a gift from Immanuel Church on that Sunday morning; she remarked that coffee hour will include a cake in gratitude to the Gilberts' commitment to our parish. Several Vestry members instantly offered to bring a food donation to the All Saints' Sunday coffee hour when we wish Chuck and Barbara all the best for their move to Florida.

The Rector explained that the church scheduled an electrician to come later this week to install an electrical outlet and light switch in our well house. Additionally, he will correct the timer light outside of the kitchen and office entrance to the parish hall. He will examine and correct a number of other issues, including some very old light switches in the Rectory that no longer work properly.

The Property Committee will invite selected roofers to inspect and evaluate the roof over each of the three sections of our parish hall – built in 1881, 1958, and 1988. At least the middle section, dating from 1958, will probably need to be replaced in the next couple of years.

Megan wishes to make improvements of space utilization in our church's undercroft. This area serves numerous purposes, yet needs to be

planned for a more attractive appearance and more useful organization. Furthermore, the Property Committee will soon explore whether the downspout immediately outside the Epistle side of the church, near the front, is related to the continuing problems of excessive moisture inside that part of the undercroft.

Our Rector informed us that we need to have an acoustics expert visit the upstairs of the parish hall to evaluate how to manage the endless echoing and excessive noise level. Three different building constructions merged to give us the big, open space that's acoustically poor, frequently making it difficult to hear in parts of the open area because of the echoing noise created during large gatherings and when services are held in the parish hall.

LifeTouch, the publisher of our new, church picture directory, will not schedule a third day with its photographer at our location unless we schedule at least 58 portrait appointments. So far, we have 35 appointments scheduled, including seven in a row for Broadmead residents who will carpool to Immanuel. Megan emphasized that those who cannot come on the scheduled days to Immanuel can electronically submit a good digital photo and pay \$10 for including the picture in our new directory.

November 2014

Immanuel's Vestry met for its monthly meeting on Nov. 11, 2014. Megan reported that one member of our church, Luke Harlan, has agreed to serve on the Vestry, beginning this winter. We were trying to have a slate of three candidates for the Vestry election at our Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, Nov. 16, but we may have to elect one or two of the new members later, because a significant number of well-qualified members of our parish are too busy with other commitments to join our Vestry in a couple of months when new terms begin.

The Rector reported that Immanuel will have to pay LifeTouch for some extra copies of our new, church photo directory because so many parishioners were unavailable during the two days that LifeTouch came to our parish hall. Members

who were unavailable during the two-day photo sessions with LifeTouch's photographers are being encouraged to submit electronically a good quality, vertically-oriented picture, along with \$10 to have it published in our new parish directory.

Megan informed us that she will be on vacation from the afternoon of Sunday, Nov. 16 through Saturday, Nov. 29, 2014, except for our Prayers & Pie gathering on Tuesday evening, Nov. 25 at 7:00 PM. On Sunday, Nov. 23, The Rev. Meredith Kefauver Olsen, who has not visited us before, will officiate at both services. She's an Episcopal priest, formerly engaged in parish ministry, who works in Pastoral Care at St. Joseph's Hospital in Towson.

Our Rector showed us the Agenda for our Annual Parish Meeting, to be held during the time when we usually have a sermon, at our sole service on Sunday, Nov. 16. We hope to have much more participation in our Annual Parish Meeting by using the normal sermon time for the meeting.

George Klein, parish Treasurer, reported that our investment portfolio held \$1,565,731.38 on Oct. 31, 2014. The Vestry voted for the Rector's Housing Allowance for I.R.S. purposes to be \$8,000 for the year 2015. The Housing Allowance is the amount of pay which is tax-free for a Rector when she has receipts for housing expenses of certain types that date from the year in question.

Deborah Cunningham, co-chair of Pledge Drive 2015, announced that we received 39 pledges, totaling \$107,610, as of the day before our meeting. Vestry members and officers chose which church members to phone to discover whether or not they plan to pledge for 2015.

The Property Committee awaits a new, permanent door for the side of our well house. A wooden door is being used until the sturdy, weather-proof door is installed. Otherwise, the well house improvements and related landscaping are finished, now that the electrician has connected the well house to power for interior lighting and the use of a space heater. The Property Committee has been taking bids for a new heating contractor who will service the parish hall, the church, and the Rectory.

Boy Scout Troop 485 will hold its semi-annual Clean-up Day at Immanuel on the morning of Sat., Nov. 22, and all members of the church are invited to participate with them.

Deborah Cunningham
Registrar

From the Office:

Reminder: My office hours are Mon. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 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,
Linda Ambrose, Betty Cummings, Andy Crosby,
Chad Crowe, Michele O'Connor, Nelly Perkins,
Betsy Powell, and Darcy Turner

**SATURDAY
DEC 6
7-11 AM**



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Scan here to view this content

**Boy Scout Troop 485's
North County
Santa Breakfast**

**Camp Puh'tok Lodge
17433 Big Falls Road, Monkton**

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|------------------|---------------------------|
| Pancakes | Crafts to Make |
| Sausage & Bacon | Portraits with Santa |
| Biscuits & Gravy | Princess Manicures |
| Scrambled Eggs | Kringle's Bakeshop |
| Belgian Waffles | Professional Storytelling |

Holiday Music

Cookie Wheel

Lollipop Tree

Tickets
\$10 in advance
\$12 at the door
Free for children 5 and under

To purchase tickets in advance, send your check payable to Troop 485 by November 30:
North County Santa Breakfast
PO Box 387, Sparks MD 21152
or visit the Wegmans Hunt Valley Service Desk
Questions? Call Bob Ryan at 410-472-2748

Ample Parking