

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWS

November 2009

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

E-mail: iuccsedalia@charterinternet.com

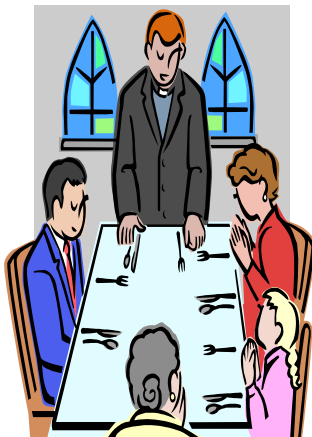
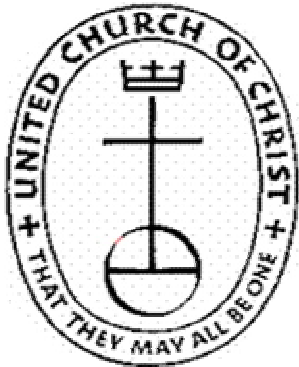
Website: www.iuccsedalia.com

Reverend Brady E. Abel, Pastor

Minerva Taylor, Office Manager & Editor

John Kritos, Organist

Larry Whipple, Sexton



FROM YOUR PASTOR

A friend recently said that we should take a moment everyday through Thanksgiving and concentrate on one item for which we are thankful. I thought that was a really good idea and for these past days have been thinking about one item a day. Then I got to wondering, imagine if we did this all year. Would there be 365 unique items that we could lift up with thanksgiving? Maybe 365 wouldn't cut it and we would have two items a day. Does 730 (that would be 2 items a day) sound like a more realistic number? We should try this all year and see what happens. At this same time next year we can talk about how our thanksgiving lists have developed.

With the thought of giving thanks, and in keeping with a bit of a tradition that I have started by sharing a thanksgiving prayer in this November edition of our newsletter each year, I offer this prayer that I found on www.about.com. It's a prayer by Scott Wesemann edited by me. *Happy Thanksgiving! Pastor Brady*

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*Lord, so often times, as any other day
 When we sit down to our meal and pray
 We hurry along and make fast the blessing;
 Thanks, amen. Now please pass the dressing.
 We're slaves to the olfactory overload
 And we rush our prayer before the food gets cold.
 But Lord, I'd like to take a few minutes more
 To really offer up what I'm thankful for;
 My family, my health, a nice soft bed,
 My friends, my freedom, a roof over my head.
 I'm thankful right now to be surrounded by those
 Whose lives touch me more than they'll ever possibly know,
 Thankful Lord, that You've blessed me beyond measure and
 Thankful that in my heart lives life's greatest treasure,
 That You, Holy One, reside in that place
 And I'm ever so grateful for Your unending grace.
 So I say thank you Heavenly Father for all you provide
 And ask that you bless each and every person world-wide. Amen.*

Pastor's Report – Immanuel United Church of Christ - Council Meeting – October 26, 2009

Worship – Funeral service for Ralph Linhardt were Wednesday October 21 with a funeral luncheon served at the church following the burial. Holy communion will be November 1, 2009.

Pastoral Care – Calls continue as needed when and where.

Community Activity – Immanuel hosts the Church Women United on November 7. We had a successful pancake and sausage offering at Festival of Sharing on October 17.

Committee Meetings – Fellowship and Health / Wellness committees have met since the last council meeting. Worship, Christian Ed, Exec, and Food 4 Kids are scheduled in November.

Congregational Activity Review – Confirmation continues. Safe church policy review was held October 20. We have 7 Holiday Food Packs collected (at least 93 to go). Adult study group meets November 1 and 8 to discuss, "The Shack." A lock-in is scheduled for November 20 and 21. Evangelism Committee invites everyone to potluck after worship November 22. Plan to stay for hanging of the greens. Community Santa Campaign begins November 29 at Immanuel.

Congregational Goals for 2009 – Prayerfully continue to discern where God is calling us to be as a faith community and go to that place with focus and flexibility. Increase weekly giving to embrace God's call (\$2500). And keep the change coming!

UCC Update – The MMSUCC Biennial Meeting is Friday October 30 – Sunday November 1 in Independence. Leora Bremer and I will be attending (Friday and Saturday). We can, and should, send one more delegate. Major changes for the conference are being considered.

Personal – I am planning to use my remaining vacation days over the Thanksgiving holiday. I will be gone from November 25 –December 3.

