



The Messenger

IMMANUEL CHURCH 800 S. MARKET ST. MECHANICSBURG, PA 17055
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DECEMBER / JANUARY 2008 - 09

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

From The Senior Pastor's Desk



Yesterday both my watch and the clock in my office stopped working. Time stood still! Truth is time passes at an unbelievably fast pace and we are once again ready to celebrate Christmas, to

say goodbye to 2008, and to usher in 2009.

Our major focus for 2008 has been on small groups. We are grateful to God for the large number of people who participated in the *Connections* groups through the fall. As we dovetailed the groups and the Sunday messages, it seemed to have a God-ordained unifying impact. Many of us were talking about the same things – talking about trying to discern the Lord speaking to us and prompting us toward new steps of faith and obedience. That pleases me more than just the number of people who participated. I believe many of us truly experienced God through our interaction with this study and the parts of God's Word it took us to. I am thrilled and very grateful to the Lord!

Toward the end of our journey through *Experiencing God*, someone felt prompted to suggest that we as a church needed to have a greater focus on prayer, especially praying for lost people. They suggested that a team from Immanuel to visit Brooklyn Tabernacle's prayer meeting. Within a day after receiving that email, I was traveling with our District Superintendent to a meeting. I had not mentioned my correspondence with the person at Immanuel. But Rev. Spriggs introduced the idea of the district coordinating a trip for church leaders to the Brooklyn Tabernacle for their prayer meeting! When the Lord repeats things to me, it gets my attention. I've talked to our elders about this and they are in agreement. I'm thinking that prayer may well need to be an emphasis at Immanuel in '09. I'm prayerfully thinking about a unified small group study and message series in the fall on prayer. We'll see how the Lord continues to lead

Duane Stine is in the process of putting together a great slate of *Connections* groups that will start in January. We will begin announcing these in December and giving the opportunity to sign up. If you have been a part of a group, I hope you'll plan to be again. If not, perhaps this is the time that God will lead you to get involved.

Pastor Terry

Meet the Stine's by Chester Musser

Herman (Gus) Stine was born in Tyrone, PA on March 14, 1936, the youngest of three children, graduating from Tyrone High School in 1953. He attended a United Brethren church and at age eleven, prayed to receive Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. He was very active in church and Boy Scouts. Gus's parents owned a gas station, which served as a weigh station for coal trucks. At ten, he was licensed as a weigh master. During his Father's extended illness, Gus and his Mother took care of the station. Work was a major part of his boyhood years. (Who could guess???)



He enjoys music including vocal, piano, and trumpet. After graduation, he joined the Drum and Bugle Corp and played until 1958. Marching in President Dwight Eisenhower's inaugural parade in 1957 was a great honor. His Drum Corp won the presidential trophy leading to an appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show which led to an appearance on the Fred Waring Show, spending a weekend at Shawnee on the Delaware in preparation.

Gus spent six years as head of the National Guard, worked for a short time in the Navy Depot, then in September, 1963, he started to work for Henkels and McCoy until his retirement in 2001 as Division Operation Manager. One of his responsibilities was to run fiber optic lines from Washington DC to New York City and from Harrisburg to Chicago.

Pauline (Polly) Stem was born near State College on February 11, 1938 and graduated from State College High School in 1956. In her youth, she enjoyed playing softball, cooking, piano, and singing in the church and school choirs. Polly attended a Methodist Church and prayed to receive Christ at the age of eleven. She started working cleaning apartments at age fourteen. She also worked in the admission office at Penn State before becoming a full time Mom and homemaker.

Gus and Polly met at a church Christmas program rehearsal. After rehearsal, Gus gave Polly his car key and told her to warm up his car and things have been pretty hot ever since. Polly and Gus were married at Polly's church near State College on September 1, 1957.

Gus and Polly are the parents of four sons, one daughter, eleven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. They have attended Immanuel ever since moving to this area. Polly has been a deaconess, children's Sunday School teacher, and also helped with Release Time for nineteen years. Gus has been a long time trustee, church treasurer, and choir director for many years.



Maturity Time!!!

El Camino church was born. Now it begins its growth process for which it needs good nourishment. It is for this reason that in past months we have centered our attention in the small groups, since it is here where the core of the church gets its strength.

