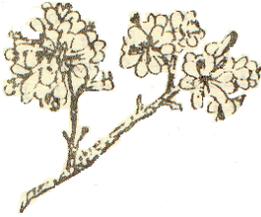
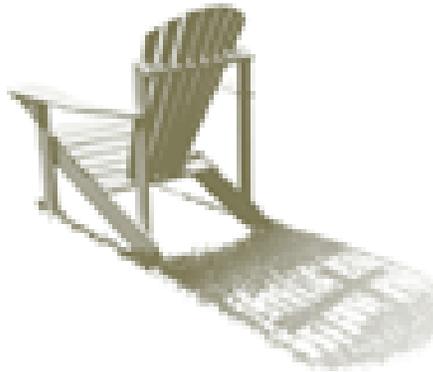


THE ALMOND TREE

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill



April 11, 2011



SHRINE MONT FAMILY RETREAT: The annual Immanuel Church-on-the Hill parish retreat at Shrine Mont retreat center in Orkney Springs, VA (about 2 hours away) will be *Saturday, May 26(noon) through breakfast Monday, May 28, 2012*. What better way to start your summer than with wonderful friends in a beautiful and relaxing setting?! There will be time for fun, food, swimming, singing, relaxation, spiritual reflection, worship, hiking, yoga (tbd), porch entertaining, and spending time with family and friends.

Cost: \$155 per adult, \$90 for children 8-12, \$40 for children 4-7, free for children 3 and under. For those wanting to come up Friday, the cost is \$45 extra per person (no meals). Please contact Senior Warden Tom Kerns to discuss scholarship options – full or partial. We would like to collect money before the weekend so please bring checks, payable to "ICOH", with a notation saying "Shrine Mont" to the church office before the weekend.

For more information or to register, contact Lisa Frye at wlfrye@comcast.net or Tel. 703-548-8591 (h) 571-214-4735 (c)

PASTORAL COVERAGE: Our Interim Rector, The Rev. Mary Sulerud, begins work on April 30th... Until then, please contact the Rev Deacon Linda Murphy at the church office for any needed pastoral duties. The Rev. Barney Hawkins will be our preacher the next two Sundays, and we are still working on April 29. Mary's first Sunday will be the 6th of May....

PASTORAL CARE CORNER: Please remember these parishioners in your prayers: Duncan MacDonald, Morgan, Lloyd Mostrom, Nancy Wise, Bobbie King, Marcia, Tom Murray, Janet Siegrist, Mary, Annie, Catherine Sinclair, Jessi Macleod, Yvonne Pover, Margaret Messenger Kerekes, Linda Murphy, Sally Guy Brown, Barbara Fornoff, Mary Goeser, Christine Michaelis, Linda Donahue, Chris Stanek, Dana Hengst, Mei-Lung DeVight, Bobbi Thomas.

Pease also remember in your prayers members of our extended Parish family: Joan Aldretti, Tim Boyd, Mary Lou Johnson, Dean and Charlotte Kellogg, Tennille Littleton, Chris Rarick, Susan Shallbetter, June Sheets, Ellen Shreve, Tom Stasz, Bob Davies, Eleanor Boothe Smith, Bill Rarick, Stephen Miller, Jim Rarick, Irv Schiff, Jim Pearson, Patricia Smith, Josie Guardipee, Helen Butler, Sam Faeth, Bill Nations, Lawrence Sanchez, Paul, Joan Cummins, Eric Reading, Sr., Cameron, Will Williams, Dylan Rehnke, Sue Rehnke, Margaret Corbett, Laurie Trost.

Pray for those who have died: Bill Rarick, brother of our Treasurer, Marcus Raraick.

Serving our country at home and abroad: Todd Bates, Paul Bednar, Tom and Anne Duffy, Philip Smucker, Ian Phillips, Liza Conrad.

