As most of you know, Bishop Brown made his annual visitation to Immanuel Church on the Feast of the Epiphany. It was a wonderful time for celebration as we welcomed four new people into this part of the household of God – three through the sacrament of Confirmation and one through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. There was much for which to be grateful as the whole parish rallied ‘round these newest Immanuelpans acknowledging that each person brings his or her own special and unique gifts to the Body of Christ. The
whole liturgy and the wonderful and elegant reception which followed helped us to understand again Epiphany as the manifestation of Jesus as savior for the entire world.

We know that Jesus’s own public ministry confirmed that message of inclusion. He spent time with many who were outsiders to the established religious leaders of the day: tax collectors, lepers, and prostitutes, reminding us that no-one is beyond the redeeming love of God.

This continued after Jesus’s death, resurrection, and ascension in the ministry of Saint Paul, who acted on his belief that salvation was open to Gentiles as well as the Jewish people. His work changed the trajectory of the early Christian movement.

So, as we conclude Epiphanytide and prepare for our Annual Meeting, we are called to open our individual and collective hearts to include everyone but especially the quiet, the marginalized, the newcomer, those who aren’t normally “center stage”, to learn from them and be transformed by their presence, engagement, and leadership. The task before us is to seek out, welcome, and share power and prerogatives with those whom we find it all too easy to forget or dismiss.

We do that together as one body. The work of this parish is important and each of us has a role to play in the building up of Christ’s Kingdom in this place. I encourage each of you to attend the Annual Meeting this Sunday following one combined celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 9 am. This combined service is a sign of the interconnectedness of our common life and its rootedness in the Holy Eucharist. As we move forward in our life together, I hope that our parish will continue to feel our hearts stretch, grow, and fill as we discover the joy of offering and receiving, transforming and being transformed by the experience of Christ’s love in each other.

I remain faithfully your friend and priest,

Fr. Keene

**ANNUAL MEETING 1/27/19**

**Annual Meeting 1/27/19**

The Annual Parish Meeting immediately follows a combined 9am service, and will be held the Parish Hall, two blocks down Harmony Street from the church, heading towards the waterfront.

Please plan to attend as we elect the next class of Vestry members and discuss our parish community’s life together. Refreshments will be served. We look forward to seeing you there!
We are cutting down on our paper waste in an effort to lessen our impact on the environment, please find electronic copies of the documents that are distributed at the annual meeting below. There will still be paper copies available, but we encourage you to access these documents electronically during the annual meeting. There is WIFI access in the parish hall, details are posted in the building. All items will also be emailed to the parish before the annual meeting.

Agenda
Minutes from 2018 Annual Meeting
Stewardship Information
General Budget Information
Pledge per Fiscal Year
Ministries, Guilds, and Committees List
By Laws
Gift Policy
Facilities Policy
St. Anne's Report

The Treasurer’s Report will be available as a paper copy at the Annual Meeting, and electronically from the office from Monday 1/28/19.

The Parish Directory is available to download here, if you need a paper copy they are available in large print and pocket sized at the meeting. Please contact the office if you need a print out.

Epiphany and the Bishop's Visit

Pictures provided by Mark Bacher and Valerie Long
The Curate: Annual Meeting 1/27/19, photos from the Bishop's visit, and more!
In last Sunday's readings, we heard the following from 1 Corinthians:

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."
These few lines beautifully capture a fundamental truth about what it means to be part of the covenant we share with God - that all of the gifts with which we are endowed are given to us through God and are meant to be shared for the betterment of all. Each of us is an active contributor to our communal life in ways both big and small. What is more, when we share our gifts, we are actually shining a light on the goodness of God and of God's grace, quite literally acting as a manifestation of that holiness. Paul's words are eminently comforting. He says to us: you are not lacking, you have all you need, all is provided to you because you are a child of God and the Spirit works through you.

This coming Sunday, we will hear about next steps for Stewardship. As we move forward, let us ground ourselves in this message from Paul. God provides all that we need. The gifts that we receive from the Spirit may come in different forms and in different ways, but all are from that same source. It is up to each of us to listen carefully to discern how we may individually manifest the Spirit for the common good.

Peace,
Mary Nash

EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES

In-Reach Committee:

Father Chris established a new group at the last Vestry Retreat referred to as the In-Reach Committee. The mission of the group is to stay in contact with parishioners that are unable to attend Mass and other parish functions due to life changes.

