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September
Newsletter
2010



Rally Day is September 12th

Immanuel United Church of Christ

September 2010

Fred's Frazes...

*"Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me'". -
John 20:17*

In John's account of the resurrection, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed. She ran to tell the other disciples that someone had stolen His body. When Simon Peter and the other disciple saw that the tomb was empty, they simply returned to their homes. Mary, on the other hand, stood outside weeping. Jesus appeared to her in her grief and Mary thought he was the gardener. But when He spoke her name, she recognized Him. Perhaps Jesus saw that she was about to embrace Him, and it was then that He said, "Do not hold on to me". There's plenty of discussion among scholars as to whether He said that because He was present in more than a physical sense, or because He didn't want to be kept from completing His mission on earth. I'm just guessing, but I think Mary was trying to hang on to Him so that things could go back to the way they were. After all, we tend to do that with people we fear we're losing.

Let me make it perfectly clear that I'm in no way comparing myself to Jesus. On the other hand, some of you are experiencing some grief at losing your pastor to retirement. Part of the grief is due to the anxiety of losing someone familiar from the past as well as a little fear about what the future may bring. Whenever we face an uncertain future, there's a tendency to 'hold on' to the old and familiar. And while our natural tendency may be to hang on as tight as possible to the past, what we really need to do is "let go". This is particularly important when it comes to a change in pastoral leadership. Not only do you need to 'let go' of your old pastor, but you need to 'let go' of any preconceived ideas of what your new pastor should be like. Letting go not only allows the new pastor to function to the best of his ability, but it also opens the congregation to new possibilities in expanding and improving its ministry. This is also a good time to reflect on the past and ask ourselves, "What is it that we need to let go of in order to become a better and more effective church"? Another way to put it is, "What baggage do we need to get rid of that's holding us down and keeping us back"?



Now, I'm going to sound like I'm speaking out of both sides of my mouth, but I also think this is a good time to think about those things that we need to hang on to. Mary needed to let go of Jesus so that He could complete his mission and so that the church could move in a new way – and it did! But Mary's affirmation, "I have seen the Lord!" was something the church has hung on to ever since. Our faith tradition compels us to hang on to the preeminence of Christ, the authority of God's Word and the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit. And our unique and distinct ministry as a community of faith known as Immanuel United Church of Christ, calls us to continue hanging on to our commitment to provide Christian education and nurturing to our children and youth, to be a church that is open to the needs of the community, a church that is true to its tradition and yet is open to change, and a church that is somehow able to be casual, folksy, open, loving, flexible, etc., and still able to provide worship services that exalt God in all His holiness, mystery and awe.

The truth is, it's also going to be difficult for me to let go. I don't have a problem with letting go of the 24 hour responsibility of being a senior pastor. But I'll admit to having difficulty letting go of being Immanuel's pastor. You've been an absolutely wonderful congregation to pastor! And one of the ways I can let go is by hanging on to some great memories – one of the greatest of which was the day I was called to be your pastor. I've never regretted it and have always considered it an honor and privilege to be Immanuel's pastor. What else can I say except thank you, I love you all and God bless you!

Pastor Fred

Fred Banda
Senior Pastor
Cell # 281-239-5185

Rev. George R. Kuebler
Pastor Emeritus

Shay Meyer
Director Christian Ed

Leanne Bourgeois
Church Secretary

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September 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Leaps & Bounds CPR 9-11am	2 Leaps & Bounds MDO 8:30-2:30 Christian Ed Mtg. 7pm	3	4
5 Worship/Communion 10:15am	6 Worship & Evang. Mtg. 7:00pm	7 Leaps & Bounds MDO 8:30-2:30 Cub Scout Adult Mtg. 6:30p MDO Board Mtg 7pm	8 Confirmand/Parents Mtg. 7:00pm	9 Leaps & Bounds MDO 8:30-2:30	10	11
12 Worship 10:15am Rally Day BBQ Lunch 11:30a	13 Consistory 7p	14 Leaps & Bounds MDO 8:30-2:30	15 Sr. Social @ Meth. 1:30pm Youth Begins 4 th -5 th gr 4-5:30p 6 th -7 th /Confirm. 6-7:30p HS Yth 6:30-8:30p	16 Leaps & Bounds MDO 8:30-2:30 Woodmen 6:30p Brotherhood @ Schulze's 7pm	17 Women's Guild 2pm Garage Sale Pricing Items	18 Church Garage Sale 8am
19 Sunday School 9am Worship/AB Celebration 10:15am	20 Mission & Outreach 7pm	21 Leaps & Bounds MDO 8:30-2:30 Grace Food Distribution 1p	22 Youth Group 4 th -5 th gr 4-5:30p 6 th -7 th /Confirm. 6-7:30p HS Yth 6:30-8:30p	23 Leaps & Bounds MDO 8:30-2:30 Cub Scouts 6:30-8:30pm	24	25
26 Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15a	27	28 Leaps & Bounds MDO 8:30-2:30	29 Youth Group 4 th -5 th gr 4-5:30p 6 th -7 th /Confirm. 6-7:30p HS Yth 6:30-8:30p	30 Leaps & Bounds MDO 8:30-2:30		

