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

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



Newsletter
 2011



Rally day
 September 11th!

Immanuel United Church of Christ

September 2011

Tom's Tidbits



Rev. Dr. Tom Schwartz
Sr. Minister
 1-281-617-6198
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Rev. George R. Kuebler
Pastor Emeritus

Shay Meyer
Director Christian Ed

Larry Dunlap
Choir Director

Andrew Moses
Organist

Leanne Bourgeois
Church Secretary

Church Office
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WHAT ARE YOU GOING AFTER?

A very difficult man had undergone surgery and had just been wheeled into his room. When he opened his eyes, he noticed that the blinds were closed. Angrily, he called to his nurse and demanded to know why.

"There's a big fire across the street," she explained. "I closed the blinds because, when you woke up, I didn't want you to think that you had died!"

When others see what you go after here, they can usually tell where you'll go hereafter. What are you going after here, my friends – character or comfort, God or goods, morality or money, self-control or self-indulgence? That shows where you'll go hereafter. As Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21).

THE LORD'S CONTROL

Several years ago, I read a newspaper article about some young men in Miami who had climbed onto a bulldozer and started the engine. It was in gear, and they couldn't stop it, so they jumped off. Before it stopped, it ripped through four city blocks and did tens of thousands of dollars' worth of damage.

With someone in control, the bulldozer is a constructive machine. Without someone, it's destructive. That's the way it is with our lives, sisters and brothers! Our lives must be brought under control – the Lord's control.

But God doesn't force the divine control upon you. God works in and through you, making your life beautiful, not ugly; constructive, not destructive, only as you allow God to do so. All God wants is your permission to take over. Give it to God, won't you?

AN EXPERIENCE, NOT AN EXCUSE

A policeman saw a man stumbling as he walked up and down in front of a house at two o'clock one morning. "What's your excuse?" he demanded.

"If I had an excuse," grimaced the intoxicated man, "I'd go inside to my wife."

He didn't need an excuse, my friends – he needed an experience! And that's where our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, comes in. He doesn't remodel sinners. Jesus creates a new person. It's not in life's chances, but in life's choices, that changes come. Choose Christ, and you'll experience a change!

The Bible says, "When persons become Christians, they become brand new persons inside. They are not the same anymore. A new life has begun" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

THE SALVATION ARMY

When William Booth became a pastor, he insisted on going into the red-light district of London to preach the Gospel. Some didn't like it, so he was called to appear before a church conference.

"May I enter into full-time evangelistic work?" he asked. "No," they answered. And a compromise was suggested.

But Booth's wife, Catherine, standing in the gallery, waved her handkerchief and shouted, "Never!"

Booth sprang to his feet, waved his hat, and – meeting Catherine at the door – they went out to launch The Salvation Army.

Sisters and brothers, let us be like William and Catherine Booth. Let us dare to be what God wants us to be. Let us dare to go where God wants us to go. And let us dare to do what God wants us to do!

As C.T. Studd noted well, "Two little lines I heard one day, traveling along life's busy way, bringing conviction to my heart, and from my mind would not depart: Only one life – 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last."