All members of Immanuel are members of this group. Mark Bacher, Bruce Burk, Eileen Burk, Camille Foster, Harold Garber, Jeff Meadows, Patricia Moy, Melanie Samardza, Joyce Wells, Father Keene, and Samantha Parfitt-Simpson are responsible for connecting with referrals made by members of the parish.

If you notice that someone is missing from church for several weeks or hear that someone is sick, please tell one of the people listed above or contact Samantha at 302-328-2413.

- Bruce Burk

Do your New Year's resolutions include a desire to do more to help others? Do you like the warm feeling of serving others a delicious hot meal? If so, you're in luck: we are looking for volunteers to help staff our lunch service at the Emmanuel Dining Room locations in both New Castle and Wilmington.

We have an especially urgent need for volunteers in February and March - the fact that the 18th of each of these months is also the third Monday has us serving both locations on the same day. That means about 300 lunches in two places over the course of one hour!

We are ready and equipped to handle the need - we have the food and the know-how - but we need your hands to help do the preparation and serving. No training or expertise is required, just a willingness to serve.

Please let Mara Gorman know if you are available to help from 11:45 to 1 on Monday February or March 18. (maragorman@gmail.com or 302-690-7520)

- Mara Gorman

Learn more about Emmanuel Dining Room
Immanuel Calendars are now available

Our wonderful calendar is back for 2019!

Available for $20 from Matt Kinservik, this calendar will make a great gift for yourself and loved ones, and will see you all the way through until next year.

An Important Announcement

As many of you know, our dear friend and honourary Immanuellian Vivian White is currently in recovery following an automobile accident. While she continues to heal we foresee the need for volunteers to staff the nursery.

Beginning this Sunday you will find a sign up sheet for that purpose in the Academy, and we hope that parishioners will be generous with their time.

If you volunteer we ask that you remain present in the nursery area until the service has begun; however if there are no children present you may join the service. The nursery is open on Sunday mornings from 9:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Children from infancy through four years of age are welcome.

Thank you all for everything you all do for Immanuel,

- Fr. Keene

PARISH HAPPENINGS

Have you got Saturday March 2nd- 6:00 clear on your 2019 Immanuel calendar? It's our Mardi Gras Stews and Brewsevent! Keep your eyes peeled for more information in future issues.

Next Movie Discussion Night
Saturday, February 2

We will gather together for our next Movie Discussion Night at 6 PM on Saturday, February 2 at the home of Barbara and Jim Whisman, 10 Dalby Alley in New Castle.
The film to watch before you come is "Call Me by Your Name". In 1983 17-year old Elio is spending the summer at his family's 17th century villa in Italy. Besides exploring music and reading, Elio comes face-to-face with questioning his sexuality. How does it work out for him?

Bring a dish or refreshment to share and come ready to talk about the social and religious questions raised by the story and the values it highlights.

SERVICES AT IMMANUEL

Did you know we hold Mass every Sunday, Wednesday, and Thursday at Immanuel Church on the Green? Of course you did, but just in case, our service schedule is:

Sunday
- 8am - Said Mass
- 10am - Sung Mass
- 7pm - Compline

Wednesday
- 9:30am - Said Mass

Thursday
- 6pm - Said Mass

**From Sunday October 28th we will have large print bulletins available. Please contact the office if you would like a large print bulletin each week so we can make sure we have enough available!**

Compline continues every Sunday at 7 p.m.

This includes holiday weekends, summer Sundays, ordinary and extraordinary days.

The service of Compline is said each Sunday evening at 7 pm, in the church. Compline is the final service of the canonical hours, and it is a brief fifteen-minute offering of prayers, psalms, and canticles. Lay persons as well as clergy take turns leading the service. Please consider making this quiet, contemplative service a part of your own spiritual discipline; so far we have completed 40 consecutive weeks of the service.

We are looking for more people to volunteer with setting up and leading Compline. If you would like to take a turn leading Compline, or to volunteer to light the 60+ candles before the service, please contact Father Keene on (302)328-2413, or Jo Harney on (302)598-0858.
STAY CONNECTED

The FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out) struggle is real. If you haven't already, be sure to follow us on Twitter and Instagram. Don't forget this weekend!
Stay up to date on all the latest happenings by visiting our website.

Immanuel on the Green | 100 Harmony Street, New Castle, DE 19720

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