

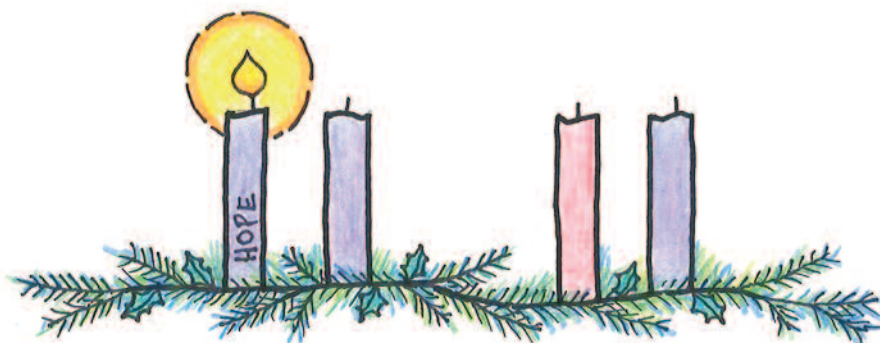


The Immanuel Light

For the Living of These Days

DECEMBER 2021

VOL. 13 NO. 12



Light the Light . . . Fire of Life

Advent is the Season of preparation for the birth of Christ. During this Season of Advent in 2021, let us enrich our experience of the coming of Christ in our lives!

Daily Advent devotions will begin Sunday, November 28. Everyone on the church's email distribution list will receive a devotion each morning through Christmas. These devotions are provided by writers from the Immanuel church family. Those who do not have email access will receive a printed copy of all the devotions.

An Advent Choral Evensong will be presented on **Sunday, December 12**, at 3:30 PM. This event will feature our children singers, soloists, instrumentalists, our pastoral staff, and our adult choir. The music we are presenting is bundled in a collection called "Angel Band," a fusion of music ranging from medieval tunes to contemporary bluegrass, all centered around the music of the shape-note and mountain ballad tradition. Singers and orchestra will combine for a delightful evening, and the congregation will sing and read along with the musicians.

At the **Christmas Eve Service** on December 24 at 4:30 PM, we will celebrate the birth of our Lord with the singing of carols, a time for children, Lord's Supper, and homily.

The Weather Report

The camera appeared in 1839. Its uses today are innumerable. Many aspects of photography are positive. I carry in my Bible a picture I took of my father and mother standing outside the country church of her childhood. Frayed and nibbled at the edges, they stand, proudly, in the autumn sunlight with large smiles perched across their faces.

Like most technology, the camera is limited. When looking through a camera, I see only what I expect to see. I look for the perfect position. Reciprocity diminishes as the distance between me and the subject increases. “This is what happens when we view something panoramically from a distance,” to borrow the words of Sallie McFague.¹

Filtering everything through spectacles or a camera’s lens is a form of impressionism. Things only exist as I perceive them or they do not exist at all. Linear perspective was not Leonardo Da Vinci’s groundbreaking discovery. However, he was on to what we know to be the distant and controlling eye of the camera. To his students he said, “You must diminish the sharpness of those objects in proportion to their increasing distance from the eye of the spectator.”²

Thankfully, there is another way of seeing. Annie Dillard describes the difference between the two ways of seeing as the difference between walking with and without a camera. “When I walk with a camera I walk from shot to shot, reading the light on a calibrated meter. When I walk without the camera, my own shutter opens, and the moment’s light prints on my own silver gut.”³ The latter is to draw close and pay attention.

Advent begins this coming Sunday. The excesses of Thanksgiving may leave us a bit slow, our senses dulled. Our theme this year requires that we come prepared to return to our senses. We will employ the magnificent gift of sight as we note the colors and decorations of the season. To see Christmas purely, a return to the other senses is in order. Smell, touch and taste connect us to our physical surroundings. Hearing provides both distance and closeness. When all five are employed, the distance between the subject and the spectator diminishes.

Our theme this year is “Light the Light...Fire of Life.” Each Sunday we will light candles named hope, peace, joy, and love. On Christmas Eve, the Christ Candle will be set aglow against our world’s great darkness. Like candles, we seek a rekindling of the fire within us. We arrive at Advent this year aware of a distinctively modern case of impressionism. A view that insists that things only exist as I see them or things do not exist at all. The tendency to filter everything through one’s own spectacles diminishes our common humanity.

What one sees depends upon the stance from which one beholds this. This Christmas season, I invite you to find the stance in worship, either in person or via livestream, which best allows you to take in the sights, sounds, smells, tastes and touch of this hallowed time. Let us draw close, and experience again the message of Christmas: Unto you is born this day a Savior!

—Steven

1 McFague, Sallie. *Super, Natural Christians*. P. 79.

2 Isaacson, Walter. *Leonardo Da Vinci*. P. 275

3 Dillard, Annie. *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*. P. 31.



Immanuel Baptist Church

The mission of Immanuel Baptist Church is to share the good news of Jesus Christ, to deepen our love for God and others, to fully engage our neighbor, and to wholeheartedly serve those on the margins of society.

