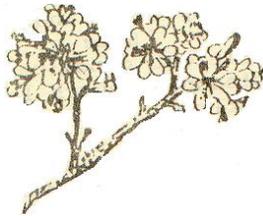


# THE ALMOND TREE



## Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

The Rev. J. Randolph Alexander, Jr., Rector  
The Rev. David Crosby, Associate Rector  
Jennifer Addington, Editor



January 15, 2014

*"I said to the almond tree, 'Sister, speak to me of God.' And the almond tree blossomed." Nikos Kazantzakis*

## PLEASE COME HEAR IMMANUEL'S GOOD NEWS

**Our 2014 Annual Parish Meeting and Vestry elections will be held Sunday, January 26.** The clergy, staff and Vestry is eager to share with you some changes and improvements we made on your behalf in 2013, as well as talk about a few exciting plans afoot for 2014. Likewise, this is a chance for you to voice your hopes and desires for our parish life together in this new year.

**The first bit of good news:** You don't have to cook or bring a thing besides yourselves — no "my name begins with M, so I need to bring a pie." Instead of a potluck lunch, followed by the meeting, we are trying something new this year — a short coffee time instead of lunch.

**We will have ballots available at the conclusion of both the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services.**

Following the 10 a.m. service, the congregation will adjourn to enjoy coffee and treats in the parish hall. **We will reconvene in the sanctuary at about 11:45 a.m. to start the meeting,** and we hope those who attend the early service will join us.

**We especially encourage families with young children to attend our annual gathering, to be part of the conversation about our church's future.** Child care will be provided during the meeting, in the nursery with Gilma and Eneida Balcarcel and in the Fairchild Room for older Sunday School-age students.

The Vestry is pleased to announce that **nine talented and committed parishioners have agreed to stand for election to fill four slots** vacated by the Class of 2011. They are: **Eve Anderson, Caroline Bergmark, Bill Frye, Chris Marbaker, Chandley McDonald, Eileen Monnin-Kirby, Doug Onley, Everett Post and Rosi Stewart.** Read more about each in this *Almond Tree*, and when you see them next, please thank them for their willingness to serve as your representatives.

After three years of service, it's time for **Brooke Roberts, John von Senden and me,** along with **Doug John,** to depart the Vestry. I believe I can speak for all when I say that has been a deep privilege to serve with wonderful clergy and fellow Vestrians, as Brooke calls us, at this time of great transitions and undertakings that will propel Immanuel into its future.

**Hope to see you all there on January 26th to continue the conversation.**

*-- Connie Kurz, Senior Warden*

**PASTORAL CARE CORNER: Please remember these parishioners in your prayers:** Yvonne Pover, Barbara Fornoff, Betty Wanamaker, Chris Stanek, Warren Phillips, Sharon Waiss, Jean Schnedl, Morgan, Janet Siegrist, Catherine, Mary, Duncan MacDonald, Natalie Doyle-Hennin, Bill Frye, Arlo and Katie Lloyd

**Please also remember in your prayers** members of our extended Parish family: Dean and Charlotte Kellogg, Chris Rarick, Eleanor Boothe Smith, Sam Faeth, Anthony Christino, Jr., Jane Burton, Keith Green, Lois, Percy Hays, Alex, Marian, and Bob Love, Tom Hewson, Sr., Danny Christoffersen, Ross Dickerson, Jim Clear, Lindsey Rose, Cathy and Stewart Hoskins, Laura Hudson, Ann and Larry Kaplan, Aubree Bowling, Marjorie Glassco, Paul, Kathryn, Carol Brown, Scott, Bob Weeks, Sharon Laboditz, D. Elizabeth Peters, Patricia, Howard Sutherland, Mary Jean Anderson, Mildred, Dan Wells.

**Those serving in the U.S. and overseas:** . Todd Bates, Ian Phillips, John Patrick Miller; Jon and Nicole Anderson, Noah Barker, Ryan, Will Murtha, Allen Kellogg, Keith June.

