

# The Almond Tree: *In Brief*



NEWS CIRCULAR OF IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL

October - November 1, 2021

## *In This DOUBLE ISSUE...*

**FALL VESTRY UPDATE** from **1**  
Kathryn Jackson Haskin, Our Senior  
Warden.

**SEE ZABRISKIE CHAPEL'S** **3**  
**GARDENERS AT WORK**  
Do you have one day a month to  
keep our chapel garden in bloom? If  
so, consider joining this ministry.

**FIELD TRIP IN PERFECT WEATHER** **4**  
Senior Adult Ministry takes in the  
art and air during a visit to  
Glenstone Museum in Potomac.

**HILL HAPPENINGS** **5**  
Calls for lay ministry membership,  
and Christmastide photos for  
Immanuel, plus offers from our  
affiliates. — and a special guest at  
our Veteran's Day Forum Hour.

**UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES** **8**  
Mark your calendar!



*Father Sam shows off "God with us" on the Immanuel seal and throughout the chapel to a curious crowd during the Children's Homily on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, in Immanuel Chapel. Photo courtesy of Jackie Rustigian.*

## VESTRY UPDATES: NOTES FROM OUR SENIOR WARDEN

On September 14th, the Vestry met via Zoom, and used the first hour regathering ourselves, holding space, and giving time for each person to share their journey during these times. Fr. Randy closed this time with prayer for all that we had shared and for continued guidance from God for our personal lives and in our ministry through Vestry service.

In the second half of the meeting, we focused on the care and development of our church community. We received a financial report from Tom Hewson, our Treasurer, reviewing our cash flow and establishing a timeline for potential revisions to any of our budget areas through the end of the year. We are blessed to have strong financial support from our parishioners, and we remain in a strong financial state.

Vestry member Brooke Roberts created the recent all-parish survey and reviewed the responses she has received so far and tabulated. The survey was sent to all parishioners via email and regular mail in late August. The survey was created to help us continue to plan responsibly and be responsive to the needs of all our parishioners. Here are several highlights that are especially helpful to us as we plan for this fall and winter programs.

1. Online services continue to be appreciated and there's a strong response that we should continue to offer them even as more in-person activities resume. Online Bible studies, book studies, small groups, and committee meetings were also widely noted as being helpful, appreciated, and desired even when in-person activities resume regularly.



2. Outdoor worship was noted as very valuable, both during this period and as something to continue in the future.

3. Respondents noted that they are eager and, in many cases, willing to volunteer for activities again - especially serving during church services. And, with the Pumpkin Patch just around the corner, many responded that they are ready to volunteer outdoors again this year!

4. We heard from people who would like to participate online but are unable to, and from those who are not ready to be in-person for indoor services and activities but are missing the Immanuel community as we moved back to more indoor options. This information is especially valued and helpful as we think about the variety of church programs that we can offer.

5. In response to a survey question about mask wearing, we had a significant number of parishioners who will wear a mask and want others to wear masks for indoor activities, and the next highest response is from are those who will wear a mask if others want them to. This further reinforces that our community values taking care of each other and those around us. Our policy on mask wearing indoors, and in outdoor situations where distancing is not possible, will continue as long as it's needed and we encourage you to continue to be considerate of children who cannot be vaccinated, those who are immunocompromised or otherwise unable to get the vaccine. And of course, please stay home if you are at all under the weather.

We will continue to monitor this survey for additional responses, especially for those who may prefer to return a paper copy instead of submitting it online. It's not too late for your survey responses be included! Copies are available through the Parish Office.

Other updates:

- Darrell Wilson, Jr. Warden for Buildings and Grounds on the numerous projects to care for, maintain, and improve our physical spaces;
- Kristi Kubista-Hovis, Outreach Steward, on the plans for the Pumpkin Patch;
- Danette (Dani) Kauffman, Stewardship and Planned Giving Steward, on the plans for the upcoming Every Member Pledge campaign, which will begin in November;
- Harrison Clark, Vestry Steward for Children, Youth, and Families, and Fr. Sam Sheridan on the plans for youth formation for the remainder of the year; and
- Father Randy, Sam, and Susan on upcoming Bible studies, worship plans, and pastoral care to the community.
- We adjourned our meeting with a prayer offered by Father Sam, lifting up to God the needs expressed and those in our hearts.

