

The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston, Bishop
 The Rt. Rev. Ted Gulick, Assistant Bishop
 The Rt. Rev. David C. Jones, Suffragan Bishop
 The Rev. Ryan Kuratko, Rector
 Jimmy Hicks, Minister of Music
 Gayle Stewart, Parish Administrator
 Joy Morgan, Cherub School Director
 Chris Frost & Britton Trimble, Treasurers
 Frederico Garza, Candidate for the Diaconate
 Seselia Coles, Sexton

THE VESTRY

Senior Wardens - Dabney Morriss, Paula Neely
 Junior Wardens - Pat Cowling, Jason Anderson
 Register - Heather Wilson
 Darryl Starnes, Jean Longest, Patti Bartol, Page Causey

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS/POINTS OF CONTACT

Altar Guild - Belinda Cowling, Janet Gravatt
 Cemetery Committee - Gerry Gravatt
 Christian Education
 Children - Carol Joyce Intergenerational - Joan Beal
 Youth - Unfilled Adult - Ryan Kuratko
 Cherub School Board - Cheryl Anderson
 Marketing & Communications/Newcomers - Paula Neely
 Finance - Chris Frost, Britton Trimble
 Landscape - Page Causey
 Outreach - Unfilled
 Nursery - Mary Beth Ivanhoe
 Refreshments - Eleanor Fukushima
 Stewardship - John Fulton
 Umbrella of Peace - Dabney Morriss

We follow the way of Christ to serve the community and foster spiritual growth through worship, education, fellowship, and joyful song.

IMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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IMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

OUT OF OLD CHURCH

DECEMBER 2011

Special Points of Interest:

- Christmas Caroling
- Christmas Service Schedule
- Order Your Poinsettia
- A Note From The Treasurers
- Men's Shelter Meal
- Knitting Ministry Gathers
- Vestry Nominees Sought
- Greening of the Church

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Dear Friends In Christ,

"Patience." What horror has attached to this word in our era! I notice that most people can't say it without flinching, eye-rolling, or some combination thereof. We use the word to ward off children from what isn't in the budget, or as a command to someone in an interminable situation of suffering, or as a name for a virtue we think some distant grandparent must have possessed. In so many ways, 'patience' has become a mythical superpower that no one we know possesses—after all, one of the worst things we can be told is that we will have "to wait." No wonder that Advent, this first season of the church year that mirrors anticipation for the Christ child with the yet-to-come fulfillment of God's reign, doesn't come naturally to us. If ever a society of people has existed that is ill-prepared to wait, it's us.

Waiting, however, is the agenda for the season, and we need the practice. More and more I believe that patience is primarily concerned with control. There are things we control; there are things we do not control. So much of the difficulty we have with patience comes from our trying to control what we can't, and failing to control what is in our power. Surely there are things that can't wait, things over which we have some control—the economic inequality of this nation and the world, the failure of justice to care for those on the margins, the way we respond to those around us, and more. Learning patience doesn't mean being unprepared and unengaged.

But patience means knowing that our desire to control does not, in fact, give us control. Is that an easy experience for us? No! I don't think so. But it moves us closer to the Truth, knowing that God has a say in this world as real as anything we imagine. We all have events and people in our lives we can't control—having patience, with family or with our own emotions or standing in line, is about letting go of what we thought should happen and accepting what is there. As the traditional 12-step prayer by Niebuhr has it, we need courage to change what we can, serenity to face what we can't change, and the wisdom to know the difference.

Waiting for the Savior, for Christmas, for the fulfillment of God's kingdom, for a difficult time to come to an end, for a family member, for forgiveness—whatever you are waiting for this Advent, I pray that God grants you both comfort and peace as you work and wait for what is coming.

Peace,
 Ryan

The Cherub School

As I write this article, it is the week of Thanksgiving. By the time you read this we will be full swing into Christmas. In fact, much of our time has already been spent on planning for Christmas. At school we often are working a month ahead of the calendar in preparation for what is to come. This process sure does make time fly!!

As I reflect on Thanksgiving this week I am reminded of a devotion I recently heard. We spend so much time thanking God for the "stuff" He has provided us with, such as a nice home, good jobs, food on the table, etc. We don't often thank Him for the true gifts He has given us, namely eternal life through His son. It is not that we don't want to thank Him for all that we have, but sometimes we need to take our focus off of material items.

