

# Immanuel United Church of Christ

January 2012

## Tom's Tidbits



**Rev. Dr. Tom Schwartz**  
**Sr. Minister**  
1-281-617-6198  
1-888-760-0150

**Rev. George R. Kuebler**  
**Pastor Emeritus**

**Shay Meyer**  
**Director Christian Ed**

**Larry Dunlap**  
**Choir Director**

**Andrew Moses**  
**Organist**

**Leanne Bourgeois**  
**Church Secretary**

**Church Office**  
979-793-6125

**Fax Number**  
979-793-6199

### UPCOMING EVENTS

MDO Board Mtg.  
January 3rd

Youth Group begins  
January 4th

Consistory  
January 9th

Worship/Evangelism  
Brotherhood Mtg.  
January 10th

Christian Ed Mtg.  
January 12th

Sr. Social @ Methodist  
January 18th

Senior Citizen Fundraiser  
January 22nd

Mission/Outreach  
January 23rd

Annual Congregational Mtg.  
January 29th

### RESOLVE TO GROW SPIRITUALLY IN 2012!

“Thank you” is wholly inadequate to convey my deep gratitude and sincere appreciation to each and every member and friend of Immanuel United Church of Christ. Your encouraging cards, your thoughtful gifts, and your many expressions of kindness and support during the Christmas season really and truly were an extraordinary blessing to me, as well as to Patrick. And the congregation’s generous monetary gift was overwhelming!

It is a genuine honor, joy, and privilege to serve such a wonderful group of faithful Christians as pastor. I do not take for granted the wonderful gift you have given me in serving our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, with you in Needville. I look forward to a faithful and fruitful year of service to God and to others in the coming year! May God bless you as richly as you have blessed Patrick and me!

\*\*\*

At Patrick’s home in Tulsa, there’s a closet door marked with pencil lines, each carefully dated. There, he has been measured several times throughout each year, to monitor his physical growth. It’s always a happy occasion to see that door again, with its penciled reminders of God’s graciousness in my beloved son’s health and life.

Suppose you and I stand against an imaginary door frame and measure our spiritual growth during the past year. Have we conquered some of the sins we vowed we would conquer? Is the Word of God precious and sweet to us, partaken of daily? Have some of our friends and neighbors trusted in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord as a result of our sharing of our faith? Can we say we are satisfied with our spiritual growth in 2011?

Probably many of us must honestly confess that there are many ways we have failed to be the people whom God has created us and calls us to be. Let us resolve, then, that there will be spiritual growth in the new year ahead!

As T. DeWitt Talmage noted well, “It is not sinful egotism for a Christian man to say, ‘I am purer than I used to be. I more consecrated to Christ than I used to be. I have gotten over a great many of the bad habits in which I used to indulge. I am a great deal better man than I used to be.’ There is no sinful egotism in that.

“It is not base egotism for a soldier to say, ‘I know more about military tactics than I used to, before I took a musket in my hand and learned to “present arms,” and when I was a pest to the drill-officer.

“It is not base egotism for a sailor to say, ‘I know better how to clew down the mizzen topsail than I used to, before I had ever seen a ship.’

“And there is no sinful egotism when a Christian man, fighting the battles of the Lord, or, if you will have it, voyaging toward a haven of eternal rest, says, ‘I know more about spiritual tactics and about voyaging toward Heaven than I used to.’”

Yes, sisters and brothers, the new year is a good time in which to begin measuring your spiritual growth. The wheel of time has turned very swiftly, and it has hurled us on. The old year is gone. The new year has come. What will we do for Jesus Christ in 2012? The choice is ours. May we say with the same commitment of Joshua, “As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord!”

See you in church on Sunday, or wherever else our paths may cross. Never forget that God loves you, and so do I!

-- Pastor Tom

## DECEMBER ATTENDANCE

December 4	192
December 11	276
December 18	189
December 24	458
December 25	87

## ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

January 1  
January 8  
January 15  
January 22  
January 29

Madeline Gadway, Megan Elkins  
Kayla Hester, Mark Bosse  
Tyler Anderson, Regann Hedt  
Morgan Yelderman, Julie Arrington  
Grant Arrington, Madeline Gadway

### LAY READERS and GREETERS NEEDED!!!

If you are interested in being a Lay Reader or a Greeter and assisting the morning worship services, please see Yvonne Lingnau, or a member of the Worship committee.

### MOMENT FOR THE YOUNG

January 1	Cris Meyer
January 8	Debby Wendt
January 15	Darrel Kramer
January 22	Karen Wagner
January 29	Carol Gerken

### DEATHS

Magnolia Hartfiel Kramer  
December 10, 2011

Thelma Stehle  
December 16, 2011

The new Bulletin Sponsor Sign-Up Sheet is Now available for 2012. If you wish to sponsor the weekly bulletin, please add your name to the sheet in the foyer of the sanctuary.