FINANCIAL REPORT - MONTHLY

August 1 thru August 30, 2010

RECEIPTS:

Weekly Offering	19,177.00
Loose Offering	382.11
Bulletins	100.00
Building Use	525.00
Alliance/Payroll Tax	116.26
Upper Room	9.00
Food Pantry	20.00
Seminary	200.00
Slumber Falls Camp/registration refunded us	347.50
Children's Pennies	69.38
Sr., Citizen's reimbursed us	19.82
Leaps & Bounds - Lawn Mowing, 8 mos.	400.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS

21,366.07

INCOME - OTHER ACCOUNTS

Building Fund	6,011.00
Parking Lot \$5,441, Env. \$570)	6,011.00
Building Fund (Loans/Parking Lot)	40,000.00
Organ Fund	295.00
Memorial Fund	25.00
Cemetery Fund	180.00

TOTAL INCOME - OTHER ACCOUNTS

46,511.00

PARKING LOT - UPDATE

Balance, 7-31-10	\$31,149.82
August Donations	5,441.00
Loans received	40,000.00
Payments, to date on contract	(70,000.00)
Parking Lot Balance, 8-30-10	\$ 6,590.82
Loans to repay	40,000.00
Balance on contract	16,151.00
Balance needed to repay loans and bal. of contract	\$ 49,560.18

Note: A big THANK-YOU to those individuals who have loaned IUCC monies to proceed with paving project.

FORE!



That's what we suspect and expect we'll be hearing from Pastor Fred and soon. As his retirement fast approaches, some of us are feeling anxious. Even with insecurities about his leaving and what's coming, it seems most of us are looking forward to what the future holds and wishing PF a well deserved retirement and lots of time bonding with his beloved golf course.

We kid him about being too happy and counting down the days, but we know he will miss us! With that being said, we wish Pastor Fred and Teresa all the best...we will miss you both. The office just won't seem the same without you PF! Best wishes on your retirement, and, may God continue to bless you along your new journey!



DATES TO REMEMBER

September 8	Confirmand/Parents Mtg. (New or Incoming Confirmands)	7:00pm
September 12	Rally Day/BBQ Luncheon	
September 15	Sr. Citizen Social @ Methodist Youth Groups Begin	1:30pm 4:00pm
September 18	Mission/Outreach Garage Sale	8:00am
September 21	Grace Food Distribution	1:00pm
October 17	Confirmation Homecoming	
October 31	Confirmation	

OPEN MARKETPLACE

The Open Marketplace committee held their 1st meeting on Thursday August 5th. They discussed the plans for our 2010 Open Market Place to be held on November 7, 2010. The meal will consist of turkey & dressing along with ham and other sides, tea & dessert. The price for meal tickets will once again be \$8.00. Meal tickets and raffle tickets will be available to purchase and to sell around mid September. It is time to start thinking about auction items and items for the silent auction. We will need filled baskets for our basket raffle. The country store will be back and we will need items for that. We will be having our bake shop and the kid's games as well. We will put out our signs for Open Market Place around October 1st and ask that members once again pick up signs to put in their yards at that time. There will be more information coming to you in a separate mailing with regards to Open Marketplace. The next meeting will be held on October 12 at 7:00 PM.