See you in church on Sunday...or wherever else our paths may cross. Remember that God loves you, and so do I!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Ashley Paweleck
Donna Gregory | 16 Bobby Fuchs
Cindy Oberrender
Jayson Fuchs
Shelly Sullivan
Teresa Banda |
| 2 Florence Kramer
Ronnie Maresh | |
| 4 Carlos Hendrick
Irma Gorka | 17 Brandi Schwaiger
Janet Raesner |
| 5 Melissa Kostelnik | 18 Ainsley Otto
Donna Zwahr |
| 6 Nicholas Bullard | 19 Genesis Morales
Sherry Winkelman |
| 7 Bobby Zwahr, Jr.
Kenny Miller
Kim Alderman
W. Lee Schmidt | 20 Bradley Vallet
Clifton Holik
Darrin Hedt
Shelby Macik |
| 8 Chase Miller
Elizabeth Eversole
James Bain, Sr.
Kelsey Johnson
Shelly Schmidt | 21 Christopher Zwahr
Evelyn Schmidt |
| 9 Colton Antrich
Ervin Oberhoff
Vida Arlitt | 22 Erwin Lingnau
Kim Antrich
Sandra Oberrender |
| 10 Drew Vela
Patty Bean | 23 Vernon Legendre
Casey Chapman |
| 11 Brandon Zwahr
Eddie Joe Mach
Sandra Zwahr | 24 Bill Sullivan
Connie Gorka
Norma Freund
Wanda Eiteman |
| 12 Ashley Schultz | 25 Caroline Macik
Walker Kalinowski |
| 13 Cynthia Macha | 26 Bennie Hadaway
Carolyn Conrad |
| 14 Audrey Ley
Diane Urbanek
Kelly Hurta
Ike Fredrickson | 27 Devon Paige
Kevon Fuchs |
| 15 Ashley Anderson
Carson Faas
Lance Schultz
Sydney Sacra | 28 Davette Stegman |
| | 29 Cindy Miller
Cindy Schulze
Felisha Clack |
| | 30 Casey Todd
Joe Gregory
Suzanne Loehr |

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



- 1 KEITH & MELISSA KOSTELNIK
- 4 CARLOS & RUTH HENDRICK
- 5 W. LEE & SHARON HEDT
- 7 RODNEY & SHEILA ELSTER
- 8 JAMES & THERESA BROWN
- 12 JESS & DOROTHY FARMER
- 17 TRACY & CAROL GERKEN
- 18 RICHARD & SANDRA OBERRENDER
- 19 GREG & KIM ANTRICH
CHANTZ & KRISTI KLEMSTEIN
- 20 BOBBY & VICKI FUCHS
- 21 DAVID & DENA DICK
- 22 ERWIN & YVONNE LINGNAU
- 28 ADAM & SHANA MIGNERY
- 29 JOHN & HOLLY CHAPMAN

REFRESHMENTS NEEDED!

Our next ABC Fellowship is Sunday, September 18th immediately following worship. We have a sign-up sheet for refreshments at both entrances to the Sanctuary. Your help is greatly appreciated!

See You There!

We apologize if we have inadvertently left off any names on our Birthday or Anniversary Listings. If you know someone that has been left off, or would like to add someone, please contact the church office at 793-6125 and let us know!!! Thank you very much!

Rally



Day

We will have a wonderful artist sharing an "Illustrated Sermon" during our worship service. following worship we will have a BBQ Chicken Dinner...chicken will be provided by our "Churchhouse Cookers" with members bringing side dishes and desserts. Please make plans to join us on this special day!!

Teachers are still needed for the following classes and months. Here is where your church needs assistance. Where is God placing you?

Nursery	Kinder/1st	2nd/3rd	4th/5th	6th/7th	High School
→ October	→ September	February	February	June	November
March	→ October	April	March	July	December
April	February	May	April	August	January
May	March	June	May		February
June	April	July	June		March
July	May	August	July		April
August	June		August		June
	July				July
	August				August

Please note that the summer months are combined classes. At least 2 teachers are asked to sign up for those months. This past summer we had about 15 kids usually. If at some point these grow larger than will comfortably fit in one room then we will break them up into smaller groups. Please don't let summertime keep our kids from getting Sunday School!

Listed below are the different committees that help Immanuel carry out its ministries.
If God is directing you in any of these directions, please contact one of the members!

CONSISTORY OFFICERS

President Cris Meyer
Vice President Audrey Schmidt
Secretary Carol Gerken
Treasurer Wade Bosse
Head Ushers AJ Dorr
 Mark Wendt

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Shay Meyer—Director Christian Education
Suzanne Mikeska-Committee Chairman
 Carol Gerken
 Stacey Schodek
 Kim Fredrickson
 Shawn Winkelman
 Cyndi Teykl
 Leslie Kolkmeier
 Teresa Bosse
Kelly Dunk-Consistory Rep.

