



# The Caller

Immanuel Presbyterian Church

Volume 51 Issue 5

December 2015/January 2016

## In & About IPC...

### Fall/Winter/Spring Worship and Sunday School Schedule

- \* Adult Christian Education Forum: Sundays  
10:00 – 10:45 AM
- \* **Children's Sunday**  
School: 10:00 – 10:45  
AM; Ages 3 – 11 & 12 –  
17
- \* Worship Service: 11:00  
am
- \* Soup, cookies, and fel-  
lowship following Wor-  
ship at noon

### IPC Session

- \* Moderator: Rev. Ellen  
Johnson-Price
- \* Business Affairs: David  
Weaver
- \* Christian Education:  
Sandy Haldane
- \* Clerk: Mark Green
- \* Mission: Herb Turner
- \* Pledge Clerk: Heather  
MacAlpine
- \* Worship: Sara Johnston
- \* Treasurer: Diane Mar-  
quiss

### Deacons

- \* Gale Smoke
- \* Sarah Weaver
- \* Laurence Zeh

## The Pastor's Page...

In mid-January, I will be spending five days with a group of peers that serves as an incarnation of Christ in my life. This group began as a project funded by the Lilly Endowment which brought together 19 “young” (age 35 and under) pastors serving small membership churches to build a community for learning and mutual support. We came from six different denominations and traveled from around the country to a retreat center in the mountains of western North Carolina. The initial program included six gatherings over the course of two years but when it ended, our group had formed such a strong bond that we committed to continuing to meet together. We pool our study leave funds and other resources so that we can meet every 12-18 months in various retreat sites around the country, from Philadelphia to San Francisco and this year in Las Vegas. We invite guest speakers to teach us about various topics, from prayerful writing to improvisation techniques.

**This year's theme is “Following Yonder Star”** and will focus on seasons of

light and darkness in our lives and ministries.

In the 11+ years since we first met, we have experienced many changes. While some of us are still pastors of congregations, others are now hospital chaplains or serve on staff for their denominations. Still others have left pastoral ministry and work in the non-profit sector, while two have earned doctoral degrees and teach religion in academic settings. All of us are now over age 35! But we continue to share knowledge and insights gained from our various ministry settings, sing and pray and discuss Scripture together, and accompany one another on our journeys of faith. Most importantly, this group serves as the body of Christ for one another, offering love and support and encouragement, laughing and crying and eating together.

Although we spend most of our time far apart, our group stays connected via email and a group Facebook page and occasional conference calls. In the early days, we had weekly online chats and then a group blog. All of these methods of communication

allow us to ask questions of **the group, such as “Has this particular situation ever occurred in your ministry? What did you do?”** and to receive immediate feedback. In this way, the group has been an invaluable resource throughout my ministry. But nothing can **replace our “incarnational”** time, when we gather together in the flesh. The sound of all of our voices singing together fills me with joy and a sense of **community that can't be duplicated over computer or phone.**

As we move through the season of Christmas and celebrate the gift of God taking on human flesh in order to live among us, I hope you are all able to experience your own version of the incarnation of **Christ. May you feel God's love in a hug from a friend or see God's joy in the eyes of a child.** And may we each seek to be the body of Christ for others.

In Christ,

Ellen

## Please Give Back

We sincerely appreciate your ongoing prayers for the God-filled work of Immanuel. In addition to prayers however, we also need resources to sustain and increase our ability to minister to our congregants as well as in our local, national, and global community. As such, we need your resources, in the form of time, talent, and treasure; all God-given.

We distributed our 2016 Pledge Form and hope you have taken the time to fill it out and turn it in. If **you haven't, it is never** too late! The Session has scheduled its budget

meeting in January to identify how to keep our bills paid and doors open, and still have funds to outreach into our community. It costs us about \$214 PER DAY just to keep Immanuel open and in a state of use-ability; i.e. electricity, gas, water, cleaning, and insurance, etc.

We hope you take this opportunity to help support Immanuel and its work by giving what you are able. Thank you and we wish you and yours a blessed New Year.

...And this year, even our youth were provided with pledge forms. Theirs allows them to make their commitment to give of their TIME (attend

Sunday School, assist on clean up days, etc.; TALENT (sing, play an instrument, etc.); and TREASURE (whatever they can comfortably give)!



Deuteronomy 16:17

Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which he has given you.

## Youth Join Forces

In November several Immanuel youth got together for a *Lock-In* at Trinity. They were joined by youth from Trinity, First Presbyterian, and Jewel Lake. The local Presbyterian churches' youth have been getting together on a regular basis and we are hoping that Immanuel's youth will join in. The youth (7th – 12th grade) meet for youth fellowship from 4-6 every Sunday evening, ro-

tating between Trinity and First. One big upcoming youth event is an ecumenical retreat – see below for details.

The annual Mission Immersion Youth Retreat at St John's Methodist Church will take place Friday and Saturday January 15-16. It is a weekend for youth from Anchorage to gather to serve the Anchorage community. Youth will meet at St. John's on Friday night for worship and recreation and spend the night. On Saturday

they will go out in groups of 5-10 (with 1-2 adults) to serve many of the non-profit agencies in Anchorage. They then return to the church for a closing worship. Last year around 65 youth participated. The cost is \$35 for the retreat and covers all food, supplies for service projects, and a T-shirt. Registration is now open at: [stjohnneagle.com](http://stjohnneagle.com) Go to "connect" and then "youth". If you have questions please contact Danna Larson at [dillsitka@gmail.com](mailto:dillsitka@gmail.com)



## IPC's Talented Youth At It Again!

If you missed the youth-led worship and Christmas Pageant on 12/27, you missed some wonderful acting and a timeless message. The skit was adapted by a skit "New Star-A Christmas Skit" by Sharon Kay Chatwell. Acting as Narrators, an Old Star tells a younger New Star all about the First Christmas and others act out the parts of the Christmas Story. Eventually it is revealed that Old Star was actually the original

Christmas Star, which shone on the night that Jesus was born, and that it was his light that led the Wise Men to find Baby Jesus. Of course the timeless message that Jesus Christ is the true reason we celebrate Christmas came through loud and clear. Christmas Carols were interspersed throughout the skit. The incredibly talented youth as well as those young at heart were:

Old Star: Stevie Anderson  
New Star: Natalya Coulson

Mary: Brooke Shaffer  
Joseph: Luke Kimpton  
Elizabeth: Amanda Kimpton  
Gabriel: Cole Anderson  
King 1: Gale Smoke  
King 2: Mark Anderson  
King 3: Marvin Jones  
Shepherds: Madison Coulson and Terrence Thompson  
Angels: Sarah, Kaya, Lily Weaver  
King Herod: David Weaver

AND In addition to the wonderfully acted skit, Amanda Kimpton played a violin solo during the offering.

## Your Session At Work

Many of you were present on 12/6 when the Session met with the congregation to provide information on financial status of Immanuel. Pledge Forms were distributed to all families, including mailing to all members not present. The Session will have a budget planning meeting on 1/9 so hopes to have pledge sheets back by then to determine Immanuel activities and financial health for 2016.

A letter was received from **Presbytery showing Immanuel's Fair** Share and Per Capita amounts. Please stay tuned for how much the Per Capita is for 2016 and consider paying your amount.

Discussions are in progress with a handy man to update the restrooms; including new countertops and

sinks. A bid is expected for replacing **the fin tubes but work probably won't** be done until the spring.

A Personnel Policy manual was adopted. It was developed based upon a template from PCUSA and includes an extensive PCUSA Sexual Misconduct policy. The manual supersedes any previous policy. The Personnel Committee will meet quarterly so modifications as identified can be made easily. The committee is made up of Sara Johnston, Roberta Long, and Sandy Haldane

**It's time to reconstitute Immanuel's** Endowment Committee. The committee; appointed in Jan. of each year, consists of 3 members serving 3 years, 3 classes. Its purpose originally was to build up the endowment to a point where it could be used. After **Mary Jane Landstrom's donation, ongoing** investment is still necessary but also fostering growth, dispensing, and

identify what good work can be done with endowment funds needs to be determined. The Session expects a high level of transparency when it comes to this fund along with member involvement.

Child care during worship was discussed and while congregants like having children present there are concerns about disruption to other congregants as well as inability of parents to listen to the message. The Session is exploring strategies for taking the smaller kids downstairs after **the Scripture and Children's Message** – stay tuned for further information.

The Spring meeting of Presbytery of the Yukon will be in February at First Presbyterian.

