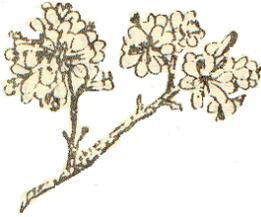


THE ALMOND TREE

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

The Rev. Mary Sulerud, Interim Rector

June 13, 2012



Dear Friends,

I am usually among the first to admit a huge discomfort with the Book of Leviticus that seems to provide the ammunition for too many Christians to judge other people inappropriately and then to cast them out from a life and a relationship with God. Here is a passage from Leviticus that brought me up short as I read it early on Sunday morning of the Sixth Sunday of Easter.

“When you enter the land that I am giving you, the land shall observe a Sabbath for the Lord. Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in your yield; but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of complete rest for the land, a Sabbath for the Lord.”

Before throwing the proverbial baby out with the bathwater it is worth noting that it is the Book of Leviticus that contains the richest and most sustained set of instructions about keeping the Sabbath both as God’s people and on behalf of creation. It is out of this set of instructions that God commands the keeping of the Jubilee Year, the Scriptural and theological underpinning for the work at the start of this millennium by a number of faith leaders to reduce the interest burden of third world countries. (Arguably this same idea undergirds the millennium development goals and much moral theology about being stewards of creation too.) While keeping the Sabbath as a day of rest and holy to God is commanded in the various iterations of the Ten Commandments in both the Books of Exodus and Deuteronomy, it is this book that puts this command for Sabbath rest in the context of what it means to live a holy life. In our sleep-deprived, multi-tasked lives in which work is glorified above all else, and creation seems just so much consumable dross, one of the genuinely counter-cultural aspects of being a faithful Christian is the extent to which we are commanded to take this business of Sabbath rest to heart and act upon it.

Summer is often the season to which we look for a chance to keep Sabbath, to rest and regroup, to finish that novel that has sat by the bed for at least the last two months, to take that long anticipated vacation or at least a long weekend. It is easy, and I say this being among those who have done this repeatedly, to bring along that smart phone, iPad or laptop and not play a few quick rounds of Angry Birds, but repeatedly, if not compulsively, look at email and respond. True Sabbath is letting ourselves rest as God does on the Sabbath Day and for a while to have no purpose but this rest in the arms of God and in that rest to be restored. Our hope in being stewards begins in this rest, in this space and place where we learn anew that creation is a treasure of God’s making and so are we. Our worth is not in what we do, it is in God’s love for us. It is in being beloved that we are called to be stewards of ourselves and creation, and we embrace God’s call to us to be stewards of the mystery of this redeeming love that seeks to draw the world into the arms of God.

This summer the search committee will begin its work. As August arrives, planning will begin in earnest for the start of the program and ministry year. Amid all of this my most fervent prayer is that we observe a Sabbath of some duration and try to resist the “tyranny of the urgent”. Any number of studies show that we aren’t as effective when we multi-task as we think we are, and that if you have kept up with your work and your studies the best preparation is rest for a test, a

presentation or performance. Other studies show that joyful people are generous people and one of the underlying truths about joyful people is that they lead balanced lives with plenty of rest. People who care for creation are able to do so because they don't feel consumed in other ways in their lives.

Funny, this good news has been in Leviticus all this time...

God's peace and a blessed Sabbath,

Mary+

PASTORAL CARE CORNER: Please remember these parishioners in your prayers: Duncan MacDonald, Morgan, Lloyd Mostrom, Nancy Wise, Bobbie King, Janet Siegrist, Linda Murphy, Mei-Lung DeVight, Bobbi Thomas, Will Williams, Jay Fein, Mary Goeser, Catherine, Susan Kernan.

Please also remember in your prayers members of our extended Parish family: : Joan Aldretti, Tim Boyd, Dean and Charlotte Kellogg, Tennille Littleton, Chris Rarick, Susan Shallbetter, Tom Stasz, Bob Davies, Eleanor Boothe Smith, Stephen Miller, Jim Rarick, Irv Schiff, Patricia Smith, Josie Guardipee, Helen Butler, Sam Faeth, Bill Nations, Lawrence Sanchez, Paul, Joan Cummins, Eric Reading, Sr., Cameron, Dylan Rehnke, Sue Rehnke, Laurie, Caitlin Rivers, Patricia Ryan, Chris Stanek, Dana Hengst, Karen Beattie, Lois and Don McCorvie, Anthony Christino, Jr., Dru Eckard, Jessica Goodwyn; Grafton and Elesa McFaddon.

