Season of Advent

Advent is the Season of preparation for the birth of Christ. During the Season of Advent, Immanuel provides a series of special services, events, and activities designed to enrich our experience of realizing God’s presence in our lives.

An Advent Devotional Guide, written by members of Immanuel, will be available to all church members beginning November 29. (See sidebar for details.)

On Sunday, December 13, the choirs and instrumental groups of Immanuel will present a Service of Lessons and Carols at 5:00 PM. The story of salvation will be told through Scriptures and music.

Christmas Dinner and Program at Immanuel will be Wednesday, December 16, beginning at 5:15 PM. Reservations are due by noon on Monday, December 14. Cost is $8.00 per person, $4.00 for children age 4-10.

During the Christmas Eve Service, on Thursday, December 24, at 5:00 PM, we will observe the Lord’s Supper, as well as celebrate the birth of our Lord with the singing of carols, choral anthems, a time for children, Pastor’s meditation and our traditional candle lighting. A fellowship offering will be taken.

Daily Advent Devotions

Throughout the season of Advent — from November 29 through Christmas Day — everyone who is on the church’s email distribution list will be receiving a devotion via email each morning. The Worship Committee has enlisted writers from our community of faith who will prompt us to reflect on the Advent lectionary readings. Most of the readings are drawn from the Old Testament, helping us to put Christ’s birth in perspective within the broader scope of the sacred story of salvation history. Thanks to all the writers who will help us prepare our hearts to once again receive the newborn King. Note: Those who lack access to email will receive a printed copy of the daily devotions in the mail.

Inside this Issue...
- Chapel Dedication
- Senior Adult activities
- Lessons and Carols
- Mission Opportunities
- Children/Youth Activities
- Hearthside
- Church Family News
- Calendar/Facts/ Figures
- Birthdays
Sunday, November 1, 2015

“Unless the Lord Builds the House”
Learning to Give

I have the pleasure of co-teaching the Kindergarten-3rd grade Sunday School class this year. The focus of our curriculum last month was stewardship and giving. After the first few Sundays of lessons, I asked the children what the word “steward” means. Hands immediately went up and the room was flooded with answers. “A steward is someone who looks after things that are important and takes good care of them,” answered one student. Another responded saying, “A wise person that doesn’t bury the gold in the backyard” (can you guess which Bible story we had been reading?). I then asked if anyone they know is a good steward and again the room was filled with answers—“Mom, dad, grandparents, teachers, aunts, and uncles,” came the reply. Why, I asked? “Because they love us and do their best to take care of us,” was the unanimous response.

I have thought a lot about the children’s observations as we have learned together about God’s desire for us to be cheerful givers and prudent stewards. I’m grateful to be part of a faith community that emphasizes giving generously of time, talent, and financial resources. This generous spirit is evident not only to me, but to our young people as well. They are, after all, paying attention to all that we say and do. I pray that we will continue to serve as faithful stewards, and give abundantly of all that God has given us.

—Jenny Wilson

Senior Adult December Trips

Sunday, December 6 at 2:00 PM
“White Christmas”
a musical at Belmont University
Tickets are $10. Plan to eat together before the show.

Tuesday, December 15
“A Tuba Christmas”
at First Baptist Church, Downtown
(transportation provided on the church van)

For more details, or to sign up, contact Billie Patton or Carolyn Easterly.

December and January Senior Adult Meetings

Join the Senior Adults on Tuesday, December 1, at 10:30 AM for Christmas carols. Music will be provided by Music for Seniors. Make your lunch reservation(s) with Jean Sharpe by November 25.

On January 5, 2016, at 10:30 AM, Senior Adults will hear a report from Tambi Swiney on her trip to Israel. Come travel with Tambi on her interfaith trip, planned and sponsored by The Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. Make your lunch reservation(s) with Jean Sharpe by December 31.

Please join us for the annual Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 13, at 5:00 PM. The story of salvation will be told through Scriptures and music, featuring all the choirs of Immanuel: Adult, Youth, Children, Handbells, and Brass. Each choir will present music of the season, and the congregation will join in singing familiar carols. Bring your family and invite your friends for an evening celebration of beautiful and festive Christmas music.
The Next Door - Offering Hope to Women in Crisis

Since 2004, The Next Door has been offering hope to women in crisis. Originally founded as a residential transitional program for female ex-offenders, through the years The Next Door has dramatically expanded its services. In the facility on 22nd Avenue North, The Next Door reserves 20 beds for ladies coming out of incarceration who have a history of addiction. An additional 62 beds at the facility are reserved for ladies who need treatment for addiction to a substance. The adjacent Freedom Recovery Community provides permanent housing and supportive services for women and their children. The Next Door also has a presence in East Tennessee: a residential treatment program in Knoxville serves female ex-offenders from that area, while The Next Door’s Chattanooga location, operated in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Corrections, is Tennessee’s first Correctional Release Center.

