

Contact Information

Terry Smith, Senior Pastor
tsmith@immanuelcma.org

Rick Shell, Associate Pastor
rshell@immanuelcma.org

Duane Stine
Director of Student Ministries
dstine@immanuelcma.org

Chester Musser, Associate Pastor for Senior Adult Ministries
cmusser@immanuelcma.org

Xavier Godoy
Pastor, Iglesia El Camino Church
xgodoy@immanuelcma.org

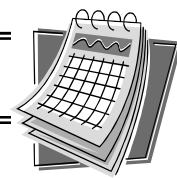
College/Young Adult Ministry
collegcentral@immanuelcma.org

Office Secretary
secretary@immanuelcma.org

Church Office
766-4633, Fax: 766-6712
Office Hours: Monday thru Friday
8:00 am to 4:00 pm
www.immanuelcma.org

IMMANUEL CHURCH
800 SOUTH MARKET ST.
MECHANICSBURG, PA 17055

Dates to Note



- Feb. 6** Valentine Banquet
- Feb. 20** Awana Grand Prix
- Mar. 6** March Forth 11th Anniversary Concert
- Mar. 14** Daylight Savings Time Begins
- Mar. 14-21** Missions Festival
- Mar. 28** Palm Sunday

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2010

OUR MISSION IS TO LOVE GOD, LOVE EACH OTHER, AND HAVE A PASSION TO REACH THE UNSAVED.



The Messenger

IMMANUEL CHURCH 800 S. MARKET ST. MECHANICSBURG, PA 17055
(717) 766-4633 WWW.IMMANUELCMA.ORG

From The Senior Pastor's Desk

I am in the process of reading *The American Church in Crisis* by David Olson¹, a graduate of Crown College, one of our C&MA schools. Olson writes in general on some of the not-so-good trends of the church in America in terms of attendance growth and spiritual influence. He writes some of the best stuff I've seen on churches like Immanuel in a chapter called "Why Established Churches Thrive or Decline."

From his research, Olson shares four critical focus areas if the established church is to be a thriving church. First is **spirituality**. This could be summarized as clearly proclaiming the Good News of Jesus so that life-transformation occurs. This life-transformation not only includes initial evangelizing of people, but also ongoing discipleship that we should all be experiencing. All of this takes place with reliance on the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 3:6 that, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has made it grow." Commenting on this verse, Olson writes: "Fruitful ministry is a remarkable combination of God-directed human effort converging with the work of the Holy Spirit to manifest the touch of God Himself."

The second critical focus area is **chemistry**. This involves the personality of the church as it expresses itself relationally. Olson talks about "a healthy family system" where both truth and love are expressed, Ephesians 4:15, "Speaking the truth in love." Chemistry also includes "an attractive group personality." This is the unity, warmth of love, and joy that people who visit the church can detect very quickly, as they make their decision whether or not to return.

The third critical focus area for the thriving church is **strategy**. Olson calls this "a process of sequential actions that produce fruitful ministry in harmony with God-directed goals." So there needs to be a plan to the ministry of the church that is working in terms of seeing kingdom results. The idea of strategy includes the projection of a vision for the future, delegating ministry responsibilities, making sure various ministries stay on track, and having ministries that help the church make connections with new people.

There must then be **leadership for growth** tying all of these areas together. This includes pastoral and lay leadership. Olson writes: "The purpose of leadership from growth is to focus the energy of the whole church on spirituality, chemistry, and strategy." Leaders, if they are to have integrity and trust, must model the other three focus areas beginning with spirituality. It must be seen by others that their leadership is flowing out of divine initiative and under divine power.

Think about Immanuel through this grid. It may help us gauge how we are doing and help keep us on track. If this all sparks your interest and you'd like to discuss it with me, I'd love to have that conversation.

¹*The American Church in Crisis*, David T. Olson, Zondervan 2008 (pages 129-141)

Pastor Terry



Meet the Hopples by Chester Musser



Gordon K. Hopple was born on December 18, 1940 in Mechanicsburg and attended the Mechanicsburg schools throughout his school days. He was the middle of three boys in the Hopple family. Roller skating and swimming were some of his hobbies as a boy. Also, he worked with his father as a caretaker and grave digger in the local cemetery.

Peggie A. Wertz was also born in the Mechanicsburg area on January 12, 1941. She attended Cumberland Valley Schools and graduated in 1958. Girl Scouts, swimming, gardening, and cooking were among the things she enjoyed as a young girl. While in high school, she was a member of the Glee Club and a member of the color guard in the band. She has one brother and one sister. Her sister is Immanuel's own Karen Fox. Their father passed away when Peggie was sixteen years old.

Peggie became a lifeguard at the Mechanicsburg pool where Gordon saw her on guard duty and he told someone, "I met the girl that I am going to marry." And marry they did in Hagerstown, Maryland on February 21, 1959. They lived in Grantham for several months, but finally ended up at their present location for the last forty years.