Serving our country at home and abroad: Todd Bates, Paul Bednar, Yolanda Bednar, Tom and Anne Duffy, Liza Conrad, John Patrick Miller, Stephen Murphy

Pray for the search and transition process for Immanuel Church as we seek a new rector.

TRANSITIONS: After a quarter of a century in the same spot, Marcia and Duncan MacDonald have moved. Their new address is 225 S. Whiting Street, Apt. 509, Alexandria, VA 22304. Their telephone number and email addresses remain the same. They look forward from hearing or seeing all of you soon.

SUMMER OFFICE SCHEDULE: Please note that the summer hours office schedule will begin June 18 – 9 am – 1 p.m. daily (barring emergencies, of course!).

ALIVE! FOOD DRIVE! Remember that June is Immanuel's month to donate food to ALIVE! The need is great, so please be generous. Any non-perishable foods are welcomed.



Amy Ackerman graduated from TC Williams, and will be attending Virginia Tech.

Alexander Wayne Sanford Bruns graduated from Yorktown High and will be attending James Madison University.

Meg Glassco graduated from Ithaca College with a BA in Theater Arts.

Sophie Peyton (granddaughter of Gordon and Jean Peyton) graduated from Collegiate School in Richmond and will attend the University of Texas in the fall.

Ken and Chandley McDonald's grandchildren are graduates: **James Williams** from Amherst College and **Rachel Williams** from George Mason University.

Brie Ennis, niece of Melissa Ennis, graduated from Atlantic High School in West Palm Beach, Florida. Congratulations and God speed to all!

COFFEE SERVICE EXTENDED: There has been a groundswell to offer coffee and treats after the 10 a.m. service. So, please repair to the parish hall for refreshments and fellowship, inviting any newcomers to join you. This change means *we need new volunteers* to supplement the work of our loyal cadre of coffeemakers, who arrive by about 8 a.m. to get the large pots brewing. We would like have one person set-up and start the coffee and a second to be there after the 10 a.m. service to close down and clean up. Please see **ICOH Barista Jim Kurz** (703-370-0062) if you can serve as a closer.

SUMMER FITNESS CLASSES: Inova's summer session will begin July 9th and go through Sept 2nd. Registration is open as of 6/10/12. Several classes are offered right in Immanuel's Parish Hall including yoga, senior exercise classes and tai chi. Check it out on Inova's website, www.inova.org or call 1-855-694-6682 for more information.

OUR SEARCH COMMITTEE: Your Wardens are happy to announce that these 12 parishioners were invited to serve on the Rector's Search Committee and have accepted: **Caroline Bergmark, Tom Brown, Governor Burke, Jim Clausen, Carrie Cuddy, Barbara Currie, Tom Harris, Doug Henry, Wendy John, Eileen Monnin-Kirby, Chandley McDonald and Martha Sedgwick.**

The committee was drawn from the 56 names Vestry members proposed to the Wardens, as well as some parishioners who approached us directly about serving. The reassuring thing was to read the names of the larger list and to see what a deep bench we have at ICOH.

The composition represents a mirror of Immanuel today: five men and seven women, from both the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services.

The group includes people at different life stages — a Goodwin House resident, empty-nesters and those who are parenting very young children, school-age kids and teens. One of ICOH's strengths and attractions is how well our inter-generational community supports its members, and we wanted to reflect that. We also looked at a balance of long-time members and those who have been here a shorter time.

We intentionally sprinkled in some past Wardens and Vestry, as they have the broadest grasp of the church's inner workings and needs, they have worked closely with clergy, and their Vestry service puts them in touch with far more parishioners than most. They are active in many areas of parish life — the music ministry, Outreach, ushering, youth programs, EFM, pastoral care, the VTS community, adult education, the knitting group, to name a few. Some sat on earlier search committees and discernment groups for seminarians and postulants.

We asked **Wendy John, our recently retired Pumpkin Lady, to serve as chair** because of her superb organizational skills. The search committee will act as a subcommittee of the Vestry and will give both the congregation and the Vestry regular progress reports. As for a rough timeline, we expect to have a parish profile ready by October 1, followed by a six-week open call for candidates. The winter will be a time for interviewing and visiting with top prospects. We hope to have a committed candidate by Eastertide, the Holy Spirit willing.

