

Immanuel's Messenger

April / May 2016

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 enter more fully into spring, the music department (which is Jen) is really hard at work! I wish to use my entire introductory space to highlight Jen's article below and all the events taking place in the next couple of months.

Please especially note the concert on April 17th at 4pm in the Parish Hall. One of the musicians has been with us for our concert series in the past, and she is stunning!!! I am looking forward to her return along with her colleagues, and hope that you will join us!

Also, there is a special Sunday coming up on May 1. It will be a very special music day in church, and I think it will bring fun, joy, and praise to our worship that day. (And note the special choir opportunity!)

Mark your calendars now, and we look forward to seeing you at these upcoming programs and services!

The Rev. Megan E. Stewart-Sicking
Rector

From the Director of Music

Congregational Choir:

Have you always wanted to sing in choir, but don't have time? Or think you can't sing? Or can't

read music? Or are just a little scared? Now is your chance to try it! We will be singing an easy anthem during the Psalm 150 service and we would like lots of participants! We will be meeting together twice to rehearse on April 21 and 28, at 7:30pm (in the undercroft), and then singing in the 10:15 service on May 1, 2016. Everyone is welcome, of any age! Just let Jen know, so that she can have enough copies of music ready (even if you don't read the dotted/striped part of sheet music, you'll need the words).

Psalm 150 Sunday ~ May, 1, 2016

Psalm 150 talks about praising God with all kinds of instrument, including trumpet, lute, harp, tambourine, strings, pipe, cymbals, and everything that has breath! In this service, we are going to try to use many different instruments to illustrate this! We will have a congregational choir sing the anthem this day as well. If you'd like to participate instrumentally or chorally, let Jen know.

The Concert Series:

This year the concert series will be Spring & Summer! We have 3 concerts scheduled and a 4th in the works!

April 17, 4pm ~ Trio Amaranth

We will first be joined by Trio Amaranth for a concert of classical chamber music. This piano trio (piano, violin, and cello) hails from Philadelphia. You may remember the pianist,

Gretchen Hull, as she played a recital of solo piano works for us 2 years ago. This concert will be fabulous! In the Parish hall, reception to follow.

May 29, 4pm ~ Brahms & Brownies
Next up is Jen & Friends in Brahms & Brownies! This concert will be in the same vein as the wildly popular Schubert & Sherbet of last summer. Various performers will perform on various instruments, but all will be playing music that was composed by Brahms. We will have a reception of Brownies of various kinds. In the Parish hall.

June 26, 4pm ~ Humoresque
Have you thought that Classical music was stodgy or boring? Come to this concert and let Jen & Friends turn your preconceptions upside down. Works include a piece for choir in which the choristers imitate animals, a portion of The Short Tempered Clavier, a fugue about eating at a banquet (the first words are "Guzzle, guzzle"), and more! Classical music as you've never heard it before! In the Parish Hall.

July 31, 11:30pm ~ The Missing Chums
The Missing Chums will again join us for the church service, being our choir for the day, then will sing a concert during Lemonade on the Lawn! Feel free to bring your lawn chair or picnic blanket.

Jen Newgent
Director of Music Ministries

From the Sunday School

SS and the Child Care room have been very well attended this winter and early spring. Sunday School has enjoyed regular lessons, playing games, and looks forward to getting outside more often as the weather turns warmer. After Easter, SS will have several weeks of guest teachers, and once again I'd like to thank them for their volunteer spirit and commitment to our children.

Our last day of SS and Child Care will be May 22.

Thank you,
Anne Greene
Sunday School Coordinator

Outreach News

The 2015 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 Thanksgiving Food Baskets and the Catonsville Boys Home. Others change every year, due to local emergencies or those farther away, e.g., our donations to the scholarship fund for the children of Thomas Palermo and the earthquake in Nepal. In 2015, the total for treasure was a generous

\$9,476.25, which came from parishioners, Immanuel's Operating Budget, and the Rector's Discretionary Fund. 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 2015 outreach year in review includes:

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

Total donated: \$431.25
\$67.25 Souper Bowl of Caring
\$364.00 Pancake Supper proceeds

