

Immanuel
Presbyterian Church

50th Anniversary

October 8, 1961—
October 8, 2011



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A Message from Our Pastor

In 2011, Immanuel celebrates our 50th anniversary as a congregation. The journey we have undertaken is one of joy and travails, growth and an increasing sense of commitment to worship, spiritual formation, education and service. It is well summarized in our theme for this anniversary year: Fifty years of embodying God's love.

This book is offered in celebration of the Spirit that moves among us, guiding and nurturing, challenging and empowering us to be more than individuals, to be the body of Christ in McLean and surrounding areas. You will see in its pages much about the legacy of our past and a vision of how that legacy is helping to shape our future. It is my hope that we carry forward guided by the Spirit that led those who came before us, so that in the years to come future generations can and will join us in the joyous privilege of embodying God's love.

Grateful for Immanuel,

Pastor Aaron



O God of Love— A Prayer for Immanuel's 50th Anniversary

O God of Love, embodied in Jesus
and through Your Spirit in us,
We give You thanks and praise
for the history of this congregation we call Immanuel.

We thank You for the many ways
we have experienced the true meaning of our name over the past fifty years,
for You are, have been, and will continue to be "God with us."

With us in music that touches the soul,
With us in thoughtful and inspiring preaching and worship,
With us in generosity of spirit and in the commitment to service,
With us in fellowship enjoyed and care given and received,
And with us in the nurture and education of children, youth, and adults.

We give you thanks, God-with-us,
For Your presence in times of both joy and sorrow, in laughter and in tears,
In occasions of heated debate and in experiences of reconciliation and new insight.

We give you thanks, God-with-us,
For memories made, for lives transformed, and for members and friends
Who are no longer present with us in body, but who helped shape for the better
What we have become as individuals and as a community.

As we move into Your future,
Keep us ever true to the legacy of our past and the challenge of our name.
Help us to be bold, committed, and creative in our service to You and to Your world.
Remind us again and again not only that You are present with us
But that You also call us to be present to You and to one another.
For You have always done Your best work in human beings
Who are willing to let Love guide them. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Our Pastors



*The Reverend Aaron D. Fulp-Eickstaedt
Pastor
June 2005—Present*



*The Reverend Daniel C. Thomas, Jr.
Associate Pastor for Education
and Nurture
January 1998—Present*



*The Reverend Gay Lee Einstein
Associate Pastor for Youth Ministries
April 1997—February 2005*



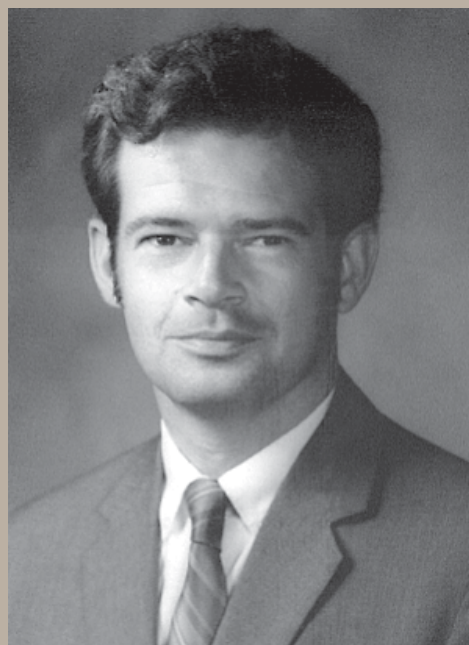
*The Reverend Dr. Lonnie L. Darnell, II
Associate Pastor for Education
and Nurture
October 1993—August 1995*



*The Reverend John W. Sonnenday
Pastor
December 1982—April 2003*



*The Reverend Richard A. Grear
Pastor
November 1973—November 1981*



*The Reverend Carl L. Cooper
Pastor
September 1963—January 1973*



*The Reverend J. Robert Kever, Jr.
Organizing Pastor
October 1961—February 1963*

Immanuel's Charter Members

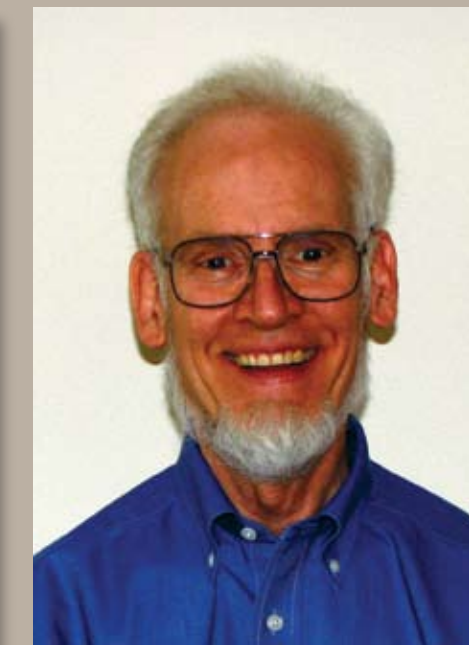
According to Presbytery records, the list below reflects the 46 members received into Immanuel Church as of October 8, 1961. Today four of the original 46 are still active members: Barbara Donnelly, Rae Gloeckler, Fred Gloeckler, Jr., and Linda Gloeckler Wenri.

*David F. Anderson, Jr.
Harriette J. Anderson
John Anderson
Betty J. Boykin
Ann W. Carlson
George M. Carlson
Ruth R. Charters
Frank E. Doe
Nellie S. Doe
Barbara L. Donnelly
Ruby L. Furr
Frederick M. Gloeckler
Frederick M. Gloeckler, Jr.
Rae L. Gloeckler
Linda Gloeckler
Groviene Ham
Hazen B. Ham
Helen M. Hansen
John Carr Hyde
John M. Hyde
Lynne Anne Hyde Woodbury
Margaret M. Hyde
Edna C. Ilderton
Gordon E. Jonas
Gordon Keith Jonas*

*Mary E. Jonas
Ellen H. Kever
Mrs. John G. Laylin
David Grier Lindquist
David M. W. Lindquist
Ruth W. Lindquist
Ora L. Lovings
Frances H. Madden
Jeanne B. Mellefont
H. Graham Morison
Hugh M. Pease
Lester B. Powell
Marion W. Powell
Allie Jo Rambo
Amy Smith
T. Arthur Smith
Helen W. Whitesel
Roy O. Whitesel
Dorothy M. Wilson
George L. Wilson
Suzanne Wilson*



*Above:
Linda Gloeckler Wenri*



*Above:
Fred Gloeckler, Jr.*



*Left:
Barbara Donnelly*

*Right:
Rae Gloeckler*



The 1960s

Milestones:

- *First service held at Franklin Sherman Elementary School in McLean with Reverend Robert Kever officiating September 11, 1960*
- *First service held in basement of newly acquired Church House December 18, 1960*
- *Chapel/Sanctuary addition completed September 1961*
- *Immanuel Presbyterian Church officially organized by Presbytery October 8, 1961*
- *Reverend Carl Cooper installed as our first called pastor September 1963*
- *New Christian Education Building dedicated June 1967*

Great expectations: from a borrowed cafeteria to our own church house and two new additions, from a visiting quartet to our own choir, from a Presbytery supplied organizing pastor to our first called pastor, we became Immanuel.

On September 11, 1960, we gathered, 51 strong, in the cafeteria of Franklin Sherman Elementary School in McLean, Virginia. Our organizing pastor, the Reverend J. Robert Kever, led the service. For the first few Sundays, a pianist and a quartet from New York Avenue Presbyterian Church led our hymn singing.

In November the Presbytery purchased our present property on Savile Lane which consisted of six acres and a 1942 brick house. The entire basement of the house was originally used as the place of worship for our charter members. It was musty and damp, and the Property Committee Chair asked the little congregation, "If it rains on Saturday, please come early on Sunday to help bail out the water."



The early winter weather in 1961 was harsh, and the dark basement was not attracting many people. A loan was secured from the Presbytery to build a chapel/sanctuary. We enclosed the house's screened-in porch, keeping the brick floor, and added the frame building, which is now the music room.

