



# The Lantern



1500 Old Church Road  
Streamwood, IL 60107

**March 2010**

630 837-0190  
www.streamwoodiucc.org

## Worship Schedule

**Join us for Worship  
on Sunday mornings at  
9AM**

**Stay for coffee and fellowship  
in Volkening Hall immediately  
after worship**

**We Welcome All!**

The **Tapestry Choir** (vocal) meets **every Monday evening** from **7 PM to 9 PM** in the sanctuary.

The **Prayer Group** continues to meet on **Monday** mornings in the church library at **9:30 AM**. All are welcome to come pray for those in need.

The **Knitting Ministry** will meet in Volkening Hall on **Tuesday, March 2nd and Thursday, March 18th** at 7 PM to 9 PM.

The **Women's Guild** will have its meeting on **Thursday, March 4th** at noon in Volkening Hall. Dessert will be served.

The **Finance Ministry** will meet on **Thursday, March 4th** at **6:30 PM** in the library.

The **Fellowship Focus Group** will meet for its first round of discussion on **March 6th** from 9 AM to noon in the West Classroom. If you signed up to take part in this new ministry area please plan to attend.

The **New Publication Group** will meet in the West Classroom on **March 7th** at 11:30 AM. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

The **Church Council** will hold its meeting on **Tuesday, March 9th** at **6:30 PM** in the West Classroom.

## March Happenings

**Wednesday Night \$4 HUB Dinners** are held every **Wednesday evening** at **6 PM to 7 PM** (unless otherwise stated) in Volkening Hall. See page 7 for a listing of the March menus. Everyone is welcome!

Join Pastor Tom in the West Classroom as he continues his **studies on Christian Practices** including Enriching Spiritual Growth, Transformative Mission and Deep Generosity. These take place on **Sunday, March 7th, 14th and 21st** from 10:30 to 11:30 AM.

**Bell Choir** takes place on **Wednesday evenings** beginning at **6:30 PM** with the Senior Choir and **7:30 PM** with the Treble Choir (beginners).

The **Widow/Widower's Support Group** will meet on Thursday **March 11th and 25th** at 10-11 AM in Volkening Hall. Anyone inside or outside of the church is welcome to attend.

The **Discipleship Focus Group** will meet for its first discussion group on **Saturday, March 13th** from 9 until noon in the West Classroom.

The **Congregational Care Ministry** will meet on **Saturday, March 13th** at 9 AM in Volkening Hall.

The **Worship Ministry** will meet on **March 14th** from noon until 2 PM in the West Classroom.

The **Building & Grounds Ministry** will meet on **Saturday, March 6th** at **10 AM** in Volkening Hall.

**Stamp Camp** with Melissa Iwinski will take place on **March 27th** from 10 AM to 1 PM in the West Classroom. All interested, please contact Melissa.

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### A New Spiritual Journal at IUCC

We are in the early stages of crafting a different kind of publication, one aimed primarily at outreach from the IUCC family. We hope to produce the kind of "newsletter" that will speak *from* the church *to* those beyond her walls, the kind of publication you might hand to your friends and neighbors as an offering of spiritual insight, interest, or support. It will primarily contain articles written by interested persons here at IUCC. It will not be a calendar of events, like the current *Lantern*, but will be more like our own version of "Guideposts" offered from an IUCC perspective. We would love your help. If you feel led to this ministry, we can make use of:

Writers  
Poets  
Artists  
Photographers

*Or, help us find a name. We are looking for a good name for this new offering. If you can think of something catchy and descriptive, e-mail your suggestions to [tom@clearparadigm.org](mailto:tom@clearparadigm.org) by March 06, 2010. We will select a winner at our next editorial meeting*

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### SPRING RUMMAGE SALE



Start cleaning out your closets and storage spaces. Our Spring Rummage Sale will be held Friday, April 16th, 9 AM – 4 PM and Saturday, April 17th, 9 AM – 1 PM. Coffee, Tea and Lemonade will be sold throughout the sale.

