



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



June 16, 2017

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

Welcoming New VTS Students and International Anglicans to Immanuel

Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS) is blessed every year with a variety of new and returning international students. Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill is also blessed in being the first worshipping community newly arrived students visit. On August 13th, during the 10:30am Eucharist, Immanuel will officially welcome two new international students who are coming to VTS from Myanmar and China.

Elizabeth Phyu is an M.A. student from Taungoo, Myanmar. She completed a Bachelor's degree in Psychology at James Cook University, Singapore in 2014, and she has most recently worked as a mental health coordinator in Myanmar. She has also worked as a youth leader and as a volunteer English teacher. Her father is John Wilme, Diocesan Bishop of Taungoo.

The Reverend Wen en Lin is also an M.A. student from Nanjing, China. Rev. Wen has already completed a Masters of Divinity and also previously earned a certificate in New Testament from the University of Winnipeg in 2010. Most recently, Rev. Wen has been a lecturer in New Testament at Nanjing Union Theological Seminary. He is married and has one 15 year old child. In his free time, Rev. Wen enjoys reading.

The welcome and hospitality we provide to VTS international students has benefited over the years from the participation, prayers, and leadership of many in the parish. Many have offered hospitality in their homes in August, over the Christmas break, and throughout the year. Students, in turn, have brought to the community their personal stories of ministry during forum hours, helped in the Pumpkin Patch, and been valued members of the parish and friends to many in our community. In addition, we are blessed to have Mr. Halim Shukair, a third year MDiv. student serving as our Seminarian and the Rev. Peter Gachira, who just completed his MA at VTS in May, leading our worship with the Kenyan community.

This important ministry – welcoming international Anglicans into our community for relationships of mutual support and benefit - is now being more formally recognized by both VTS and Immanuel. Nurturing this ministry and the many parish participants in it will fall under the leadership of the Vestry Steward for Evangelism and Newcomers, Ms. Janice Corbett. She will rely on the continued enthusiasm of many in the parish who care deeply about nurturing cross-cultural connection and understanding in both the Church and our world.

Please help us to welcome both Ms. Phyu and Rev. Wen on Sunday, August 13th. And, please contact Janice at 703-300-5682 if you are interested in playing a part in this ministry. Particularly, we are looking for a member who would like to host Ms. Phyu and Rev. Wen for brunch on Aug. 13th. Additionally we would like help putting together a welcome box of supplies and resources to help new students settle into our community.

--Hartley Hobson Wensing

Senior Ministry Brown Bag Lunch: Tuesday, June 27th from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm in the Parish Hall: June's lunch topic is "How to Speak Geek: the Fundamentals of Information Technology" featuring guest speaker Bret Moore, who has 25 years of experience in the field of information technology supporting the Department of Defense and private industry. If you are still using a flip phone in a smart phone world or trying to understand the difference between texting, chatting and tweeting, join us! Bret will familiarize us with common terms, concepts and practices in information technology and modern communications. Get the scoop on where IT is heading in the next decade! Bring your lunch and a friend: we will supply dessert and refreshments. RSVP by June 23rd to jceconsulting@comcast.net or 703-851-5257.

Christmas Families in August 2017: Haiti and Alexandria

In the service at the Shrine Mont parish weekend we sang from *America the Beautiful*

Thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!

This line is surely aspirational; it takes action, our action, to bring reality closer to the aspiration. A powerful way toward lifting people in the city out of poverty is to help children learn. This is what Christmas Families in August is about.

Help children with school supplies – critical tools for learning! Every fall children in Haiti and Alexandria go off to school without the critical tools for learning. They do not have backpacks, notebooks, crayons, pencils, scissors, calculators, or the money for gym uniforms and fees. Maybe not having school supplies doesn't seem like such a terrible hardship. But take a moment to think back to your own childhood. Remember how excited you were to pick out your supplies, making sure to get just the right color of notebook, Now picture the hurt on a child's face when he or she learns their family can't afford to buy all the school materials they need. These children need our help.

There are two ways you can help:

1) Alexandria Child Protective Services has identified families in need (many of them families we helped last Christmas). **You can sign up to provide school supplies for the children in one family** after each service between Sunday, June 11, and Sunday, August 13. The sign-up boards will be in the narthex of Zabriskie Chapel during the week. To provide for one of the large families, several Immanuel families may want to sign up together. Please put your name and phone number on the sign-up board with the family you chose and take from the manila folder the corresponding sheet with the names and the school supplies required for the school and grade. Please bring the school supplies to church on or before Sunday, August 20. **You can also donate unassigned school supplies, especially backpacks** (new or used and in good shape), after each service or at the parish office during the week.

2) You can donate money at the special collection Sunday, June 18, and on Sunday, August 20 (or by mail or delivery to the church office anytime between now and August 20). Please make checks out to Immanuel and mark them XFAM. The money will go to the **Haiti Micah project** (50%) and to **Community Lodgings** (25%) and **Human Services in Alexandria**. (25%).

Let us give all children a good start in the new school year!

Lissa Soergel (703-823-2840, 703-869-9848, <lissa@whollygenes.com>)

Dagobert Soergel (703-823-2840, 703-585-2840, dsoergel@umd.edu)

Linda Serabian (703-836-4670, <serabian@somaarchitects.com>)

Julie Bruns (703-534-7913, <drbruns@bellatlantic.net>)

Save the Date to Be Ready to Roll for Pumpkin Fun! Sunday, October 1, 2017

That's Right – we are talking about **Pumpkin Sunday** – the official kick off for the 24th Annual Immanuel Pumpkin Patch and we want to be Ready to Roll!

Join us on Sunday, October 1st after Mass on the Grass to help unload two semi-trucks full of pumpkins that will be displayed for sale in front of Zabriskie Chapel during the month of October – along with funky looking gourds, delicious homemade apple crisps, scrumptious soups, and beautiful baked good. Proceeds from this fun-for-all-ages month-long event go to help over 30 outstanding charities locally, nationally, and internationally.

But right now, we need some wheels ... **WAGON WHEELS!**

We need **at least SIX more wagons** for customers to load

pumpkins into while they are cruising the patch. Garage sales are great places to look for children's wagons – or check out your garage or basement. If we can get these wagons over the summer, we can have time to repair and paint them to be ready for the patch. Questions? Contact John Bednar at john.l.bednar@gmail.com.



Can't find a wagon? No problem! Over the next few months, the Pumpkineers will be working hard to sign up volunteers to help:

- Set up and maintain the patch – including bringing more light to the patch at night.
- Sell pumpkins every day in October – look for online sign-up sheets coming soon!
- Make apple crisps in the Immanuel kitchen – a delicious way to connect with old and new friends.
- Donate homemade soups and baked goods – to entice our customers' taste buds and make dinners easier.
- Promote the pumpkin patch – Yard signs, magnetic stickers, flyers, and social media materials ... OH MY ... Coming this Fall ... Help us get the word out.
- Make this event a success – stay in touch with us to learn more about upcoming opportunities.

There are ways for everyone to help – from little kids to seniors, whatever your schedule.

Thanks for your help for the last 23 years – here's to a great 24th year!

Questions? Ask outreach@icoh.net.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Lectionary Readings and
Schedule of Services



June 18, The Second Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7); Psalm 116:1, 10-17; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35—10:8, (9-25)
8:00 a.m., HEI, 10:00 a.m., HEII

June 25, The Third Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39
8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:30 a.m., HEII

July 2, The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42
8:00 a.m., HEI, 10:30 a.m., HEII