WORSHIP/EVANGELISM

Pastor Tom-Committee Chairman
 Yvonne Lingnau
 Harold Heidemann
 Wanda Miller
 Mike Altimore
 Debbie Altimore
 Nancy Urbanek
 Stacey Schodek
 Cris Meyer

MISSION & OUTREACH

Pastor Tom-Committee Chairman
 Bruce Oberhoff
 Debby Wendt
 Leslie Kolkmeier

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Barbara Schmidt
Mildred Novak
Evelyn Schmidt
Ora Lee Lamensky
Merylyn Leus
Mary Zwahr
Irvin Meyer
Audrey Schmidt-Consistory Rep.

WOMEN'S GUILD

President Lillie Richter
Vice President Hester Bain
Secretary Jeanette Balcerowicz
Treasurer Erna Thielemann

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

W. Lee Schmidt
W. Lee Hedt
Lillie Richter

BROTHERHOOD

Open to all men, young & "young at heart"

Treasurers Cris Meyer
 Tom Dunk

BUILDING & GROUNDS

David Thielemann
Bruce Oberhoff
Clarence Thielemann
Bobby Zwahr



PRAYER LIST



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

Mary Band—home
Justin Barcak
Family of Phyllis Bartels
Steve Beck
David Brice
Linda Diezernowski
Don & Marilyn Dillard
Bernadette Dodge
Sue Fredrickson
Sue Garver
Herald Gaddy
Evelyn Gorka
Roland Hackstedt
Kathy Holub
Kellye Hyde
Jeanne Otto Keeney
Wilburn Kramer—home
Nancy Kuebler

Frances Landers
Donna Kay Langton
Raquel (Condel) Levy
Frank Macik
Leighton McCafferty
Rina Mendoza
Alice Nestor
Kenneth "KB" Otto-home
Donette Paige
Mark Pawlecek
Martin and Charlie Pesak
Melissa Ramos
Judy Ross
Raeleigh Schlitzkus
Annette Schmidt
Jack Schneider
Patrick Schwartz
Jane Slaughter

Alberta Steffen
Roy and Barbara Steffen
Mary Ann Talley
Cayden Thomas
Tim Timmons
James Vogelsang
Maudie Walenta
Willie Wallick
Benita Walzel
Gilbert Walzel
Brendan Warncke
Courtney Warncke
Dee Wright
Cheryl Zwahr
Mary Zwahr—home

*Rejoice always, pray continually,
give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
Thessalonians 5: 16-17*

Please notify the Pastor, or the Church Office with any updates to this list.
Let us share in your Joys or Concerns!

NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

If you have joined the Immanuel Church Family and have not filled out a New Member Information Sheet with your current contact information, birthday, anniversary, baptismal date, etc. please be sure and pick up a Membership Information Sheet. They will be located at both entrances to the Sanctuary, or contact the church office at 979-793-6125.

JULY ATTENDANCE

July 31 208
August 7 180
August 14 210
August 21 134
August 28 202

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

September 4 Landon Schultz-Zwahr, Tucker Novosad
September 11 Ainsley Otto, Ryann Kolkmeier
September 18 Craig Todd, Chance Legendre
September 25 Keaton Ley, Dalton Novak

Bill and Gail Royster

2103 Carriage Run West
Conroe, TX 77384
August 9, 2011

ATTENTION PARENTS OF NEW 8TH GRADERS!

If you are interested in having your son or daughter attend the 2011/2012 Confirmation Class, there will be a Parent Meeting on Wednesday, August 31st at 6:00pm. Classes begin Wednesday, September 7th at 6:00pm. . If your child will be attending confirmation this year, you need to be in attendance!

MOMENT FOR THE YOUNG

September 4 Cris Meyer
September 11 Marla Sebesta
September 18 Debby Wendt
September 25 Darrel Kramer

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.

FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION HELP NEEDED!

We are in need of volunteers to help with the Food Pantry Distribution on Monday mornings From 10:00—12:00pm.

Please contact the church office if you are able to help!

