

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

IMMANUEL IMAGES

January 2012



January Worship Schedule

OUR VISION FOR IMMANUEL UCC

*An open-hearted
church, empowering
people to serve God
and the community.*

FAMILY WATERFOWL HUNT

Saturday, Jan. 7

**Contact John Moore
(443) 521-5759**

Inside This Issue:

Interim's Message	2
Christmas Thanks	3
President's Message	4
Pastoral Search	5
Stewardship	6
Volunteer Opportunity	7
January Celebrations	8

Immanuel Images is Published monthly by Immanuel United Church of Christ, 5401 White Hall Rd. Cambridge, MD 21613. To contribute, comment or note change of address, call 410-228-4640 or our email immanuelucc@bcctv.net

Sunday mornings - The heart of our life together

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages.

10:00 a.m. All ages gather for worship in the Sanctuary, Pastor Anne preaching.

10:15 a.m. 2nd and 5th Sundays - Children's Church.

11:00 a.m. Fellowship time with refreshments.

January 2 - Epiphany Sunday.

We share in Holy Communion, celebrating the day traditionally associated with the Three Kings arriving at Jesus' birthplace. "Epiphany" means a "revealing" or "manifesting," and we will explore how the Word incarnate is made manifest to the world. Texts include Sirach 24:1-12, Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21 and John 1:1-18.

January 9 - Baptism of Jesus.

We consider the Baptism of Jesus as described by Matthew 3:12-17, and ponder the meaning of baptism in our own lives. Texts also include Isaiah 42:1-9 and Psalm 29.

January 16 - 2nd Sunday in Epiphany.

With our Annual Meeting immediately following worship, our texts guide us to consider: "for us as a church, what does it look like to follow Jesus?" Readings include Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11 and John 1:29-42.

January 23 - DISCOVERY SUNDAY - 3rd Sunday in Epiphany.

Sunday morning looks a bit different today! Join us for singing, praise and small group discussion about the history of Immanuel Church. We begin in the Sanctuary and then move to Fellowship Hall. Led by our Interim Team, we will explore both the blessings and challenges through the years, with an eye towards God's leading into the future. Understanding our history is an important part of the Interim process before calling a new settled pastor. Come, share your perspectives! Plan to join us from 10:00-11:30 am, with refreshments included. Children will have a special program from 10:30-11:30 am.

January 30 - 4th Sunday in Epiphany.

The words of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount brings a curious vision of a new age, where poverty, mourning, and meekness are strangely praised. Considering these words in Matthew 5: 1-12, we will explore together this paradoxical "emptiness of heart" that Jesus invites in his followers. Texts also include Micah 6:1-8 and Psalm 15.

With the season of Epiphany, once again our church calendar provides a contrast with the predominate culture around us. For many people, early January includes recovering from various festivity hangovers, dismantling Christmas decor, and half-hearted attempts to keep New Year's resolutions. The grey skies and deepening chill of mid-winter seems to hold us in its disquieting grip. I find myself grateful for the rhythm of the church year, which once again offers another perspective.

The annual celebration of Epiphany on January 6th concludes the 12 Days of Christmas with the arrival of the magi at Jesus' manger. The word "epiphany" means "manifestation" or "a moment of recognition." From the Gospel of Matthew we learn that mysterious wise men, or magi, followed an unusual star appearance to Bethlehem. They came to pay homage to this one who was born for the world at large. Through the weeks of Epiphany, we read the stories of this growing recognition of Jesus: his childhood, baptism and early ministry. After the time of concentrating on his birth, we now slowly contemplate what it means to follow him in our daily lives.

During Epiphany here at Immanuel, we are invited to consider how the teachings and person of Jesus are being "made manifest" in our own lives. Through these last 16 months of our interim time together, we have considered the kinds of ministries that God is calling all of you to in the future. We have trusted that the God who is still speaking is truly communicating through each of you. Now is the time to concretely share those images, ideas and hopes you each envision for this congregation.

In a few weeks, all members will each receive a **Member Survey** in the mail from your Pastoral Search Committee. In our United Church of Christ governance, each individual congregation owns its own property, orders its own worship services, and calls its own pastor. This style of doing business is not just to be democratic. We do this because we trust that God speaks through each of our individual minds and hearts. We believe that the Body of Christ is built up and sustained when all members of that Body envision and carry out its ministries together.

