

THE ALMOND TREE

QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL



SEPTEMBER 2020

WORSHIPPING OUR LORD ONLINE AND OUTDOORS



HOMECOMING-SEPTEMBER 13TH AT 10:30 A.M. VTS GROVE

In this Issue...

4 - FROM THE RECTOR

While congratulating a former seminarian on his new role as Priest-in-Charge at a nearby church, the Rev. J. Randolph Alexander discusses the tradition -- and importance -- of “teaching parishes” like Immanuel.

6 - FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

The Rev. Deacon Sam Sheridan updates up on his plans for Children, Youth, EYC, Family, and Young Adult activities.

16 - TALES FROM THE PUMPKIN PATCH

Several stories submitted by Patch volunteers to make you smile in advance of “pumpkin month”.

20- “THE AMEN CORNER” COLUMN IS BACK

Keith June, Senior Warden, gives a detailed overview of the activity at Immanuel, and his appreciation for the in-person spiritual Eucharist -- followed by Jim Snow’s update on this year’s plans for our Pumpkin Patch.

24 - HELP WANTED -- JOBS IN ALEXANDRIA

Several trusted neighbors and parishioners of Immanuel have asked us to post job openings for professional positions -- and one “sweet” volunteer one.

32 - HILL HAPPENINGS

Everything from a host of virtual services, to the initiatives of ALIVE! to a Senior Ministry event. Take a look, and take part in the offerings.



The Almond Tree Publication – A Team Effort

Welcome to the second issue of **The Almond Tree Quarterly Magazine**, which offers numerous stories and feature articles on a wider range of topics. As mentioned in our last issue, the production of the magazine has become a group effort. Let’s give a special “thank you” to two members of our editorial team “The Almond Tree Branches” who provided much-needed, “behind the scene” help producing this issue: **The Rev. Jan A. Maas** and **Dr. Paul Lartey!**

During the remaining eight months, we will publish **The Almond Tree: In Brief**, which replaced the four-page circular **This Month at Immanuel**, and offers similar content. Both publications will have the same online publishing of the 1st day in each month, and same deadline for content as the 15th of the prior month. As always, we welcome your story ideas, and hope that you look forward to starting every month with *The Almond Tree*.



Outdoor photos on cover, this page, page 4 and page 20 are courtesy of Keith June.

From The Rector

Carrying on a Noble Tradition

Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel,

Many Immanuelites will remember Will Packard, who was sponsored for Ordination by Immanuel. After graduating from Virginia Theological Seminary, Will first served as an Assistant Rector at St. David's in Ashburn. He was called recently as Priest-in-Charge of St. Andrew's in Burke. We send our best wishes and prayers for this son of Immanuel, for Paige, his wife, and for Emma and Libby, their daughters.



In fact, Will is one of the latest in a very long list of people who have been raised up and sponsored for ordination by Immanuel. You might have noticed the plaque in the Narthex of Zabriskie Chapel which lists most of these folks. I say "most" because our list outgrew the remaining space on the plaque several years ago. Along with Will, we now need to add the Rev. Randi Rowe and the Rev. John Hogg. We need a whole new plaque!

Of course, our parish also has a long tradition of having seminarians here for Field Education, so there are a lot of clergy now serving who have been formed, at least partially, by Immanuel. I frequently run into other clergy who tell me of their time serving and learning at Immanuel, and how valuable it was. For instance, I learned just recently that the late Bishop of Washington, John Walker, was a seminarian here. I have also

heard recently from or about: the Rev. Kyle Martindale (now a Rector in suburban New York), the Rev. Halim Shukair (still serving in Detroit), the Rev. Stephen Crippen (now serving in Washington state), the Rev. Esther Kramer (newly-priested and serving in her native Wisconsin), and the Rev. Suresh Shanthakumar (who just returned to Sri Lanka). We are also blessed to have Beth Hendrix returning for another year with us at Immanuel.

One often hears of "teaching hospitals," meaning that a part of the mission of such a hospital is the training of new medical staff. These "graduates" are then sent out and serve in medical positions all over the world. I believe there are also "teaching parishes," where a parish sees one aspect of its mission as the ongoing discernment and support of people who might be called to Holy Orders, while also providing a training ground for those already involved in theological education and formation. Yet one more way this plays out at Immanuel in the frequent tradition of having a recent graduate and newly-ordained person serving as Assistant Rector. As you know, we are also carrying on that tradition now, with the arrival of the Rev. Sam Sheridan. His being here, of



course, follows that of the Rev. Rachel Rickenbaker, the Rev. John Hogg, and the Rev. David Crosby.

I thank God for the long tradition at Immanuel of helping to form God's people, lay and ordained, for witness to the Gospel and service in the world. The offerings of these good people would seem to be framed first by a searching question, "Lord, what would you have me do?" and then by a faithful obedience, "Here I am, send me!"

Randy

The Rev. J. Randolph Alexander, Jr.
Rector



What vestry meetings look like right now.

From the Assistant Rector

The Rev. Deacon Sam Sheridan, Assistant Rector, tells us all about he planned activities for Immanuelite children, youth, families and young adults -- both virtual and in-person (albeit physically-distanced) gatherings.

He begins with his musing on the the current time and how he “gathers strength from the great cloud of witnesses” that make-up our faith community.



Dear Immanuel members and friends,

Father Suresh and I went to Jerusalem together this past January. (You can just see him under the right hand column in the picture at left.) There are about ten thousand incredible things we got to see and do in our few weeks in the land of the Holy One. Some things were moving in the way I'd expected; I wept to see elderly women who bring the clothes in which they will be buried to Golgotha to be anointed as they prepare for their own death. There were moving moments that surprised me; I remarked about a passing stray dog that it was weird this animal didn't even know it was in the Holy City, and the Bishop traveling with us asked me, 'How do you know?'

The things that have most occupied my heart and mind, however, have almost entirely been art and architecture. With my extensive arts background I don't know why I was caught up so short by centuries of devotion poured into the art of Israel and Palestine. If you had asked me beforehand I almost certainly would have told you I was excited to see their artwork because I thought it'd be neat.

Boy Howdy. Neat really wouldn't have cut it. I'm still full to bursting with thousands of rich and powerful images. It's changed a stunning amount of my vocabulary, my theology, and my hope. I would never suggest to anyone that they need to travel to the other side of the planet to have the awakening I feel I've had. I would only suggest, rather, that I have personally been remarkably dense and slow to imagine how all the painting, sculpting, and writing I have done might inform the way I see God. I have been embarrassingly slow to imagine how all my praying and Bible study might inform the way I see art.

The above picture has been on my mind a lot these past few weeks. This is the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth. It was crowded, in that hundreds of people were coming through to drink at Mary's Well and pray with the saints. It was also crowded with saints. Paintings on the walls, the ceiling, the pulpit. There were saints in the archways over the stairs up to the choir loft! Saints everywhere you looked! Episcopalians don't share the Orthodox history of Iconography, but the modern era has offered us an unprecedented access to, and appreciation of, these works of prayer and devotion.

Last month I wrote to you about being we. I wrote that we are a church, a community, a family. I wrote in particular that our youngest members are absolutely part of that family, and that Christian children are every bit as teacher, preacher, and evangelist as the adults. I'm not walking back any of that. In this issue you'll find a lot of information about Children and Youth Formation (CYF), and I believe you're a part of that whether or not you teach a Sunday School

class or lead an Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) meeting. But that's not the whole we.

The whole Church is billions of people over thousands of years. The Church is this great cloud of witnesses stretching back long before anyone thought to write icons. These saints that adorn the walls in my photo are just a tiny glimpse into a theology of Christians being very literally surrounded by Heaven.

Many of the people I talk to find themselves lonely and alienated in this time of separation, quarantines, and sheltering in place. It's true of children, teenagers, young adults, and no-longer-quite-as-young adults. I haven't actually met anyone who seems impervious to the gloom of social distancing. There is some mild solace in online gatherings and meetings—in phone calls, Zoom, and FaceTime—but I, too, find myself mourning the loss of actually getting together and seeing the people in my life. There are honestly days when silver linings aren't really doing very much for my mood or experience.

But I am finding that some days I draw a lot of strength and comfort from that great cloud of witnesses. Some days I find a tremendous amount of hope in remembering the stories and commemorations of hundreds of generations of faithful women and men who have walked this path before me, who walk this path with all of us even now. Some days I really can lean on sisters and brothers in Christ whom I have never met, whose faith has shaped the world in which I live.