I personally left feeling particularly blessed to have the opportunity to serve as a member of this Vestry and with a much-appreciated sense of our collective commitment to our community's continued well-being.

The vestry meets on the second Tuesday of the month from 7-9 p.m., all months except for one month in summer. If you are interested in learning more about any of these topics, or you'd like to attend an upcoming vestry meeting, please know that all are welcome! Come and listen. Contact me at [kathryn.jackson41@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.jackson41@gmail.com), or Father Randy for more information, and to learn if we are meeting on Zoom or in-person in the Zabriskie Parish Hall.

Respectfully,



Kathryn Jackson Haskin



# "Once-a-Month Gardeners" Needed for Zabriskie



Julie Bruns and Chris von Schoening



*Our Gardening Team, Left to right: Sarah Glassco, Julie Bruns and Chris von Schoening. Not pictured: Susan Gildersleeve and Marilyn Wilson.*

## “Once-a-Month Gardeners” Needed for Zabriskie

If you haven't wandered the grounds of the Zabriskie complex lately, you haven't seen the wonderful new plantings in the backyard just to the left of the deck, or the landscaping off the Fairchild Room patio. As with any garden, these new starts need watering and other support until they are established, a process that takes a few years typically.

We need volunteers **to help water** (one day a week), to give a couple of hours over a weekend once a month to keep nature at bay, and others to declare war on the relentless clutter that finds its way to the church and its grounds — especially as we transition into fall.

If you are interested, please contact Tom Kerns ([rtkerns4@gmail.com](mailto:rtkerns4@gmail.com)), Chair of the Building and Grounds Committee, or Kevin Kirby ([casakirby@gmail.com](mailto:casakirby@gmail.com)), Trustee of the Memorial Garden Fund.

Any help is greatly appreciated and will be paid back with a satisfaction of a job well done.

# Senior Ministry Visits Glenstone Museum in Potomac, MD Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup>

Nine folks from Immanuel Senior Adult Ministry and Fellowship were able to enjoy Glenstone on a day brimming with magic light and warm, still air.

The Faith Ringgold retrospective closes soon, and it was opening day for the Jeff Wall exhibition of 30 works covering 5 decades. A visitor could spend all day and still need more time to experience these — together with the permanent collection and the outdoor installations. We each had 2 ½ hours to focus on the work we found most tantalizing or challenging or enchanting. No need to drive home during early rush hour traffic, as the driver of our rented van took care of that for us.

We hope you can join us on the next adventure.



*Clockwise starting from back row, far left: Gil Donahue, Wilton Corkern, Mollie Lambert (in tan cap), David Lambert, Keith June, The Rev. Susan Parsons, Linda Donahue, and Debbie Hewson. Photo courtesy of Karen Besser.*

*Page background: "Untitled", a 2005 outdoor art installation by Ellsworth Kelly.*

# Hill Happenings



Conrad Washington

## VETERANS DAY FORUM HOUR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Note [early start time 9:00 a.m.](#)-10:15 a.m.

Our parish and community are blessed with a large and diverse Veteran community. Would you like to learn more about how Immanuel can help our Veterans community? Please join us for our Veterans Day Forum.

Our guest will be [Mr. Conrad Washington](#). Mr. Washington heads the VA center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (CFBNP). Mr. Conrad is a retired Marine and pastors a church as well. The forum will be available in person and [via zoom at this link](#). Please join us!

### ALTAR GUILD SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

Altar Guild is a part of church that is dear to me. You've probably heard me mention I was once the Altar Guild director at my sending parish – I'm kinda proud of it. So, with that in mind, I'm writing to ask for some help with Altar Guild. The clergy and in particular our seminarian, Shawn, have been doing Altar Guild and we would like to share this joy with others.



Altar Guild members tend to have the patience, the willingness and the humor it takes to be a good member. Even if you hate to iron or polish silver, there is a place for you with the Guild. Please email or call me if you are interested, I'd love to hear from you.

With blessings,

The Rev. Susan Parsons

*Children and Youth of Immanuel, We Need You!*

# Christmas Pageant

**Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m.**

**Immanuel Chapel**



It's that time of year again! This year's Christmas Pageant will be in-person, live-streamed, AND recorded for a YouTube premiere! Join us on Saturday December 18th — participant rehearsals are held the week before, and two reading practices before that. Please sign up to participate as a teenager with a speaking role, a child with a part of the tableau/ non-speaking actor role, OR an adult with a costumer/ organizer role.

