

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS – Summer 2017

As I was thinking about the beginning of our 51st year of ministry I came across this article which I'll share with all of you...

Every four years the world's attention turns to the summer Olympic Games. For a few days, women and men from around the globe gather to compete against the best. Watching the summer Olympics games nowadays, it is almost difficult to remember that only a few decades ago, track-and-field experts pompously declared that no runner could break the four-minute-mile barrier. Ostensibly, a human being couldn't run that far, that fast, for that length of time. "Experts" conducted all sorts of profound studies to show that it was impossible to beat the four-minute barrier. And for years, they were right. Nobody ever ran a mile in less than four minutes.

But one day a young man came along who didn't believe the experts' opinions. He didn't dwell on the impossibilities. He refused to let all those negative words form a stronghold in his mind. He began to train, believing he was going to break that record. Sure enough, he went out one day and broke the four-minute-mile barrier. He did what the experts said couldn't be done. His name was Roger Bannister, and he made sports history.

Now, here is what I find so interesting about the Roger Bannister story. Within ten years after Roger Bannister broke that record, 336 other runners had broken the four-minute-mile record as well! Think about that! For hundreds of years, as far back as statisticians kept track-and-field records, nobody ran a mile in less than four minutes; then, within a decade, more than three hundred people from various geographic locations around the world were able to do it. What happened?

Simple. The barrier to running a four-minute mile was in the athletes' minds. For all those years, runners believed what the experts were saying. They were convinced that it was impossible to run a mile in less than four minutes.

Here's the key point, I think. We will never go beyond the barriers of our own minds. If we think we can't do something, then we never will. The battle is really in our minds. If we are defeated in our minds, we've already lost the battle. If we don't think our dreams will ever come to pass, they probably never will. If we don't think we have what it takes to rise up and set a new standard, it's not going to happen. The real barrier is in our own minds.

As we start a summer of visioning, thinking, dreaming, praying and discerning God's will for this great congregation in the next 50 years, PLEASE commit to joining me in keeping your mind open for the Holy Spirit to move and work. God has great things planned for us at Immanuel and, as our 50th anniversary showed, when God's people follow the direction of God's Holy Spirit.... great things can happen!

I'm looking forward to the journey we are on together, because as I often try to remind myself and others.... With God the best is yet to come!

I can't wait to see you in worship at 9:30am this summer!

Pastor Jack Keating

INSIDE...

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In the spring of this year, we began work with a church consultant, David Black. David's expertise is Christian Education or in other words, making disciples. David spent some time with the children and youth and one of his finding was that Vacation Bible School was the "highlight" of their year. That statement made me smile as Vacation Bible School is certainly the highlight of my year too!

This year we are changing the name of our program to **Summer Fun in the Son Week**. As Pastor Jack mentioned during worship a few weeks ago, Immanuel was given permission to hand out flyers through the West Genesee elementary schools. We invited 2,300 children to our Summer Fun in the Son Week! Wow! Let's see what God does with that!

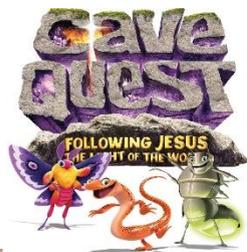
Summer Fun in the Son Week will be held **August 7th through August 10th** from 9am to 12pm. The theme for the week is Cave Quest: Following Jesus the Light of the World. We will gather together each day for worship, games, crafts, bible adventures, snacks and cool experiments. We will read about how the prophets foretold the coming of the light, about Jesus walking on the water, the Sermon on the Mount, and the Holy Spirit.

Children ages 4 through 5th grade are invited to join us on the quest. The cost is \$10 per child, no more than \$25 per family. Registration is now open and space is limited. Simply go to our website: churchofthebells.org and click on the top right box labeled VBSINFO. Or you can contact me at songsofjoy64@gmail.com and I can send you a registration form.

We will need plenty of volunteers this year. Even if for just a day. If you like to cook, I am in need of a Snack Shack Hostess. If you prefer running around, I have an opening for a Games Coach. Or if you are artistic, I am putting together a decorations committee. Any time you can spare would be greatly appreciated.

So come meet Sal, Mawtha, Radar and Ray as we shine the light in the darkness this summer.

Shalom,
Carol A. Doucette
Christian Education Coordinator



Do you know all our church family by their names? Do you need name tag help to greet them? Are you embarrassed when you meet them at the grocery store and don't recall who they are? Help is on the way! We will be building a new church picture directory that will put names with faces, and we need your photo to make it complete.