COUNCIL MINUTES (unapproved)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., October 26, 2009. Pastor Brady began the meeting with a scripture reading from Psalms 60:1, 2, and 22 and a prayer. Those in attendance were Kathy Smith, Wayne Baslee, Leora Bremer, Gary Case, Tim Harster, Phil Gerlt, Carole Weese, Pastor Brady Abel, and Letitia Gerlt.

The following changes were made to the October minutes: Carol Knight volunteered to laminate some of the place mats, not all of them; change benevolence fund report wording from "after giving" to "which includes;" change the executive meeting date in the executive committee report from November 15 to November 16. Kathy made a motion to accept the edited October minutes, Phil seconded, and the motion passed.

Financial Reports

- **OCWM:** Pastor Brady reported that we are below in giving compared to last year. We have collected \$3,254.50 so far.
- **Treasurer's:** Gary reported the committed giving is still strong. We currently have a \$10,597.50 deficit. Total assets are \$234,573.27. 3 CD's have matured, which brought our assets up some.
- **Benevolence:** Gary reported we made \$305.00 for the Festival of Sharing. The total balance is \$1,049.70.
- **Memorial:** Pastor Brady reported our available balance is \$20,372.78.
- **Improvement and Maintenance:**

Wayne reported we took in \$251.72 for the month. We spent \$34.37, with \$19.37 being spent on a bathroom item at Sam's and \$15.00 was paid to Tim Taylor for mowing the lawn. Available funds are \$20,039.32.

Food-4-Kids: No Report

Tim made a motion to accept the financial reports, Carole seconded, and the motion passed.

Committee Reports

- **Pastor's Report:** Pastor Brady reported that the funeral for Ralph Lindhardt and bereavement dinner were held on October 21. Several holiday food packs have already been collected. Pastor Brady also mentioned he will be on vacation from November 25 to December 3.
- **Fellowship:** Leora reported the German Dinner went well. \$5,895.55 was the preliminary total income for the German dinner and we served approximately 437 people. Allocation of funds will be decided at the next meeting.
- **Improvement and Maintenance:** Wayne reported that we need to put in a sump pump in the SE corner of the kitchen and Don will come up with a figure to put in the cabinets. He also checked with two people about trimming trees around the parsonage. Andrew Truener will come look at the steps. Wayne made a motion for the allocation of \$300 from the Improvement and Maintenance Fund to purchase a sump pump so work on the kitchen can begin. Phil seconded and the motion passed. Don came and reported that he's looked at companies to

fix the gutter and received a proposal from Turner (they did our air conditioning). The estimated cost of the proposal is \$10,457 with an additional \$2,000 to \$3,000 for supplies. The proposal is good for 30 days and requires 50% be paid upfront and 50% upon completion. Gary made a motion that we get a new proposal to take to the December 7th Council meeting which, if approved, will be taken to the congregational meeting in January. Phil seconded, and the motion passed. The Priority List was also discussed. These lists will be compiled and given to Wayne. Lighting in the basement stairwell will be made a high priority. Additionally, Mary McLaughlin is coming up with ideas to redecorate the lounge.

- **Evangelism:** The committee is encouraging people to come to the November 22 potluck and "hanging of the greens."
 - **Outreach:** The committee met and Phil made a motion that we have a garage sale on March 6, 2010 with Kathy coordinating it. Letitia seconded and the motion passed.
 - **Worship & Music:** The committee will meet November 1 at 1:30 p.m.
 - **Stewardship:** Gary reported the pledge cards are slowly coming in. He also gave a reminder to bring time and talents sheets on November 1.
 - **Christian Education:** Carole reported the committee will meet on November 9 at 5:30 p.m.
- (cont'd on page 4)

- **Health & Wellness:** The committee met and did a basket for the German dinner. They also talked about how to get people to utilize the library.

- **Technology:** Tim reported that the donated printer stand came in. The printer is going to be moved and the fax set up.

- **Pastoral Relations:** No report.

- **Food-4-Kids:** The committee will have a meeting on November 17 at 4:00 p.m.

Executive Committee: The committee will meet November 16 to select committee members.

Old Business

- Biennial Missouri-Mid South Conference meeting from October 30 to November 1, 2009: Pastor Brady and Leora are attending.

- Insurance coverage for stained glass window: we have a book on what is covered and not covered on our insurance. We will hopefully have answers as to what is covered by the next meeting. Gary will also check with the UCC insurance.

