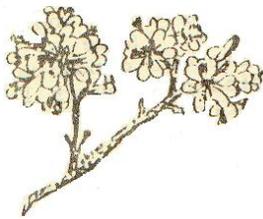


THE ALMOND TREE

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

The Rev. Mary Sulerud, Interim Rector
The Rev. David Crosby, Assistant Rector
Jennifer Addington, Editor



January 9, 2013

Be it resolved....

Dear Friends,

I laughed when, in the announcements on the First Sunday of Christmas and the last Sunday of 2012, it was said that 2012 might be a year we would all be glad to kick to the curb. At the time it looked very like we were headed over the “fiscal cliff”, for many their Christmas had been tinged with the sadness of people dying who were near and dear and the aftermath of the 12th mass shooting of the year involving gun violence and children. In your life as a community of faith, your beloved rector had announced her unexpected retirement not long after 2012 began. You had already set an ambitious goal for raising \$1 million dollars in a capital campaign, and much of the program and ministry year remained to be implemented and planned. It was a daunting time to step into your lives as your first interim in over 16 years.

As I drove home on the 30th, I wondered about 2012 and its blessings and its challenges. After all, you had been willing to risk offering me my first taste of parish ministry in nine years with all the possibility for good and disaster that might have brought. Transition and search, ambitious fund-raising goals for both the capital campaign and annual giving, trying out new ways of undertaking tried and true events and programs, changing the service schedule, holding a service at VTS again, lay and ordained leadership transitions in many programs, rethinking adult education and the timing of Sunday School, trying to maintain an extraordinary level of giving to those in need, amid it all there was much that was challenging and didn't always go well. Speaking quite personally, there was much that richly blessed me and I hope all of us. What I realized is that blessing and challenge (if not curse) grow together often in a tangled thicket like the wheat and weeds. Our task is not to separate them, but to reflect and understand what we learn from each and the way each is related to the other.

What I reluctantly admitted to God in the car was how much I thrived and learned in circumstances that were, and are, trying, if not defeating. What I learned had less to do with “not going there again” and more to do with my lifetime formation as a child of God. A number of years ago, Charles Price wrote a general thanksgiving prayer for what was then the new Book of Common Prayer. A single petition has stuck to me like glue ever since I first read it, “We thank you for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.” To me that best summarizes the relationship of the “tasks which demand our best efforts...and accomplishments that satisfy and delight us” with what fails us and what we fail at. The year of our Lord 2012 probably was more challenging than many. Before I kick it to the curb, my resolution is to learn all that I can from what makes me eager to let it go so that I can faithfully, as well as eagerly embrace the New Year. Be it resolved!

Yours in Christ,
Mary

PASTORAL CARE CORNER: Please remember these parishioners in your prayers: Duncan MacDonald, Morgan, Lloyd and Jean Mostrom, Nancy Wise, Janet Siegrist, Linda Murphy, Mary Goeser, Catherine, Susan Kernan, Mary, Natalie Doyle-Hennin, Bill Frye, Yvonne Pover, Kerry Kelly.

Please also remember in your prayers members of our extended Parish family: Joan Aldretti, Dean and Charlotte Kellogg, Chris Rarick, Susan Shallbetter, Tom Stasz, Eleanor Boothe Smith, Stephen Miller, Jim Rarick, Irv Schiff, Patricia Smith, Josie Guardipee, Helen Butler, Sam Faeth, Lawrence Sanchez, Paul, Joan Cummins, Eric Reading, Sr., Cameron, Jim Rehnke, Sue Rehnke, Laurie, Caitlin Rivers, Patricia Ryan, Chris Stanek, Dana Hengst, Lois and Don McCorvie, Anthony Christino, Jr., Dru Eckard, Elesa McFadden, Mike Hart, Jane Burton, Marsha Porter, Laura, Keith Green, Evelyn Rowe, Meg Clontz, Chris Moore, Lois, Steve Wells, Percy Hays, Nancy Engleman, Alex, Patrick Ogden, Laura Watt.

