

THE ALMOND TREE

QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL



SPECIAL WINTER EDITION 2022

2021 A LOOK BACK



FAITHFUL WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

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Photos on cover: Center photo of Zabriskie chapel courtesy of Candy Levin, bottom right photo courtesy of Father Sam.

Photo *this page*: Father Randy Alexander blesses a circle of our canine family members at Immanuel's annual Blessing of the Animals, Sunday, October 3, 2021, on the Zabriskie Chapel's lawn. Immanuel also hosted a flu shot clinic that day in the playground.



FROM THE RECTOR

Looking Towards Lent, Looking Towards Regathering



It may seem as if we have just put away the Christmas decorations, but our observance of Lent is on the horizon. You may have heard me say that we should try to view Lent, this storied season on the Church calendar, not as a burden, but as an opportunity. It is an occasion for reflection, for inventory-taking, and for some real, honest conversation with God about how we are doing in our faith, in our walk with God and with other people. This is all, of course, part of the preparation leading up to Easter, but it is so much more than that. It's a little like an annual audit, akin to the financial audits we know in institutions and organizations.

As usual, Immanuel will be approaching Lent from many directions, and with many offerings. You will see notice in this issue of *The Almond Tree* of our Sunday morning Lenten Series, along with mention of our Lenten Retreat, the beginnings of an adult Inquirers' Class, our coming solar installation, and so much more. A host of book and Bible studies continues. Our talented choir will be working on music for Lent and Easter soon, we are lining up the preachers and celebrants, etc., etc., etc.!

It strikes me that this Lent is also a great time to focus more intently on our regathering as a parish as we emerge from the pandemic. After our brief, forced retreat to all-virtual worship due to the Omicron variant in January, we are now back to offering in-person worship, which is also livestreamed, at 8a.m. and 10:30a.m. on Sunday mornings. We are also offering a special children's Eucharist at 9a.m. in Zabriskie Chapel, geared towards children who are too young to be vaccinated, along with their parents. There is also the small, quiet Wednesday evening Eucharist at 6:30p.m. in Zabriskie Chapel, which offers all of the physical distancing you could ever want! As you know, we have also offered an outdoor Eucharist at 1p.m, which we may re-start soon.

As I said in my Annual Report, I believe the pandemic has been the greatest, single challenge this parish has ever faced. We are certainly not alone or unique in that, but Lent does present an opportunity for us as a community to begin emerging intentionally from this challenge. We do this while naming and mourning our losses, but while fundamentally looking towards Easter and towards Jesus himself.

In other words, there are lots and lots of ways to engage in worship and fellowship in this your parish home. It is time for me to welcome you home! We need to be together. We are continuing live-streaming for those with underlying medical issues, or who are traveling, or

who may be ill, and that technology is a blessing, but there are also many blessings derived from our being together. I hope the Diocese will soon allow us to re-start coffee hours, which are also such an important part of our fellowship.

I mentioned Lent as an opportunity earlier. Let's view this Lent as an opportunity to deepen and expand our worship and fellowship together, as we look towards Easter. Our Thursday morning Bible Study just completed our study of the Epistle to the Hebrews. We were moved by this quote, which could also guide us towards both Lent and regathering:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:1-2).

God bless you all,

Randy

The Rev. J. Randolph Alexander, Jr.
Rector

I believe the pandemic has been the greatest, single challenge this parish has ever faced...Lent does present an opportunity for us as a community to begin emerging intentionally from this challenge. We do this while naming and mourning our losses, but while fundamentally looking towards Easter and towards Jesus himself.

From The Associate Rector



It is not ourselves that we proclaim: we proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord and ourselves as your servants for Jesus sake. For the same God who said “Out of the darkness let light shine” has caused his light to shine within us, to give the light of revelation – the revelation of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:5-7

One of the great things about being out and about at night in the winter are the lights in the windows of houses. Outside twinkly lights are lovely too, but lights shining through the windows of houses and shops touch my soul in a way that is hard to describe. The lights that shine in the dark remind me of the fullness of life, the joy, warmth and comfort.

This letter Paul wrote to the church at Corinth contains some of the most eloquent and passionate writing in the Bible, and are to me, among the most encouraging in all the Bible. He writes that the very same light that broke the darkness at creation now shines through us in this present moment, which is both hard to believe and an encouraging thought. And though Paul is mostly speaking of his own experience in ministry, he wants to make clear to the congregation at Corinth that he believes the source of his ability to live out the Gospel, his ability to preach and heal and teach and feed, is not found in himself, it's the light of God flowing through him.

He writes

“But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us... We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down

but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.”

We are clay pots, he says, and because of our afflictions we are also cracked pots. Our light may not shine perfectly; nevertheless, it still gloriously shines through all our cracks, it shines through us in extraordinary and beautiful ways.

When I was in California at Christmas and gift shopping with a friend, we wandered into a Christmas store looking for ‘character’ Christmas ornaments – Hello Kitty, Spider-Man, and Pokémon. It was filled floor to ceiling with the usual mix of sparkly decorations, as well as the goofy and, almost as an afterthought, the serene creches. Toward the back of the store was a room that at first glance appeared unused - we almost walked past it – because it glowed like a candle, unlike the brilliantly lit store.

Peeking inside we found laid out before us a village of small ceramic houses and shops arranged on a snowy, rolling landscape with people and dogs and snowmen and sleds. A stained glass church perched at the top of a hill. The only light in the room flowed through the windows of those houses and the church. It was all the light that was needed.

We are the light shining through windows, through the cracks and unevenness of our lives. The light that shattered the dark at creation flows through each one of us just as surely as it flowed through the tiny ceramic houses in that darkened room. We embody radiance. It is light enough to heal the world.

The Rev. Susan Roberts +



Outreach Updates:

Reports on Immanuel's Fundraising and Outreach Initiatives

Fall 2021 - January 2022

2021 PUMPKIN PATCH Sales Set New Record!

The question on everyone's lips has been "Did this year's pumpkin patch sales beat our record net profits of last year?" The answer is "Yes"! We were blessed with five full weekends to sell, fine weather on all but one day, and the decision to order a fifth truckload of pumpkins.

Here is the summary of the sources of income.

Item	Quantity	\$ received
Large pumpkins *	6,321	\$ 130,174
Spookies	2,301	\$ 6,735
Wee-be-littles	3,763	\$ 3,673
Other gourds	6,762	\$ 15,131
Total Pumpkins	19,147	\$ 155,713
Apple crisps	216	\$ 2,950
Soups	646	\$ 4,275
Ghostie pops	501	\$ 489
Baked goods	3,561	\$ 15,136
Total food items	4,924	\$ 22,851
Craft items	149	\$ 1,360
Donations		\$ 3,888
Tips		\$ 2,922
Sales tax **		\$ 4,468
Total		\$ 191,201

Notes: * Many sales of multiple pumpkins were recorded as one pumpkin sale, so the total number of pumpkins sold is far more than 6,321.

** Virginia sales tax was included in the price of all items other than tips and donations. The \$ received column shows the amount received not counting tax.

Here is where the money went.

To State of Virginia (Sales tax)	\$4,468
To Square (credit card processing fee)	\$4,172
To Pumpkin Patch Fundraisers	\$91,305
To ICOH for outreach	\$91,257
Total	\$191,201

Discussion

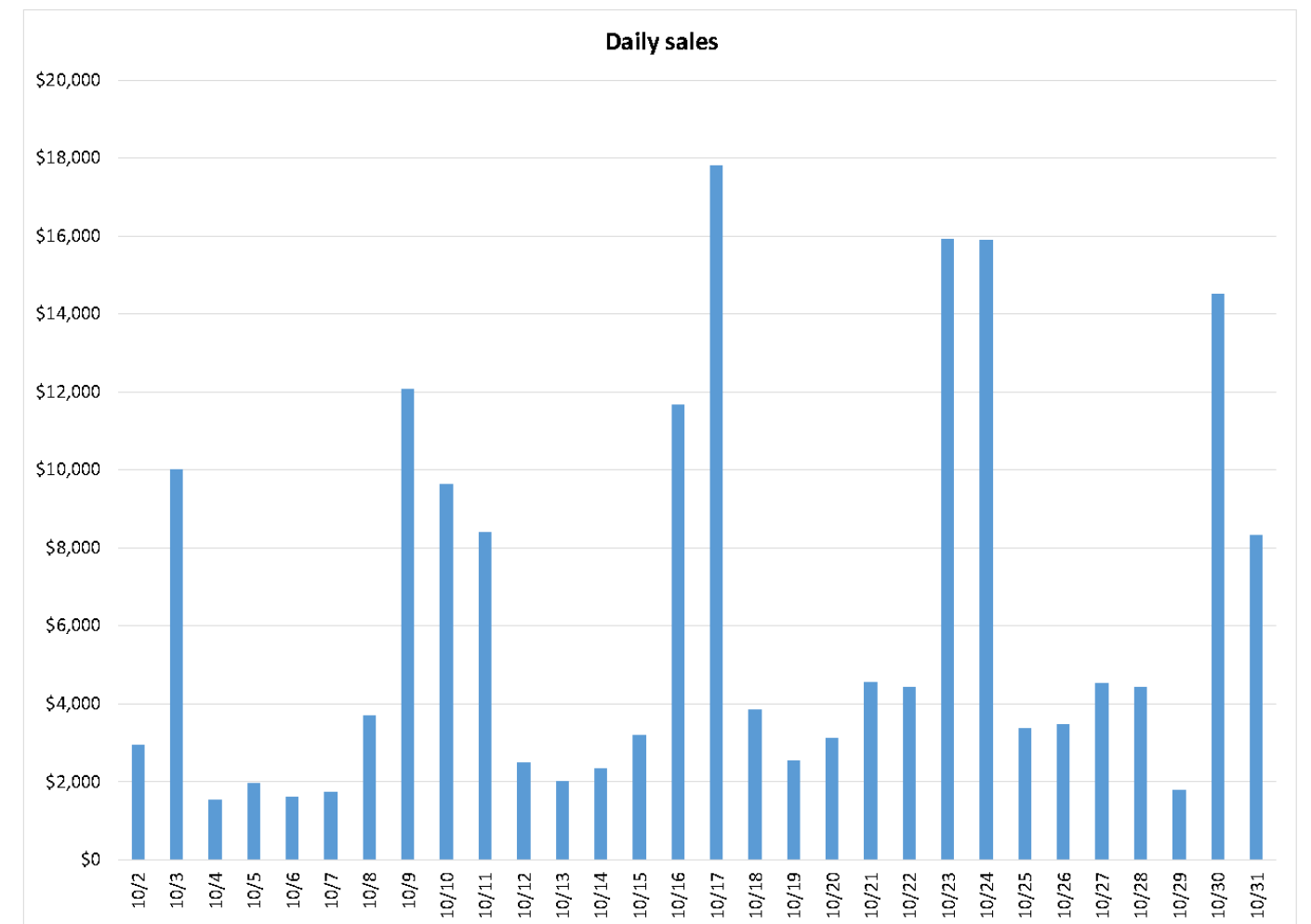
Last year, amid all the dangers of the Covid-19 pandemic, we made the decision to continue holding our Pumpkin Patch to raise money for our outreach activities. We instituted new routines for unloading pumpkins, sanitizing the sales area, and social distancing. The result was a record profit of over \$90,000.