My prayer for us, as our global health crisis slogs on, is twofold. I pray that we all find ways and places that are safe to work through our anxiety, loneliness, and fear when that is what we are experiencing. I pray also that we grow in seeing ourselves as more than just a few people who log into Zoom together or sometimes sit vaguely near one another on the Grove if there isn't rain—that we grow in seeing ourselves as deeply, spiritually, even materially part of a community that goes back further than we can remember and will go on further than we can even imagine.

The world is crowded with saints. Saints everywhere you look. I pray for you and me that we sometimes see them. I pray that we will live with enough love and compassion that other people will see them, and Christ, in us.

Sincerely,
Father Sam



Photo courtesy of Keith June.

10 Ways to Build Relationships with Kids

- 1** Talk to them about non-school related subjects.
- 2** Let them teach you about their interests.
- 3** Remember things about their lives.
- 4** Share about your own life.
- 5** Engage in activities with them.
- 6** Tell hilarious (and even embarrassing) stories.
- 7** Share inspirational stories from your life.
- 8** Do crazy things.
- 9** Use their interests in your lessons and activities.
- 10** Apologize when you mess up.

CHILDREN'S FORMATION FALL 2020

The Godly Play instructors and Sunday School teachers are in the midst of working through what kinds of formation we're going to be able to offer online this year. That is, as of this writing. I'm hopeful we'll have a firmer plan even as this Almond Tree goes to print. That plan will subsequently be in your e-mails and on our parish website.

One of the things we do know is that there will be very little in the way of in-person offerings for our youngest parishioners. We'll do possibly entirely online and video offerings. We'll definitely keep producing Children's Homilies, and we're going to try to be innovative and make Livestream services as interesting as we possibly can for those children who do attend the services. We want every Eucharist, every worship service, to be inviting for children. We do, however, know that online church is a tall order for even some adult attention spans. There's no guilt in being unable (perhaps even unwilling to try) to drag your 3rd grader to Zoom Spiritual Eucharist.

Everything we're going to offer online this year is meant to support you and not burden you with more stuff to do. We're going to try to make sure whatever we do on Sunday would be appropriate for a much broader age range than we would normally have in one classroom. We're going to have videos and worksheets and suggested activities. You don't have to do all of it. You certainly don't have to feel guilty about missing a week. We want to offer as much as possible so that you feel supported in this time. We also don't want to add to your stress. The balance between offering enough to be helpful without overwhelming/overburdening everyone may take some trial and error. If you end up with questions, comments, concerns, or just have feedback about any of this please reach out to Father Sam at ssheridan@icoh.net or use his Calendly link to set up a meeting with him: <https://calendly.com/fathersamworkcalendar>

EYC MEETINGS FALL 2020

Starting Homecoming Sunday, September 13th, we're going to offer regular EYC meetings for 6th-12th grade at 7 p.m. on Sunday nights. While we're outside the building they'll be on Zoom, and we will reassess as COVID restrictions lift and it becomes safe to come inside. In the meantime most of our gatherings will feature some catching up time, a brief formation lesson (usually with a video presentation), discussion, and then some time asking what we can pray for with each other. As often as the numbers make sense, we'll use breakout rooms to give middle schoolers and high schoolers some time with just their more immediate peers. And, even though it's virtual, teenagers are absolutely still welcome to invite friends and classmates.

We're trying to walk a strange line between formation and fellowship in this time when it is hard to do either. Frankly we'll probably tweak and change things as we go along. The idea that we might have to suddenly shift gears is becoming very familiar to all of us. As we go through this together the whole EYC leadership team welcomes and encourages parent and teenager feedback.

SECOND SUNDAYS FALL 2020

Last year's schedule involved a rotation of breakfasts, formation, fellowship, and service activities. We LOVE those things and want to get back to them but we're adjusting in the pandemic. Most Sundays we'll have the meeting described above, but on the Second Sunday of each month we will still do some kind of activity! This might be movie night, might be a project, will eventually be physically at the church! But Second Sunday's are the biggest Sunday of the month for EYC this year.

For this program year, while we can't do nearly as much meeting in person, we're going to invite the 4th and 5th graders to participate in our Second Sundays activities. We want to use this as a way to honor how some of the Pre-YC members might want more than the online Sunday School programming, and to continue to honor how middle and high schoolers will each want space that belongs just to them.

SOCIALLY DISTANCED, MASK WEARING, BELLE HAVEN MARINA HOMECOMING ADVENTURE TIME BONANZA SEPTEMBER 12TH

For those who are willing and able to mask, social distance, and meet—the EYC is invited to help us turn our kayak / paddle board trip at the beginning of the program year into a tradition! This Homecoming weekend we will go first to the Belle Haven Marina, then social-distance outdoor pizza. Be on the lookout for details and be sure to [sign up by clicking here](https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/8050944A8AB2CA31-immanuels) -- or visit <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/8050944A8AB2CA31-immanuels> -- for our first in-person event of the year.

All the precautions in the world will not make in-person gatherings right for every family. If you're on the fence about whether or not to come (or send your child) I would be thrilled to talk through it with you. AND if you know that this isn't right for your child and want help or support in explaining that decision to your EYC member I'd be thrilled to do that too. It's very important that teenagers who can't attend, or even themselves don't feel comfortable attending, know that they are still loved, thought of, and very much a part of our EYC community.

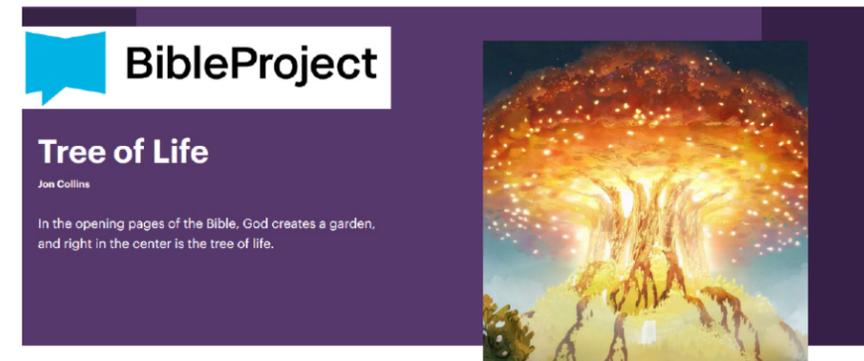


FAMILY FRIENDLY WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY: AN OLD TESTAMENT TOUR

Our new Bible Study is up and running! Please join us on **Wednesday nights at 7 pm OR Saturday mornings at 10 am** whether or not you've joined us before. They follow a pattern, but it is not necessary to be at all of them. The idea is for us to increase our offerings for those people who have a lot of scheduling conflicts, so there's no obligation to come to all of them.

Each week we start with a short video by The Bible Project (<https://bibleproject.com/>) on part, or all, of an Old Testament book. Then we pull out some of the more complicated Hebrew or wonder how we were taught the story a little bit differently in Sunday School. Ultimately we'll try to steer our conversation toward how we can find God in Christ in the Old Testament scriptures in ways that 1) honor the people who wrote them and 2) don't create antisemitic sentiment today.

The Zoom link will come out each week via e-mail and our Immanuel Facebook page.



CHILDREN, EYC, AND FAMILY MINISTRIES UPDATES

We're working on updating the Parish website to include more information about all the goings-on at Immanuel for the fall. We'll continue to communicate activities for teenagers on the website (<https://www.immanuel-on-the-hill.org/eyc-updates.html>) and by e-mail. We'll also start using the BAND app (<https://band.us/home>) which Father Sam is learning how to use even as you read this. Soon we'll start planning Catechesis classes for those interested in Confirmation or Baptism - which will fall, for most people, in this children, youth, and family area. That will be well publicized too!

If you are not receiving e-mail updates from Sam and feel like you should, please let him know by e-mailing ssheridan@icoh.net

YOUNG ADULTS

When I was 22 I accidentally joined a Christian Women's Weight Loss Support Group. The story of how I came to be there isn't very interesting. I was invited by mistake and we all had a good laugh when I showed up to the first meeting. Most of them have children my age. A few have grandchildren my age. I thereafter met with them weekly for three years and only COVID-19 kept me from inviting all of those women to my wedding. They're some of the people I feel closest to on the planet.