Scholarship Fund for Children of Thomas Palermo

Total donated: \$2,125

Good Friday Offering

\$280 for the Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East

Easter Offering

\$1,400 for Neighbor-To-Neighbor,
dedicated to preventing homelessness in
Baltimore County

Nepal Earthquake Relief

Total donated: \$200 to Episcopal Relief
and Development

**Camp Success at St. Michael and All Angels
(Baltimore)**

Total: \$252
\$140 camp scholarships for two children
\$112 donation for snacks

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

\$428 for one camper for all six weeks

Bishop’s Annual Appeal

\$500 to support Diocesan outreach

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

Total donated: \$1,089 for Food Baskets
for 33 families

Catonsville Boys Home (Christmas)

Total donated: \$910 for gift cards for 13
boys

Christmas Offering

Total donated: \$1,861, divided three ways
for:

Karam Foundation (education for Syrian refugee
children)

Flood relief for families in West Texas

Neighbor-to-Neighbor, to prevent homelessness
in Baltimore County

Total for 2015: \$9,476.25

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

At the March 8, 2016 Vestry meeting it was
decided to share 2/3 of Immanuel's Easter
Offering collection with the Glenwood Life
Counseling Center Recovery Garden. Please mark
your calendars for Sunday, April 10, 10:15 AM to
learn about this Garden from one of the
individuals spearheading the effort

Glenwood Life Counseling Center has been in
existence in the Woodbourne/McCabe
neighborhood of Baltimore City since 1971.
GLCC has been on the front lines of providing a
holistic approach to treatment to individuals with
substance abuse disorders. The Recovery Garden
is a chance for clients to manifest their journey of
healing along with providing fresh produce in one
of the designated "food deserts" of the city. The
Recovery Garden will also be a chance to educate
clients on how vital a healthy diet is in
maintaining recovery and managing chronic
illnesses.

I have been involved with the center since 2002
and have witnessed the success stories and
struggles of the clients of Glenwood. The most
impressive component is the successful clients in
recovery who are determined to help their fellow
sufferers recover and recapture their physical,
mental, and emotional health.

Faithfully,

Liz Sieck
Senior Warden

BEST EVER PANCAKE SUPPER

FUN, noisy, packed, filling and fulfilling
— just a few words to describe our Pancake

Supper 2016. One can always count on the People of Immanuel. Cook it and they will come! This year we had the BEST attendance in the 10 years Bobbie Ensor and I have worked together organizing the Pancake Supper — 98 hungry diners. We were able to donate \$593.00 to the Ark.

I want to thank the BEST team of Pancake Supper volunteers. Bobbie Ensor is not only my right arm, but she is our Hominy Hon. Her hominy tastes more delicious every year. Sausage duo Mark and Katie Ritter do wonders with the juicy links. People were fighting over the few leftovers to take home. The Stewart-Sicking Sundaes disappeared in a flash. And of course, our team of flippers was at their BEST this year, turning out over 500 hot, fluffy pancakes in just one hour. Our syrup caps go off to Mary J Moses, Ashby Shanks, John Sieverts, and Zach Ritter.

This year I had no idea how many people were going to show up, so I bought food for 60-70. When so many arrived, almost at the same time, our line of servers really had to be on their toes. Linda Ambrose, Donna Sieverts, and Liz Sieck, handled it with finesse. No one went away hungry. The delicious fruit contributed by Betsy Powell, Anne Somerville, Page Crosby and Courtney Pleiss rounded out the menu and topped off the meal.

So many helped set-up and clean-up, I'm afraid I will forget someone, so please forgive if I do. Thank you, Rudi Horner, the Whatley Family, Carolyn Sass, Donna Sieverts, Linda Ambrose, Bobbie Ensor, Ashby Shanks, Howard Moses and others who pitched in. A special thank you goes to Katie Ritter, who rolled up her sleeves and washed just about every dish, bowl, griddle, and syrup container in the joint. Washing and drying the dishes is the hardest job and I am so grateful to Katie for stepping up.

Once again, I was relieved to have Deborah Cunningham there to greet people and accept donations. She handles well the confusion surrounding the onrush of people as they arrive, some generously donating more than is suggested. Her job was especially challenging this year because only half the people who came for supper

registered. She handled it with grace.

