

# *Immanuel's Messenger*

*February/March 2016*

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

## ***From the Rector***

### ***Adult Formation and Group Opportunities this Winter and Spring!***

Please take advantage of the following upcoming programs and discussion groups. More information will be available in Sunday announcements and parish emails.

### ***Small Group Meetings with the Rector***

When I first arrived here, we offered opportunities for everyone to meet with me in small groups. We planned to do these group meetings again at my five year anniversary last year; however, that also coincided with sabbatical. So, we are offering them this year instead. This is a wonderful way to chat without being so rushed on Sundays and without quite so many people at coffee hour.

A number of dates and times are available. Groups can include your family, a small group of friends from church, common ministry groups, common interest groups, etc. If you would like to host, please sign up for a date in the Parish Hall and pull together your group. Then let me know who will be attending.

If you are willing to host a group of miscellaneous church members who don't have or can't attend

another specific group, please let us know and we can announce that as well.

If you are a host, you can organize around dinner, appetizers, dessert, tea, brunch, or whatever you wish. Your exact time can be selected accordingly.

Dates listed in the Parish Hall are Fridays and Sundays. Weeknights and daytime lunches or afternoon meetings are also available. Please contact me directly to schedule one of those. Evening groups occurring around a dinner are recommended to run 6-8pm or 6:30-8:30pm.

I look forward to catching up with as many of you as possible in the next few months.

### ***Lent Madness!***

This year's holy contest is ready to begin, and we are all looking forward to seeing who wins the Golden Halo.

The following is taken from the Lent Madness website:

*The format is straightforward: 32 saints are placed into a tournament-like single elimination bracket. Each pairing remains open for a set period of time and people vote for their favorite saint. 16 saints make it to the Round of the Saintly Sixteen; eight advance to the Round of the Elite Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two*

*to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo. The first round consists of basic biographical information about each of the 32 saints. Things get a bit more interesting in the subsequent rounds as we offer quotes and quirks, explore legends, and even move into the area of saintly kitsch.*

Pick up your bracket in church on Sundays, and consult the large poster in the Parish Hall to see which saints advance day by day and week by week. Complete entry details will be announced in church on Sundays. Don't forget to sign up at [lentmadness.org](http://lentmadness.org) to receive your daily email with information about saints of the day, and don't forget to vote for your favorites!

For anyone who participates in Lent Madness or who reads any of the saintly information along the way, we will meet after church on **Palm Sunday, March 20**. We meet around 11:45am with an extra cup of coffee from Coffee Hour (and maybe our own special snacks) to share one or two of our favorite saints, a few facts we never knew, or other tidbits we would like to share.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Autism Awareness Presentation**

As you may remember, April is Autism Awareness Month. On **Sunday, April 10**, I will offer a presentation at 9am and 11:45am. It will be the same presentation at both times.

I will spend a few minutes at the beginning giving an overview of autism, early diagnosis, and early intervention. If you attended last year, those few minutes will be a refresher, and if you did not attend, you will catch up. Then I will spend the rest of the time presenting other ideas and information for consideration on this disorder that now affects 1 in 68 children and 1 in 42 boys. These numbers raise many questions for public health, research budgets, education, healthcare, and other important issues in our society. Increased knowledge, awareness, and sensitivity can also help every one of us as we encounter more and more people on the autism spectrum every day.

Also, mark your calendar now and remember to **“Go Blue on April 2!”** Wear something blue to support autism awareness. Pins to wear throughout the month will also be available in church and at the presentation.

## ***Upcoming Dates, Services, Events***

Please take a look through the calendar pages attached to this Newsletter, or look at the Parish Calendar on the website. February, March, and April have a number of additions, including Ash Wednesday, Holy Week services of Tenebrae, Mandy Thursday, and Good Friday, etc. The concert dates below will also be listed on the calendar. I encourage you to scan through the next few months and add dates of interest to your personal calendar. Thank you!

The Rev. Megan E. Stewart-Sicking  
Rector

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

### ***Choir:***

Easter is fast approaching! If you would like to sing with the choir for Easter, please let Jen know! Rehearsals for Easter will begin in mid-February.