In my 20s it was hard to find Episcopalians my age. There are certainly other Christians, and I am not at all averse to worshipping with people who have different traditions or ideologies. For example, while at Sewanee I regularly attended a Pentecostal house church even though that is... a little different... than the church that raised me. But I always wanted to be more connected to people who did share my tradition. I wanted to be around people who, even if I disagreed with them about some things, shared deep roots in Anglican theology and practice. I quite like being an Episcopalian.

So I am gathering numbers and emails and building a network of recent EYC graduates who still want to feel some connection to Immanuel. Some of them are eager to do stuff. Some are tentatively interested. Some are openly interested but just until they're able to go back to the social life they had at school. I don't have a particular goal in mind. It might be just a text chain. It might be other kinds of fellowship. It might be formation or even worship if people wanted. It's not really about what I'm trying to do as much as what you might want to do. If you're in or just out of college and want to be in touch with people your age... I would like to put you in touch with some.

Sincerely,
Father Sam



First Ever Immanuel Zoom Funny Hat Ice Cream Social a Success!

Assistant Rector spills ice cream on floor, embarrasses himself in front of wife and dog

At our first ever online Funny Hat Ice Cream Social we talked about the Great Wall of China, the War of 1812, Hogwarts Houses, and Dr. Seuss Museums! We hope you'll join us for our next costumed sugary social hour!

Tales From The Pumpkin Patch



Two stories from **Wendy John**, founder of Immanuel's Pumpkin Patch

1. A question answered: "Why is there a Sheriff's car stationed prominently at the Patch?"

Answer: decades ago (we are now closing in on 30 years!), after a couple of minor incidents of late-night "punkin chuckin" we had a shocking occurrence of vandalism... before we had the safety fence. On Sunday morning we discovered large pick-up truck tracks running through our Patch, smashing a prime selection of large and valuable pumpkins. Clearly, an unthinking joy-rider had thought it fun to squash a bunch of fat pumpkins! Little did they know it destroyed so much value slated for community Outreach, and we were saddened. HOWEVER, a number of parishioners stepped up to buy "orphaned" pumpkins which had "sort of" survived the carnage, and we recouped a lot of value. Thanks to Dick Hobson's coordination with the Alexandria Sheriff's office we arranged to have an off-duty, marked car stationed visibly next to the Patch. It is called a "ghost car." We have had no vandalism ever since!

2. I was working on the edge of the Patch as a "greeter" one day when a Dad and two daughters approached from the parking lot. The older daughter skipped ahead merrily. As the younger one came closer, in a wheelchair, I realized that she was very disfigured and had trouble even moving her limbs. She must have suffered a terrible accident. But it was obvious she was so excited to be there, and her father treated her with such tenderness and love. So I bent down to her level and gave her the "patch pitch" as bravely as I could, because the look in her eyes was happy, and she obviously knew where she was. She was the brave one. As they left with happy purchases, I said I expected to see them next year, and wished them a happy Halloween. I never saw them again, but our Patch brought them joy at that time, and that is a great part of our ministry.

- **Wendy John**



I have worked at the Pumpkin Patch ever since its beginning under the far-sighted leadership of Wendy John. Once beautiful late afternoon several years ago business was lagging as I casually approached our sole potential customer. Of course, I recognized that he was clergy due to the customary attire, but he was not a rector that I knew. We chatted amiably for awhile and he explained that he had been at the Virginia Theological Seminary for the last few days attending a meeting.

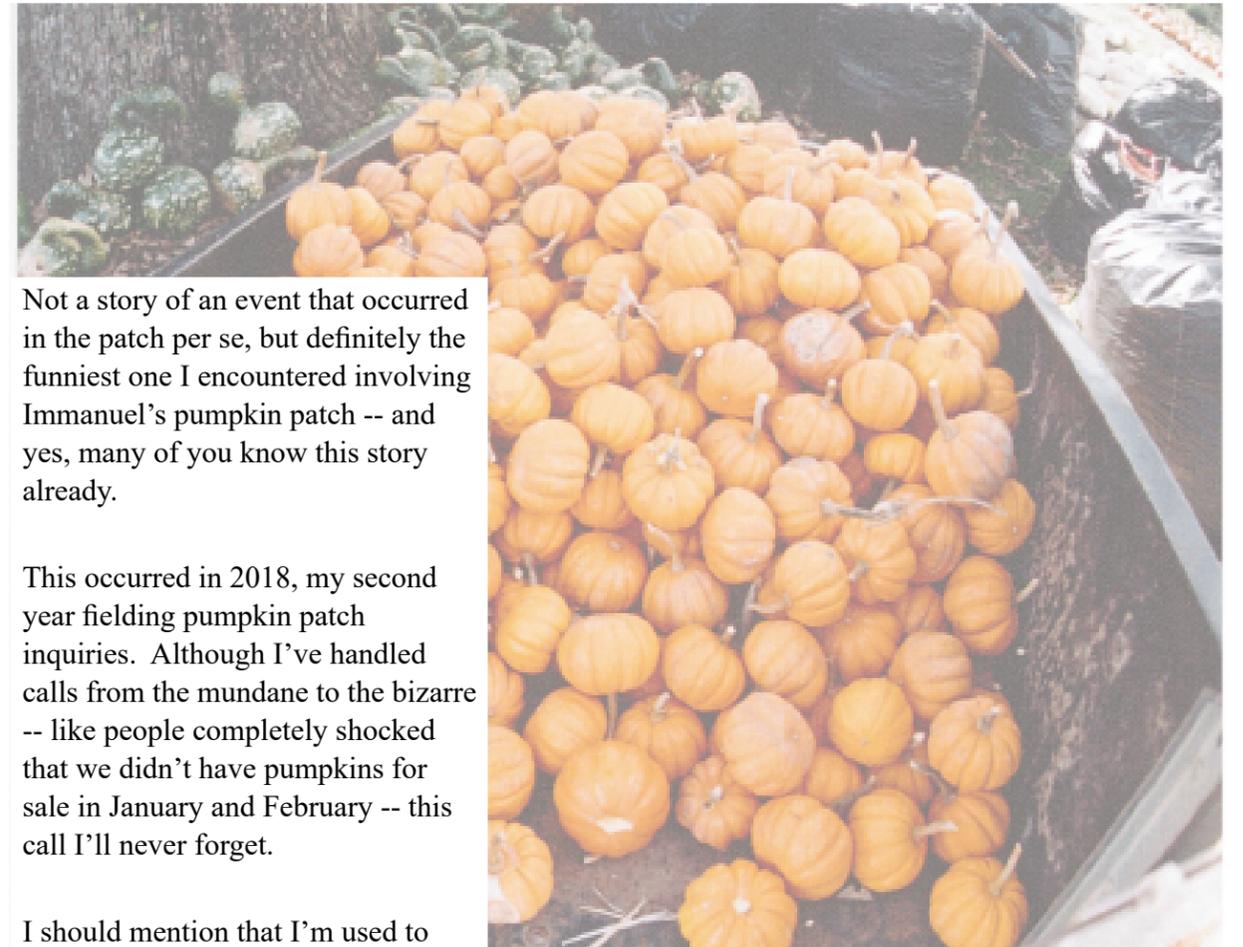
As the conversation continued it gradually (and embarrassingly) became obvious to me that his shirt was *purple*! Yikes, a bishop! And as it turned out, not only the Bishop of Easton but at that time serving as the Chairman of the Board of VTS.

Inasmuch as our foregoing conversation had revealed that he was a gentleman with a great sense of humor I was prompted to say "Well with such credentials you will certainly want TWO pumpkins." With a hearty laugh, he agreed.

That's my tale of the pleasure of meeting the Right Reverend James J. Shand. A delightful person and a good customer!



- Jackie Phillips



Not a story of an event that occurred in the patch per se, but definitely the funniest one I encountered involving Immanuel's pumpkin patch -- and yes, many of you know this story already.

This occurred in 2018, my second year fielding pumpkin patch inquiries. Although I've handled calls from the mundane to the bizarre -- like people completely shocked that we didn't have pumpkins for sale in January and February -- this call I'll never forget.

