

TOWER CHIMES

Immanuel Presbyterian Church
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

December 2010



**Keeping faith
in the city
since 1837**

We will glorify God
*in our worship and service,
"equipping the saints"
to show the good news
of Jesus Christ
by the story we tell,
by the values we live,
by the choices we make;*

We will grow in faith,
*manifesting its joy and risk,
nurturing new generations
in its promises,
and inviting others
to share the journey;*

***We will attend to
human need***
*in both
congregation and world,
address the issues
of our time in dialogue
with our faith, and
affirm the love and teachings
of Jesus Christ
through our mission.*

Mission Statement
Immanuel Presbyterian
Church

The Advent Journey at Immanuel Presbyterian Church

For long-timers and newcomers, the traditions of this season mark the way to Bethlehem:

- + The Advent journeys into memory, through the wilderness, toward the promise, and with our God Immanuel, "God with us," are mapped by the daily reflections in this year's Advent booklet. Copies are available on Sunday mornings or from the church office.
- + Take the Alternative Route to shopping and give gifts that give hope and healing. Stop at the Alternative Christmas Market on December 5.
- + "Rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing" on the afternoon of December 12th. "Journey to Bethlehem" is the theme of our annual concert of lessons and carols by the Immanuel Choir and the Children's Chorus. The music will begin at 4:00, followed by the lighting of the Star Tree in the Parlor and a festive buffet of holiday hors d'oeuvres and desserts in the Upper Room.
- + Soar to Christmas on the magnificent *Magnificat* by J.S. Bach on Sunday morning, December 19th.
- + Follow the star to Christmas Eve worship at 8:00 p.m. Come to the table for the gifts of bread and wine that celebrate and sustain our faith journey; light candles in the dark night to show the way to Christ. "Come, all ye faithful" on Christmas Morning (Saturday) at 10:00 for carols and communion. Continue the Christmas journey on Sunday morning, December 26 as we travel with the magi and offer our gifts.

**"LET'S DO BRUNCH!"
Students' Home-for-the-Holidays Brunch
Sunday, December 26 at noon**

Are you an Immanuel college or graduate student? Will you be in Milwaukee for Christmas break? Join us for morning worship on Sunday, December 26 and stay for a special holiday brunch at *The Knick* with the ministers. This is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with church friends and to share the warmth and hospitality of the season. Invitations will be e-mailed later this month. Please respond by e-mail or call the church office (414-276-4757).

**CHURCH SCHOOL
Winter Quarter begins December 12**

The autumn quarter of Immanuel church school will conclude on Sunday, December 5. A sincere thank-you to the teachers who offered their time, talents, and energy to be part of our ministry to children this fall: Nancy Herro, Debbie Gillard, Chrissy Gruber, Angie Mehring, and Stephanie Wesselowski.

The winter quarter begins on Sunday, December 12. Teachers for the winter quarter are: Nathan Guequierre and Ann Eisenbrown (3 and 4 year olds); Karen Plantinga (Kindergarten - Grade 2); and Casey Cox and Rhoda Sherwood (Grades 3 - 5). The 6-9 grade class will continue to enjoy visits from several members of the congregation, "Second Sunday" suppers at families' homes, and a "lock-in" at the church in mid-February.

Please contact Ms. Dow with any questions about Church School.

THANKSGIVING THANKS!

The Parish Life Council welcomed nearly sixty Immanuel members and friends for a festive Thanksgiving Day Dinner. The event began at 3:00 with hors d'oeuvres in the Parlor, followed by table worship and a delicious dinner in the Dining Room at 4:00. A special thank you to our Thanksgiving chef, Peter Corrao, and sous-chefs Jeanne Corrao and Pat Parks, Parish Life Council members Justin Mayer and Sally Pearson, and all who cooked, planned, hosted, served, and cleaned up.

NEW DIRECTORIES

The distribution of new Immanuel directories has been re-scheduled for January. If you have any changes or requests about how your information is shared in the directory, please contact Ms. Richter in the church office (414-276-4757). The 2011 Immanuel Church Directory will be available on Sunday mornings in January.

