

The Baptismal Covenant

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord.

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

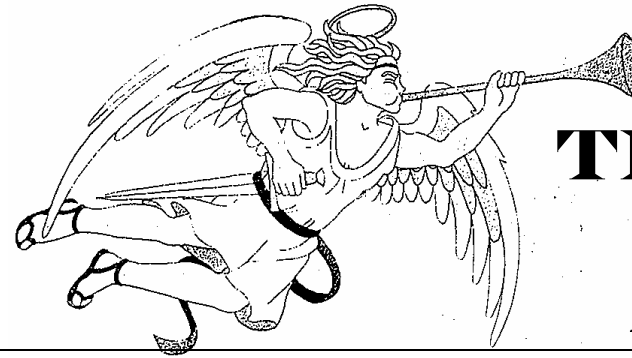
I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.



THE HERALD

January 2009

Will you continue in the apostle's teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

At every baptism in the Episcopal Church, we the people respond to these questions from the Baptismal Covenant with "I will, with God's help."

Thus, every time a child is baptized, we the people *renew* our Baptismal promises. This ongoing renewal enables the church to carry on with its core mission. The Diocese of Vermont proclaims this mission: "to pray the prayer of Christ, learn the mind of Christ, do the deeds of Christ. We envision a lively, mission-oriented church...."

Here at Immanuel we have a history of being pioneers in Baptismal Ministry. That is, we have been on the cutting edge of not just responding to these questions with the words, "I will, with God's help," but also doing the deeds of Christ. We the people respond with action, with doing, with mission.

Our purpose, our inspiration, is rooted in the Baptismal Covenant. We come together in the apostle's teaching and fellowship every

Sunday and are *renewed* as Christ's body, his heart and mind, his hands and feet, his voice and deeds, because we pray and break bread together. As a result of this fellowship in Christ that we share, we can seek and serve Christ in all persons; we can love our

neighbors as ourselves; we can strive for justice and peace in our parish, our community and even around the world; and, perhaps most important, we can respect the dignity of every human being.

We do these things *not only* because of our history of Baptismal Ministry, *not only* because we undertook a process that resulted in commissioning and ordaining a Local Ministry Support Team. Our MST is *a sign* of our finding inspiration in the Baptismal Covenant, but it is not, *in and of itself*, Baptismal Ministry.

Baptismal Ministry is *our sincere and passionate response* as a people to the questions in the Baptismal Covenant, "I will, with God's help." Sunday after Sunday, we pray

continued



THE HERALD

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the prayer of Christ and join in the liturgy and the Eucharist and we are *renewed*. Day by day, we learn the mind of Christ in our study of the lectionary and the writings of the saints, mystics and theologians of the church and we are *renewed*. Day by day, we are *renewed* in doing the deeds of Christ and in seeking and serving Christ in all people.

In this, *our time of renewal* at Immanuel, in this New Year, may we return to *our response* to the questions of the Baptismal Covenant, "I will, with God's help," and mean it. Then we will *renew ourselves* as the "lively, mission-oriented church" God is calling us to be.

*May peace prevail in us and in our world,
Beau*

Calendar

ONGOING

Sundays: Choir Rehearsal, Chapel, 8:15 am

Sundays: Eucharist & Sunday School, Church, 9:30 am.

Mondays: Community Supper, Undercroft, 5 pm.

Tuesdays: Ministry Support Team prayer meeting, Office, 6 pm

Tuesdays: Adult Religious Education, Library, 6:30 pm (*restarts February 17*).

Second Thursdays: Biblical Storytelling group, Library, 5:30 pm

JANUARY 2009

Sat 1/4: Vestry meeting, Office, 11 am.

Sat 1/10: Bonnie Fairchild music recitals (outside group), Church, 11 am & 1 pm.

Sat 1/10: Stone Church Arts concert with Okabari, Middle Eastern music duo, Church, 7:30 pm.

Fri 1/16: Stone Church Arts art opening, *One Gate*, recent works by Cindy Bowler and Jennifer Irion, Chapel, 5 – 7 pm.

Sun 1/18: Annual Meeting of Immanuel Parish, Chapel, 11 am.

Sun 1/25: *Baptism Ministry Basics*, adult religious education course, Library, 11 am.

Mon 1/26: NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

In Our Prayers

* * **For healing in the lives of**

Rodney S., Chris H., Sarah H., Floyd L., Benny P., John M., Gerry D., Christine S., Marcia W., Joycelynn T., Mary W., Bob W., Matt W., Chuck G., Lucille B., Josephine D., James M., Richard C., Patricia S., Peter G., Judy A., Bette H., Anne S., Jen A., Jeff P., Peter G., Ronald A., Fred D.



January Programs

7:30 PM, SAT,
JAN 10

**Okabari,
Middle Eastern
music duo**

Amos Libby and
Eric LaPerna

perform Armenian and Anatolian folk music, classical Middle Eastern music and traditional folk and contemporary songs from the Greek, Arabic and Balkan traditions. Okabari also presents multi-instrumental original music inspired by the musical systems of the Middle East and India. They perform on the oud, clarinet, duduk, bouzouki, doumbek, riqq, tabla, ney, mridangam, and several other instruments from around the world.

5 – 7 PM, FRI, JAN 16

Art Opening: *One Gate*

**Jennifer Irion & Cynthia Bowler,
paintings, drawings and textiles**

What happens when two artists risk leaving the comfort of working in isolation to collaboratively examine questions about the SELF. The show will feature recent works.

Vestry Notes

DECEMBER 15



Stair lighting in Church: John is going to install the rope lighting and he is going to figure out what further needs to be done if the rope lighting is insufficient.

Stewardship: The Rev. Angela Emerson ("Angie"), Diocesan Minister for Stewardship Development, will be coming to Immanuel once a month to help us with stewardship and help us present the budget for next year. LeAnn will be overseeing a Financial Discernment Committee which is being appointed by the Vestry. The committee, Angie suggested, should consist of a creative person, a theology person, and an organizational person. There will only be one person from a couple on the committee. This group will tell the story of how we spend our money. **Motion** to create a *Financial Discernment Committee*, approved.

Rectory Chimney: We have a quote from Vermont Master Chimney Sweeps to install two separate flues for the boiler and the woodstove instead of the single one in one chimney now. The estimate is very high. We want two other opinions on the safety issue involved. Maybe it is fine if we clean it twice per year instead of once.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors: **Motion** to purchase carbon monoxide detectors for the Rectory, one downstairs and one upstairs, approved.

Update on Rectory: The walls are done. LeAnn measured for blinds and they will be purchased and installed. We have an estimate for a new vinyl kitchen floor. LeAnn agreed on a price and the flooring is being purchased and we will know soon when the floor will be installed.

Adult Religious Education

Baptismal Ministry Basics



Let's return to the basics of the Baptismal Covenant. In Baptismal Ministry we become a people gathered around *ministry* instead of around a minister. In what ways are we all ministers by virtue of our baptism? What is the BIG IDEA of Baptismal Ministry anyway? We plan to have a Diocesan Ministry Developer share with us the idea of Baptismal Ministry as the diocese conceives it as a priority for its parishes. Mark Preece, Interim Pastor, will lead us in discussion of the Baptismal Covenant. We will also explore more deeply the role of Baptismal Ministry as a driving force in our ministry at Immanuel. **We will gather on the fourth Sundays monthly for 4 to 6 months beginning Jan. 25 in the Library, 11 am.**

The Essential Themes of Christian Mysticism Part II

Bernard McGinn, in his book, *The Essential Writings of Christian Mysticism*, will again be our guide to the core themes of the mystics. Each session will be devoted to a particular theme. We will not only read the original writings of the mystics, we will hear their words in a brief, contemplative liturgy as well as discuss the themes exploring how they may apply to our own religious and spiritual lives.

The course continues for seven Tuesdays beginning Feb. 17 at 6:30 pm:

Feb 17: *Positive & Negative Ways to God*

Feb 24: *Vision, Contemplation & Rapture*

Mar 3: *Distress & Dereliction*

Mar 10: *Deification & Birthing*

Mar 17: *Union with God*

Mar 24: *Mysticism & Heresy*

Mar 31: *Contemplation & Action*