God is calling Immanuel Baptist Church to practice the radical, compassionate discipleship taught by Jesus Christ.

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HALLOWEEN Comes Once a Year . . .

and sometimes it comes on Sunday! Children's Church was a bit different this October!

The outside party afterward was a huge hit!



YOUNG WOMEN'S RETREAT



Some of our young women gathered at the Crownover's lake house recently and examined "What Story Does Your Heart Tell?"

Would You Like to Say "Goodbye" to Writing Checks and Save a Little Postage?

Use Online Bill Pay to make a weekly, monthly, or yearly contribution to Immanuel Baptist Church. You can schedule your contribution and select the date or dates you would like IBC to receive your contribution. It can be on the same day each month, week, or year!

Here's how you do it:

- 1) Go to the tab labeled **Payments** on your online banking website.
- 2) Select **Pay Bill** (This is not how IBC sees your contribution, but for a bank it is considered a bill!)
- 3) The bank will ask you to add a company or a person. Click on that tab and select **Charities**.
The company name: Immanuel Baptist Church
Acct #: Charitable Donation
Address: 222 Belle Meade Blvd., Nashville, TN 37205
Phone: 615-297-5356
That is all you have to fill in. Select **Save Changes** and it will take you back to the original screen.
- 4) The bank will ask which of your accounts you want to use to make your payment. It will give you a scroll down of all of the accounts you have with the bank when you select the tab.
- 5) Next, enter the amount you would like to contribute and then it will ask for the date for delivery. This can be a one-time contribution or you can select Autopay and set it up as a recurring contribution.
- 6) Autopay will ask the amount and the frequency of the payment (weekly, every 2 weeks, monthly, or annually).
- 7) The bank will also ask for the length of time you would like this payment to occur. The bank will give you several options.
- 8) Your bank will then ask if you would like an email each time a contribution is sent.
- 9) At that time you will be asked if you are ready to start sending payments.
- 10) The bank will send the check to the church several days prior to the date you select so it always arrives on time.

What an easy way to make your contribution to the church!! No more writing checks!

—The Stewardship Committee



Our Children's Sunday School Classes remembered Randy Dover with Melanie on All Saints Sunday.

Collecting Mittens, Hats and Gloves for Christmas Boxes in 2022



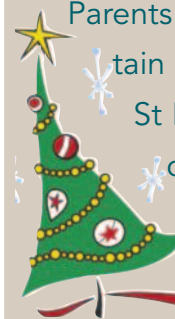
If, after Christmas, you are shopping and find mittens, hats and gloves we can use for our Christmas boxes in 2022, you may purchase them and bring them to the church. We have a place to store them. Thank you!

Saint Nick's Night Out for Parents

Open to Children from Pre-School to 6th Grade

Friday, December 3rd from 5pm to 8pm

Parents – take a break while we entertain the kiddos!



St Nicholas themed songs, crafts, skits, treats and more

Contact Pastor Stephanie (swyatt@ibcnashville.org) for more info

Our Stained Glass Window

On Sunday mornings as I gaze at the faceted colored glass window centered above and behind the choir loft and listen to the strains of music from our organ, my soul is prepared for worship. Perhaps you would like to learn more about this beautiful piece of art that is the focal point of our sanctuary.

In August 1966 Edwin Kibble Associates was selected as architects for Immanuel's new worship space. The cornerstone was laid on Thanksgiving Day 1967. The sanctuary was completed in 1968. It was dedicated January 12, 1969. Since then it has been one of the most beautiful places of worship in Nashville.

The colorful faceted glass window above and behind the baptistry was commissioned and presented to Immanuel by Edwin Keeble. He gave it in gratitude for the church's contributions to him and his family. It is interesting to note that in 1908 Edwin Kibble was listed as one of 16 children enrolled in Immanuel's Cradle Roll.

The window was made in Chartres, France, at the studio of Pierre Millous. It rises nearly twenty-four feet high and weighs 2,500 pounds. The colors are darker at the bottom gradually getting lighter near the top, symbolizing the Resurrection. A faint cross is visible in the center. The window is constructed of 2,200 pieces of faceted colored glass. There are fourteen shades of blue highlighted by hues of red, green and yellow. Enjoy this beautiful piece of art as you worship in Immanuel.

Dr. Albert McClellan, an official of the SBC and a longtime member of Immanuel, wrote the following lines in 1969 in appreciation of the meaning of the window for him.

Baptistry Mosaic

Revealed

In broken bits

Of red and green and blue,

The glory of this window is

Its cross.

A vague

And wispy dream.

Half hidden in the glass

Until the light breaks through

Within.

My days

Were broken bits

Until the light of God

Came through to give them unity

Of love.

—Dorothy Steen

Church Family News

PRAYER LIST

Jane Sharp
 Faye Shaw
 Daniel Hudgins, grandson of Gayle Perin in NC

Chris O'Rear
 Pat Vick

THANK YOU

The family of Sam Emmett Christopher is deeply appreciative for your kindness and sympathy which will always be held in grateful remembrance.

CONGRATULATIONS, LAUREN!