Those serving in the U.S. and overseas: Todd Bates, Paul Bednar, Yolanda Bednar, Tom and Anne Duffy, Ian Phillips, John Patrick Miller, Philip Smucker, Sarah White., Jon Anderson, Nicole DeBien, Noah Barker



SERVICE TIME CHANGE THIS SUNDAY. This Sunday, January 13,

our services times will change. **NO 8:00 a.m. service** – the one morning service will be at 9:15 (Rite I), with nursery and Godly Play. The main service will be at 2:00 p.m., with the Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston joining us for Holy Eucharist Rite II and Confirmation and Reception of new members. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall.

EARLY CHRISTIANS EXPAND TO 1823 PUB

Beginning January 8, this four-decade old group will meet at the VTS 1823 Pub on the first Tuesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. All Immanuelites are invited! The weekly meetings at 6:30 a.m. in the Fairchild room will continue. If you have questions, please see or call Betty Wanamaker (703) 684-5807 or Andy Biache (703) 836-6853

ARE YOU CALLED TO VESTRY SERVICE? Then our five departing members — **Susan Gilbertson, Martha Shimkin, Laura Snow, Bryan Phillips and Senior Warden Tom Kerns** — would love to hear from you by January 15..

On January 27th at the parish annual meeting, we will again elect fellow parishioners to a three-year term. This 12-member group, working with our clergy, makes decisions about the life of this parish, its worship and programs, its staffing and the well-being of the physical plant on behalf of us all. This "Class of 2013" will see Immanuel on the Hill through a pivotal period, as we call a new Rector and deploy the Capital Campaign funds to improve Zabriskie Chapel in 2013 and help us imagine a new worship life at the seminary's new Immanuel Chapel in 2015.

Serving on Vestry can be a richly rewarding experience. It offers a chance to "go deeper" — to think about worship and issues affecting the church, to connect with new friends in the pews, and to use leadership muscles in God's service in our parish home.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING IS SUNDAY JANUARY 27th. All are invited and encouraged to come hear the highlights of 2012 and exciting plans for 2013 from your clergy, treasurer, wardens and Vestry stewards. Child care will be provided during the meeting portion.

We'll start with a **POTLUCK LUNCH in the parish hall** about 11:15 or 11:30 a.m., at the conclusion of the 10 a.m. service. It's always a great time for fellowship and meeting new people.

Here's what you can bring to share with all, arranged by surname:

A to C: Desserts! (Why not start with them?)

D to M: Side dishes: All sorts of vegetable, fruit, pasta or grain salads, vegetable casseroles, deviled eggs, baked beans, cheeses or dips and crackers, etc.

N to Z: Main course dishes: Casseroles, sandwiches, quiche, chicken/tuna salads, pasta dishes, sliced ham or chicken, vegetarian specialties, etc.

Drop your offering by the kitchen any time from 9:30 a.m. on, and we'll keep it hot/cold until serving time. **Questions? Want to help?** Contact **Mary-Jo Cooney** (703/212-8442 mary-jo.cooney@comcast.net) or **Connie Kurz** (703/370-0062 cgkurz@aol.com).

ALIVE! FOOD DRIVE

January is one of the two months when Immanuel is responsible for donating food to the Alive! Food Pantry. The need is great – the program served over 750 families in September and October alone. Please bring any non-perishable items and leave them in the box in the Narthex. While ALL non-perishable items are welcome, the following items are especially needed: Baby food, dried milk, crackers (any kind), tea and instant coffee, tuna and canned meat, jello, complete pancake mix (the kind that needs only water), pancake syrup, jelly, especially large jars and peanut butter. Checks are also appreciated and will be used to buy fresh meat, eggs, and produce from the Capital Area Food Bank. Make checks payable to ICOH, with Alive! Food Program on the memo line. If you have any questions, please call **Ginny Johnstone** at 703-845-5745. Thanks!

UPCOMING FORUM HOUR

Sunday, January 20, 2013 at 9 AM

Gun Laws and Safety

Presented by Officer Charles Lloyd of the Alexandria Police Department.

Officer Lloyd will:

- Review the gun laws of Virginia, Maryland and D.C.
- Offer tips on gun safety at home
- Address personal questions from the congregation, which he would like to receive in advance (by January 12) so that he can do any necessary research.