Life touch professional photographers will be at the church on the dates listed below to photograph families and individuals. For participating, you will receive a free 8x10 picture and a copy of the paper directory. Please consult your calendar to check out which dates will work for you. More details to follow!

- Wednesday August 2 from 1-8pm
- Thursday, Friday September 28, 29 from 1-8 pm
- Saturday September 30 from 9am-4 pm
- Friday October 20 from 1-8 pm
- Saturday October 21 from 9am-4pm



The ROAD is a **R**elational community that is **O**pen to all levels of faith, that **A**ffirms, loves, and accepts

everyone, no matter how **D**iverse. We aim to serve God by reaching out to those who have not yet found a place or sense of belonging. By 'Sharing our food with the hungry, inviting the homeless poor into our homes, putting clothes on the shivering, and by being available to our families' (Isaiah 58:6-9) we are able to grow together, love and help each other, and walk with each other in our journeys, no matter where that may be. And we do this all because John 13:34, we remind us that God has loved us, so we must love one another.

Our Facebook page for anyone to follow us on is:

www.facebook.com/theroadsyracuse

Our Website for people to check out is:

wholelygroundsattheroad.org



Hours:

- Monday 6 - 9 pm
- Tuesday 11 - 1 pm
- Wednesday 2 - 8 pm
- Thursday 11 - 3 pm

Fri., Sat., Sun. by Reservations Only

Mission Team Report

2017 has been a busy year for Immanuel's mission team program. In March Mike Block and I attended the UVMIM/UMCOR Training Academy (United Methodist Volunteers in Mission/United Methodist Committee on Relief) leadership training workshop at a Methodist retreat center in the Poconos. We had the pleasure of taking with us Rev. Beth Bouwens from Homer also attending the workshop. Rev. Beth also joined us at the April mission trip in New Jersey as will be discussed below.

We learned a lot in the workshop attending various courses together and some separately. It was a worshipful experience with lively plenary worship sessions each day. Among the important lessons we took home is that we should not lose sight of our principal goal to serve as Christ's representatives as we perform our disaster recovery tasks. We often tend to focus on the complex challenges of getting the work done failing to remember that as Christians we need to step back and reflect on the homeowner victim's perspective and our duty to serve the needy. We learned the importance of educating team members regarding homeowner sensitivities and a number of do's and don'ts were discussed (DO show a positive attitude encouraging homeowners, DON'T condescend, DON'T promise more than you can deliver, etc.). We hope to better lead future mission team trips based on what we gained from this experience.

April 17 through 22 a team of six from Immanuel (Mike DeOrdio, Nancy Gonzalez, Tyriq Block, Tyriq's mom, Kristine Block, Mike Block and myself) traveled to southern New Jersey to restore homes destroyed by Super Storm Sandy (yes, hundreds of homeowners are still impacted by this disaster from 5 years ago). We were joined by 13 other volunteers not from Immanuel: Immanuel member emeritus, Larry Gannon, Tom House from Warners UMC, Rev. Beth Bouwens, Bill Eley from Illinois, who has participated on every Immanuel mission trip since Katrina, a mom and two teenage daughters from Moravia and six people from Schenectady – 2 adults, 4 youth). We worked on two homes in Brigantine, NJ, near Atlantic City. Due to rules emanating from refinancing to help fund the reconstruction, the houses had to be elevated almost 10 feet off the ground to raise them above any potential flood levels exceeding that caused by Sandy.

cont.....

Mission Team Report continued...

This was done by supporting the structures on huge poles about 1.5 feet in diameter. The underside of the elevated homes needed to be insulated, framing in all plumbing and covered with two thickness of 5/8" sheetrock to comply with building codes. It was extremely hard work having to do many tasks working overhead. Wall finishing inside the various rooms in the houses was also accomplished as well as finish work on stairways accessing the elevated structures.

It was a great experience having so many youth on this trip. We were inspired by their eagerness to learn and to do a good job to support the effort. We also were led in worshipful dialogue by Rev. Beth who also did a yeoman's effort tending to our voracious appetites with her excellent kitchen skills. We went home tired but with a great sense of accomplishment.

Our next mission trip will be to go restore flood damaged homes in West Virginia August 13 through 19. We already have 18 people signed up to go including many of the aforementioned people who went on the April New Jersey trip. We are hoping more people from Immanuel might wish to join us so please contact Mike Block (315-491-0497) or me (315-243-4336) if you are interested or have any questions.

