

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWS

April 2009

418 W. 4TH STREET, SEDALIA, MO. 65301 Church Office: 660-826-3553 Parsonage: 660-827-2416

E-mail: iuccsedalia@charterinternet.com

Website: www.iuccsedalia.com

Reverend Brady E. Abel, Pastor

Minerva Taylor, Office Manager & Editor

John Kritos, Organist

Larry Whipple, Sexton

FROM YOUR PASTOR

There has been a great deal of joy around Immanuel these past few days. On Easter Sunday we joyfully celebrated the amazingly good news of Jesus Christ's resurrection at the Son has risen service (7:30) and at the traditional worship service (10:30). In between the two services we enjoyed a delicious breakfast and watched as the children went on an Easter egg hunt that brings new meaning to the word abundance. What a magnificent day!

Then on Sunday April 19 we had a day of joy and laughter as we celebrated Holy Humor Sunday which is a growing tradition in churches across the country. The idea of Holy Humor Sunday is rooted in the activity of observing days of joy and laughter with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. This practice extends back many centuries and is again being lifted up. Now I have to say, having joy and laughter at Immanuel is not unusual, but it's great having a day set aside to give thanks for God's gift of humor.

On that note, here's a funny story I ran across this week: *A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons Kevin and Ryan aged 5 and 6. The boys began to argue about who would get the first pancake. The mom saw an opportunity for a lesson. She said to the boys, "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait.'" At which point Ryan turned to Kevin and said, "Kevin, you be Jesus!"(HolyHumorSunday).*

What a great reminder this Easter Season to smile and that we are all called to be the body of Christ. Be blessed by the gifts of love and laughter.

Pastor Brady



Inside this issue:

Pastor's Report	2
Council News	3,4
Parish Nurse News	5
Sunday School News	6
View from Open Door	6
Scriptures	8
Prayer Concerns	9



Pastor's Report – Immanuel United Church of Christ - Council Meeting – April 4, 2009

Worship – Palm Sunday and communion was celebrated on April 5. Maundy Thursday service will be April 9 at 7:00 p.m. Easter services are April 12 at 7:30 and 10:30. Please plan to attend. Make note, the May service of Holy Communion will be May 10 (second Sunday).

Pastoral Care – Calls continue as needed. I am currently visiting all homebound members serving communion for Easter.

Community Activity – I have attended sponsorship training for Missouri Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Immanuel has been approved by the state for SFSP in 2009. We are currently working with Wesley Methodist to be an additional site for Food 4 Kids. Taylor Chapel will be participating with Food 4 Kids again this year on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The IUCC magnets have been delivered to the Chamber of Commerce for distribution.

Committee Meetings – Christian Education has met since the last council meeting. Health and Wellness and Outreach are both scheduled to meet before the next council meeting.

Congregational Activity Review – Breakfast will be served between worship services on Easter and the children's Easter Egg Hunt will follow breakfast.

The adult Lenten study group has completed our study. We had insightful discussions.

The Sedalia community fitness challenge has concluded. Congrats to all who participated. Thanks Health and wellness committee for sponsoring and Julie Bales for coordinating.

Please check out the updated IUCC website at www.iuccsedalia.com and thanks to Dee Cain for being our new web site coordinator.

Congregational Goals for 2009 – We continue to prayerfully seek where God is calling us to be as a faith community. The evangelism committee will further develop and implement plans with council and congregational support.

UCC Update – Western Association meeting is April 18 in Concordia. Leora Bremer and myself will be attending. We are entitled to one additional delegate.

UCC General Synod is June 26 – 30 in Grand Rapids, MI. Rev. Geoffrey Black is being nominated as the new General Minister and President of the UCC. Negotiations at the national office have ended in regard to streamlining national governance. This will be a topic for discussion at General Synod.

The conference biennial meeting will be Oct 30 – November 1 in Independence, MO.

Personal – I plan to use a continuing education day for the Herbst/Spring Convocation event at Eden Seminary on April 13 with world renowned theologians Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crosson. Martha Grace Reese, author of "Unbinding the Gospel" which the Immanuel study group just finished discussing will also be present. I will use seven continuing education days for Israel April 28 – May 7. I have vacation scheduled from May 18 – May 25.

COUNCIL MINUTES (unapproved)

Council President Leora Bremer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance were Leora Bremer, Wayne Baleslee, Kevin Bogert, Gary Case, Phil Gerlt, Tim Harster, Carol Knight, John Kritos, David Moore, Carole Weese, and Pastor Brady Abel.