We hope you will view this committee as a fair and balanced group who will do a great job representing Immanuel to interested clergy as they tell our story and find our next spiritual leader.

Tom Kerns & Connie Kurz

AS WE MOVE FORWARD: What are the sacred treasures of Immanuel Church on the Hill that you would like to see sustained and carried forward in the life of the congregation? This question was asked at the recent parish retreat at Shrine Mont. At the gathering these four goals from the 2006 strategic plan were reaffirmed: attracting worshippers; diversity; stewardship and relationship with Virginia Theological Seminary. This set the context for the exercise.

In any congregation new opportunities or callings emerge from a deep respect for and understanding of what is the congregation's treasure. In other words, what is the best about Immanuel as a community of faith? Treasures are a congregation's blessings. When you participate in these blessings you know that you hear the truth about Christ and about Immanuel. In using these treasures you speak Christ's truth to the world of God's reconciling love.

IMMANUEL'S TREASURES

A welcoming nature

Inclusive, welcoming many perspectives, diverse others

Keeping our community strong and unified

We don't take ourselves too seriously, down to earth, relevant, not arrogant

Pumpkin patch

Always actively welcoming and open to newcomers, active in seeking them
Keeping our doors open to others who need to worship God in their own way
Remembering in-reach as well as outreach
We are a family and all that implies
Progressive diverse atmosphere, open to many views and new ideas
Empowered laity
Safe, open and accepting place to worship (sing, praise and love)
Inclusion through small groups with an ethos of acceptance of other views
Loving others through community
Supporting alternative lifestyles as a sign of growth and love
Encouraging inclusion of all, regardless of faith or outlook
Maintaining active community acceptance of all
Truly welcoming worshippers from different cultures
Professionalism, open-mindedness, flexibility
Corporal joy
Welcoming parish open to new ideas

Helping others through outreach

Social justice
Knowing our place/responsibility in our larger community
Primary concentration on God's earth and this life, not heaven
Willingness to work to make things happen
Keeping alive parish-wide participation in signature outreach projects
Modeling doing good for the community, acting as Christ's hands on earth
Outreach that comes from the heart and powered by the Spirit
Roll up your sleeves work ethic in service to others, action orientation
Meals on Wheels and Christ House
Go into the world and preach the gospel equals outreach
Care of God's creation
Meeting the needs of the parish and the larger community, continued mission and outreach

Upholding and supporting the development of children

Children are treasured
More outside events for families and younger children (Mass on the Grass, garden planting, environmental projects)
Children/youth initiation and formation
Teenage/young adult mentoring of younger children
Children's involvement in community
Annual parish week end at Shrine Mont

Adult formation and education

School for the Spirit
Forum hour
EFM
Connection to VTS and its opportunities for study
Closeness to VTS
Deepening our faith through education
Inquiring minds—leadership in thought and doctrine

Worship and prayer

Praying for each other

Creative spiritual community

Shared joy in music

Shrine Mass and Mass on the Grass spirit even when inside, folk music

Sermons that make you feel good and do not make you feel guilty or hell-bound; helping you to understand the presence of God that is in everyday life

Meditation/quiet time and the Benedictine group

Opportunities for contemplative worship

Strong music program that is highly participatory and is a music community

Diverse, excellent music programs and separate choirs

Three worship services

Same sex blessings/unions

What do you think? Take time to talk with your search committee to give us your ideas!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTORAL ASSOCIATE, THE REV. DEACON LINDA MURPHY:

Time Away

Thank you for all your prayers these past months. They have sustained me and strengthened me through the frustrations of being referred from one specialist to another during the process of determining how to proceed with surgery.

I am scheduled to have my second shoulder surgery on Wednesday, June 20th at Howard County Community Hospital in Columbia, MD. My shoulder has not healed since the first surgery over a year ago and I am looking forward to having it fully functional again. My surgeon has estimated a 3 to 4 weeks period of restricted activities before I can return to serve at ICOH.

I feel truly blessed by the gifts of time, culinary delights and companionship that have been generously offered during my recovery. Your continued prayers are welcomed and greatly appreciated. My focus during my recovery is on resting quietly as I have learned from experience that if I receive a lot of calls or visitors I do not heal as quickly.

My husband Cy has taken time off to stay with me in the first few days after surgery. After the first week or so, we hope to spend a week in Colonial Beach where I can sit on the porch of our place there and enjoy the view of the river.

My prayers continue for all of you in the coming month.

