

*Immanuel United Church  
Newsletter  
March, 2015*

***Holy Week and Easter Worship at Immanuel  
2015***

<i>Palm Sunday</i>	<i>March 29</i>	<i>11 a.m.</i>	<i>Palm Sunday Worship at our usual 11 a.m. time</i>
<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>April 3</i>	<i>11 a.m.</i>	<i>Quiet and reflective worship with special music offered by Peter, Eileen and the Choir</i>
<i>Easter Sunday</i>	<i>April 5</i>	<i>7:30 a.m.</i>	<i>“Sunrise” Service—informal worship with communion, followed by continental breakfast served by the Men’s Study Group</i>
		<i>11 a.m.</i>	<i>Celebration of Communion Special music offered by Peter, Eileen and the Choir</i>



*As the sun with longer journey  
melts the winter’s snow and ice,  
With its slowly growing radiance  
warms the seed beneath the earth,  
may the sun of Christ’s uprising  
gently bring our hearts to birth.*

*Voices United #111, words by John Patrick Earls  
Banner art by Cindy Smyth*



## **Brief Update on the Immanuel “Back Forty”**

A congregational meeting was held on Sunday, March 22, 2015, for the purpose of reporting on Phase One of the EDGE feasibility study considering the potential future use of the land east of the Immanuel church building. The original intention had been that the Congregation would consider a recommendation to continue into Phase Two of the EDGE process, applying for additional Canada

Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) funding that would allow us to begin to talk to not-for-profit developers/operators about their possible interest in the land. However, moving into Phase Two is contingent on the completion and approval of a “business plan,” and the day before the meeting we were informed that some of the financial issues related to that plan still required EDGE attention and decisions. (EDGE is a United Church network for ministry development.) EDGE staff, including our Urban Planner Barbara Myers, met by conference call on Monday, March 23, and will be in contact with us shortly after this newsletter goes to print. The Immanuel Back Forty Team will consider the information that EDGE supplies, consult with Winnipeg Presbytery and the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario about policies governing the potential sale and/or development of the land, and report to the congregation again as soon after Easter as possible. We ask for your ongoing prayer, and your discernment of a faithful path according to which the land might continue to serve the church’s mission into the future.

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## **Changes are Coming!**

The Worship Space Committee has begun to make changes to the worship centre. The red curtains ( the ones at the back of the worship centre) have been taken down. A cover is being made for the other red curtains ( the ones that close for the fowl supper and the play) for when they are not in use. A team of painters from the congregation are in the process of painting the white stucco walls in the worship centre with two colours. Banners are being made for Easter to add to the banners we are using presently. The committee is excited with the new look. Keep watching as the changes are unveiled.

Leslie Donnelly, Nancy Sanders, Jane Nicholls,

Jim Ross, Scott Douglas, Nanette McKay,

Marlene Hanson, Eileen Metcalfe

The Worship Space Committee

### A Room with a View

The office continues to be busy and I always look forward to seeing and hearing from people. I am enjoying this spring weather we are having. I look forward to the upcoming Immanuel Players Production.

I am in the office Tuesday to Thursday mornings.

*Sharon Vandenberg, Office Administrator*

## White Gift 2014 report:

Thank you letters are posted on the AMEN bulletin boards for all to read.  
Your generous gifts were distributed as follows:

Agape Table		\$410
Winnipeg Harvest	5 boxes of food	\$510
LITE		\$300
North End Stella Ministry		\$573
Interfaith Immigration	blankets, mitts, personals	\$150
St Matthews Maryland Ministry	food, personals and gifts	\$200
TOTAL	gratitude, happiness, loving, health, ripples of kindness	\$2143

### Ministry and Personnel Committee

One of the committees of our church that is seldom heard from is the Ministry and Personnel Committee. The following is from the official national M&P guidelines: "M&P Committees are mandatory committees required by the by-laws of the United Church ... We describe ourselves as 'being in ministry together' recognizing that the work of paid ministry personnel is only part of the ministry that takes place in the pastoral charge. The M&P Committee oversees relationships within the pastoral charge ministry, particularly the roles and functions of paid leaders and employees..."

Immanuel 's M&P committee includes: Neil Barbour, Joan Borton, Sharon Doerksen, Marian Mathews, Verna McKay, and Rob Smith. We meet monthly except in the summer. Some of our meetings include some or all of the church staff.

We have the good fortune at Immanuel to have excellent staff and we are proud of all of them. This makes our responsibilities much easier but we do want to be there as support for our staff. We are also available as liaison if there are any issues or concerns from the congregation that need to be addressed. From time to time our committee makes recommendations to the appropriate cluster of elders regarding issues that relate to salary, planned vacations, study leave, workshop opportunities, working conditions, office equipment, staff safety etc.

We thank those many church members who have served on this vital committee over the years.

## Finance Team Report

The 2014 Income Tax Receipts were mailed on February 23, 2015. If you have not received yours, please contact the church office or a member of the Finance Team to have a duplicate issued.