Please submit questions to the Rev. Jan A. Maas, email: janandgeorgia22314@gmail.com, and include the subject line: *Gun Safety Forum Hour*.

DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE:

The search for a new Rector marches on as the Discernment Committee continues to review candidates to find the superior few whom we will pursue in earnest. Wendy John, the Committee Chair, briefed the Vestry on 5 January as to our progress, and as one might expect there was a significant influx of applications right up to the closing of the application window on 7 January. One of the next steps will be for the Committee to familiarize themselves with Skype so that we can hold “face-to-face” interviews with those candidates whom the committee determines by consensus are in the first rank of applicants. The selection process will then continue with visits by a smaller number of candidates, who will see ICOH first hand. Then Discernment Committee members will go and visit an even smaller group of candidates at their home parishes. This all leads to the Committee’s recommendation to the Vestry of a single candidate. The Vestry will then discuss and make the “Call” to the preferred candidate with Bishop Johnston’s approval. We are several months from that point. Please feel free to direct any general questions on the process to members of the Committee (Wendy John, Caroline Bergmark, Tom Brown, Governor Burke, Jim Clausen, Carrie Cuddy, Barbara Currie, Tom Harris, Doug Henry, Chandley McDonald, Eileen Monnin-Kirby, Martha Sedgwick) with the understanding that certain details of the search cannot be divulged.



GRACE AND GRATITUDE: Belated, but very sincere thanks to the individuals who participated in the fall garden clean up day – **Phyllis Ginger, Doug Onley, Wendy and Doug John, Mary Ann Sutherland and Waide Egener, Bruce Morton, Sara Fine, Lisa Yount, Barbara and George Currie, Warren Phillips, Tom Kerns, Andy Biache, Louisa and John Smucker, Chris von Schoening.** Also, with special appreciation to **Gilma**

Balcarcel who coordinated and translated for the extra help provided by **Saldemar and Solomon.** Thanks also goes to **Eloise Payne** of the Early Christians group for donating two new lamp shades in the Fairchild Room. Very sincere appreciation goes to **Stefanie Reponen** for always being able to step up to help Jennifer – especially this last week when she was away in Florida attending a family funeral. “Stefanie, it made it much easier for me to be present for Rod’s family to know that you were attending to things here in the office.”



Mark your calendars!
Virginia Interfaith Center's Annual Advocacy Day:

The Day for All People

Learn about the issues. Connect your faith with advocacy. Meet with your legislators.

Tuesday January 22nd, **830am – 230pm**, Richmond, Virginia

\$30 Registration at www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org

Programming will take place at the Richmond Convention Center and shuttles will be provided to and from the General Assembly Building.

VICPP Registration includes lunch, transportation and materials. Online registration is now available at www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org

Bus Caravan to Richmond

NoVA 6:00am (2 Departure Sites) / 5:00 pm Return

RSVP to Amelie.Bailey@restoninterfaith.org/571-323-9556, or to Anne.Murphy2244@gmail.com by January 15 to reserve your spot

RSVP With: Name, Email, Cell Phone, Pick-Up Location (Reston or Woodbridge)

Departure #1: 6:00am: United Christian Parish, 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston, VA

Departure #2: 6:45am: Old Bridge Commuter Lot at Route 123 and Old Bridge/Gordon Road (the old Hechinger's Lot at 12480 Gordon Road, Woodbridge, VA).

<http://www.prtctransit.org/commuter-bus/commuterlots.php>

SHRINE MONT NEWS

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

The annual parish retreat will be at **Shrine Mont** on Memorial Day Weekend, from noon May 25 through breakfast on May 27. More information to come. In the meantime, if you have questions, please call Lisa Frye at 703-548-8591 or wlifrye@comcast.net.



CAMP REGISTRATION for summer camps at Shrine Mont begins on Tuesday, January 8. Please go to their website: www.shrinemontcamps.net for all information. Employment applications for counselors, program directors, assistant directors, etc. will be available soon. Camp staff is

usually between the ages of 19 and 25.