- Church Women United are meeting here on Saturday, November 7. This is Human Rights Day and World Communion Day. The Fellowship committee will furnish a brunch at 9:30 a.m.

The Festival of Sharing was held on October 17 and Gary and Wayne headed the breakfast.

New Business

- **Nominating Committee-** Don Barbour, Julie Bales, and Cindy Gerlt are going to replace Leora, Phil, and Letitia. Tim and Dee have agreed to serve again. A motion was made by Kathy to accept the slate of council candidates, pending John's agreement to serve another term. Carole

seconded and the motion passed.

- **Christmas Offering:** Brady suggested the first \$250-\$300 be given to United Way and the rest to OCWM. Gary moved to give first \$300 of Christmas offering to United Way with the remainder going to OCWM. Phil seconded and motion passed.

- Gary mentioned Larry Whipple has put in extra time this month and thinks he should be given a bonus of \$100. Gary made the motion that a \$100 bonus be given to Larry Whipple for his extra work at the German dinner, a wedding, and a funeral, all in the month of October. Tim seconded and the motion passed.

- Proposed Budget for 2010: Gary said 33 pledges have come in so far. Gary made a motion we present the proposed budget for 2010 to the congregation at the congregational meeting, Phil seconded, and the motion passed.

We reviewed the job responsibilities for financial positions in the church and determined the addition of a staff accountant is needed. This is a volunteer position. Wayne made motion to add the following to the By-Laws under Article II, Section II, Part B: *other than those requiring the president or staff accountant signature.*

The council will appoint a staff accountant to serve from January 1 to December 31 each year. The staff accountant may be the council treasurer, a member of the council or a church member appointed as an ex-officio member of the council. Kathy seconded, and the motion passed.

A new stove is needed in the side

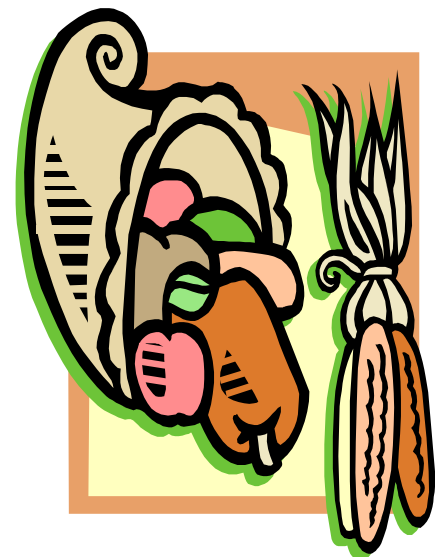
room next to the kitchen. Some members in the church would like to donate an electric stove. Kathy made a motion that we accept this donation, Wayne seconded, and the motion passed.

Pastor Brady reminded everyone that the next meeting is on December 7. The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Letitia Gerlt
(Acting Secretary)

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



PARRISH NURSE NEWS

Inhale – Exhale

A woman who had recently been diagnosed with COPD asked me, "What does COPD mean?" COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) is an umbrella term for asthma, emphysema and chronic bronchitis, the most common causes of day to day breathing difficulty. Often a person is given an initial diagnosis of emphysema, asthma, or another disease that affects breathing, as the condition or sometimes two conditions progress the physician will call it COPD.

The woman who asked me the question is one of 12 million people in the United States who experiences difficulty in breathing. Normally, air flows down into the lungs through two large bronchial tubes that branch into thousands of smaller air sacs where the oxygen inhaled passes into the blood stream and carbon dioxide is picked up to be exhaled. When there is damage to the lungs these air sacs lose their elasticity causing interference with the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide. Sometimes people with impaired lung function can inhale but have difficulty exhaling.

There is no cure for COPD, it generally progresses in severity. There are medications that can help as well as oxygen. Causes can be smoking, second-hand smoke, and working in areas where there are pollutants.

November is National COPD Awareness month as well as the month the American Cancer Society holds its Great American Smokeout. If you are a smoker I challenge you to quit this month. Need help, consult with your healthcare provider.

De-Stress Before Christmas

Mild to moderate stress can make your brain more alert and you feel clear-headed, but chronic stress wears on your body. Chronic stress weakens your memory and ability to focus.

How are your stress management strategies working? We all have ways we deal with stress, it is just that often they are not healthy ways. Oreo cookies (half a package) can make me feel better for the moment but what do they do to my weight. A much better solution would be to take a shower to relax my muscles and mind or lie down and breathe quietly and consciously.