Next year, I will be unable to host the Pancake Supper, so having such a good turnout this year was especially gratifying. We need someone to take the reins in 2017. Bobbie Ensor and I will help in any way we can. Our Pancake Supper Team will be ready and waiting to pitch in. If interested, please contact Mother Megan or me.

A huge thank you goes to all the people who joined us for this year's supper. You filled up the packed room, provided the noisy FUN, and gave those who worked hard to serve you a fulfilling experience that made it all worthwhile. We all had the **BEST TIME!**

Mary Jane Shanks
Pancake Supper 2016

GETTING THE MONARCH WAYSTATION UNDER WAY

Last spring I wrote an article about my hope that Immanuel could create a Monarch Waystation in the lower meadow. Monarchs face many challenges due to habitat loss and insecticides. Creating waystations planted with milkweed and nectar plants is an important link in helping the struggling monarch population survive.

Spring has sprung and it's time to get busy implementing our Monarch Waystation. Noby Powell is ready and waiting to mow the hillside and help plow the garden space. However, first we need some committed volunteers who will help with the planning and planting. We need to raise some funds, locate sources for milkweed and nectar plants, and organize a team of people who will do the weeding, planting, and nurturing. Our biggest obstacle to succeeding in this endeavor is the abundance of deer in the area. Unless we erect a temporary fence for the first couple of years, the ravenous deer could defeat our planting efforts. Fence building is a challenge.

It would be fun to make this a communal project where people help in whatever way they

can. Hopefully the scouts will help, our Sunday School children and Youth Group, and maybe even some of the Oldfields students. You can help by volunteering your time and expertise, donating funds or materials towards the project, or donating milkweed seeds/plants and nectar plants from your own garden.

Our goal is to create a garden plot that is approximately 20' x 15' where we will grow various species of milkweed and nectar plants to attract monarch butterflies. The garden will actually attract a variety of butterflies, and we could plant other host plants for checkerspots, swallowtails, and other species. We hope that eventually the milkweed seeds will disperse along the entire hillside over the years and create a wildflower extravaganza that will serve as a stable area for monarchs and other beneficial insects and an area that people will enjoy viewing as they drive by our little church on the hill.

Please let me know if you are interested in helping. This is a project that will need support throughout the years to come. I hope we can turn this idea into reality.

Mary Jane Shanks
410-557-6047/mjshanks@zoominternet.net

Property Perusal

The Property Committee continues to address numerous issues with our Church's physical plant. We have had to deal with a family or families of flying squirrels in the Church's walls and floor. Thanks to the help of our music director, Jen Newgent, who has proven to be a real asset for the Property Comm. in her trapping abilities along with the expert services of Chad Crowe, we have all but removed the rodent concern. We will continue to monitor cracks in the walls, clogged gutters and recently the need to replace the Parish Hall's roof. Please know that we are open to any and all suggestions yet it may result in your becoming part of the solution. We are planning our next Boy Scout Clean-up Day which this year will focus on interior issues, specifically the cleaning of the undercroft. As noted above, we

welcome any suggestions and are always looking for new talent for our committee.

Always striving to do our best,
The Property Committee

Vestry Meeting Notes

Immanuel's Vestry met on Tuesday, February 16, and George Klein, Church Treasurer, announced that our parish's investment fund held \$1,371,296.32 on January 31, 2016.

Both our Rector and our Treasurer reported that the Finance Committee met recently to reflect on the Finance Committee's January 12 meeting with representatives of P.N.C. Bank which has investment responsibilities for Immanuel's endowment monies. The Committee seeks to reduce the fees paid toward the management of our investments. Immanuel Church presently invests in over twenty mutual funds through P.N.C. We pay relatively modest to normal fees for P.N.C. Bank to manage our investment portfolio. The Vestry confirmed whether our parish has restrictions on what types of stocks and bonds we invest in. The investment account has a rider, added perhaps a decade ago, prohibiting investments in gambling companies and alcoholic beverage makers.