**IPC 101: An Introduction to Life at
Immanuel Presbyterian Church
Sunday, January 23 at 11:15 a.m.**

Are you new to Immanuel Church? Would you like to learn more about the congregation? Plan to join members of the Membership Committee following worship on Sunday, January 23, for "IPC 101: An Introduction to Life at Immanuel Presbyterian Church."

We will discuss our focus on worship, education, and mission, tour the church building, and talk about what it means to be a Presbyterian.

The session will last approximately 45 minutes and will include time for questions and discussion. A prospective member dinner is planned for February 27. For more information about either of these events, or to inquire about membership, contact Mr. Ater in the church office (414-276-4757).

**EAST TOWN ASSOCIATION
HOLIDAY MARKET**

On Friday, December 3, Immanuel's neighborhood association, East Town, hosted a Holiday Market in the atrium of the Chase Bank Tower. The market provided neighbors with opportunities for holiday shopping and Immanuel members the opportunity to invite new friends to the Alternative Christmas Market and Advent and Christmas worship services. Market goers received "green" Immanuel shopping bags and red Immanuel Church pens. Thank you to Immanuel hosts: Marty Dooley, Sara Hein, Martha Mainland, Susan Oster, Rhoda Sherwood, and Steve Swigart.

**"AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS"
December 10 & 11 at Carroll University**

Immanuel members are invited to a production of the classic Christmas opera, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, December 10 and 11 at Carroll University. A partnership between Carroll University and Milwaukee Opera Theatre, the production will feature Immanuel Chancel Choir members Doug Clemons and Peter Voigt and be co-directed by Immanuel member James Zager.

Make it a weekend of music . . . see *Amahl and the Night Visitors* on Friday or Saturday and then join us at Immanuel for the annual Christmas Concert and Buffet on Sunday afternoon (see page 4). For details and ticket information go to: www.milwaukeeoperatheatre.org.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET

On Sunday, December 5, Immanuel's Mission Committee will host the *sixteenth annual* Alternative Christmas Market from 11:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. in the Upper Room.

Truly a "different way to do Christmas," the market offers an opportunity to purchase meaningful gifts for everyone on your list while supporting a variety of local and international organizations and agencies. From a new pair of eyeglasses (just \$10 to the Bread of Healing Clinic) to a holiday dinner with all the trimmings for two local families (\$40 to the Interchange Food Pantry) to a microcredit loan for a woman in Africa (\$100 to Global Mission), your gifts will make a real difference in the lives of real people, both here in Milwaukee and around the world. You're sure to find something for everyone on your list. Be creative. An introductory music lesson through the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music for the person who fostered your love of music; flowers to brighten a senior's yard through the Dominican Center for Women for someone who always brightens your day; a nature bike excursion for central city kids through the Urban Ecology Center for your favorite biker! Some families designate a certain dollar amount, and then sit down together with the list to decide what to purchase. You will enjoy the process, and both giver and receiver will know the joy that comes from sharing with others. And we can assure you that 100% of your gift will reach the intended recipients.

Enjoy shopping in a relaxed atmosphere among your Immanuel Church friends. There will be holiday music and delicious refreshments, and you will have the opportunity to meet and talk with representatives from the agencies your gifts support. If you aren't able to be here on December 5, or if you find that you need to do some last minute shopping, members of the Mission Committee will be available in the Parlor on Sundays, December 12 and 19.

Shopping lists are available from the church office, as well as on the Immanuel website: www.immanuelwi.org. Special gift cards are available to accompany your gifts. For more information, please contact Ms. Dow in the church office (414-276-4757).

We are pleased that the Alternative Christmas Market is now a much anticipated holiday tradition at Immanuel Church. What a wonderful way to spread the Good News of Christmas in this hungry and hurting world!

INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH This Advent and Christmas

Immanuel's first "Invite-a-Friend Sunday" on September 12 was a great success! Many members invited friends and they came . . . to enjoy worship, ice cream, and life together at Immanuel! **The next "Invite-a-Friend Sunday" is December 5.** If you miss the opportunity to invite a friend that day, why not consider **December -- Invite-a-Friend Month!** The seasons of Advent and Christmas are a particularly good time to reach out to friends and neighbors as they reflect on the true meaning of the season.

Research on church growth tells us that church newcomers visit for the first time because someone personally invited them. With that in mind, consider who in your life might appreciate an invitation to explore their faith in this community. Do you know someone who would like the opportunity to give a gift that makes a difference at the Alternative Christmas Market? Or perhaps you have a friend who would enjoy the Christmas Concert and Holiday Buffet? As we prepare for Christ's coming, this *is* an excellent time to invite friends to enjoy the season of anticipation and celebration at Immanuel. Please consider using the green Christmas postcards on the Great Hall tables as a conversation starter or a written invitation to give (or mail with a first class stamp!) to a friend. If you know someone who might appreciate a personal invitation from one of the ministers, please feel free to contact Mr. Ater in the church office (414-276-4757). Invite a friend to church!

FIND A HOLIDAY BARGAIN at the ReSale Shop December 5

The Immanuel ReSale Shop in the lower level of Waverly House will be open following worship on Sunday, December 5. After visiting the Alternative Christmas Market, make your way over to the ReSale Shop to browse for additional holiday bargains. You never know what treasure you may find!

2010 CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Holiday traditions... the tree, the crèche, the carols, the Christmas Joy Offering.

For almost 70 years, the Christmas Joy Offering has been a Christmas tradition for Presbyterians - and Immanuel Church has long supported this offering.

Gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering are distributed to two important ministries of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Half of the offering provides scholarships to deserving students and assistance with basic operating costs for the racial and ethnic schools and colleges affiliated with our denomination. These institutions develop leaders in the church and in society, and enable students to discover and pursue their professional goals. The other half goes to the Board of Pensions, to support current and retired church workers through difficult times with Shared and Emergency Assistance Grants. In addition to financial assistance, these grants assure those who have faithfully served the church that the church stands with them in times of need.

A letter and special offering envelope is included with this mailing of *Tower Chimes*. Additional envelopes will be available in the pew racks. The Christmas Joy Offering will be received on Sunday, December 19, Christmas Eve, Christmas morning, and December 26. It will be dedicated during worship on Sunday, January 2. Gifts may also be sent directly to the church office.

At the time of year when we celebrate God's gift to us in Christ, contributions to the Christmas Joy Offering help to express this congregation's faithful witness to and sharing of the love of Christ for all people.



"JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM" Christmas Concert and Buffet Sunday, December 12, 4:00 p.m.

Plan to join your Immanuel Presbyterian Church family on Sunday afternoon, December 12, for a wonderful Christmas celebration.

An annual Immanuel tradition, the celebration begins at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary with "Journey to Bethlehem," a concert of lessons and carols by the Children's Chorus, the Chancel Choir, soloists, and organist Steven Jensen. From there the party moves to the Parlor for the lighting of the Star Tree and then on to the Upper Room for a buffet of hors d'oeuvres and dessert.

All are invited to participate in this festive holiday tradition. For the buffet, bring the specialty of your kitchen. For the entire event, bring family, friends, and neighbors. This is a wonderful opportunity to share the gift of Immanuel Church with those you love.

Artwork: Sister Karlyn Cauley

CHRISTMAS TOY STORE AT CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Saturday, December 18

Supporting the annual Christmas Toy Store at Christ Presbyterian Church, 20th and Walnut Streets, is a holiday tradition for Immanuel Church. Scheduled this year on Saturday, December 18, the store gives children of the congregation and the neighborhood the opportunity to select gifts for their brothers, sisters, and friends for just \$1.00. They also receive for themselves a new book or toy, as well as a hat and a pair of mittens.

It is our practice to collect items for the store at the Advent Workshop and on the following Sundays (December 5 and December 12). Donations of games and puzzles, coloring books and crayons, markers and school supplies, books, toys, hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens are needed. Several hundred children participate each year. Please join us in supporting this important holiday tradition and helping our neighbors at Christ Presbyterian Church with this special ministry to neighborhood children and their families!