This year, we continued to follow those safety procedures while conducting our 28th year of sales. Once again, many parishioners and community groups helped unload the pumpkins, and many crafters, bakers and

soup-makers provided goods to sell. Once again, we involved our parish in a large-scale cooperative effort, welcomed hundreds of community residents to our front yard, supported the Navajo pumpkin growers, and most importantly, raised money for local, national, and international charities that need funds more than ever. One of the most significant aspects of our success this year could be the number of new customers. Anecdotal evidence from our volunteers indicated many customers learned about us from social media. It was not unusual to find first time customers from outlying suburbs or the District. Credit card records from Square corroborate a significant number of new customers over last year. Our mainstay of customer base is still Alexandria, but we have significantly expanded throughout the metropolitan area.

Details

Here is a chart of our daily gross sales. Clearly the weekends and the Oct. 11 holiday were our best sale days. Sales of \$17,813 on Sunday Oct. 17 were our second highest daily sales ever. Heavy rains on Friday, Oct. 29 kept away most customers, but that left more pumpkins for the last two days.

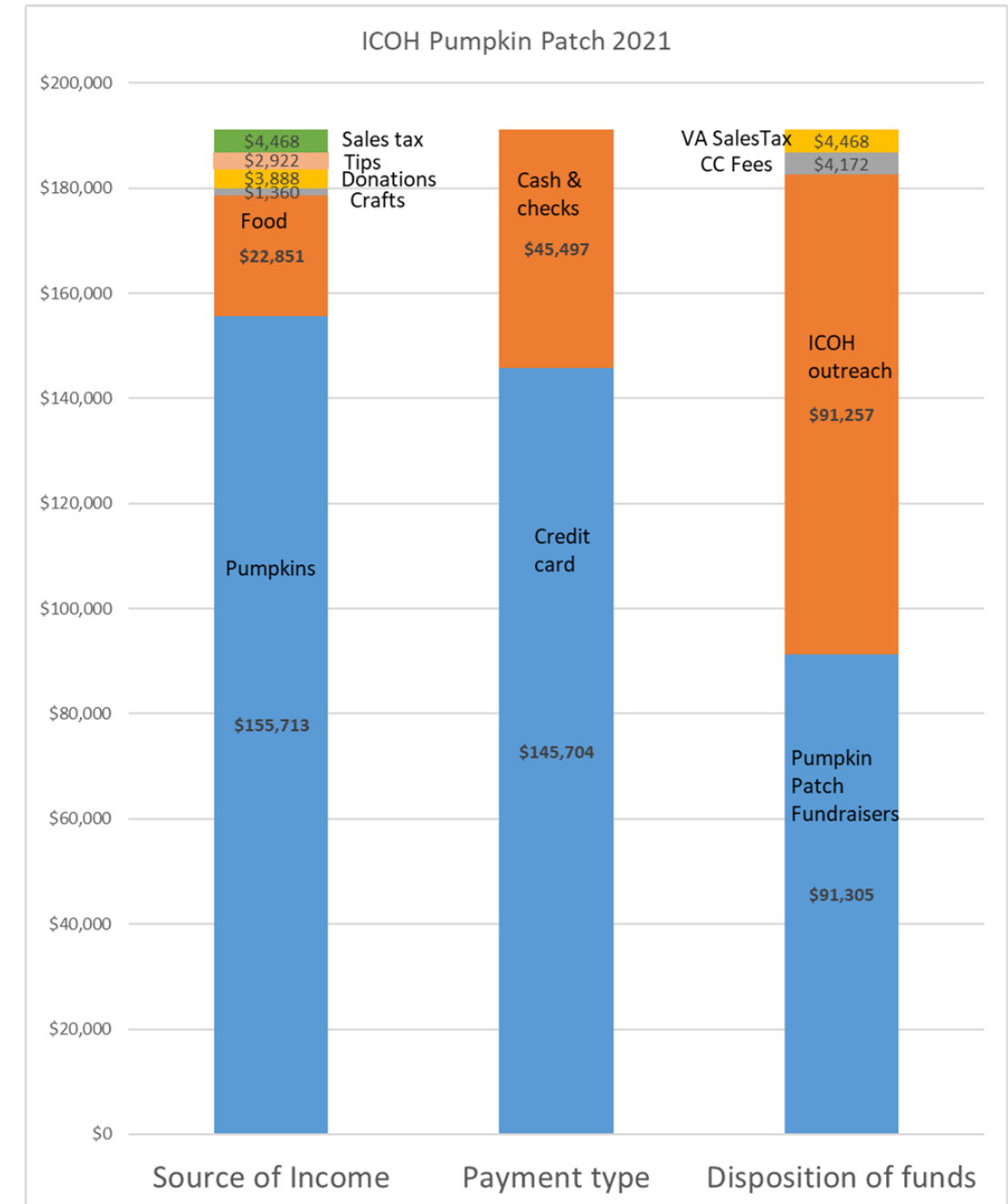


The following chart illustrates the breakdown of total sales and disposition of funds.



Mary Ellen Dingley, Eileen Schofield, and Daisy Grijalva from **L'Arche Greater Washington, DC** shop Immanuel's Pumpkin Patch for gourds and pumpkins to place in their community homes. (L'Arche is a faith-based community of people with and without intellectual disabilities sharing life together.)

Photo courtesy of Sarah Moore, L'Arche Greater Washington, DC



The first bar portrays the source of income. Sales tax was included in the pumpkin, craft, and food prices, but not donations. Tips included in purchases by credit card helped to cover the processing fee for credit card payments.

The second bar portrays the breakout between payments by credit card (\$145,704) and cash and checks (\$45,497).

The third bar portrays the disposition of the funds. \$4,468 went to the state for sales tax, \$4,172 went to Square for credit card processing, and \$90,305 went to Pumpkin Patch Fundraisers, the national outfit that provides the pumpkins, pays the Navajo reservation where the pumpkins are grown, and pays the shipping costs. The remaining \$91,257 has been retained by our church for outreach activities. The “bottom line” figure of \$91,257 edges out our 2020 profit of \$90,048 to set a new record.

We do incur costs of operating the patch. The bottom line figure does not reflect pumpkin patch expenses, such as fork lift operation, lighting poles, and supplies. The annual outreach budget has a line item for such expenses. This year's expenses are covered from last year's profits, and are expected to be about \$2,000.

Our heartfelt thanks to the great many of you who stepped up in so many ways to make it possible.

And thanks be to God!

Children from Community Lodging's Fifer Family Learning Center painting Spooky pumpkins from Immanuel's Pumpkin Patch!

Photos courtesy of Kate W. Wiley, Director of Resident Services, Community Lodgings





We've Got Mail! Thank-you Notes for Immanuel

We are in the season of gratitude. Thank you so much for volunteering your time, skills, and treasure to Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill's Pumpkin Patch 2021. This was our most successful Pumpkin Patch ever! It's impossible to name everyone who contributed, although we name a few. We apologize in advance for any unintended oversight.

First, thanks to everyone who worked shifts at the patch. Some of you sold in sunshine – others in

cold and rain; some of you took multiple shifts and sold every week and on super-busy weekends. You greeters made important first impressions for our visitors. Many thanks to the Day Managers - Sudie McGahuey, Lisa Frye, Keith June, Jim and Laura Snow, Julie Bruns, Rick and Sarah Glassco, Jamie Conrad, Sanjiv Augustine, Catherine Stanish, Jim and Rebecca Wise, Kristi Kubitsa-Hovis, Susan Gildersleeve, and Eileen and Kevin Kirby who made daily operations happen.

Our planning began months ago, but the first boots on the ground were those who set up the tents and lights in September—John Bednar, Kevin Kirby, Doug Onley, Sydney Onley, Tom Kerns, Keith June, Matt Haskins—and Matt's cousin Dan. The trailer trucks arrived on time thanks to drivers Amanda and Scott, who deliver to us yearly, and who Rosi Urbine welcomed to her home for dinner. The unloading process was efficient and safe thanks to our top-notch forklift operator, Tim, secured by Tom Kerns, who also rented the equipment to unload the pallets. We recently learned Sue Nichols at United Rentals, Hyattsville MD, provided all the equipment at no charge this year! Thanks to heroic pallet-jackers Keith June, Shawn Whitman, Doug Onley, Darrell Wilson, Alex Bruns – and to the many volunteers who showed up to unload pumpkins from bins. Jamie Conrad wrangled several groups of enthusiastic young people to help. Shawn Whitman averted disaster on the Patch on Opening Day by removing a swarming yellow-jacket nest! Several people helped resolve a tricky situation in mid-October when a truck arrived with incorrectly configured pallets. Special thanks to Sanjiv Augustine, Susan Parsons, John Bednar, and Caroline Bergmark who actively kept our visitors away from the forklift that day!

