

# **Immanuel United Church**

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## **Newsletter**

### **November, 2013**





***Advent Worship at Immanuel 2013***  
***Join us in our exploration of the Advent Theme***  
***“BY ANOTHER WAY”***

*Come join the Magi on their journey as they follow the star along roads less travelled,  
 seeking revelation on the edges,  
 in unexpected places and among surprising people.*

*Our Advent journey begins with the Pre-Advent Potluck Dinner  
 on Saturday, November 30, from 5 to 7.*

*Please sign up on the bulletin board inside the sanctuary.*

*Advent Worship Schedule:*

*Sunday, December 1 at 11:00 a.m.*

*Advent One Worship: The Mystery*  
*Sacrament of Communion*

*Lighting of the First Advent Candle*

*Advent Music offered by Eileen Metcalfe and the Choir,  
 Peter Fyne on the Organ and George Stevens on Guitar*

*Sunday, December 8 at 11:00 a.m.*

*Advent Two Worship: The Dream*  
*Lighting of the Second Advent Candle*

*Advent Music offered by Peter, Eileen and the Choir*

*Sunday, December 15 at 11:00 a.m.*

*Advent Three Worship: The Vision*  
*Lighting of the Third Advent Candle*

*Advent Music offered by Peter, Eileen and the Choir*

*Sunday, December 22 at 11:00 a.m.*

*Advent Four Worship: The Sign*  
*Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle*

*Advent Music offered by Peter, Eileen and the Choir*

*Tuesday, December 24*

*Christmas Eve Worship*

*6:30 p.m.*

*Jazz Carols with Paul and Scott Metcalfe*

*7:00 p.m.*

*Worship Service for All Ages*

*with special music offered by Peter, Eileen and the Choir*

*9:00 p.m.*

*Quiet Christmas Communion Service*

**"Just" Christmas Event**  
**North Kildonan United Church**  
**December 1st, 1:30-3:30pm**

*You are invited to come to a FAIR TRADE/GLOBAL MARKET.*

*An opportunity to shop differently at Christmas. Below is a list of Vendors, who they support and what they sell.*

- **Reaching Across Borders**~Funds educational projects and the micro-financing of women's businesses in Senegal, Africa, through the sale of: hand-painted gourd art . . . birdhouses, birdfeeders, Christmas ornaments, and bowls; ceramic coasters and magnets; African jewelry, batik, and other gift items; unique pillow covers and plates made with African fabric; cards; unique hair ornaments.
- **Focus Africa**~is an African Market that partners with HIV/AIDS affected women in a slum area of Nairobi Kenya in a Center called Beacon of Hope. We sell clothing and gifts from Africa.
- **New Hope Centre** in Swaziland provides a school from pre-school to high school. We sell handmade unique jewelry to support the Centre.
- **Marg's Honey Inc.**~offers delicious honey and a variety of candles for sale. We support both Winnipeg Harvest and Winnipeg L.I.T.E.
- **Little Travellers**~are adorable beaded pins, handcrafted in Africa, that symbolize hope and empowerment across the world. Funds raised are sent to South Africa to the crafters and the Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust to help run a respite unit for people with advanced HIV/AIDS.
- **Grands'n'More**~ is a part of the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign which was started in response to the emerging crisis faced by African grandmothers as they struggled to care for millions of children orphaned by AIDS. We sell a variety of bags (totes, shoulder, minis), aprons (adult and child) and balloon balls all sewn by Manitoba volunteers with the proceeds going to grass roots projects in Africa which support the grandmothers.
- **L'Arche Winnipeg**~aims "to make known the gifts of people with developmental disabilities, revealed through mutually transforming relationships." In April of 2012 we established the L'Arche Tova Café. At "Just" Christmas you can buy ready-made boxes of Christmas baking.