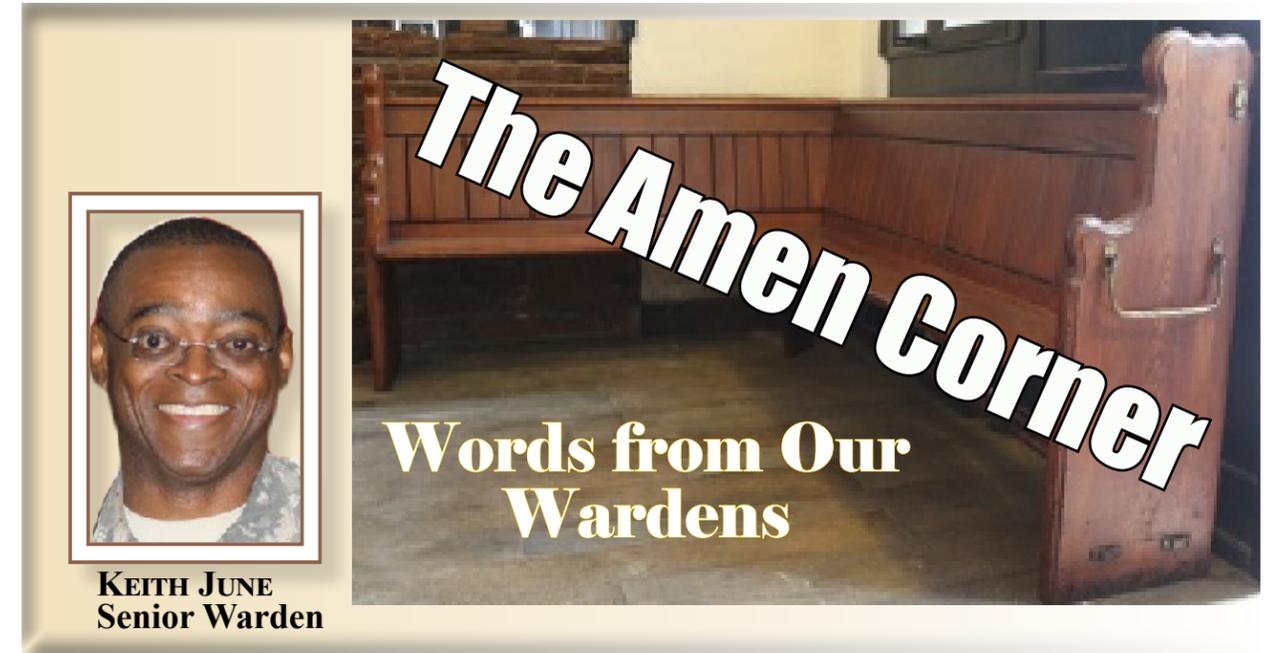
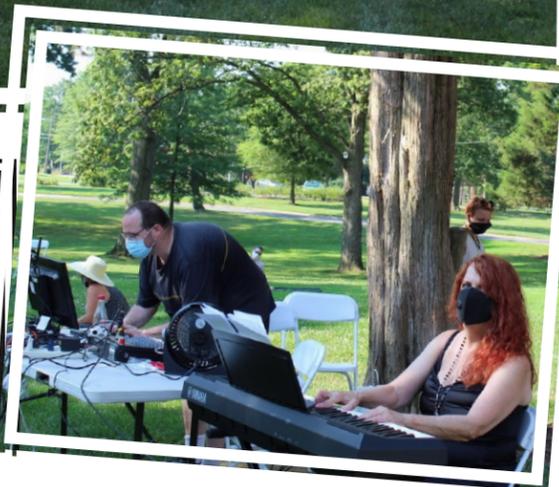
I should mention that I'm used to having media staff call to request an interview with the rector -- I get several every year. This time the caller asked for a television interview with **Peter Alexander** at our pumpkin patch, to which I replied "Great! Do you have his parent's permission?" Silence. The caller then replied "Uh, Ma'am, we don't need his parents' permission; he's a grown man." I wrongly assumed that she was referring to the rector's teenage son, instead of the NBC TV news anchor. After sharing a good laugh with her, and later with Father Randy, I was happy to learn that the two Mr. Peter Alexanders were able to meet.

- Aleta





Photos courtesy of Keith June.



John 21:6

And he said to them, "Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you will find a catch. They cast therefore, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish."

Cast your net here....

Since the start of this Coronavirus pandemic, the vestry has worked to determine how best to engage with the parish. I suspect we could all admit now that this crisis has lasted much longer than anyone expected. For me personally, back in March, I thought this might go on for a few months, and then we would somehow get back to "normal". As the saying goes, this has been much more a "marathon than a sprint."

But the virus didn't consult me -- or anyone else. This situation serves to constantly remind us that we are not in charge. I am now looking forward to the fall. As it seems with everything, this will be a very different fall.

While this time has been unique with very different challenges, there is so much for which we are -- and should be -- thankful. We belong to a loving and caring community; one that is engaged, involved and fully committed to making a difference in our society. A community of faith that has so often worked to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

As much as possible, we have attempted to continue to do those things that we cherish and

consider an important part of our lives and ministry. In July, we started having outdoor services. This was a major effort involving our clergy, our wardens, our worship steward, our IT team, the Seminary and a host of other volunteers.

The outdoor Spiritual Holy Eucharists have strictly adhered to social distancing, wearing masks and exercising other safety standards as outlined by the diocese and our state government. Safety has been our primary concern. For some of us, the slight discomfort of face coverings and summer heat is worth it because the services have filled a deep need for Immanuelites to come together in person to worship God as a church family. Personally, I find great comfort in just driving to church and worshipping in the presence of familiar faces.

As we look to the fall and winter, we know that we cannot worship outside forever, thus, we have started to look at how we might begin having indoor services. This is a very detailed and deliberate process so we ask your help in ensuring this exercise addresses your concerns. And we fully realize and appreciate that some parishioners may not be comfortable attending in person services for some time.

Our pumpkin patch planning continues in earnest (see Jim Snow's update on page 23). As with everything this year, this year's patch may be different but we are hoping, praying and planning to carry on the tradition, and host the best pumpkin patch possible. As you are aware, the patch provides most of Immanuel's funding for outreach efforts in our community. The challenges presented by COVID-19 require innovation and different approaches, so we very much ask for your support in planning and working this year's patch.

We also need your help with engagement. Over the past months, the vestry has embarked on several efforts to keep the Immanuel family connected and involved; including letters, birthday e-cards, and our Memorial Day Cookie operation, but we look for other opportunities as well. I encourage you to freely give us your advice and suggestions; letting us know how we might engage better with you.

As we continue this journey of love, fellowship, and service, I am deeply humbled and inspired by Immanuelites. A few days ago, we had a very good call with Pumpkin Patch Fundraisers, USA. The owners spoke very highly of Immanuel and were extremely creative in helping us resolve one of the key challenges of the Pumpkin Patch: unloading the truck. They left us with the feeling that our patronage, kindness, loyalty, and attitude were valued and appreciated.

As we continue this journey, we do so with faith, optimism, and grace. We seek your prayers and help in continuing to do God's work. And we ask for God's guidance in helping to let us know where to cast our nets.

Many thanks for your continued support and prayers.

- *Keith*

PUMPKIN PATCH 2020

Selling pumpkins during a pandemic will pose many challenges, but we nonetheless hope to have our 27th annual Pumpkin Patch. The Navajo growers in New Mexico have grown ample pumpkins, and the distributor of the pumpkins is ready to ship them by truck.

However, a Patch this year will be unlike any other year. We will comply with all state and city health regulations including social distancing. Masks and other sanitation measures will be enforced. We may have fewer sale days with shorter hours. Any foods will be prepackaged or frozen. The greatest challenge will be safely unloading the pumpkins from the delivery trucks, and that may involve use of mechanical equipment.

Pumpkin Sunday will likely be October 4th. The Pumpkin Patch is a long-standing tradition of the parish and the community, but safety during the pandemic will be our paramount consideration.

Stay tuned.

- *Jim Snow*



HELP WANTED



Employment Opportunity

The Salvation Army National Headquarters
615 Slaters Lane
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Position Title: Assistant Director of Social Services (This is an on-site position)

Hiring Range: \$94,080.22 - \$117,600.34 Yearly

Job Summary:

Serves as Assistant Director responsible for social services at National Headquarters. Consistently considers and advocates/promotes ways the National Social Services & Public Policy Section can improve service to the four territories, focusing extensively on the fulfillment of Salvation Army mission in social service programming. Responsible to lead the Pathway of Hope initiative on the national level.

Prepares briefing materials, strategy/position papers and correspondence. Creates specific promotional material that can be shared with interested parties, legislators, government personnel, national groups, etc. Makes visits to Capitol Hill with Public Policy team to share about Army's efforts in specific social services programming. Represents The Salvation Army at various assigned coalitions, councils and working groups. Prepares and presents reports as an advocate for social services and public policy issues pertinent to the mission of The Salvation Army. Presents at national, territorial, and divisional Social Services conferences, as well as at outside conferences as appropriate. Serves as an on-site peer reviewer auditing Salvation Army programs as requested by the Territories. Attends national conferences and conducts and participates in discussions, lectures, seminars, and workshops.