This year we earned thousands of dollars from food sales. Thanks to all who cooked, baked, and kept the food table clean, attractive and well stocked – also heroic efforts. Special thanks to Dorothy Kellogg who organized the soup brigade. Sarah Glassco and Laura Snow headed the bakers with help from Martha Shimkin, Kristin Whitman and Tom Cuddy. Nancy and Rebecca Wise had the brilliant idea to make dog treats! Phyllis Simms took charge of making our famous apple crisps, which sold out rapidly. Thanks to those who put in hundreds of hours into purchasing ingredients and baking tempting and beautifully packaged sweet and savory delights and fragrant soups...over and over. You came through when it seemed like no one had energy to bake or cook another thing.

Jeanie Eisenhower knitted mini-pumpkins and others made pumpkin hats and other lovely craft items to sell.

On the administrative side, Marilyn Wilson worked with City of Alexandria Health Department

to educate us all on COVID safety. Rick Glassco managed the Patch finances and made sure we had change in the cash box every day – and in his spare time figured out parking lot traffic flow improvements! John Bednar was our IT guru – and always resolved Square malfunctions. Many of you advertised the Patch in local media and neighborhood networks; and Brooke Roberts, Aleta Powell, and Candy Levin kept Patch news front and center with parish e-Blasts, Sunday bulletin items, Almond Tree, and FB posts. Sam Sheridan, Susan Gildersleeve, and Sanjiv Augustine breathed life into our Pumpkin Patch social media profile, explaining how we can all create reviews, post photos, and “like” them too – those actions enticed many new visitors from nearby as well as Maryland and the western Virginia suburbs. Preston O'Neil managed our online sign-ups and Lissa Soergel made reminder calls. Jim Clausen arranged for an Alexandria Sheriff's Office vehicle to guard the Patch. Claire Roe managed our bulk order communications and Julie Bruns, Kathryn and Addie Haskin and many others bagged hundreds of pumpkins for those bulk orders.

Last -- but not least – was Caroline Bergmark's Clean-Up Crew in November. Francine Wargo, John Bednar, Doug and Sydney Onley, and several others disassembled tents, stacked pallets, made sure left-over pumpkins went to Ricky's Refuge, and covered “past prime” pumpkins under the “Pumpkin Tree” with straw—fertilizer for next year!

Our volunteers came from all over. Most of you are parishioners, and some are friends and neighbors of Immanuel. You all encouraged and appreciated one another and kept each other going for a month! All of you have a big heart and strong commitment to our many outreach ministries.

After 28 years, the Immanuel Pumpkin Patch is a local institution that so many people look forward to with joy and anticipation. It is part of their autumn ritual. Your commitment makes our little church present in thousands of family photos and memories—a bright spot in the lives of people we may not all know – but they know our church. If 90 percent of life is showing up, you all showed up with gusto – often in orange! The value of that community spirit cannot be overestimated, especially amid a pandemic and a myriad of stressors that make life more challenging.

In all the hub-bub that is the Pumpkin Patch, we remember that the ultimate beneficiaries of our efforts are those being served by our Outreach Ministries – locally, regionally and internationally. In the coming months, we will report to you on the parish's outreach ministries. Know that we are making a difference.

Thank You for your part in this 28th annual miracle! Please share this note of thanks with any of your family or friends who also supported the Patch – but may not have received this message.

Sincerely,

Your Immanuel Outreach Committee

In January, Immanuel donated 1,171 pounds of food to Alive! This is wonderful!! Thank you for advertising and facilitating the drive -it really paid off. Please see below announcement to send to the parish .



January food drive and The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend collection for Alive!

Thanks to everyone who donated food to our January food collection to benefit Alive! Despite the snow and frigid conditions on MLK week-end as well as moving to online services for most of January , we still managed to fill the truck and collection boxes with1,171 POUNDS of food!!! Well done Immanuel!!!

FIVE NEW MEMBERS of Immanuel's Vestry 2022!

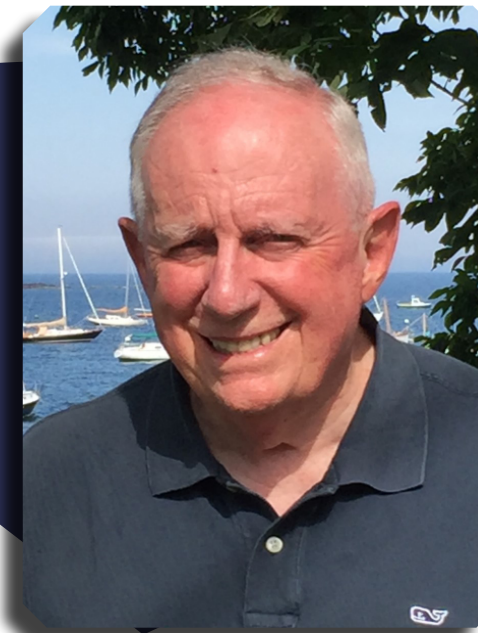


After bidding a fond “farewell” and thank-you to Kathryn Jackson Haskin, Danette “Dani” Gentile Kauffman, Martha Shimkin, and Francine Wargo for their devoted service, we warmly welcome five new members (pictured below). Taken at our 2022 vestry retreat are pictured above, from left to right: (standing) Kristi Kubista-Hovis, Harrison Clark, The Rev. Sam Sheridan (seated), Brooke Roberts, Rachel Wilson, (kneeling in center) Mollie Lambert, Shawn Whitman, Julie Bruns, Kathy Lloyd, (standing at right) Darrell Wilson, The Rev. Randy Alexander, Jr., Bob Murray, Brad Ashton, and Phyllis Sims. Appearing via Zoom on the projection screen are David Atwood and The Rev. Susan D. Parsons.

Mollie Lambert
Outreach



Bob Murray
Worship



W. Brad Ashton
Stewardship and Planned Giving



Julie Bruns
Pastoral Care

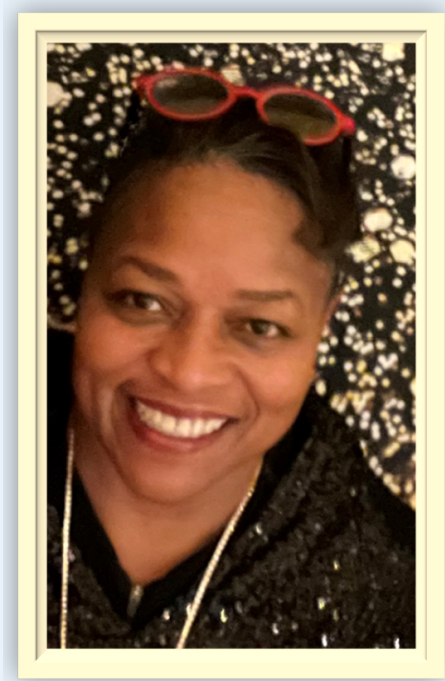


Kathy Lloyd
Senior Ministry



Meet Our New Seminarian

Janettarose Greene



Janettarose Greene, a Middler at Virginia Theological Seminary, joined us as our new seminarian last month and will be with us through May 2022.

Janettarose is originally from Pennsylvania. She retired in February 2021 after 37 years of federal service to pursue her studies full-time. Janettarose has augmented her academic work with wide-ranging roles in the seminary community. She serves as a sacristan in the chapel and research assistant to the dean on two book projects. This past year she was elected to serve as Member-At-Large of the Junior Class and co-leader of the Seminarians of Color Union. Most recently the student body has elected her to be its president. She expects this role to be especially important over the next 12 months, as it is the seminary's bicentennial anniversary. Janettarose is excited to be coming to Immanuel as part of the VTS Contextual Ministry program which is designed to help her assimilate theology, practical ministry skills, personal life, and call exploration through hands-on experiences with the members of our church.

Janettarose lives in McLean, VA with her wife Maria and dog Hans.



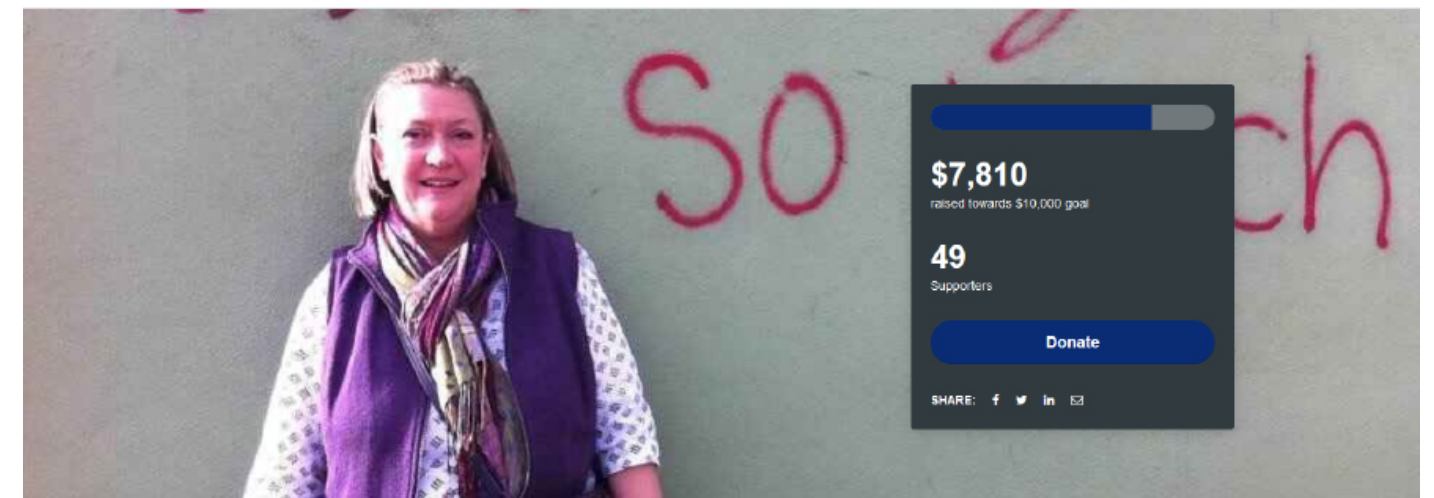
Give to the Jane Temoshok Scholarship Fund

A scholarship has been created in honor of **Jane Temoshok** through the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria - a nonprofit that gives college scholarships to Alexandria City High School seniors. Jane was a member of Immanuel for many years, serving on the vestry for a time. She was also an educator in Alexandria City Public Schools, and life long learning was very important to her. If you would like to donate to this scholarship, please click on the highlighted text **Jane Temoshok Scholarship Fund**, or send a check to the following:

Scholarship in Honor of Jane Temoshok
Scholarship Fund of Alexandria
3330 King St
Alexandria, VA 22302



Jane, you are in our hearts



There is a big hole in our lives that Jane has left...