Youth & Camps

Youth ministry is one of the top priorities of the Diocese of Virginia as we look toward growing our future mission and ministry. The work of youth ministry falls under the Office of Christian Formation.

Questions about camp? Contact Paris Ball: pball@thediocese.net, 800-DIOCESE x1042.

Questions about Parish Youth Ministries? Contact Mike Wade: mwade@thediocese.net, 800-DIOCESE x1027

Youth Ministries and Events in the Diocese of Virginia

- Youth Ministries Blog
- [Shrine Mont Camps](#): Each summer, the Office of Christian Formation operates 10 camps at Shrine Mont, the Episcopal retreat center in Orkney Springs, Va.
- [Parish Youth Ministries Committee](#): This committee of diocesan youth enables young people to be full and active participants in the life of the Church. PYM organizes youth events and promotes youth involvement, in addition to providing support at Annual Council meetings.
- **Sixth- and Seventh-Grade Weekend**: This PYM-sponsored event takes place at Shrine Mont every fall, and is a chance for middle schoolers and their leaders to come together for a time of fellowship and growth.
[November 9-11, 2012 at Shrine Mont](#)
- **Eighth-Grade Weekend**: Eighth graders and their youth leaders are invited to Shrine Mont each fall for two nights of retreat.
[October 5-12, 2012 at Shrine Mont](#)
- **Senior High Weekend**: This annual spring event at Shrine Mont is an opportunity for high school students to come together.
Spring 2012 - Date TBA
- **Diocesan Youth Day of Service**: This is a time for youth to come together from different churches and regions and learn why service and outreach are important parts of a Christian life. Attendees will also participate in a hands-on service project.
[October 27, 2012 at Aquia, Stafford](#)
- Diocesan Youth Mission Trip: Each year, the Diocese sponsors and helps plan a mission trip for all youth in our Diocese.

God's Covenants with God's People

Lenten Retreat 2013

Holy Cross Abbey

March 8-10

God seeks out humanity from the moment we are created, establishing covenants with us so that our relationship with God will thrive and we will be holy people. This retreat will explore God's covenants with God's people and how we might keep them in lives that tempt us in every way to break them. Our retreat leader will be the Rev. Mary Sulerud.

The Immanuel Lenten retreat will be at Holy Cross Abbey in the foothills of the Shenandoah Mountains by the Shenandoah River on a 1200 acre farm near Berryville, Virginia. The Cistercian monks of Holy Cross Abbey have been praying on the Berryville property since 1950; retreat participants will benefit from this location steeped in prayer as they explore the retreat theme. Cistercians observe silence at all times to aid reflection, prayer, and listening to God. Much of the time outside retreat program sessions will be in silence. For more information about Holy Cross Abbey, consult the website <http://www.virginiatrappists.org/>.

The retreat will begin on Friday afternoon, March 8, shortly before the evening meal and will end after the noon meal on Sunday, March 10. The \$300.00 registration fee includes all materials, comfortable accommodations, individual rooms each with a bathroom, and all meals.

Two scholarships given in memory of Charles Willis are available; please contact the rector for scholarship assistance.

Registration is limited to 15 persons; please reserve your space now using the form in the *Almond Tree*.

**Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill
Lenten Retreat
Holy Cross Abbey Retreat House
March 8-10, 2013**

1. First person registering for retreat

Name _____

Address _____

Daytime Telephone _____ Evening Telephone _____

E-mail _____

2. Second person registering for retreat

Name _____

Address _____

Daytime Telephone _____ Evening Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Number of registrants _____ x \$300 = _____ Total registration fee

Please make check payable to Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill and label it Advent Retreat. Return this form and your check to the Immanuel Church office, 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22304. 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 \$50.00 per room deposit. All but \$50.00 of your registration fee would be returned to you.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Lectionary Readings and
Schedule of Services



January 13, Epiphany 1

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29 (9:15 am only); Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
9:15 a.m., HEI; 2:00 p.m., HEII, Confirmation and Reception

January 20, Epiphany 2

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11
8:00 a.m., HEI, 10:00 a.m., HEII

January 27, Epiphany 3

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21
8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:00 a.m., HEII