OPEN MARKETPLACE COUNTRY STORE

Theresa Schultz (281-232-3059)
Irma Gorka (979-793-6892)

We need your donations again for the Country Store and your handmade items really sell great! Please bring your items to the KC Hall on Sunday morning AFTER 8:00am or bring before November 6th to the church between 8:00-12:30pm M-F. We would really appreciate you putting a price label on the things you have sewn, or a craft you have made, so that we can fairly price these. Also, label your canned goods, (i.e., Fig Jam)

Would whoever sewed the baby blankets last year please bring more to the Country Store. They were a big hit and some have asked who made them and would like for there to be more. Please call Theresa at the number above if you or someone you know made them.

Here are examples of good selling items: Canned Goods, Jellies & Jams, Holiday Items, Plants of all kinds, Crafts, Unique or handmade Kids' toys & Games, Stuffed Animals, Pillows, Afghans, Glassware, Figurines, Candles, Wooden Items, Homemade noodles, jewelry or baby items.

AUGUST ATTENDANCE

August 1	166
August 8	142
August 15	149
August 22	123
August 29	147

WELCOME!

Please welcome Melissa Holik, Melissa joined the church on August 15, 2010



BAPTISMS

Madisyn Holik
Baptized August 15th
Parents: Clifton & Melissa Holik

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

September 3	Lauren Archer, Kelsey Dixon
September 10	Reid Halbert, Chase Miller
September 17	Shae Blazier, Makenzie Raesner
September 24	Lauren Archer, Kelsey Dixon
September 31	Reid Halbert, Chase Miller

NEEDVILLE CITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE

The Needville City-Wide Garage Sale will be held Saturday and Sunday, September 18th & 19th
(Rain or Shine)

CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

The Consistory met on Monday, August 9, 2010 with 10 members present. Absent were Don Arrington, Mark Evans, Charlotte Hendrick, Leslie Kolkmeier and Garrett Arrington. Pastor Banda was also present. The treasurer reported the bank balance as of 7-31-10 was \$7,666.26. Parking lot balance was \$31,149.82. Reports were submitted by Pastor Banda and Shay Meyer. Pastor Banda reported on a very positive evaluation of Christian Education Director, Shay Meyer.

Activities reported by various committees included: Kitchen faucet repaired and two drains in front of education building fixed, bids on carpet cleaning and A/C maintenance still being considered and garbage pick-up bill has increased; Worship committee has been working on covering worship services until interim minister is found, an ad was placed in the paper for an organist and there will be an ice cream social with program by Mitchell Tillman Aug. 29th; Mission & Outreach Committee reported on the Mexico Mission Trip; Memorial Committee approved transferring \$5,000 to the parking lot fund; Christian Education Committee will have a Sunday School Swim Party August 15th and is planning Rally Day with barbeque dinner following worship Sept. 12; The Interim Search Committee and Search Committee have both received profiles and are planning interviews; the Brotherhood will meet at Schulze's Barbeque Aug. 19th and will help with the ice cream social by preparing hot dogs.

There was not old business to discuss. In New Business the Consistory gave the okay for Leslie Kolkmeier and Shay Meyer to organize the participation of Immanuel in the City Wide Garage Sale in September. The committee of Suzanne Mikeska, Carol Gerken and Pastor Banda gave a positive evaluation of Shay Meyer as Director of Christian Education. They pointed out that Mrs. Meyer was hired with the expectation of a 20 hour week, however, the job is requiring more like 30 hours a week. After discussion MOTION was made and passed to raise Say Meyer's salary by \$5,000 for the remainder of the year distributing it over five months.

Two building use requests were approved. In correspondence, Eden Seminary sent a thank you for financial gifts and Back Bay Mission sent a request for financial help. In Wider Mission, Consistory approved giving \$1,000 to OCWM and \$700 to Back Bay Mission. Meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer by Pastor Banda. (Complete and officially approved minutes of this meeting will be available after the September Consistory meeting.)

2010-2011 Sunday School Teacher Schedule

	<u>September</u>
Nursery	Cyndi Teykl
Nursery	Shawn Winkelman
K-1	Julie Halbert
2-3	Tammey Miller
4-5	Stacey Schodek
6-7	Kelly Dunk
Confirmation	Debby Wendt
High School	Shay Meyer
Adult 1	Becky Oberhoff/JoAnn Morton

IMMANUEL'S WOMEN'S GUILD

The Immanuel's Women's Guild met on Friday, August 20, 2010 with 14 members and one guest present. Jeanette Balcerowicz gave the program, opening with the hymn "Ere You Left Your Room This Morning". She read the 24th verse of Psalms 118, followed with a short story called "Daddy's Empty Chair" and "Life is a Gift", followed by a little "holy" humor. President Richter read an 1872 list of rules for teachers, brought by Willie Mae Tielke which were very strict rules.

