

# *Immanuel's Messenger*

February/March 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 our snowy winter continues, I hope everyone has enjoyed warm and cozy days inside, and that all of our children have enjoyed their many snow days, delays, and early dismissals. For those who love the snow, we offer with you prayers of praise and thanksgiving. For those who can't stand the cold or whose children's schedules are driving them insane, we offer prayers for patience and endurance.

Lent will soon be upon us, beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 18. I encourage you to take up a daily reading, prayer, and/or meditation practice during Lent. Two very easy options are:

**Forward Day by Day-** A very brief daily written reflection available in a small booklet at the church entrance or online each day at [www.forwardmovement.org](http://www.forwardmovement.org).

**Lent Madness-** A fun and witty experience for learning about both popular and rather obscure saints. Saints compete against one another and daily votes are cast to see who continues to the next rounds, eventually leading to one saint winning the "golden halo." Read the blog or sign up for daily emails at [www.lentmadness.org](http://www.lentmadness.org). (Sponsored by Forward Movement Publications.)

We also have two educational discussions coming up on the calendar. First, as promised this year, we will have a discussion around getting our affairs in order and planning funeral services.

You will hear some suggestion from me and also be given the opportunity to take home a sheet to fill out and keep on file in the office. This sheet will help us to know what plans you already have and what some of your wishes might be, particularly if your family needs assistance in planning a service or if you plan for your funeral to be here.

In addition, we will have a discussion around Autism Spectrum Disorders and autism awareness. We will learn what autism is, what some of its known causes are, what sorts of things are being investigated now, how autism affects daily life, etc. We will also share some information on the Stewart-Sicking family journey, including information on the most current, evidence-based therapies, Simon's progress, and multiple studies in which the family participates. (Did you know that researchers have been to the church campus and have collected samples from the Rectory!?) Autism Spectrum Disorder affects 1 in 68 children according to the CDC, and we will discuss some of the public health, educational, and health insurance concerns we should consider as a society and as a Christian community.

The funeral planning discussion will take about 45 minutes and will be offered on Sunday, **February 22** at 9am and 11:45am.

The autism awareness discussion will take an hour to an hour and fifteen minutes (shorter at the earlier time) and will be offered at 9am and 11:45am on Sunday, **March 29**.

Further adult education topics around scripture, current issues in church growth and society, and worship will be considered for the spring and fall. Please let me know of your ideas!

-The Rev. Megan E. Stewart-Sicking  
Rector

### ***From the Director of Music***

Choir rehearsals for Easter will begin on March 5. If you would like to sing with the choir for Easter, please talk to or email Jen.

-Jen Newgent  
Director of Music Ministries

### ***From the Sunday School***

As we look forward to late winter and spring, we will concentrate on the New Testament and Jesus' life. I'll be sending out a teaching schedule soon, so if you'd like to teach and haven't already told me, please let me know by February 1st and I'll get you on the calendar. The children always benefit from different viewpoints and teaching styles, so don't be shy! On another note, this past Christmas was the first in many years that we didn't have a Christmas Pageant. While this was a regrettable circumstance of difficult scheduling, we look forward to re-working our Christmas presentation format for next year. Stay tuned!

Anne Greene  
Sunday School Coordinator

### ***Youth Group News***

We have some fun ideas for youth group events this late winter and spring. If you have ideas, please let us know and watch for further information in the next couple of months. We primarily communicate with parents through an email list, so if you have a child in Middle or High School and are not on the email list, please let Megan+ know. Thanks!

-Mother Megan and Miss Jen

## ***Outreach News***

### **The 2014 Year in Review for Outreach**

As a parish, our outreach to those less fortunate starts in our own community and extends to very distant communities. We donate our time, talent and treasure to support outreach for on-going and emergency needs. Some of the recipients of our outreach are very familiar, such as the Catonsville Boys Home, and others change every year, due to local emergencies or those farther away, e.g., Ebola. In 2014, the total for treasure was a **very generous \$13,480.49**, which came from a variety of sources, as detailed below. Added to that are weekly food donations for the Hereford Food Bank, monthly volunteers at Paul's Place, and support for Diocesan outreach efforts as part of our monthly Diocesan allocation. Our 2014 outreach year in review included:

#### **The Ark preschool for homeless children in Baltimore City – a ministry of Episcopal Community Services of Maryland (ECSM)**

Total donated \$610.52

145.52 Souper Bowl of Caring  
465.00 Pancake Supper proceeds

#### **Good Friday Offering (from parishioners)**

\$435.00 for the Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East

#### **Easter Offering (from parishioners and Oldfields School)**

\$2,003 for Neighbor-To-Neighbor, dedicated to preventing homelessness in Baltimore County

#### **Summer Camp at the Club at Collington (ECSM)**

\$250.00 from Graul's receipts

#### **Kennedy Kreiger – via Baltimore Marathon fundraising**

\$200 from parishioners and Rector's discretionary fund

**Neighbors in need – DeFelice and Turner Families; Sparks School teacher**

\$4,895 from parishioners and Rector’s discretionary fund

**Thanksgiving – Assistance Center of Towson Churches (ACTC)**

Total donated \$1,297 (from parishioners)  
386.00 38 turkeys  
851.00 37 Thanksgiving food baskets

**Catonsville Boys Home (Christmas)**

Total donated \$787.26 from Cook off, parishioner donations and operating budget  
37.26 Candy purchased by Youth Group  
750.00 Gift cards for 20 boys

**Christmas - Paul’s Place**

Total donated \$724.71 (parishioner donations and operating budget)  
518.11 Toys for families at Paul’s Place  
206.60 Toiletries for parents at Paul’s Place

**Christmas Offering (from parishioners)**

\$2,038 for Five Talents, an Episcopal-supported international development agency assisting women to develop micro-enterprises.

**Episcopal Relief and Development (from parishioners)**

\$300 for Ebola Crisis Response

**Total for 2014: \$13,480.49**

Thank you to everyone who contributes in so many ways to these vital outreach efforts. The total is clearly greater than the sum of the individual parts!

Rudi Horner

***From the Senior Warden***

January 10, 2015 marked Mother Megan’s five (5) year anniversary with us as Immanuel’s rector. Our parish has been blessed to have the entire Stewart-Sicking family with us these past years. Our church has grown in parishioners and

programs. Our campus has been greatly improved in terms of safety, beauty, and comfort through the hard work of the Property Committee following through on Mother Megan’s vision.

Another vision of Mother Megan’s is for Immanuel to be in the position of being able to immediately respond to a family or individual(s) within our parish and/or community who are in crisis. This can be done through the Rector’s discretionary fund. I suggested to Megan, who wanted to keep her anniversary celebration low-key, that if anyone would wish to commemorate her time with us that a contribution could be made to this fund in honor of her anniversary. Megan agreed that this would be in keeping with her wishes of a low-key acknowledgement while helping to fulfill an outreach goal for Immanuel. If you feel so moved, please make checks out to Immanuel Church and note “Rector’s Discretionary Fund for MM anniversary” in the memo line.

Faithfully,  
Liz Sieck, Senior Warden

***Pledge Drive 2015 Continues***

Immanuel Church has received 57 pledges for \$128,000.

Your faithful pledges and other donations; astoundingly high levels of diverse, generous volunteerism; and carefully-planned, frugal budgeting by our Vestry are Immanuel Church's "winning formula." Our variety of special services and assorted special programs result from that "mix" which ensures our parish's vitality.

Thank you very much to everyone who pledged for 2015. The Parish welcomes new pledges at any time of year, so there are pledge cards and pledge packets in the narthex throughout the year.

Deborah Cunningham and Tara McDonough  
Pledge Drive 2015 Co-Chairs

***Celebrate Mardi Gras at  
Immanuel's Pancake Supper  
And Support The Ark***

**Shrove Tuesday  
February 17, 2015  
6:00 PM in the Parish Hall  
(Snow date: 2/22 after church)**

Celebrate Fat Tuesday at Immanuel's Annual Pancake Supper beginning at 6 PM on February 17<sup>th</sup> 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. The fee is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. 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](mailto:mjshanks@zoominternet.net).

A flyer appears in this newsletter, and will be on the website soon. 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 a special service. We hope to see you all there.