Let's fill up another person's life by helping a Titan get to college.

Those of us who were close to Jane are finding this time of year to be especially difficult with Jane not here. We know we are not alone because Jane Temoshok touched so many lives. If you want to give to help establish a scholarship in Jane's name, this is where we can come together to do that. When you donate, put something in the notes about what Jane meant to you, how you met, or a short story about Jane. Then we all can enjoy the great memories and have a bit of a smile while we think of her.

The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria will award a scholarship in Jane's name to a graduating senior with financial need.

If you have any questions please contact: rosie.wiedemer@acps.k12.va.us

Thank YOU for Giving.

<https://alexscholarshipfund.networkforgood.com/projects/149961-honoring-jane-temoshok>



Planned Giving: Your Legacy Gift for Immanuel

Your Generosity Can Live On and On

Just as you may plan to remember family members through your will or estate plans, it is important, and a great blessing, to include gift language in your will, or a codicil to your will, to remember Immanuel, as well.

Planned gifts to Immanuel are for all of us to consider. It's not something just for the wealthy. It's for everyone who wants to make a gift that supports Immanuel's strong future – it's something all of us can consider.

Keeping Your Estate Documents Up to Date

The start of a new year is an excellent time to create, review, or update your estate planning documents. Life happens and it's surprising to see how many updates can be needed due to marriages, births, divorces, or other changes.

Estate planning documents can include your Will, Power of Attorney, Health Care Power of Attorney, Advance Medical Directive or living will, and Revocable Trust.

Here's a short list of actions you can take to get started:

Decide on or review your appointees – fiduciaries and guardians of your minor children. Fiduciaries are the Executor under your Will, the individuals you have identified in your Power of Attorney, Health Care Power of Attorney, and the Trustee of your Trust. These trusted individuals will be making important decisions for you and your beneficiaries' best interests. If these individuals no longer seem appropriate, it's important to consider naming others.

Decide on or review decisions made in your documents. You can make necessary changes through a Codicil to your Will or Amendment to your Trust, or you can create new documents.

Make or update a current list of all your accounts, such as bank accounts, brokerage account, and have them stored with your estate planning documents.

Check that your accounts are titled correctly and list the owners accurately.

Review your beneficiaries. You can easily update your beneficiaries by completing a Beneficiary Designation form.

Give someone control of your digital assets in your estate planning documents and make sure that person knows how to find your current passwords.

Online resources are available and can be a way for you to start. If you use an online tool to draft documents, it is especially important to have those documents reviewed by your attorney to ensure they both meet your needs and comply with all statutory requirements.

Every situation is different, and this guidance is not legal advice. So be sure to work with your legal, financial, and estate advisors to determine what is best for you.

Leaving a Future Gift to Immanuel is for All of Us

As you think about and make these estate planning decisions, we hope you will consider leaving a future gift to Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill. The Zabriskie Society recognizes parishioners who have made Immanuel, or one of its trust funds, a beneficiary of their will, insurance policy, financial account, or other planned giving program.

For more information about how you can become a member of the Zabriskie Society, contact Danette "Dani" Kauffman, danettekauffman@starpower.net.



*"Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."
Joshua 1:9*

2021 Stewardship Report – Immanuel's Every Member Pledge Campaign for 2022

A Big Thank You!

Thank You Beyond Measure!

Blessings and thanks to all parishioners for your support of Immanuel's 2022 Every Member Pledge campaign. You continue to give generously of your time, talent, enthusiasm, and treasure to support the ministry and mission of Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill. You are a blessing to God, to this church, and to our wider community.

If you are in a position to pledge for 2022, and have not already done so, we welcome and encourage your pledge.

Scriptural Messages Guiding our 2022 Every Member Pledge campaign
"Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

My God in Whom I Trust – Psalm 91:1-2 – Assurance of God's Protection

- 1 You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
- 2 will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust."

Hartley Hobson Wensing (phone outreach ministry)
Kristin Whitman
The Rev. Randy Alexander, Rector
Tom Hewson, Treasurer

A Specially Created Graphic with our star, cross, and compass rose design reminds us that God points our way and guides us on our journey of faith, exploration, and discovery. Even when the way is challenging, we trust that God is with us to guide us, inspire us, and protect us.

“Pocket Blessing” gift is for all pledging family members who pledged to support Immanuel’s 2022 Every Member Pledge campaign. This “pocket blessing” uses the specially created artwork of our 2022 Every Member Pledge campaign. This gift, created and provided by an anonymous parishioner, was mailed to all pledging individuals and families in a thank you letter from Rev. Randy. It is a heartfelt thank you for your generosity, devotion, and commitment to Immanuel’s ministry and mission. It is also a physical reminder of God’s presence with you. Keep it with you always – in your pocket or wallet, bookbag, or handbag. May this be a reminder to fortify your faith that “God is with you wherever you go.”



Parishioners’ Stewardship Minute Testimonials were offered at all three Sunday services on Nov. 7, 14, and 21, 2021, immediately after the exchange of The Peace. All Stewardship Minute Testimonials are available on Immanuel’s “Give” [Testimonials](#) webpage.

These dedicated parishioners and their testimonials are:

- Dodd Sims** – “Follow the Saints”
- Caroline Bergmark** – “My Testimonial”
- Kathryn Jackson Haskin** – “Accepting the Challenge of God’s Call – Why I Pledge”
- Doug Onley** – “Good Morning, Church!”
- Lauren Whitman** – “My Offering to Immanuel”

As of Friday, January 16, 2022, Immanuel’s Every Member Pledge campaign results are:

- **146 pledges submitted**
- **\$669,800 in pledged amounts**
- **14 pledges are from new members**
- **8 reinstated pledges**
- **55 pledgers increased their pledge by an average of 9.7 percent**

The treasurer’s current projection for our 2022 Every Member Pledge campaign, once the treasurer receives all pledges, based on historic giving patterns of current pledgers and new pledges are: 170 pledging individuals or families with pledge totals of \$705,000. We are ninety-five percent of the way in meeting our financial goal and pledges.

We are grateful to members of the Stewardship committee and other devoted volunteers and staff for their dedication and commitment to the success of Immanuel’s 2022 Every Member Pledge campaign:

- Tom Brown**
- Jamie Conrad**, co-chair
- Kathryn Jackson Haskin**
- Taylor Houck**
- Doug John**, joining for pledge candidate outreach ministry
- Danette (Dani) Kauffman**, co-chair
- Allison (Ally) Powell-Switaj**
- Kerry Kelly Wade**
- Hartley Hobson Wensing**, joining for pledge candidate outreach ministry
- Kristin Whitman**

The Rev. Randy Alexander, Rector

Tom Hewson, Treasurer

Special appreciation to:

Aleta Powell, Parish Administrator

Brooke Roberts, Communications and Website Steward

Nancy Close, Graphic Design Consultant

Outreach to Parishioners – Stewardship committee members and other devoted volunteers gathered virtually on January 9, 2022, to contact 43 families and individuals who pledged last year but had not pledged yet in 2022. Callers answered questions and provided helpful assistance that resulted in numerous pledge submissions.

Thank You, Immanuel Parishioners

Blessings and deepest thanks to all who supported Immanuel’s 2022 Every Member Pledge campaign “God is with you wherever you go.”

With gratitude for all that God has provided us as part of this ministry.

Jamie Conrad

Danette (Dani) Gentile Kauffman

Co-chairs, 2022 Every Member Pledge campaign

January 14, 2022

Thank you Pledgers Campaign 2022

Anonymous (21 Immanuelites)

Diane Adams
The Rev. Randy and The Rev. Patty Alexander
Gerald and Eve Anderson
Elizabeth Arnold
Brad and Melinda Ashton
David Atwood and Nancy Reuschel
Sanjiv and Sujatha Augustine
Sandhya Augustine
Caroline Bergmark and Francine Wargo
Karen Besser
The Biache Family
Stephen and Laylani Brown
Tom and Sally Guy Brown Jr.
Dennis and Julie Bruns
"Governor" and Maria Burke
Gary and Mary Ashton Campbell
Hugh and Jan Campbell
Cynthia Caples
Leif Christoffersen
Anthony Christino III and Adrienne Goins
Harrison Clark
Jim and Lisa Clausen
Adam and Laura Cohn
James and Kathy Conrad
Wilton Corkern
Carol Crossmire
Thomas and Carrie Cuddy

Elaine Davies
Gary and Mei Lung De Vight
Linda Donahue
Jeannie Cummins-Eisenhour
Mark Fearer
Sara Fein
Jane Flinn
Lee Boylan and Thomas Fuller
François and Lynn Gas
Kenneth Gerhart
Rick and Sarah Glassco
Nicholas and Jennifer Greiner
Matthew and Kathryn Haskin
Suzanne and Scott Heckenberg
Eric Heinz and Melissa Napolitano
Douglas Henry
Tom and Deborah Hewson
Kathleen Hobson
Richard Hobson, Jr.
The Rev. Dr. Ruthanna Hooke and Judy Adkins
Taylor Houck
Thomas Hussey
Doug and Wendy John
David and Wendy Lane John
Gordon and Frances Johnson
Ginny Johnstone
Danette "Dani" Gentile Kauffman
Dorothy Kellogg

