

IMMANUAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

5401 White Hall Road • Cambridge, Maryland 21613 • 410-228-4640



Lent 2010

From the Pastor's Pen

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

I look forward to this journey through Lent with you. We can anticipate rich experiences of God's grace and that loving presence with us as we move into a time of transition.

Jesus and his followers made such a journey to Jerusalem. There were still many things that he wanted to teach them from a heart full of love. The important thing was to make the journey of faith together. That is important for us also. The church is all about relationships - with God and with each other.

During the Sundays in Lent we will explore some relationships that were part of our Lord's passion. What do you suppose some of those people talked about *right then*, while the events were happening? People like:

- **Malchus**, whose ear was cut off and healed at Gethsemane, and **Mark**, who ran from the Garden naked.
- **Barabbas**, the criminal released when Jesus was condemned, and **Caiaphas**, the high priest who led the cries for his release.
- **Pontius Pilate** and **Procula**, his wife.
- **Simon of Cyrene**, who carried our Lord's cross, and the **Centurion** who compelled him to.
- **The Two Thieves** who were crucified with Christ.
- **Mary**, our Lord's grieving mother, and **John**, the "beloved disciple" who took her into his home.

If you could have listened to conversations like those, what might you have OVERHEARD?

Members of our congregation will be readers for these conversations by the cross. Their concerns and conflicts about the crucifixion of Jesus Christ may speak to some of our questions in a meaningful way.

On Maundy Thursday (April 1 - 6:30 pm) we will gather in the fellowship hall for a shared carry-in meal and Holy Communion around the tables. We will hear a conversation between **Mary**, the grieving mother and **John**, the "beloved disciple." I hope that many will gather for this precious time together.

Our journey in Lent is such an important time of faith preparation for the amazing GLORY OF EASTER!

Blessings abound, Pastor Joan

At the January meeting of the church council, we received three members through the transfer of their church membership: **Donna Campbell**, **Donald Creighton** and **Rev. Dr. Phyllis Gillie Jaffe**. We joyfully welcome them into our fellowship.

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TURN RIGHT - USE THE LIGHT - Be safe!

United Church of Christ Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund and Response

The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Offering, administered by Wider Church Ministries, is the refugee, relief and development fund of the United Church of Christ. It provides support to people in more than eighty countries.

The 2010 OGHS theme is inspired by John 21:15-17 when Jesus asks Peter, "Do you love me?" If you are familiar with this scripture, you may know that after Peter confesses to loving Jesus, Jesus tells him, "Feed my sheep." We too are called to care for all who are in need, just as God cares for each of us.



--What is the United Church of Christ doing in Haiti?

One Great Hour of Sharing and Haiti Earthquake Relief funds are being used to help with basic humanitarian relief in providing temporary shelter, food and health assistance. Funds are also being used to provide water and sanitation engineers, and equipment to construct water purification systems. Resources for building latrines are also being provided, as the sanitation situation is critical. The UCC will be supporting communities in the long struggle to rebuild from this disaster - the worst earthquake to strike Haiti in 200 years.

Since the earthquake, the UCC has reached out to its partners in Haiti to coordinate a swift response. Funds have been dispersed to several partners including Church World Service, ACT Alliance, IMA, World Health and Global Ministries (CONASPEH and House of Hope).

--How much of my donation will be used in the relief effort?

100% of gifts received for UCC Haiti Earthquake relief will be used for relief and rehabilitation initiatives. The administrative costs related to receiving and processing gifts is covered by UCC members' generous contributions to Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM).

--How much money has the United Church of Christ raised for Haiti?

In the wake of this disaster, the response of UCC members and friends has been overwhelming. As a result of this generosity, new gifts are received daily. As of Monday, January 25, 2010, over \$500,000 has been received. Please be assured that your contributions are being used to meet both immediate needs in Haiti and will be utilized for long-term recovery initiatives.

An envelope is provided with this issue of "Images" for your gift to OGHS. Please write your check to "Immanuel UCC" memo - OGHS-Haiti. Our combined gifts will be sent through the CAC Conference office.

Thank you for your generous gifts of caring in this time of great need.

Goal: \$1,000 by Easter!

GRADUATES?

Do you have a son, daughter, or grandchild who will be graduating at the end of the 2009-2010 school year. If so, let us know so we can plan for the Graduation Reception on May 23.



LENTEN CALENDAR 2010 ([please click here](#))

MISSION

We had two fund raising events to raise funds for Special Benevolence in 2009. The missions dinner on January 28 was focused on the work of Church World Service. A delicious meal was provided and our gifts were \$8,419.25. On November 8, 2009, we decided to provide a mission breakfast and program on World Vision. The speaker was Mitch Hescoc, who talked about their work and the child adoption program. The breakfast format was very well received by our members. The offering was \$10,776.80.

Bless you for sharing as this also replenishes our fund for local mission in the Cambridge community.