**ALIVE! FOOD DRIVE IN JANUARY:** January is one of the two months when Immanuel is responsible for donating food to Alive! The need is particularly great at this time due to recent cuts to the food stamp program. All non-perishable items are welcome; there is a shortage now of canned fruit, rice, peanut butter and tuna. There is a box in the Narthex for your donations. Checks are always appreciated and are used to buy fresh meat, eggs and produce from the Capital Area Food Bank. Please make them payable to Alive! and write FEP on the memo line (Food Emergency Program). If you are able to deliver the food to First Christian Church or have any questions, please call or email Ginny Johnstone at [justplaininginny1@juno.com](mailto:justplaininginny1@juno.com) or 703-845-5745. Thank you very much!

**LOST AND FOUND:**

Have you lost an orange-colored cell phone, or perhaps a small amethyst earring? Both can be claimed in the Parish Office.

The Right Reverend Shannon S. Johnston  
Bishop of Virginia  
and the People of Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

invite your prayers and presence at the Celebration of New Ministry  
and the Institution and Induction of  
The Reverend J. Randolph Alexander, Jr.  
as the tenth Rector of the parish

as well as the Sacrament of Confirmation and Reception

Sunday, January 19, 2014, 2:00 p.m.  
Callaway Chapel on the grounds of Episcopal High School  
1200 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria, Virginia.

Reception to follow in the Refectory  
on the grounds of Virginia Theological Seminary

**VESTRY CANDIDATES**



**EVE ANDERSON:** My husband, Gerry, and I found our spiritual home in the Episcopal Church shortly after our marriage in 1981 when we joined St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem during our first Foreign Service tour of duty. We first joined Immanuel on the Hill in 1991, and it became our touchstone in the States when we returned home between overseas assignments in Israel, Poland and Korea over the intervening years. Our youngest daughter was baptized and confirmed here. Since 2004, when we returned to Washington with our three children (Veronique, Jonathan and Elizabeth), Immanuel has been central to our lives.

Several years ago, I chaired the Music Director Search Committee which resulted in the hiring of the very talented Jane Tavernier. I prepared the post-show receptions for the annual Homecoming Shows, capturing the décor and various themes. My

husband, Gerry, sings in the choir and recently served on the Vestry.

I now would like to offer my professional experience and talents in leadership, management, education, entrepreneurship and administration to the service of God and our church community. As a Senior Business Advisor, I currently advise on human resources, budgets and contracts at the Department of State. In previous incarnations, I served as CEO of a non-profit religious foundation for the recovery of religious properties confiscated during Nazi and Communist rule in Poland; was a university lecturer in accounting, finance and business administration in three countries; and helped found and lead an English language school in Korea and appeared on Korean TV teaching English as well as co-authored its teaching materials. In Poland, I worked on launching a stock trading system and providing foreign assistance to privatize the top Polish banks. In my personal spiritual journey, I feel a calling to serve the church community that has surrounded me with love, compassion and fellowship for so many years and to serve the Immanuel family that supported me through some tough personal times.



**CAROLINE BERGMARK:** I have worshiped at Immanuel Church on the Hill since 2000. We moved to Virginia from Pittsburgh in 1999 and began looking for a church home. Immanuel was an immediate 'love' – beginning with the warm welcomes from many parishioners and continuing through the various active outreach programs. It was a sealed deal when Rev. Stephen Wade invited us to have Corey baptized at Immanuel. I've been a Choir member, Godly Play teacher, School for the Spirit student, Usher, and regular Shrine Mont retreat attendee. Corey, now 11, attended Godly Play and Sunday School. Now he is an Acolyte and a member of the Youth Group. Our family most often attends the 8 AM service, but can be found at other services when Usher or Acolyte duties call.