The annual IPC Corporation meeting on 1/17 will be run by current **President David Weaver. Lastly DON'T FORGET...Congregational meeting** 1/24

## We Need Your Help

If you are joining us for soup and cookies on Sunday after worship we ask you to assist us in clean-up. Please help by wiping down the tables and counters, sweeping or vacuuming the floor, or in any other way to help us keep our place of worship and fellowship as clean and inviting as possible. Doing so will spread the time burden of clean-up and get us all home in a more timely manner. *Many Hands Make Lite Work!*



## Upcoming for Sunday School, Adult Forum, & Worship

**Children's SS Teacher** 1/10 – 2/14: Heather MacAlpine  
Youth SS Teacher 1/10 – 2/14: David Weaver

The adult forum in January will be discussing excerpts of the book We Make the Road by Walking which gives "an overview of the biblical story and a fresh introduction or re-orientation to Christian faith." The author, Brian McLaren, is a well-known writer, speaker, activist, and theologian who spent twenty years as pastor of a church that was one of the leaders in the emerging missional church movement.

1/3/2016: No Sunday school or Adult Forum; Worship with

communion will be led by Revs. Ian and Kim MacInnes-Green

1/10/2016: Adult forum leader: Rev. Dan Ketchum  
Worship to be led by Rev. Curt Karns

1/17/2016: Adult forum leader: Rev. Dan Ketchum;  
Worship: Rev. Howard Bess; Annual Corporation meeting after Worship

1/24/2016: Adult forum leader: Rev. Dan Ketchum;  
Worship: Rev. Ellen Johnson-Price; Congregational meeting after Worship

1/31/2016: Adult forum leader: Rev. Ellen Johnson-Price; Youth-led Worship

Immanuel Wishes You & Yours, a VERY...



## Important Dates

**January** is the awareness month for Cervical Health; Glaucoma; National Birth Defects Prevention; National Blood Donor. Other noteworthy dates in January:

### Jan. 1: New Year's Day

- Jan. 6: Epiphany
- Jan. 7: Orthodox Nativity of Our Lord
- Jan. 11: Human Trafficking Awareness Day
- Jan. 17: Race Relations Sunday
- Jan. 18: Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No School-ASD)
- Jan. 24: Criminal Justice Sunday
- Jan. 25---31: National Drug Facts Week

### Birthdays

- 1/5: Devon Lipinczyk & Natasha Jones
- 1/6: Herb Turner
- 1/7: Rhys Johnson-Price
- 1/14: Joanne Potts
- 1/15: Donna Anderson
- 1/26: Aaron Johnston
- 1/30: Howard Bess & Jane Schlittler
- 2/3: Jason Johnson-Price
- 2/9: Mark Anderson
- 2/13: Art Potts
- 2/14: Gary Respass
- 2/24: Oakley Johnston
- 2/26: Ian MacInnes-Green



### Anniversaries

**Accidentally omitted in last month's Call-**er: Ian & Kim MacInnes-Green who celebrated their 30th Anniversary on 12/15! Congrats!



### Prayers

For Jane Schlittler who will undergo surgery in January  
For Joanne Potts who will have cardiac surgery on 12/31



### Mark Your Calendars....

- 1/3: No Sunday School (Adults or Youth)
- 1/9: Session Budget Meeting
- 1/13: Women's Night Out (location TBD)



*The Old Year* by John Clare

**The Old Year's gone away**  
To nothingness and night;  
We cannot find him all the day  
Nor hear him in the night;  
He left no footprint, mark or place  
In either shade or sun;  
**The last year he'd a neighbour's face,**  
**In this he's known by none.**

All nothing everywhere;  
Mists we on mornings see  
**Have more of substance when they're here**  
And more of form than he.  
He was a friend by every fire,  
In every cot and hall--  
**A guest to every heart's desire,**  
**And now he's nought at all.**

Old papers thrown away,  
Old garments cast aside,  
The talk of yesterday,  
Are things identified;  
But time once torn away  
No voices can recall:  
**The eve of New Year's Day**  
Left the Old Year lost to all

- 1/13: Business Affairs Committee Meeting
- 1/17: Immanuel Corporation Meeting following worship in Sanctuary
- 1/18: Men's Night Out (location TBD)
- 1/24: Immanuel Annual Congregational Meeting following worship (over soup, in Fellowship Hall)

Liturgical color is white until 1/7 when it returns to green.

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