We will again be having a Congregational Choir day, sometime after Easter. Stay tuned for more information!

### ***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.

**TBA ~ The Missing Chums**

The Missing Chums will again join us for a church service, followed by a concert on the lawn! Stay tuned as we get a date confirmed.

Jen Newgent  
Director of Music Ministries

***From the Sunday School***

Thanks to Jen for a wonderful new version of our Christmas pageant this December! Good work!

Sunday school is off to a great start for the second half of the year. We are concentrating on the New Testament and Jesus' teachings.

As always, if you're interested in teaching just one day this winter/spring, please let me know and I will be happy to add you to the schedule.

Thank you,  
Anne Greene  
Sunday School Coordinator

***Outreach News***

***Parish Christmas Celebration***

The Christmas Pageant and Pizza Party held during the 10:15 am church service on December 27, 2015 was a huge success. Thank you to Jen Newgent, Mother Megan and all participants for a wonderful pageant. Also thank you to Deborah Cunningham for helping with the pizza party and everyone who helped clean up.

Rudi Horner and Linda Ambrose

***Results of our Christmas Offering – Christmas 2015***

The funds that parishioners and guests donated to our Christmas offering totaled \$1,861 this year – a very generous amount that will be divided three ways to support organizations addressing homelessness in different ways. One third of the offering will be donated to the Karam Foundation which supports education and services for the Syrian refugee youth. Thank you to Jill Kinney who identified this organization. Another third will be directed to church-sponsored relief efforts to help support families affected by flooding in west Texas this past fall. And the final third will support Neighbor-to-Neighbor, a local non-profit dedicated to preventing homelessness in Baltimore County. We have dedicated our Easter offerings for the past two years to this worthy effort. Thank you again to everyone who joined in to share their treasure with others this Christmas.

Rudi Horner

***From the Senior Warden***

Thank you to Jen Newgent and everyone that helped her make the Christmas Pageant so much fun and successful. It was the most fun Pageant

in which I have ever participated.

Thank you to our other staff members, Dary Schmidt and Melissa Whatley, who keep Immanuel functioning not only on Sundays but the rest of the week.

Thank you to Anne Greene and the volunteer teachers for spending Sunday mornings with our children before Communion.

Thank you to the Flower and Altar Guilds leadership and everyone who helped decorate the church for the Christmas season. It was beautiful and I know it involved climbing ladders.

Thank you to Mother Megan+ for providing us the continuing arc in her sermons throughout the season of Advent to keep us focused on the message of Christmas all the way through post-Epiphany.

Thank you to Cynthia Ballard for organizing and reminding all of us who serve each Sunday at Immanuel. It is a very important ministry.

Thank you to Rudi Horner and Outreach for discerning the local, national, and international causes to which Immanuel's Christmas Offering will be contributed.

Thank you to our Stewardship Co-Chairs, Deborah Cunningham and Tara McDonough for their continued leadership in organizing our Pledge Season that enables us to operate in a financially stable environment.

Thank you to the Officers and Vestry members for their oversight and governance of Immanuel Church. We said good-bye to Betty Cummings and Andy Crosby as they completed their Vestry terms in Decembers. Thank you for your dedication.

Thank you to Katie Ritter and Julia Whatley for agreeing to serve on the Vestry, starting with the January, 2016 meeting. We look forward to working with you both.

And I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Pancake Supper on February 9, 2016.

Faithfully,  
Liz Sieck  
Senior Warden

***CELEBRATE SHROVE  
TUESDAY  
AT IMMANUEL'S  
PANCAKE SUPPER  
AND SUPPORT THE ARK***

***February 9, 2016  
6:00 PM in the Parish Hall  
(Snow date: Tentative 2/14 after  
church)***

Celebrate Fat Tuesday at Immanuel's Annual Pancake Supper beginning at 6 PM on February 9<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 up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. For families that exceed 4 adults, each additional adult is \$3. All proceeds from the Pancake Supper will once again 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. 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 at the Church entrance, too.