Beginning in September 1961 and continuing for almost 20 years, this addition was to serve as Immanuel's sanctuary. It could seat 88 people in metal folding chairs. The 12 to 14 member choir was on the immediate right upon entering the room and a portable pipe organ was on the left. A year after its first service, Immanuel Presbyterian Church was officially organized by Presbytery on October 8, 1961.

Much work lay ahead. The early members of Immanuel knew they would be expected to work hard. Our small group of founding members had to get to know each other, learn the Presbyterian Bylaws and Book of Order, organize a Sunday School program for youth and adults, clean the new site, evangelize, form a choir, set up their officers, select a first Session and choose a name.

The name Church of the Good Shepherd was rejected in favor of Immanuel which means "God With Us." As a result of their being actively involved and committed with their time and money, the congregation quickly developed into a close-knit community.

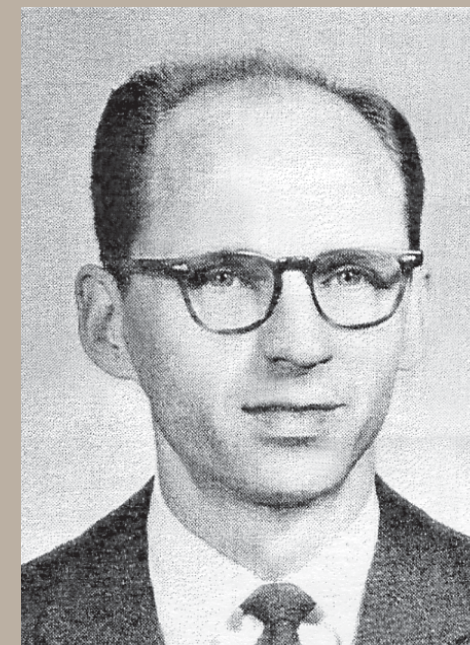
Left: Franklin Sherman Elementary School, where our first worship service was held on September 11, 1960

Above: Original Church House with Sanctuary addition, completed in September 1961

In January 1963 Reverend Kever announced that he had accepted the position of Protestant Chaplain at the University of Alabama. With the departure of Reverend Kever, Immanuel was in search of a new pastor.

On August 1, 1963, the Reverend Carl L. Cooper arrived to serve as Immanuel's first called pastor. Reverend Cooper was a young, dynamic, intellectual preacher with a sense of humor.

In 1964 it became obvious that our present physical plant and facilities, particularly for church school, were a deterring factor in the growth of our membership, which now totaled 105. An overall master building plan was developed and approved by the congregation. A fund-raising campaign was conducted, a building committee elected and an architect engaged. The resulting concept for Immanuel consisted of a series of separate, modern buildings to be spread over our six acre campus.



Although this plan was initially approved by the congregation, it was later discarded because of its high cost. After much deliberation between building a sanctuary or a Christian Education building, the congregation approved the church's securing a commercial loan of up to \$90,000 to build an education building and remodel the present structure.

This loan would be in addition to the large sum owed Presbytery for the purchase of the Church House and its site and the Sanctuary addition. Our small congregation of 113 was carrying a large debt.

On June 4, 1967, we dedicated our Christian Education Building. Since the new building consisted of only three classrooms, church school classes were still held throughout the Church House, with the junior high class gathering in the pastor's office.

Above: Reverend Carl Cooper, our first called pastor, installed September 1963

Left: Our Organizing Pastor, Reverend Robert Kever, led our first service

Our numbers continued to increase as Reverend Cooper energized the congregation with his intellectual sermons that often dealt with issues of the day such as the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights Movement. Shortly after his arrival, Reverend Cooper had invited members of the congregation to participate with him and his wife in the August 28, 1963 Martin Luther King March on Washington.

Many enjoyed his "Raps with the Rev" that allowed for further in-depth discussion on controversial sermon topics such as his opposition to the war. While not always in agreement, the congregation listened with open minds. Later, recalling his early days at Immanuel, Reverend Cooper said:

"In those days we had two services even though there were Sundays when there would only be 6 or 8 people at one of them. Always there would be the clanging of the folding chairs in which the worshippers sat. But there was an organ and a choir and a church school and a core of dedicated members in those early days which revealed to all of us what a church could be, despite the lack of grandeur of facilities. Words like: friendship, devotion, a sense of caring, willingness to work, love of life, exuberance—these are the words that come to mind. It was a place that gave meaning to our lives."



Above: Original Christian Education Building, dedicated June 1967

The 1970s

Milestones:

- *Immanuel-sponsored Speech and Language Center opened September 1970*
- *Reverend Carl Cooper departed January 1973*
- *Reverend Richard Grear installed as Pastor November 1973*
- *Dolley Madison Preschool established 1976*
- *Commitment to donate 10% of funds raised for construction of our new sanctuary to the Presbytery Major Mission Fund 1978*

Immanuel's character began to emerge as we defined our goals, met space needs, reached out to children in the community, and learned new ways of being church.

In March 1969 Immanuel had received a \$25,000 grant from the Chas. E. Merrill Trust. At the recommendation of a committee set up to investigate how we might most constructively use this money, the Speech and Language Center of Northern Virginia was created and opened at Immanuel in 1970 to provide speech therapy for preschool age children. In 1976 it was decided to add our own preschool, the Dolley Madison Preschool, allowing children from the Speech and Language Center with mild speech problems to mingle with the preschoolers.

As we entered the new decade, our members totaled 207. To meet the needs of our growing congregation, in 1972 a Long Range Planning Committee recommended the building of a permanent sanctuary to seat 250. As action was proceeding on the committee's recommendation, Reverend Cooper informed the congregation that he had accepted a call to the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Albany, New York, and would depart in January 1973.



The Reverend Tom Miles accepted the position as Immanuel's interim minister. Reverend Miles worked for HUD full time, but accepted our part-time offer. He said, "I would be honored to serve where Carl Cooper served."

As the Session defined the church's goals for the Pastor Nominating Committee, they acknowledged the challenges presented by growth and construction of a new sanctuary as well as the concerns that the attention and financing directed towards a new sanctuary might impede the congregation's giving to benevolences. Nevertheless, the decision was made to proceed with construction.

*Above:
Marge Silvis, Director of Music,
1977—1993*

*Left:
The new sanctuary under
construction*



A building committee was elected in February 1973 and directed to proceed with a conceptual design of a permanent sanctuary. This decision was later put on hold when the congregation, having reviewed the goals and objectives developed earlier, did not express a strong desire to expand our facilities at this time. Our members felt strongly, sometimes divisively, about the Church's direction.

After Reverend Cooper's departure, the Pastor Nominating Committee searched diligently for a new pastor. By the end of the year, Immanuel had issued a call to the Reverend Richard A. Grear, who was installed at Immanuel as our second called pastor on November 18, 1973.

Our new pastor, Reverend Grear, introduced Flocks, small groups of members that would minister to each other; Agape Meals; sharing of concerns and prayers of the people; and Passing of the Peace. The Passing of the Peace had to end when the congregation, greeting each other so warmly, failed to return to their seats in a timely fashion.

The sharing of concerns, however, drew us closer together as a family, and the Flocks became an important means for communicating and discussing congregational issues.

In order to secure a wider distribution of responsibility, it was decided that committees would be chaired, insofar as possible, by persons other than current Session members.

In September 1975 the Immanuel community was saddened to learn that Reverend Grear had been diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease. Our close-knit congregation rallied to support him and his wife Sandra.

The inadequacy of our worship space continued to be a primary concern, with its lack of air conditioning and the need to hold heavily attended services at other locations.

*Right:
Groundbreaking for the new
sanctuary building,
1979*

It was the funeral service for an active and beloved member that provided the final impetus for construction of a new sanctuary. At the service, which was held in our small Sanctuary, folks were sitting in the Narthex (what we now call the breezeway) with more standing three deep outside the open windows on both sides to hear the service. It was painfully clear that our Sanctuary could not properly offer the services of life.