ATTENTION PARENTS OF YOUTH!

There will be a parent meeting for all participating youth on September 7, 2011 at 7:00pm. . If your child will be attending youth this year, you need to be in attendance!

Eighter's Alternative: If you were unable to attend the camp—you're in luck! All Tuesdays, starting August 23rd—October 25th we will meet at 6:30pm for approximately 1-1/2—2 hours to get you caught up. Please report any conflicts so we can make adjustments as necessary.

ARE YOU IN NEED OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?

Through the generous initial contribution of a church member, a new fund has been established to assist members and attenders of Immanuel United Church of Christ with any financial needs that they might experience. Virtually any and every kind of financial need is eligible for assistance.

Your confidentiality is assured. Here's how it works: Speak personally to Pastor Tom about your need. He will then submit the details of your need (but not your name or any other identifying information) to the members of the Mission and Outreach Committee: Leslie Kolkmeier, Bruce Oberhoff, and Debby Wendt. They will review this information and make a determination as to whether or not to provide assistance, and in what amount.

Pastor Tom will then make arrangements to have a check written on this account directly to the provider of the good or service. Again, no personal identifying information will be revealed. Pastor Tom will then personally deliver the check to you, and you may submit it to the good or service provider.

The Mission and Outreach Committee is very excited about this new opportunity to ministers to the needs of members and attenders of Immanuel. If you have any kind of need, please contact Pastor Tom, who will initiate the process to provide assistance.

Dear Friends, Colleagues, and Partners in the Ministry called Immanuel UCC;

In behalf of the Association, please accept our gratitude for all the ways you helped host the Annual Meeting of the South Central Conference. We all need to pat ourselves on the back, and give thanks to God, for a truly enriching meeting - one that was Spirit-filled, full of refreshment, renewal and recommitment!

Sooooooooo, THANK YOU !!!

My second reason for writing is to let you know the financial challenge the Association is placing before you and your congregation. As you know, from various communications, the Association approved a budget for 2011 totaling **\$ 12, 450.** This budget provides for our Association Minister, Rev. Tim Marquez, for seminary scholarships, other Association expenses, and mission support to Slumber Falls Camp and United Campus Ministries of Greater Houston.

Each of our congregations needs to provide at least **\$ 4.15 per member** and - based on the membership number sent to the Conference - of 713 the amount we hope to receive from your congregation for 2011 is at least :
\$ 2959.00

Our Budget for 2012 will be - **\$ 15,050**
This budget will require a per member amount of - **\$ 5.02 - per member.**
Hopefully, knowing this mission request for the Association will assist you in your budget planning for 2012.

Please present this letter and request to the appropriate board or committee in your congregation for action.

Thank you in advance for your continued support!

Dates to note - Sunday, Sept. 25 - Association Council meets at Bethel UCC

Sat. Oct. 29 - Fall Meeting at Immanuel UCC, Needville, a Workshop on

“Inviting People to Church” led by Rev. Ron Trimmer.

Watch for an announcement of a Children’s Ministry Workshop this Fall.

Blessings - and Peace to You !

Bill Royster, Moderator - Houston Association

Youth Postings!
 (Kindergarten - 12th)
 September 2011

August 17, 2011

Immanuel UCC
 PO Box 505
 Needville, TX 77461

Thank you!
Kelley Todd Roska
Director, CUE Seminaries

Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel UCC:

Chicago, United, and Eden Seminaries are dedicated to the ministry of preparing ministers in the United Church of Christ tradition. We educate clergy and lay leaders who serve congregations and communities around the world. In this challenging time, their ministries will require bold and creative initiatives. Support from congregations like yours is essential to preparing those called to lead in the United Church of Christ.

Quality theological education is essential for thriving congregations. The CUE Seminaries engage students holistically—mind, body, and spirit. We prepare leaders with diverse life experiences as we seek to meet the church's leadership needs. Our students are steeped in tradition, grounded in community, and open to God's call.