As we approach the season of Christmas our minds once again turn to "stuff". We have long lists of things we want as well as lists of what others want us to get them! We tend to forget about the blessings of family, friendship, and love. Unfortunately we often move the gift of Jesus to the end of our list. Not totally forgotten, just not at the top of our priorities.

As in the past, the teachers and I will work diligently to teach the children that Christmas is important because it is Jesus' birthday! God loved us and sent His son, we love others so we give them gifts. It is never too early to begin teaching them that Christmas isn't all about getting more "stuff" but about showing others that we love them. There are many opportunities in our community to keep Jesus at the top of our priorities and I pray that this year you will make a concerted effort to do so.

Lastly, I have been extra blessed this year by reaching some closure on a long court process. As many of you know The Cherub School was taken advantage of by a contractor in the spring of 2010. We gave him some money to do some playground work for us and unfortunately the work never took place. We have been in the process of getting the money returned for over a year now. As of this Thanksgiving week all of the money has been recovered. I am thankful for the support of the school and the church throughout this ordeal, and am especially thankful that it is over!

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas full of less stuff and more blessings!

Joy Morgan
Cherub School Director

Christmas Caroling



Come join the fun and get in the Christmas spirit as we "carol" our way through our shut-ins. Led by members of the choir, we will meet at the parish house on Wednesday, December 14th, 6:00 PM, and carpool to the various homes.

Caroling should be finished by 7:30 PM. For questions, please contact Eleanor Fukushima.

Eleanor Fukushima

Celebrate The Holidays With A Unique Meal

Are you looking for a unique, but delicious, meal to serve your family and friends over the holidays? Then consider purchasing some soft crabs for a delicious seafood dinner. Soft crabs are available in the parish house freezer, dressed and ready to cook.

We are offering a special holiday price - \$19 per dozen, a savings of \$2 over the per crab price of \$1.75. They also make a wonderful gift! If you need instructions on how to cook them or would like meal suggestions to go with the soft crabs, contact Gayle Stewart in the church office.

Not only will you impress your guests with a wonderful meal, all monies will go to help support the many ministries of Immanuel! Anyone can serve turkey or ham. But softcrabs, now that's a special meal!

Gayle Stewart

How To Talk To God - Pray!

Awake! As the mind's eyes open, perhaps before the real eyes do, the wonder of awaking to a new day washes over. With child-like awe, you wonder what adventures await you on this brand-new day. Will there be adventure? Will the face of God be seen? Quickly, the obligations and worries of life start to flood in, quickly displacing the awe, the wonder, that came to greet you if for only just a moment. At this point, there is a decision to be made. One can cave into the worries and fears and allow them to color the brand-new day or one can reclaim the childlike wonder that Jesus calls all of us to live.

How does one do this? Prayer, simply prayer. Depending if you are a morning person or a not, prayer may start before or after the coffee is made. Prayer is the one thing that can enable God to calibrate our minds, hearts, and souls for the new day. In prayer, one will experience, first-hand, the patience and love of the Living God. In prayer, one will feel the gentle and not-so-gentle nudgings and challenges that God has issued for thousands of years to individuals - as recorded from the Book of Genesis to the Book of Revelations to modern-day stories.

Prayer - two-way communication with God - allows God to mold us, to fashion us into the image of Jesus and reclaim the wonder of living that life itself often robs from us. When this is done, we can live out the entire day in a more childlike state that opens our eyes to unlimited possibilities. It is in this awed state that opens our eyes and lets us see God working furiously and tirelessly right in front of our eyes.

What can be said of the brand-new day can be said for the brand-new season of Advent. The challenge is to open the eyes and greet Advent with awe and wonder and a sense of excited anticipation, of not only a new season, but a new life. Pray every morning, throughout this Advent, and ask God to renew your child-like sense of wonder and excitement - for living and for God.

This is a prayer God never fails to answer. This is a prayer that transforms lives. This is a prayer that will change you. Then, and only then, will God be able to transform the world through you. Amen.