Giving TOGETHER

to and through the church

Stewardship for 2011

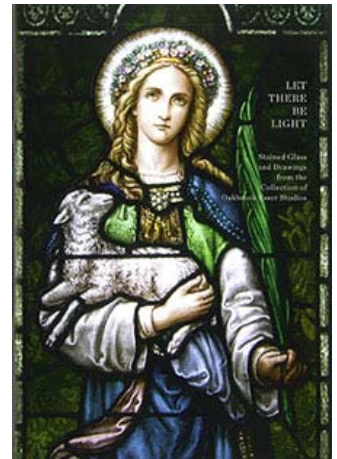
We have been encouraged to think about an annual pledge to Immanuel as giving *to* the church, to sustain and grow our ministry here, and as giving *through* the church, to send our resources and energies into the world to do God's work. We have been reminded that we can do more together than we can do on our own, and informed about what it takes to maintain and to grow.

In October, the Session and the Board of Trustees unanimously approved a proposed budget for 2011 that requires an additional \$44,000 in pledge income. Pledges were dedicated on Thanksgiving Sunday and continue to come in. The early returns indicate the goal of \$780,118 is achievable! The most important goal is that everyone give something. Giving together adds up, and giving together builds up a community.

Pledge forms and summaries of the 2011 budget are available from the church office (414-276-4757).

"LET THERE BE LIGHT"
Stained Glass Exhibit
Marquette University - Haggerty Museum
Epiphany Sunday, January 2

This fall a beautiful exhibit of stained glass and drawings from the collection of Oakbrook Esser Studios has been on display at Marquette University's Haggerty Museum. The Parish Life Council has planned a guided tour of the exhibit with Oakbrook Esser owner, Paul Phelps, on the exhibit's final day, **Epiphany Sunday, January 2** at approximately 12:30. Sign-up in the Parlor on Sunday mornings to express your interest in attending or call Mr. Ater in the church office (414-276-4757). Located in Oconomowoc, Oakbrook Esser restored Immanuel's chapel windows in 2005.



THE GATHERING MEAL PROGRAM
Saturday, January 15
9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar and plan to help serve a noontime meal to those in need on Saturday, January 15, at St. Andrew's Episcopal Community Center, 35th and Lisbon Avenue. Immanuel Presbyterian Church regularly provides volunteers for this program and servers are needed from 9:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

If you cannot be a part of the serving crew, but still want to help, you may bring cookies or fresh milk to the church office by Thursday, January 13. The cookies and milk will be contributed to the lunch.

Sign-up in the Parlor after worship or contact Ms. Dow in the church office (414-276-4757) or Patrick Goggin, for more information.

READ, THINK, DISCUSS, LEARN, GROW
Adult Learning Opportunities

SUNDAY MORNING BOOK TABLE
The Good Book and good books!

Have you visited the new book table in the northwest corner of the Narthex, just outside the Johnstone Library? The Session and Adult Education Committee are making available titles that relate to our worship and education theme for this year, "What Do Our Neighbors Believe?" There are also several editions of the Bible, copies of the Book of Confessions, The Presbyterian Hymnal, and the Mission Yearbook. The prices reflect a discount from the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Books may be purchased by cash or check.

READ THE BIBLE IN 2011

Have you ever read through the entire Bible? Have you wanted to, but not been sure where to begin? Have you tried, but gotten bogged down somewhere in Leviticus? Would you like to join Ms. Dow and a group of other Immanuel members and friends on a journey through the Bible in 2011?

Consider making this one of your resolutions for the New Year. A schedule will be provided that will take readers to various parts of the Scriptures each day - the New Testament letters on Monday, the Psalms on Wednesday, books of prophecy on Thursday, the gospels on Saturday... It will require a commitment of about 15-20 minutes a day. Based on interest, we will also arrange for the group of readers to meet together - at least once a month - to discuss what we've read.