## PRAYER LIST



### **P.U.S.H. = Pray Until Something Happens!**

Julius Balcerowicz  
Harold Beck  
Steve Beck  
Ricky Blase  
Jodi Boone  
Tanya Castaneda  
Mary Kay Corman  
Cindy Davila  
Bernadette Dodge  
Raymond Freund  
Sue Garver  
Herald Gaddy  
Kathy Holub  
Jeanne Otto Keeney

Frances Landers  
Donna Kay Langton  
Don Lawson  
Raquel (Condell) Levy  
Santos Mendez  
Alice Nestor  
Kenneth "KB" Otto  
Ron Otto  
Donette Paige  
Ruby Poncik  
Melissa Ramos  
Herbert Richter  
Randy Roberts  
Raeleigh Schlitzkus  
Waline Sebesta

Jim Sims  
Alberta Steffen  
Roy and Barbara Steffen  
Mary Ann Talley  
Tim Timmons  
Brandy Troxel  
Susan Wallis  
Willie Wallick  
Brendan Warncke  
Courtney Warncke  
Ernest Wendt  
Jackie Witcher  
Dee Wright  
Cheryl Zwahr  
Family of Darrel Zwahr

It is an honor and privilege to pray for the needs of those on our prayer list. However, as you may have noticed, our list has been growing. This is certainly not a problem if all those on the list still have specific requests for which ongoing prayer is needed. However, if you have added someone to the list, and you know the need for which they were added has been answered, please contact the church office so that the list may be updated. You may also contact the church office to add the name of anyone who is in need of prayer.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter!

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 2 David Dick, Jr.<br>Ray Oberhoff                            | 18 Connor Baker  |
| 3 Hayden Meyer<br>Sandy Beard                                | 19 Derek Lindemann<br>Madelyn Griffith<br>Natalie Miller<br>Ruth Vallet<br>Wendy Raesner |
| 4 Joan Wendt   | 20 Christopher Marecka   |
| 5 Thomas Roehle  | 21 Bridget Goodbread<br>Hudson Goodbread<br>Kylie Gage<br>Rudy Paweleck<br>Sage Hlavaty  |
| 7 Joshua Miller<br>Kyle Raesner                              | 23 Breck Sacra<br>Darlene Mensik   |
| 8 Amy Pohler<br>Bryan Fuchs<br>Macale Ellis<br>Shirley Wendt | 24 Anna Gadway   |
| 9 Brooks Baker<br>Pauletta Klemstein<br>Vanessa Miller       | 25 Yvonne Lingnau  |
| 10 Clarence Warncke, Jr.<br>Michelle Kostelnik               | 26 Ray Winkelman<br>Jim Sims   |
| 11 Becky Reeh<br>Kasey Hawkins<br>Tina Holik                 | 27 David Thielemann<br>Elvina Loehr<br>Leighann Wedegartner                              |
| 12 Sheila Elster   | 28 Monica Hurta  |
| 13 Debbie Legendre<br>Leah Hernandez<br>Ricky Raesner        | 29 Belinda Macik<br>Sherrie Schmidt  |
| 14 Kevin Lovel   | 30 John Crosby<br>Lona Mae Miller<br>Olivia Tiemann                                      |
| 15 Mike Nulisch  | 31 Wayne Schmidt   |
| 16 Dana Hawkins<br>Ruby Poncik<br>Tiffany Schnettler         |  |
| 17 Blake Gerken  |  |

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 JOE & DONNA GREGORY
- 11 HERBERT & LILLIE RICHTER  
DARRIN & JACEY HEDT
- 12 FRANK & IRMA GORKA
- 13 JEFF & CASEY CHAPMAN
- 14 PERRY & SHERRIE McCONNELL
- 17 WC & KAREN TODD
- 19 TONY & KRISTI NOVOSAD
- 23 BROOKS & SHELLEY BAKER
- 26 JIM & BARBARA SIMS



Y o u r P o s t i n g s I n ( K i n d e r g a r t e n - 1 2 <sup>th</sup> )  
J A N U A R Y

**Christmas Program Follow-Up:**

What a great program was presented by the youth of Immanuel! A huge thanks goes to **Sharon Graeber** and **Victoria Schultz** for their time, patience and especially their love for our youth. With their assistance the youth shared with the congregation what Christmas is really about through song and letters. "Christmas Letters: The Musical" was fantastic!