Frederico Garza
Candidate for the Diaconate

The Angel Tree Has Arrived

The Angel Tree has returned to the Immanuel parish house! The tree is filled with ornaments representing Christmas gifts that will be presented to three CornerStone families. (Many thanks to Jessie Clark and Susan Greene for organizing this project!) This will be the only Christmas that these families have. Your generosity in helping to provide Christmas gifts will be greatly appreciated.

Each ornament lists an item, size (if needed) and a male or female designation. Items for children should be new. Gifts for the adults may be new or like new. Please take one (or more!) ornaments and pick up the requested item(s) as you do your own Christmas shopping.

Gifts should be wrapped with the information ornament securely attached to the gift. Gifts must be returned to the parish house no later than December 12th. For questions, please contact the church office.

Gayle Stewart

Greening Of The Church

Even though Advent has just begun, the time of Advent always seems to travel at the speed of light! Before you know it, we will be "greening the church" time!

Please mark your calendars for Thursday, December 22nd, beginning at 6:30pm, and join us in the greening. It is guaranteed to put you in the Christmas spirit! Questions? Contact Janet Gravatt or Belinda Cowling.

Pageant Practice

Calling all angels, shepherds, sheep, wise men . . . please come for "rehearsal" during the Sunday School hour (10:00 am) on December 4th, 11th and 18th. We'll be going over our script for the Pageant that is scheduled for 4:00 pm on Christmas Eve. We need LOTS of participation! Please call contact Carol if you have any questions or would like to help. Thanks!!

Carol Joyce

It's Not Too Late To Buy A Brick!

It's not too late to buy a brick for the Welcome Wall. There is still room for about 30 more personalized bricks. Orders for engraved bricks will continue to be accepted until they are sold out. Bricks cost \$65 each. Gift certificates are also available. Each brick is approximately 4 x 8 inches and may be engraved with as many as three lines of text and up to 16 characters per line. Spaces count as characters. Order forms are available in the parish house, the narthex of the church and at immanueloc.org. Bricks will be installed as soon as a batch of orders (10 bricks) has been received and the winter weather allows.

Paula Neely

Treasurers' Report

From The Treasurers

As of November 21, 2011

Total Pledged For the Year	\$161,220.00	
Pledges Paid To Date	\$125,661.00	77.94%
Other Income Budgeted	\$ 44,970.00	
Other Income Received To Date	\$ 51,127.00	113.69%
Total Income Budgeted	\$206,190.00	
Total Income Received To Date	\$176,788.00	85.74%
Expenses Budgeted For The Year	\$208,841.00	
Total Expenses To Date	\$188,290.00	90.16%

A Ministry of Need

For more than twelve years, Kay Jewell and Teresa Davis have been faithful to the ministry of providing meals to the Men's Shelter in Richmond. Unfortunately, the load has become more than two people can handle. Teresa and Kay are asking members of Immanuel to join them in helping with this ministry.

While this is a year round ministry, help is currently being solicited for the December 18th meal. Help is needed with both cooking individual parts of the meal, as well as helping to deliver the meal to the Men's Shelter. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the parish house. You can sign up for individual items for the meal or to help deliver the meal.

Kay and Teresa are also collecting items for the resident's of the Men's Shelter to deliver with the December 18th meal. Needed items include:

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| white socks | deodorant |
| t-shirts | soap |
| toothbrushes | combs |
| toothpaste | brushes |
| razors | stocking caps |
| shaving cream | gloves |
| shampoo | scarves |

Small sizes of the toiletries are a better choice. A collection bin has been placed in the parish house to receive your donations.

For questions about the meals, the personal items collection or for general questions about the Men's Shelter, please contact Teresa Davis (tcmd17@gmail.com) or Kay Jewell (MJewell677@aol.com). Thank you for helping to continue supporting this wonderful ministry!

