

Pastor's Pondering's

Reverend Sue Strickler



Friends,

A number of months ago I received an e-mail that is just too good not to share with you. It was originally written by a 90 year old woman by the name of Regina Brett. She titled it "45 lessons life taught me"

I thought "what wonderful wisdom!" Here are my favorite dozen:

1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next small step.
3. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
4. Over prepare, then go with the flow.
5. No one is in charge of your happiness but you.
6. Frame every so-called disaster with these words "In five years, will this matter?"
7. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
8. Yield.
9. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
10. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
11. Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry' God never blinks.
12. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.

And When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile!

May God continue to bless us with open minds and hearts as we follow the Spirit and move into an exciting future!

With hope, faith and love,
Pastor Sue

Pastor's Pondering's cont.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Our partnering/yoking with St. Matthew has been very exciting! And you know how you can just get swept up in the excitement and forget important things. I realized recently that we hadn't properly thanked our VISIONING COMMITTEE for their **outstanding** work. Without their dedication, generous gift of their time, and exceptional, conscientious yet daring, realistic yet Spirit filled work Immanuel would not be in the amazing place we are today. They did amazingly fine work: encouraging us to pray and be open to what God might want of our church at this time and in this place; exploring everyone's ideas and dreams and finally leading us to make exciting and good decisions!!! So a BIG THANK YOU to Sally Miller, Dorothy Krayter, Kim Brandt, Cindy Robles, Amy Wagner, Pat Quade, Karen Candee, Bob Smith, Lynn Rusk, Kelsey Rusk, and Robbie Goedert. We truly appreciate the work you (and God) have done!!

HAVE YOU SEEN THEM?

During our "spring house cleaning" of the sanctuary we found that we are a whole pew short of Bibles, New Century Hymnals (black) and The Worshipping Church Hymnals (gray)! We thought they must be forgotten on shelves at homes. Would you please check to see if any are hiding at your house and bring them back (until you need to borrow one again).

Thanks so much.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER FATIMAH!

During worship on April 11, we had the pleasure and privilege to welcome Fatimah Alamin into Immanuel's faith family through the sacrament of baptism. Fatimah grew up in Chicago and has lived in Dubuque for about 5 years. She has one child – a darling 2 year old daughter named Korimah. We are delighted to have Fatimah as a member of Immanuel! Please welcome her and help her get to know Immanuel and its many activities and outreaches.



From the Moderator

Cindy Robles

Many of you may be wondering what has been going on since we voted to yoke with St. Matthew. The Bridge Committee, which was formed to work with members of St. Matthew on how the yoking process would proceed, has been meeting every two weeks to discuss the process. At our most recent meeting, we were made aware that when the members of St. Matthew took their vote on yoking, the actual vote was to “explore the idea” of yoking. Therefore, they will be working with us on what the process might be to yoke and will then make their final decision in September. The process we will use is to begin doing some joint visioning with the two churches committees, councils and finally the congregations. We will be setting up two opportunities for brainstorming and visioning over the summer months. The committee will be looking for ways that members will see opportunities for combining programs

and identify areas we want to keep separate from one another. The hope is to end the process with a joint Church profile and our desires for the type of Pastor we are looking for. We should also be able to see how this will affect us financially. The goal will be to complete the visioning process by September to allow St. Matthew the opportunity to make their final vote. The next step would then be to form a joint call/search committee in order to begin the process of hiring our yoked Pastor. This is an exciting time for both of our congregations. We have set some very exciting goals that we want to share in our visioning process and God is really showing us how there are so many opportunities for spiritual growth in the process. Look for the dates and who will be the likely persons to attend the visioning sessions. ALL are welcome, regardless of the topic of discussion.

Just4theBoys

If you have seen some activity in the gym on Monday evenings, it is “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), Bibles for spiritual development, chess boards as part of teaching strategy and focus. Larry is in the process of developing the specifics of the needed items as a means of aiding our member’s in their donations.