Our parish's Finance Committee is essentially an investment committee; it had just recommended that we place a limited percentage of our investment portfolio in a particular Vanguard Fund, and to observe how this investment works for us in the upcoming months and year. The highly diverse fund in question is the Wellington Fund. Vanguard will charge very little in fees. After watching the results, the Finance Committee will decide whether to move other monies into carefully-selected investment funds, so that our parish will do more financial management of our long-term investments.

The Vestry unanimously voted to accept the Finance Committee's recommendation to transfer up to \$300,000, the precise amount of which will be determined by the present liquidity in our

P.N.C. Investments. That equals no more than approximately 20% to 25% of our endowment monies. The Rector and the Treasurer together explained that ease of management and lower fees are reasons for investing in specific funds. George pointed out that mutual funds help to spread out the risk of investing, and that Immanuel currently invests in a wide assortment of specialized mutual funds. He informed us that the fees the church now pays to P.N.C. Bank include tax reporting and their company's availability to us.

Megan's contract with Immanuel requires an annual Mutual Ministry Review that's typically held in early spring. She requested that we hold it during our June Vestry meeting, so that we will have feedback from her numerous small group gatherings, hosted by various members of our parish. She explained that holding the annual "year in review" in June makes particularly good sense because the program year will have just ended and the next program year, beginning in Sept., will be in the planning stage at that time of year.

Our Vestry met again on Tuesday, March 8 for our monthly business meeting. Our Rector reviewed with us the annual Parochial Report which she had recently submitted to the Diocese of Maryland and the national Episcopal Church. In 2015, our parish gained twenty new members, including children, but lost six members, three of them by death. Our church presently has 176 members, including children, and our average Sunday attendance is 52. Megan emphasized that she typically sees over half of Immanuel's members at least once monthly at our Sunday services.

The Rector listed a diverse assortment of physical problems in the undercroft of our church. The Vestry decided that we should hire a building inspector or contractor to evaluate the nature of some of the issues and to evaluate the extent of those issues whose nature is already understood. With some inspection, we will know how much work is necessary before re-arranging the space.

Re-organizing the limited, multi-use space will

permit easier utilization for some purposes, plus a focus on making the area neater, more attractive, and more orderly. Planning the future layout of our church's undercroft will include the viewpoints and needs of the various groups regularly working in the church undercroft. In anticipation of re-organizing the space, an architect will look over the area and explain what varied options will be available to us, after the completion of any necessary repairs.

The Vestry requested that while the building inspector is on-site, the professional needs to perform a building inspection of the Rectory. Before that, on March 22, an electrician will be working with the electrical ceiling fans and their venting systems in both upstairs bathrooms in the Rectory.

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland's Annual Convention will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 13 - 14, 2016, at the Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City. Liz Sieck and Doug Whatley agreed to serve again this year as our Lay Delegate and Alternate Delegate. Megan attends both as a priest in our Diocese and as one of the principal organizers of Diocesan Convention.

We voted to designate the Glenwood Life Counseling Center, in the Govans neighborhood of Baltimore City, as the recipient of 2/3 our Easter 2016 Outreach Offering. This 1971-founded, out-patient, non-profit, drug abuse rehabilitation organization has an excellent history, program, and staff. The facility has been unusually successful, and it's located in a "food desert" urban community. Glenwood Life Counseling Center has been planning a "community garden" on land across Glenwood Avenue from the rehab center, with ground breaking scheduled for approximately April 1 this year.

Our contribution will be specifically to launch and maintain this worthwhile, carefully planned vegetable garden. The "community garden" will provide constructive volunteer and nutritional opportunities for participants in the rehab program, and has been the recipient of various "in kind" donations from Burpee's Seeds, Home

Depot, etc.

We voted to designate Neighbor to Neighbor, an organization based in Timonium, as the recipient of 1/3 of our Easter 2016 Outreach Offering. Twice in 2015, our parish supported this mission that works throughout Baltimore County to help families with children avoid homelessness. The Easter Outreach Offering will be collected through April to help these two profoundly successful non-profit groups.

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

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, Luke Harlan, Michele O'Connor,
Nelly Perkins, Betsy Powell, Katie Ritter, Darcy Turner, and Julia Whatley