As you complete your individual Survey, I encourage you to focus not on "what kind of new pastor would I prefer?" Remember the words of your new Vision Statement: *An open-hearted church, empowering people to serve God and the community.* What skills and experience will your new pastor need in order for each of you to help Immanuel bring about this vision? Consider the new Mission Statement: *Immanuel United Church of Christ seeks to offer a contagious Christianity that transforms both our members and the wider community. Nourished by heart-felt worship for all ages, relevant teaching and fervent prayer, we open our doors to all and reach out to those in need.* What kind of pastor will help you "transform" and grow as Jesus' disciple? What kind of pastor will help you open wide the doors of this church and guide you in reaching out to those in need?

(continued on next page)

I believe it is a privilege of church membership, not a burden, to be invited to complete such a Survey. Your Pastoral Search Committee is hoping to complete a Church Profile that accurately and faithfully represents the diverse views of the whole congregation. They expect that God is speaking through each of you about the future God intends for this church. This is the time to let your perspective be heard, for the good of the whole and the future of Immanuel Church.

In ministry with you,

Anne

**.....AND MY DEEP GRATITUDE TO ALL WHO HELPED THROUGH
THE ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON!**

To Robin Moore and the Missions Committee for coordinating yet another successful gift and food drive for needy families received through the Salvation Army. To members of the Confirmation class who joined Tammy Luthy, Susie Creighton, Robin and Pastor Anne to shop for presents. To Vinson Spies, Danny Luthy, Robin and all the youth for delivering presents and food to eight different households. To all of you who bought and wrapped gifts. Thank you!

To the Christian Education Board, headed by Tammy Luthy, for coordinating the annual Family Christmas Party with Santa and gifts for our children. And for their costuming and directing the children and youth of the church in the beautiful depiction of the Christmas Story during worship. To all the children and youth who joined in so willingly, donning angel wings and shepherds robes, magi attire, animal costumes and Roman legion helmet. Thank you!

To the Choir, our Music Director Curtis White, pianists Lynne Breil and all the musicians who stepped forward to offer their time and talent. To Chris Gillis for filling in on piano for our Christmas Day service. Thank You!

To the Spiritual Council and Chancel Committee, under Helen Krom's leadership and assisted by several other families, for decorating the Sanctuary and Narthex with Christmas trees and garlands, poinsettias and candles. Such a beautiful candle-glow on Christmas Eve. Thank you!

To those who helped prepare and serve meals for two evenings at the Emergency Cold Weather Shelter this month: Robin Moore, Frank Spillman (yummy Shrimp Creole for Christmas week), Joyce Wise (fresh apple pies), Diane and Jim Murphy (lunch makers), Terry Melius, and Mickey Love. To those who donated new flannel sheet sets, blankets and towels for use by our Shelter guests. Thank you!

To all of you who joined us in worship through the month, who brought friends and family, and helped us welcome the newborn Babe into our midst again. Thank you!

To the rest of our Staff: Janice Haller for putting out countless bulletins and huge newsletters while maintaining good cheer, to Stephanie Dixon for caring so lovingly for our little ones and to Lisa Dixon for keeping our church spotless! And to all you "behind the scenes" people who keep this place thriving! Thank you! As one of you keeps saying...."it's a WE thing" here at Immanuel.

Dear Congregation;

The year of 2011 has been a good one for Immanuel. We probably owe this to the Search Committee for our interim pastor. Anne has done a great job helping us transition from The Rev. Joan Evans to a new permanent pastor, whoever it may be.

It seems the committees have met more often and accomplished more than they did in the last few years. There seems to be an attitude among the congregation of fellowship, and that together we can accomplish anything.

The giving this year has been up and down, but despite the bad economy we again have met our goals put forth in our budget. The congregation should also be commended on their giving; to meet the needs of our ministry in the community, plus the mortgage requirements of our parsonage and the new church building.

Though we do not know who will be our next minister, I think the committee selected to make the decision, is as good a group as our church has ever put together. When they do bring forth a candidate, I know the congregation will be supportive in every way possible.

Though every year is different, I believe 2012 will be better than 2011. With help of all members and the trust we have in the Lord, I know this is possible.