DECEMBER



1 - Chris Harrison	
4 - Jane Ruffin	
5 - Billy Martin	
6 - Teddy Kramer	
8 - Betty Morriss	
9 - Pam Fulton	
Rick Clinger	
10 - Melissa Jarvis	
12 - Kaitlyn Harrison	
13 - Nerine Woodard	
14 - Lauren Stewart	
Whitney Anderson	23 - Sydney Kimball
18 - Michael Jarvis	24 - Robert Jones
Ben Morrow	26 - Amanda
20 - Janet Gravatt	Hayashida
Carol Martin	29 - Valerie Kramer
21 - Gail Giese	30 - Paula Neely
Madelyn Johnson	31-Cheryl Anderson
23 - Jimmy Hicks	Carol Haley
Ian Stewart	Sarah Neely

DECEMBER



1 - Rick & Teri Kimball
 10 - Carol & Billy Martin
 21 - Taylor & Carol Ware
 26 - Sue & Joe Parker
 30 - John & Patricia Kreyonus

REFRESHMENTS FOR DECEMBER

4th - Ann Garner
 11th - Anne Allen, Gail & Mike Giese
 18th - Steve Colvin Lindsay Ryland
 25th - No Refreshments

NURSERY DUTY FOR DECEMBER

4th - TBA
 11th - Jim Trimble
 18th - Mark Ivanhoe
 25th - No Nursery

USHERS FOR DECEMBER

Ron David
 Chuck Wheeler
 Richard Neely

ALTAR GUILD FOR DECEMBER

4th - Steve Colvin, Patty Cullen
 11th - Steve Colvin, Patty Cullen
 18th - Jane Ruffin, Melissa Jarvis
 24th - Steve Colvin

Vestry Highlights

The Vestry of Immanuel met on November 15, 2011 for their regular monthly meeting. At the time of publication of this newsletter, the minutes were not available. Copies of the monthly minutes of the vestry meetings are available in the parish house once they are approved by the vestry.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Vestry will take place on December 20, 2011. The Open Forum begins at 7:15 PM. If you would like to attend the Open Forum, please contact the Senior Wardens, Paula Neely (781-0046 or pneely@erols.com) or Dabney Morriss (353-6598 or dmorriss@netzero.net).

Nominees Sought

If you are interested in serving on the vestry in 2012, please contact a member of the nominating committee: Dabney Morriss, Pat Cowling, Paula Neely or Ryan Kuratko.

Vestry members serve 3-year terms and attend monthly meetings. For more information about serving on the vestry, contact any member of the vestry or of the nominating committee.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve
 4:00 pm Holy Eucharist & Christmas Pageant
 10:30 pm Hymn Sing
 11:00 pm Traditional Candlelight Service
 of Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day
 10:00 am Holy Eucharist

Do You Hear The Click-Clack Of Knitting Needles?

The Knitting Ministry is back in action! The group gathers on the second Sunday of each month at 2:00 PM. Come enjoy the fellowship, work on a project or learn a new skill. Stay as long or as little as you like. The knitters will focus on small projects for a while - projects that take less than an hour to complete. Prayer shawls are always needed, if you prefer to work on that type of project. For information about the Knitting Ministry, please contact Lindsay Ryland at 779-3481 or clyland@aol.com.

Time To Order Your Christmas Poinsettias

It's time once again to order your Christmas poinsettia! The poinsettias are always large, beautiful plants and are all wrapped in foil. Each plant is \$12 and the deadline to order is December 12th. Order forms are available in the parish house.

The poinsettias will be used to "green" the church on December 22nd and will remain in the church through the 11:00pm service on Christmas Eve. Plants may be picked up anytime following that service. For questions, please contact Janet Gravatt or the church office.

Janet Gravatt

Grateful Thanks From CornerStone

The CornerStone Ministry sends their grateful thanks to the community of Immanuel for all their wonderful support in providing a delicious Thanksgiving meal to each CornerStone patron. A total of 426 turkeys was given out and 522 families were served.

As Sheila Iswariah put it, "We could not have done this without Immanuel's loving gesture." A shared blessing is a blessing multiplied! Thank you for your continued support of this wonderful ministry. And don't forget to pick up extra canned goods for the Christmas delivery to the CornerStone Food Bank!

A NOTE FROM YOUR TREASURERS

If you would like for your donations to Immanuel to be included in your 2011 tax statement, please make sure it is received by the church office no later than December 31, 2011. Thank you!



Remember to turn in your pledge card
For questions about stewardship, please contact Ryan Kuratko, the rector.



Cost:
\$14 per
plant

December 12th is the
deadline to order your Poinsettia.