A building committee for the new sanctuary was elected June 4, 1978. The committee selected Hartman and Cox as the building's architect. A successful fund-raising campaign was held. Faithful to its dedication to outreach, the congregation pledged to give 10% of the funds raised to the Presbytery Major Mission Fund.



*Above:
A planning meeting for the
new sanctuary with architect
George Hartman,
1979*



The 1980s

Milestones:

- *Dedication of new Sanctuary and Fellowship Building June 1980*
- *Death of our pastor, Reverend Richard Grear November 1981*
- *Reverend John Sonnenday installed as Pastor December 1982*
- *Joint ministry with Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church in southeast Washington, D.C. began 1986*
- *25th Anniversary Weekend Celebration October 10-12, 1986*

*Below:
The choir directed by Marge Silvis, leads the congregation in rejoicing and praising God in the first worship service in our new Sanctuary, 1980*



Immanuel began the decade with 310 members. In the midst of expanding our space we expanded our community.

In June 1980 the new Sanctuary was dedicated, just eleven months after groundbreaking, with Reverend Grear presiding. Immanuel decided to purchase a Celtic cross for the Sanctuary. Consistent with the ideal of all members contributing to the life of the congregation and to make the cross truly a congregational gift, donations were limited to \$5 per person.

The joy of having the new Sanctuary was mixed with sorrow as Hodgkin's disease took its toll on the health and life of our pastor. The congregation stepped in to preach on short notice, to serve as worship leaders and to carry out pastoral care duties. This tradition of lay preaching and congregational care continues to the present. After a courageous battle, Reverend Grear died on November 17, 1981. The Reverend William Harvey served as Interim Pastor from 1981 until the arrival of the Reverend John W. Sonnenday, our third called pastor, on December 1, 1982.



In 1983 the Sanctuary building received an Honor Award for design from the American Institute of Architects; the plaque is located on the exterior of the fellowship hall chimney. In a sermon reflecting on the worship space, Reverend John Sonnenday later described it as:

"A space free of many of the traditional symbols of church architecture, a pristine environment; very little color, no stained glass, no gothic architecture, basically one simple symbol, the cross, a space in which we are therefore out from under all of the old meanings systems carried by traditional religious symbols, thereby opening up space, openness, freedom, giving us the opportunity to fashion new ways of being church."

*Above:
New Sanctuary and Fellowship Building dedicated in June 1980*

*Right:
Reverend Richard Grear conducting a baptism, 1980*

"Because of that openness, that kind of spiritual space that is granted to us in this room and by our traditions there is potential for great creativity in how we construct our lives here today."

As we began to construct our lives in our beautiful new space, we brought with us the personal "hands on" traditions that had defined us. Members continued to bring flowers for the services, to sign up each week to clean



*Above:
Processing to our first service in the new Sanctuary with our Bible, baptismal font, and communion elements, 1980*



the Sanctuary, to mow the acres of lawn, and to share in leadership of the service.

In April 1986 Immanuel and Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church, an African American congregation in southeast Washington, D.C., began exploring the possibility of working together in service. From the inception it was clear to both congregations that the goal was joint ministry involving members of both congregations working together at a personal level. Early evidences of this exciting partnership were the joint worship services and lunches afterward at Immanuel and at Garden.

The desire for deepening our relationship through service was realized in our joint participation in Garden's summer enrichment program for their neighborhood children and a Christmas in Arlington, Virginia.

On October 10, 11 and 12, 1986, we celebrated our 25th Anniversary with a vesper service on Friday with Reverend Keever preaching, a Heritage Review with many of our charter members participating on Saturday, and a worship service on Sunday with Reverend Cooper preaching.

Our approach to the budgeting process shifted during the 1980s. Immanuel embarked on faith-based budgeting centered on program needs rather than expected income. At Reverend Sonnenday's suggestion we began to submit unsigned pledges, and the benevolence portion of our budget was set at 10%, a tithe, of the amount pledged.

In the fall of 1988 the congregation had increased to 480 with an average attendance of 210. The move to two services took the pressure off the sanctuary space, but we still lacked sufficient classroom space and an area large enough for a congregation-wide meeting. To meet these needs a Long Range Planning Committee was established.



In November 1989 Immanuel paused to reflect that in the midst of a building campaign to fund a new education building, it was important to consider not only our own needs but also those of the community in which we found ourselves. "Unmet needs in the world are equally as compelling as Immanuel's unmet physical needs" a Session letter told the congregation.

*Above:
Fellowship Hall in the new Sanctuary*

*Left:
Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church in southeast Washington, D.C. with whom we began a joint ministry in 1986*



*Above:
Reverend John Sonnenday, installed as Pastor in December 1982*



The 1990s

Milestones:

- *First "I Have a Dream" Program began in partnership with Garden Memorial September 1990*
- *Reverend Lonnie Darnell installed as Associate Pastor for Education and Nurture October 1993*
- *Dedication of Meeting House February 1996*
- *Our own Gay Lee Einstein ordained and installed as Associate Pastor for Youth Ministries April 1997*
- *Reverend Dan Thomas installed as Associate Pastor for Education and Nurture January 1998*
- *Sunday schedule changed to allow separate hour for Christian Education between two services 1998*
- *Lively-Fulcher pipe organ dedicated November 1998*

During this decade, staff changes brought new inspiration, mission programs expanded, a new education building was dedicated and our numbers continued to increase.

Fulfilling our desire to provide for others when we provide for ourselves, we committed to a fundraising campaign that would finance both an education building and a major mission. In 1990 the congregation selected two programs for major mission, one local and one overseas. Our local commitment was to the "I Have A Dream" program through which Immanuel adopted a class of 66 sixth-grade students at Ketcham Elementary School in Washington, D.C. and promised the students if they completed high school, Immanuel would help pay for college.

Garden Memorial joined with us, providing the neighborhood location for our Saturday breakfasts and student mentoring. Our international commitment was to the medical missionary work of Dr. and Mrs. Salvador de la Torre in Mwandia, Zambia. Our support for Dr. de la Torre enabled him to purchase badly needed equipment for eye surgery and to build six small clinics to meet the needs of people in remote areas.



In 1996 following years of delay due to design and zoning issues, we dedicated our new education building, today known as the Meeting House. This name is a reference to the tent of meeting where the Israelites went to meet God during their passage in the wilderness. In order for us to obtain zoning approvals, the siting of the new building required removal of the education building constructed in 1967. Construction of the new building also required removal of the garden located in front of the Church House.

*Above:
Gear Memorial Garden*

*Left:
Joint worship service with
Garden Memorial
1997*

*Right:
Nursery on Sunday morning,
1995*



In relocating the garden plantings, we saw the opportunity to respond to the requests of families of our deceased members for a place to bury the remains of their loved ones. In 1996 the Gear Memorial Garden was established on the north side of Immanuel's property. A major remodeling and re-furbishing of the Church House in 1997 brought all our buildings up to date.

Several additions to our staff during this period invigorated the congregation with fresh ideas and guidance. In 1991 The Reverend Gerald (Jerry) Wheat was invited to become a Parish Associate, focusing on congregational needs. The Reverend Dr. Lonnie L. Darnell became our Associate Pastor for Education and Nurture in 1993, serving until 1995. In the early 1990's, even though the leadership of our Youth and Christian Education programs was marked by frequent turnover, strong contributions were made by Karen Werner, Julia Fegley, Gay Lee Einstein and Leta Kopp. Stability in the CE program was initiated in early 1997 when our own Gay Lee Einstein was called as Associate Pastor for Youth Ministries, and further strengthened in November 1997 with the arrival of the Reverend Daniel C. Thomas as Associate Pastor for Education and Nurture.



*Above:
Meeting House Cornerstone,
1995*

Strong growth was evident in the decade. In 1990 we had 484 members; by December of 1994 we had increased to 602. We were 676 strong at the end of 1999.

Under the leadership of Reverend Sonnenday, new worship experiences were initiated. The Tenebrae Service (Service of Shadows) began in 1994. Healing and Wholeness Services were begun in 1996. In 1999 Taizé services featuring prayer and chants were instituted, experimentally, on a monthly basis.