Rummage will be accepted from 9 AM – 3 PM and 6 PM – 8 PM beginning Monday, April 12th through Wednesday, April 14th, and 9 AM – Noon on Thursday, April 15th. If these dates and times are not convenient for you please contact LaVerne Ryman, (630) 837-7337 or the Church Office (630) 837-0190 to make other arrangements. Clothing, Household Items, Electronics and More. We would prefer clothing to be for spring and summer. **All clothing MUST BE clean with no missing buttons, rips/tears, etc. All other items must also be clean and ready for sale.**

Many hands are needed to make the sale a success. Sorting and pricing will take place daily in Volkening Hall beginning at 9:00 AM Monday, April 12th and follow the above schedule. Thursday afternoon will be used to complete the set up. All items not sold will be loaded in a trailer provided by the Cancer Federation. Save your brown grocery bags and plastic bags from Jewel, Wal Mart, Target, etc.

If you have any questions please contact LaVerne or the Church Office.

“Computers are useless. They can only give you answers.” ~ Pablo Picasso

Dear Friends,

On the surface of things Picasso’s observation about computers might also be extended to our thinking around spiritual issues. For many people the principle impulse of religious tradition is the offer of security, stability, and control. Many people prefer religious traditions that are constructed on the bedrock of certainty, a foundation of rules, regulations, and moral perspectives intended to leave us feeling protected and insulated from the vagaries of an unpredictable world. If we are called to walk along the narrow way, we want some good solid handrails on either side. We want to be able to look for, and find, the answers to life’s most passionately troubling questions.

Perhaps this is one of the primary reasons why so many people seem to be turning either to a fundamentalist form of religion or to a highly secularized scientific perspective. One way or another, we want those answers. During the season of Lent, as we focus more intentionally on our spiritual paths, we have a marvelous opportunity not to seek better answers, but to learn to live with the questions. In any ultimate sense, life is indeed a mystery. Life is wild, creative, unpredictable, and unregulated. We never really know what might happen next. Pretending otherwise is like dipping ourselves in anesthetic, we may not feel as much pain, but all the joy is dulled as well. No amount of rules or regulations is going to change the fact that the narrow way is a wild and dangerous path upon which to tread.

I imagine that narrow way, along which Jesus calls us, to be less like the red carpet at the Academy

## The Text Message

Reflections on Scripture and Church life

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Rev. Tom Gough - Interim Pastor

Awards, and more like the Caminito del Ray in Málaga, Spain. The Caminito or “The King’s little path,” is a twisting, exposed, and dangerous little walkway along the inside edge of the El Chorro gorge. Built 100 years ago, it has fallen into disuse over the decades and is now a place for only the most adventurous traveler. In places the railings have rusted out and fallen away. In places the cement platform has dropped into the canyon leaving only the pitted iron framework along which one must navigate. At every turn the gorge drops away to the river below and could easily carry the inattentive hiker with it. It is scary, wild and scary.

The life of faith, in its essential nature, is also wild and scary. No hedge of rules or misplaced certainty will diminish the dangerous unpredictability of facing the next moment. The season of Lent invites us to own up to that uncertainty, to embrace the mystery of life and to take with us the one true thing, the assurance that especially when our paths take us over the most frightening of ground, we go with our companion and guide, Jesus the Christ. Perhaps as we travel through this season, that can be enough for us.

Somewhere along the way,

Tom

## Those Who Serve

Please note that there will be four USHERS and three GREETERS listed from this point forward. There will be a GREETER at the west entrance, the entrance into the hallway leading up to the sanctuary and one at the sanctuary door.

We are also interested in seeking people who are willing to give TESTIMONIALS. If you are interested in giving your testimony, please choose a Sunday best for you!

### Sunday, March 7th

USHERS: Joyce & Wayne Brown  
Two more people needed

GREETERS: **Sanctuary Door**

Geri Levander

**Hallway Door**

Jon Levander

**West Door**

One person needed

TESTIMONY: ?

### Sunday, March 14th

USHERS: Eleanor Johnson  
Three more people needed

GREETERS: **Sanctuary Door**

Geri Levander

**Hallway Door**

Jon Levander

**West Door**

One person needed

TESTIMONY: ?

### Sunday, March 21st

USHERS: LaVerne Ryman  
Three more people needed

GREETERS: **Sanctuary Door**

One person needed

**Hallway Door**

One person needed

**West Door**

One person needed

TESTIMONY: ?

