

WHAT WAS GIVEN LIFE IN 1810 ...



IS STILL VITAL AFTER 200 YEARS

**Immanuel Baptist Church
of Portland, Maine
Reflects on the Bicentennial of
its Soul Liberty Ministry**

IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH welcomes you to the celebration of *200 Years of Soul Liberty*

Immanuel Baptist Church traces its roots back to 1810 when **the First Free Baptist Church** was formed. Another Baptist group formed **the Free Street Baptist Church** in 1836. When the First Free Baptist Church of 1810 was one hundred and twelve years old, and The Free Street Baptist Church of 1836 was eighty-six years old, the two congregations merged to form what is now known as **Immanuel Baptist Church**. That took place in 1922. The glue that brought those two churches together and that has guided Immanuel's life ever since, is a commitment to Christian discipleship, based on the notion of **Soul Liberty**. Soul Liberty is the *competence and responsibility of every person under God to make moral, spiritual and religious decisions for themselves*, and to share and expand these decisions in covenant with others. During the year 2010 Immanuel Baptist Church invites you to join its celebration of Soul Liberty in the events listed within this folder, and in even more expressions, which include...

- a **bicentennial banner**, temporarily displayed above the church's front doors, announcing the year-long celebration;
- printed **worship bulletin-covers**, coordinated with the designs of Chancel banners which change monthly. On the back covers of the worship bulletins will be biographies and bicentennial anecdotes;
- occasional adult **forums** with informed, guest leaders who will share insights **about the two churches who united to form Immanuel**;
- periodic **sermon themes**, based on Baptist identity and historical events, preached by the Pastor, Deborah Davis-Johnson;
- occasional **choral and organ concerts** and presentations by the Chancel Choir and its Director, Kathleen Scott;
- monthly **informational tours of the church's campus** and its exceptional facilities-for-ministry, by the Property Committee;
- occasional **new creations** [e.g. history booklets, hymns, theatrical pieces, and objects d'art], expressing Soul Liberty in new formats and with refreshing accents.

**THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS
OF IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH**

**Something Each Month
Commemorating 200 Years Of Soul Liberty
Since The Church's Birth In 1810 [*]**

Saturday, January 2

The "Worship Spotlight" column in The Portland Press Herald features Immanuel.

Sundays, January 3 & 10

Two Adult Forums feature Doug Cruger's PowerPoint presentations with "Illustrations of IBC's History...from the Archives."

Sunday, January 10

The Property Committee guides worshipers to the High Street sidewalk for The Dedication of the 1810-2010 Celebration Banner. [See the cover photo on this folder.]

Sunday, February 7

The Nurture Committee designs and leads a "Soul Liberty Jeopardy Game," during a pancake brunch after worship.

Sunday, March 21

The Worship, Music & Arts Committee presents a luncheon program, "Soup 'n Songs," which includes Soul Liberty hymns (and others, from 1810, 1836 and 1922).

Saturday, March 27

The Worship Music & Arts Committee sponsors the musical, "A Remarkable Mary," presented by The St. Luke's Players, from the Cathedral.

April 11 through June 13 (two months)

The Deacons oversee A Sixty-day "Kingdom Project" designed to involve many volunteers from the congregation.

Sunday, April 18

The Church Council arranges "The Historical-Rolling-Soul-Liberty-Bus-Tour" to spots of significant Baptist history in and near Portland.

Sundays, May 9 & 16

The Finance Committee leads two Adult Forums on "Soul Liberty & The History of Stewardship in Baptist Churches."

Sunday, June 13

The Choir leads a Worship Service with the theme of "Soul Liberty through Music," on the traditional Music Appreciation Day.

Summer (date TBA)

The Staff Relations Committee celebrates the publishing of A "Soul Liberty" article in the Memories of Maine Magazine.

Sunday, September 12

The Outreach Committee releases a pictorial publication, "We Are Immanuel...200 Years of Ministry."

Sunday, October 24

Choir Director, Kathleen Scott, presents a theatrical piece during worship with "Readings & Songs about IBC's Historic Times."

Sundays, November 7 & 14

The Woman's Federation and Doug Cruger lead Two Adult Forums on "The Important Role of Women in Immanuel's History."

Friday, December 24

The Property Committee guides everyone attending the Annual Christmas Eve Family Service to the High Street sidewalk to witness "The Flood-lighting of the Church Façade."

[*] These program intentions have been coordinated by an ad hoc Steering Committee, empowered by the Church Council, with ideas proposed and carried out by various working groups within the Church. Because specific details might change over time, please check <http://www.ibcportland.org> for late, breaking news.