**WE NEED LOTS OF VOLUNTEERS TO HELP!** We especially need people to help set up on Sunday 2/7 and to help clean up. 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

## ***PLEDGE DRIVE 2016 REPORT***

Thank you to everyone who has pledged to Immanuel Church for 2016. We now have \$128,590 pledged by 61 households. \$24,117 of the total was generously paid by the end of 2015.

Your thoughtful pledges combine each year with countless hours of volunteer efforts in a broad range of skilled work for Immanuel. Both pledges and other monetary contributions meet careful planning and rigorous thrift by our Vestry. Pledges and other gifts -- financial, skills, and valuable time -- create our parish's absorbing variety of services and other enriching special events.

Because pledges can be made at any time, we offer pledge packets and pledge cards at the entrance of the church throughout the year.

Tara McDonough and Deborah Cunningham  
Co-Chairs, Pledge Drive 2016

## ***Property Perusal***

The Property Committee has been dealing with some ongoing plumbing issues yet all is now well on our "little campus on the hill". Of course, no sooner do we have those issues addressed we now have to deal with a leak in the Parish Hall roof. Chad Crowe has graciously taken on the responsibility of securing several bids for the project and we will be reviewing those and submitting our recommendation to the Vestry for approval. It is important to note that the Parish

Hall roof is over 30 years old and in serious need of replacement.

Noby Powell, Andy Crosby, and Chad Crowe are all offered a huge THANK YOU for their long, evening work of clearing our recent blizzard snow from the walkways. We are especially grateful for Andy Crosby's recent receipt of a snow blower as a gift. Just in time for us to borrow!

As in previous articles, the Property Committee is always looking for new members willing to laugh at and with each other as we continue to keep our physical plant operating as efficiently as possible.

Warmest regards,  
The Property Committee

## ***Vestry Meeting Notes***

### THREE-MONTH VESTRY REPORT

#### ***October 2015***

Immanuel's Vestry met on October 13, learning that the parish's investment portfolio contained \$1,425,769.20 as of Sept. 30, 2015.

Our Rector explained that we should replace the old, rusting "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You" signs -- one at Carroll and Glencoe Roads; one where Lower Glencoe Road meets both Upper Glencoe Road and Glencoe Road; and the other on York Road at Lower Glencoe Road. She stated we need to purchase an additional "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You" sign to alert drivers coming from Carroll Road when they've almost reached the sharp, backward-left turn to enter our steep driveway. These signs will be bought with funds remaining from the Frank Palmer, III, memorial donations.

Megan advised us that the programmable, 7-day thermostat, installed last winter or last spring in the church, is not working properly, despite a technician coming and replacing a wire after the first Sunday of autumn when the church required heat. Megan suggested that the expensive thermostat must be defective because the two installed at the same time in our parish hall are

working well. The Property Committee will be in touch with the contractor that provided the three 7-day thermostats.

The Rector notified us that the outdoor light fixture at the upstairs door of the 1988 wing of the parish hall is not functioning. Noby Powell of the Property Committee changed its light bulbs and checked its circuit breaker, but the fixture is electrically non-operational. The next time that an electrician comes to Immanuel, he will be looking to see whether it can be easily repaired or needs to be replaced.

Megan informed us that the Rectory's hot water heater was leaking badly and diagnosed as needing replacement before it failed altogether. Because the church's Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and Treasurer authorized that it be replaced on an emergency basis, the work has already been done.

We discussed that three Vestry members need to be elected because of Vestry terms expiring at the end of this year. Because Darcy Turner was filling an unexpired term of another Vestry member, we asked if she would accept a three-year term beginning in January 2016.

Our Rector will be proposing Amendments to the Parish By-Laws at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, Nov. 8. Even though we welcome newer members of our church to the Vestry, we understand that there are times when members of Immanuel who would be very good Vestry members simply have too many other commitments to serve on our Vestry. For that reason, the Rector will be offering changes to our Parish By-Laws that enlarge the supply of potential Vestry members at a given time.

### ***November 2015***

On Tuesday evening, Nov. 10, the Vestry held its monthly meeting. We again reviewed our upcoming calendar of events, including but not limited to special services. George Klein, Church Treasurer, announced that our investments portfolio held \$1,496,013.16 as of October 31, 2015.