## Birthdays

- 1 Barb Roderick
- 9 Melissa Iwinski
- 11 Judy Courtney
- 12 Michael Schirott
- 18 Priscilla Dixon
- 20 Ken Bjerke



## Anniversaries



- 27 Sandy & Jim Mann
- 28 Joyce & Wayne Brown
- 28 Bonnie & Al Berkner

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## Thank you ...

*Dearest Immanuel Church Family,*

*I can't tell you how special and caring you all are to me. Thank you for all of your love and blessings during this time of change.*

*With all our love,  
The Camson Family*

## Prayer List

We pray for...

Our shut-ins including:

Sue Fasse

Frances Learn

Eleanor Madsen

Hertha Peterson



We also pray for...

Nancy Madsen & her family on the death of Nancy's uncle

All those who have lost loved ones

Elmer & Grace Heinrich

Duane Ackmann

The healing of our economy

Those seeking employment

The lonely and homeless

The elderly and their caregivers

Our government and all the issues we face in this country and abroad

All men & women serving in the armed forces  
God's guidance in leading Immanuel forward  
with the ministries and financial challenges

## New Counseling Service at IUCC

Our friend Fran McClain wants to offer her counseling services to her IUCC family. Fran has a Masters in Counseling and is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC). She works currently as the Program Director for Clinical Services at The Josselyn Center in Northfield, IL., and teaches as adjunct faculty at The Chicago School for Professional Psychology. Fran works with individuals, couples and families. Her counseling/therapy style is eclectic based on the persons she is working with and the issues to be addressed. Her approach is pragmatic based in the Family Systems Theory meaning that the best way to work with someone is not in isolation but by also fostering a healthier environment to support the individual's healthier lifestyle and choices. Fran is well versed in available community services so she can provide referrals as well as therapy/counseling, whichever is desired or most appropriate.

*Fran will be available in the office at IUCC on Saturdays (10:00AM to 4:00PM) or by appointment during the rest of the week, beginning on February 27. Drop-ins are welcome but, if you prefer to make an appointment, please call 630-244-3309.*

## March 2010 HUB Menu

Come and join us during the month of March for these delicious home cooked \$4 meals. The meals are served on Wednesday evenings in Volkening Hall from 6 to 7 PM. The menus for this month are as follows:

### Wednesday March 3rd

Beef Sandwiches  
Chips  
Salad  
Dessert and Beverage



### Wednesday March 10<sup>th</sup>

Chicken Breasts  
Mashed Potatoes  
Vegetable  
Dinner Rolls  
Salad  
Dessert and Beverage

### Wednesday March 17<sup>th</sup>

Sloppy Joe Sandwiches  
Chips  
Salad  
Dessert and Beverage



### Wednesday March 24<sup>th</sup>

Chicken Tetrazzini Casserole  
Vegetable  
Dinner Rolls  
Salad  
Dessert and Beverage

### Wednesday March 31st Food Pantry Night

Bring a can of food and get **\$1 off**  
your meal



Tacos with Fixings  
Mexican Rice  
Dessert and Beverage

We want to have enough food for all so please RSVP to the church office by Wednesday morning of the meal! Thanks.

Dear Friends of Immanuel,

While I was preparing to write this article, I was reminded of the fact that there is, literally, an internet site for almost anything. For example, I found a website ([www.sayingsforchurchsigns.com](http://www.sayingsforchurchsigns.com)) that is completely dedicated to sayings for church signs. All of those catchy slogans you find on church signs—they actually are stored online for others to use! As I was surfing the site, I came across this slogan:

“The church is a gift from God—some assembly required.”

There is certainly a lot of truth in that statement; God does give us the gifts, but we have to understand how to use them to do his work. As workers for Christ, we must remember that the “assembly” of our church is not just about Sunday worship, it is about planning and assisting in the enrichment of our church family.

Who are the assemblers? All of us! There is no 800 number to call if we are not happy with the results or the quality of what we build; no complaint line to reach if we aren't satisfied. The success of what we build depends on every member. If you have concerns about our Worship Services, Fellowship Activities, Missions Projects, Educational Opportunities, Maintenance of our Buildings or how we Manage our Finances, please join one of the groups who plan and manage the activities of Immanuel. Participating in one of these focus areas gives you a positive voice.