Pastor Brady shared readings from Habakkuk 2:20 and Matthew 26:62. Pastor Brady spoke of the value of silence as we go through these busy times and the council observed a period of silent prayer.

Gary noted an error in the minutes of the last meeting, the Treasurer's Report, in Benevolence there should have been a balance of \$1248.50. Carol Knight made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting with the correction, Kevin seconded and the motion carried.

Financial Reports:

OCWM - Pastor Brady reported that a report has come out from the conference for the 2008 giving to OCWM. About 5 percent of the increase in giving from the Western Association came from Immanuel.

Treasurers Report– Gary reported that committed giving has increased from last year and is at \$15,793.25 year-to-date and loose offering continues to be strong. Total expenses year-to-date are in line at approximately 25 percent of budget. The proceeds have been distributed from the chili supper by the pre-determined percentages. The loose offering is \$388.19 year-to-date. Discussion was held about the use of the "loose offering."

Gary reported that loose offering is deposited in the general fund.

Memorial Fund–Carol reported that no memorials were received in the month of March. The Certificate of Deposit at Excel Bank renewed in March for 13 months at a rate of 2.73%. Earned interest for the C.D. was \$112.41. A correction was noted in the total checking account balance and correction was made.

Improvement & Maintenance – Wayne reported \$13,330.12 in income for the month of March. Disbursements included a payment of \$85.30 to Meyer Plumbing for the installation of the backflow device.

Kevin moved to accept the financial reports, Dave seconded and the motion carried.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Brady presented the Pastor's Report. See the report for additional information.

Committee Reports:

Fellowship – Leora reported that the committee will host the Easter breakfast which will include "fruit and goodies". There is a signup sheet for fruit and sweet rolls posted.

Improvement & Maintenance – Wayne reported that we need to renew the agreement for the maintenance of the termite traps. The cost is \$320.00 for a year. Gary moved to renew the agreement for the termite traps, Carol Knight seconded and the motion carried. Wayne reported that they will be starting work on the installation of the sump pump in the basement and the repairs on the hood over the stove next

week. Discussion was held regarding leveling the sidewalk on the south side of the church by the parsonage. Wayne will look into estimates. Discussion was held about the priority list. Wayne reported that they have made no further progress on the list of priorities. Leora made some suggestions for the list to include the furniture and carpet in the lounge, repairs to the parsonage, and consideration for future replacement of the carpet in the sanctuary. Gary reported that due to inclement weather, the crew for the stained glass window project has been delayed in starting, but he anticipates the start of the project to be sometime after Easter.

Evangelism – Carol Knight reported that the committee met on March 5 and they will be hosting a fellowship coffee every Sunday from 9:30 am to 10:15 a.m. The first fellowship coffee will be April 19th. The committee will host the first five Sundays, after which there will be a sign up sheet. Carol reported that the "Dinner and a Movie" event was held after being rescheduled and had 10 in attendance and 2 of those were guests. They will try to do something once a month going forward.

Outreach – No Report

Worship & Music– John reported that the committee will meet in May.

Stewardship –Discussion was held about updating the current QuickBooks program and it was decided to retain the current version.

(cont'd on page 4)

(cont'd from page 3)

Christian Education - Carole Weese reported that the committee met March 16 and discussed the church picnic which is scheduled for May 31. They also discussed the ice cream social scheduled for June featuring some kind of ice cream competition. The dates for Vacation Bible School will be July 13-17.

Health & Wellness - Leora reported she will be scheduling class for CPR and use of the AED soon.

Technology - Gary presented proposal from current copier supplier for replacement of copy machine. The company is willing to buy us out of our remaining lease. We would get new machine which is a printer copier fax all-in-one unit. The new cost would be \$2800. Tim suggested we could purchase a Brother color laser multi-function printer for around \$800. Tim recommended we finish out the lease on the current copier and make alternative arrangements at that point. The current lease expires in September of 2010. The maintenance agreement on the leased machine is approx 1 \$1000 per year and we will have to pay that again in September if we do not accept the new agreement.

Pastoral Relations - No Report.

Food 4 Kids - Discussion was held regarding the 2009 Summer Food for Kids Program. John made a motion to proceed with the Food for Kids program this summer, Kevin seconded and the motion carried.

Executive Committee - No Report

Old Business:

The Executive Committee will review membership rolls in the next few months.