We have received a rebate cheque for \$223.97 from Red River Co-Op. Many thanks to everyone who uses our Co-Op number 193228 when they are purchasing gas or groceries from Red River Co-Op. This money is needed for our operations and is gratefully received.

As of the end of February 2015, our Operational Income and Expenses are:

Income	Expenses	Deficit
\$96,341.62	\$108,465.12	\$12,123.50

Last year at this same time we were at:

Income	Expenses	Deficit
\$97,332.74	\$119,047.23	\$21,714.49

This is a bit of a good news/bad news picture. Our income is slightly down (around \$1000) from last year at this time but our expenses are significantly lower than the same time last year (almost \$11,000). This means that although we are still running a significant deficit, it is quite a bit lower than the same time last year.

Our Mission and Service givings to the end of February are \$18,625.51. This is slightly down from last year when we were at \$19,857.00, but is still very needed and most appreciated.

We are extremely grateful for everyone who supports the mission and service of Immanuel.

If you have any questions about your givings or the financial reporting, please see any member of the Finance Team.

Yours in Faithful Stewardship

Pat Schulz, Connie Kryschuk and Debbie Bilous

## Faith Formation and Life Long Learning Cluster

The people of Immanuel are a curious bunch – always thinking, forever asking questions, noses buried in books, eyes glued on screens and taking note of the world around us, no end to things we want to learn. We learn alone while deep in thought. We learn conversing over coffee, discussing in study groups, participating in vigils, gathering as a community of faith on Sunday mornings, while doing dishes, serving breakfast, drawing pictures, making banners or making music...

While the Guiding Elders share responsibility for staying connected with the work of the whole cluster, for various reasons, our time and energy this year has been focused on teaching Sunday School, alone, together, or with help from others. This was not our vision for leadership in the Sunday School. However, working with the children has been a gift. They are spirited and Spirit filled. They ask insightful questions and make astute observations. They make us laugh and they make us cry. They cause us to be proud of them and they cause us to be humble.

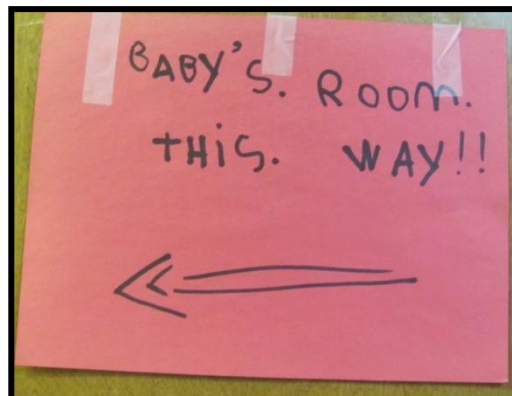
One of the joys this year has been following the Narrative Lectionary stories that are being used in worship. Most weeks include reading the story from the Spark Story Bible, a fabulous resource geared for children from age two to Grade 2, but holding the attention of slightly older children as well. The Bible stories are interpreted thoughtfully and written in ways that take seriously children's emotional and spiritual development. The illustrations...well, look for yourself.





We have talked about Noah, Joseph, Moses, Miriam, the ten commandments, David, Solomon, Esther, the visit of the angels, the birth of Jesus, life in Jesus' time, Jesus' teachings. The stories have connected to conversations about leadership, bullying, what is fair, forgiveness, how hard it is to keep some of the commandments ("you mean all the time, listen to your parents all the time? Yeah, that's hard!); How do we honour God? "by dipping the bread?";

sharing what we have with others (if Mary and Joseph needed a place to stay in Winnipeg to have the baby...) "well, we have a pretty big church – they could stay here";



## **LIVING OUR FAITH IN THE WORLD**

Our regular program involvements are doing well.

The Breakfast Program is meeting the needs of many of the children in the River Elm School. Some of our volunteers are there a few times a week working with the children on a one to one basis assisting with reading and math working with the children needing some extra help.

The Harvest team is meeting every other Monday. This group enjoy their work together and with their clients. They are still in need of some assistance in helping to unload the delivery truck. Joyce Smyth has the details.

S.N.O.W. Night event. Five folks from Immanuel helped out at this Event in February, working with the young women enjoying pedicures, crafts, games and helping with the cleanup. Many Immanuel people donated personal items for these women of makeup, pyjamas, and hand knitted toques to name a few. Money, which was much appreciated, and other donations of craft supplies such as wool for dream catchers was also received. Many thanks to all who contributed in any way.

### **Dreamweavers meeting in March**

Kerry Larocque attended this meeting as a new member of our Cluster. Some of the Areas of discussion were:

North End Stella. Connie Budd their new Director has moved into her office at the Family Centre on Selkirk Avenue. She sees her work as developing relationships, visioning and working together with the community and Churches involved. She has been offering a Women's Healing Circle weekly on Wednesday's 7-9 p.m. without much response yet from the community. We will be participating in a Feast there in the near future, please watch for announcements.

One Hope is changing their name to One Just City with a unified Board. They did a fund raiser in February with the monies received going towards the revitalization of Aboriginal Languages.