MJ Shanks

***Property Perusal***

As the winter sets in the Property Committee continues to monitor the new acid neutralizer, heating systems and potential freezing pipes. Our team has already shoveled sidewalks and by doing so became aware once again of missing Chuck Gilbert. We will be looking to address ongoing issues with our thermostats and continuing to respond to the seemingly weekly issues that arise on our campus on the hill. Thank you to everyone who has offered their help and we are always looking for handymen/women to join our group.

We also welcome you to join boy scouts and parishioners for our semi-annual clean-up day on March 28. We will begin by 8:30 a.m.

Warmest regards,  
The Property Committee

***From the Parish Register***

***Deaths***

Bill Eddison  
December 13, 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.

**2015 Offering Envelopes** are available in the Parish Hall for those who have requested them. Please be sure to use your new offering envelopes starting **Sunday, January 4, 2015**. The new envelope numbers have been entered into the computer and will track your giving throughout 2015. **Please dispose of any old offering envelopes**, as those numbers no longer

correspond with your 2015 giving record. If you would like to order offering envelopes, please call the church office.

## *Vestry Meeting Notes*

### **December 2014**

The Vestry met on December 10, 2014, when the Rector thanked both Chad Crowe and Linda Ambrose for their service during their three-year terms on our Vestry, ending with the close of 2014.

George Klein, Treasurer, presented the proposed, detailed budget for 2015, and the Vestry approved it.

The Rector announced her plans to take her ten weeks of earned sabbatical time in late spring through June 2015. She proposed and the Vestry authorized up to \$3,000 to be spent for guest clergy, for both Sunday services and pastoral care in her absence. This will be a particularly inexpensive Sabbatical for our parish because the Rector will incur neither tuition nor travel expenses for this Sabbatical.

Megan explained that the old, stone walkway around the church and leading to its main door will need major work this coming spring. Property Committee members on the Vestry stated they use only sand against ice on the stone walkway, knowing that salt causes deterioration of the settings of the stones. We acknowledged that stamped concrete has been substituted for stone pathways in some local places, but, even though stamped concrete is less expensive, we wish to continue the historic stone walkways next to our stone church.

Andy Crosby reported from Autumn Clean-up Day, worked by members of our Boy Scout Troop and some volunteers from our congregation, in freezing weather on Saturday, Nov. 22. Light gray stone, purchased by the church, was beautifully arranged to fill the edges of our hill-driveway; the edges of our widened, re-surfaced

driveway-loop around the church; and the hillside end of our handicapped parking spaces that were paved for the first time in late summer 2014. This stone had been planned for use to prevent tires and wheels from going off the surface of our now-slightly raised driveway, and to mark the end of the handicapped parking spaces which are near the original entrance to our Parish Hall.

### **January 2015**

The Vestry held its monthly meeting on January 13, 2015, welcoming Luke Harlan, our new member who was elected at the Annual Parish Meeting in Nov. 2014. Our Rector continues seeking to fill the two remaining vacancies on our Vestry.

Megan reported that material for our church photo directory will be sent late this week to the printer, and then the printer will send "proofs" to her and Darcy Turner who volunteered to assist the Rector in organizing the new church picture directory. Megan foresees the new directories arriving and ready for distribution this February.

Our Treasurer, George Klein, announced that Immanuel had \$1,494,195.16 in its investment account as of the end of 2014. This figure includes the Newgent Family Fund which has not yet been distributed and around \$8,000 in memorial monies that have been designated for specific projects but not yet spent.

Megan informed us that her Sabbatical will begin on, or just before, Sunday, April 26, 2015 and extend through June of this year. She's inviting the Rev. Meredith Kefauver Olsen, who led services here one Sunday in autumn 2014, and Pastor Kingsley Smith to officiate at most of the Sundays that she will be absent. Pastor Smith has agreed to provide Pastoral Care for Immanuel Church during Megan's 2015 Sabbatical.

Andy Crosby of the Property Committee reported that the church is about to sign a contract with a new heating oil supplier and heating equipment maintenance company that's been carefully selected. The new contractor will evaluate how to manage or change the two separate, extremely old

heating systems in the Rectory. The Vestry approved in 2013 some modifications to the very old heating systems in the Rectory, but the Rector has repeatedly delayed the work for over a year, despite there being major problems to the household heating systems. She wished to be sure the entire system didn't need to be replaced before spending so much to fix only one part. Hopefully, a more significant correction will be made to care for the system into the future.

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

### *Vestry and Officers*

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