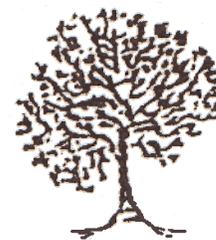
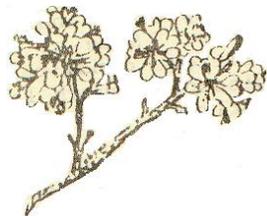


# THE ALMOND TREE

## Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

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



October 8, 2015

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

### What Does it Mean to Consecrate?

We are preparing for a fairly rare occurrence, the consecration of a new church building. A lot of planning, fundraising, building, and praying have gone into the process of building Immanuel Chapel. This week it will be consecrated to God's glory. But what does that mean?

To consecrate something is to set it apart for a holy purpose, while asking God's blessing upon it. The liturgy includes thanksgiving for all of those who have labored to get the community to the present moment, and prayers for the building's future use to God's glory and for the benefit of God's people. It is an important moment for any Christian community, as a worship space is hallowed, set apart, and dedicated.

As important as that is, it is not only buildings we speak of as being consecrated. Each of us as believers, as baptized followers of Jesus Christ, is invited to cooperate with God's grace in living, more and more, a life consecrated and set apart for God's glory and for service to God's people. We speak of the consecration of bishops, but really each Christian is called to a kind of consecration. We, most of us, fall off this path, or maybe even run from it, but the vision of the Gospel calls us to return home as God's beloved children.

So, as we witness and participate in the consecration this week of one of our houses or worship in this parish, why don't you take a few minutes to consider your own consecration? Who were the "architects" or your faith, those mentors who helped bring you to this point? Are there times when you dedicate an aspect of your work to God's glory, or for God's people? How does your call "set you apart" to be present to others? Where is there a healthy dose of thanksgiving for God's grace and the other people in your life who have brought you thus far?

See you in Church,  
Randy+

**IMMANUEL IN THE CITY** Do you work in Washington? Do you step out for lunch on occasion? If so, why don't you consider joining other Immanuelites for lunch and fellowship on Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, at 12 Noon? We will gather at Bertuccis Italian Restaurant, 2000 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. The cost will be around \$8 per person. More information will follow.

## FROM THE NAVAJO TO THE CONGO

As we unloaded the pumpkins this past Sunday, I was mindful of all the people, near and far, who benefit from the outreach funds raised during our annual pumpkin patch. Most especially, I held in my heart the people I was fortunate to meet during my trip to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in the summer of 2014. I traveled with a small group from the Diocese of Virginia to eastern DRC to learn about the Anglican Church's work in the Diocese of Bukavu to care for the most vulnerable.

While in Goma, we met with Dr. Raymond Bachongo, Coordinator of the Medical Services for the Anglican Church in Congo. Dr. Raymond shared the challenges of providing health care in a fragile (some would say failed) nation state that has for most part emerged from a brutal war that claimed 5-6 million lives, making it the deadliest conflict since World War II. Congo is a place that has experienced more than its fair share of suffering. Additionally, even when people and organizations intend to help, sometimes their actions have unintended consequences. Dr. Raymond shared the following:

*Today with the presence of local and international NGOs that pay for short time huge salaries and wages, this causes a drain in terms of trained medical personnel in search of better pay. This is why the issue of training local candidates from the grass root level will help as they will serve in their areas after the completion of their studies.*

Based on Dr. Raymond's observations, I proposed that Immanuel support two nursing students studying at Aru Medical Institute. The Outreach committee approved the proposal and now our parish is supporting Ms. Azonye Asiki and Mr. Nzimo Yenga in a three-year program that provides training in general nursing, midwifery, nursing in paediatrics, and anaesthesia. Both students lost their parents when they were killed by rebels in the Lord's Resistance Army. Azonye and Nzimo planned to leave the campus, but the school allowed them to stay. We are now insuring that they will continue their education. I received thank you letters from them both this past July and wanted to share a few passages:

*I wish to express to you my sincere gratitude as a graduate in laboratory technology at the ISTM/ARU...Finally, may God bless you and your family, as well as Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill for this unforgettable gesture that I will remember all my life. (Mr. Yenga) I am writing to express my gratitude to you. In addition, I wish to thank God Almighty for his love for me...Please accept my most sincere wishes. (Ms. Asiki) (Translation courtesy of Pierre Shostal)*

Our support of Azonye and Nzimo will impact countless lives as they will soon be able to provide much needed, long-term medical care to those in need. Even as my own body aches from the weight of the pumpkins, it is a holy ache, an ache that fills my heart with gratitude knowing that our hands are indeed taking Christ's love into the world.