FACILITY RENTAL

Throughout 2009 we have had individuals or groups asked to rent our Fellowship Hall, Kitchen Facility or the Sanctuary for a wedding. Whenever possible, we have been pleased to do so. Inquiries should be directed to Patsy Creighton, phone 410-228-4796 or cell: 410-463-1673.

Church Leaders Installed

On February 7 we consecrated and installed our new Church Council and Board of Christian Education. We appreciate the willingness of these leaders to commit themselves to such service for Jesus Christ. All of us can surround these servants of Christ with our prayers and helpfulness.

Council:

Philip Jackson, President (1 year to serve)

3 years to serve:

Jim Creighton (1 year)
Scott Dodson
Jock Luthy

2 years to serve:

Connie Barnett
Debi Book
Danny Luthy

1 year to serve:

Chuck Hanson
Lou Jones
Joyce Wise

Board of Christian Education:

2 years to serve:

Trudi Foxwell
Pam Nossick
Leslie Tolley

1 year to serve:

Susie Creighton
Tammy Luthy
Robin Moore
Lynn Malkus-Lyons



**Let's Have A TERRIFIC DINNER at Immanuel
Invite all your friends and relatives, visitors too!**

Saturday, March 13 - 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Luscious Lasagna with Frank's Famous Salad!!!
Desserts extra - carry out available - watch for more details!

Make a Lenten Journey With Us!

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17 - Service of Ashes 12 noon and 5:30 p.m. (30 minutes)

Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. February 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28

"Overheard conversations by the cross of Jesus" will let us listen to some who participated in Holy Week.

Tuesdays at Grace UMC

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. - Lenten devotions and a "soup and sandwich" lunch. A different speaker each week: Feb. 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23

Maundy Thursday (April 1) shared meal with communion begins at 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday Community Walk of the Cross (April 2 at 4:00 p.m.)

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL Booklets in the Narthex

IMMANUEL CHURCH 2010 PLANNED ACTIIVITIES/FUND RASIERS

February 17	Ash Wednesday Services at 5:30 p.m.
March 10	Garden Club Luncheon
March 13	Lasagna Dinner at 4:30 p.m. *
March 20	Women's Prayer Breakfast *
March 27	CE Board Bingo (Doors open 5:30 p.m./Bingo at 6:30 p.m.)
April 1	Maundy Thursday Covered Dish Dinner at 6:00 p.m. with services at 7:00 p.m.
April 4	Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast
April 6/7	Garden Club Flower Show
April 24	Cajun Dinner * (New Date)
May 9	Mother's Day Breakfast
May 11	DGH Luncheon *
May 22	Spring Sale (Yard Sale and Inside Food Sale) **
May 23	CE Board Graduation Reception after Church
June 13	Beef Barbeque?? (Detailed to be finalized)*
August 2 - 6	Vacation Bible School (Dinner 5:15 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.)
September 12	Church Picnic after Church
September 14	DGH Luncheon *
September 19	Chicken Barbeque (Details to be finalized)
October 23	German Dinner **
October 26	Retired School Personnel Dinner (Served at 5:00 p.m. - Details to be finalized)*
October 31	CE Board Halloween Party
November 9	DGH Luncheon *
November 20	Christmas Bazaar (Crafts/Christmas Items & Silent Auction Items/Baskets Needed) **
December 12	Family Christmas Luncheon after Church with Santa Claus

* One Prep Day Prior to Event

** Two Prep Days Prior to Event

President's Report - 2009

It has again been a privilege to serve as President of Immanuel UCC in 2009, and I look forward to welcoming Philip Jackson as our newly elected President for 2010. As in passed years, our congregation will truly be well served with Philip at the helm.



2009 was certainly a challenging year for our congregation, our community, and our country. Through these difficult economic times, I was gratified to see your continued support of the many programs and activities conducted here at Immanuel. Some of these (Vacation Bible School, church fund raisers, special worship services, our missions program - to name only a few) stand out in my mind as activities made possible by the cooperative effort of many faithful members. I believe, however, that still the greatest challenge facing IUCC remains the need to increase church membership and attendance. Many hands make God's work light. Now, we often rely on the same dedicated hands to do much of the church's work. If everyone pitches in, the load will certainly lighten.

As a congregation, we have so very much to be proud of and thankful for at IUCC. I personally am so impressed with Curtis White and our musical/vocal personnel who have reconstituted a terrific choir. The growth in size and quality of the choir in such a short period of time absolutely amazes me. Keep up the great work!

Next, I must sincerely thank Pastor Evans for her many years of faithful, dedicated service to IUCC and also for the help and support she has given me as council president. She has guided us through happy and sad times. She has helped us realize the dream to build a beautiful new church facility. She is a remarkably respected voice for IUCC in our local community and in UCC Association and Conference affairs. Our worship experience, especially the holiday services, are always inspirational.

In 2009, we again celebrated beautiful weddings, joyous baptisms, special holidays, and funeral remembrances of loved ones gone before us. In 2010, we will strive to build upon this church's many missions to serve our God and our community. May we all succeed in meeting these challenges, and may we all be constantly guided by God's loving spirit as we proceed in the work of IUCC.