JOIN THE ICOH YOUTH GROUP on April 15th after the 10:00 a.m. service for Lunch & a Movie, featuring the playful movie musical, “Godspell.” We will enjoy a turkey chili lunch in the kitchen and adjourn to the Fairchild Room to watch the movie and participate in lively discussion. We may even break out into song if the mood strikes! Everyone in the congregation is invited to participate, and we welcome any potluck contributions people would like to make. Plan to spend from about 11:30 am – 2:00 pm just “clowning around” with us and exploring what it means to be a community. Questions? Contact Jeannie Cummins at (703) 851-5257 or jceconsulting@comcast.net.

SCHOOL FOR THE SPIRIT The dates for this year’s spring session of the School for the Spirit are April 18-May 23. Flyers are available from the parish office. This semester’s course offerings include: A Walk through the Psalms; Peacemaking without Division: Moving beyond Congregational Apathy and Anger; and Steadfast Hope. Please consider signing up for one of these interesting courses. The class Science and Religion with Barbara Brown Taylor; has been cancelled, we hope to offer it again in the fall.



GRACE AND GRATITUDE:

There is a long-standing cadre of wonderful women (and some men) who come in twice a month, faithfully, to prepare the

Almond Tree for mailing. Your parish administrator certainly couldn’t do without their help, their enthusiasm, and their friendship. Most especially now, though, I want to say thank you and farewell to the wonderful lady who has kept everyone organized, kept us on track, and managed even the odd “unscheduled” mailing. Nancy Gilbert is retiring as the true shepherd of this group, and I want to say a heartfelt thank you to her, as she moves into other activities. God speed, Nancy, you are a wonderful woman and have been a great friend.

Jennifer

PARISH GARDEN WORK DAY, SATURDAY, APRIL 14.

All parishioners are invited to participate in the spring workday for one or two hours (or more!), any time between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Lunch will be served at 11:00. Bring gloves and favorite tools, if you wish, to supplement our stocks. Tasks include blowing of leaves, shredding, weeding, transporting windfall wood. See or call Chris Von Schoening if you have questions.



A Letter from the Diocese of Virginia

April 5, 2012

Dear Friends,

Late last week, the seven CANA congregations involved in the legal dispute with the Diocese of Virginia filed notices of appeal, seeking to overturn the Fairfax Circuit Court's final order that all real and personal Episcopal property be returned to the Diocese of Virginia by April 30. In addition, four of those congregations (Church of the Apostles Anglican, Fairfax; the Falls Church Anglican, Falls Church; St. Paul's Church Anglican, Haymarket; and Truro Church Anglican, Fairfax) have sought stays to suspend the execution of the court's order until their appeals are decided. If the stays are granted, then the CANA congregations would remain in place. The Falls Church Episcopal would be able to use the historic church with the permission of the rector of the Falls Church Anglican. The court will hear this motion on Friday, April 20.

What does this mean for our continuing congregations and for our diocese? It means that the way forward is not yet entirely clear. We respect the CANA congregations' right to appeal, but believe that it's time that these properties were returned to the mission and ministry of the Episcopal Church and that the litigation should end. We are in daily contact with the leadership of those congregations, trying to negotiate a fair and gracious resolution. In fact, since these filings, the Diocese and the Church of the Epiphany Anglican, Herndon have entered a final settlement and members of St. Stephen's Episcopal, Heathsville returned to their church home on Palm Sunday. The Falls Church Episcopal will celebrate this Easter in the historic church, and we continue to work closely with the Falls Church Anglican to ensure a smooth transition of the Falls Church Day School.

As we walk through Holy Week, we walk in the footsteps of Christ. It is a walk of pain, of loss and of heartbreaking uncertainty. It is also a walk of sure and certain hope toward the empty tomb, discovered at first light on the day that changed everything. We must remember that our brothers and sisters in the CANA congregations walk with us, and we with them, toward that empty tomb. We walk faithfully, knowing that Easter will come.