The Biennial Missouri-Mid South Conference meeting will be Oct. 30-November 1, 2009. We need to select delegates so they can be-

come familiar with the issues that are to be discussed at the meeting. There are suggestions for restructuring and reorganizing the conference

General Synod 27 will be held from June 26-30, 2009 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. According to the By-Laws the church will pay the expenses of a member attending as a visitor. Room reservations have already been made.

New Business:

Pastor Brady and Leora Bremer will attend the Western Association Meeting at Concordia on April 18. Anyone else who is interested is invited to attend.

Leora recommended to the council that Immanuel participate in a "creating partnerships" event between churches that will involve the construction of a prayer cloth. We will receive details regarding how to create the candle cloth that will be exchanged at General Synod with another U.C.C Church. Carol Knight moved to accept Leora's recommendation to participate in the candle cloth event, Kevin seconded and the motion carried.

The May council meeting is scheduled for May 11.

Pastor Brady led the council in the Lord's Prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

John Kritos, Secretary

Fitness Challenge 2009

Immanuel was represented by three teams/24 persons, in the 2009 community fitness challenge hosted by SFCC. The teams walked a total of 2,631 miles and lost a total of 101.25 pounds.

Carol Case guessed the total miles the closest with her guess of 3,000 miles and Leora Bremer guessed the weight loss the closest with her guess of 100 pounds.

Our final rankings in miles walked from the 74 teams in the challenge, the IUCB Brady Bunch was team 25, the IUCB God Squad was team 31 and the IUCB Glory Walkers were team 35! Kathy Smith (God Squad) walked the most miles from Immanuel followed closely by Loretta Langkrah Edwards (Brady Bunch), and Kris and Carol Knight (Glory Walkers).

Immanuel will be starting our own fitness challenge that will be beginning shortly. In this event you can count exercise of your choice and earn a point for each 15 minutes you exercise with a limit of 28 points a week. Your activity can be walking, running, biking, yard work or chair exercises. The goal is to get more of us **MOVING!** Let Julie Bales know if you are interested in being on a team. There will be a pizza party soon to celebrate the challenges!

Julie Bales

"MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS"

The Evangelism Committee's next activity will be to attend the Liberty Center's presentation of "Meet Me in St. Louis" **Friday, May 15th** at 7:30 p.m. Please notify the church office or Lynda Hartman if you would like to attend. We encourage you to invite a friend to join us.

PARRISH NURSE NEWS

Allergies

Seasonal allergies can be a real nuisance; I know from experience. I get a runny nose, take an antihistamine to stop the runny nose and then I get a dry mouth. There doesn't seem to be a happy medium and some days are worse than others. It is hard to know what triggers the symptoms, if I knew maybe I could avoid the stimulus. I do know from testing that I am allergic to several foods and avoiding or limiting these foods eliminates the allergic symptoms.

Unfortunately, allergies are becoming much more prevalent and more Americans are continually developing allergy related conditions. The usual symptoms are runny nose; watery eyes; sneezing; nasal congestion; and itchy nose, mouth, throat, eyes and ears. If you have started experiencing any of these symptoms talk to your health care provider. Sometimes all it takes to alleviate the symptoms is an over the counter antihistamine. For more stubborn cases a prescription med or injections may be needed.

Allergies can be related to dust, mites, pollen, mold, grasses, food and animals. It is also becoming evident that pollutants like latex, cigarette smoke, paints, cleansers, pesticides and other chemicals can trigger allergic responses.

With the increase in food allergies labeling laws now require food packaging to include

the ingredients that may cause a reaction. Checking labels is one way to avoid an irritant.

Reactions can be so severe that the person can develop a life-threatening reaction called anaphylaxis in which the blood pressure drops, the throat begins to swell impairing breathing, the skin turns pale or blue and the pulse is weak. The victim can pass out or go into shock, this is a medical emergency.

The immune system becomes involved in this allergic response. The first time a person encounters a substance the immune system generates antibodies that will recognize this substance the next time it is encountered. One type of antibody helps the person develop an immunity to the substance; another type of antibody causes a reaction when the substance is encountered.

People who know they are highly allergic to a substance and can develop anaphylactic shock may carry an "Epi Pen" with them. This is a syringe that has medication to counteract the effects of anaphylaxis. The person or someone else presses the pen hard against their thigh and pushed on the plunger to inject the medication. Clothing does not need to be removed to do this. The medication should alleviate the symptoms but the person needs to seek immediate medical treatment as the medication will wear off in about 15 minutes.