By Rebecca Cooper



Left: Nzimo Yenga; Right: Azonye Asiki; Middle: Aru Medical Institute located not far from Arua town in Uganda. The Diocese of Aru is one of eight dioceses of the Anglican Church in DRC.

*Photos courtesy of Dr. Raymond*



## THE ASSOCIATE'S CORNER

*What It Is, Where It Is, and Why*

In Zabriskie Chapel, how many have noticed the little white pedestal with wooden octagonal font holding a glass bowl insert with water in the Narthex? Do you remember seeing it? Have you ever used it? It is a baptismal font, found last year in the church attic over the parish hall and restored to be used.

From John N. Wall's *A Dictionary for Episcopalians*: The font is "a large, free standing basin for the water of baptism. In traditionally arranged churches the font is near the west end of the building, near the entrance, to remind us that baptism is the rite of full entry into the church. The term may also be used for a holy water receptacle fixed to the wall at the entrance of the church."

In the Episcopal Church, Holy Baptism is a public part of our regular Sunday worship in every season but Lent. There are a number of times when baptism is especially appropriate: the Great Vigil of Easter, Pentecost, The Sunday of All Saints, and the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. Earlier this year, we celebrated three baptisms at the Easter Vigil and during Eastertide. Recently, we welcomed Abigail Hsieh DeVight (granddaughter of Gary and Mei-Lung DeVight) into the household of God in a Baptism at our Wednesday night 6:30 p.m. Eucharist.

A taller ceremonial baptismal font with crystal bowl stands up front in Zabriskie Chapel to the right by the organ. And now that we have returned to The Holy Hill at Virginia Theological Seminary, Immanuel Chapel has a prominent wrought-iron stand with broad glass font filled with blessed water in the main processional aisle. Those fonts, used for baptisms (and sometimes at Confirmations), are oriented in relation to the pulpit/ambo (to the left in Zabriskie; to the right in Immanuel), and the Altar which is front and center. The three pieces of furniture represent our liturgical values in the waters of Baptism, The Holy Word of God (which is read and preached), and the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist, when we gather as The Body of Christ to be fed.

We use one font for ritual cleansing and symbolic dying to be raised in a new life with Christ at Baptism. If a second font is available in the narthex containing blessed water, it reminds of us of that cleansing, renewal, and being set apart in this life in Christ. We hope you've seen it, understand it, and will use it.

*Peace, David+*

## 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL SENIOR MINISTRY SEMINAR "CHRISTIAN FAITH AND THE ART OF DYING A DAY OF REFLECTION AND CONVERSATION" SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2015, PARISH HALL

About the day, Tim Sedgwick wrote the following: *My hope for this day is to offer reflections from those who have given these questions much thought in order to enable our own conversation about what is most important in our lives and what this means in our living and dying as we age. From questions on "What makes life human?" and "What does the body tell the spirit?", I want to turn to hard questions about faithful choices at the end of life. Practically this requires addressing questions of things done and left undone.*

9:00 a.m.	Gathering
9:30 a.m.	Christian Reflections on Aging
10:45 a.m.	Break
11:00 a.m.	Moral Decisions at the End of Life
12:15 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Things Done and Left Undone

Timothy F. Sedgwick is the Clinton S. Quin Professor of Christian Ethics at Virginia Theological Seminary where he has taught since 1997 and where he served as academic dean from 2008 to 2013.

Please let the office know you are coming. Call Jennifer at 703-370-6555. All parishioners and caregivers are welcome to attend. Box lunches will be provided. Just indicate your sandwich preference when you call the office.

**OCTOBER 18 FORUM HOUR ON SYRIAN REFUGEES** Pierre Shostal, who came to this country in 1941 as a refugee, will discuss the Syrian refugee crisis. Recalling Immanuel Church's response to the refugee situation following the Vietnam War, he will describe what parishioners can do today.

*We Gather Together To Ask The Lord's Blessing*

*November 7, 2015: Choral Evensong and Harvest Dinner*

Please join Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill on **Saturday November 7, 2015** for a very special evening of grace and gratitude for God's blessings.

Beginning at 5:30 pm at our Immanuel Chapel at the Virginia Theological Seminary, the Immanuel Choir, under the direction of Dr. Jane Tavernier will sing Choral Evensong.