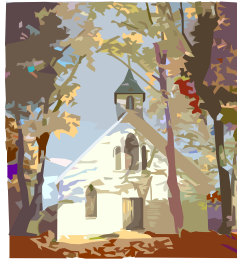
Sometimes assembling things is difficult, and the directions are confusing, but the end result is so rewarding! It requires being involved in the process, and not merely being a spectator.

Rodger McDowall

Moderator

## **Building & Grounds Ministry (B & G M)**

The B & G Ministry is looking for people that are sick! Yes, you read sick. We need people with that dreaded Green Thumb sickness. One of the ways to help cure this sickness to attend a B & G meeting on Saturday, March 20th at 10 AM.



This meeting will focus on all our outdoor activities. So if you have any ideas, thoughts, ways or whatever, we would like for you to attend this meeting. Some of these activities are:

- mowing
- planting/weeding flowers
- grass/bush trimming
- weed spraying
- cemetery work
- garden work along with Missions Ministry

So if that Green Thumb is really hurting, we would like for you to attend this meeting.

Jay Olriksen  
Coordinator

## **Evangelism Ministry (EM)**

Evangelism has spread its wings and is now apart of the four focused ministries at Immanuel; Missions, Fellowship, Worship, and Discipleship. We as a congregation need to be evangelizing not only to those outside the church but also to each other and ourselves. Evangelism is much more than a “recruiting” tool. Evangelism is sharing our faith, testimonies, and calls to Christ with all those around us. Speaking of our faith and how Immanuel enhances our relationship with Christ is a great thing to talk about with your friends, family members, co-workers, and individuals you meet along your journey. This may spark an interest in someone coming to Immanuel and experiencing the love of Christ and the love of a congregation. However, we also need to speak of our faith walk with those who are apart our family at Immanuel. Sharing our faith walk may inspire a member to look deeper into their own faith, to trust their faith and get involved in one of the many active ministries at Immanuel, or to spread the Word of Christ and deepen their commitment to the church.



Evangelism has not gone away. Evangelism has spread its wings to envelope all aspects of the church and touch every member here at Immanuel. I challenge each of you to take the essence of Evangelism and bring it to life in your own words and actions.

Jenny Lee

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## **Congregational Care Ministry (CCM)**

The next meeting of the Congregational Care Ministry will be held on Saturday, March 13th at 9 AM in

Volkening Hall.

Donna Bowers  
Coordinator

## Mission Ministry (MM)

The Mission Group met in Volkening Hall on Saturday, February 20th. The group was full of energy and wonderful ideas. Tom lead us in a discussion about the true definition of “Mission work” and the creativity started to flow from there. The theme of the mission Group this year will be **“FEED OUR SHEEP”**. Can you believe it? We discovered that some of the best works at IUCC are food centered...go figure?

The following people volunteered to help provide leadership:

Group Coordinator– Jay Olriksen

Representative– Donna Bowers

Communicator– Judy Dutton

Volunteer Coordinators– Bonnie Berkner and Arlene Rembowski

Here is the list of projects we would like to explore:

- \* Expand HUB in some way to provide service to the homeless
- \* Deliver HUB meals to the shut-ins
- \* Provide Holiday Meals
- \* Organize a lunch once a month, with games, for the seniors
- \* Become more involved with the Hanover Township Food Pantry, collecting and distributing food
- \* Donate food from the church garden to the food pantry
- \* Offer grocery shopping services to the seniors
- \* Involvement in the Heifer project
- \* Provide food for a local PADS shelter

- \* Continue our relationship with the Night Ministry
- \* Provide meals for Habitat for Humanity work crews

It seems like a very ambitious list but IUCC is filled with passionate and motivated people. In the words of John F. Kennedy, *“Things do not happen, things are made to happen.”*

We hope you join us at our next meeting on Sunday March 7th at 12:15 PM.

Judy Dutton  
Communicator



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## Worship Ministry

(WM)

Please join us for our next worship Ministry Focus Meeting on Sunday, March 14th at 12 PM.

During this meeting, we will be evaluating our traditional church service and see what will work best for all members. If you are interested, please join us, as **ALL ARE WELCOME!** If you have any questions, please see anyone on the Worship Team.