Educates staff and others through webinars, resources on the Red Shield Toolkit, and through virtual means. Serves as a convener and facilitator of conference calls within The Salvation Army and with external stakeholders to include non-profit affiliates, government employees and elected officials and their staff. Holds staff accountable for deadlines related to scheduled events, programs or assignments. Reviews staff work regarding quality and conformity to expectations. Monitors and keeps the staff focused on the purposes of projects. Handles all routine employee issues & requests for the social services staff.

Responsible for national oversight of Pathway of Hope initiative and implementation. Knowledgeable of Pathway of Hope goals and objectives, including Commissioners' Conference approved recommendations, National Scaling Plan, training materials, Fidelity Document and other supplementary documents. Ensures consistent internal communication and understanding of the initiative by preparing agendas and minutes for POH conference calls or other meetings. Additionally, prepare regular reports on POH progress and status for National Secretary for Social Services, National Leadership, National Advisory Board, or others, as requested.

We are pleased to pass on job advertisements from several employers and neighbors of current parishioners -- and one volunteer opportunity to help make a true "Immanuelite delicacy" for our fall pumpkin patch.



Ability to work nights/weekends and travel intermittently (domestically and internationally) as required.

Knowledge and Experience:

Master's Degree from an accredited college or university in Social Work, Public Administration, or related fields; and five years social services experience providing case management services, preferably with at-risk, economically and socially vulnerable, experiencing homelessness, and/or trafficked populations; and three years supervisory experience.

Extensive knowledge of Salvation Army programs. Ability to make sound, logical interpretations of Salvation Army guidelines, regulations, policies, and mission in order to represent the organization. Knowledge of up-to-date principles and practices of social work, case management, anti-trafficking initiatives and poverty alleviation.

Demonstrated ability to represent a national organization to the government, peer agencies, and coalitions consistent with The Salvation Army's mission. Demonstrated ability to lead meetings, motivate a team and work collaboratively. Demonstrated skill in developing materials and resources for training purposes as well as the ability to demonstrate significant experience in presentation skills for individual, small and large group presentations.

Licenses:

A valid driver's license and travel required.
LSW, LCSW, LPC or LCPC, strongly preferred.

Benefits after 90 days. Free underground parking.

Submit your cover letter and resume by secure fax to (703) 684-3478, e-mail to usa.recruit@usa.salvationarmy.org with the job title in the subject line, or send via US Mail to 615 Slaters Lane Alexandria, VA 22314, Attn: HR Office.

Employment Opportunity

The Salvation Army National Headquarters
615 Slaters Lane
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Position Title: Multimedia & Digital Communications Developer (This is an on-site position)

Hiring Range: \$77,752 - \$97,191 Yearly

Job Summary:

The Multimedia & Digital Communications Developer (MDCD) is primarily responsible for capturing and developing high standard multimedia content pieces, requiring a high degree of technical expertise and creativity. The position will direct on-set productions in a variety of capacities, including management and instruction of on-set assistance, and in serving as director of photography. The position also cuts and edits collected video footage until it meets the Director of Communications approval, including rearranging and splicing scenes that have already been shot, and inserting music, sound, or optical effects.

This position will be responsible for managing all production equipment owned and leased by The Salvation Army for use in producing video pieces. This will include preparing equipment packages for shoots, cleaning and otherwise maintaining gear, transporting gear, and making recommendations for new purchases.

In addition, the MDCD coordinates the publishing and distribution of all digital content on national Salvation Army digital media channels to effectively communicate the mission of The Salvation Army internally and externally. Works specifically to strengthen and enhance the image and awareness of The Salvation Army by identifying compelling stories and coordinates the development of weekly organizational and programmatic updates from The Salvation Army's National Commander, serves as contact to internal and agency teams on national social media strategy and content, supports the communications team during emergency response situations involving National Headquarters, Territorial and Divisional Headquarters and other emergency responder agencies as may be involved.

Provides teaching and training for other crew members as well as novices on proper operation of gear and its use to create new and innovative looks. Must be available to travel and deploy at a moments' notice in order to quickly capture a developing story. This includes preparing the deployment of needed digital and multimedia communication equipment in the event that they are needed for urgent situations which sometimes will occur outside scheduled work hours.

Knowledge and Experience:

Associate's or a Bachelor's degree in film/television production highly preferred.

Awareness of film procedure, terminology and production. On-set production experience required. Working knowledge and proficiency in social media content and engagement strategies.

Proficient use of Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel PowerPoint, OneDrive), Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Premiere, DaVinci Resolve, Dropbox, and other postproduction software.

Proficient in usage of all types of camera equipment, usage of lighting for video production, audio recording equipment, professional video editing software such as Adobe Premiere, Avid, and DaVinci Resolve, and proficient with encoding video to different formats.

Ability to perform basic color correction and basic lower thirds and graphics. Ability to edit sound, including audio cleanup and addition of music beds and sound effects. Excellent communication skills; including organizational, proofreading, editing, and problem-solving skills. A working knowledge of online communications, including website and social media publishing.

Licenses:

A valid driver's license.

Benefits after 90 days. Free underground parking.

Submit your cover letter and resume by secure fax to (703) 684-3478, e-mail to usa.recruit@usa.salvationarmy.org with the job title in the subject line, or send via US Mail to 615 Slaters Lane Alexandria, VA 22314, Attn: HR Office.

Employment Opportunity

The Salvation Army National Headquarters
615 Slaters Lane
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Position Title: Corporate Relations Manager (This is an on-site position)

Hiring Range: \$60,600 - \$75,750 Yearly

Job Summary:

The Corporate Relations Manager will improve donor communications and stewardship as well as assist in cultivating new relationships in partnership with the Director of Brand Management & Corporate Relations. The Corporate Relations Manager will manage donor accounts and will regularly interface with donors and Salvation Army corporate fundraising leads in each of the four territories.

Pursues new corporate funding and develops relationships. Works with the territories to strengthen their corporate volunteer engagement program. Helps to field donation offers in times of significant disaster. Creates regular donor communications during and after a disaster.

Assists with all coordination aspects of partnership activation including: coordinating the legal agreement process, keeping accurate records of participating units, updating and tracking metrics related to the campaign, keeping a calendar of key action items for the campaign, providing coordination support to the partner as needed, and communicating progress.

Assists with Christmas partnership activations including managing the annual process of requesting access to retail corporations for the purpose of the Christmas Bell Ringer solicitations, compiling and distributing annual Christmas campaign statistics, and developing stewardship reports. Develop corporate volunteering and kettle sponsorship opportunities for the Christmas Kettles. Work with corporations, malls, and retail chains to expand physical kettle locations. Serve as the liaison to the field for any help needed relating to Christmas pitch and activation materials for partners. Provides standardized stewardship materials to the field.

Knowledge and Experience:

Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with 5+ years of experience working in nonprofit fundraising, partnership development or marketing. Must have an understanding of the multi-faceted corporate philanthropy and corporate fundraising landscape and experience working with and recruiting board members and volunteers. Graphic design, project management and/or writing skills and experience a plus.

Excellent verbal and written communication skills and follow-up for successful closure of gifts and volunteer commitment. Strong and effective interpersonal and persuasive skills, modeling effective relationship management and demonstrating emotional intelligence / situational awareness. Excellent document creation, proposal, and presentation development skills. Strong

organizational skills, follow-through, and attention to detail. Proven experience in funding and partnership development, especially in the area of corporate partnerships, preferred. Project management experience is a plus.

Knowledge of cause-marketing and product tie-in best practices and how to effectively apply such options to dialogue with prospective corporate funders for the Army's benefit.

Ability to travel as necessary to carry out responsibilities and assignments.

Proficiency in Microsoft Office applications, including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Experience with PC's and networking, donor management software, graphic design template software, and familiarity with prospect research tools.

Benefits after 90 days. Free underground parking.

Submit your cover letter and resume by secure fax to (703) 684-3478, e-mail to usa.recruit@usa.salvationsarmy.org with the job title in the subject line, or send via US Mail to 615 Slaters Lane Alexandria, VA 22314, Attn: HR Office.