I could go on a shopping spree to forget my feelings of

low-self esteem or inadequacy. Since spending money may be adding to my stress I could go for a brisk walk or bike ride that would get my feel-good endorphins flowing.

Instead of trying to ignore my stress I could immerse myself in meditation, prayer, or yoga, all of which have a very calming effect.

We all feel stressed at times. I hope you find healthy, enjoyable ways to deal with your stress. If your stress is more than you can handle please seek help from your health care provider.

Leora Bremer, R.N.
Parish Nurse



Our workday at the pantry was hectic. We served 128 families (389 individuals) in 5 hours!! (That amounts to 1 order filled every 3 minutes). Since we had few stockers, after an order was filled we hurried to re-stock our shelves before the next client number was called. Rush-rush-rush!

We had a good amount of fresh produce to distribute— apples, pears, carrots and potatoes in 4x4x4 crates. However, canned goods are still in short supply. No matter how many were in a family, it was only 1 can of veggies and 1 can of soup per order. Slim pickins!!

December will find the children in Sunday school continuing to prepare for Advent. They will be exploring what they should be doing as they prepare. They will celebrate the coming birth of Jesus. There will be discussion on the meaning of the Advent candles: Hope-God is our hope, Peace-God brings us peace, Joy-God is our joy and Love-God is love. The teachers in December will be Loretta Langkrah Edwards and Joyce

If fresh produce is still in good supply on December 14 (our next work day), we could use some workers to process that and to keep our shelves filled. Stay tuned for an announcement in church Dec. 13.

This period we donated 528 # of food, bringing our annual total to 6558#. We worked 16 hours this month—annual total is 318 hours.

Grocers here in Sedalia have had good specials on canned veggies, soup, stuffing mix and marshmallows. This brings the

price of our Christmas bags WAY down. Remember— if you can't manage an entire Christmas bag, bring what you can. Some members are joining together to complete a bag.

What does the Pantry need??? ANYTHING!!! Pasta, pasta sauce, jello and pudding mix, canned veggies and fruit are in short supply. ANYTHING WILL BE APPRECIATED.

Thank you to the warm hearts of Immanuel. God Bless.

BETTY GUTH

SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Williams.

Confirmation has been going about 6 weeks now with five young people participating. They will continue their journey through Palm Sunday in March.

Upcoming Events:

- November 20 - 6:30PM-8:00 AM
- November 21- Lock In
- December 6 - 10:30 Christmas program
- December 11 - 6:00-8:00 Craft night and pizza, come join the

children in making crafts for the homebound members.

December 12 - 1:00 Christmas caroling to the homebound; cookies and hot chocolate follows. **ALL** are welcome to join the children in caroling!!

- January 9 - Working on a bowling party
- February 6 - Movie
- March 12 - Lock In

Julie Bales

THIS AND THAT

YOUR ARE INVITED!!

On December 4, 2009 Church Women United will hold a Silver Tea at 1:30 p.m. at First Christian Church, 200 South Limit, Sedalia, Mo. **ALL** are invited to attend.

Moore's Greenhouse & Flower Shop is again offering their home-grown poinsettias for \$6.99

each. Please remember to **sign up** to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. The sign-up sheet is located in the Red Room. Be sure to note "in memory" or "honor of". You will need to pay the church and we will pay Moore's. We will need to let them know by **December 7th**.

Dear Immanuel Family,

From the bottom of my heart I would like to thank you for the prayers, visits, phone calls, cards, and flowers following the loss of our beloved husband, father, and grandfather, Ralph Linhardt. A special thanks to Pastor Brady for

his wonderful service and John Kritos for the beautiful music. Also a big thank you to the Immanuel church ladies for the delicious meal following the services. God bless you all.

The Linhardt family

BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 4 - Christa Albin | 11 - Carol Knight | 16 - Tammy Manuel |
| 5 - Robert Hartman | 12 - Juanita Joy | 24 - Lori Moore |
| 8 - Jean Rehmer
Gladys Zimmerschied | 14 - Paige Staus | 28 - Tylar Simon |
| 10 - Diane Mehan | 15 - Tim Taylor | 29 - Irma Weyer |
| | 16 - Durward Guth | |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 7 - George & Marie Hunter | 15 - Robert & Helga Treuner | 28 - Richard & Ardean Rulfs |
| 10 - Kris & Carol Knight | 21 - Mark & Melody Swearingen | |