Jennifer Traversa  
Communicator



## Stewardship & Finance Ministry (SFM)

For several weeks now I know that there has been a lot of attention and emphasize paid to the budget and pledging.

This is understandable since balancing our income and expense budgets has been a problem and problems are easy to spot and focus on. So the squeaky wheel gets the grease and that is all you hear about. In this atmosphere it is easy to loose sight of all the other aspects of Stewardship that we need to understand and apply to flourish as Christians and well-rounded people. The Finance Committee is pretty focused on money. We collect it, we count it, we deposit it, we channel it into different funds, we track it, we pay the bills with it, and try our hardest to stretch it as far as we can. Trust me, there is nothing spiritual about money. Perhaps the way that we use money can lead to spiritual answers. I do not feel that Finance is a ministry per se. It is purely administrative. So it is very easy for Finance to get caught up in dollars and cents, Don't get me wrong, Finance provides a very valuable service to our congregation and we work very hard and put a lot of time into all the work we do. But we are not going to show you how to get closer to God. Nor are we going to provide a means of outreach or service to the outside community. So it is easy to forget that Stewardship should and can be so much more than the dollars and cents that we contribute. Traditionally Stewardship has been divided into three areas: Treasure, Time and Talent.

“Treasure” or finances is the one that we are all most familiar with. The money that we place in the collection basket and is run through Finance is indeed our Treasure. But the canned goods we donate to the Hanover Township food pantry is also Treasure. As are all the food and other items you bring in

for our fundraisers and the items for Backpack Buddies or Bells for Bensenville.

Time, of course, involves a little more investment. I liken it to the story about the chicken and the pig. As far as breakfast is concerned the chicken is involved but the pig is committed. It is the same with time and money; the level of involvement is different. Buying a gallon of gas versus spending a few hours of your time trimming the grass or donating food to the night ministry versus actually driving down to the west side of Chicago are just a few examples. Both treasure and time are necessary but the money you will soon forget about while the experience of doing the work sticks with you.

Talent can be a God-given gift that you were born with such as a knack for teaching or a singing voice that is in tune more than it is flat. But talent can also be a skill that you learned such as photography or electrical wiring. Everyone is skilled or talented at something.

All three parts are necessary at Immanuel. All involve giving something of yourself. But the first step is the willingness to give. Stewardship's main function is to educate—why and how you can give in all three of those areas.

Al Berkner  
Coordinator

## Ministry Focus Groups

In our follow-up to the Appreciative Inquiry Summit, there are meetings scheduled for each of the four areas of focused ministry attention. Both the Worship and the Mission focus groups have met as of this issue of the Lantern, Fellowship and Discipleship will be meeting for the first time in March. The process we are using to determine the nature of ministry, for each of these groups, is being met with openness and enthusiasm by those in attendance, and bringing about some really terrific results. This is proving to be a very fruitful process. The process itself rests on one defining principle however, namely that it is an open process. At any time, any member of the congregation, any interested party, can become part of the forward movement of a ministry area, simply by showing up at one of the meetings. None of the groups are restricted to a particular committee or board. All of these focus groups are open to the whole congregation. This is a very exciting and energizing time to be involved in Life here at IUCC, so plan to come be a part of the action.



### **Immanuel Staff**

Interim Minister: **Rev. Tom Gough**

Pastor Tom's e-mail address:

**tom@clearparadigm.org**

Bell Choir Director: **Nancy Madsen**

Music Ministry Director: **Val Bartlein**

Office Administrator: **Bonnie Berkner**

Custodian: **Jay Olriksen**

Immanuel UCC website:

[www.streamwoodiucc.org](http://www.streamwoodiucc.org)

Church e-mail:

[office@streamwoodiucc.org](mailto:office@streamwoodiucc.org)

Office Phone # 630.837.0190

FAX # 630.837.4077

### **Church Council Contacts**

Rodger McDowall	Moderator	847-429-0351
Dave Madsen	Vice Moderator	847-301-1573
Pam Patterson	Treasurer	630-742-4291
LaVerne Ryman	Clerk Pro Tem	630-837-7337
Jay Olriksen	Building & Grounds	847-980-0376
Donna Bowers	Congregational Care	630-372-8580
Al Berkner	Stewardship & Finance	312-617-4741