Your Sister in Christ,

Linda

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Virginia Interfaith Center Vacancy: Community Organizing Intern

The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (Center) seeks someone with an organizing background and a true passion for social justice to serve in a part time capacity as a Community Organizer Intern in Northern Virginia this summer. This intern will assist the Center's local chapter with list clean up, outreach and logistical support for a summer event. The Intern will be based at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Arlington, and report to staff in Richmond.

The Community Organizing Intern will support the VICPP Northern VA Chapter activities, to include:

- Coordinating logistics and conducting outreach for documentary screening
- Conducting outreach within Northern Virginia's diverse faith community
- Update and maintain contact information for Center advocates in an online database
- Effectively work in collaboration with the Center's Northern Virginia Chapter and local Center members

Qualifications:

Preference will be given to those with a passion for social justice issues and relevant experience, including community organizing or event planning. Successful candidates will also have strong verbal and written communications skills and be comfortable working with and organizing in faith communities.

Additional Information:

The Virginia Interfaith Center is an equal opportunity employer, women and minorities are encouraged to apply. The Intern will be based in Northern Virginia and will commit to 15-20 hours a week starting in June. The Virginia Interfaith Center is based in Richmond, and the organizer will report to and coordinate activities with staff there.

To Apply:

Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to holly@virginiainterfaithcenter.org. Applications will be considered until the position is filled.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Administrative Assistant to the Head Librarian (Part-Time)

Virginia Theological Seminary, a graduate school of theology in Alexandria, VA, seeks a part-time Administrative Assistant to the Head Librarian of the Bishop Payne Library for 20 hours per week (week-days, afternoons). Duties include processing invoices and tracking expenditures, ordering supplies, publicizing library outreach activities, providing administrative support, and assisting library patrons. This position will be available July 2, 2012.

The successful candidate must exhibit a courteous and helpful manner with patrons, and have excellent written and spoken oral communication skills, proficiency with Microsoft Word and Excel and the ability to learn new computer programs, proficiency with office equipment, accurate data entry and business reporting skills, and the ability to move library materials up to 35 pounds. A college degree is preferred.

JOB DUTIES:

- * Processes invoices for payment, tracks expenditures, and maintains financial files.
- * Maintains budget, invoice, deposit, timesheets, and leave records on Excel spreadsheets, reconciles them with the general ledger from the business office, and prepares reports.
- * Handles library petty cash funds and prepares bank deposits weekly.
- * Generates gift book collection acknowledgements and maintains correspondence files.
- * Plans and publicizes library public relations efforts.
- * Assists patrons and staffs the circulation desk as assigned.
- * Maintains the library calendar and tracks employee leave.
- * Orders and maintains supplies for the library, including refreshments for meetings.
- * Creates and installs library signage.
- * Serves as library liaison to the maintenance department, copier contractor, and the seminary staff calendar meetings.
- * Distributes incoming mail & UPS deliveries; collects and sends outgoing mail and UPS.

Interested individuals should send a letter of application, resume, and the names and contact information for three references to mjbudde@vts.edu<<mailto:mjbudde@vts.edu>>.

VTs is committed to racial and ethnic diversity at every level of its life and mission. VTs is an EEOC employer.

DO YOU HAVE A ROOM TO SPARE? My name is Melanie Jianakoplos. I am a second year student at Virginia Theological Seminary, and my fiancé Chris is also studying at the seminary. We are looking for a nice place to live together when we get married this September. I have already committed to serving as a hospital chaplain in St.Louis, Missouri for the summer, so we would like to begin renting in September. We would be willing to sign a two year lease from September 1, 2012-August 31,2014. We are super tidy, non-smokers, with no pets, and are very excited about finding our first apartment together. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Grace and Peace,

Melanie Jianakoplos and Christopher Slane
mjianakoplos@vts.edu or 314.306.5751

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

UPCOMING ALMOND TREE SCHEDULE

July and August only one issue the middle of each month

Lectionary Readings and Schedule of Services



June 17, Third Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 15:34—16:13; Psalm 20; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17; Mark 4:26-34
8:00 a.m., HEI, 10:00 a.m., HEII

June 24, Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 17:32-49; Psalm 9:9-20; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41
8:00 a.m., HE I, 10:00 a.m., HEI

July 1, Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, Independence Day (observed)

Deuteronomy 10:17-21; Psalm 145:1-9; Hebrews 11:8-16; Matthew 5:43-48
8:00 a.m., HEI, 10:00 a.m., HEII