It has been a wonderful experience. We have seen the Holy Spirit at work in everybody's life as this is the goal of the book "My experience with God." It teaches us that God is acting around us in every moment to show us His will and His perfect plan for our lives. Praise the Lord!

On November 23rd, we had the Thanksgiving luncheon. This was a good opportunity to show our gratefulness to our heavenly Father and to Immanuel Church for all the love and care we have received.



A CARELESS OLD GUY *by David Rundle*

I sometimes tend to be a bit careless – especially with my tongue. It may come as a shock to you but my tongue sometimes takes over before my brain can consider the matter. Why I mention this is because one Sunday in October I said something that shocked me and those around me. The morning service had not yet begun. Marge was yet to be seated; she was greeting people and discussing her latest chemo. I had said my "Good Morning" to Bessie Sponsler who sits in front of us, and was busy chit-chatting with Kevin and Sharon behind me. Sharon was concerned for Marge and her weakened state knowing that many people were fighting colds, and possibly flu. Marge arrived and I said something like, "Be aware that Sharon is going to give you a raft of _ _ _ _ when you are seated about shaking hands with people having colds." No sooner had that terrible word left my mouth than Bessie's head snapped around and her mouth flew open wide. I'm not sure what I said to her but it was my stumbling way to apologize. But there it was, my mouth had done me in once again – and though there were snickers and giggles – I knew that I had not acted in a Christ-like way.

Ephesians 4:29 (and elsewhere) warns us about speech where it states, "Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear." (NASB)" Needless to say, my word was not "good for edification" nor did it give "grace to those who hear." Afterwards I repented and vowed for the four billionth time to watch my language.

What is it about grace that leads to moral laxity? God's wonderful work of grace in my life, bringing me to know Jesus as my Lord and Savior, dying on the cross for sins I've committed, does all of that entitle me to sin

with impunity? Knowing that grace trumps every sin (see Romans 5:20-21) would any of us deny that sometimes we have taken advantage of grace? Can I say, "I never have to worry about that careless word, after all, there is God's grace given to me"? The Apostle Paul's response to such a suggestion is to be horrified. "What a ghastly thought!" we hear him say in Romans 6:2. Why was Paul so indignant? Why can't he cut us a little slack? The answer is that when we receive grace we receive new identities – we become citizens of another kingdom – we are placed in a new family. We are saved to live a new life not resembling the old life.

Christian author and Bible commentator, John Stott, asks, "Can Christians live as though they were still in their sins?" And he answers, "Yes, I suppose they could – at least for a little while. But let them remember who they are; let them recall the meaning of their new life of union in Christ." I can not claim to be a *new* Christian; I don't have the luxury of pleading ignorance. After all these years (fifty-plus and counting) I still struggle to control my tongue just as James tells us in James 3:3-12. James refers to the tongue as, "a *restless evil and full of deadly poison*." All I can say is that I'm not fully changed yet – the Lord is still working with me to change me to be just like Him. But let's (you and me) not take these slips as, "Oh, I'm just human." No – let's repent each time and pray, "Help me, Lord, not to take Your grace for granted; help me not to be careless."



Sign-ups for our new Pictorial Directory (El Camino & Immanuel) will begin on Sunday, December 21 and continue through January (here at the church and online). Pictures will be taken February 12, 13, & 14.



By Beth Lorow

Thank you for your prayers and encouragement as we took many students to the Pure Freedom Conference in October. It was a wonderful time of conversation for our students as they considered their own value in God's eyes and made decisions about their physical, spiritual, and emotional purity. Please continue to pray for

strength and support for the students who made decisions to remain pure until marriage.

In mid- November, the youth group finished their study of "Experiencing God." The youth version of this material included a film with a dramatic story that unfolded week by week. The video seemed to be the students' favorite part of "Experiencing God!" They were lax about doing the day-to-day work, but several students excelled at memorizing the Bible verses, and several offered insightful comments during our conversations. We are hopeful that the student will at least remember portions of lessons in regards to obedience, prayer, and trust.

We have been encouraged by the number of friends attending our youth activities. On several occasions, every seat on every couch in the youth room has been taken! It's a wonderful problem, and we are thrilled that our students feel comfortable bringing their friends to youth group.

As you know, we are already fundraising for our trip to LIFE 2010. Thank you for your support of the Christmas wreath sale. Before the end of the year, the group will start another fundraiser selling kitchen-related items.