Megan reported that Donna Sieverts, Linda Ambrose, and Rudi Horner will be collecting both Target and Walmart gift cards for amounts of \$25 or less, to use them as Immanuel's annual, individual gifts to the residents of the Catonsville Boys Home. Our parish has handled Christmas gifts to this particular group of youths for decades.

The Rector said that Rudi Horner, Outreach Chair, proposed that our Christmas offering be divided equally among three charitable efforts – local, within-country, and internationally. Rudi had recommended Neighbor to Neighbor, headquartered in Timonium, as the local recipient. Because this worthwhile organization is especially strapped for cash at this time, Megan asked whether we could authorize sending \$500 right away, with the understanding that if we collect over \$1,500 in Christmas offering, we would send the group the remainder of its 1/3 of the total. The Vestry unanimously voted to advance the \$500 to Neighbor to Neighbor. Megan stated Rudi had suggested supporting flood victims in South Carolina and/or Texas, and giving to Episcopal Relief and Development's emergency efforts to assist Syrian refugees with the remaining two thirds of our Christmas offering. The Vestry unanimously supported this distribution of our forthcoming Xmas offering.

George presented his proposed 2016 Parish Budget, having used the actual 2015 and proposed 2015 parish budgets to guide him. Our Treasurer believes we will require \$3,000 less for guest clergy because our Rector will not be on Sabbatical in the upcoming year. He estimated that we will spend less on heating oil because of the present price of heating oil and because our Rectory and Parish Hall both have new heating systems.

We acknowledged that, some years ago, we trimmed our church budget to the point that we have nowhere to cut except in our entirely part-time staff. We plan to give a 2% raise to our very fine staff in 2016, and we remarked that it's misguided frugality not to be willing to fund a vibrant program that attracts and keeps church members.

Our Rector informed us that Clean Sweep, the contractor that's been removing leaves this autumn, will return to clean our gutters. Andy Crosby stated the light fixture in the parish hall boiler room has not operated since the boiler was replaced at the end of summer 2014. Megan advised us that an electrician will visit our campus for several miscellaneous electrical issues, including that one. She notified us that the downstairs thermostat in the parish hall was not functioning correctly on Sunday, Oct. 18.

The Vestry voted in support of the two specific By-Law changes that were presented to the Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, Nov. 8, and that will be officially voted on when the Annual Meeting is re-opened during the Announcements on Sunday, Dec. 6 or Dec. 13 at both services.

Megan explained her hope that, in early 2016, we will again hold group dinners in the homes of some members of our church, just as we did when she arrived as our Rector. The idea is that every member of the parish is invited to choose an available date and/or location to attend one of the scheduled suppers. This will be a chance for the Rector to converse in an unhurried manner with numerous members of the church, and for various members of the parish to become better acquainted with each other.

### ***December 2015***

Our Vestry's final 2015 meeting was on Tuesday, December 8, during which we heard that our parish's investment portfolio totaled \$1,494,203.63 as of November 30, 2015. The Rector recommended that Andy Conner be invited to join the Finance Committee because he works with investing and managing the Johns Hopkins University Endowment. No one objected, so he was to be invited to participate in a very early 2016 meeting of Immanuel's Finance Committee.

George Klein, Church Treasurer, asked that he be authorized to add some lines that he believes belong in our monthly budget report and in our annual budget. He requested to be allowed to remove some lines that he feels do not belong in the monthly budget report or the parish's annual

budget. Megan pointed out that the current budget lines were added by someone else because they seemed to make sense at an earlier time, so they can be removed or added to by our present Treasurer when adjustments seem wise.

George wanted to make some highly specific changes, based on the addition and subtraction of some lines, to reflect more accurately our church's projected 2016 income, before the Vestry votes on his proposed parish budget for 2016. He reviewed the church's proposed expenditures which the Vestry accepted. He had shown us an earlier draft last month, so the figures were not surprising. George offered to e-mail the Vestry, the Rector, and other officers the 2016 parish budget with the income lines revised, so we can officially vote to accept it next week.