President Richter called the meeting to order. Minutes were read and approved. Correspondence was read: a thank-you note and love gift of \$20.00 from Willie Mae and Melvin Tielke; a thank-you letter from Church World Service-the Blanket Fund-; a request from Back Bay Mission; and a thank-you letter from Global Ministries and a thank-you letter from Eleana Huelgal explaining her work in Chile. The treasurer's report was given.

President informed us that the back parking lot gravel was taken to the cemetery and a wider road was made. She said it looked very nice. Also she shared with us that she offers her Kroger scan letter to strangers so they can scan their Kroger card to help our Guild Fund.

Erna Thielemann reported she ordered 25 Poinsettia plants for Christmas and the price should remain the same as last year. Erna will call Laverne Tielke to come and share her slide show and tell us about her trip to the Holy Land. Everyone is invited.

Erna bought school supplies for next year's project and said we would need bags to place them in. We are to check around for best price, she will buy them. Viola Fuchs made a motion that we reimburse Erna. Ruby Poncik seconded the motion. Motion approved. Erna explained another project was to fill bags of things needed for personal hygiene. A list will be placed in upcoming newsletters.

Ora Lee Lamensky said her granddaughter made it into Eden's Seminary on time. She was having some health problems before.

Celebrating birthdays in August: Freda Klawitter, Ruby Lee Oberhoff, Kathryn Wellspring, Jeanette Balcerowicz, Carolyn Kaluza, and Viola Fuchs. Hymns sung: "What a Friend we Have in Jesus" and "There Shall be Showers of Blessings". Anniversaries: Olie and John Eixmann, Ora Lee and Clarence Lamensky and Jeanette and Julius Balcerowicz. Hymns sung: "Oh Jesus I Have Promised" and "I Am Thine Oh Lord".

Prayer Concerns: David & Tammy Miller, Van Wiedegardner, Albin & Ruby Lee Oberhoff, Julius Balcerowicz, John & Olie Eixmann, Lynn Roesler, Josh Alderman, Alice Bergen, Calvin Lamensky, Alice Petty and Ben Perez.

Meeting closed by joining hands and singing "Blessed Be the Tie That Binds" and praying "The Lord's Prayer".

Refreshments were served by Shay Meyer.

Jeanette Balcerowicz, Secretary

Youth Postings -

OH MY! WHERE DO I START?

Well...Sunday school is going to be in full swing on **RALLY DAY** which is **September 12, 2010**. All of our campers, volunteers, new and old teachers and such will be recognized during this service. We will also be presenting Bibles of their very own to all Kindergarten and 2nd Graders. What a very special day for these little ones. Then everyone be sure to join us afterward for a BBQ lunch. Please bring sides and desserts and let's make this Rally Day a really extraordinary one. It's also Pastor Fred's last official Sunday with us...hint...hint.

Mission and More (M&M) follow-up:

It was crazy fun, but we managed to throw in 3 M & M's all during the month of August (2nd, 11th & 16th)! Here's the recap...#1. Made greeting cards for the senior citizens living in a facility near the high school and personally delivered them with smiles and hugs, then headed off for Cici's Pizza and LazerZone in Sugar Land. #2. Cleaned out and organized the Sunday school closets then went to El Campo for lunch and bowling. #3. Loaded up and went straight to Splashway for most of the day. Those were all SOOOO much fun and if you didn't make it to any this year, we hope you can come along with us next summer. I would like to send a special shout-out to **Karen Gadway, Debby Wendt, and Suzanne Mikeska** for being willing and/or actually driving some of our groups around. We couldn't have done it without you! Thanks from the bottom of my heart!

Swim Party follow-up:

August 15th was the church-wide swim party. What a great group and we had so much fun, not to mention all of the yummy goodies everyone brought to share. The head count was around 40 which was way up from last year. Hope all of you enjoyed it as much I and my family did! Make plans to attend every year. It's not just for the youth ya know!?

Back 2 School Rally follow-up:

I had a wonderful time at the Back 2 School Rally on August 20-21st. No one from Immanuel was able to attend due to various reasons, but I can't wait until some of the other rallies happen. Details will go out on each function as soon as I get them, but the first one coming up is the opportunity to attend a TCU game. Let me know if you are interested.