December 4th - 2 Advent - 11:00 AM - Erin Kinsley, CR, GSP
Lacey Kramer, TB; Kara Braith, TB

December 11th - 3 Advent - 11:00 AM - Alexandra Farnsworth, CR, GSP
Kara Braith, TB; Addie Steeley, TB

December 18th - 4 Advent - 11:00 AM - Whitney Anderson, CR, GSP
Kyle Anderson, TB; Peyton Farnsworth, TB

December 24th - Christmas Eve - 4:00 PM - No acolytes needed
11:00 PM - Jacob Martin, CR, GSP; Savannah Martin, TB; Sarah Johnson, TB

December 25th - Christmas Day - 10:00 AM - No acolytes needed



December 4th - 2 Advent - 9:00 AM - Patty Cullen, LR
11:00 AM - Gayle Stewart, LR

December 11th - 3 Advent - 9:00 AM - Carol Ware, LR
11:00 AM - Lindsay Ryland, LR

December 18th - 4 Advent - 9:00 AM—Brenda Smith, LR
11:00 AM - Stephanie Arnette, LR

December 24th - Christmas Eve - 4:00 PM - Sarah Harris, LR
11:00 PM - Dabney Morriss, LR

December 25th - Christmas Day - 10:00 AM - Britton Trimble, LR

**LR - Lay reader



Lay Readers

December 4th - 2 Advent - 9:00 AM - Patty Cullen, CH
11:00 AM - Gayle Stewart, CH, EV

December 11th - 3 Advent - 9:00 AM - Carol Ware, CH
11:00 AM - Ann Garner, CH; Patti Bartol, EV

December 18th - 4 Advent - 9:00 AM - Linda York CH
11:00 AM - Pam Fulton, CH, EV

December 24th - Christmas Eve - 4:00 PM - Sarah Harris, CH
11:00 PM - Barbara Baker, CH

December 25th - Christmas Day - 10:00 AM - Britton Trimble, CH

**CH - Chalice; EV - Eucharistic Visitor

Chalices





Food Collection

December Food Items To Donate To Cornerstone:

Ham, Corned Beef, Soup

All canned and boxed food items are welcomed. Due to Christmas, food items will be delivered to CornerStone on December 14th.

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

January Newsletter Information Due December 15th

















Greening of the Church
Thursday, December 22nd
6:30 PM

Come enjoy the Christmas spirit!



December 2011



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
Pilgrimage Meeting December 4th 2:30 PM <i>Grace & Holy Trinity</i>			Cherub School Closed For Christmas Break December 19th - January 1st		1 7:00 PM Cherub School Board Meets	2 Office Closed	3 8:00 AM Parish Clean-up Day 
4 2 Advent 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Sunday School Youth & Adult & Pageant Practice 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist 12:15 PM Refreshments	5 6:30 PM EfM Meets 7:00 PM Scouts Meet  EfM	6 5:30 PM Budget Comm. Meets	7 11:30 AM Cherub Chapel No Choir Practice	8	9 Office Closed	10 	
11 3 Advent 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Sunday School Adult & Pageant Practice 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist 12:15 PM Refreshments 2:00 PM Knitting	12 Poinsettia Order Deadline 6:30 PM EfM Meets 7:00 PM Scouts Meet  EfM	13 Angel Tree Gifts Due December 12th 	14 6:00 PM Caroling 7:30 PM Choir Practice 	15	16 Office Closed 9 to 12 Noon Cherub School Christmas Program 	17 Parish House Floors Waxed 	
18 4 Advent 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Sunday School Youth & Adult & Pageant Practice 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist 12:15 PM Refreshments	19 6:30 PM EfM Meets EfM	20 6:30 PM Vestry Dinner 7:15 PM Open Forum 7:30 PM Vestry Meeting 	21 7:30 PM Choir Practice 	22 6:30 PM Greening of the Church 	23 Office Closed	24 Eve of the Nativity 4:00 PM Holy Eucharist w/ Christmas Pageant 10:30 PM Hymn Sing 11:00 PM Holy Eucharist 	
25 The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 	26 No EfM No Boy Scouts	27	28 No Choir Practice	29	30 Office Closed	31 	
Parish Office Closed December 26th - 30th							