*Right:
Meeting House, dedicated in
February 1996*

For many years our worship and Christian Education hours had overlapped. In order to encourage all members to participate in both worship and Christian Education, Immanuel changed the hours of those events to accommodate two worship services with a Christian Education hour in between. The experience of worship gained new dimensions in 1998 with the deep, rich sounds of the new Lively-Fulcher pipe organ and arrival of Director of Music Brian Wilhour.

In 1996, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) proposed a restrictive amendment to the church's constitution which dealt with fidelity and chastity in relation to the ordination and installation of deacons, elders or ministers of the Word and Sacrament. Some were in favor of the Assembly's actions and some were not.

Following our tradition of dealing with controversial subjects, we gathered in meetings to learn and share opinions with a spirit of respect and honesty. The amendment, rejected by our Presbytery but approved at the national level, was overturned in 2011.



*Above:
Graduating seniors and mentors
gathered at Garden Memorial to
celebrate their achievements,
1997*



*Left:
The Great Memorial Garden
plaque reads, "An eternal resting place
for members and friends of Immanuel
Presbyterian Church."*



The 2000s

Milestones:

- *Creation of International Mission Committee was followed by mission trips to Guatemala, the U.S./Mexican border, Honduras and Peru 2000s*
- *Our second “Dreamer” program called Changing Lives began 2002*
- *Reverend John Sonnenday departed April 2003*
- *Reverend Aaron Fulp-Eickstaedt installed as Pastor June 2005*
- *Opening of Chesterbrook Residences November 2007*
- *50th Anniversary Celebration Weekend October 8-9, 2011*

A new focus on international mission, the launching of a new major mission outreach, the opening of an assisted living facility and a change in pastors highlighted the decade.

In 2000 a Visioning Task Force was created with the charge of involving the congregation in thinking about where we wanted to go as a congregation. Initial focus was to be placed by the task force on enhancing individual spiritual journeys and fostering individual and community outreach. As a result of this process, the task force identified five yearnings: a deeper personal relationship with God, a deeper intimacy in the congregation, a way to find individual callings and gifts, a variety of worship experiences, and a major mission built around faith-based outreach. Small groups were formed to explore how to fulfill each of these yearnings.

At the recommendation of one of these small groups, in 2002 we began a second “Dreamer” program, referred to as Changing Lives. Fifty at-risk children connected to the GIFT Family Resource Center, a homework-help program run out of Garden Memorial Church, were invited to participate. Our “Dreamer II” program is about half completed.



An International Mission Committee was launched in 2001. Over the next several years, groups traveled to Guatemala and to Peru, where a relationship was established with a church in Moyobamba. Youth groups traveled to Honduras with Students Helping Honduras and to Nogales, Mexico with BorderLinks.

A consortium of three faith communities, Immanuel, Lewinsville Presbyterian and Temple Rodef Shalom, banded together to provide affordable assisted living for the elderly in McLean. After seven long years of planning and building, Chesterbrook Residences became a reality in November 2007.

Above: Junior High and Dreamer Retreat held at Meadowkirk Retreat Center, 2009

Left: International mission trip to Guatemala, 2003

Right: Reverend Fulp-Eickstaedt installed as Pastor, June 2005

While the benevolences in the church operating budget are set at 10% of new revenues, the congregation has supported many outreach organizations with money that is not part of the operating budget. Funds raised through the annual auction to benefit local and international causes and through the campaigns in support of Changing Lives have combined to increase benevolence spending to approximately 24% of Immanuel’s total expenses.

With deep appreciation for their many years of ministry and teaching, the congregation received the resignation of Reverend John Sonnenday, who departed in April 2003, and Reverend Gay Lee Einstein, who departed in early 2005. The Reverend Doug Clark was selected as Interim Pastor in 2003. He skillfully led us through the transition to the call and arrival on April 17, 2005, of the Reverend Aaron D. Fulp-Eickstaedt, our fourth called pastor.



Reverend Fulp-Eickstaedt’s sermons challenge both mind and heart as he preaches embodying a loving God through servant discipleship. Since his arrival he has introduced new and exciting Lenten opportunities which have quickly become traditions. In 2006 we added an Ash Wednesday service after the traditional Agape Meal. Another innovation was the performance of dramas on Maundy Thursday.

New programs continue to invigorate life at Immanuel. Focus on the educational needs of our children and youth led both to the introduction in 2005 of Immanuel’s Incredible Quest (IQ), an innovative and exciting approach to teaching Immanuel’s children, and in 2006 to the arrival of Jim Stover as Director of Youth Ministries.

The weekend of March 27-28, 2009 was dedicated to “Celebrate the Arts Weekend,” a festival of paintings, photographs and other visual arts by members and friends. Two new programs began in 2009: a “Real World, Real Faith” series, featuring Immanuel members who share how their faith informs their life and work, and Theology on Tap, a monthly occasion when Reverend Fulp-Eickstaedt meets with interested young adults in a local watering hole for fellowship and discussions on theology. In the spring of 2011 an art show in the Meeting House showcased the artistic talents of our children and youth.



At the end of the decade, our numbers stood at 586. As a Visioning Task Force a decade ago helped us look forward with purpose and commitment not only to our own personal and group spiritual journeys but also to service to the world, so a newly formed Strategic Planning Committee is exploring ways in which we can enliven and embolden our worship and mission.

The 50th Anniversary of Immanuel has been a year-long celebration. We began the year in October 2010 with covenants in which adults, youth and children pledged to participate in the life of the church and the world. Throughout the year speakers have shared memories of important projects and faith-building experiences. Monthly newsletter articles have recalled the life of the church over its 50 years.

A reception and revelry on Saturday, October 8, followed by a service of remembrance on Sunday, October 9, conclude our year of celebration.



Left: Children participate in Immanuel’s Incredible Quest—Moses: Journey to the Promised Land, 2005



Above: Real World, Real Faith 2011 presentation: 50 Years and Counting

Left: Chesterbrook Residences, opened November 2007



Above: Children’s and Youth Art Show, 2011

Worship

Immanuel is a place of inspiring worship, especially in the words of our pastors and the music we hear and sing. Throughout its history, Immanuel has been blessed by pastors, people of abiding faith and spiritual depth who have brought energy, creativity, and intellectual challenge to the pulpit.

While nourishing the intellectual element of faith, they have not neglected our spiritual growth. They have engaged us as active partners in the process of listening for God's word and discerning Christ's purpose in our daily lives.

Following in this tradition, through his sermons, prayers, and charges, Reverend Fulp-Eickstaedt, our fourth called pastor, enlightens, inspires and challenges us. Since arriving at Immanuel he has moved from strictly following the assigned lectionary text for the day to crafting sermon series, especially in summer, Advent and Lent, on a specific Biblical passage or theological concept. He has further strengthened our Biblical knowledge and understanding by prefacing the scripture reading with the historical and Biblical context.

"Dignified informality."

These are words once used to describe our worship service. Perhaps they were inspired by the setting—the lack of stained glass windows, pristine white walls with simple lines, pews without cushions, and a choir without robes. In a way, our present Sanctuary echoes our first sanctuary in the Church House, both defined by one simple symbol, a cross.

Over the decades, changes and innovations have taken place in our services.

In September 1971 for the first time in its history, Immanuel held its worship on the lawn followed by a picnic and pony rides. The success of this experiment was reflected in a second outdoor worship service on October 24 commemorating the 10th anniversary of the church.

In 1974 for the first time ushers were not solely men. Beginning in 1975 in addition to the ushers, congregants were met by greeters.



Dramas and musicals have been presented by our children and youth as a part of worship. Among their presentations are "What to Do on a Rainy Afternoon in an Ark," "Let's Go with Mo," and "The Ledge."

In 1994 we instituted monthly Holy Communion services, replacing the previous schedule of quarterly observance. While most often Holy Communion is celebrated by the passing of trays, intinction was begun in 2003 and is the method used for communion on a number of occasions during the year.