Bee stings

If you are stung by a bee, scrape the area with a flat object like a credit card to remove the stinger,

do not pinch the area. Apply a cold compress to the area. Consult your health care provider about using antihistamines or topical steroids, such as hydrocortisone cream for local reactions.

Mosquito bites

They are especially pesky after dark so you may want to stay indoors. When outdoors, avoid perfume, wear clothing that covers as much skin as possible and use a DEET containing insect repellent. Try to avoid insect areas, such as places with standing water which is a breeding ground for mosquitoes. If stung use the same treatment as for bee stings.

Hope your spring and summer is free of stings and allergies.

Leora Bremer
Parish Nurse

Sources: "Summer Allergies" *Health Monitor at Home*, March 2008, pp.20-23

"Special Report: Allergy nation" *Woman's Day*, April 14, 2009, pp. 63-68

Any information written in Parish Nurse news is not intended as a substitute for professional medical advice. Consult your health care provider concerning your individual health care needs or in emergency situations seek medical assistance immediately.



Open Door Food Pantry - Jeff Bremer, Jane and Herman Meiseneheimer, and Gary and Carol Case upheld the Immanuel United Church of Christ's tradition of working the Open Door Food Pantry the second Monday of the month. Even being somewhat short-handed, we did a pretty good job of helping the Food Pantry staff supply God's less fortunate with items they

need to have a better standard of living. Carol worked in the Pantry pulling items to be given out and the rest of the group sacked up a 1000# of potatoes into family packs to be handed out and then we finished the rest of the day cutting off box top labels to be given to the schools for needed supplies.

The Pantry continues to struggle to find sufficient food items and distribution help to cover the requested needs. Any amount of help between 8:30 am and 2:00 pm (You can sit to do many of the needed tasks to be done), and donations of food items are greatly appreciated.

Gary Case for
Betty Guth

SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

In May as the Sunday School year wraps up, the children will focus on trusting that Jesus cares for and protects everyone and he connects us together as the church. They will also hear from Jesus how working together we can bring God's love to the world and that prayer is important to us in the church. The teachers in May are Lynda Hartman and William Gerlt. The offering will be collected for St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Immanuel UCC was alive the night in March as 27 children had a lock-in at the church. There were games, music, a little America Idol, movies, popcorn, ice cream sundaes and very little

sleep. For one of the games, the children had to find designated eggs that had items from the Easter story in them and then they worked together to get the items in order to tell the story. A good night of fun for the children as the church was full of excitement.

THANKS to all to filled Easter Eggs for the children for the Egg Hunt on Easter morning. We did not have the snow of 2008, but it was cool out there as the children looked for hundreds of Easter Eggs! Thanks to those who helped to hide the eggs.

Upcoming Events

There will be a Sunday School picnic **May 31** at Liberty Park at 5:30. Each family is asked to bring a dish for the meal. Table

service, hotdogs, buns and drinks will be provided. **EVE-RYONE** is invited to come enjoy an evening of fellowship in the park!!

June 9 at 7:00 we will gather at Leisure Park for a round of miniature golf.

June 20 at 6:00 will be an Ice Cream Social/Challenge with a light supper. There will be a free will offering.

July 13-19 we will have Camp Immanuel VBS God is With Us! If you are interested in helping in anyway, please let Pastor Brady or Julie Bales know.

Julie Bales

THIS AND THAT

Dear IUCC,

We gratefully acknowledge your donation of \$913.00 dated March 26, 2009. Thank you for your generous support to our ministry.

Open Door Ministries

We want you to know that we appreciated your letting Lynn Burch borrow your tables and chairs during our celebration of life for my brother, Ronnie Berry.

God bless you,

The Berry Family

Church Women United will be hosting "**May Friendship Day**" on Friday, May 1, 2009 at 12:00 noon at First United Methodist Church Celebration Center, 1701 W. 32nd St. The tickets are \$7.00. Joyce Williams will have tickets available until April 26th.

OOPS!! Austin Bullerd was left out of the honor roll students last newsletter. Austin made the honor roll for 7th Grade at SMS. He also received the "7th Grade Student of the Quarter" for 3rd quarter. **CONGRATULATIONS**, Austin

BIRTHDAYS

May 1 - Kathy Dority Samantha Stetzenbach	May 6 - Leora Bremer Ruby Stanfield	May 13 - Kathy Smith
May 2 - Tommy Lewis Rhoda Moore Rebecca Bogert	May 9 - Tim Harster May 10 - Kenny Collier Mary Treuner	May 20 - Ruth Bremer May 21 - Marie Hunter Eldon Leiter
May 5 - Melyssa Gawedzinski	May 11 - Rick Hunter May 12 - Marie Zimmerschied	May 29 - Sam Mehan May 30 - Dee Cain Raymond Fieth