In 2012-13, I was honored to be part of the Discernment Committee that searched for our new rector. And in the fall of 2013, I convened an African Bible Study group. I feel strongly about the connection of spirituality and community. I like the ideas of diverse worship services, more study opportunities and growth of our youth programs. There are many interesting transitions coming to Immanuel and I'd like to bring my faith and logic to those dialogs. I've used my strong organization skills in managing the photo directory, as part of the Discernment Committee, and in scheduling the Bible Study groups. As a Vestry member, I will use my project management talents for the many tasks needed to move into and utilize our new chapel.



**BILL FRYE:** Before coming to Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, I had an experience in which I felt called to Immanuel and to God's service. For almost a month I was so overwhelmed by the experience and the feeling of being where God wanted me I was almost unable to participate in services. Since that time I, as well as my wife, Lisa, and our daughter, Isabel, have come to know Immanuel as both home and family. We have especially felt lifted and supported by your prayers and friendship when I have been ill.

Over the years, I have served on the Vestry, helped organize and teach in classes for School for the Spirit, co-led the youth group, taught Sunday School and served as a Eucharistic Minister. I continue to manage the bicycle refurbishing program, providing bicycles to families in need in Alexandria. I recently returned to school for a master's in counseling psychology with specialty in pastoral counseling where I have enjoyed working with many parishioners, in addition to working in my own private practice. I hope that I can have the opportunity to serve Immanuel by being on Vestry again.



**CHANDLEY MCDONALD:** Ken and I first came to Immanuel in 1969 after spending a year in Oxford. I have always been an Episcopalian, baptized in Ohio, and confirmed in Germany. Since 1996, when I returned from a State Department assignment in the Philippines, Ken and I have worshiped and ushered at the 8 o'clock service. Several of our grandchildren were baptized at Immanuel.

At Immanuel I have taken part in three principal activities. The most important and gratifying was serving last year on the discernment committee that brought us Randy Alexander. For some years I have been active in the parish's Outreach ministry and I represent Immanuel on the Board of Lady Managers, an ecumenical Alexandria group that supports INOVA Alexandria Hospital. I also enjoy making pancakes for the Shrove Tuesday parish supper and baking for the Pumpkin Patch. We are members of the

Zabriskie Society and have sponsored scholarships for children in the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

I continue to work as a writer, editor, and project manager at the State Department and I hope that this professional experience might be useful for the Vestry. If I should be elected, I would be honored to serve in this new form of ministry with a dedicated group of parishioners.



**CHRIS MARBAKER:** Hello my name is Chris Marbaker and I have been at Immanuel since the summer of 2010. I was baptized and confirmed at Immanuel, and feel I have finally after many years found my parish home. I have assisted with the pumpkin ministry in the last couple of years and hope to increase my role in this ministry. An area that I think needs attention is reaching out to the community to welcome new members to maintain the lifeblood of our strong congregation. I currently work for Virginia Theological Seminary in the Office of Human Resources and Institutional Effectiveness. I assist the seminary in the sourcing, selection and onboarding of candidates for Staff and Faculty positions. I also look at ways to streamline internal processes to ensure we are using resources effectively. As a secondary role of my position I work with the board of trustees in an administrative role in assisting with material preparation and attending board meetings.



**EILEEN MONNIN KIRBY:** The Word of God comes through loud and clear to me through my involvement with the Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill family. Together with my husband, Kevin, and our two teen-aged sons, I have attended Immanuel for more than five years now, following lifelong immersion in the Catholic tradition.

The loving ways of Jesus — tolerant, patient, forgiving, encouraging, inclusive, and especially committed to service to others — come alive for me through interactions with each of you. His grace has been made abundant through my participation in Shrine Mont weekends (a splendid introduction to Immanuel!) and numerous other fellowship activities, the Pumpkin Patch, Godly Play, Christmas Families, the

Rector's Search Committee (a remarkable spiritual learning process and outcome!) and most recently the African Bible study. Regular worship including sharing of the Eucharist, complemented by these many flagship fellowship and outreach activities, is what I treasure most about our church. Growing this love, this grace and these treasures, with a focus on families and spiritual education, is the basis for my ongoing commitment to our church community and my interest in serving on the Vestry.