The Immigration Council is needing some seed money. There are 26 refugee folk coming to Winnipeg. This is a project out of Westworth United as they are trying to raise \$20,000. Westworth website has more information.

Thank you all for your participation through volunteering and/or donating money or articles. We greatly appreciate your support. *Ruth Campbell Guiding Elder*

IMMANUEL PLAYERS PRESENTS

Norm Foster's

# Drinking ALONE



PERFORMANCES

APRIL 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup>  
2015



8 PM AT THE DESSERT THEATRE  
IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH

\$15

PER  
TICKET

755 GOLSPIE  
STREET

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR  
OR CONTACT (204) 669 0220

A DRAMATIC COMEDY SET IN THE MIDST  
OF A DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY



# Build Up Pay Down

## Immanuel United Church

Would you rather not keep your coat on in Church on a winter Sunday morning? Do you enjoy the fellowship of the fowl suppers and eating at other events? Have you sat with a bucket very close to your seat (spring is coming)? Would you miss the announcement sheet on Sunday or the printed newsletters? If you answered with a “yes”, we need your support.



The **BUILD UP – PAY DOWN** campaign is a special appeal over and above the financial support that you have already pledged to sustain the on-going ministry of our congregation.

We hope to raise \$31,335.00 in two years for:

- Furnace - \$11,375
- Kitchen Floor replacement - \$5,400.00
- Copier replacement - \$5,560.00
- Re-shingling south side of the roof - \$9,000.00

We hope to raise the funds in three different ways:

- through grants and insurance.
- through a special financial appeal of congregation members. You may have already received your letter with pledge card enclosed.
- through special **fund**raising events. Watch and listen for details.

Watch the progress on the banner of bricks in our worship centre.



Thank you for your continued support. Any questions or concerns please contact the BUILD UP – PAY DOWN Committee.

**Glen Smyth, Connie Kryschuk,  
Ian Donnelly, June Horsfall**



## What is Stewardship?

Christians are called to participate in God's mission—the mission reflected in Jesus' life and ministry. We do that as stewards in every decision about how we as individuals and faith communities use all that God gives us—our time, our abilities, our material resources, our relationships.

The "bottom line" in stewardship is not about balancing church budgets. It IS about lives in balance. It's about personal and family and congregational lives that flow from what God is calling us to be, living out a vision of what God's world could be.

Perhaps reflecting on Immanuel's mission statement would be a helpful place to begin when considering your part in the Stewardship of this community of faith:

*Immanuel United Church seeks to be*

*A community of faith*

*celebrating the gift of God's grace which marks our life together*

*sustained by the gift of grace which makes us part of the body of Christ and of the whole family of God.*

*A community of love and hospitality*

*centering our life together in worship and study*

*enjoying our life together as children, youth and adults*

*sharing our life together with openness to all our differences.*

*A community of servants*

*reaching out with all our gifts to God's world*

*working for justice and peace in God's world*

*witnessing with our words and actions our hope for God's world.*

How can you participate in God's mission?

- Your Stewardship Team  
Ian Donnelly, Anne Duncan, Teri Gartner

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To assist the Finance Team in its planning for the next year, we request that you consider your financial contribution to Immanuel for the year beginning May 1<sup>st</sup> 2015, and ending April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Instead of pledge cards we encourage you to estimate your annual financial contribution in support of Immanuel's regular expenses and Mission and Service. Please note that this contribution is separate from *Build Up Pay Down* which is a separate appeal to address specific building costs. The people of Immanuel have been extremely generous. We give thanks for all the gifts that you've offered in the past.

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope # (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

<i>Please circle your choice:</i>	
Weekly / Monthly / Yearly	
Local	\$
Mission and Service	\$
Yearly Total	\$

Please mail your estimate to:

Immanuel United Church

755 Golspie St.

Winnipeg, MB R2K 2V4

Or place in the **Annual Givings** box located in the Amen Corner.

## **News From Stewardship of Financial Resources Cluster**

As we approach our April 30th year end, our various team volunteers continue to intentionally work towards fulfilling our mission.

Most recently, our Memorial Fund representatives have granted approval to use memorial funds to partially cover the cost of our new photo copier.

Our Trustees have found a clause in our insurance policy to partially cover the cost of the repairs to our boiler.

Our Finance team continues to collect, redirect and accurately report our finances. The tax receipts have been issued and preparation for the proposal of the 2015/2016 operational budget will begin.

Our Stewardship team is showing us they are hard at work with stewardship moments posted in our Sunday Order of Worship and announcements to keep us informed and thinking of the many different aspects of stewardship.

Our Mission & Service representative continues to enthusiastically keep us up to date and informed about our M & S funds and relevant special relief efforts.

In addition, we are all very excited to see the progress of the new special appeal committee currently working on the Build Up - Pay Down appeal.

Our journey as part of an intentionally mission-based church continues.....

Respectfully submitted by guiding elders  
Bob Kenyon and Judy Gierys

### **Newsletters by Email**

If you are getting a mailed copy of the newsletters and would like an email copy please let Sharon in the office know.

[iuchurch@mymts.net](mailto:iuchurch@mymts.net)

### **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

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