- **“Eighty Strings” CD**~is a project with a disc featuring eighty strings worth of guitars, basses, banjos and a violin to raise money for Hospitality House Refugee Ministry. 100% of money raised goes towards their work in sponsoring and supporting refugees in Winnipeg.
- **Ten Thousand Villages**~creates opportunities for artisans in developing countries to earn income from selling handcrafted jewelry and personal accessories, natural home décor, food and skin care products that celebrates cultural traditions and environmental responsibility.
- **Friendship Sewing Circle**~is a group of aboriginal men and women who teach knitting and sewing by producing baby quilts, dishcloths, socks, slippers, afghans, moccasins, scarves, etc.
- **Support for 15 Eritrean Volunteers in Egypt**~help refugees: women and children and victims of human trafficking. We sell handcrafted jewelry, T-shirts, rugs, key chains, etc.
- **1Hope Winnipeg**~is a joint project of the United Church Outreach Ministries in Winnipeg. By donating money on behalf of a loved one as a gift, you will support innercity projects with children, families and individuals in need.
- **Kay’s Weaving**~Hand-woven articles (scarves, cloths, etc.) in support of people in refugee camps.
- **Canadian Foodgrains Bank**~is a partnership of Canadian churches and agencies with the Canadian Government, working to end global hunger. We support food assistance, agriculture, livelihood programs and nutrition with you donations.

### **Haiyan Typhoon Relief**

Cheques should be made out to the United Church of Canada with the Emergency Response-Haiyan Typhoon Relief on the bottom of the cheque.

If you have already sent in a cheque made out to the Haiyan Typhoon Relief, that is all right, when they receive the cheque at Head Office they will stamp it on the back with United Church of Canada.

Members of the United Church of Canada have shown their generosity this past week. A total of \$235,271.25 has been given by 1515 donors so far. **All donations received by December 9<sup>th</sup> will be matched by our Canadian government.**

# Immanuel is learning...

## About

- ❖ God and Jesus
- ❖ Faith
- ❖ the Bible
- ❖ right relations
- ❖ the work of the church in the world
- ❖ leadership
- ❖ Christian community
- ❖ seasons of the Church year

*by participating in Immanuel activities such as..*

- Sunday School
- Tuesday morning study group
- Wednesday night study group
- men's study group
- study group on *A New New Testament*
- movie groups
- planning for intergenerational worship
- workshop on reading in church
- Advent Planning
- Pre-Advent Dinner planning
- Council Meeting reflection
- choir
- worship
- personal study and devotional time

and through involvement in the work of the other clusters.

*"The whole community is the learner, the subject of education, and the path is unending."*  
(from Fashion Me a People by Maria Harris)

- submitted by Ann Naylor (Guiding Elder with Jane Nicholls for the *Faith Formation and Lifelong Learning Cluster*)

## A Room with a View

The office continues to be busy and I always look forward to seeing and hearing from people.

*As the holiday season approaches, I look forward to spending time with my family and friends. Wishing all of you a peaceful, joyous Christmas and best wishes for the New Year!*

*Sharon Vandenberg, Office Administrator*



# ESSENTIALS

## *Something new for White Gift – December 1*

Immanuel is in partnership with North End Stella Ministry and Interfaith Immigration. At Christmas, in particular, we use White Gift offerings to **support our North End neighbours and new Canadians.**

To that end, we will be collecting personal “essentials” for children and adults, along with non perishable food, ( especially meats and baby food) assorted gifts for children aged 12 and under, and /or monetary gifts.

People need the following **essentials** :

warm, durable mitts, gloves  
scarves, toques, baby blankets  
personal hygiene products (especially tooth brushes, tooth paste, soap)  
socks, all sizes  
underwear, all sizes (especially for women and children)

## **MORE WHITE GIFT INFORMATION**

**Winnipeg Harvest is also a recipient** of our food and money donations.

We supply Raymond Flett Memorial United with food and some money for their **Christmas feast.**

LITE (Local Investment Toward Employment) uses our gift of money to further their work in the city core by **fostering employment opportunities.**

Agape Table, a central **Winnipeg soup kitchen**, needs the money we send to supply daily meal programs for inner city children and adults.

Canadian Foods Grain Bank is a partnership of 15 Canadian Churches and church agencies (representing 32 denominations) working together **to end global hunger.** They ask us, **“What's it like to eat like a refugee?”** Your money will help feed “even the least of these”

White Gift will be Sunday December 1 – Advent begins. Any questions? Lynne Strome

## **Amnesty International 2013 Write for Rights**

Amnesty International invites you to join us on International Human Rights Day for the world's largest letter-writing event

Every year on December 10th, activists in more than 80 countries gather on their own or in large and small events to press governments to respond to a human rights concern on selected high-priority cases. We also write letters of hope and solidarity directly to prisoners or people experiencing human rights violation

Participate in this worldwide effort by writing appeal letters, texts, posts and messages of solidarity. Through the years, we have achieved a positive outcome in one-third of the cases we take up. Last year we sent nearly two million messages asking governments to respect the rights of individual women and men, youth, and Indigenous Peoples, as well as the rights of whole communities facing forced evictions or negative effects of mining and extractive activity.