Lauren Baker was recently selected as a 2020 CMA Foundation Music Teacher of Excellence. We, along with the CMA, applaud Lauren's commitment to music education for her students, school, and community! We are proud of you, Lauren!

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!



Lucinda and Tim Stewart join by letter from First Baptist Church, Nashville. Their deacon will be Jill Cooper.

Sanctuary Flowers

December 5- given by Jenny and Scotty Dean in loving memory of Ken and Norma Dean, and Harold and Dorothy Spencer.

December 12- given by Melanie Dover in honor and memory of her husband, Randy Dover.

December 19- given by Larry and Debbie Maxwell in loving memory of their parents, Charles and Willa Maxwell, and Hank and Kathryn Batts.

December 24 and 26 - given by the Grace-Mills Sunday School Class in loving memory of Jennie and Liston Mills.

Ingathering Report



Congratulations, IBC!
 You collected 132 items of stuffing and pasta for Luke 14:12! Thank you so much!



Room in the Inn

December 2 and 16
 January 6 and 20
 February 3 and 17
 March 3 and 17

happy birthday to you!

December 2

Belle Butler
 Malcolm Horner

December 3

Stefan Gore

December 4

Penni Gregg
 Lerma Hearn
 Sophia Brown

December 5

Sharon Bates
 Chris O'Rear
 Cliff Vaughn

December 9

LaNieve Coles

December 10

Greg Sharpe

December 13

Diane Sharpe
 Judy Skeen
 Kenny Cooper

December 14

Laralee Page

December 19

Natalya Fleming
 Lynn Woodall

December 21

Melanie Dover
 Jenny Dean

December 24

Kristen Winston

December 28

Allen Schlamp
 Adam Brett



Calendar of Events

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

5:00 Children's Choir
5:00 Church Family Supper
6:00 Program: Christmas Vespers
-Handbells/Brass rehearsals
-Children on Mission
-Youth Group

7:00 Adult Choir rehearsal

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2

9:30 PDO

6:00 RITI

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3

5:00 Children's Christmas Party

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

Second Sunday in Advent

9:15 Sunday School All Ages

10:30 Worship

2:00 Sacred Harp

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6

9:30 PDO

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

9:30 PDO

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

5:00 Children's Choir

5:00 Church Family Supper

6:00 Program: The Next Door

-Handbells/Brass rehearsals

-Children on Mission

-Youth Group

7:00 Adult Choir rehearsal

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

6:30 Stewardship ZOOM

7:00 HHS Choir Concert

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

Third Sunday in Advent

9:15 Sunday School All Ages

10:30 Worship

3:30 Angel Band Christmas Concert

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

5:00 Children's Choir

5:00 Church Family Supper

6:00 Business Meeting

-Handbells/Brass rehearsals

-Children on Mission

-Youth Group

7:00 Adult Choir rehearsal

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

6:00 RITI

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

Fourth Sunday in Advent

9:15 Sunday School All Ages

10:30 Worship/

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

5:00 Children's Choir

5:00 Church Family Supper

6:00 Adult Education Program

-Handbells/Brass rehearsals

-Children on Mission

-Youth Group

7:00 Adult Choir rehearsal

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:30 Christmas Eve Service/Lord's

Supper

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:30 Worship

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29

NO ACTIVITIES AT CHURCH

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
ON DECEMBER 26**

**The Church Office will
be closed the week of
December 27-31.**

Reading for This Season

With Christmas approaching, stop by the library for some Advent reading.

Choose a devotional book:

Unwrapping the Names of Jesus - Asheritah Ciuciu

Honored - Roberta Kells Dorr

The Women of Christmas - Liz Curtis Higgs

In the Manger - Max Lucado

Devotions for Christmas: a Celebration of Joy and Peace

Or a classic:

Gift of the Magi - O. Henry

A Christmas Carol - Charles Dickens

Or recipes and décor:

Southern Living 2020

Or books for the kids:

Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree - Robert Barry

"M" is for Manger - Crystal Bowman

The Nativity Play - Nick Butterworth

The Birds of Bethlehem - Tomie DePaola

The Christmas Promise - Alison Mitchell



Or any of the additional 98
Christmas-themed books!



134 Years Later...

December 12, 2021, marks the 134th anniversary of the establishment of Immanuel Baptist Church after being a mission of First Baptist Church for fifteen years.

On Monday evening, December 26, 1887, Immanuel Baptist Church met for its second business meeting as an organized church. Captain Matthew Pilcher served as moderator for the 11 members present.

Among the items of business was a discussion of the observance of the Lord's Supper on New Year's Day, 1888. Mrs. Stief and Mrs. Washington had agreed to serve on the preparation committee and the B. H. Stief Jewelry Company had generously donated a silver pitcher, cup and tray for use by the church. Mrs. Stief pulled those items from her carpet bag for approval by the members. *(From the script for the historical skit, written by Brenda Vantrease, celebrating the 125th anniversary of Immanuel.)*

Immanuel continues to use this silver pitcher, chalice and bread tray now, 134 years later, each time we observe Communion.

Charles Businaro
Church Historian