Gordon and Peggie are the parents of three children: Keith, Chris Copeland (our missionary to Cambodia), and Mark. They also have nine grandchildren.

Gordon has been a roofer all his adult life, working for Peggie's uncle at Suburban Roofing for six years and then for York Roofing for forty-one years. During much of that time, he did side roof jobs for others. Even since retirement, he found himself on the roof on mission projects, particularly for Katrina's victims in New Orleans.

Peggie was a cashier in the Cumberland Valley School District for fifteen years and has since done a lot of church related volunteer work.

Rev. Fred Fowler led Gordon to receive Christ as his personal Savior, however Peggie and her mother, Olyve Myers, played a big role in influencing him to see his need of Christ as well as in his spiritual growth since then. Peggie had accepted Christ at an early age and rededicated her life at a Bible Study in Carlisle.

Gordon and Peggie have enjoyed much travel over the years having visited every state except Hawaii. They also were in Israel twice. Once while on the bus looking out over Golgotha, Gordon made a life changing commitment in his walk with God.

They have traveled to the southern states on numerous occasions to volunteer with Samaritan's Purse and Josh McDowell Ministries in their humanitarian efforts. Both volunteer for Meals on Wheels. Peggie volunteers at church in the library as well as taking care of ordering the flowers for church. She also oversees the Angel Tree gifts for New Life for Girls at Christmas.

Thank you, Gordon and Peggie, for your commitment to the Immanuel church family and the many hours of service you give.

MISSIONS FESTIVAL

One of the highlights of our Immanuel Church year is coming March 14-21, our Annual Missions Festival. This year's missionaries will be a trio of Schaeffers: Andrew and Esther from Burkina Faso; Jessica from Koutiala Hospital in Mali. We will be blessed as we hear the stories of what God is doing through their ministries and as they challenge us to be a part of living the call together.

Also, as a part of the Missions Festival we will be receiving faith promises for giving to the Great Commission Fund this year. This fund supports Alliance missionaries and their work. During 2009, Immanuel's people contributed \$100,036 to the GCF! Let's continue to invest strongly in spreading the Good News of Jesus to all kinds of people all over the place.

Mark these dates on your calendar and plan to be a part of this festival. Be looking for the details of the schedule in an upcoming Sunday bulletin.



Burkina Faso



Mali

STARTING OVER by David Rundle

Marge and I had enjoyed eleven winters in Florida including this one of 2009/2010; what I mostly do is rest/relax, read, enjoy the warm weather, and did I say read? This past winter (2008-2009) we decided that the bathroom floor off of the master bedroom needed to be changed. What had been there since we bought our place was a royal blue carpet that showed every piece of lint. I decided that I would put down a laminate floor. After all, how hard could it be? I had seen the many commercials on TV where this floating floor just went down and snapped together almost by itself. And, so, I began. After an attempt or two, I read the directions and began again. At the end of the second day I muttered something like, "This ain't goin' so good." Laying the laminate floor was difficult but I had a good excuse for the job not going as planned; I didn't have the right tools. Each piece of flooring had to be cut with a ten inch hand saw and it was tough to cut straight and stay on the measurement. Finally, after much sweat and perseverance, the laminate floor was completed. Marge said that it looked good and my thoughts were, "Thank God for giving me the patience, and thank God for caulking."

There are examples in Scripture of starting over as well. Job, after losing his family and all of his possessions, had to start over, and in the end he was stronger for it. But the great Apostle Paul had to struggle with the frustration of starting over as well.

He was a powerful missionary and church planter – think how discouraging it must have been for him to see one of those churches falling away from the faith. "I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel;" Galatians 1:6 (NASB) They had heard the Gospel clearly from the lips of the apostle; they knew salvation was by God's grace alone, through Christ alone, by faith alone. The Galatians were falling for the works gospel being spread by the false teachers. Undoubtedly it was affecting their spiritual growth and their worship.



Our worship can be diminished by what we see and hear all around us also. There are those promoting the prosperity "gospel", the earn your way "gospel", the go back to the Old Testament values and rituals "gospel", and many more. I didn't have the right tools for laying the laminate floor, but the Galatians had the right "tool" for staying on course – God's Word. "For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ." Galatians 1:11-12 (NASB) They had the right tool – we have the right tool. This is just another reminder that we must stay in the Word to experience spiritual growth, to improve our worship of our Lord, and not to be drawn into error. This is a new year – a new opportunity to "start over."

Valentine Banquet



Saturday,
February 6 at 6 PM
In the Immanuel Church
Fellowship Hall
Cost: \$13/person

From The Associate Pastor's Desk

THE GOSPEL CANNOT BE SILENCED!