Respectfully,

Philip Jackson
President of the Congregation

CALL TO THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING **Sunday, January 22 – 11:15 a.m.**

In accordance with our Immanuel United Church of Christ By-Laws, Article V, an annual meeting for conducting business of the Congregation is to be held each January. All members of Immanuel are encouraged to attend to cast your vote for our 2012 council members and review the 2012 budget. This year we will be electing three people to the council for a 3-year term, replacing Debi Book, Danny Luthy and Connie Barnett, who have completed their term of service. We will also need to elect one to complete the term of Dennis Katulis, who resigned due to other commitments. This person will serve for two years. While all members and friends of the Congregation are invited to attend and participate, only members are eligible to vote.

UPDATE FROM THE PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Search Committee has been meeting regularly to work on our Church Profile. When completed, this document will give clergy candidates a sense of Immanuel's unique history and hopes for its future as a congregation. We have completed a Member Survey form which will be sent to each church member. You will be receiving a copy of the Survey in the mail, about the second week of January. Please take time to complete the Survey, either in its paper form or on-line at the site described. Return it to the church office by January 22 so we can begin to collate the information.

As a United Church of Christ congregation, we are part of a denomination where each church chooses and calls its own new minister. Please be a part of this process by completing the Member Survey.

The Search Committee will be working on other parts of our Church Profile until the Survey is complete. This includes information about our wider community, our church history, financial data and descriptions of current programs. Once all of the Member Survey data is reviewed and compiled, the complete Church Profile will be put together for review by the Church Council. We will then post the job position on the United Church of Christ employment opportunities website. Interested clergy will send us their Ministerial Profiles and we will send them an electronic copy of our Church Profile.

-from Bill Malkus, co-chair with Jack Beil, Pastoral Search Committee

Please keep our Pastoral Search Committee in your prayers:

Bill Malkus, Jack Breil, Leslie Tolley, Scott Dodson, Keith Malkus, Marilyn Luthy, Susie Creighton and Tammy Luthy.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY – EMERGENCY COLD WEATHER SHELTER

Our local shelter serves some of the most vulnerable people in Dorchester County: those without homes who struggle with joblessness and, in many cases, addiction and mental illness. Since December 1st, the Shelter has again opened its doors at the Wesleyan Church at the corner of Race and Washington Streets in Cambridge, serving up to 15 men, women and children with a warm bed, hot dinner, and sack lunch for the next day. In addition, guests receive counseling regarding local transition resources for their various needs. All of this is made possible by the generosity of local congregations such as ours, donations from businesses, foundations and community groups and the hard work of many volunteers.



Immanuel Church is responsible for preparing and serving dinner and a sack lunch on the second and fourth Thursdays a month. Usually Frank Wise has been preparing our dinners and Jim and Diane Murphy do the lunches. We could use a few substitute folks for these duties. We also need additional people who will take the food down to the Shelter, reheat and serve, and be a compassionate presence with the guests from 6:00-7:00 pm on our appointed evening. Our upcoming schedule of helping is the following: January 12 and 26, February 9 and 23, March 8 and 22, April 12 and 26.

Many thanks also goes to all of you who donated new hats, mittens, gloves and scarves which graced our "Mitten Tree" during December! A whole box of these warm and colorful items will be taken for distribution at the Shelter.

-Pastor Anne Swallow Gillis, co-Chair, ECWS Committee

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

OUR FINAL REPORT ON OUR "FAITH-PROMISE" INVITATION: Many thanks from your Immanuel Deacons to those who made a "faith-promise" to God indicating your estimated level of giving to the church for the year 2012. We received "faith-promises" from 45 households, totaling \$157,979 in anticipated giving for next year. This being the first time in many years that members and friends have been invited to indicate future giving, the Deacons were both moved and grateful for your generous response.

The **2012 Budget**, passed by the membership at the November 20 Congregational Meeting, includes planned expenses totaling \$240,718. The congregation is reminded of increased expenses in our relatively new and significantly larger building, the addition of paid nursery, office and cleaning staff since the move to White Hall Road, and increase in utility costs. An additional \$3000.00 was also added to support the work of the Pastoral Search Committee in finding a new pastor during 2012.

