

The Voice

JULY
2009



*"No matter who you are,
or where you are
on life's journey,
you'll find a home here."*

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*Sharing the
Good News!*

A Message from our Senior Minister

Dear Friends and Members of Immanuel Church:

The summer months are particularly precious to those of us who live in New England. There is a respite (hopefully!) from the demands of the climate during other seasons of the year, and we cherish the opportunity to ease into a less frenetic pace of life. There is also a way in which the summer can lend itself to the formation of a liberated imagination. With a different sense of urgency upon our lives, we can play with the possibility of what life might look like if less encumbered, or if approached with a greater sense of grace.

During the next few months I hope to allow the energy of God to infuse my thinking and planning in preparation for the work that God has entrusted to us. I was greatly heartened by the results of our recent feasibility study, conducted by Ruotolo Associates, which showed overwhelming congregational support for the capital improvement projects we would like to complete over the next three years. It also showed a willingness of Immanuel friends and members to nurture stewardship growth until we are no longer excessively reliant on our endowment. Best of all, the study revealed the strength of spirit and passion for mission in our congregation: the desire to sow seeds of hope and to put mission into action. Each and every day I thank God that I am able to be partners with you in an adventure of faith that keeps alive God's vision of justice and well-being for all people.

In these summer months I pray that all of us will leave ample amounts of unscheduled time in our lives, when we can unfurl and unwind and allow ourselves to know what it feels like to trust. It is a feeling of freedom that I associate with floating on an inner tube on a slow moving river, walking without any particular place to go, gazing at majestic cloud formations, or beholding the faces of others with wonder and respect. May the grace and peace of God fill our lives with peace, that we may be ambassadors of peace at all times and in all places.

Yours in Christ,

Ed

IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*United Church of Christ
A Just Peace, Open and
Affirming Congregation*

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:00 AM

CHURCH SCHOOL

10:00 AM

*(Worship at 9:30 AM during July
and August)*

Childcare available

Fully accessible

Parking available

Office Hours:
Monday – Friday, 9:00 - 4:00PM

Phone:
860-527-8121

Fax:
860-293-1404

email:
immanuel@iccucc.org



OUR STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

"This church shall have for its purpose the public worship of God through Christ, the preaching and teaching of the Christian Gospel and the cultivation of Christ-like character. Its purpose shall also be to promote fellowship and unity, alleviate poverty and suffering, increase knowledge, extend justice and in all other possible ways to advance the kingdom of God, both locally and throughout the world."

— from the By-Laws of Immanuel Congregational Church, Incorporated February 1, 1964

In recent years the congregation of Immanuel Church has voted to extend its mission in three important ways:

- As a **Just Peace Church** we seek to encourage reconciliation, forgiveness and peacemaking as core virtues in a world that prizes violence and aggression.
- As an **Open and Affirming** Congregation we seek to offer a particular welcome to gay, lesbian, transgendered and bisexual people: many of whom have felt exclusion from the life of the church as a result of their sexual orientation.
- And we have accepted with joy the experience of becoming a multicultural, multiracial community where God's new reign is glimpsed through the coming together of people from different backgrounds, races and abilities.

As a recent visitor commented when leaving our sanctuary after worship: *"You don't just talk about diversity — you live it!"*

MEMBERSHIP

On Sunday, May 17th, we warmly welcomed four new friends into the life and membership of Immanuel Congregational Church. It is always exciting to receive new members and to think about the possibilities each person brings with them. We look forward to their participation in our faith community and walking this journey along with us. We joyfully welcome you again!

		
Victoria Robles East Hartford	Amanda Smalls New Britain	Amanda & Frankie Cuevas Somers

MEETING AND GREETING...

If you don't stay for a while after the worship service each Sunday, you are missing out on a great chance to "meet and greet" Immanuel members, guests and visitors. Because many of our members do not live close to the church, Sunday is usually the only day in the week we can catch up on the news and doings of our friends, share concerns about members, and plan for future meetings, outings or activities. This makes for a congenial coffee time. However, if you are a visitor, this "family" time can make you feel like an intruder. I'm sure we have all been a stranger in an unfamiliar place and appreciated a warm welcome.

Take time to introduce yourself to someone you don't recognize and offer a cup of coffee. There is always an art display to show off, announcements of coming events on the bulletin board and other members to meet.

The Membership Committee will have someone at the Opportunities table each Sunday with information about the spirit that is Immanuel.

Don't let a visitor go away from Immanuel saying, "no one spoke to me!"

Share the Spirit – with a welcome.

CARILLON CONCERTS AT TRINITY COLLEGE

By the time you read this article we, as a community, will have started attending the Carillon Concerts at Trinity College (by the way, it's been a blast so far!) As you know, the annual concert series will run every Wednesday through August 12th. For those who can make a 6pm start, there is always a Chamber Music Series in the Trinity College Chapel. At 7pm the Carillon Concerts begin on the Quad in the center of Trinity's campus. We are meeting in the area of the Quad closest to the Chapel. Bring lawn chairs, blankets, a picnic dinner for you or your family. Come alone or in groups. It's a very informal and relaxed atmosphere. Children can run around and visiting is allowed. It is a nice way to spend a summer evening. It's like a mini-vacation in the middle of the week. It is also another opportunity to be "Outward Bound" by inviting a friend or neighbor to join us. We hope you will join us between now and August 12th!

IMMANUEL CHURCH WOMEN

ANNUAL TAG SALE

Back by popular demand and thanks to Joe Joiner, ICW will again sponsor a Tag Sale on Saturday, September 26th. Spring cleaning is a good time to sort through good, used household items, furniture, toys, sports equipment, jewelry, etc. (No clothes, please!!) See Joe if you need storage before the sale.



FROM THE OFFICE

VOICE DEADLINE

The deadline for the June Voice is **Wednesday, July 8th**, Articles must be sent to Marilyn at mholt@iccucc.org by this date to appear in the August Voice.

SUMMER WORSHIP

Sunday worship begins at 9:30am in the months of July and August.

FELLOWSHIP

JULY BIRTHDAYS

2	Cecile Gilson William Zito	9	Nicholas Snow	22	Madeline Boudegan David Hafner Melissa Yennie
3	Kyle Jeter	10	Helen George Warren Morrow	23	Anastasia Eckerson Robert Henricks
4	Tess Hamilton-Ward Stephen Holtz Gabrielle McKay	11	Lia Yu Zhu Nichols	25	Pam French Martha Hess Jonathan Lewis Mark Nielsen John Scully
5	Cloe Axelson	12	Elizabeth Law	29	Michelle Paquin Isabel Townsend
6	Adrianna Austin William Gerber Jada Lewis	14	Jahlmar Cintron Robert Hafner	31	Andrew Bartley Bree O'Connor Mark Singleton Rose Supersad
7	Elizabeth Cooper Gene Flynn Elizabeth Golaski Giovanni Valentin	15	Priscilla Benton Cataline McKay		
8	Robert Gilligan	16	Howard Miner		
		17	Hyacinth Yennie		
		20	Vigale McFini Elaine Roberts		
		21	Alexander Watson		

DIACONATE

TIME, TALENTS AND MEANS

Not everyone waits thirty-seven years to join Immanuel, but Beth Cooper did. As a newcomer to Hartford, a friend invited her to Fireside, a young adult group. There she met someone who offered her a part-time temporary job. She joined Immanuel's Business and Professional Women and became vice-president, as the president's position was reserved for Immanuel members.

Brought up Roman Catholic, Beth did not want to cause further family dissension that occurred when her brother left the church. On some Sundays she attended services at Immanuel after mass at St Joseph's, but not when her father was visiting.

After her father's death, she felt free to make her own faith decision until she thought of the vows Immanuel members take to "use their time, talent, and means." She was the liaison between Aetna USA and Aetna Canada. Her time and talents were used overtime at Aetna.

Beth waited until retirement from Aetna to take the plunge to become an Immanuel member. In addition to Business and Professional Women, she joined the Board of Christian Education, became treasurer of that group, and headed the adult education program, which included preparing meals for a dozen or more people to meet guest speakers. Later she served as senior deacon and treasurer of Immanuel Church Women. She also joined the Bible Ladies. Beth expanded the scope of the Visual Arts Committee by including bus trips for Immanuel members and friends. She disperses scholarship funds to high school seniors going on for further education. She keeps; volunteering to get matching funds from Aetna for some of her Immanuel activities.

Beth has found a home and a family at Immanuel. In turn, Immanuel as been blessed by her time, talent, and means. Thanks be to God.

-- Dorothy Lovett Buckley, Deacon

VISUAL ARTS



PHOTOGRAPHS AND MEDITATIONS BY JOHN KARRER FEATURED IN SUMMER ART EXHIBIT.

Artist Statement: My morning walks in the parks and woods surrounding Hartford have proven to be a very spiritual activity. Seldom am I far into a walk before I become aware of a sense of awe, a sense that I am exploring and interacting with the work of the Creator. I am never more at ease and comfortable than on these walks - I feel the presence of God. These interactions have strengthened my faith and made prayer more

meaningful.

I hope that my photographs and meditations may give you a glimpse at what I experience.

Hopefully, in the course of the summer, you will be able to visit Fellowship Hall when it is less busy than coffee hour. If you do, select a photograph that attracts you and then spend some time with it. Just study it, as your eyes journey over the surface allow your mind to play. See if there is a message, a meaning, just for you within the photograph.

My photographs are an attempt to capture some of the beauty and mystery of nature but they fall far short of experiencing the real thing. Give yourself a treat, take a walk.

J. Karrer

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN

JOIN A CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHING TEAM

Opportunities are still available to become part of a Church School teaching team for the Fall '09 or Winter / Spring '10. Each class, pre-K through 8, has two co-teachers. The curriculum utilizes Bible stories with lessons plans and related activities for each lesson. There are 30 minutes of class time for each lesson and activity.

There is no Church School on the first Sunday of each month, when children participate in the IMMArts Music Program. Nearly every month there is also another Sunday when Creative Classroom Teachers plan the lesson and only one regular teacher stays with the class. You may also choose to teach for just one of the two semesters.

Our teachers often say that they volunteered to give back to the church and found that they received just as much in return. Please consider how you might support our ministry with children by participating in the Church School. Contact Nancy Allen or Lu St. Germain at Robert_st_germain@sbcglobal.net (Note: an _ after Robert and st) or Pat Allen at phallen@cox.net.

SUMMER WORSHIP CHILD CARE

Although there is no Church School during the summer, child care is provided in the nursery and toddler room for children from infants to pre-kindergarten. This service is provided so that families with younger children can continue to worship at Immanuel.

During the warmer Sundays, the child care will be provided in an air conditioned room. Parents may also sign out a pager which connects them to the child care providers.

Please continue to worship at Immanuel with your family this summer.

SOCIAL ACTION AND MISSION

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Do you knit? Do you crochet? Are you aware of the Prayer Shawl ministry? We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 1:30PM at Immanuel to make shawls and scarves for those in the hospital, shut-in at home, or deserving of recognition from the church in some other way. The next meetings of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be July 8th and July 22nd. In the meantime, if you need instructions, yarn or needles, please call Barbara Hulburt (860-282-2811) or Beth Cooper (860-521-5136).

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS FOR NOAH WEBSTER SCHOOL

Noah Webster Magnet School in Hartford needs musical instruments for the school's band and orchestra program. If you have a used musical instrument in working condition that you wish to donate to the school, please contact Kathy Peet, Music Director at Noah Webster Magnet School at 695-5404. The instruments will get plenty of loving use. Thanks. – Annelieke Schauer

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK DAY

Habitat builds affordable homes for needy families. Immanuel has been involved in the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity for many years, providing volunteers, meals and funding. Our monthly work crew is always open to the participation of volunteers! There is a sign up board in Fellowship Hall where you can add your name to the list of volunteers. The next Habitat Build Day is Saturday, July 18th at 9:00 AM.

PROPERTY

GREEN CHURCH AND PROPERTY UPDATE

This is truly an exciting time to serve God's creation and to embrace new technology. Immanuel is on the move toward becoming a Green Church and we need YOUR help. Let's all recycle, purchase eco friendly products, and support non-polluting companies.

Our Green Church Committee has adopted a mission statement and some members are active at the conference level for the reduction of the wider church carbon foot print. We will be tracking our utilities usage (gas and electric) as we work towards being a carbon neutral church and congregation.

Recent projects include:

- Lighting - 2/3 of our lighting has already been converted to CFL (compact florescent light). We participated in a program from Conserve, so the funding source is through projected savings.
- Heat - Our boilers and thermostats are now run by building automation. Our boilers are clean and tuned-up, with new control valves. Updated components have breathed new life into our equipment, and their efficiency is at their peak. A rebate from CNG has been obtained to defray a portion of a large up front expense.
- Required Maintenance and Repairs - All supplies and repairs are being examined for the long term sustainability and their impact on the integrity of all four buildings, and our stewardship for future generations.

Our carbon neutral footprint pledge is bold. Because we will be tracking usage, we will be able to accurately purchase fuel from clean, renewable sources. We are sure we can enlist our campus partners and the various groups who use our facility for help. As a congregation it is up to us to create a culture of concern for our consumption through our work, deeds and words.

The Capital Campaign has wisely addressed budgeting for green concepts as a way to keep our church vibrant in the community. We have the people, the buildings, the knowledge and the responsibility to be good stewards of our assets. All members, campus partners and friends are invited to offer ideas and enthusiasm. This daunting task is achievable!

Future projects include:

- Solar hot water, solar Photo Voltaic, geothermal, clean fuel suppliers, lighting, insulation, appliance upgrades, space utilization and ongoing maintenance.

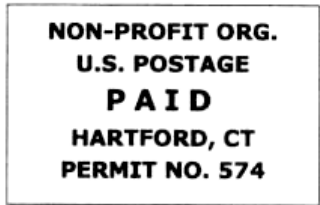
Although a 100 year old building may appear to be a liability and too much work to go green, fear not! Our building has good bones and was originally constructed of the finest materials. There have already been positive results and the building has adapted well to our new technologies. Few congregations will ever have the opportunity to have such a powerful effect on the sustainable future of their church. This is the time.

Here and now at Immanuel we can demonstrate our thankfulness for God's grace and mercy by respecting creation. Future generations and our children's children will know us by our work and commitment at this crucial time.

The Green Church Committee and Property Committee thank you for your support and prayers. Please contact us through our new mailbox in the main office or email Steve Gilson at sgilson130@comcast.net.

IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
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 HARTFORD, CT 06105-2396
 860-527-8121 WWW.ICCUCC.ORG

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Ministers	All Members of the Church	www.iccucc.org
Senior Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Edward Horstmann	egh@iccucc.org
Associate Pastor	The Rev. Nancy Allen	nancy.allen@iccucc.org
Director of Music	Mark Singleton	mark.singleton@iccucc.org
Associate Director of Music	Ehren Brown	ehren.brown@iccucc.org
Organist	Donald Funk	donald.funk@iccucc.org
Choral Librarian	Jennifer Lamson	jen.lamson@iccucc.org
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Friendly Visitor Coordinator	Elizabeth Allen	betty.allen@iccucc.org
Radio Ministry	Robert Hafner, Jr.	bobby.hafner@iccucc.org
Website Designer	Marilyn Holt	mholt@iccucc.org
Church Administrator	Wayne Lampkin	immanuel@iccucc.org
Church Secretaries	Marilyn Holt	mholt@iccucc.org
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