Jerry Sabattis



Mark Your Calendars! Our Annual Mini Golf Tournament will be August 5. Registration forms are in the newsletter and the church office. See Shelley Dawson Smith for more details.



**Congratulations
Confirmands!**

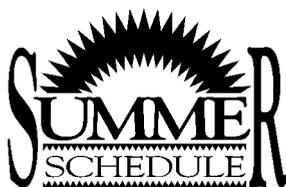
THIS AND THAT FROM PASTOR JACK.....



Here are some things to think about and maybe even mark your calendar to attend...

1. Remember our summer worship time is 9:30am each Sunday morning!
2. Did you know Immanuel is supporting 21 young people attending camp this summer???
3. Start practicing your best smiling face! We're going to create a new photo directory with the help of Lifetouch Photography. The Membership/Evangelism Team is coordinating this effort and more information can be found in Barb's article contained elsewhere in this newsletter!
4. I hope you are planning to attend our open, working Administrative Council meeting on July 11th! We will begin visioning, dreaming and discerning God's future for Immanuel's next 50 years at this important gathering. Just let the church office know you'll be joining us and we will appreciate your ideas.
5. Coming in October..... **THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS!** I'm planning two (2) new member classes on 10/1 and 10/8 and the reception of new members on October 22nd! If you are ready to make the commitment and take membership vows please speak to me so that I can make sure everyone who is ready is invited!
6. Don't forget to wear your name tag each Sunday morning! Everyone appreciates hearing their own name and by wearing your name tag you make this much easier. Thanks!
7. We continue to build a team to offer worship on the 4th Sunday of each month at Camillus Ridge Terrace. If you'd like to get involved in this exciting ministry speak to me, please!

Pastor Jack



The church office will be closed on MONDAYS June 26 through September 4.

One worship service begins June 25 through September 3.

♪♪ **Music Notes** ♪♪

As we finish out the 2016 -2017 worship music year before our 2 month summer hiatus - I wish to extend my appreciation to all those who participated in our church's music program this year including the choir, our instrumentalists, the children's choir, the praise band and of course our organist/accompanist Joyce Bunce.

To those choir members who practice each week and sing each Sunday, thank you for your dedication and commitment. Because of you , we can provide quality choir anthems at every Sunday 10 am worship service from September through June.

To those who sign up for various "limited engagement" in the choir, we thank you for joining your voice with ours and expanding our choir and adding to our songs during the special times of the year like Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter along with the 50th anniversary celebration and the Bishop's visit this year and those who help us out during the winter months when some of our snowbirds fly south for the winter.

This year our choir counted 20 full time members and 7 seasonal members. Based on the many positive comments received, the congregation has noticed our wide variety of anthems including many new anthems this year added to our repertoire that included gospel songs, spirituals, praise, contemporary and traditional songs.

I need to also acknowledge and thank the dedicated enthusiastic instrumentalists of our Worship Ensemble for their willingness to practice and to play for services throughout the year. This year we increased our participation and played for gathering music time and as special music.

Also a note of thanks to the members of the Children's Choir. I enjoy so much working with these children and their willingness to use their gifts to serve and praise the Lord.

This year's been busy - we hope that your spirit has been uplifted by the music all of these groups have practiced and shared each Sunday morning. A big thank you to everyone in the congregation who takes the time to express their appreciation for particular anthems and music played for the service. This encourages us and means a great deal to each of us.

One more thank you and that is most importantly to Joyce Bunce - organist/choir director and former music director at Immanuel who is retiring after many years of service to the Lord and to this church. Thank you, Joyce and know that as you start a new journey, you take with you the respect and blessings of this choir director and my prayers that you will have an enjoyable and fulfilling retirement - you have well-earned it!

Return Service Requested

Our Mission

*"To make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world."*

It is not jealous
it does not seek its own interests It bears all things
1 Corinthians 13 endures
is not pompous
believes
Love is patient believes all things
it does not brood
bears
Love is kind but rejoices
hopes all things
it is not quick tempered it is not rude
rejoice it does not rejoice over wrongdoing
with the truth it is not inflated
all things

July/August 2017

We wish to be good stewards of both financial and environmental resources. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please email us at churchofthebells@gmail.com and request removal.



Pastor

Pastor Jack Keating

Phone

(315) 487-1171

Email

churchofthebells@gmail.com

Website

www.churchofthebells.org

Summer Worship

9:30 am

Sunday School

During worship (7/9-8/20)

Handicapped accessible

Please join us!