We are grateful to the many congregations that have supported theological education over the years at Chicago, United, and Eden. Your support has helped us prepare the very best leaders for our churches and we hope you will again make a gift in 2012. We also hope that congregations that have not yet participated in CUE support will consider doing so this year. Your financial partnership is an investment in the church's future. Your support for today's seminarians is an investment in tomorrow's ministers who will lead exciting ministries in our congregations and in the wider world.

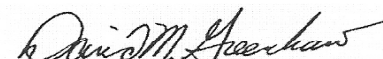
Yours in Christ,



Rev. Alice Hunt, President
 Chicago Theological Seminary



Rev. Mary McNamara, President
 United Theological Seminary



Rev. David Greenhaw, President
 Eden Theological Seminary

OPEN MARKET PLACE

The Open Market Place Committee will meet on Tuesday September 13th at 7:00 PM. Sheila Elster & Wendy Todd have volunteered as Chairmans of the Country Store. We would like to take this time to thank Theresa Schultz and Irma Gorka for all of their years of working the Country Store. Please be making your homemade items for the store.

In other news Mark Wendt will be heading up the raffle tickets this year. We would like to thank Mark Evans for his many years of handling the raffle tickets for us.

Open Market Place will be held Sunday, November 6, 2011. The meal will consist of turkey and dressing, ham and all of the trimmings. It will be catered by Ben's Chuckwagon of Wallis. Price of the meal will be \$8.00. Meal tickets & raffle tickets should be available around the middle of September. You will be able to get them on Sunday Mornings or pick them up in the Church Office between the hours of 8:00am – 12:30pm, Monday through Friday.

Confirmation: Parents of the new Confirmands, we are pleased to announce a brand new curriculum for your group. Please gather with Pastor Tom, Marla Sebesta, Debby Wendt, Cris Meyer and myself on **Wednesday, August 31st at 6:00pm** to receive most of the same as below, but also the details as they pertain to your specific group. Confirmands, Pastor Tom has found some pretty groovy stuff for all of you and we are excited to be bringing it to you. Remember, the **first class gathering for 2012 Confirmands is Wednesday, September 7th at 6:00pm.** We'll see you there!

Kindergarten - High School: All parents of youth club participants (Confirmation parents, please read above, but view meeting details here) please meet with us on **Wednesday, September 7th at 6:00pm.** This will be the formal introduction to our new curriculum and also when all the youth will be registered. This includes the schedule for the year, medical release forms, signing up for snacks/meals, curriculum dues (2nd – 7th only), and general information that would be most helpful to share with a group rather than a one-on-one basis. (I will be glad to meet privately also).

Crossroads Fall Retreat for 6th, 7th and 8th Graders:

September 23rd – 25th all 6th, 7th and 8th graders are encouraged to attend the weekend retreat with Rev. Madella Williams, lovingly referred to as "Mad Dog". The scripture theme is about the prodigal son. I'm sure it will be a blast all on its own, but there will also be ice skating! Hope you can make it! Be sure to get your forms filled out, NOTORIZED, and back to me by September 7th so I can have you registered in time. The cost is \$35. I do need at least one adult to attend this weekend event; as a baby tag-a-long is not on the guest list. Please and THANK YOU!

Youth OVER/UNDER Report:

This section is where I will be reporting how the clubs stand as far as meeting or exceeding the requested curriculum and food dues. There will no longer be statements sent out to individuals, however, if you would like to know your particular details, that will be available – just ask me for it and I'll be glad to look it up.

High School Leadership:

Are you interested in seeing certain things happen this new year in youth? Well you're in luck! Lots of new things ARE happening, but please send me your ideas and thoughts so we can do what YOU want to do. A committee is being formed of high school students that will help and eventually lead and make decisions concerning your youth group. Are you one of them?

YIP!

No that's not a cool call-out, it stands for "**Youth in Philanthropy**" and it is supported by The George Foundation. Those are the great folks who give out scholarships to those of you pursuing higher learning. Information is located online <http://www.thegeorgefoundation.org/>, by email dkoch@thegeorgefoundation.org, on my door, and in the education hallway. I can also forward you lots of good info on it if you are interested in checking it out. The deadline for applying is September 14th and only 100 juniors and seniors will be selected. Good luck!