Thank you for making this year's Christmas pageant special. 🍷

To sign-up, click on the image at right or visit the link below:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4daea928abf4c61-christmas>

Do you love singing Advent and Christmas music? Well, we have some glorious music coming up for these seasons. Have you wanted to try the choir but weren't sure about it?

Come and sing with the Immanuel Choir for Lessons and Carols on December 12 and Christmas Eve, December 24.

If you can sing for the season of Advent only, that is fine. You do not have to audition and the only requirement is a love to sing. You can reach me at the church by email: [JTavernier@icoh.net](mailto:JTavernier@icoh.net) and by phone: 703-370-6555 ext. 203.

Come and have a great time!

## Music Together Alexandria \*Outdoor\* at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

A music class for babies through five-year-olds and the grownups that love them! A trained Music Together® teacher leads a 45-minute class of singing, dancing and playing kid-friendly percussion instruments. The award-winning music, illustrated songbook, and online resources will help you continue the music-making at home and nurture your child's musical growth. The mixed age makeup of class mimics a family environment and allows all children to learn at their own pace in a relaxed environment.

### *10 Week Sessions*

Two Classes Each Saturday at **9:30 a.m.** and **10:30 a.m.**

Register at [www.MusicTogetherAlexandria.com](http://www.MusicTogetherAlexandria.com)

Music Together  
Alexandria



# Christmas Memory Lane

Share a special (or funny) Advent or Christmastide memory at Immanuel -- and feel free to include photos! We'll feature them in the December issue of *The Almond Tree Quarterly*. Deadline for submissions -- including any photos -- is **November 24<sup>th</sup>** (later due to the Thanksgiving holiday). Send your entries to [office@icoh.net](mailto:office@icoh.net) or mail them to the office. If you don't have a printer, [Aleta](#) can scan your photos in the office while you wait — just leave a message for her at the parish office (703) 370-6555.



Thomas John (at 2-years-old)



Gabriel and Angels: Susan Dawson, Mary Lou Trace, Dorothy Kellogg, Susan Carter and Jerri Stumpt (From Dorothy K, center above: *As Gabriel the Messenger, I rode down the center isle of Zabriskie Chapel on a bicycle -- to the sound of my then 2-year-old son Allen yelling "That's my Mommy!" from the balcony.*



## VIRTUAL BAZAAR TO SUPPORT SAN JOSE AND CRISTO REY: TWO MISSION CONGREGATIONS IN OUR AREA

Please go to [brazosabiertosstore.org](http://brazosabiertosstore.org) to buy wonderfully handcrafted items just in time for Christmas. Your purchases will be delivered to your home if you live in the Arlington, Alexandria and Falls Church environs and some items can be shipped.

Your purchases will help support the programs and outreach of the Episcopal Latino congregations in Arlington. Also, if you would like to support the congregations and not make a purchase you can make a donation at the site.

Thank you!



Brazos Abiertos

Look for Our next **QUARTERLY** issue of *The Almond Tree: A Magazine of Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill* published online **December 1, 2021!**

www.icoh.net

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# Special Upcoming Services

<b>ALL SAINTS' DAY</b> Monday, November 1	12 Noon	Zabriskie Chapel
	8:00 a.m.	Zabriskie Chapel
<b>ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY, November 7</b>	10:30 a.m.	In-person and Livestreamed from Immanuel Chapel to our YouTube Channel
	1:00 p.m.	Zabriskie Memorial Garden Deck
<b>THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING</b> Sunday, November 21	8:00 a.m.	Zabriskie Chapel
	10:30 a.m.	In-person and Livestreamed from Immanuel Chapel to our YouTube Channel
	1:00 p.m.	Zabriskie Memorial Garden Deck
<b>GAUDETE SUNDAY with HOLY EUCHARIST</b> Sunday, December 12	8:00 a.m.	Zabriskie Chapel
	10:30 a.m.	<b>LESSONS AND CAROLS:</b> In-person and Livestreamed from Immanuel Chapel
<b>CHRISTMAS PAGEANT with HOLY EUCHARIST</b> Saturday, December 18	6:00 p.m.	Immanuel Chapel