APPLE CRISPS ASSEMBLY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Apple Crisps Are Back for Our Pumpkin Patch! Assembly Volunteers Needed

Hello IMMANUEL friends: We are reintroducing the apple crisp for this autumn's Pumpkin Patch. Things will look a bit different from previous years, because of COVID-19.

We plan to provide apples and containers (in the Immanuel kitchen) in late September (precise date to be announced). At that time, we'll also provide a recipe. We're asking that volunteers be willing to take apples and containers, prepare the crisps at home (providing the ingredients of sugar, butter, oats and spices), and return the prepared crisps, uncooked, to the Immanuel freezer, where we will label them. If you prefer to deviate from the recipe we provide, please label your crisps with the ingredients you decided to use.

We'd appreciate knowing which of you would be willing to contribute to this effort, so that we may e-mail you the recipe and other specifics. Please e-mail Dana Wilkie at danamwilkie@gmail.com.

St. Clement Episcopal School (www.saintclement.org/preschool) is seeking a Junior Kindergarten Teacher. Our JK classroom is designed for children who turned five in June/July, or will turn five in August or September, and whose parents have chosen to give them the opportunity to grow and thrive and mature. Our JK students play, learn and grow in a play-based preschool environment while continuing to advance academically. St. Clement offers a competitive salary and benefits. Teaching experience in JK and/or Kindergarten required. If interested contact Dory Herman Sample at school@saintclement.org.



Hill Happenings

Join Immanuel Five Days *Every Week*

SUNDAYS	9 a.m.	Spiritual Holy Eucharist with Live Music	VTS Grove
	10:30 a.m.	Spiritual Holy Eucharist	Zoom online
	11:30 a.m.	Forum Hour*or Coffee Hour	Zoom online
WEDNESDAYS	7 p.m.	Family Bible Study with Father Sam	Zoom online
THURSDAYS	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study:"The Acts of the Apostles"	Zoom online
FRIDAYS	8:30 p.m.	Compline	Zoom online
SATURDAYS	10 a.m.	Family Bible Study with Father Sam	Zoom online
Special Parish Events			
September 11th	7:30 p.m.	Godspell	Zoom online
September 13th	10:30 a.m.	Homecoming Sunday	VTS Grove and live-streamed online
	7 p.m.	EYC Meeting - grades 6-12	Zoom online
October 4th	TBD	Pumpkin Sunday	Zabriskie Lawn

* Forum Hours held on select dates; please check your weekly e-mail for topics and dates.

GODSPELL

Friday, September 11, at 7:30 p.m.
LIVE Online via Zoom

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill presents an online evensong of music, song and scripture, based on the Gospel of St. Matthew and featuring some of the music from Godspell!

Look for sign-in links in your weekly E-Blast !I

H+OMECOMING

CALLING ALL IMMANUELITES!

Join us on Sunday, September 13th at 10:30 a.m. for our Annual Homecoming Eucharist, which will be livestreamed on Zoom. Weather permitting, we'll gather on the VTS Grove for a special spiritual Eucharist, followed by socially-distanced, personal picnic pods! Everyone is encouraged to bring their own lunch, and all are welcome.



WORSHIP WITH US
All are welcome!



Sundays at 9 a.m.
Holy Eucharist
(outdoors on the VTS Grove,
weather permitting)

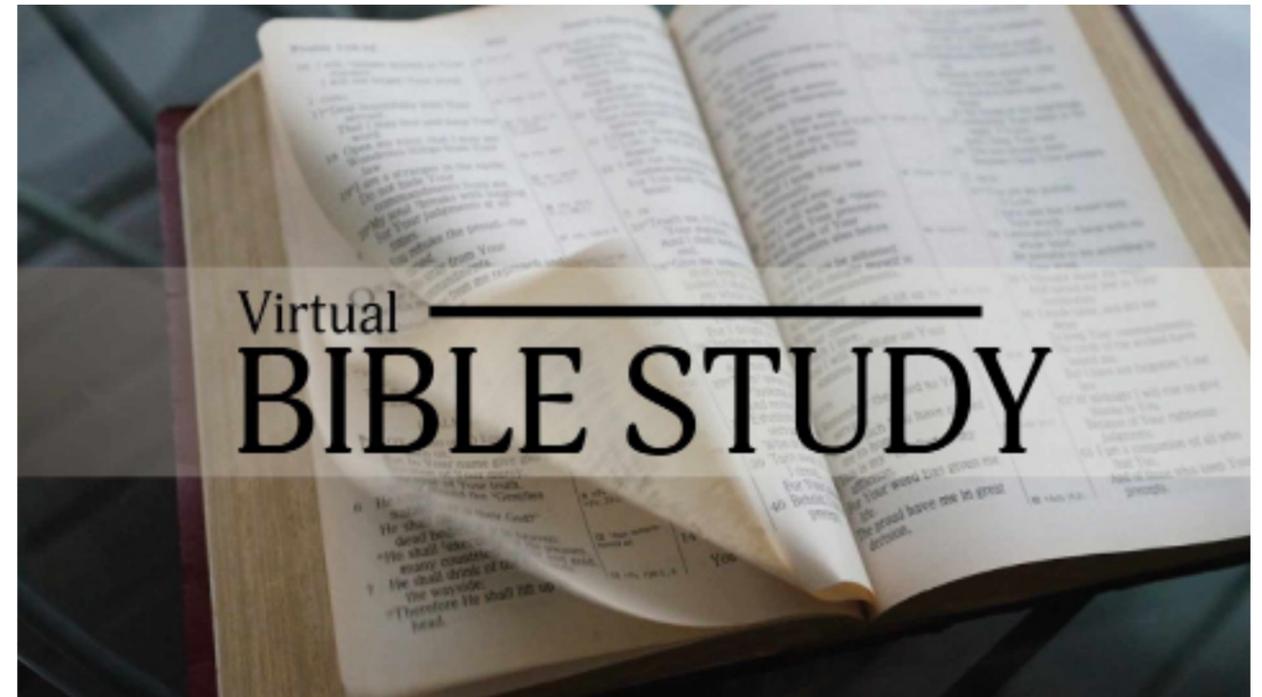
Spiritual Holy Eucharist
at

The VTS Grove

featuring **LIVE MUSIC**

3737 Seminary Road
near the Refectory

**Bring a favorite lawn chair and
wear a nose/mouth face covering**



Bible Study on Thursdays: Please join the clergy for a study of The Acts of the Apostles every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. The Acts of the Apostles is a history book of the early Church and its struggles and ministries. Some have described the book as “an adventure thrill ride from start to finish.” Come and see!

No previous experience or attendance necessary, just bring your questions and your Bible -- or an online version of the Bible, such as [Bible Gateway here](#).

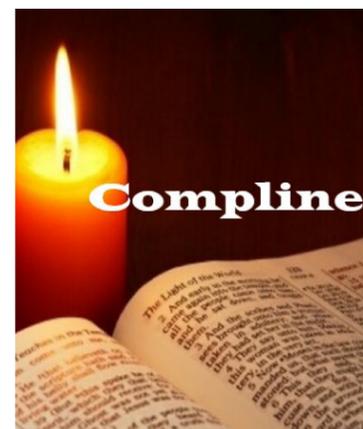
Zoom call contact information is sent out on Wednesdays -- watch for your e-mail!

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

sundays via Zoom

Immediately After the 10:30 a.m. Service

Look for details in each week's E-Blast



COMPLINE SERVICE ON FRIDAYS

Join us for Compline on Fridays at 8:30 p.m. via Zoom. Compline is an offering of late evening prayer, sometimes referred to as the “Goodnight Prayer of the Church.”

To participate, look for the “reminder” e-mail each week, containing a clickable link with details on how to join the live broadcast via Zoom or simply listen-in by telephone.

BENEDICTINE COMMUNITY:

NEW BOOK BY

JUDITH VALENTE FEATURED

SEPTEMBER 15TH



WELCOME TO THE BENEDICTINE COMMUNITY!