Susan Kernan
Tom and Roz Kerns
Kevin Kirby and Eileen Monnin-Kirby
Barbara Kirkland
Theresa Kliczewski and Sorin Marcu
Jim and Connie Kurz
Candy Levin
Kathy Lloyd
Len and Sue Lynch
Katherine Maas
The Rev. Jan A. Maas
Jessi Ruth MacLeod
Martha Manson
Scott and Becky McCann
Chandley McDonald
Ken McDonald
Mike and Sudie McGahuey
Bryant and Madeleine Mitchell
Kitty Monte
Bruce and Cynthia Morton
The Rev. Jo-Ann R Murphy
Bob and Carla Murray
Reneé O'Brien
Celia Ochs
Faith Olson
The Onley Family
Chris and Diana Page
The Rev. Susan Parsons
Betty Perkins
Nikki Perry
Carole Phillips
Jackie Phillips
Everett and Susan Post Jr.
Marcus Rarick
Eric and Jennifer Reading
Mary Ann F. Rehnke
Stefanie Reponen
Brooke Roberts
Mary Jane Ruhl
The Rush Family
Stephanie Scharnweber
Linda Serabian
The Rev. Sam Sheridan

Thomas and Martha Shimkin
Pierre and Hilary Shostal
Dodd and Phyllis Sims
Catherine Sinclair
Stewart and Teresa Skubel
Katherine Smith
James and Laura Snow
Dagobert and Lissa Soergel
Agnes Soos
Catherine Stanish
Kevin and Allison Switaj
Norma and Richard Taliaferro
Jane Tavernier
David Temoshok
Bobbie Thomas
Marda Robillard and Patrick Tribe
Chris von Schoening
The Rev. Dr. Frank Wade
C. Kerry Kelly Wade
Diana Walker
Karen and John Walker
Betty Wanamaker
Mary R Warner
Kevin and Hartley Wensing
Shawn and Kristin Whitman
Susan Wiard
Darrell and Leah Wilson
Marilynn Wilson
Jim and Nancy Wise
Teddy and Lindsay Yates

Hill Happenings

March 2	12 Noon	Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes	Zabriskie Chapel
	6:30 p.m.		Zabriskie Chapel & <i>live-streamed online</i> via YouTube
March 3	10:30 a.m.	Online Bible Study: <i>The Epistle of James</i>	Online via Zoom: (see your weekly eBlast for log-in data)
March 6	8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Rite I	Zabriskie Chapel & <i>live-streamed online</i> via YouTube
	9:00 a.m.	The Joy Mass: Family Worship Holy Eucharist Rite III (EOW)	Zabriskie Chapel
	9:15 a.m.	Lenten Series Forum Hour: <i>Diving Into the Lenten Word</i>	Zabriskie Chapel & <i>live-streamed online</i> via YouTube
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Rite II	Immanuel Chapel <i>live-streamed online</i> via YouTube
March 8	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer	Zabriskie Chapel
March 13	8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Rite I	Zabriskie Chapel & <i>live-streamed online</i> via YouTube
	9:00 a.m.	The Joy Mass: Family Worship Holy Eucharist Rite III (EOW)	Zabriskie Chapel
	9:15 a.m.	Lenten Series Forum Hour: <i>Diving Into the Lenten Word</i>	Zabriskie Chapel & <i>live-streamed online</i> via YouTube
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Rite II	Immanuel Chapel <i>live-streamed online</i> via YouTube

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

March 15	7:00 p.m.	Benedictine Group Meeting	Online via Zoom: (see your weekly eBlast for log-in data)
March 22	12:00 Noon	Senior Adult Ministry Brown Bag Lunch: " <i>Changing-up our Personal Spiritual Practices</i> " presented by The Rev. Susan D. Parsons	Zabriskie Parish Hall

TODAY: Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

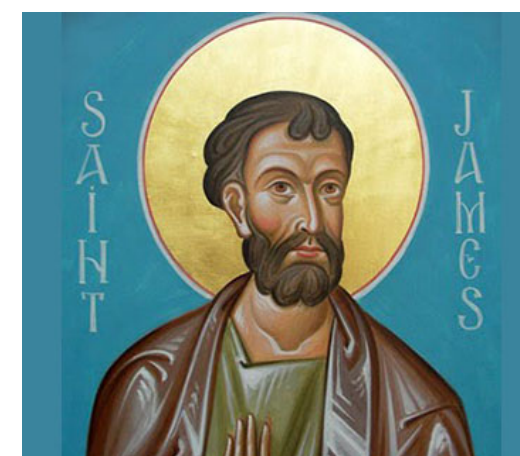
Wednesday, March 2, 2022 @ 12 Noon and 6:30 p.m, Zabriskie Chapel



Ash Wednesday is the first of the forty days of Lent, named for the custom of placing blessed ashes on the foreheads of worshipers. The ashes are a sign of penitence and a reminder of mortality; imposed with the sign of the cross. Whether you have always observed many specific customs during Lent, or whether you have barely heard about / remember it at all — you are invited, as a member of this community, to spend some time preparing for Easter. Turn your heart, mind, and will toward the Resurrected Christ and the promise of a world renewed by God's unyielding love

BIBLE STUDY this Thursday, March 3rd @ 10:30 a.m.

THE EPISTLE OF JAMES



All are welcome to share in this exploration of James -- no prior study or participation necessary. We meet Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to noon online via Zoom -- look for login information in your weekly eBlast email

Just bring your Bible (or an online version such as Bible Gateway here) and a heart open to the idea that we are meant learn from one another, that we are a people called to learn about God's love in community. You most certainly can just listen, but your witness, experience, thoughts, and beliefs are just as important and valuable as anyone else's!



Lenten Retreat What would we say to the people of Orphalese?

Holy Cross Abbey, Berryville, Virginia
April 1-3, 2022

In our tightly scheduled lives with many pressures and distractions, time for reflection, quiet, and spaciousness is rare. To take a break from the many demands of modern life, observe Lent, and find opportunities to listen to God, participate in Immanuel's Lenten Retreat from Friday evening, April 1, through the noon meal on Sunday, April 3.

Based in part on reflections from Khalil Gibran's *The Prophet* (NY, 1923), this Lenten retreat will examine categories such as Love, Pain, Self-Knowledge, Prayer, and Death and wonder how these enormous concepts fit into our narrative of the world. Do our definitions of important and ambiguous concepts shape how we see

the wilderness of Lent? Or do we let Lent shape how we understand the world? There will be time for reflection, for contemplation, for journaling. There will be space for setting aside some of the chaos of our lives for just a little while to check in with ourselves and how we describe the world these days. The biggest, most important, things to think about often get squeezed to the margins as something more immediate crops up almost every day. Let us pause and consider what we really think about the things people wonder about.

Then let us imagine... If we were sailing away, what would we tell the people we've lived with? How would we describe the journey we've all been on?

The Rev. Susan Parsons, Associate Rector, Immanuel Church-on-the Hill, will lead the retreat which begins Friday afternoon, April 1, shortly before the evening meal and will end after the noon meal on Sunday, April 3. The retreat will be at Holy Cross Abbey, Berryville, Virginia, which is an hour and fifteen-minute drive from our church. For more information on the monastery, see their website <https://www.virginiatrappists.org/about/>.

The \$350.00 registration fee includes all materials, comfortable accommodations, individual rooms each with a bathroom, and all meals. **The registration deadline was extended to March 4th.**

The Abbey asks that all retreatants be vaccinated for COVID and wear masks whenever they are not in their rooms. Please send proof of vaccination with your registration form. All Abbey staff are vaccinated and wear masks as they work. To assist in social distancing, the retreat house is limiting registrations to half capacity.

Two scholarships given in memory of Charles Willis were awarded and distributed by the rector.

Registration is limited to seven people; please reserve your space using the form on the next page. If you have questions about retreat logistics, please contact Mary Ann Rehnke, mfrb2695@gmail.com.



Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill LENTEN RETREAT Holy Cross Abbey Retreat House April 1-3, 2022

First person registering for retreat

Name _____

Address _____

Daytime Telephone _____ Evening Telephone _____

Cell Phone _____

E-mail _____

Second person registering for retreat

Name _____

Address _____

Daytime Telephone _____ Evening Telephone _____

Cell Phone _____

E-mail _____

Number of registrants ____ x \$350 = _____ Total registration fee

Please make check payable to Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill and include Lenten Retreat on the check. Return this form, your check, and a copy of your vaccination card to the Immanuel Church office, 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22304 by **March 4**. Please put Lenten Retreat on the envelope.

If you need to cancel your registration and there is no one on the waiting list who can take your place, Holy Cross Abbey retains the \$75.00 per room deposit. All but \$75.00 of your registration fee would be returned to you.

The Joy Mass

Sundays @ 9:00 a.m., Zabriskie Chapel

3606 Seminary Road/ Alexandria, VA

New Family Service

Part of our ongoing COVID response is this new worship opportunity for families of children too young to vaccinate or even mask. Music and homily geared towards children and families.



Photos taken before the pandemic.



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9TH @ 6:30 PM: SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK STUDY: [Just Mercy](#)

We continue our 9-10 week conversation on [Just Mercy](#) by Bryan Stephenson as the next book to help tie our Social Justice discussions with Immanuel's Criminal Justice Initiative.

We'd love for you to join us as we explore building a vocabulary and theology around the idea that what happens to incarcerated people, both the innocent and guilty, should matter to us as Christians.

Diving into the Lenten Word

Lenten Series Begins March 6

Sundays During Lent @ 9:15 a.m., Zabriskie Chapel
Live-streamed via YouTube

New Lenten Series: [Diving into the Lenten Word](#)

Our Lenten series this year will be exploring, in depth, the Scripture readings of the five Sundays in Lent. The preacher of the day will lead the discussion, allowing lots of time for questions, responses, and musings. Though this may sound a bit like a Bible Study, the difference will be that we'll be exploring the context more fully, musing about the authors of the lessons, while also hearing from the preacher about their process as they wrote the sermon.