EVENTS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 4 - 1:30 p.m. - Church Women United
"Silver Tea" at 1st Christian Church | 13 - Communion Sunday
Blood Pressure Sunday |
| 6 - 10:30 a.m. - Children's Christmas Program
Last day for Holiday Food Packs & to sign up
for poinsettias | 14 - Distribute Holiday Food packs at Open Door |
| 7 - 7:00 p.m. - Council Meeting | 20 - Last day to donate for Sedalia Santa Campaign |
| 11 - 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Pizza & Craft night | 24 - 7:00 and 11:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Services |
| 12 - 1:00 p.m. - Caroling to homebound | 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY |

December 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

December 20:

December 6:

Malachi 3:1-4
 Luke 1:68-79
 Philippians 1:3-11
 Luke 3:1-6

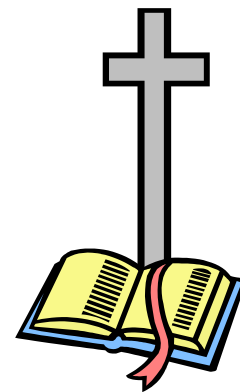
Micah 5:2-5a
 Luke 1:46b-55
 Hebrews 10:5-10
 Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

December 13:

Zephaniah 3:14-20
 Isaiah 12:2-6
 Philippians 4:4-7
 Luke 3:7-18

December 27:

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
 Psalm 148
 Colossians 3:12-17
 Luke 2:41-52



SHARING OUR TALENTS FOR DECEMBER 2009

USHERS AND COMMUNION

William and Letitia Gerlt

LITURGISTS

December 6 - Betty Guth
December 13 - Wilma Baslee
December 20 - John Kritos
December 27 - Julie Bales

ACOLYTES

December 6 - Ashley Grotzinger
December 13 - Megan & Allie Wilbanks
December 20 - Kylie Bales
December 24 - 7:00 - Madison Knight
11:00 - Kylie Bales
December 27 - Madison Knight

NURSERY

Can you help if needed?

GREETERS

December 6 - Betty & Durward Guth
December 13 - Jeff and Henrietta Bremer
December 20 - Roger & Alverda Hill
December 24 - 7:00 - Robert & Helga Treuner
11:00 - Dave & Rhode Moore
December 27 - Mark & Melody Swearingen

FLOWERS

December 6 - Joyce Williams
December 13 - Ruby Christian
December 20 - Betty Guth
December 27 - Laurie Staus

FELLOWSHIP

December 6 - Mark & Melody Swearingen
December 13 - Kathy Smith
December 20 - Kris & Carol Knight
December 27 - Julie Bales

Dustin Bales was accidentally burned while attempting to light an outside fire a few weeks ago. He is back at school and doing well. Dustin, Julie, & Kylie would like to thank everyone for their calls, thoughts, and prayers.

The **Advent Season** will begin on **Sunday, November 29th**. As has been our tradition in the past, we will be setting up a Christmas tree in the Red Room with tags on it with items to be purchased for an adopted family. These tags range from personal items, clothing, toys and food for a family or family member. **PLEASE** take a tag or several tags, purchase the items listed, wrap the items (not the food) and bring back to the church by **December 20th**, so they can be distributed to the families the following week. This is what Christmas is all about; sharing our bounty and love with others. Please help make Christmas a little brighter for someone.

ALSO, this is a good time to remember our homebound members and friends:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Leloy Bottcher | Dorris Rumpf |
| Ruth Bremer | Ruby Stanfield |
| LaVerne Busch | Norma Wells |
| Nancy Capps | Gladys Zimmerschied |
| Helen Deuschle | Marie Zimmerschied |
| Raymond Fieth | Dan Miller |
| Pauline Deuschle | Dorris Morris |



HOLIDAY FOOD PACKS FOR OPEN DOOR

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 cans green beans | 1 can cream mushroom soup |
| 1 graham cracker pie crust | 2 cans yams |
| 1 can French fried onions | 2 cans pie filling |
| 2 cans corn | 1 box stuffing mix |
| 1 package marshmallows | |

Please leave the food in bags or boxes in Red Room. Have food packs at the church no later than **Sunday, December 6**, so we can place into holiday bags, add the \$10 gift certificates and distribute the food packs on December 14 at Open Door. Our goal is to have at least 100 food packs. This is our **5th** year of sharing Holiday Food Packs. Thank you for your holiday generosity. **Currently we have 29.**

Quote for the day - "Remember not only to say the right thing at the right place, but to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment". Benjamin Franklin