Participate in this worldwide effort by writing appeal letters, texts, posts and messages of solidarity.

**Immanuel United Church is registered to write on**

**Sunday, December 8, 2013**

**12:30 – 2:00 p.m.**

**All ages welcome!**

**Each letter makes a world of difference to someone in prison.**

Watch the Amen Corner for cases in the upcoming weeks!

Join us and make a difference!

For more information, or to help with planning this event, please call Marg Smith 204-254-4509

### Some of the [Cases](#) for 2013

**Mexico – Miriam Lopez** Support Miriam as she bravely continues to speak out against torture in Mexico

**Myanmar – Dr Tun Aung** Serving a 17-year sentence for a crime he did not commit

**Belarus – Ihar Tsikhanyuk** Intimidated, threatened, and abused after attempting to register a human rights group that supports LGBTI rights

**Palestine – Nabi Saleh** Village in Palestine occupied by Israeli settlers and army personnel

**Tunisia – Jabeur Mejri** Unjustly sentenced to 7.5 years for the crime of saying what he believes

**Russia – Three Bolotnaya Detainees** Non-violent protestors held against their will as prisoners of conscience

**Nigeria – Residents of Badia East** Residents left destitute and without compensation after authorities demolished their homes

**Canada – Corporations & Indigenous Rights** Urge our leaders to make companies accountable for human rights abuses that result from their operations

**Russia – Freedom of expression under spotlight at the Sochi Olympics** Call on President Putin to ensure the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association in Russia

Participate in this worldwide effort by writing appeal letters, texts, posts and messages of solidarity.

Join us and make a difference!

## Finance Team

The giving envelopes for 2014 are ready for pick up. The current numbers go from 1 to 223 and in the past we have ordered 223 numbered boxes of envelopes. We currently have 130 envelope number holders and this year, in order to save money, reduce waste and lessen our environmental impact, we ordered fewer, blank envelopes and have handwritten the numbers on them. This has allowed us to avoid re-assigning numbers and we all get to keep the same number we had last year!

For the people on PAR, some of you use envelopes to make contributions above and beyond your PAR givings and others have asked why you are getting envelopes when on PAR. We will be accommodating both groups. If you are on PAR and use envelopes, you will continue to receive envelopes. If the computer records indicate that all or the majority of your contributions are through PAR, you will not be receiving envelopes. Should you not receive envelopes and wish to have them, please see a member of the Finance Team (Debbie Bilous, Pat Schulz or Connie Kryschuk.) There are special occasions throughout the year - White Gift, disaster appeals, etc. – where you may want to make an extra contribution. You can use your own envelope or there will be blank envelopes in the AMEN corner – just indicate your number or name on the envelope and the purpose of the gift. Also, if you would like to put a token in the offering plate there are PAR cards available at the AMEN corner for this use. Both the extra blank giving envelopes and PAR cards are on the big wooden table. If you would like to make changes to your PAR donations please contact Connie Kryschuk.

The Fowl Supper was another great success on many different levels. Tickets and donations were \$6,616.00 and the expenses were \$894.34 for a profit of \$5,721.66.

We are halfway through our fiscal year. The following chart is a comparison of our operational income, expenses and deficit compared to the same time last year.

	<b>Oct. 31, 2012</b>	<b>Oct. 31, 2013</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Operational Income</b>	\$53,193.77	\$51,190.97	-\$2,002.80
<b>Operational Expenses</b>	\$61,469.64	\$62,744.19	+\$1,274.55
<b>Deficit</b>	-\$8,275.87	-\$11,553.22	+\$3,277.35

*Respectfully submitted by Connie Kryschuk*

## **STAFF**

Nancy Sanders, Minister  
Sharon Vandenberg, Office Administrator  
Jim Goldrup, Caretaker  
Eileen Metcalfe, Choir Director  
Peter Fyne, Organist  
J. Douglas McMurtry, Minister Emeritus  
William Hickerson, Minister Emeritus