Immediately following Evensong, Immanuel's annual Harvest Dinner will begin with drinks and hors d'oeuvres in Scott Lounge, followed by a buffet dinner in the Refectory.

Prices for the Harvest Dinner are \$25.00 per adult and \$10.00 per child between 12 and 5 years of age (children under 5 -- no charge). The family maximum is \$70.00.

Once again this is a family friendly event – a children's movie event is being planned in Scott Lounge

Making your reservations and payment is easy on the Immanuel website by following this link: [icoh.net/register](http://icoh.net/register). You can also find the registration page from the home page of Immanuel's website under contribute.

**You may also RSVP, and send your payment, to Jennifer Addington in the Parish Office no later than Friday October 30.** RSVPs must be received by this date, as we must provide VTS with a firm number of attendees by October 30.

Also – please note – RSVPs are capped at 200 as this is the maximum number of occupants allowed in The Refectory per the orders of the US Fire Marshall.



Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill Harvest Dinner  
November 7, 2015  
The Refectory  
Virginia Theological Seminary

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children between Ages 5-12 \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any Dietary Restrictions & number affected: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Total Payment \_\_\_\_\_ Date Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_

## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

**THE EYC NEEDS YOUR TUNA AND MUSHROOMS:** Immanuel's EYC will be gathering this Sunday to pack prepared dinners to assist with the "feed a family" program sponsored by Catholic Charities of Arlington. The dinners will include a recipe and all the ingredients needed to cook a hearty tuna casserole that will amply serve a family of four. The ingredients are nonperishable and can be stored for over one year.

Each dinner will be provided to those in need through the three pantries Catholic Charities operates in Alexandria, Leesburg and Front Royal. Most of the recipients are seniors on fixed incomes, the disabled, the unemployed, single-parent families, and those who simply cannot make ends meet. Last year, this program helped to serve more than 8,000 people from those pantries. It is painfully clear that the number of families who are in need of food assistance has grown exponentially in recent years. By celebrating community and packaging dinners to help meet this need, our youth will be living the Gospel.

**WHAT THE EYC WOULD WELCOME FROM YOU IS A DONATION OF A CAN OF TUNA AND/OR CREAM OF MUSHROOM SOUP.** The youth will be gathering this Sunday, October 11 at 6:00, to assemble the meals and enjoy a little fellowship. Therefore, we will be collecting cans throughout services this Sunday. All donations can be placed in the large collection box marked EYC "Feed a Family" that will be located outside of the main entrance of the Immanuel Chapel.

We would sincerely appreciate your donations and together as a parish we can all do great things and put the Gospel into action.

For more information, questions or to arrange a donation please contact Jeannie Cummins ([jceconsulting@comcast.net](mailto:jceconsulting@comcast.net)) or John Hogg, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries ([jhogg@icoh.net](mailto:jhogg@icoh.net)).

**CALLING YOUTH INTERESTED IN CONFIRMATION** We are gathering a new class of youth confirmands. Any parents or youth who are interested (generally in eighth grade) are asked please to call or email the office, so that we may set a time to gather for our first meeting. Please contact Jennifer Addington, Parish Administrator, at 703.370.6555 or [jaddington@icoh.net](mailto:jaddington@icoh.net).

**MISSING PRAYERBOOK-HYMNAL.** A black "leather" prayerbook/hymnal combination has gone missing from the Zabriskie Chapel. It has no name embossed on it, rather a piece of black electrical tape covering the name. If you took it home inadvertently, please return it to the parish office. Thank you!

**SENIORS' EVENT:** On September 24 parishioner Elaine Davies led Immanuel's Seniors on a tour of Rippon Lodge in Woodbridge, Virginia. After the tour they had a lovely lunch in Occoquan before returning to Immanuel.



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Immanuel Church -on-the-Hill

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Lectionary Readings and  
Schedule of Services



**October 11, The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22:1-15; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31  
8:00 a.m., HEI; 9:15 a.m., HEII, 11:15 a.m., HEI

**October 18, The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost**

Isaiah 53:4-12; Psalm 104:1-9, 25, 37b; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45  
8:00 a.m., HEI; 9:15 a.m., HEII; 11:15 a.m., HEII

**October 25, The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost**

Jeremiah 31:7-9; Psalm 34:1-8; Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52  
8:00 a.m., HEI; 9:15 a.m., HEII; 11:15 a.m., HEI