A new tradition began in 1998 when the performance of a Christmas cantata composed by our organist and choir director, Brian Willhour, replaced the spoken message at one of our Advent services.

In 2008 a Christ candle was added to the front of our sanctuary and young people in the congregation were invited to serve as acolytes. In 2010 the invitation for the laying on of hands when we ordain our elders was modified to include all present in recognition of the priesthood of all believers.

Some traditions, however, are too valued to change. At Immanuel, ministry is practiced as a shared responsibility between the congregation and the called staff. With members serving as lay preachers and lay worship leaders, the congregation participates in the leading of worship and the sharing of faith. The contribution of our lay leaders adds to the sense of God's presence in our everyday lives just as the sharing of celebrations and concerns keeps us closely connected as a family.

During the weeks of Advent, members of the congregation are invited to begin each Advent worship service by lighting a candle and giving a short devotion. Such active and varied participation of its members is a hallmark of the Immanuel experience.

From September through May, we offer two worship services, one at 9:00 and a second at 11:15. During the summer we have one service at 10:00. This service is joyfully anticipated for its informality and the opportunity it offers us to reconnect with our friends who normally attend the "other" service. On Easter we now have three services and on Christmas Eve we have four, the first of which is designed especially for families with children.

As we have grown in numbers, our increased worship offerings have not been limited to Sunday mornings. The weeks preceding Easter and Christmas are filled with services designed not only to enlighten us, but also to encourage us to create space for allowing Christ to enter our lives at an increasingly deep and personal level.

Lenten observances include services on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, as well as a choral vesper service. A recent innovation in the Maundy Thursday service is the performance of a drama. Of the three performed to date, two are original—one written by Reverend Fulp-Eickstaedt and another coauthored with his wife Reverend Judith Fulp-Eickstaedt.

A new Holy Week tradition, the Blooming Cross, has proven to be a beautiful addition to Easter morning. Lay-led vesper services featuring chants and prayers of the Iona community are offered on occasion.

Healing and Wholeness services were introduced in 1996 and Taizé services in 1999. Both were met with limited enthusiasm by the congregation, and Taizé services are no longer being held.



Worship at Immanuel is not limited to formal services. All-church retreats and Quiet Days, with a labyrinth and contemplative spaces for meditation, allow time away from the distractions of everyday life, for family and individuals to listen and draw closer to God.

*Above:
The Sanctuary at
Christmas*



*Above:
The Blooming Cross at Easter,
2009*

*Left:
Lighting the Advent candles,
2010*

*Right:
Advent Quiet Day,
2008*



*Left:
Worldwide Communion Sunday,
2008*

*Above:
Sunday worship,
August 2011*

Music

Music has always been integral to worship at Immanuel. As one member wrote in 1987, "One of the greatest resources for enriching our spiritual lives resides in sacred music itself, whether it be hymns, anthems or instrumental music." At Immanuel we enjoy variety in the music we hear: choirs, soloists, organ music, handbells, youth and adult instrumentalists as well as guest orchestral accompaniment for special occasions. These musicians bless us with music from many genres, from classical sacred music to new compositions by our music director. A sprinkling of jazz, gospel, blues, world music, and contemporary sacred music bring all the sources of sacred musical inspiration into our services.



Left: Brian Wilhour surprises us with his accordion when the church lost power following Hurricane Isabel, 2003

Below: Youth Choir rehearsing, 2003



From our earliest days at Franklin Sherman Elementary when musicians from New York Avenue Presbyterian Church led our hymn singing, choir music has enriched our services. Within the first month, under the direction of Ruth Charters, a choir of 8 to 12 members formed, meeting in the home of one of our charter members. Most of the choir had previous choir experience and all four voice parts were represented.

From an organ donated by the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in 1962 to the Lively-Fulcher pipe organ installed in 1998, the choir has been accompanied by beautiful organ music.

Talented music directors established a tradition of variety and quality. After Ruth's tenure, Ann Cooper, wife of the pastor, assumed leadership of the music program. She was succeeded by Nancy Nash, Marge Silvis, Richard Thibadeau and currently by Brian Wilhour.



In 2003, honoring their extraordinary contributions and many years of dedicated service, Ruth Charters, Choir Director from 1961-1968, and Marjorie Silvis, Director of Music from 1977-1993, were named Directors of Music Emeritae. Both brought musical talent informed by an abiding faith and love of music that was infectious.

There are two adult choirs. The Sanctuary Choir is the central ensemble, singing at one service most Sundays. A small ensemble called the Motet Choir sings approximately once a month. These choirs, composed of dedicated volunteers who devote many hours to preparation, grace our services all year long. On Christmas Eve and on Easter choir members sing at multiple services. The congregation is blessed by their beautiful and stirring introits and anthems as well as by their soaring descants on the final verses of hymns.

In 1989 and 1990, our choir was honored by an invitation from the Garden Memorial choir to join them at a festival held by Black Presbyterians of Washington, D.C.

Our children's choirs, currently under the leadership of Lee Larson, Director of Music for Children and Youth, bring a special offering of joyful music to our worship services. The Good News! Singers (Grades K-2) and Jubilate Choir (Grades 3-6) meet on Sunday mornings and sing about once a month. Cross-Wind participants (Grades 7-12) gather as instrumentalists, vocalists or both five or six times throughout the year, rehearsing as needed for each event or service.

Immanuel instrumentalists of all ages share their talents and bring a rich and varied sound to the Sanctuary, whether as soloists or part of an ensemble. Handbells were introduced soon after the 1980 dedication of the new Sanctuary. Two bell choirs play today, the Sanctuary Bell Choir and the Fellowship Bells. Over the years these bell choirs have participated in festivals in the U.S. and have joined with the Sanctuary Choir for concert tours of Austria in 2001 and the Czech Republic in 2006.

Above: Youth Bell Choir, 2002

Left: Choir trip to Prague, 2006



To encourage wider participation by the congregation in the music program, all adult and high school age men and women are invited to join in annual Men's and Women's choruses. For more than 20 years, each chorus met on a Saturday morning in the fall or winter, was served breakfast and serenaded before rehearsing music for Sunday worship.

Two years ago, in order to accommodate busy schedules, the decision was made to reduce the time commitment for both choruses to a practice held immediately before a summer worship service. This has led to the happy result of attracting some new choir members. Another annual event that reaches out to the whole congregation is the January hymn sing, a popular event enlivened by the "dueling pianos" and the chance to sing favorite hymns from the past.



Above: Fellowship Bell Choir

Brian Wilhour is a talented musician, director and composer, frequently offering original music and adaptations for our worship services. In honor of our 40th anniversary he composed a piece based on Psalm 90. He has written special Easter music, and every two years has composed a new Christmas Cantata. Brian and our pastor Aaron have collaborated on writing several hymns, with Aaron supplying the lyrics and Brian the music.

Other original music by Brian in which he has been joined by the Immanuel choir includes: *Symphony No. 1* and *Mass in E Minor* (1999), *The Passion of Christ* (2001), and *Symphony No. 2* and *Revelation* (2002). When Hurricane Isabel knocked out power to the Sanctuary in 2003, Brian saved the day with his accordion. In addition he has delighted the congregation on several occasions playing bagpipes in full regalia.

During the transition period, between the departure of Reverend Sonnenday and the arrival of Reverend Fulp-Eickstaedt, Brian and the choir were a source of strength and stability.

Right: Christmas Choir, 2009



Above Left: Hymn Sing with guests from Chesterbrook Residences, 2009

Above: Youth musicians working with Lee Larson, 2009



We Are Church

We gather about our sign, but it is not who we are. We are gathered in community, as Immanuel, not a building but a family. Whether at a summer picnic showing our more informal face or worshipping in the Sanctuary, whether coming together to study and learn or meeting and spreading out in service to each other, our community and the world; we are church.