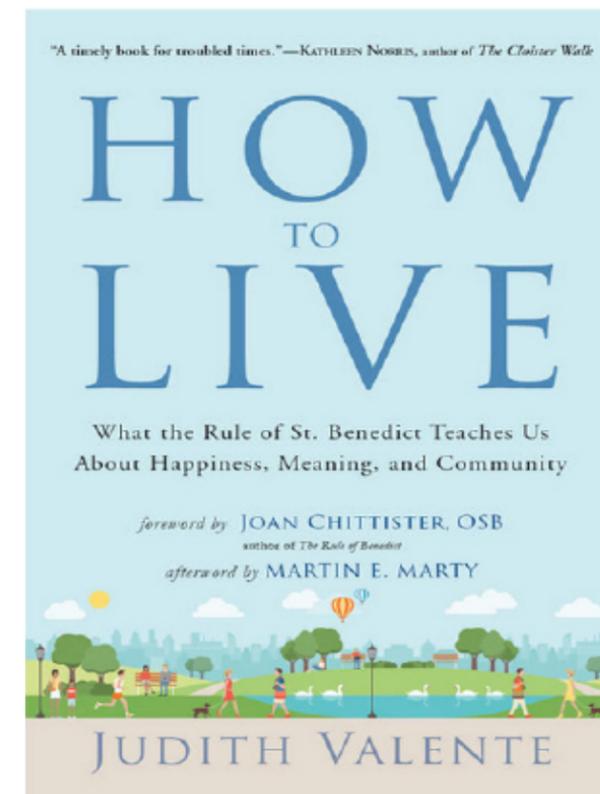
Are you looking for an opportunity to examine and share your spiritual journey as you live your daily life, especially in this pandemic? Then you are invited to join our Benedictine Community that meets at Immanuel on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 7p.m.- 8p.m. We are currently meeting virtually.

The Community reflects on the tenets of St. Benedictine such as humility, silence, and prayer. Individual reflection is guided by short readings from a Benedictine-inspired book. On

StepALIVE! Walkathon 2020: Help ALIVE! Help Our Neighbors in Need.

StepALIVE! 2020 — virtual this year — will take place the weekend of September 11-13th. All proceeds from StepALIVE! will be used to provide food, shelter, and emergency financial assistance to Alexandrians suffering from poverty and hunger. This support has never been more important than it is during this pandemic year.

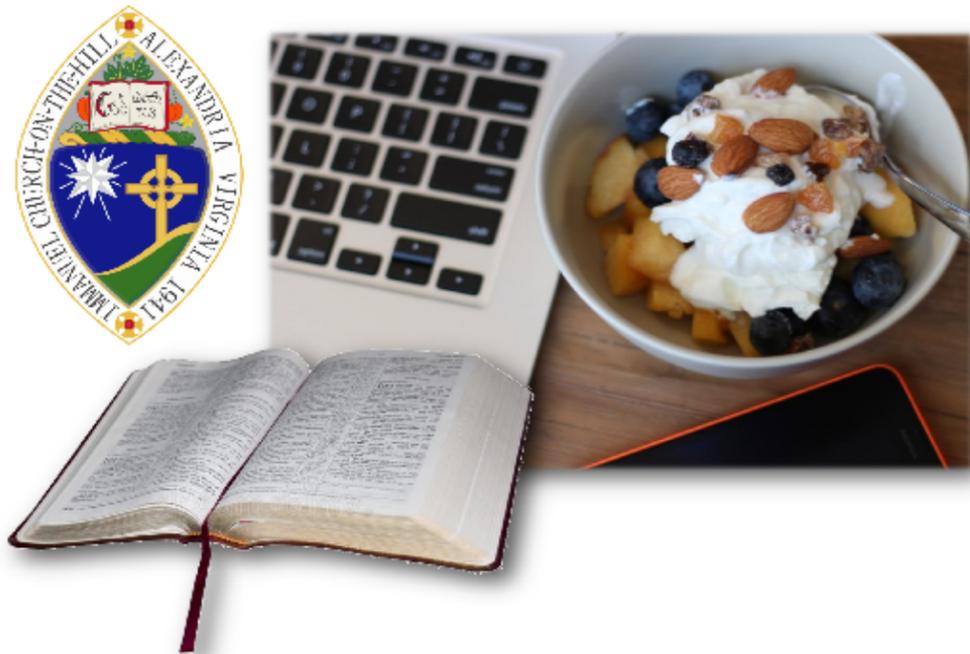
Immanuel is forming a team to participate in this event. Please join with other members of the congregation to get some fresh air and exercise (observing health and safety precautions, of course) while raising money for a great cause. To register for the event, go to www.stepalivewalk.org and look for the name of the congregation's team, ImmanuelWalkers. Details on how to participate in Immanuel's virtual walk — including how to sponsor our team — will be announced soon.



September 15th, we start a new book "**How to Live; What the Rule of Saint Benedict Teaches Us About Happiness, Meaning, and Community**" by Judith Valente.

Each meeting covers a few pages of the book; our focus is primarily on reflections sparked by the reading. We are not a book study group, rather a Benedictine Community, gathering as companions on the journey with one another while drawing wisdom from selected reading material. We currently use Zoom; however, if you don't wish to use Zoom or are not comfortable with the online technology, you can simply call on the telephone and be connected to the community by voice only. If this opportunity appeals to you and/or you would like more information, please contact Dana Hengst, Barbara Fornoff, or David Atwood.

Breakfast Bible Study via Zoom



BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY on ZOOM: Join us online for Immanuel's monthly Saturday morning Breakfast Bible Study on Saturday, September 19th — we meet the third Saturday of each month. We meet via Zoom (link and info below) beginning at 8 a.m. Our new theme is **God's Loving Concern**; we will read Isaiah 55:6-13 using the African Model of Reflection. For more information, please contact Chrissie Crosby. No prior knowledge or experience in bible study is necessary! We will guide you through the process.

For more information, please visit our website [HERE](#).

Chrissie Crosby is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Breakfast Bible Study Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

Time: This is a recurring meeting 3rd Saturday of month¹

Join Zoom Meeting by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Meeting ID: 959 5450 6553

Password: 027913

follow the prompts.

1 (929) 205-6099,,95954506553#,,#027913# US (New York)

1 (312) 626-6799,,95954506553#,,#027913# US (Chicago)

Creation Care Ministry has a New Action Team Keeping Us Informed of Green Alternatives for Immanuel

Twice in August the Action Team for the Creation Care Ministry held Forum Hours, giving participants the latest news on green energy and earth-friendly alternatives for our parish. If you missed them -- held on a Wednesday evening and the other after our 10:30 a.m. online spiritual Eucharist -- please look for notices of upcoming Forum Hours in your weekly E-Blast, this publication, and our monthly circular, *The Almond Tree: In Brief*.

Creation Care is a key value of the Episcopal Church of the USA. Immanuel's Team will review past Creation Care activities, provide a solar technology update and what that means for Immanuel, share the revisioning of the Memorial Garden, and present a recycling challenge for our Immanuel community. We will also explore with participants what we are called to do as a parish for Creation Care.



Forum Hours presented by Kathryn Jackson Haskin, Julie Bruns, Kevin Kirby, and Denise Freeland

Vacation/Staycation: Coping in Isolation in the Days of COVID-19



Senior citizens are encouraged to join The Rev. J. Bruce Stewart, Chaplain, Goodwin House Alexandria for a special live program "Vacation/Staycation: Coping in Isolation in the Days of COVID-19" on Saturday, September 19, 2020 at 10 a.m. online via Zoom. Father Bruce will begin with a presentation addressing the special concerns and needs of seniors who are experiencing a loss of social activity, followed by a call-in conversation.

For those seniors who do not have access to a computer, we encourage you to leave a message on Immanuel's RSVP hotline by dialing (703) 370-6555 and pressing 9, so that we can call you back and give you details on how to participate by telephone. Look for details in an upcoming special e-mail.

A Message from Five Talents USA.



Dear Immanuel Family,

My sister-in-law sent me some back-to-school photos of my niece and nephew today. New backpacks, lunch boxes AND masks as they are heading to their classrooms in-person. On the flip side, my neighbor has transformed her formal dining room into a classroom so her kids are ready for full-time virtual learning come September.

While the back-to-school prep may look differently depending on where you live, the common thread that seems to connect parents all over the world is a desire to always try and do what's best for their children. In this week's video, **we hear from a mother from Burundi** who joined a Five Talents savings group. Her primary goal? Something I'm guessing parents in your congregation can relate to. <https://fivetalents.org/videos/2020/6/12/i-can-take-my-children-to-school>.

I hope this is an encouragement as we all navigate the upcoming school year.

With joy,

Sarah Herndon, Church Engagement



ALEXANDRIA RESIDENTS: Get Out and **VOTE EARLY** by Mail!



VOTE

ለተሻለ የወደፊት ህይወት በምርጫ ይሳተፉ።
Vota Por Un Mejor Futuro
Vote for a better future
صوت لمستقبل أفضل.