Immanuel has been partnering with The Next Door for several years, and the ministry receives funds from our missions budget annually. A faithful team of volunteers from Immanuel leads worship at The Next Door on the second Sunday of each month, and Pastor Tambi leads the morning meditation for residents on the first Tuesday of each month. The Freedom Recovery Community has been the site of our Operation Inasmuch projects five times. As we focus on “hope” during the first week of Advent, we will have the privilege of hearing from The Next Door’s CEO, Linda Leathers, when she speaks in the chapel on Wednesday, December 2, at 6:15 PM.

7th Annual Appalachian Outreach Mission Trip

February 12-14, 2016 • Jefferson City, Tennessee

Last February an intergenerational team of 16 volunteers from Immanuel served with Appalachian Outreach in Jefferson City over Valentine’s weekend. The team sorted donations at the ministry center, split wood, hosted a Valentine’s party, and served dinner at the Samaritan House. The team stayed free of charge in the dorms at Carson-Newman University. The seventh annual A.O. mission trip will take place on February 12-14. If you would like to strengthen your relationships with others from our community of faith as you serve those on the margins of society, this trip is for you! Contact Pastor Tambi to reserve your place.
Preparation a Banquet for the Hungry

We are endeavoring to serve those on the margins of society, as stated in our mission statement, by participating in a most unique soup kitchen. We do not serve soup and our guests do not file through a cafeteria line. In Luke 14:12 Jesus said not to invite your friends, relatives and rich neighbors to lunch, for they can repay you. Luke 14:12 utilizes volunteers to host lunch for upwards of 240 people three days a week. Hot, nutritious meals are prepared by a small staff hired from the homeless population. Volunteers prepare the plates, set the tables and serve the meal. Guests are invited in and seated at the prepared tables. A hallmark of Luke 14:12 is the offering of hospitality and respect to anyone who is in need.

Twelve to fourteen Immanuel volunteers serve lunch on the fourth Tuesday of every month from 11:15 to 1:00. Luke 14:12 is located at the Room in the Inn’s Campus for Human Development. We maintain a list of volunteers who receive an email or a call early in the month from Melanie Dover, and they let her know if they are available to serve. Currently 39 people are on the list. We would love to add your name. Contact Melanie at mmd78@bellsouth.net or 615-794-9786 if you are interested.

Room in the Inn
Help us extend hospitality to our homeless neighbors as we host Room in the Inn on December 3 and 17. Sign up sheets are posted on the bulletin board near the parlor.

Children’s Christmas Party
Saturday, December 12
3:00-6:00 p.m.
Cost: $5 per child
Reservation deadline: Monday, December 7

Four-year-olds through 6th graders will spend the afternoon in Fellowship Hall playing games, singing carols, decorating cookies, making nativity crafts, and reenacting the Christmas story. Children ages three and under will be cared for upstairs in the nursery. Dinner will be catered by Chick-fil-A. Contact Pastor Tambi to make reservations for your child.

Immanuel Youth Christmas Party

Nine years ago, I hosted a Christmas cookie decorating party in my home for the 10th grade girls I taught each week in Sunday School. The party was such a success that the tradition continues to this day; those same girls—now in their mid-20s—are eagerly anticipating the night later this month when they will gather once again around my red kitchen table to slather icing and scatter sprinkles over my famous sugar cookies. This year I have the privilege of welcoming the Immanuel Youth into my home for their Christmas party, thus launching a new tradition. On Sunday, December 20, we will gather in my home from 5:00-7:30 p.m. for dinner and a cookie decorating extravaganza.

I can’t wait!

- Pastor Tambi
REMEMBER IN PRAYER
Remember in prayer those among our family of faith who are facing moments of crisis and celebration.

BEREAVEMENT
Sympathy is extended to Debbie Maxwell and her family on the death of her mother, Kathryn Batts, who died November 6 in Nashville; to the family of former member George Ingram, who died November 7 in Louisville, Kentucky.

THANK YOU
To my very special Immanuel family—thank you for the prayers, cards, food and other expressions of care and concern you have shown my family surrounding the death of my mother. We will miss her! She always enjoyed worshipping with us at Immanuel!

—Debbie Maxwell

heartsiders

The Hearthsiders tradition continues this winter with three opportunities to gather around the table with friends and soon-to-be friends in our community of faith. Traditional Hearthsiders gatherings will be held on January 30 and March 5. During February, the deacons will be hosting Hearthsiders meals; your deacon will be contacting you with more information after the beginning of the year. Look for the Hearthsiders sign up forms at church; the forms must be returned to the office by Sunday, December 20. On your form you can indicate if you are willing to host a Hearthsiders gathering. After the group assignments have been made, those who are not hosting will be given a specific food assignment: meat, vegetable, salad and bread, or dessert. For more information, contact Abigail Reynolds.

IN MEMORIAM
JENNY ROWAN
28 June 1941 — 11 November 2015
Joined Immanuel
5 June 1960

IMMANUELITES IN THE NEWS
Tambi Swiney recently was elected vice chair of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty at their board meeting in Washington, D.C.

