

Pastor's Report for 2005

Blessings to each of you in the name of Christ Jesus, whom we serve here at Immanuel Church. These are some of the ministries we share in His name. Statistics can be just numbers, but these are meant to give some accountability and some focus to our shared labor and love for the Lord. Each month I share such a report with the Church Council and with you on the bulletin board. Where do you see "glimpses of Jesus" among us? There are many such glimpses every week. We have been truly blessed in this year of challenge and "building on the vision!"

- 57 serves of worship planned, 53 lead by pastor – included a moving Ash Wednesday, joyous Easter, a fine celebration day for our ground breaking in June, a marvelous Christmas Eve, Sacrament of Holy Communion 11 times. I was away 4 vacation Sundays and one week for the UCC General Synod. Magi honored in 2005 were: Diana Jackson, Donna Schnoor, and Dan Sides.
 - 173+ meetings and events within the parish kept most of us busy – lots of things were happening! I met with all committees. We celebrate fine events.
 - 50+ I visited our White Hall site weekly and had many meetings with Lehman staff and contractors.
 - 70 other professional meetings, service, community events led me into Dorchester County and the larger church where we need a presence. I serve on the CAC Board of Directors, the Church Development Committee.
 - 173 visits were made to patients and family members at Dorchester General, Easton Memorial, and the nursing homes.
 - 5 deaths occurred...I have tried to give pastoral support and caring to these families: (see vital statistics page)
 - 8 sessions for confirmation – class of 3 confirmands on February 27, 2005. No class in 2005-6.
 - 819+ contacts with members of the parish is a very open category in which I keep an accounting for myself of people I see, talk too, call on the telephone, send notes...it is a way for me to learn the needs of the congregation. This is not a careful tabulation and should not be seen as such.
 - 157+ families/individuals were given assistance with utilities, rent, fuel, food gifts, and Christmas cheer plus
 - 125 SHARE packages of food were provided through the Salvation Army. (see Mission Team Report for other special benevolence).
- 12,296 miles carried me to meetings, services, hospitals, homes and business errands.

Attendance: Our total recorded attendance was 3,583 with an average of 72 to 74 people. We decided to keep our worship hour at 10 AM with an occasional fellowship time following. Attendance has been constant with a low average in July of 58, September and October averaged 60. Highest attendance was on: 2-27 Confirmation (106), 3-27 Easter (115), 5-8 Mother's Day (89), 5-5 Groundbreaking at White Hall Immanuel (100+), 12-18 youth drama (90+), and 12-24 Christmas Eve (122). Christmas Vespers at 4 PM on 12-25 was a new event and was well received. Worship is our service to God as we become the Body of Christ on earth. We go forth to serve Jesus in the community. Please accept the divine invitation of Jesus and join us for worship often.