Notes:

~Have you noticed a new piece of equipment in the youth game room??? If not, come check it out! **Don, Kelly, Garrett, Grant and Julie Arrington** donated a jammin' air hockey table with electronic scoring and all! Wednesdays I will take all the accessories out of hiding :) and it will be up and running along with the other games so I'll see you there.

Back in the groove,
 Shay-Shay. Questions, comments, concerns? shay@meyerranch.net (832) 595-4028 cell. Feedback always welcome.

September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Scouts 6-9pm	3
4 Worship/Communion 10:15am	5 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	6 Scouts 7-9 Leaps & Bounds MDO 8:30-2:30pm MDO Board Mtg 7pm	7	8 Leaps & Bounds MDO 8:30-2:30pm Scouts 6-9pm	9	10
11 RALL DAY Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am BBQ Luncheon Following Worship	12 Scouts 6-9pm Consistory 7pm	13 Leaps & Bounds MDO 8:30-2:30pm	14	15 Leaps & Bounds MDO 8:30-2:30pm Scouts 6-9pm Woodmen 6:30pm Brotherhood 6:30p	16 Women's Guild 2pm	17
18	19 Worship/ Evangelism 7:00pm	20 Leaps & Bounds MDO 8:30-2:30pm	21 Sr. Citizen Social @ Methodist 1:30pm	22 Leaps & Bounds MDO 8:30-2:30pm Scouts 6-9 Needville Feed Wildlife Present. 5:30-9:30pm	23	24
25	26 Scouts 6-9pm Mission/ Outreach 7pm	27 Leaps & Bounds MDO 8:30-2:30pm	28	29 Leaps & Bounds MDO 8:30-2:30pm Scouts 6-9pm	30	

WOMEN'S GUILD MISSION PROJECT

The Women's Guild is again sponsoring the school kit project and would encourage your participation and support. The project is initiated by South Central Conference and completion phase is at the next conference meeting June 2012. Please bring your items, with bags marked for mission project, so as not to confuse them with the food pantry. Since many items are currently on sale for several weeks before school, your dollar can purchase more.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE SCHOOL KITS: To be given to children in impoverished schools, refugee camps or difficult settings some of the basic tools for learning.

To assemble a School Kit you will need:

- One pair of blunt scissors (rounded tip)
- Three 70-count spiral or tape-bound 8"x10 1/2" ruled paper, for a total of 200-210 paper (no loose leaf paper, please.)
- One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
- One large eraser
- Six new pencils with erasers
- One box of 24 crayons (only 24)
- One 12" x 14" to 14 x 16" finished size cotton cloth bag with cloth handles

Your donations for any of these items or a complete kit will be appreciated. If there are any questions, please call Guild members or Erna Thielemann, 281-232-6321 or Lillie Richter, 979-793-4717.

THANK-YOU!

NEWS FROM THE LILY PAD

Leaps and Bounds

The 2011-2012 school year is here and in full swing! We just can't wait to see what this year has in store for us!

Our teachers have been working very hard to have everything ready for the new year.

We have been working on exciting new curriculum, art projects, songs and more!

The teachers have all updated their CPR training and are ready to go!

Several changes have been made to the Lily Pad this year and

we think you will all be as pleased as we are.

You will see some new faces along with some familiar ones as well.

Our new director will be Kim Fredrickson who we all know as Mrs. Kim, from the 3 year old class.

Dena Dick and Gina Weidemann are both happy to be back this year.

Mrs. Dena will be our Teacher's Aid

Mrs. Gina will be teaching our Pre-K class again.

We have two new teachers this year.

Stephanie Wood will be teaching the 3 year old class

Racheal Brumbelow will be teaching the 2 year olds.

They both have so much to offer and we know the kids will love them as much as we do!

We have such a wonderful staff and a terrific group of kids!

We know this is going to be a great year!!!