We'll gather at 9:15 a.m. in the Zabriskie Parish Hall each Sunday in Lent, both in-person and online. We will miss you if you aren't there.

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

One of our ongoing, and sometimes overlooked, responses to the pandemic is that your clergy and seminarians are available to make house calls. We live in well-founded hope that this surge may be the last time we need to go online-only again. However, that doesn't mean that the surge will dissipate and everyone will immediately want to go out in public, everything normal and hunky-dory. At this time of particular high transmissibility, and as the whole world moves navigates new and different phases of mitigating and living with this virus, we want to be as flexible and available to you as possible. If you cannot make it to church, we can schedule a time to bring some church to you. If your living arrangements don't allow visitors we can come to windows and doors, make phone calls, text messages, and Zoom meetings. If you want some time during the week to pray in your church, we can probably help navigate that.

There are, in short, options. Now, or in the months to come, if there is any reason you are unable to come to church or want to participate in the eucharist in some way or need someone to talk to: we are here for you. We invite you to reach out to us. We want you to know, in all the ways, that you are a member of this community.

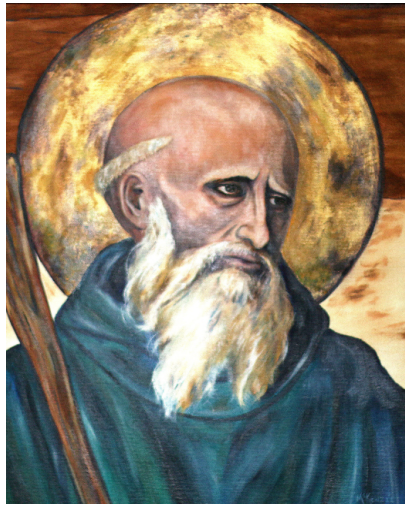
In Christ,

Your clergy *Randy, Susan and Sam*

Welcome to the Benedictine Community

Join us **March 15th @ 7:00p.m.** Online via Zoom

Yes, we want you to join us! If you are attracted to having more contemplation and prayer in your life, you are invited to become part of the Benedictine Community at Immanuel. We'd love to have you join us virtually via Zoom on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 7p.m-8p.m.



The Benedictine Community reflects on the tenets of St. Benedict such as humility, silence, and prayer. Individual reflection is guided by short readings from a Benedictine-inspired book (currently "*How to Live; What the Rule of St Benedict Teaches Us About Happiness, Meaning, and Community*" by Judith Valente). Our focus is primarily on reflections sparked by having read a few pages from the book. We are not a book study group, rather a Benedictine Community, gathering as companions on the journey with one another while drawing wisdom from selected reading material.

We currently meet using Zoom; however, if you don't wish to use zoom or are not comfortable with the technology, you can simply call on the telephone and be connected to the Community by voice only.

If this opportunity appeals to you during this pandemic and for more information, please contact David Atwood directly at atwooddavid@gmail.com.

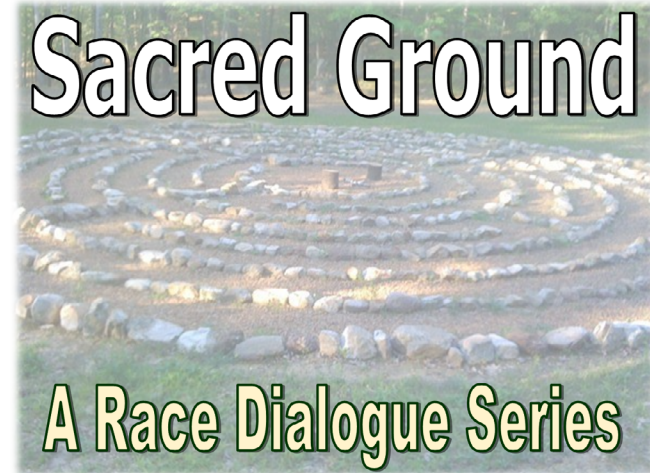
BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY, Saturday, March 19th Online via Zoom

Immanuel's monthly Saturday morning Breakfast Bible Study will be this Saturday, the third Saturday. We will meet online via Zoom (link and info available on our webpage and via our weekly eBlast) beginning at 8 a.m. Our theme this year is Gratitude; this month we will read **Luke 9:46-50**, using the African Model of Reflection. For more information, please contact Chrissie Crosby at cmcfaddencrosby@gmail.com.



Senior Adult Ministry and Fellowship - Brown Bag Luncheon

Tuesday, March 22, 2022 @ 12:10 p.m. om Zabriskie Parish Hall



The Special Experience of "Sacred Ground" – Next Session Coming in April

Twenty-two fellow Immanuelites have now completed our parish's two inaugural runs of Sacred Ground. Please see some testimonials about their experience below!

Sacred Ground is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. The 10-

part series is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories.

Sacred Ground is part of Becoming Beloved Community, the Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. This series is open to all. Participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day – all while grounded in our call to faith, hope and love.

"Sacred Ground was one of the most important classes I have ever taken. It opened my eyes to truths that, as a Christian, I needed to see."

- **Katherine Smith**

"Hugely enlightening! The Sacred Ground experience helped fill some critical gaps in my U.S. History education." - **Mary Ann Ring**

"Sacred Ground was a wonderful, supportive way to be in discussion and learning with other Christians about the dilemmas we face as individuals, community and a nation - how to celebrate the ideals and progress that our country has made while deepening our understanding of the ways in which we have fallen short, and especially the consequences on groups historically marginalized by race or ethnicity." - **David Atwood**

"This program brings to light many aspects of U.S. history that many are unaware of, and allows participants to openly discuss their reactions to the often new knowledge. It covers a wide variety of people -- Native Americans, Blacks, Asians, and Hispanics/Latinos, from the landing of the first Europeans to the present day. While properly preparing for each session can take a bit of time, it is well worth it and I highly recommend taking the course." - **Marcus Rarick**

More details about Sacred Ground are available [here](#).

Next session: Another ten-week session is being planned for our parish beginning in April and running through June. If you want to talk to past participants, feel free to contact **Katherine Smith, Marilynn Wilson, Nancy Reuschel** or **Mary Ann Ring**. And to sign up for the next session, please contact **Kathryn Jackson** soon: Kathryn.jackson41@gmail.com.



The DIOCESE of VIRGINIA

Shrine Mont Camps 2022

Dear Diocesan Family,

With hearts full of thanks for the support of **Shrine Mont Camps** given at our recent diocesan Convention, the 2022 camp season has been announced. Registration opens on January 11. This vital ministry at Shrine Mont, which has planted and nurtured seeds of faith for sixty years, remains a central part of our diocesan life as the new year gets underway.

Building on and expanding the 2021 season, camp leaders are now busily preparing a summer of fun, friendship and faith formation while attending to the essential health and safety needs of this moment. The leadership is creative, committed and strong, and will ensure joyful weeks on the mountain. God bless them as their work continues.

As we prepare for another safe and transformative summer at Shrine Mont Camps, we also embark on a season of exploring the shape and structure of our camping ministry for a future that is yet unfolding. This work is critical in a time of dramatic change when, for example:

- schools districts amend and expand their calendars, limiting the number of weeks available for camp
- staff hiring and training are dramatically different from what they were when our camping ministry was founded in 1962
- the needs of campers and their families continue to change.

We are called to listen and discern how best to be responsive to emerging circumstances, while holding onto our core values.

We remain committed to the full inclusion of all of God's beloved children in our camping programs, without regard to race, ethnicity, gender, gender expression, ability or any of the other factors that the cultures around us used to divide us. This commitment compels us to identify areas of our program that create accessibility barriers for our campers, staff and families, and to remove those barriers.

Resolution R-13, Support of Shrine Mont Camps, which was adopted by the 227th Convention of the Diocese of Virginia in November, provides one more avenue for accomplishing this work. The resolution calls for the appointment of an ad hoc committee on Shrine Mont Camps. With the support of the Executive Board, I am delighted to appoint the following persons to this important ministry.

- The Rev. Andrew Moore -- chaplain for campers and staff
- Mr. Caleb Nelson Amaker -- former camp leader, parish formation leader
- The Rev. Charles Cowherd -- former camper and staff
- Ms. Anne Dagner -- camper parent
- Mr. Connor Dolson -- former camper, current camp leader, educator
- Ms. Barbara McMurray -- former camp leader
- Mr. Jonathon Nateghi-Asli -- educator in the Shenandoah Valley
- The Rev. Kim Reinholz -- young adult formation leader
- The Rev. Darren Steadman -- former camp leader, educator and school chaplain

- Ms. Paige Trivett -- camp leader and staff at Anna Julia Cooper School
 - The Rev. Daniel Velez-Rivera -- consultant on inclusion
 - Mr. Shawn Weneta -- former camper
 - Mr. John Henry Williams -- former camper, current camp leader
- We await potential confirmation from one other invitee.

This group is charged with

- supporting the promotion and organization of camps for the summer of 2022,
- making recommendations for the future development of Shrine Mont Camps, and
- supporting Camp Director Paris Ball, the 2022 camp directors and staff and the bishops in balancing our commitment to honoring traditions and upholding long-standing values of our Camps while creatively responding to changing needs in a changing world.

Please hold these persons in your prayers as they begin this work.

In addition to this committee, various task groups will be gathered and empowered to assist with the ongoing work of supporting our camps.

God bless us all as we share in this good and holy ministry together.

Faithfully yours,

+Susan E. Goff

Bishop Suffragan and Ecclesiastical Authority

The Shrine Mont Camps Shouting Prayer

God loves the world! (God loves the world!)
 God loves us! (God loves us!)
 God loves you! (God loves you!)
 I love you! (I love you!)
 God loves me! (God loves me!)
 I love me! (I love me!)
 Thanks be to God! (Thanks be to God!)
 Amen! (Amen!)
 Aaaamen! (Aaaamen!)