ANNIVERSARIES

May 5 - John & Lori Moore	May 12 - Eldon & Ellie Leiter	May 26 - Mike & Christa Albin
May 9 - Larry & Connie Grotzinger	May 20 - Michael & Marie Ahn	May 28 - Gerald & Betty Holman
May 10 - James & Mary Bottoms		

EVENTS

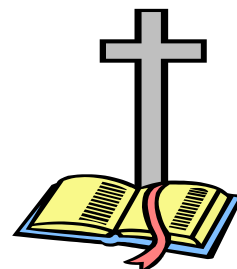
May 1 - Church Women United "Friendship Day"	May 12 - 5:30 pm - Evangelism Meeting
May 10 - Communion Sunday Blood Pressure Sunday	May 15 - Open Door thrift Shop
May 11 - 7:00 pm Council Meeting Open Door Food Pantry	May 17 - 1:30 pm - Music/Worship Comm. Meet.
May 12 - Food-4-Kids Training for Coordinators at Wesley Methodist Church	May 25 - Memorial Day
	May 26 - Food-4-Kids Program starts at IUCC
	May 27 - 7:00 pm - Mission/Outreach Meeting
	May 31 - 5:30 pm. - Sunday School Picnic

MAY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Lectionary Readings

May 3:	Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18	May 17:	Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 98 1 John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17	May 31:	Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Romans 8:22-27 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
May 10:	Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:25-31 1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8	May 24:	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 Psalm 1 1 John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19		



SHARING OUR TALENTS FOR MAY 2009

USHERS AND COMMUNION

Sam and Diane Mehan

LITURGISTS

May 3 - Steve Cain

May 10 - Dee Cain

May 17 - John Kritos

May 24 - Joyce Williams

May 31 - Don Barbour

ACOLYTES

May 3 - Madison Knight

May 10 - Paige Staus

May 17 - Allie & Megan Wilbanks

May 24 - Kylie Bales

May 31 - Madison Knight

GREETERS

May 3 - Robert & Helga Treuner

May 10 - Clancy Leiter

May 17 - Irma Weyer

May 24 - Ardean Rulfs

May 31 - Don & Betty Carpenter

FLOWERS

May 3 - Phil Gerlt family

May 10 - Julie Bales

May 17 - Don & Carolyn Barbour

May 24 - Diane Mehan

May 31 - CAN YOU ??

NURSERY

CAN YOU HELP IF NEEDED???

We have had several in the hospital this past month. Ernie Keele and Charlotte Cooper, who have been attending Immanuel recently spent several days in the hospital. They are both home doing well.

Helen Deuschle spent several days in Bothwell Health Center and is now at Rest Haven Convalescent and Retirement Home, 1800 S. Ingram, Sedalia, Mo.

Several members have had family ill. B. J. Tegtmeyer's mother and brother, Cindy Gerlt's mother, Melody Freeman, and Bethany Wilson, daughter of Dale and Cindy Wilson have all been in our prayers this month.

Shirley Embry, a former member and friend of Immanuel, passed away on March 26, 2009 at Katy Manor Nursing Home in Pilot Grove. She was given Christian burial on March 30 at the Pilot Grove Community Church. Shirley is survived by her husband, Dean, one daughter, two step-sons, and 2 brothers.

Bob Haggard is planning more surgery. Please keep him and Karen in your prayers.

Arlen Joy recently had heart surgery. He is home and recovering. Please keep him and Juanita in your prayers.

Please remember in prayer those of our church family unable to attend worship service regularly. Also we remember that some prayer needs go unspoken. Let us be mindful of all who might be in need of prayer.

REMINDER: Check out our updated website at www.iuccsedalia.com. There is a place on the website to enter prayer needs.



FOR YOUR GOODNESS

(Taken from "Power for Life" Bible)

O Lord, you are good!

You have given me everything I need.

You have given me life:

I am alive and therefore have another
Opportunity to be all that I can be—
I have only to open my arms to grasp it.

You have given me beauty:

I am surrounded by your lovely
handiwork—
I have only to open my eyes to see it.

You have given me love:

Your Son, Jesus Christ, came that I
Might be filled with his love —
I have only to open my heart to feel it.

So, Lord, today, help me to grasp
The opportunities you bring my way.
Open my eyes to see your beauty
And give me the courage to open my heart to
your love.

Amen.