On November 7, the Immanuel Youth sorted 6,250 pounds of food at Second Harvest Food Bank, which will supply 5,250 meals for our hungry neighbors.
**Calendar of Events**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1**
- 9:30 PDO
- 10:30 Senior Adult Meeting

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2**
- 5:00 Children’s Choir
- 5:15 Church Family Supper
- 6:00 Church Family Time
- 6:15 Children on Mission Experience
- 6:15 Immanuel Youth
- 6:15 Linda Leathers speaking
- 6:15 Brass/Handbell rehearsals
- 7:10 Adult Choir

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3**
- 9:30 PDO
- 5:30 Room in the Inn

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6**
- Second Sunday of Advent
- 9:15 Sunday School
- 10:20 Deacons’ prayer group
- 10:30 Worship Service
- 5:00 Immanuel Youth Supper at the Tates’

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 7**
- 9:30 PDO
- 6:30 Conversational English

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8**
- 9:30 PDO
- 5:00 TBAH Dinner

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9**
- 9:30 Bordeaux Visit
- 5:00 Children’s Choir
- 5:15 Church Family Supper
- 6:00 Church Family Time
- 6:15 Children on Mission Experience
- 6:15 Immanuel Youth
- 6:15 Adult Program
- 6:15 Brass/Handbell rehearsals
- 7:10 Adult Choir

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10**
- 9:30 PDO
- 5:30 Stewardship Committee

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12**
- 3:00 Children’s Christmas Party

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13**
- Third Sunday of Advent
- 9:15 Sunday School
- 10:20 Deacons’ prayer group
- 10:30 Worship Service
- 1:30 Worship at The Next Door
- 5:00 Lessons and Carols

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16**
- 5:15 Christmas Dinner
- 6:00 Church Family Time
- 6:15 Christmas program
- 7:10 Adult Choir

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17**
- 5:30 Room in the Inn

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18**
- 6:00 Wedding rehearsal

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19**
- 6:00 Wedding in Sanctuary

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20**
- Fourth Sunday of Advent
- 9:15 Sunday School
- 10:20 Deacons’ prayer group
- 10:30 Worship Service
- 11:30 Business Meeting
- 5:00 Youth Christmas Party @ Swineys’

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22**
- 11:15 Luke 14:12

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23**
- Office Closed

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24**
- Office Closed
- 5:00 Christmas Eve Service/Lord’s Supper and Fellowship Offering

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25**
- Merry Christmas!

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27**
- 9:15 Sunday School
- 10:20 Deacons’ prayer group
- 10:30 Worship Service

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30**
- Office closed

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31**
- Office closed

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**Mission Action Plan**

At our Service of Thanks, representatives from Partners in Renewal extended an invitation to the congregation to participate in the process of developing our Mission Action Strategy, which will delineate how we will carry out our Mission Statement. Which phrase in the Mission Statement captures your interest? If you would like to join the discussion, contact any of the following team members:

**Share the good news of Jesus Christ** - Betty Kay Wasserman, Tambi Swiney

**Deepen our love for God and others** - Susan Hawkins, Charles Businaro, Felix Montgomery, Miriam Tate, Steven Meriwether

**Fully engage our neighbor** - Patty Brown, Steven Meriwether, Abigail Reynolds, Jenny Wilson

**Wholeheartedly serve those on the margins of society** - Melanie Dover, Larry Maxwell, Jimmy Conn, Tambi Swiney

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**December Business Meeting will be Sunday, December 20 at 11:30 AM.**

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**Year-End Giving Reminders**

Immanuel’s fiscal year ends on April 30, 2016. However, if you would like tax credit for donations made to the church in 2015, be sure to have them in the church office or postmarked by December 31.

If you are interested in donating stock to the church before the end of the year, please contact Linda Fields for new information this year.

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**Attendance Report**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday School</th>
<th>November 1</th>
<th>128</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 8</td>
<td>121</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 15</td>
<td>107</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 22</td>
<td>125</td>
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</tbody>
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| Worship Service | November 1 | 165 |
|----------------|------------|
| November 8     | 132        |
| November 15    | 121        |
| November 22    | 150        |

**Financially Speaking**

(Through October 31, 2015)

- **YTD Income**: 229,172.74
- **YTD Expense**: 244,361.28

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[www.ibcnashville.org](http://www.ibcnashville.org)
Happy Birthday to You!

December 2
Belle Butler
Sebastian Hornor

December 3
Stefan Gore
Ronnie Littlejohn

December 4
Sophia Brown
Penni Gregg
Lerma Hearn

December 9
LaNieve Coles

December 10
Greg Sharpe

December 12
Wallace Holleman
Peter Bugel

December 13
Kenny Cooper
Diane Sharpe
Judy Sneath

December 14
Laralee Huguley

December 15
Mary Lou Reynolds

December 16
Louise Fox

December 19
Natalya Fleming
Lynn Woodall

December 20
Juanita Wilkinson

December 21
Jenny Dean
Melanie Dover

December 22
Ethel Mary Tipton

December 24
Mary Claire Lutz
Rob Roberts

The newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month for the following month’s publication. Submissions are subject to editing per space restrictions. E-mail submissions go to dmaxwell@ibcnashville.org, or call 615.297.5356 ext. 11 with questions.

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