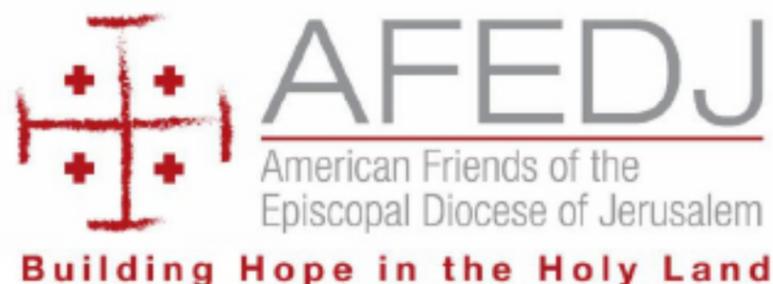
CHECK TO ENSURE YOU ARE
REGISTERED TO VOTE, VISIT:
VOTE.ELECTIONS.VIRGINIA.GOV



TO REQUEST A MAIL-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT
CALL THE OFFICE OF VOTER REGISTRATION:
703-746-4050

IMMANUEL'S OUTREACH SUPPORT TO THE DIOCESE OF JERUSALEM

To Support Beirut Emergency Needs: In light of the continued and serious emergency needs in Lebanon -- for Diocese of Jerusalem institutions as well as for the Diocese's support of the wider needs of Beirut in the wake of the massive explosion last month -- Immanuel's Outreach Committee sent \$1,000 via the Diocese to the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ). If you want to learn more, and possibly contribute yourself, regarding the current status, and what All Saints Church, Beirut is doing, please see the AFEDJ notice below:



Update from All Saints Church and beyond



In the three weeks since the horrific explosion that left more than 300,000 residents of Beirut homeless and affected more than 778,000 people within a two-mile radius of the blast, your generous response to Archbishop Suheil Dawani's call for donations has already made a difference to our displaced brothers and sisters in need of humanitarian support.

(Photo: By Freimut Bahlo / Creative Commons)

Archdeacon Imad Zoorab, vicar of All Saints Episcopal Church located just a mile from the blast, wrote to us last week:

"Amid all the suffering our beloved Lebanon is facing on the economic level, the crisis of the port explosion has made it worse with many homeless and without any roof over their heads. Our church is part of this devastated society, with those in both the Arabic and English-speaking congregations having suffered physically, financially, and

psychologically. Thank God no one among our church family was made homeless. Those with damage to their homes were able to cope and stay in the undamaged part of their houses."

According to Fr. Imad, homeless families are living in shelters provided by various United Nations' agencies, the Lebanese Red Crescent/Cross, or staying with friends and families who have offered their houses to receive homeless families.

In the days since the explosion, Fr. Imad and leaders of the two All Saints congregations have worked to ensure the well-being and safety of members of the church community. They now turn their attention to partnering with other churches to meet the needs of their most vulnerable neighbors affected by the blast.

Funds donated through AFEDJ are being used to obtain much-needed food packets, hygiene kits, and PPE for distribution through All Saints and its partner churches to people across Beirut.

He writes, "As a vicar and pastor of All Saints, I'm thankful for God's grace and mercies, and so grateful for each church, bishop, priest, lay person, and for everyone who has stood by us here in Lebanon through your prayers and your financial support. May God bless each and every one of you for your faithfulness. In all of this, we pray and remember, "Yet amid all these things we are more than conquerors and gain a surpassing victory through him who loved us."



damage to a parishioner's home



[Father Imad Zoorab tells the story of one All Saints family affected by the tragedy.](#)

(2 minute listen)

From the prayers of All Saints online worship on the first Sunday after the explosion:

O loving God of second chances, we have a new opportunity to live as your people, to share and demonstrate your love in word and deed with the world around us.

Thank you for your forgiveness. We now offer anew to you our lives, as we seek to be more faithful followers of Jesus.

Help us, through the power of your Holy Spirit at work within us, to love you and our neighbors, through all that we do and say. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Beirut explosion at a glance

People

- > 178 dead
- > 6,000 injured
- > 300,000 displaced
- > 150,000 in need of urgent humanitarian care
- > 778,000 affected in a two-mile radius of the blast

Healthcare

- 4 hospitals severely damaged
- No local production of PPE



Food Security

- 15,000 metric tons of wheat destroyed (a six-week supply)
- Lebanon imports 80% of its wheat supply, primarily through the port of Beirut

Business sector

- 92% of businesses within a two-mile radius of the blast suffered damage
- 50-60% of businesses will be unable to reopen without aid
- 100,000 jobs have been lost in the tourism sector alone

Education

- With schools turned into shelters, many schools will not re-open this fall

Infrastructure

- 30-40 destroyed buildings
- 3,400 uninhabitable buildings
- 40,000 affected buildings
- 16 warehouses out of commission
- Regular transmission and distribution systems disrupted

From the [Beirut Explosion Impact Assessment](#) conducted by strategy& and released on August 19, 2020

Photo: Mehr News Agency / Creative Commons

Make a gift today!

AFEDJ offers a safe, secure channel to make gifts to support the work of the humanitarian institutions of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem
www.afedi.org



Faithfully Sharing God's Gifts

As you are able at this time to share some of God's gifts with your church, we would be very thankful.

We appreciate everything you are able to share and your willingness to remember Immanuel through your financial gifts and your continued pledge payments. Like you, Immanuel wants to do all it can during these difficult days.

You can use the donation screen on our website to make your pledge payment or set up automated giving, a feature which is most helpful to us. You can also mail your pledge payment or additional gifts to Immanuel's church office at 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA, 22304.

Your faithful generosity is a blessing.

 [Login / Sign Up](#)

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

Alexandria, VA 22304

Amount: Give to:

Email First Name Last Name

Note / memo (optional)

Cover fees? Setup automated giving?

**“Christmas Families in August 2020” Extended
SPECIAL COLLECTION SEPTEMBER 2020**

Haiti and Alexandria

From the hymn “Glorious things of thee are spoken” we heard in a recent service

*See! the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters
and all fear of want remove.*

It is God's eternal love living in us and working through us from which springs a tributary to the large stream of living waters helping children in poverty cope with adversity and get off to a good start into the new school year and making sure they have what they need to learn for life.

Christmas Families in August is different this year. Clearly we could not do the customary sign-up and collection of school supplies. Until very recently we did not even know what the Alexandria Public Schools would do to start the new year. Now we know: it will be only online learning. In this time of uncertainty, the needs of every child and every family are different. In consultations with the City's Department of Human Services and parishioners who teach in ACPS, it became clear that rather than giving school supplies the best way to help is to increase the amount of money we give to the Department so they can assist children and families in ways that best meet their special needs and to provide help quickly ("Quick help is double help"). The social workers are in the best position to discern what is most needed to help the children in a family learn. Helping children learn is the constant through all the turmoil.

School supplies are still needed even with online instruction. More importantly, families are under a lot of stress; helping them to create an environment in which children can learn is paramount. Families might need help with technology to put school-supplied Chromebooks to use, or with supplementing food from the ACPS distribution locations to replace school free breakfasts and lunches, with balancing jobs and childcare, and more, needs not covered by the Department of Community and Human Services budget.

In past years we were able to provide support as follows:

Human Services in Alexandria: \$1,000 Backpacks filled with school supplies for 60 children

Community Lodgings: \$1,000

Haiti Micah project: \$2,000

We hope to replicate the cash contributions and give a second large check to Community and Human Services to replace the in-kind contribution from previous years.

Ways That You Can Contribute:

- by mail a check to the parish office
- dropping off during collection at a 9a.m. Spiritual Eucharist at the VTS Grove
- online at https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/12176

by selecting “Gift” and typing "XFAM August" in to the Note / memo field

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

*Dagobert and Lissa Soergel,
and Linda Serabian*





Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill
3606 Seminary Road
Alexandria, VA 22304-5200
www.icoh.net

STORY CALL: **Christmas Memory Lane**

Share a special Advent or Christmastide memory at Immanuel -- and feel free to include photos! We'll feature them in the [December 1st issue](#) of *The Almond Tree Quarterly*. Deadline for submissions -- including any photos -- is November 12th (earlier due to the Thanksgiving holiday). Send to office@icoh.net or mail them to Aleta, who can also scan your photos.

Upcoming issues:

2020

DECEMBER 1ST -- Advent, Christmas and debut of
"Christmas Memory Lane"

2021

MARCH 1ST -- Immanuel's Ministries and History

Submission
Deadline for
December issue
is **November**
12th