We come from different places, with different backgrounds and experiences; we respect diverse viewpoints—political, spiritual, moral. Though we may not all agree, we discuss issues with respect and integrity, speaking and listening in a spirit of civility, informed by love. This ability to agree to disagree yet work together when necessary for the good of the whole is one of the best examples of how we are family, with all our differences, how we are church.

Young and old, newly arrived and long-time participants, we welcome everyone and seek to nurture the gifts of each person, to dedicate our resources of time, talent and money to the work of God in the world. We respond with joy to the transforming love of God. We are church.

In this photograph many of us gathered after worship, looking outward, looking forward. We do not know what challenges we may face, but we are confident that together, with the guidance and presence of the Holy Spirit, we will be equal to them and grow evermore in the way of the Lord. ☺



Christian Education

Christian Education (CE) has always been a pillar of life at Immanuel. Bible study, Sunday classes for all ages, and small groups meeting to discuss books about faith and belief are ways of encountering God in the world and enriching our lives. These programs are made possible by the strong support of volunteers.

Our founding members were committed to providing Sunday school classes for all who came. From the first weeks we had classes for all ages even though sometimes in the children's classrooms there were only one or two in attendance. In 1979, Betsy Burkart was hired as our CE Coordinator, adding new expertise and skills. As membership grew so did a need for a dedicated education space. Even with the Christian Education Building built in 1967, our space needs for education were not satisfactorily met until construction of the Meeting House in 1996.

Children—
Immanuel's Incredible Quest (IQ), a new rotation style program of instruction for children, was introduced in 2005. A committee identified the stories from the Bible they believed necessary for our children to know. These stories are presented in 4-6 week modules in which one story is presented in several ways: story-telling, cooking, drama, film, mission, for example. The IQ hour begins with a short worship service after which children divide into classes by grade level.

In an effort to integrate the children in the total life of the congregation, on Sundays with a baptism or when the Children's Choir sings, church school children attend the first 15 minutes of worship at the 9:00 service and then are excused to Morning Hour or to sit with their parents. In the summer, with one service, children attend the first 15 minutes of worship and leave after hearing a Message for Young Disciples delivered by a lay volunteer.



Vacation Bible School (VBS), a week-long annual event occurs in August. Each year Reverend Thomas and a volunteer staff delight the children with a different theme, explored through music, activities, and classes; each day is dedicated to a color; even the snacks follow the theme. VBS teachers are drawn from the youth as well as the adults. The week gives children and the teachers a chance to share, learn and play in a relaxed atmosphere.

Since 1988 children of the Church School have presented a Christmas Pageant, with a reenactment of the Christmas story. Junior Highs generally have served as narrators. Today the pageant is a production which involves both church school and music programs.

Youth and Young Adults—
In addition to weekly Sunday school classes at 10:10, other activities provide fellowship and education for young people at Immanuel. Confirmation classes for 8th graders begin in early January and end with confirmation at the beginning of June. The confirmands are paired with mentors from the congregation with whom they share friendship and questions during the confirmation process.

Junior high and high school students participate each year in a Youth Sunday worship service. This worship service has taken many forms. In the past, students led worship, sang, played instruments and performed plays. In recent years, assisted by Jim Stover, pairs of youth "preachers" fill the pulpit at each service, sharing their faith journeys in deeply personal and engaging ways.

Reverend Fulp-Eickstaedt, operating on the theory that church is not confined to a sanctuary building, has invited young adults, 35 and under, to Theology on Tap, a monthly gathering in a local bar or watering hole for beer and theology. The gathering reaches out to people who may not be attending worship.

Adults—
A variety of classes are offered on Sunday morning, ranging from Bible study, to discussion on contemporary issues, to selected readings on various theological topics. During the week Bible study groups for men and women meet, and interested members join Reverend Fulp-Eickstaedt in exploration of the lectionary text for the week.

Through Reverend Thomas's leadership, in 2001, 2005 and 2010 we have celebrated the "Year of the Bible," a program of guided readings which leads the participant through the entire Bible in a year. Over the years, classes have been offered on topics such as teenage sexuality, parenting, caring for aging parents, grieving, and support for persons going through divorce.

In an ongoing series entitled "Real World, Real Faith", speakers from the congregation share their faith stories with examples of how their faith has informed their actions in life, at work, as volunteers or in other areas. Forums with outside experts have been held on subjects such as Iraq and Islam. A Theologian in Residence program brings a distinguished theological scholar to share current scholarship.

Numerous small groups have formed around topics of common interest. Evening covenant discussion groups focusing on selected books with engaging Christian themes including several long-term Bible studies in the Disciple series have been popular. In 2011 nine groups met in members' homes to discuss the book chosen for the congregation's Lenten study.

Christian Education Leadership—
In recent years, a number of Committees have overseen the CE program at Immanuel. The Christian Education Committee was elevated to a Council in 1985, with its members elected by the congregation as are candidates for Session.



In 2009 the CE Council transitioned into the Spiritual Growth Committee which was charged with developing new practices to enrich the spiritual lives of the congregation. This emphasis on spiritual growth and adult education combined to form the Spirituality and Learning Committee in 2011.

Above: Hamming it up with Pastor Aaron at Vacation Bible School, 2009



Top: Sunday School class, 1993

Left: Vacation Bible School opening assembly with Pastor Dan, 2008



Above: Festival of Arts, 2009



Left: Senior Highs with Jim Stover, 2009



Above: Real World, Real Faith presentation by three generations of Immanuelites, 2011

Outreach

A defining characteristic of Immanuel is the passion of its members for outreach and service, both locally and internationally, as we seek to embody God's love in the larger community.

In September 1970 the Speech and Language Center, funded by a gift from the Chas. E. Merrill Trust, opened in the kitchen, pantry and basement of the Church House. In 1976 we created the Dolley Madison Preschool, in order to allow shared learning experiences between the preschoolers and the children from the Speech and Language Center. Many current and former members have volunteered and served on the board of this successful school.

Another early outreach was SHARE, a nonprofit organization founded to assist in meeting emergency needs of this area of Northern Virginia. For more than forty years Immanuel has continued to include the Speech & Language Center and SHARE among its benevolence recipients.

In 1972 a Strawberry Social was held in support of the Speech and Language Center to pay tuition for students that could not afford the Center. In 1976 the Strawberry Social was expanded to include our first auction. The proceeds were split between scholarships and local missions.

Since that first event, our annual auction, enlivened by the antics of our talented auctioneers, has become a much anticipated event. Bids for member-donated items, such as handyman services, homemade bread, cookies and cakes, gourmet dinners, and manure for the garden, have enabled generous contributions to more than 40 local and international missions.

The fellowship of the auction evening is mirrored in the many dinners, bike rides and other auction offerings that fill our social calendars throughout the year.

As our membership has grown, so has our outreach. Our Community Service and Action Committee creates many opportunities for hands-on involvement with those organizations we support financially. Some of the ongoing activities include the monthly preparation and delivery of sandwiches to the D.C. Central Kitchen and meals to Children of Mine, assistance with holiday food baskets for the Garden Memorial neighborhood, and participation in Rebuilding Together.

Each year a Christmas Tag Tree appears in the fellowship hall in late November. In 2010 gifts were delivered to over 200 area children. Food, clothing, toys, baby supplies and school supplies for our targeted organizations are collected throughout the year. In 2007 twenty-one of our adults traveled to Houma, Louisiana to help repair hurricane damage.

Projects which have been of particular interest to our youth include serving the homeless at So Others May Eat in Washington, D.C., summer Habitat trips to Pennsylvania and West Virginia, and a ministry initiated in 2000 with Langley Residential Support Services, a local program that houses and serves persons with intellectual disabilities.

In 2010 our youth sponsored an evening of dinner and entertainment to raise money for the Yellow Ribbon Fund, an organization that provides support to injured service members; in 2011 they organized hygiene kits for the Presbytery Disaster Assistance.

One of our most defining outreach efforts began in 1990. As we committed ourselves to building a new education



building, we also committed ourselves to identifying a major mission project that would allow personal, hands-on participation. In September 1990 Immanuel joined with Garden Memorial in sponsoring a sixth-grade class under the "I Have A Dream" program. Pledging to send to college the high school graduates from this class, we provided tutoring and enrichment activities for the next six years to make this dream a reality. More than half went on to college.