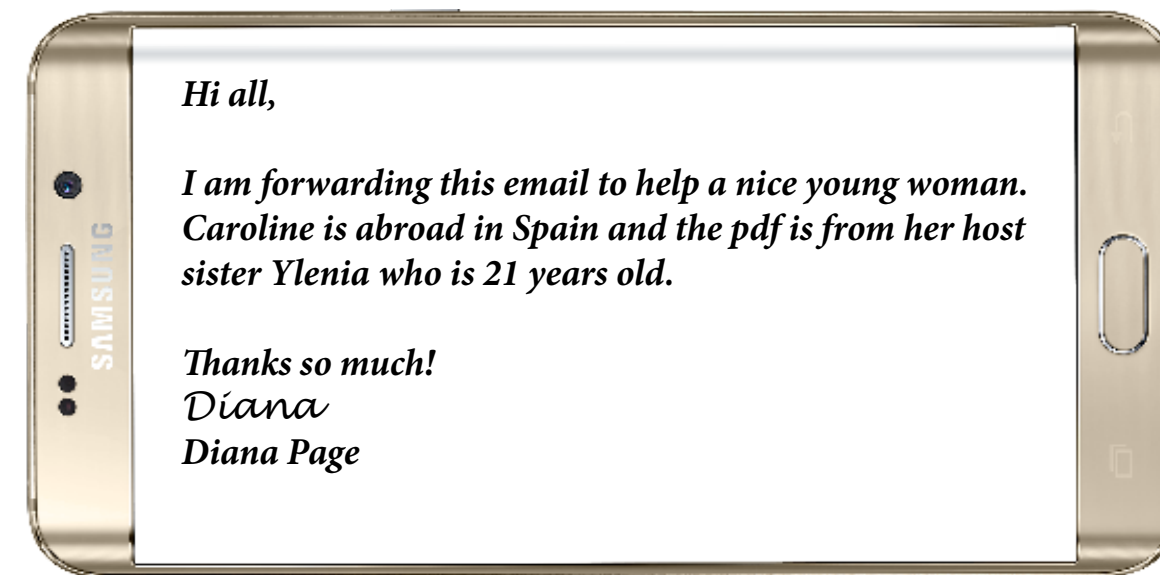


Photo found at <https://www.shrinemontcamps.net/>



HELP WANTED

We are pleased to pass on job advertisements from several current parishioners on behalf of friends and family.



Hi all,

I am forwarding this email to help a nice young woman. Caroline is abroad in Spain and the pdf is from her host sister Ylenia who is 21 years old.

*Thanks so much!
Diana
Diana Page*

My name is Ylenia, I'm 20 years old and I study law at the university of Madrid.

I would like to go to the United States in the summer to care for and teach children, my availability is, from the beginning of July to the end of August ([July 1 – August 30](#)).

My main goal is to go to the United States to be able to work. My job would be to care for and teach Spanish to children, as well as to improve my English and get to know new cultures, living in the United States for a while.

About household chores, I have no problem doing them as long as, the tasks are necessary for the care of the child, such as, helping the child in the bathroom, feeding the child, walk with the child... But I don't agree to do housework that in unrelated to childcare.

Regarding pets, I agree to take care of a pet, if it's a pet, such as a dog or cat.

I'm looking for this job because I'm a university student and so I can earn money, learning and teaching, so yes, I want to have an income.

I don't care if it's a boy or a girl, or if there are more children in the family.

Volunteer Front Office and Pantry Coordinators Needed by Samaritan Ministry

Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington works with everyday people who want to make changes in their lives. Our casework team and volunteers work with participants for as long as is necessary for them to take their next steps and achieve their goals. In addition to case management, advocacy, and assistance with educational, housing, employment, and other goals, we also provide direct services such as clothing, toiletries, and food. You can help by filling one of these volunteer positions below! All volunteers must complete a virtual training including racial sensitivity training.

FRONT OFFICE COORDINATOR

(all locations)

Responsibilities include:

- Welcome program participants and offer individual attention
- Sort mail
- Answer phone and take messages
- Assist with distribution and giveaway events
- Other duties specific to the office

Qualifications:

- Must Be at least 18 years old

Time Commitment:

- 2 days a week, hours vary by office

PANTRY COORDINATOR- NORTHWEST

1516 Hamilton St. NW

Responsibilities include:

- Maintain a clean and organized pantry
- Sort and stock food items onto shelves by food type and expiration date
- Check expiration dates and discard expired items
- Prepare food bags

Skills required:

- Organizational skills
- Able to stand for length of time
- Able to lift to 30 pounds

Time requirements:

- 1 day per week

If Interested, Please Contact: **Sy Jones, Volunteer Manager**
sjones@samaritanministry.org

Shrine Mont Camps 2022 is Now Hiring

Do you know a young adult 18-25 years old who might enjoy a summer spent working with young people and their peers? Camp counselors come from a variety of backgrounds, perspectives, and environments -- you do not need to be a former Shrine Mont camper or even have a background working with children to succeed in this job. Help us spread the word and invite young adults to learn more about the open positions on the [Shrine Mont Camps website](https://www.shrinemontcamps.net). We're happy to start with a conversation rather than the application, so encourage potential staff to contact [Paris Ball](https://www.shrinemontcamps.net).



Immanuel's

Creation Care News

IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL SOLARIZATION PROJECT UPDATE

After a number of delays on the part of our contractor, Sustainable Energy Solutions (SES), we have been advised that the building permit package for the solar array installation and other elements of the system infrastructure is complete and has been submitted to the City of Alexandria for review. The City has a policy of a 30 day review of such documents, which suggests a mid-February decision on their part assuming no issues arise. The earliest the project would start is late February, and once the installation begins it should be complete in 10-14 days barring any weather delays. If past history is any indication, it will commence more than likely in March. The good news is the solar panels are in storage locally and, thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, we have more than sufficient funds to cover the next progress payment to SES, which is due 30 days prior to installation. Immanuel's web site under [Creation Care Ministry](#) was updated to include Immanuel Solar Project "Frequently Asked Questions" – if you missed it in the annual report, please read it on the following pages.

To visit Immanuel's Creation Care webpage, click on the blue text above or the image below.

IMMANUEL
CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL

[ABOUT US](#) [WORSHIP](#) [GIVE](#) [SERVE](#) [LEARN](#) [CALENDAR](#) [MORE...](#)



CREATION CARE MINISTRY

Immanuel is Going Solar!

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill is going solar – and soon!

There have been several forum hours, e-Blast updates, and announcements letting everyone know the plans, what we expect the benefits to be, the plan for funding, and when we expect the solar panels to be installed. From the Forum hours and other discussion, these are some Frequently Asked Questions we've heard that we hope will help everyone understand this exciting public commitment Immanuel is making to our Creation Care ministry.

1. Question: **Why** are we going solar?

Answer: To show a visible and public commitment to Creation Care, and to show ourselves and our community we believe in being true and faithful stewards of "this fragile earth, our island home" – that we understand the importance of setting an example to our children and our community to reduce carbon emissions.

We have a cross above our church to signal our commitment to the teachings of Christ—having solar panels on our roof shows a public commitment that we are taking action to reduce carbon emissions—and we hope others will follow.

Another benefit of going solar is to save the church an estimated \$6500 every year in electricity bills. That savings is in today's electricity rates. The price of electricity purchased from our provider, Dominion Energy, has risen by more than 20% in the last 15 years, so going solar will also help shield the church from future electricity price hikes.

Finally, it is possible the church may be able to get additional revenue through the new Virginia SREC initiative. Solar renewable energy certificates (SRECs) are a performance-based incentive that let a solar system's owner earn additional income from solar electricity generation. Virginia's SREC initiative is still being finalized; but our installer will make the appropriate connections so our church's solar system can participate when the time is right.

2. Question: **Who** own the solar panels that will be installed on the roof of the Zabriskie Chapel and Parish Hall (Zabriskie Complex)?

Answer: Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill owns the solar system – from Day 1. Immanuel will continue to purchase some electricity from Dominion Energy, but the church's solar panels will generate the majority of electricity it needs each year -- for at least 25 years and maybe longer.

3. Question: **What** will be installed?

Answer: Sustainable Energy Systems (SES), a well-known and reputable solar firm based in Frederick, MD, will soon install **191 solar photovoltaic (PV) panels** that are expected to generate at least 65,000 kWh annually, which represents 65 % of the electricity used by Zabriskie Complex each year. The solar panels are commercial grade 445-Watt PVs – which is currently top of the line for power generation.

4. Question: **Where** will the solar panels be installed?

Answer: On the roof of Zabriskie Complex—each of the four rooftop spaces will host solar panels. They will be visible especially on the north and east rooftops as people drive along Seminary Road or ap-

proach the church from Quaker Lane. In addition to being the most optimal place to generate electricity, this also makes the panels a visible commitment to our Creation Care ministry.

5. Question: **When** will the solar system be installed?

Answer: On Jan 25, 2022, we received an update from SES letting us know City of Alexandria is completing the permitting process, and SES expects to start the installation in February 2022. We will work with SES on final installation schedule. SES has advised us the job should take 10-14 days.

6. Question: **How** much did it cost and how did we finance the solar system? (Is there a “payback” period?)

Answer: Immanuel parishioners have donated the funds needed for the church to purchase and install the solar system—none of the costs for the solar system have come out of the church’s operating budget or trust funds. We did not need to finance it, and there is no “payback” period.