**Settegast Heights Follow-Up:**

**Debby Wendt** headed up the group that ministered to the children and elderly at Settegast Heights apartment complex on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Her crew included, **Kelly Arrington with Grant and Julie Arrington, and Rhonda Jurek with Kayla and Kimberly Hester**. Sandwiches and cookies were supplied as well for the party by members of our congregation. I believe the final figure was 75 people who were helped out this Christmas by Immanuel UCC. A deep and meaningful thanks to all of you for participating and making this Christmas one for the families and individuals of Settegast Heights to remember for a long time to come.

**Lock-In Follow-Up:**

We had a great bake-sale and were able to have our first Winter Lock-In for High School. 17 youth and 4 adults made it an entire night filled with food, fun, games and did I mention lots of food? Those brave adults were **Cris Meyer, Rhonda Jurek** and a special thanks to **Nathan Gaskamp** from our sister church in Rosenberg, **St. John's UCC**. Nathan had lots of great ideas and games and the kids really enjoyed our time together. Our guest speaker aside from Nathan was Mr. Jody Chmelik of East Bernard. He told us about the American Indian reservation that he and his church have been ministering to and how they are now finally able to speak about Christ and even bring Bibles in to the community. It hasn't been easy and it's taken years to get to this point, but they see God's hands at work in a mighty way.

**Christmas Basket/Food Drive Preparation ("Love in Action") Follow-Up:**

The high school group loaded up and we headed over via hayride to Los Charros for a dinner out together, then ended the evening with some caroling. In between we rode over to Needville Community Church to help make up the food boxes for the Christmas basket give-a-way for families in need of food and toys assistance this year. This is always a fun and energetic way that the high school group stays involved with the community. They are very helpful and do a great job pitching in and helping out wherever it's needed. I'm so proud of them!

**Winter Camps:**

Slumber Falls Mid-Winter Youth Event is for **ages 15-18** and it is **January 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>**. See their website to register ([www.slumberfalls.org](http://www.slumberfalls.org)) cost is **\$90**,

DOC Chi Rho Mid-Winter Event is for **6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders**, the weekend of **January 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>**, **\$35** (includes t-shirt). Forms must be **notarized** and are due in to Shay no later than **January 11<sup>th</sup>**. Ice skating and hiking are on the "things to get done" list. Be sure to check out the flyers around the church. They will be studying II Corinthians 5:7 – For we live by faith, not by sight.

**Notes:**

**Schedule: Youth groups will meet all Wednesdays in January.**

~We have started collecting aluminum cans for the youth account. This will help offset some expenses during the year such as lock-ins and special parties. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Please bring your recyclable aluminum in plastic bags and leave them in the container by the dumpster if I am not at church to accept them in person. **Please do not leave them in the building.**

~**Aquire The Fire** is coming to Houston! Please visit [www.acquirethefire.com](http://www.acquirethefire.com), click on "Resources" and then choose if you are a parent or teen. We will be promoting this for junior high through high school. Anyone is welcome to join us. IUCC members pay half price.

~Snack and Meal schedule is as follows and thank you all so much for keeping our youth kids fed and going strong.

<b>DATE</b>	<b>SNACK</b>	<b>MEAL</b>
01/04/11	Bishop	Schultz
01/11/11	Weidemann, K.	Pawlak
01/18/11	Novosad	Bean, P.
01/25/11	Winkelman, S.	Reeh
02/01/11	Polak	Eversole
02/08/11	Carson	Arrington

A New Year FULL of God's Promises,

Shay Meyer. Questions, comments, concerns? [shay@meyerranch.net](mailto:shay@meyerranch.net) (832) 595-4028 cell. Feedback always welcome

## News from the Lily Pad

Happy New Year!! 2012 looks to be a spectacular year and we are starting off at Leaps and Bounds just like most of us are at home...reflecting on the great year we had in 2011 and getting ready for an even better 2012!

We would like to welcome our new addition to the teaching staff, Kathy Polak. She is taking over for Mrs Gina in the 4 year old class. We will miss Mrs. Gina but are very happy for her and wish her luck with her new job!

We enjoyed our visit to Reliable Oaks. The children, the teachers and especially the residents loved our time together. We plan to go again for Easter.

Our Christmas program was very heart warming with all of our cute little carolers signing their hearts out! They were all very excited to see our surprise visitor, Ole St. Nick himself! Thanks Mr. Bubba Morton for helping get Santa to our program!

We will return to school on January 3rd and we are looking forward to getting back in the swing of things! We wish you all a very Blessed New Year!!!

### NEW MEMBERS BEING SOUGHT...

Consistory and Christian Education Committee are looking for new members for 2012. If you are interested on serving on either of these committees, please contact the Church office at 979-793-6125.