As a sequel to our first "Dreamer" program, in 2002 we established the Changing Lives ministry to provide after-school academic training, life skills and enrichment experiences to several dozen K-5th grade children at the GIFT Family Resource Center run out of Garden Memorial Church. In 2005 we invited 50 at-risk children connected to the Center to become part of our second "Dreamer" program.

Realizing the benefit of combining resources, Immanuel initiated the McLean Interfaith Coalition, bringing together eleven faith communities in McLean to fund and provide labor toward the building of Habitat homes. This spirit of cooperation was evidenced once again when Immanuel joined with Lewinsville Presbyterian and Temple Rodef Shalom to build Chesterbrook Residences, an affordable assisted-living facility. Beginning with its conception and continuing after its opening in 2007, Immanuel members have volunteered countless hours in all aspects of its operation.

International mission has always been a part of our church. In 1975 a Vietnamese Family was resettled in Northern Virginia under the guidance of early Immanuelites. In the 1990's as one of our major mission projects, Immanuel chose to support the medical missionary work of Dr. and Mrs. Salvador de la Torre at Mwand Hospital in Zambia.



In October of 2001 the International Mission Committee was formed to enrich our understanding of Christians throughout the world. On a 2003 trip to Guatemala, seven Immanuelites learned firsthand from the in-country mission workers the demands of forming a partnership with a congregation in another country.

In 2004 adults and youth traveled to the U.S./Mexican border in an effort to understand the realities of those living on both sides of the border. Immanuel has sent delegations to Moyobamba, Peru in 2007 and 2008 to develop a partnership with the Moyobamba Presbyterian Church, the Annie Soper School and the San Lucas Clinic.

In 2006 and 2010 youth and adults traveled to Honduras with "Students Helping Honduras" where they helped build a school and an orphanage, but more importantly built relationships with the people of Honduras—especially the children. In 2011 Immanuel has come full circle and has adopted an Iranian family to help resettle here in Fairfax County.

*Above:
Mission trip to Moyobamba, Peru,
2007*



*Above:
Mission trip to Houma, Louisiana
to help repair hurricane damage,
2007*

*Left:
Habitat for Humanity project,
2009*



*Above:
Summer tutoring with
Langley Residential Support Services,
2009*

*Above:
Dig Deep for Change auction,
2009*

*Right:
Immanuel youth and young
adults helped build a school near
El Progreso, Honduras
2006*



Fellowship and Nurture

From the beginning, Immanuel has been a community whose members experience a sense of intimacy and family. Our community includes and values those of differing opinions and various social and political views. We take pride in our ability to disagree with and learn from one another, while maintaining the bond of being one in Christ.

Following a tradition established at our first service at Franklin Sherman School, each week members take responsibility for serving coffee and punch following the service. This fellowship time not only allows us to reconnect, it also allows us the opportunity to welcome visitors and share our hospitality.

We enjoy being together, particularly when there is food and music involved. In the early years, with very limited facilities, our social events most often were held in homes or other borrowed facilities. Some early events included a Square Dance held in the Franklin Sherman gym in 1977 and a “Night Out” pot luck held at Lewinsville Church in 1978.

With the opening of our new Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall in 1980, new opportunities for fellowship were possible. In 1981 the first “Immanuel Night In” was planned as an Italian Potluck, with entertainment provided by a guitarist.

In 1985 the Sanctuary was turned into a cabaret. Pews were moved, tables were set and singing and dancing to a jazz band commenced. Stories have been told of the presence of a conga line winding through the balcony. The talents of our members have been celebrated in several musical reviews.



Another popular and continuing event is “TGIF”, Thank God for Immanuel Fellowship. Initiated in 1987 this event is a potluck supper held on the first Friday of each month. Our Fellowship Committee hosts a spring and fall picnic, numerous special coffees and receptions and in 2011, a movie night as part of our 50th Anniversary Celebration. Our culinary skills were captured for posterity with the creation of an Immanuelites Delights cookbook in 1992.

Fellowship naturally occurs whenever we gather, whether it involves participating in work days held twice a year to clean the grounds, windows and Sanctuary chandeliers, evenings spent decorating the Christmas tree with handmade Christmas ornaments, working together to make a banner for the sanctuary which is still used for Christmas, or stretching both our minds and our bodies as we participate in weekly book discussions and yoga classes.

Sunday Night Live, an evening program for family, fun, and education, is a popular event for families with younger children. A highly anticipated annual event is the Halloween hayride for families, with unforgettable puns, pumpkin carols, a cookout, and a visit to the pumpkin patch. A number of events are designed especially for our older youth. There are annual ski trips, boating on the Potomac, bowling nights, dinners at Chipotle and touch football.

Good communications are critical for keeping a large and busy congregation aware of what is happening. Many hands contribute to producing a monthly newsletter, a weekly bulletin and E-Presence and our IPCMcLean.org website. Our website created by one of our youth in 1999 provides a wonderful resource for members and visitors alike.

At Immanuel, we care deeply about each other. Celebrations and concerns shared in worship services bring prayers of thanksgiving and prayers for healing and support. Through hospital visits, memorial services, calls and notes, our pastors serve as a constant source of love, comfort and guidance to those of us in need.

From the rose on the pulpit for newborns, to End of Life Services and all along in between, the Congregational Care Committee, working closely with our pastors, takes a leadership role in identifying and caring for the needs of the congregation. It is a role, however, shared by many others in the congregation, as we join in providing meals, rides, and visits and connecting with calls and notes.

When deaths of Immanuel members or friends occur, a reception is offered following the memorial service. Prayer shawls and sunshine baskets are delivered to those who are ill, recovering from surgery or in distress. Caregiver’s support groups, led by Reverend Thomas, allow for sharing of experiences and strengthening of spirit. We are family to one another, providing listening ears and loving prayerful hearts. ☺



Above: The Prayer Shawl Ministry gathers monthly to knit and crochet prayer shawls, 2011



Above: Church picnic, 2008



Above: Enjoying coffee hour, 2011



Above: Sunshine baskets raise the spirits of congregants who are ill or recovering from surgery

Left: May Day baskets prepared by the Congregational Care Committee, 2011



Left: Savoring the fruits of an auction cooking class, 2006

Above: Immanuel Night In—Cast of the USO Show 1992

Immanuel Ministries

The contributions of many hands and many committees are essential to the fulfillment of Immanuel's mission.

- **The Changing Lives Committee** manages all aspects of the Changing Lives program, coordinating the tutoring and enrichment activities for local students, and maintaining contact with and support of those in schools outside the D.C. area and those who have started college and professional training.
- **The Community Service and Action Committee** encourages participation in and support of charitable organizations in our local community. It also organizes an annual auction, the proceeds from which support local and international missions.
- **The Congregational Care Committee** responds to the special needs of the members of the congregation, especially those who are ill or grieving or are in some other personal distress, making personal visits, sending notes and providing meals, rides, and other support. It also hosts receptions following memorial services.



- **The Fellowship Committee** provides opportunities for members to be together as a community of friends and to welcome new members. Events hosted by the committee include coffees, special receptions, picnics, and the Immanuel Night In dinner.

- **The Finance Committee**, in concert with the church Treasurer and Business Administrator, develops the annual budget, monitors contributions and expenditures, reviews investments, and advises the Session on financial matters affecting the church.

- **The Gifts, Memorials and Architectural Review Committee** supervises the acquisition of gifts and memorials to ensure their consistency with a simplicity of design that complements the spirit of our church.

- **The International Mission Committee** works to build relationships between the Immanuel community and other cultures in which we meet one another as equals and we learn from one another. Towards this goal, it organizes mission trips; establishes partnerships with international organizations, churches and schools; and offers guest speakers and discussions.

- **The Membership Committee** reaches out to the larger community to increase awareness of the unique aspects and ministries of our community of faith and to create a welcoming environment for those who come. They also strive to deepen the involvement of current members.