After two years of study, during which the Vestry commissioned a successful feasibility study, conducted a bid solicitation process, and engaged in a “quiet campaign” to gauge the willingness of parishioners to fund the project, the Vestry, on June 11, 2021, signed a contract with Sustainable Energy Systems (SES) to install the solar panels on the roof of the Zabriskie Complex. The SES contract base price is \$163,000. Once some known add-ons are factored in (e.g., “squirrel guards” which are expected to cost about \$4000, tree work, and required roof repairs), the total cost (including a contingency) comes to about \$197,000. Of that amount, thanks to the quiet campaign, and bolstered by pledges received since the Solar Forum Hour (June 20, 2021), we now have pledges totaling \$182,800, payable in 2021 and/or 2022. To close the gap, we are inviting all Immanuel families and individuals to join the campaign now. As an incentive, one of our pledgers has issued a “matching challenge,” under which the first \$10,000 of new pledges will be matched dollar-for-dollar. For more information, or to receive a pledge form, please contact Doug John at djohn@jhenergy.com or 202-412-2138.

7. Question: What happens if the power goes out at the church? Does our solar system continue working?

Answer: If the power goes out, we lose power. Our solar system, like most, will be “net metered” which means any electricity our solar panels generate that is not first used by our church building, automatically flows back into the power grid; we are not storing it.

When the building needs electricity but is not generating it – at night, for example – power flows from the grid to the church building, like it always has.

For the excess electricity we generate and send to the grid, Dominion Energy gives us credit and charges us for the power we pull from the grid when we are not generating. This back – and - forth flow of power gets measured once a month. Dominion Energy then bills the “net” amount/cost owed when the monthly measurement is taken. Net metered systems use the power grid for storage. Because it’s set up this way (with no on-site storage), if an external event (storm, wind, etc.) causes the church building to lose power, we will lose power and our net-metered solar system will not generate any electricity.

Solar systems with on-site storage through large batteries have become available in the last few years; but they are far more expensive than net-metered systems. Over time, as battery technology improves and prices for battery storage come down, that might be something to consider. The good news is the church seldom loses power!

8. Question: What about the church’s roof structure – are there any concerns about that?

Answer: The Zabriskie Complex roof was inspected in 2020 by one of the solar companies competing for the contract and again by SES this past Summer. In both cases, the interior roof structure (think attic rafters and joists) was deemed structurally sound and sufficient to support the solar panel array. The roof was replaced in 2013, so its age is not considered a relevant factor. In fact, solar panels act as a protective layer on the roof and may result in a greater roof longevity. We are also purchasing a “critter guard” to prevent squirrels from getting into the panel area. In preparation for the solar installation, the Wardens engaged DBS Roofing to inspect the roof, which they installed in 2013. The roof condition, while sound, needed some additional work to re-secure a limited area of roof decking, replace and reseal the chapel’s skylight covers, replace damaged shingles, and reseal the chimney flashing prior to installation of the panels. The Wardens also authorized additional steeple repairs to replace rotted wood and peeling paint in advance of the solar array installation. Because of the proposed location of the panels, the steeple will remain accessible when further repairs are required. With these changes, our roof is ready to support the solar panels.

9. Question: Do the trees around the Parish Hall impact the solar panels? Do any trees have to be removed for the solar panels?

Answer: One of the most pleasant aspects of the parish grounds are the many beautiful trees that surround Zabriskie Complex. As stewards of creation, we actively care for our trees—and in fact have just completed an assessment of how best to protect and keep them healthy. Some of the trees cast shade on parts of the roof; but the generation power and placement of the solar panels will mitigate majority of shading impact.

Trees have a lifespan; for example, the large oak tree in the Pumpkin Patch died and had to be taken down this past spring (2021) to preclude crashing during a storm and causing damage to the building.

Likewise, the oak tree just outside the parish hall entrance was damaged severely during a major wind storm several years ago and lost its top. It had been shedding major branches ever since, impacting the parish hall roof and had been targeted for removal for some time. Given its deteriorating condition and additional threat to rooftop solar panels, the Building and Grounds Committee elected to remove it during summer 2021, ahead of the solar installation.

There are also other good reasons to take down trees. The magnolia tree on the east side of the building near the steps leading down to the chapel lower level (near the parking lot) was removed in 2018 because its roots and leaves were clogging underground drains and contributing to basement flooding. The Committee will continue routine tree trimming—which would happen with or without solar panels. As for the many other healthy trees around the complex, we expect to care for and protect them for the rest of their natural lives.

10. Question: Where are the solar panels we are purchasing made?

Answer: We are purchasing REC Alpha solar panels. REC Group is Europe’s largest manufacturer of solar panels, and has offices in Europe, the United States, Asia, and Australia. The company was founded in Norway in 1996 and manufactures its solar panels in Singapore.

11. Question: When will we know what actual solar electricity generation is (kWh) and actual savings (\$) are?

Answer: We will begin measuring the amount of electricity generated once the system is operational, via an application supplied by the vendor. Because November – February are the months with shortest days/least sunlight; they will be the months of the year with the lowest solar electricity production.

The solar panels will generate the most electricity in spring, summer, and early fall (March-October). It will take a complete year of monitoring both the solar electricity production and checking our Dominion bills to get the actual generation and dollar numbers. Once we have a complete year of measures, we will share that information.

The Little Drummer Boy: Drum Line and Movie

On December 4th, over 50 Immanuelites and their friends, neighbors, and family, gathered on the front lawn of Zabriskie Chapel at 5:30 p.m. to listen to the story of the beloved holiday classic "The Little Drummer Boy" -- and play in a lively drum line! Afterwards, they adjourned to the parish hall to watch the film for a quick family movie night. A great time was had by all.



Photos courtesy of The Rev. Sam Sheridan

Christmas Memory Lane

In this, the second and final installment of revising Immanuelite Christmas' past, we share some favorite snapshots during Advent and Christmastide from years gone by.

Any and all help identifying current and former Immanuelites in the following photos would be greatly appreciated by our new archivists, Agnes Soos and The Rev. Jan A. Maas. We'll post updates on The Almond Tree page of Immanuel's website.

Enjoy!

Deck the Halls...



Practice Makes Perfect...



Above, from left to right: Parker Jayne (on piano), David Temeshok, Doug John, the late Jim Kellogg, and Janet Pawlukiewicz.



Instant Polaroid shot of trimming a Christmas tree with gifts in the entrance to Zabriskie Parish Hall.

In this undated photo, notice the handrail: steps used to lead **down** into the parish hall's entrance.



Above, from left to right: Meg Glassco (second from left, seated), Janet Pawlukiewicz (holding angel wing), John Bowling (kneeling), and Sudie McGahuey, (seated far right).

Serving...



Aleta could easily spot Sarah Glassco and Doug John (far right) in this advent choir photo taken in Seminary Chapel: how many do you recognize?



Corey Wargo-Bergmark serving as Crucifer during an Advent Holy Eucharist.

Fellowship...



Wendy John and former rector The Rev. Dr. Margaret Ann "Sam" Faeth right in the new millennium at a party in the Zabriskie Parish Hall, December 31, 1999



Immanuelites love to celebrate! Seen literally dancing the night away are Wendy John (far left), the late George Curry (*burgundy blazer*), and his wife Barbara Curry (*far right in royal blue*).



IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL
3606 Seminary Road
Alexandria, VA 22304-5200
www.icoh.net

STORY CALL: ***Sentimental Sacraments on Seminary:***

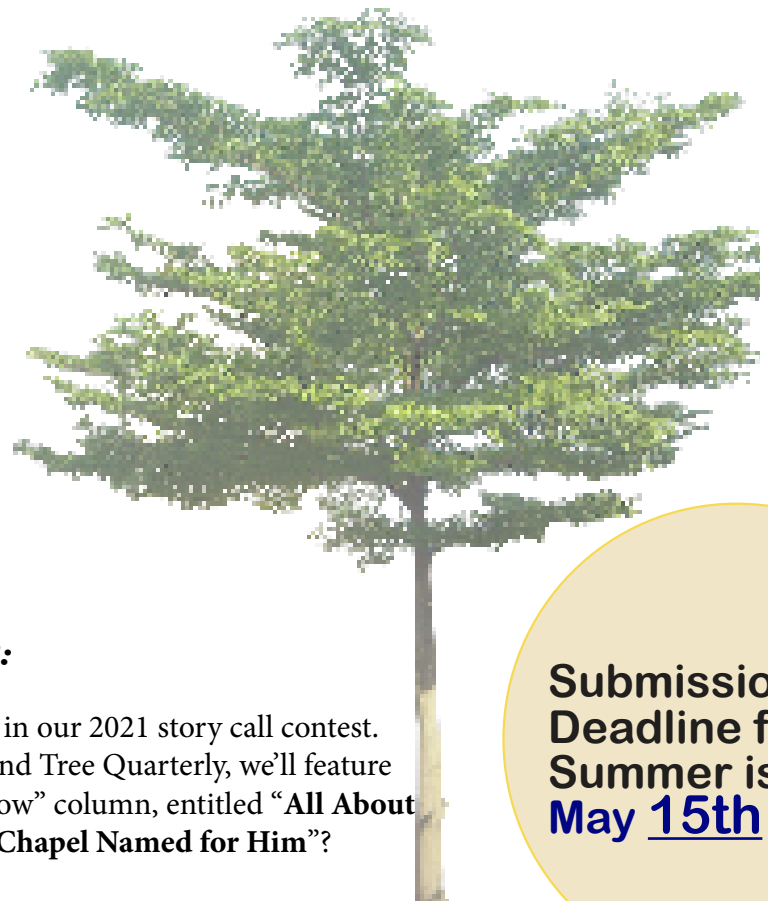
Send in all of your favorite photos of **Baptisms, Weddings, Confirmations** and Homecoming Services taken at Seminary Chapel, Seminary Memorial Garden Chapel, and Zabriskie Chapel. We'll take a look back at how Seminary Chapel is still with us, and that sacred space is still used today, along with a nostalgic look at special sacraments that took place at Zabriskie. Deadline for entries is May 15, 2022.

Rollin and Ann Huntington



Upcoming Summer issue 2022:

We were lucky to get three winning entries in our 2021 story call contest. In our upcoming Spring issue of The Almond Tree Quarterly, we'll feature the first article in Immanuel's "Did You Know" column, entitled "**All About Zabriskie: Who Was He and Why Is Our Chapel Named for Him?**"



Submission
Deadline for
Summer issue is
May 15th