We appreciate your partnership as we seek to encourage our students to grow in their love of the Lord!

Sportsmen's Banquet



The Sportsmen's Banquet is a very special part of our annual experience at Immanuel. Every year we gather to hear Glenn Ganoë tell jokes. Well, that must not be the reason! As you know, we get together around the common interest of outdoorsmen and hunters and combine that with a demonstration of Christ's love and presentation of His Gospel. This outreach event is upcoming on Friday and Saturday evenings, January 30 and 31. Since the event has outgrown our facility, it is held each year at Mechanicsburg Brethren in Christ on York Street. Our two churches cooperate in the event, along with Dillsburg Alliance Church.

Our speaker this year is Charles Alsheimer, a well-known writer and photographer on the subject of deer and deer hunting. He is also a gifted speaker. Once again this year, we are anticipating 1,000 people to be in attendance.

This banquet is one of our "all hands on deck" events at Immanuel. We need lots of help to secure adequate venison, assist with cooking and serving the meal, to help with set-up and clean-up, and to bring your friends to the banquet, especially those who may still need to know Jesus. Be watching for bulletin announcements and plan to get involved. Working together in events like this is also one of the ways we get to know each other better. We'll work hard, have a great time, and prayerfully be used of the Lord to make an impact for him on many lives.



Messiah in the Passover

On Sunday, January 4, El Camino and Immanuel will jointly host Rev. David Sedaca of Chosen People Ministries to share a demonstration of the Messiah in the Passover. Rev. Sedaca will be in the El Camino service at 10:30 AM and in Immanuel's evening service at 7:00 PM.

Messiah in the Passover begins with the traditional Passover Seder table – complete with all the articles of this important Jewish celebration. The speaker will explain the symbolic meaning of the various items of the Passover feast and highlight their relationship to the Last Supper that the Messiah celebrated with the disciples, giving special emphasis on the redemptive significance of the crucifixion.

Messiah in the Passover gives the Christian community insight into Jewish traditions so that the Jewish roots of Christianity can be better understood. This program also helps the Jewish and Christian communities understand their common heritage. A love offering will be received for Chosen People Ministries.



Christmas at Immanuel

While I was walking this morning, little white flakes were falling out of the air and I'm not confessing a dandruff problem. These were snowflakes, indicating that winter is on the way. That means that the celebration of Christmas is upon us. Ruth and I are way ahead of our usual pace – we've started our shopping. OK, we've only started because my Mom and Dad are going to be with us for Thanksgiving and we'll be celebrating Christmas with them at that time. It will be an exciting month of December at Immanuel as we celebrate together the gift of our Savior, Jesus Christ – Immanuel – God with Us! Be sure to plan to be a part of the following Christmas events and bring someone with you who may not know Jesus personally.

- * Saturday, December 6, at 12:30 PM – Ladies' Christmas Tea. Special speaker is Kandi Lay, who serves with the C&MA in Poipet, Cambodia. The ladies' theme is "This Is Why He Came."
- * Saturday, December 13, at 6 PM – 3R's sponsored All-Church Christmas Dinner followed by a concert featuring Brothers In Grace Gospel Quartet.
- * Sunday, December 14, at 10:30 AM – The Christmas cantata, "An Evening in December," by Immanuel's choir.
- * Sunday, December 14, at 7:00 PM – Music and the Spoken Word, "Holy Land Tour at Christmas"
- * Sunday, December 21, at 10:30 AM – Immanuel's Children's Choir, "The Fumbly Bumbly Angels"
- * Wednesday, December 24, at 6:00 PM – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Contact Information



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Office Hours: Monday thru Friday

8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Dates to Note

- Dec. 6** Ladies Christmas Tea
- Dec. 13** 3 R's All Church Christmas Dinner
- Dec. 14** "An Evening in December" 10:30 AM
Music & The Spoken Word 7 PM
- Dec. 25** Christmas Day
- Jan. 1** New Year's Day
- Jan. 19** Martin Luther King Day
- Jan. 23—24** Sportsmen's Banquet
- Jan. 27** Annual Meeting—Part 2 7 PM
- Feb. 12-14** Pictures taken for Church Directory
- Feb. 16** President's Day
- Feb. 22-1** Missions Festival
- Mar. 7** Turn Clocks Ahead

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