Faithfully,

Henry D.W. Burt
Secretary of the Diocese



ALTAR FLOWERS make wonderful offerings of thanks for special anniversaries and memorial events – as gifts that illuminate God's creation and bless our worship. You may sign up to give flowers by calling Jennifer Addington, the parish Administrator, at 703-370-6555. There have been many weeks when no one has taken advantage of this opportunity--a drain on the church budget as well. Look at your calendars and pick a special day to give flowers!

FREE MOVIE SCREENING: LOVE FREE OR DIE. On April 22 at 6:15 pm, Christ Church will offer a free screening of this recent Sundance-award winning documentary. Love Free or Die profiles Bishop Gene Robinson, the first openly gay bishop in the history of Christianity. A casual supper will be offered. All are welcome but RSVPs are required. To RSVP or for any questions, contact Melissa Capers, mcapers@rocketmail.com (703-549-2171).



The Diocese of Virginia's
Bishops' NetsforLife®
Inspiration Fund
2012

Consider that ONE mosquito
bite
can end a child's life...
if that child lives in Africa

Support the Youth of our Diocese
and Episcopal Church Women

ECW

in their partnership to battle
Malaria

by sending 20,000 life-saving
insecticide-treated bed nets
to sub-Saharan Africa in 2012
*where 1 child dies of malaria
every 45 seconds*

Region 3 Walk to Stomp Out Malaria



Share our Blessings ~ Be a Part of the Solution!

1 Bed Net = \$12 = 3 Lives Saved

www.inspirationfund.org

___ Yes! I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the NetsforLife® campaign in the Diocese of Virginia and make a difference in the lives of children in sub-Saharan Africa

___ Yes! I would like help start a NetsforLife® campaign in my home parish - please contact me at:

Please make your donation payable to: *ECW of the Diocese of VA*

In your Memo Line, please note: *NetsforLife*

Please send your donation and/or contact request to:

Rose Mary Zellner

514 James Road

King and Queen Courthouse, VA 23085

Thank You!



FROM OUR HANDS TO HAITI: Oral re-hydration packets, made by Alexandria volunteers, got routed to Haiti to combat the 2010 cholera outbreak that followed the earthquake. On April 22, we hope to make 100,000 more!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ORAL RE-HYDRATION PROJECT!

SUNDAY APRIL 22: ALL HANDS ON DECK! We need EVERYONE to assemble the packets, any time between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

WHERE: Temple Beth El, up the street from ICOH, at 3830 Seminary Road.

WHY: People's lives depend on it!

Once again, ICOH parishioners will participate in one of our largest Outreach effort of the year, when we join our neighbors at Beth El Temple to **assemble 100,000 packets of dry ingredients** (sugars and salts) that, when combined with boiled water, can save lives.

ICOH has contributed special plastic zipper bags using Outreach funds — our “Pumpkin dollars” at work in the world. These oral rehydration packets are then distributed by the United Nations and other international relief agencies to the scenes of natural or man-made disasters — caused by war, famine, earthquake, hurricanes, flooding, drought.

This Outreach project reduces infant mortality, involves international outreach and is both ecumenical and fun. Bring friends and family members. You don't have to sign up, just show up ready to work! You'll receive simple instructions from the organizers, and snacks are provided. Stay as long as you like, but let's plan on being there and setting a new record!

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill
3606 Seminary Road
Alexandria, VA 22304
703-370-6555
office@icoh.net
http://www.icoh

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

UPCOMING ALMOND TREE SCHEDULE

April 11, 25 (second and fourth Wednesdays of April)
May 9, 30 (second and fifth Wednesdays of May (Jennifer will be away the fourth Wednesday))
June 13, 27 (second and fourth Wednesdays in June)
July and August still to be determined – probably only one issue the middle of each month

Lectionary Readings and Schedule of Services



April 15, Easter 2

Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 113; 1 John 1:1—2:2; John 20:19-31
8:00 a.m., HE I, 10:00 a.m., HEII

April 22, Easter 3

Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48
8:00 a.m., HE I, 10:00 a.m., HEII/Baptism

April 29, Easter 4

Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18
8:00 a.m., HEI, 10:00 a.m., HEI