Beyond this firm commitment to helping to nurture the spiritual growth of our church community, I offer some practical skills developed through more than 25 years of professional experience in the areas of international development and finance, as well as nearly 20 wonderful years as a wife and mother. I look forward to our ongoing shared faith journey and even greater service to our church.



**DOUG ONLEY** I was a member of Immanuel's Vestry from 2006-2008, serving as Steward for Resources and focusing my energies on the facilities-related needs of the church. With co-steward Rollin Huntington, vestry support and help from *many* parishioners, I oversaw the completion of numerous deferred maintenance items and installation of energy-savings upgrades and capital improvements (new windows in the parish hall, sanctuary, choir room, nursery and basement classrooms; replacement of all existing thermostats with programmable models; and insulation of the roof cavity). I also arranged for a building/energy audit, assisted John von Senden to develop a long-range facilities planning model, and worked generally to raise the profile of Resources needs and initiatives among the congregation. I reconstituted the Immanuel Facilities Committee, which I continued to serve on after stepping

down from vestry service. In 2012, I assisted on the Capital Campaign, which raised more than \$1 million for Immanuel and the VTS "Chapel for the Ages."

I began attending Immanuel in 1990, when I moved to Alexandria as a journalist. After returning to the D.C. area following law school, I resumed attending services, and Kameran and I were married in the Seminary Chapel by Sam Faeth in 2002. Soon after we began ushering and were honored to serve on former seminarian Holly Gloff's lay committee from 2004-06. Kameran has taught Sunday School and works on various initiatives involving Immanuel's youth. Our daughter Sydney (6 y.o.) loves singing in Immanuel's Angel's Choir and attending Godly Play and Sunday School classes. In my professional life, I am a senior claims attorney for United Educators, a company that provides insurance for 1,200 education institutions, including St. Stephen's, St. Agnes and the other 4 church schools run by the Diocese of Virginia.



**EVERETT POST:** Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill has been the church home for my wife, Susan, me and our children, Jacko and Anna since 1993. As a cradle Episcopalian, I have found Immanuel to be a faith community that has both nourished and challenged me. Immanuel has helped me explore my faith through Forum Hours, School for the Spirit, retreats, Education For Ministry and in the various ways I have been able to serve in this community. Immanuel's warm, welcoming congregation, active outreach, strong music program, many ways to express faith and tie to VTS make it unique and very special for me.

I see Vestry service as an opportunity to use for Immanuel the knowledge and experience I have gained in the many ministries I have been involved in over the past 20+ years. Those have included singing in the choir, serving as acolyte coordinator, organizing youth mission trips, helping with Meals on Wheels, being active in Pumpkin

Patch management, serving as a Lay Eucharist Minister, and participating in the founding and on-going activities of the Immanuel Benedictine Community. As a former New York international banker, international development professional, and, since 2000, advisor to Five Talents, an Anglican, global microfinance non-profit, I have especially valued participating in our mission trips to the DR and serving on the Outreach Committee.



**ROSI STEWART:** It would be a privilege to serve the Immanuel clergy and congregation – thank you for the opportunity! Immanuel is a thriving parish with a focus on spirituality, diverse ministries and generous Outreach, all of which support the community fostered within and outside of its walls.

Service to others is an essential element of my spiritual path – an outward manifestation of my continuing attempt to be faithful and grow in faith. While I started life as a Catholic, I have been a member of the Episcopal Church for 12 years. My husband Dan and I experienced the truly welcoming community of Immanuel on the Hill in 2011, after we relocated here from Tennessee, where we also were active in our faith community.

That said, I bring a newcomer's perspective to the Vestry. My recent activities here include serving as a Reader and Intercessor, being a day manager at the Pumpkin Patch, giving a stewardship testimonial and providing an extra set of hands for many other activities. My work as a grants manager for a large non-profit health system keeps my program management, organizational, communication and fundraising skills sharpened: I hope to bring these to bear in Vestry service. As a Vestry member, I will highlight the meaning of service for this church, using my skills to ensure that Immanuel continues to grow and to foster faith, friendship and family in Christ.