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.

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.

Lenten Sharing - Hygiene Kits for Earthquake victims in Haiti

On Saturday morning April 17 approximately twenty-five adults and youth gathered to package personal hygiene items donated during the Lenten sharing season for shipment to the earthquake victims in Haiti. A total of 75 hygiene kits were packaged. In the meantime our neighboring St. Matthew Lutheran Church learning of the project has made an appeal to their members to participate in this outreach project. Consequently, an additional quantity beyond the original 75 kits will be shipped to Haiti. A "special thanks" is extended to all who donated the items, monies to cover the shipments, and helped with the packaging; and to our friends at St. Matthew for joining in this project.

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
April 2, 2010	7:00 p.m.	30 Adults
April 4, 2010	7:00 a.m.	26 Adults
April 4, 2010	10:00 a.m.	55 Adults/8 Children
April 11, 2010	10:00 a.m.	53 Adults/9 Children
April 18, 2010	10:00 a.m.	58 Adults/18 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, May 16

Greeters: Brandon & Bobbie Jo Rondeau
 Ushers: Bob Krayner & Bob Rusk
 Lay Reader: Carol Coates

Sunday, May 23

Greeters: Eldon & Ruth Frederick
 Ushers: Ken & Maurine Harris
 Lay Reader: Art Miller

Sunday, May 30

Greeters: Kim and Jewell Brandt
 Ushers: Paul Schmitt & Rob Goedert
 Lay Reader: Art Miller

The Diaconate is looking for a few good Men, Women or youth to serve as ushers and greeters. If you are interested, please call the church office and let Charlotte know.

Finance Board

The Finance/Trustee board has been busy handling the building and financial responsibilities of Immanuel. We are doing quite well financially and with the continued support of the membership we should be able to have a successful year.

We thank all of you who helped with the cleaning and freshening up of the sanctuary. We also updated the electrical outlets around the organ. The entryway windows will be cleaned before the May 7 dinner. The guys also cleaned the parking lot drains of debris. We are working with the Diaconate on the Prime Rib Dinner and hope you have your ticket. We are looking to have a fun and tasty evening May 7.

The major item handled at our April meeting was that we voted to accept the bid from Advantage to replace the two (2) furnaces that service the sanctuary with high efficiency furnaces for the amount of \$4500 installed. These furnaces will increase the

efficiency from about 70% to 93%. We feel this will help with our heating bills in the winter months. Several members have made special donations to help with this expense. **If you would like to help with the furnace fund, please put it in the offering plate and mark it "Furnace Fund". Any amount will be greatly appreciated.**

We want to thank the members who so faithfully clean our church building and areas around the church each week and make sure the light bulbs are changed. **THANK YOU-Jerry and Marilyn Frederick, Dee Hinds, Donna Kramer, Art Miller and Bill Meissner** for your loving care of Immanuel! Also, when you see Charlotte, please let her know how much she is appreciated for the fine way she keeps the church office running.

We ask God's Blessings on all of you as we look forward to the summer months.

Treasurer's Tidbits

General Fund Envelope Offerings	Giving Budget	Actual Received	Over/Under Budget
January-February	\$10,983	\$10,609	-\$374
General Fund-Revenue / Expenses	Revenue Received	Actual YTD Expense Paid	Over/Under Budget
January-February	\$14,500	\$11,356	-\$3,205

**THE INFORMER
(USPS 259-580) IS
PUBLISHED ONCE A
MONTH**

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52001**

**Postmaster:
Send address
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**The Informer
P.O. Box 1002
Dubuque, Iowa
52004-1002**

Dates to Remember: May and June

- May 16- Reception for Karen Candee (following service)
- May 23- Executive Committee Meeting (following service)
- May 24- Board Meetings 5:30 p.m.
 Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- May 30- Memorial Day Service
- June 13- Sunday School Picnic Service at the Park
- June 16- June Fest
- 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