Have you ever tried to prevent something from happening only to fail? Maybe you tried to prevent a secret from being revealed. Maybe you did something that would embarrass you or your family and you tried to cover it up. I remember as a kid getting an "F" in a class, and I was tempted to try to turn it into a "B" before my parents saw it. Maybe a story was going to come out on you and you attempted to silence the story by bribing or threatening the messenger.

From the Gospel's beginning, there have been those who have attempted to silence it. In Acts we can see the Sanhedrin trying to silence the Gospel—the Good News of Christ. The Jewish leaders fear the change that this teaching is bringing to the people of Jerusalem. They felt threatened, so they in turn threaten the apostles to stop teaching in Jesus' name, but it did not accomplish the desired results. Next, they jail the apostles and convene the Council for the purpose of dealing with these rebel rousers.

Why did they do this? They did it, because they were filled with jealousy. Peter and the apostles were already commanding more respect than the religious leaders had ever received. The religious leaders wanted to wipe out this new movement. They are furious because they are unable to silence the Good News of Christ's Resurrection, and they were beginning to feel the heat.

The apostles were locked up, but they were freed by the angel of the Lord. Their rescue gave the apostles the necessary encouragement to continue in their task despite this latest opposition. The angel's charge to the apostles was to go back out to the temple courts and declare to the people the full message of this new life. At daybreak, the apostles are in the Temple, as instructed, and immediately begin teaching and declaring the Good News, and they appear to have no fear. They are obedient knowing that it will lead to another arrest. How would you and I respond, if we were placed in their situation? Would we be out there at daybreak ready to start teaching again? We will not unless we have "received the power from on high." It is only through the infilling of the Holy Spirit that you and I can courageously proclaim the message of Christ as He creates opportunities for us.

Those early disciples experienced power to do miracles, great boldness in preaching, and God's presence in their lives, yet they were not free from hatred and persecution. They were arrested, put in jail, beaten, and slandered by community leaders. Faith in God does not make troubles disappear; however, it makes troubles appear less frightening because it puts them in the right perspective. We should not expect everyone to react favorably when we share something as dynamic as our faith in Christ. Some will be jealous, afraid, or threatened. Expect some negative reactions, and remember that you must be more concerned about serving God than about the reactions of people.

Peter and John were warned repeatedly not to preach, but they continued despite the threats. You and I must live as Christ has commanded us, sharing this Gospel no matter what the cost. We are not to fear the one who kills the body, but we are to fear the one who can kill the body and soul. He has given each of us the Great Commission to make disciples from the peoples of all nations. We are to plant and water the seed knowing that God will give the growth.

Nothing will ever silence the Good News of Jesus Christ. For over 2000 years, Satan has attempted to squelch it through persecution, but it has not worked. Today, we see countries and nations trying to sanitize their cultures of Christianity and its message, and it is not working.

To what extent are we willing to suffer for the sake of sharing the gospel with others? You and I need to be bold in Christ. We need to be continually filled with His Holy Spirit, in order that we will not cave in under threats, trials, and persecutions. We may be ridiculed, ostracized, or slandered, harassed, tortured and even killed, but if we stand in Christ filled with His Spirit, we too will rejoice that we have been counted worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus Christ our Messiah. Don't ever forget—*THE GOSPEL CANNOT BE SILENCED!*

Pastor Rick

March Forth Quartet

Southern Gospel Music Ministry

11th Anniversary Concert
March 6 @ 6:00 PM

Youth News

by Duane Stine

It is wonderful to see how God's timing is perfect and to watch Him working in people's lives. The most recent example resulted from a quest to reach out to the students in the Middletown area. We are very blessed to have them as part of our group, but we have struggled with transportation issues. This led to an idea of running the bus to and from Middletown every Wednesday evening. I presented the concept in my annual report and even before the annual meeting, I had an individual come to me and offer to be a driver. What an answer to prayer! Honestly, I had already started to think about where I might apply some "holy arm twisting", but the verse rang out to me, "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord Almighty." I would still like to have another driver to assist with the duties, but I am resting in God to provide another with the passion to reach out to these amazing students. So, where am I seeing God's handiwork? In the individual who volunteered, in the Middletown students (as well as in the rest of our group), and even a little closer to home...in me. It makes me want to break out in song..."He's still working on me, to make me what I ought to be..." Okay, I will spare you the rest but praise God that he continues to mold us as long as we are willing.

LIFE2010 Update: We are now up to 17, and possibly 18, students and six adults planning to attend. One of those students will be Elizabeth Beers. We are reaching out to the Beers and Copelands and offering to assist in sending their kids to LIFE. CJ Copeland will be attending through the Lancaster Alliance, but we would still like to help with his airfare to and from Cambodia. We will be taking special donations in February to assist both Elizabeth and CJ. Thanks for your amazing support of the youth and this conference.