## Christmas Families Report

Thanks to your generosity, as a parish we brightened the Christmas of 110 families, 270 children and 140 parents from Child Protective Services and the Alexandria Community Shelter. 60 families (120 children 72 parents) were signed-up for; for 50 families (150 children and 68 parents) we bought gifts with money that was contributed. In addition to Lego sets, art kits, science kits, basketballs, dolls, playsets, and sleeping bags, we gave 800 books (including books for the Community Lodging after-school program lending libraries), 100 games, and 25 bicycles, put together or beautifully refurbished.

Behind every one of these numbers is a child building a Lego castle and acquiring a sense of space and numbers, a teenager building remote-control machines, a child painting or reading, a parent reading a picture book to her toddler, a family playing Monopoly, a child gaining confidence while riding a bike.

Thanks to all who signed up for a family and all who contributed money. There are many people who worked behind the scenes on entering data on people and gifts, shopping for toys and books, assigning books, fixing bicycles, getting the Parish Hall ready for the wrapping, getting gifts ready for the wrapping at Santa's Workshop, organizing the wrapping and sorting and checking of gifts, transporting gifts, and sorting bags and sorting and arranging used clothing and toys at Human Services. If we overlooked someone in the list below, we are sorry; God thanks you.

Alisa, Andy, and Addie Biache	Jim Kurz
Hugh Campbell	Suzanne Lamb
Ashley Chappell and Owen, Owen IV, Miles, and Macon Malone	Candy Levin
Jim Clausen	Georgia and Jan Maas
Mary-Jo Cooney	Brian and Karyn Moran
Tom Cuddy	Maria Rivera
Betsy, Mark, and Caiti DeMulder	Paul Scher
Danielle and Chris DeMulder	Matthew, Rhys, and Kes Shallbetter, and Eleanor Whitaker
Bill Frye, the bicycle man	Kerstin Shimkin
Lisa Frye	Phyllis Sims
Tim and Susan Gildersleeve	John Smucker
Debbie Hewson	Laura and Jim Snow
Ginny Johnstone	Dan and Rosi Stewart
Dorothy Kellogg	Bob and Cathy Velke
Kevin and Eileen Kirby	Nancy, Jim, and Spencer Wise

Again, thank you all for being part of Christmas Families 2013.

Dagobert and Lissa Soergel  
Linda Serabian  
Connie Kurz  
Julie Bruns

**Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill  
Lenten Retreat  
Holy Cross Abbey Retreat House  
April 4-6, 2014**

**1. First person registering for retreat**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Daytime Telephone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Evening Telephone** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Second person registering for retreat**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

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**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 Lenten 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.

## **Lenten Retreat 2014**

### **Holy Cross Abbey**

**April 4-6**

The annual Immanuel Lenten retreat will be led by the Rev. Randy Alexander 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. During the retreat, silence will be observed except in the program sessions. For more information about Holy Cross Abbey, consult the website <http://www.virginiatrappists.org/>.

The retreat will begin on Friday afternoon, April 4, shortly before the evening meal and will end after the noon meal on Sunday, April 6. The \$300.00 registration fee includes all materials, comfortable accommodations, individual rooms each with a bathroom, and all meals.

Look for more information about the retreat in the next *Almond Tree*.

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  
3606 Seminary Road  
Alexandria, VA 22304  
703-370-6555  
office@Immanuel.net  
<http://www.Immanuel.net>

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Lectionary Readings and  
Schedule of Services



**January 12, The First Sunday after the Epiphany**

Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17  
8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:00 a.m., HEII

**January 19, The Second Sunday after the Epiphany**

Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-12, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42  
8 a.m., HEI, 2:00 p.m., HEII, Celebration of New Ministry, Confirmation and Reception

**January 26, The Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1, 5-13; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23  
8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:00 a.m., HEII