UPDATE FROM OUR CHURCH TREASURER (Diana Jackson)

Income (from all sources)

For the period January 1 through December 31 (year to date)

2011 \$260,997.13

For the period November 20 through December 31 (one month)

2011 \$71,456.90

Expenses (from all sources)

For the period January 1 through December 31 (year to date)

2011 \$238,854.16

For the period November 20 through December 31 (one month)

2011 \$29,763.35

OUR CHURCH IS STILL 5 FOR 5

Below is a breakdown on our 5 for 5 contributions to the UCC for the year ending 12/31/11

Neighbors in Need	\$ 460.00
OCWM	10,472.70
One Great Hour of Sharing	1,437.00
Strengthen the Church	305.00
Veterans of the Cross	679.00

Thanks to everyone who made contributions. Good Job!

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED AT IMMANUEL

Join the folks helping serve the Emergency Cold-Weather Shelter: We are bringing a hot dinner, light breakfast and bag lunches for about a dozen guests at the Shelter, twice a month through the end of March. On the 2nd and 4th Thursdays, Frank Spillman prepares dinner, and other volunteers are needed to purchase and pack lunches, and to join Pastor Anne in delivering the food to the Shelter at 6:00 pm, at the corner of Washington and Race Streets. We meet the guests and monitor, serve dinner and provide a compassionate presence for those experiencing hardship during the cold winter months. Food costs are reimbursed by our Missions Committee funds. Sign-up in the Narthex or call the office.

CHICKEN & DUMPLING DINNER has been scheduled for Saturday, January 28, beginning at 4:00 p.m. Once again, we will need to rely on our faithful helpers to make this the successful event it has always been. Prices are: Adults \$10; Children 4-12 \$5.00 and children 3 and under are free. We will be serving salad, chicken & dumplings, string beans and biscuits. With the various desserts being made by our congregation, there should be a wide assortment for your selection. Desserts are not included in the cost of the meal but are budget friendly. Where else could you go and get homemade desserts for a couple of dollars? So, mark your calendar and come out and enjoy a evening of fellowship and good food!



The Children of Immanuel presented the "Christmas Story" during worship on December 18

MEMBERS JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

Celebrating January Birthdays

Carter Richard Warfield	1/3
Mike Jones	1/3
John Philip Giese	1/6
Courtney Travers	1/8
Harrison Spies	1/8
Wallace Dodson	1/11
Brian Burton	1/12
Jacob Moore	1/12
Ashton Elzey	1/13
William Spicer	1/13
Elsa Schnoor	1/14
Garrett Luthy	1/15
William Foxwell, Jr.	1/17
Mitch Simmons	1/18
Alison Cherry	1/19
Vinson Spies	1/19



Celebrating January Anniversaries

Beverly & Raymond Shelly	1/9
Patti & David Cannon	1/13
Barbara & Philip Albert	1/15
Diane & Jim Murphy	1/23
Debi & Jay Book	1/29

Birthdays (continued)

Thomas Paul Jones	1/20
Debbie Collins	1/22
Ariana Spillman-Wise	1/26
Tammy Luthy	1/28
William Brady Lyons	1/30
Dave Leonard	1/31

Your Staff

The Rev. Anne Swallow Gillis
 Janice Haller
 J. Curtis White
 Lynne Breil
 Lisa Dixon
 Stephanie Dixon

Interim Pastor
 Church Secretary
 Choir Director/Organist
 Pianist
 Custodian
 Nursery Care Provider

Your Council

Philip Jackson, President of Congregation
 Scott Dodson - Vice President/Deacon
 Debi Book Elder
 Connie Barnett Deacon
 Danny Luthy Deacon

Jock Luthy Deacon
 Dennis Katulis Elder
 John Moore Deacon
 C. R. Newman Deacon
 Carole Segar Deacon

Pastoral Search Committee

Keith Malkus
 Marilyn Luthy
 Susie Creighton
 Tammy Luthy

Leslie Tolley
 Bill Malkus
 Jack Breil
 Scott Dodson

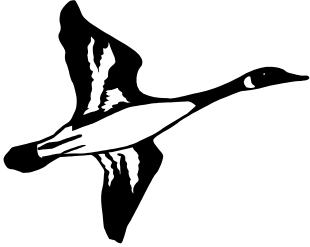
Church Contact Information

Office Hours - Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 Phone: 410-228-4640 FAX: 410-221-6419

FAMILY WATERFOWL HUNT

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

BREAKFAST 5:00 A.M.



**ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
CONGREGATION**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 22
FOLLOWING WORSHIP 11:15 A.M.**