- **The Music Committee** supports, promotes and facilitates the music program for the enrichment of all aspects of the life of Immanuel: formal worship, fellowship and education.

- **The Nominating Committee** is responsible for reviewing vacancies in lay leadership positions and offering recommendations for each of these positions to the congregation or Session.

Left:
The Christian Education Council at work

Above:
The Website Committee works to keep us connected and informed

- **The Personnel Committee** develops and oversees personnel policies, procedures and staff relations and prepares salary and benefit recommendations for the annual budget.

- **The Planned Giving Committee**, understanding the role we all have as stewards of God's bounty, works to build awareness of giving opportunities for members and friends of Immanuel that will provide for the next generation of the church. The committee offers annual educational programs about planned gifts and bequests; it also manages Immanuel's endowment funds.

- **The Prayer Shawl Ministry** knits and crochets shawls for distribution as a "hug from God" to people experiencing difficult or stressful situations in their lives. The shawls offer the recipients warmth and comfort and cover them with love.

- **The Property Committee** oversees the care and maintenance of our buildings and grounds plus plans for long-term maintenance needs.

- **The Spirituality and Learning Committee, Children's Ministries and Youth Ministries** develop programs designed to meet the Christian education, spiritual growth and faith development needs of the congregation.

- **The Stewardship Committee** coordinates and constructs ways and means for members and friends of Immanuel to be good stewards of their individual talents and possessions.

Right:
The Fellowship Committee preparing Christmas coffee, 2008



Above:
The Worship Committee discusses plans for worship services with Reverend Fulp-Eickstaedt



Looking Forward

Immanuel's Strategic Planning Group was formed in April 2011 to launch Immanuel into its next 50 years, developing short- and long-term plans and a process for ensuring participation and acceptance of the congregation.

The starting point of the Group's efforts was a vision for 2020 outlined by Reverend Fulp-Eickstaedt and endorsed by Session.

It is a vision of an active, growing congregation that will continue to make a significant difference in our community and world: a congregation diverse in age and ethnicity; a congregation with a large majority of its members participating every week in worship and other Immanuel activities; a congregation that embraces the notion that growing spiritually involves a persistent commitment to prayer, regular involvement in corporate worship and a meaningful connection to God and others through education, small group study, and fellowship; and a congregation dedicated to service within and beyond the church.

In response to this vision the Planning Group updated Immanuel's previous mission statement to reflect our evolving journey:

- **As a fellowship of believers,** the Immanuel congregation seeks to be faithful to the mission to which Christ has called us.
- **As a worshipping congregation,** we gather in community around the Word of God with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.
- **As a welcoming congregation,** we extend fellowship and acceptance to all who come to worship with us.
- **As a learning congregation,** we support and nurture the spiritual journey of our children and ourselves.
- **As a witnessing congregation,** we seek every opportunity to live out our faith in daily life.
- **As a nurturing congregation,** we offer the love and support of an extended family.
- **As a serving congregation,** we seek to follow Christ's example by reaching out to the poor, the lost, and those burdened by hardship wherever they may be.

Immanuel strives to embody God's love in worship, learning, and service.

As the Planning Group worked to develop goals and action plans to fulfill this vision, it sought the congregation's guidance through a congregation-wide survey. This survey asked the congregation many questions concerning their preferences for everything from the formality and times and days for worship services to specific programs and activities that members now appreciate or would like to add.

So, what will Immanuel look like in 2020 or 2061? As we work toward defining our path, we pray for God's guidance. May we grow spiritually as a congregation and as individuals, continuing the legacy of those who preceded us and affirming our commitment to embody God's love. ☺



Life at Immanuel

These photographs give glimpses of life at Immanuel over the years: singing, serving, sharing, learning, and celebrating, as we strive to embody God's love. ☺



Above: Senior Highs prepare food for a Youth Mission Forum and Brunch, 2010



Above: Children's choir relaxes before singing, 2009



Above: Youth in Nogales, Mexico with BorderLinks, 2004



Right: Working at Habitat project in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, 2009



Above: Bell Choir in Austria, 2001



Above: Vacation Bible School closing program, 2009



Above: The Reverends Fulp-Eickstaedt



Above: 11Q—Hands-on learning at cooking workshop, 2008



Above: Breakfast with The Dreamers, 2009



Left: Celebrating our veterans at a Memorial Day Sunday Service, 2001



Right: Creating Alleluia cocoons at Sunday Night Live, 2009





Above:
The Bologna Bunch making sandwiches for delivery to D.C. Central Kitchen for distribution to the homeless

Right:
Brian and his bagpipes have enlivened a number of Immanuel events



Right:
Morning Hour, seen through rainbow glasses

Left:
Christmas Cantata participants, 2008



Below:
The Sanctuary Choir

Left:
Children's Christmas Pageant



Above:
Vacation Bible School Galactic Blast, 2010

Below:
Confirmants at the Capital Area Food Bank, 2009



Below:
Workday at Immanuel: planting a tree



Right:
Senior Highs volunteering at So Others May Eat, 2006



Immanuel's Dedicated Staff

The Reverend Aaron D. Fulp-Eickstaedt
Pastor

The Reverend Daniel C. Thomas, Jr.
*Associate Pastor for Education
and Nurture*

Brian E. Wilhour
Director of Music

James "Jim" E. Stover
Director of Youth Ministries

Arnold "Lee" Larson III
Director of Music for Children and Youth

Mary Ann Vaughan
Business Administrator

Faye C. Irwin
Administrative Assistant

Russell "Russ" P. Carlton, Jr.
Communications Coordinator

Aurelio Zuleta
Weekday Sexton

Elida Melendez
Weekend Sexton



Above:
Elida Melendez



Above, Left to Right:
Aurelio Zuleta, Mary Ann Vaughan,
Russ Carlton, Reverend Dan Thomas,
Reverend Aaron Fulp-Eickstaedt,
Brian Wilhour, Lee Larson, Faye Irwin,
and Jim Stover

50th Anniversary Celebration Acknowledgements

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Don DiLoreto
Brian Moore

Events Committee
Amee Burgoyne
Betty Busey
Cherie Kitchell
Sue Owen
Fran Rooney
Nancy Stansberry
Mary Ann Vaughan

**History Committee/50th Anniversary
“Remembrances”**
Betty Busey
Marilyn DiLoreto
Ann Hinds
Faye Irwin

Immanuel Committees
Dana Pratt, Liaison

Publicity Committee
Nancy Stansberry
Barbara Ball
Kathryn Mackensen
Kim Stansberry-Jurkin

**“Renditions of Immanuel Traditions”
Entertainment**
Betty Busey, Chair
Michael Coar
Brian Wilhour

Secretary
Linda Wenri

Session Liaison
Paul Erickson

Treasurer
Kathleen Browning

Memory Moment Speakers
Barbara Donnelly, *First Years*
Jackie Lev Dahl, *Memories*
Betty Busey, “*A Privilege to Serve*”
Neal Nealis, *Building of the Sanctuary*
Mike Orend, *The Dreamer Program*
Seb Lasher, *Building of the Meeting House*
Don DiLoreto, *Chesterbrook Residences*
Cheryl Lindstrom, *International Mission*
Bill Wallace, *Looking Forward*

Real World, Real Faith Speakers
Betty Busey, *50 Years and Counting—A History of Immanuel’s First 49 Years*
Rhea Eglin & Barbara Donnelly, *The Early Years of Immanuel*
John & Cathy Fisher, *Immanuel & Their Faith Journey*
Mike Orend, John Niels & Lee Rainey, *Evolution of the Dreamer Program*
Betsy Lasher & Beverly Updike, *Immanuel’s Auctions Through the Years*
Erickson, Gloeckler/Wenri and Preston/Rainie/Casto Families, *Three Generations of Immanuelites*
Reverend Carl Cooper, Former Pastor at Immanuel, 1963-1973, *Recollections*
Former Governor Linwood & Mrs. Virginia (Jinks) Holton, *Remembrances from Immanuel*



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