Subsequently, the Vestry and officers voted by e-mail during the third week of December 2015, passing the church's 2016 budget and two other items that were left out of our December meeting. We confirmed in one vote that we agreed with our Rector, authorizing identical Christmas bonuses for Immanuel's staff in 2015 as in 2014. In the other vote, we again approved (as we do annually) \$8,000 as the Rector's Housing Allowance – which has no effect on the parish's budget, but has I.R.S. reporting implications.

At our December Vestry meeting, we voted to authorize the expenditure of \$825, the amount of Clean Sweep's bid, to make repairs discovered to be necessary when cleaning our gutters. This includes repairing the spouting, making a minor slate roof repair on the church, and replacing copper hardware. We further voted to authorize up to \$225 to finish cleaning the gutters of the church, parish hall, and Rectory.

Megan brought to our attention the seven burned out, energy efficient light bulbs in the ceiling of the church's undercroft that make the area rather dark. Jen, the Director of Music Ministries, has requested that we purchase brighter electric bulbs and that we have some extras available on-site for her to replace ones that burn out in the future. Andy Crosby offered to discuss this need with Jen, and to buy light bulbs that are suited to that

location which receives almost no sunlight.

The exterior door leading to and from the church undercroft needs significant work to hold the very old door closed. Additionally, our Rector is compiling a list of small but professional electrical jobs to be performed on a future visit by an electrician.

We agreed that the broken glass which is church window-shaped, in the vestibule of the 1881 portion of our parish house, should be replaced. It's not the original, historic glass that's still in the other windows near it, because this window was broken and replaced years ago. Andy Crosby will contact professional glass contractors to get some estimates.

The Vestry met again on January 12, 2016, at which time we swore in two newly-elected Vestry members, Katie Ritter and Julia Whatley. We discovered that our investment portfolio contained \$1,431,016.06 on December 31, 2015. We confirmed our end-of-year votes to approve the parish's 2016 budget, and the Rector's \$8,000 Housing Allowance.

Our parish hall was begun in 1881, with a large wing added in 1958, and another big wing added in 1988. All three parts of the building now require a replacement roof. We reviewed multiple estimates from two of the three roofing contractors who looked at the job. A third contractor was more expensive and did not sufficiently impress Immanuel people who met him, so his bids are not being considered.

Our Rector reported that the children's bathroom in the upstairs of the Rectory is suffering from breaks in the ceiling that do not appear to be roof-related. The Vestry questioned whether the built-in bathroom fans vent out somewhere or do they just distribute humid air around the room and hallway immediately outside. Megan will investigate where, if anywhere, the bathroom ceiling fans vent out, as well as photograph the issues in both upstairs bathrooms. The second bathroom in the upstairs of the Rectory has dark spots that seem to be coming from under paint that's relatively new, suggesting possible mold

growth.

George Klein, Church Treasurer, stated we spent \$14,364.42 less in 2015 than we had budgeted for the year. However, Immanuel received \$25,000 less in donations than we had budgeted for. The parish's endowment fund provided the difference.

Earlier that day, George and the Finance Committee, accompanied by the Rector and Senior Warden, met with investment professionals of P.N.C. Bank who have been handling the parish's investments. Megan was pleased to announce that Andy Conner, a member of Immanuel Church, who works with in management of the Johns Hopkins University Endowment Fund, had joined the Committee and attended. George and the Rector agreed that the Finance Committee needs to discuss further among themselves, including a couple of Finance Committee members who were unable to attend, the specifics of that meeting before trying to summarize them for the Vestry at our next monthly meeting.

Because Shrove Tuesday will be the second Tuesday in February 2016 – the usual Vestry meeting date – we chose to schedule our February Vestry meeting a week early to advance the effort to replace the old roofs on all three portions of our parish hall, and to hear a report from the Finance Committee's annual meeting with our P.N.C. investment team.

We finished scheduling Vestry members and officers to count our offering throughout 2016. Megan expressed her appreciation for our two Vestry members whose terms expired in December, Betty Cummings and Andy Crosby, who each served three years with ability and dedication.

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](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

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