Please sign up on the sheets in the Parlor, or contact Ms. Dow in the church office (414-276-4757) to indicate your interest. If you need a new Bible, there are a couple of versions available at the book table in the Narthex.

THEOLOGICAL CLASSICS

The study of Daniel Day Williams' *God's Grace and Man's Hope* will continue on Tuesday evening, December 14, at 7:00 in the Waverly House Youth Room. The group will discuss Chapter 3, "Man's Real Good" and Chapter 4, "The Kingdom of God and the Kingdoms of this World." The book is available on line (<http://www.religion-online.org/showbook.asp?title=1936>) as well as from sellers of used books.

Theological Classics meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. and offers an educational opportunity for persons interested in exploring the writings of important theologians.

All are welcome for *Theological Classics* and the *Niebuhr Study*! Please contact Dr. James Fisher, Parish Associate (262-243-5045 or jcfisher@ameritech.net) for more information.

NIEBUHR STUDY

The study of Reinhold Niebuhr's book, *Beyond Tragedy. Essays on the Christian interpretation of history*, will continue on Thursday, December 9, from 11:30 - 1:00 in Waverly House with a discussion of Chapter 9, "The Suffering Servant and the Son of Man," and Chapter 10, "Transvaluation of Values." Newcomers welcome! The book is out of print but is available from sellers of used books.

The Sacrament of Baptism will be celebrated on
the Third Sunday of Advent, December 12;
the First Sunday after Christmas, December 26;
and the Baptism of the Lord, January 6.
Please speak with one of the ministers
if you desire to profess your faith
or present a child for baptism.

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

DECEMBER 2010

at Immanuel Presbyterian Church

December 12**The Third Sunday of Advent**

- 8:45 Child Care for infants & toddlers
- 10:00 Morning Worship; *The Lighting of the Advent Wreath*
The Sacrament of Baptism
Dr. Block preaching, "Advent Journeys: Toward the Promise"
- 10:30 Church School
- 11:00 Coffee in the Church Parlor
- 11:30 Children's Chorus Rehearsal
- 4:00 Christmas Concert, tree lighting, holiday hors d'oeuvres & dessert buffet
The Chancel Choir, Children's Chorus, congregation, and organ sing and play the music of the season

December 19**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

- 8:45 Child Care for infants & toddlers
- 10:00 Morning Worship; *The Lighting of the Advent Wreath*
Special Music: "Magnificat" by J.S. Bach
Dr. Block preaching, "The Journey of God with Us"
- 10:30 Church School
- 11:15 Formal Christmas Coffee in the Church Parlor

December 24**Christmas Eve**

- Worshippers will be greeted by caroling at the Astor Street entrance
- 8:00 Service of Communion and Candle lighting
Dr. Block preaching
Holiday refreshments around the Parlor tree following worship

December 25**Christmas Morning**

- 10:00 Morning Worship; Service of Communion and Carols
Bring a bell to ring!
- 11:00 Christmas Morning coffee and refreshments around the Parlor tree

December 26**The First Sunday after Christmas**

- 8:45 Child Care for infants & toddlers
- 10:00 Morning Worship; Dedication of Christmas Joy Offering;
The Sacrament of Baptism
"The Journey of the Magi"
- 11:00 Coffee in the Church Parlor
- 12:00 College and graduate student Home-for-the-Holidays Brunch

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

- Born** Ethan James Perlberg, to Troy and Sherry Perlberg, Thursday, October 7.
Sophia Ellen Thom, to Jason and Jennifer Thom, Sunday, October 24.
Ethan Robert Janke, to Daniel and Nicole Janke, Saturday, November 20.
- Moved** Danielle Hanney, to 6167 E. Thunder River Drive, Tucson, Arizona, 85756.
Rick and Roxanne Hanney, to 4354 Glidden Drive, Sturgeon Bay, 54235; phone 920-746-8434.
- New E-mail** Amy Kuhl, amylynnkuhl@gmail.com

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The deadline for the January-February issue of the *Tower Chimes* is Monday, January 17. Please send newsletter contributions to the church office.

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Issue published: December 2, 2010

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED