

Pastor's Pondering's Reverend Sue Strickler



Dear Friends,

With all the exciting things that have been happening at Immanuel I've been wanting to share this quote from a St. Matthew's newsletter a few months back. I think it is so wise and true and good to be reminded of from time to time.

"this is something I have found to be true without exception: that when we, any of us, focus on things in our lives that are passing away, we get scared, we get anxious, we get depressed, we lose hope; and when we focus on things that are being birthed and are coming newly into creation, we get excited, we get imaginative, we get optimistic, we feel drawn closer to one another, we feel as if we have meaning and purpose in this life, and we have joy – we are given change as an ingredient in life. We can be frightened and anxious and resistant to it or we can embrace it as a tool to transform us." Jim Kelsey (1952-2007)

Years ago I received this e-mail message. It is a favorite of mine so I wanted to share it with you. In it I see myself, the good people of Immanuel, and all the work we've done in the past months to seek what God is calling us to do and be on the corner of 18th and Jackson.

When the house lights dimmed and the concert was about to begin, the mother returned to her seat and discovered that her child was missing. Suddenly, the curtains parted and spotlights focused on the impressive Steinway on stage.

In horror, the mother saw her little boy sitting at the keyboard, innocently picking out –"Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

At that moment, the great piano master made his entrance, quickly moved to the piano, and whispered in the boy's ear: "Don't quit." "Keep playing." Then, leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in a bass part. Soon his right arm reached around to the other side of the child, and he added a running obbligato. Together, the old master and the young novice transformed what could have been a frightening situation into a wonderfully creative experience.

The audience was so mesmerized that they couldn't recall what else the great master played - only the classic, "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."

Perhaps that's the way it is with God. What we can accomplish on our own is hardly noteworthy. We try our best, but the results aren't always graceful flowing music. However, with the hand of the Master, our life's work can be truly beautiful.

The next time you set out to accomplish great feats, listen carefully. You may hear the voice of the Master, whispering in our ear, "Don't quit." Keep playing." May you feel God's arms around you and know that God's hands are there, helping you turn your feeble attempts into true masterpieces.

Remember, God doesn't seem to call the equipped, rather, God equips the 'called.'" Life is more accurately measured by the lives you touch than by the things you acquire.

May we continue to know God's blessings!

With faith, hope and love,

Pastor Sue

Pastor's Pondering's cont.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

This summer (after Pastor Sue returns from vacation- and after our Christian Education worship in the park on June 13), worship will be shorter. At the April council meeting, Pastor Sue suggested that we try a 45-minute service for June, July and August. The council was very much in favor. So we will begin on June 20.

Thank You... From Karen Candee

To my Immanuel Family: In the words of the apostle Paul, "I give thanks to God through Jesus Christ for all of you." We truly are the body of Christ, and it because you have noticed gifts in me, which I did not notice, and spurred me on that this graduation day came about. Not only for the past 5 years, but over the last 20 years you have given me opportunities to learn and grow one step at a time. You have encouraged, praised, supported, and offered constructive advice that has all been a part of God equipping me for ministry. On top of all this support you have poured out upon me abundant blessings. I am deeply honored yet humbled at such generosity. Words cannot express my sincere heartfelt gratitude. Wherever God calls me, I know I will never forget the love and support through which I was equipped for ministry.

May you continue to notice each other's gifts and spur one another on in using those gifts as you continue to build up the body of Christ in the service of God. May God bless you and your ministry as you faithfully serve God, trusting in the wisdom and transforming power of the Holy Spirit, and allowing the peace of Christ to reign in your hearts. Again my heartfelt thanks to my family here at Immanuel.

In Christ's Love,
Karen L. Candee

"Just4theBoys"-Update

The gym is "alive" on Monday evenings from 6:30 – 8:30 with the "Just4theBoys" - a local development group of young boys ages 5 – 18 from the downtown community. The goal is to help train and develop young men to be productive members of the Dubuque community. Group leader Larry Jackson, Jr. MSE has expressed appreciation for usage of our facilities which lends well to their needs. Immanuel is also pleased to provide our facility's usage for this development program as part of our community outreach.

In addition to the facility usage, Larry is in need of several items for the group meetings including food items, (e.g. pizza, juice, etc). Immanuel's Women's Fellowship has volunteered to prepare a light lunch once a month. If anyone else or group would like to prepare a light lunch, please contact the Mission Board.

In addition to pizza and similar food items, the group could use beyond the food items, a pizza maker, 5 to 10 chess boards, 5 to 6 King James version Bibles (large print). Since these items are more expensive for individual purchase, cash donations from the congregation could be forwarded to Larry to enable him to make the selection and purchases. If you would like to make a donation, contact Bob Krayner (Mission Board Chairperson) 582-5117.

From the Moderator

Cindy Robles (Notes from the Bridge)

We openly acknowledge that each congregation's financial inability in maintaining a full-time pastor provided the initial impetus for conversation between Immanuel and St. Matthew congregations. However, we also insist that establishing a formal yoking between the two congregations needs to envision a potential for enriching the life and ministry of both congregations and strengthening their joint presence and mission within our neighborhood in the heart of the city.

The proposed joint visioning process has several goals:

1. To allow more members of Immanuel and St. Matthew (besides Bridge group participants) joint opportunities for sharing honestly and dreaming dreams regarding a shared future.
2. To discover together the ways in which the two congregations could cooperate fruitfully and the ways in which separate endeavors still make sense.
3. To anticipate the multiple ways in which members of the two congregations are mutually enriched by sharing their own denominational heritage and learning from others who represent a somewhat different one.
4. To envision how yoking the two congregations would strengthen and multiply outreach and the discernment of God's mission within the neighborhood and beyond.
5. To develop a strategy for welcoming and integrating new people into the yoked congregations for sharing in their life-together and mission.

Time line for the joint visioning process:

- ☞ **June 19, 8:00-11:30 a.m. (pancake breakfast and visioning session at Immanuel) – 1st** session for joint ministry groups to share ideas, concerns, and dreams for a yoked ministry and mission (led by Bridge group members). Ministry groups are *worship and music, member care and fellowship, discipleship education and spiritual growth, youth and family, outreach and mission, stewardship of facilities and finances, and ministry staff support*.
- ☞ **July 21, 5:00-8:30 p.m (cookout and 2nd visioning session at St. Matthew) – 2nd** session for joint ministry groups to share ideas, concerns, and dreams for a yoked ministry and mission (led by Bridge group members). Ministry groups are *worship and music, member care and fellowship, discipleship education and spiritual growth, youth and family, outreach and mission, stewardship of facilities and finances, and ministry staff support*.
- ☞ **August 8, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (including lunch) –** a culminating visioning session with a joint session of the congregational councils to consider and process the results from June 19 and July 21 (led by Cindy and Jim).
- ☞ **August 29 (joint worship with installation of Vicar Mark, potluck, and final visioning opportunity) –** time for members of both congregations to come together to hear a report regarding the results of the visioning process, offer further suggestions, and ask questions.
- ☞ **September 14 –** Prior to this meeting, St. Matthew's council would have determined a process for considering and discussing the yoking proposal, and at its September 14 meeting the council would make a recommendation regarding "yoking" with Immanuel (In early spring, Immanuel already made its decision to yoke with St. Matthew).
- ☞ **By September 26 –** St. Matthew's congregation would have opportunity to further discuss and vote on the council's recommendation.

The next steps: If St. Matthew also makes a positive decision to yoke, then the Bridge group will determine a procedure and schedule for implementing a joint call committee, make suggestions regarding the necessary extensions of Pastor Kathy's and Pastor Sue's ministries, and implement agreed-upon cooperative efforts—including ways in which Vicar Mark can enrich and facilitate the yoking process.

Karen Candee Ordination

After her graduation, and approval for ordination by the division on ministry, it won't be long until Karen is "called" to a position and then ordained!

As an ordination gift we would like to make her a stole from the fabric of the congregation. This way she will take you with her wherever she is a minister. It will be somewhat like Pastor Sue's blue/purple stole which she wears during Advent and Lent (this was an ordination present to her made from pieces of fabric from her home church).

We would like to collect pieces of fabric (just one per person) that have green, blue, or purple in them. They can also be solids in those colors. The size can be from as small as a playing card to as large as a sheet of typing paper (8½ x 11). The best would be if this was cut from an actual piece of clothing that you used to wear (perhaps Karen would even recognize it) but if not that then something appropriate from your scrap basket or the fabric store. Please put your fabric in an envelope with your name on the outside. It will be fun and meaningful for Karen to be able to identify the people she wears on her stole!

Please put your envelopes/fabric in the basket in Pastor Sue's office.

Christian Education Board

Vacation Bible School will be June 21st-25th from 5:30 pm – 8 pm 5:30-6 they will provide a light supper; each church will provide the meal one night (if all churches participate in VBS). It will be held at First Congregational, the theme Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace, all areas will be set up like different shops. The Churches involved are St. Luke's, First Congregational and Immanuel.

The Church will be sharing an Intern Pastor from Wartburg Seminary with St. Matthew, part of his duties will be the Christian Education Director for both churches. Mark Doidge will begin in August.

The Sunday School Picnic is scheduled for June 13th at Eagle Point Park. The service will be held at the park this day at 10:00 a.m. followed by the picnic. There is a sign-up list in the entry way of the church to sign up for the pot luck items. Plan to join us for worship and the picnic followed by games for all.

The Board is working on planning a youth camping trip for the summer. More information to follow.

Women's Fellowship

JUNE FEST - JUNE 16 5:00 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M.

Previously called "The Ice Cream Social". the June Fest is an all church benefit for the budget sponsored by the Women's Fellowship. Come and enjoy your evening meal. We will have hot dogs, sloppy joes, chips, two kinds of potato salad, baked beans **PLUS** ice cream and cake. There will be games for the kids and adults are welcome to join in! You will also have a chance to win a cake!! A bake sale and craft sale will also be in the gym. **COME! BRING YOUR FAMILY! BRING YOUR FRIENDS! A FUN. AND FILLING, EVENING FOR ALL - AND IMMANUEL WILL BENEFIT!!!!**

Mission Board

Annual Rescue Mission

As part of our community outreach, Immanuel will be preparing and serving our annual dinner at the Rescue Mission on Sunday, June 27. To help defray the cost of the food items, cash donations are being accepted. A Mission Board representative will be available before and after church services during the month of June to accept your donation (cash or check); or you can mail your check payable to the church office (P.O. Box 1002) marked for the Rescue Mission Dinner.

This is a wonderful community outreach project you have supported over the years, and we are seeking your support again. Thank you.

Foods Resource Bank

While Immanuel is not directly committed to the Foods Resource Bank program this year due to realignment of our mission outreach to the neighborhood, we encourage your support of these Foods Resource Bank fundraisers.

Brat and Hamburger fundraiser at Sam's Club on Saturday, June 12 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sweet corn sales. Sweet corn has been planted on 1.5 acres in Worthington. Information on availability of the sweet corn will be publicized in the Informer and the weekly bulletin insert.

Habitat for Humanity

During the summer months Immanuel as a "covenant congregation" once again will be supporting the local efforts of Habitat for Humanity. Contributions will be collected **during June, July and August**. Containers, resembling miniature houses, will be located in the entryway of the sanctuary for individuals and families to take home and place their coins and dollars throughout the month for bringing to church the first Sunday of the following month – July 4, August 1 and September 5. During last year's three-month appeal \$237.00 was contributed through the miniature house collection as part of the designated envelope offering throughout the year's total of \$498.04, which went toward the completion of the home at 1112 Roosevelt Street for a single mother and five children. Your contributions do make a difference!

Diaconate Board

April Attendance

Date	Time	Attendance
May 2, 2010	10:00 a.m.	46 Adults/8 Children
May 9, 2010	10:00 a.m.	54 Adults/10 Children
May 16, 2010	10:00 a.m.	43 Adults/12 Children
May 23, 2010	10:00 a.m.	45 Adults/8 Children
May 30, 2010	10:00 a.m.	34 Adults/4 Children

Ushers and Greeters

If you are a greeter or usher, please be at the church 20-30 minutes before worship. Please feel free to contact any one of us if you have any questions regarding this list. If you are unable to be here when you are scheduled, please let a Diaconate member know **at least two (2) weeks in advance** so we can get your replacement.

Sunday, June 6

Greeter: Jean Frederick

Ushers: Bill & Monica Meissner

Communion Servers: Bill & Monica Meissner & Cindy & Ruben Robles

Lay Reader: Carol Coates

Sunday, June 13

**All Church Sunday School
Picnic in the Park**

Sunday, June 20

Greeter: Dave Bremer

Ushers: Rob Goedert and Bob Krayner

Lay Reader: Dorothy Krayner

Sunday, June 27

Greeter: Ruth Kruse

Ushers: Bob & Lynn Rusk

Lay Reader:

Finance Board

The Finance Board members are Bob Smith, John Brimeyer, Rob Goedert, Don Lenstra and Dorothy Krayner. If you have any questions regarding the church building or the finances of the church feel free to talk to any of these members. During the summer months our attendance is lower because of vacations, etc., and our income decreases a bit. Please remember Immanuel as you make out the rest of your monthly checks during these summer months.

The Board is looking at ways to make Immanuel more “Green” and energy efficient. We hope to be replacing our light bulbs with the more efficient compact fluorescent type of bulbs as needed.

We, along with the Diaconate thank everyone who helped and came to our Prime Rib Dinner on May 7. A good time was had by all and the food was

great. We cleared \$1444 for the general budget with this fundraiser.

We have signed the contract with Advantage to replace the sanctuary furnaces. There are rebates available to bring the cost down but we are still looking for contributions to the “furnace fund” to help with this expenditure. You can put your contribution in the offering marked for the furnace fund. Any amount will be greatly appreciated.

The guys on the board will be re-striping the parking lot in the upcoming weeks.

We continue to monitor the building and finances of Immanuel at each of our meetings.

God’s Blessings to all of you as we approach these summer months. See you in church.

Treasurer’s Tidbits

General Fund Envelope Offerings	Giving Budget	Actual Received	Over/Under Budget
January-March	\$21,967	\$21,337	-\$630
General Fund-Revenue / Expenses	Revenue Received	Actual YTD Expense Paid	Over/Under Budget
January-March	\$22,430	\$27,648	-\$5,218

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52004-1002**

**Dates to Remember:
June and July**

June 13- Sunday School Picnic Service at the Park
June 16- June Fest
June 19- Joint Visioning Meeting
June 21-25- Vacation Bible School
June 28- Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Sunday Services and Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

Website: www.immanueluccdbq.org

Phone: 563-582-5168

Pastor: Sue Strickler

Office Hours: Every Tuesday, first two Thursday's of the month, last two Friday's of the month.

Home Phone: 608-348-6026 or 888-290-8585

Moderator: Cindy Robles

Phone: 608-642-2392