### **13th Annual Leroy Miksch Memorial Senior Citizen Fundraiser**

**The 13th Annual Senior Citizen Fundraiser will be held on Sunday, January 22nd at the KC Hall in Needville.**

**We are in need of live and silent auction items as well as baskets for the basket raffle.**

**The baskets will be on display at Amegy Bank beginning January 2nd.**

Live and Silent Auction Items may be brought to Immanuel.

**Quilt raffle tickets are now available!**

Tickets are \$2.00 each or a book of 6 for \$10.00. They are available in the church office.

The quilts are on display at Amegy and New First Bank in Needville.

# January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday School 9a Worship/Communion 10a	2 No Senior Site	3 Leaps & Bounds 8:30-2:30p  MDO Board Mtg 7p	4 <b>YOUTH CLUB</b> Kinder-5th 4:00-5:30pm 6th & 7th 6:00-7:30pm Confirm. 6:00-7:00pm High School 6:00-8:00pm Adult Bible Study 7:00pm	5 Leaps & Bounds 8:30-2:30p	6	7
8 Sunday School 9a Worship/SS Perf. Attend. 10:15a	9 Consistory 7p	10 Leaps & Bounds 8:30-2:30p	11 <b>YOUTH CLUB</b> Kinder-5th 4:00-5:30pm 6th & 7th 6:00-7:30pm Confirm. 6:00-7:00pm High School 6:00-8:00pm Adult Bible Study 7:00pm	12 Leaps & Bounds 8:30-2:30p  CEC Mtg. @ 7p	13	14
15 Sunday School 9a Worship/ABCeleb 10:15am	16	17 Leaps & Bounds 8:30-2:30p	18 <b>YOUTH CLUB</b> Kinder-5th 4:00-5:30pm 6th & 7th 6:00-7:30pm Confirm. 6:00-7:00pm High School 6:00-8:00pm Adult Bible Study 7:00pm  Sr. Social @ Methodist 1:30p	19 Leaps & Bounds 8:30-2:30p	20	21
22 Sunday School 9a Worship/Communion 10a  Senior Fundraiser @ KC Hall	23 Mission/ Outreach 7p	24 Leaps & Bounds 8:30-2:30p	25 <b>YOUTH CLUB</b> Kinder-5th 4:00-5:30pm 6th & 7th 6:00-7:30pm Confirm. 6:00-7:00pm High School 6:00-8:00pm Adult Bible Study 7:00pm	26 Leaps & Bounds 8:30-2:30p	27	28
29 Sunday School 9a Worship/Communion 10a  Annual Meeting—Following Worship	30	31 Leaps & Bounds 8:30-2:30p				

## **Immanuel's Women's Guild**

**The Immanuel's Women's Guild met on Friday, December 15, 2011 with 16 members and 12 guest present. President Richter welcomed all. A fried chicken meal was served with the officers furnishing the dessert.**

**Yvonne Huegel gave a very interesting program. She showed us a picture in a book by Albert Dusen. It was a self portrait but it looked just like Jesus. We are taught to be like Jesus and perhaps that was his way.**

**President Richter called the meeting to order. Minutes were read and approved. Correspondence was read. Erna Theilemann gave the Treasure's report. She reported on the Thanksgiving Baskets.**

**Old Business: All the poinsettias were sold.**

**New Business: Hester Bain made a motion to give the remaining money from Kroger to Global Missionaries. Nelda Rosenbaum second the motion. Erna Thielemann handed out the 2012 Program and Refreshment Committee pages to be placed in our booklets. We thank Hester Bain for gathering the information.**

**People celebrating birthdays in December were Hester Bain, Carol Bosse, Erna Thielemann, and Geraldane Winkelman. Over 90 was Lottie Gerken who was 98 on December 19. Anniversaries were Teresa and Fred Banda. The hymn, Silent Night, was sung for these people. Prayer concerns are for Herbert Richter, Julius Balcerowicz, Frank Macik, Ruby Poncik, Ruby Lee Oberhoff, Stubby Wendt, Lottie Gerken, Jim Sims, and Ruby Gerken.**

**The meeting was closed by joining of hands and praying "The Lord's Prayer". Paster Tom led us in "Bless Be The Tie That Binds".**

*Jessie Balcerowicz, Secretary*

Regular monthly Consistory Minutes and Financial Reports are no longer being included in the monthly newsletters.

A notification will be listed in the Sunday bulletin when they are available to be picked up in the church office.

**IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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*Sr. Minister*

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*Rev. George R. Kuebler*

Check out the Newsletter On-Line & In Color!  
Under the "Links" tab of our website:  
[www.immanuel-ucc.net](http://www.immanuel-ucc.net)



January  
*Newsletter*  
2012



*Have a Blessed New Year!*