

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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



May 2010

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

We are living in the time of transitions - the 50 days between the Day of Resurrection and the Day of Pentecost (May 23) when God sent the Holy Spirit and inspired the church to new life. During the first 40 days, Jesus appeared to the disciples and believers with words of assurance and encouragement.

What could he say to those he has loved dearly and now must leave? I struggle with that same question. As I look back over nearly fourteen years together, I am aware of God's healing presence in our lives individually - and in our life as a community of faith. God walked with us in the sorrows and joys, in the challenges and accomplishments that we have experienced together.

It would be tempting for us to be caught up in pride and say, "Look what we did!" The truth is, "Look what we did with the help of God" who inspired us and sustained us in a long journey! We were led to many people who could share the "Vision". They helped us transform a "field of beans - and dreams" into the new reality of Immanuel United Church of Christ. That new reality is more than a beautiful and useful building. It is also a faith community of worshiping and compassionate people who reach out to others in the strong name of Jesus. God has led new families to our fellowship, and more will come.

I believe "God is still speaking" to Immanuel Church and calling you into greater service. Let God speak to your hearts in faithful worship. Then live your faith each day of the week. Support the Christian education program for your children, youth and adults. Continue your assistance to the many needs in Cambridge and beyond. Continue to deepen your faith in God and Christ will walk with you on your journey into a new future. Support your leaders and search committee with encouragement and prayer.

Pray for your church and be strong in your faith!

It has been a privilege to serve God as your pastor. I have loved you dearly and continue to pray for you. Your prayers will help me as I make a transition to new fields of service, too. Live your name: Immanuel - "God-with-us". This is the eternal truth that saves us all. Thanks be to God!

Love and Peace,

Joan

New Address for the Rev. Joan Evans:
113 E. Hammaker Street
Thurmont, MD 21788
Phone: 301-271-4557

ENDING A MINISTRY

The Rev. Joan P. Evans ended her ministry at Immanuel United Church of Christ on Sunday, April 18, 2010. Pastor Evans had served Immanuel's spiritual needs since 1996. During this time she welcomed new members into the church, baptized many children and conducted services to honor our departed loved ones. You may find a complete listing on the pages to follow.

For her final Sunday worship service, Pastor Evans requested that Dr. Bill Bair, a blessing on the violin, play "Pachelbel's Canon" and Curtis White, our choir director and organist, bestowed his excellent voice on the congregation and sang "There Is A Balm". With a voice of an angel, Curtis's voice resounded in the sanctuary. The hymn from the choir was another selection by Pastor Evans - "Eagle's Wings." All were absolutely magnificent!

The evening celebration began at 4:00 p.m. with dinner, prepared by the men of Immanuel. Our thanks to Frank Spillman, Wallace Dodson and C. R. Newman who spent many hours over the grill getting boneless chicken breasts and London Broil grilled to perfection. Thanks also go to the men and women who served this excellent meal. Following dinner, Delegate Addie Eckardt presented Pastor Evans with a Maryland House of Delegates Citation in recognition of her 13+ years of faithful service. Then, Senator Richard Colburn presented first The State of Maryland Governor's Citation and then The Senate of Maryland Resolution honoring her service to Immanuel UCC and the community.

Services were then moved to the sanctuary. There Bill Malkus reviewed Joan's many years at Immanuel with emphasis on the new building and grounds. He noted that with a small congregation we have managed to retire approximately 2/3's of our mortgage debt. No small accomplishment.

The Rev. Dr. John Deckenback concluded the service with the Vows of Release. This was followed by a surprise selection from the choir, "May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You." Hardly a dry eye in the place.

It was indeed an special day for a very special person. Let's all say a prayer for the continued outreach of the Rev. Joan Evans and, with the blessings of God, she will continue to prosper in the love that surrounds her.

INTERIM SEARCH

The search committee has been busy the past several months reviewing possible candidates for our interim pastor. They have had some very qualified people to chose from and will be interviewing a candidate during the week of May 2.

GRADUATES

Graduation - This year we plan to recognize our graduates during our worship service on May 23th at 10:00 a.m. Our graduates will then be honored with a reception in the Fellowship Hall following worship.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Youth Fellowship will have a booth at the Spring Sale on May 22nd. We will need yard sale items (no clothes please and only good saleable items) and bake sale items. Please bring your yard sale donations to the church Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bake sale items should be brought to the church on Friday, but you could also bring them in on Saturday morning, as our kitchen helpers will be here by 6 a.m.

Youth Fellowship will meet on Sunday, May 16th at 6:00 p.m. We will also meet on May 30th, again at 6:00 p.m.

LEADING WORSHIP SERVICES

May 2	Jean Haddaway
May 9	The Rev. Dr. John Deckenback
May 16	The Rev. Katharine Rice
May 23	The Rev. Katharine Rice
May 30	Hymn Sing - George Barnett

Mother's Day

**MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST
MAY 9, 2010 SERVING 8:15-9:45 AM
ALL IMMANUEL UCC FAMILY ARE WELCOME!
410-228-4640**

SPRING SALE

SPRING SALE on May 22nd at 8:00 a.m. Please check below for prep schedule

- May 19-Cut celery 1:00 p.m.
- May 20-Cook and debone chicken 8:00 a.m.
- May 20-Cook chili
- May 20-Cut chicken for chicken salad, about noon
- May 22-Kitchen help - be at church at 6:00 a.m.

**DAY OF PENTECOST
JOIN US IN WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION
May 23, 2010 - 9:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Worship - Pentecost Communion**

**IT'S A "SPRING SALE at Immanuel
Saturday, May 22 - Beginning at 8:00 a.m.**

Tables available: \$10.00

Call to reserve your sale table!

**Enjoy soup, chicken salad,
hamburgers and hot dogs on the grill,
and bake table (contributions needed).**



Call 410-228-4640