Sunday School:

We have a very good jump start on filling all our Sunday school teacher positions. As of the time of this writing, we are still short at least 1 teacher for the regular school year. Three months each need to be filled for 2nd/3rd grade. These children need YOU! If God has placed it on your heart to be a servant in this area, then by all means pick up the phone and let us know. We really can't do it without all of us following the Holy Spirit in us urging us to do God's work for HIM.

Post cards are going out to all the members that we know of that are in Nursery thru 12th grade to remind you that Sunday school is right around the corner! Can't wait to see all of your smiling faces again!

Garage Sale:

All youth are requested to help out for a mission project. Thursday, September 16th - Saturday the 18th we are asking for help receiving, sorting, folding, organizing and in general being helpful for the upcoming city wide garage sale. Immanuel will be accepting donations to be sold by Immanuel for the purpose of Mission and Outreach projects and to send clothes, shoes and gently used toys to the Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries in Bayview, TX where we just built two casitas. Please make plans to come and help if you are willing and able.

Notes:

Are you a friend on FaceBook? NO, not with me! With Immanuel United Church of Christ. It's a great way to keep up with all the latest and greatest happenings with the church and also a way to keep up electronically with upcoming events and details that go with them. Oh! And you can be my friend on FB too. Just look me up.

Back in the groove!
Love, Shay-Shay

Questions or comments? shay@meyerranch.net or (832) 595-4028. Feedback always welcome. Thanks!

Additional contacts: Facebook: Shay Prestridge Meyer / Twitter: buttercupshay / (979) 793-7656 home

GARAGE SALE – SEPTEMBER 18th @ 8 a.m.

Our Mission & Outreach Committee is calling our Immanuelites to help put on a Garage Sale on Saturday, September 18th – this is on the weekend of the city-wide garage sale. You can help in several ways. You can donate garage sale items by bringing them to the church on Friday, September 17 (no large appliances and no junk, please). You can help sort out and price items on Friday and/or help with the garage sale on Saturday. Finally, if you have your own sale, you can bring your unsold clothes, shoes and gently used toys to the church Saturday afternoon. Proceeds from the garage sale will be used by the Mission & Outreach Committee to help one of its ministries. Also, clothes, shoes and toys will be taken to the Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries where they can be distributed and delivered to deserving and needy families on both sides of the border. If you have any questions or want to sign up to help, call the church office or call Shay Meyer or Leslie Kolkmeier.

What to DUE...

With youth dues this year let's try something different and see how it works. The youth, 4th – 12th grades, will meet 26 times during the school year (subject to possible changes) where snacks and meals will be served. What I have done is broken down the amounts into easier chunks. Ideally everyone will pay, but if someone is unable to afford the dues amount, please don't hesitate to let us know. A statement of dues received or unpaid will go out in January documenting September – December and another statement will go out in May documenting January – May. Please pay in the method that is most comfortable for you.

1 payment (September): \$26 – Snacks; \$78 - Meals

2 payments (Sept/JAN): \$13/\$13 – Snacks; \$39/\$39 Meals

Weekly \$1 – Snacks; \$3 Meals

Note: Dues help to offset mainly the cost of the food. No money collected from youth dues goes anywhere but to youth food or activities directly related to youth. Those of you that can afford to donate the snacks/meals you will be providing, it is much appreciated, but all food provided with a receipt is eligible for refund to that individual(s).

For your reference, below are all the dates we expect to meet this 2010-2011 school year.

September 15, 22, 29
October 6, 13, 20, 27
November 3, 10, 17
December 1, 8, 15
January 5, 12, 19, 26
February 2, 9 16*, 23 *Pancake Supper No Dues Just HELP!
March 2, 9, 23
April 6, 13
May 4 - PARTY

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



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

BROTHERHOOD

The Immanuel Brotherhood held its monthly meeting August 19th with a very good attendance at Schulze's Barbeque. Pastor Fred presented an essay on "Fatherhood" which was followed by a very sincere and thoughtful discussion by all the men in attendance. We decided that we would provide the hot dogs at the ice cream social Aug. 29th. Our next meeting will be September 16th at Schulze's. We are open to meeting at another location as long as we can have a separate room to meet and have our program. For the time being, Schulze's is as close to that as we can get!