



IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL: MAY 2020

THIS MONTH AT IMMANUEL



I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them and I will bless them and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary among them forevermore. My dwelling place shall be with them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ~Ezekiel 37:26-27

Church of the Ethereal

One of the great delights for me as a priest is visiting people in their homes. Most of our time together is at church, and the opportunity to be with people in their space, with their treasures, and their animals gives me a deeper sense of who they are and how God has settled into their lives. Worshipping together on Zoom has given not just me, but all of us a bit of a glimpse into each other's homes, and this last Sunday, a glimpse of the church pets as well.

Disaster brought us to this wild new 'Church of the Ethereal' (C of E) and we've found the Spirit continues to flow through us all, despite our separation, just as She does in church, connecting us effortlessly as the body of Christ. Our homes have become our church, and perhaps we can acknowledge them as our sacred space. When telling people their home is holy – which I always do when I go to visit - most demur, saying 'no, not this house!' But sometimes they show me pictures on a dresser, or a place where they always sit to read scripture or to say prayers or even to cry. Maybe one gift of this global nightmare will be the ability to recognize and honor the sacredness of our homes, however grand or humble. Recognize the passions, the conversation, the everyday-ness of our houses as sacred and holy and blessed. Even the messiness and the dirt and whatever it is the cat dragged in.

Once I began to recognize my home as sacred space, it was easier to imagine God hanging out here with me. Maybe sitting on the sofa or snoozing in the good chair in the living room on Sunday afternoon. It is a comfort, a blessing and sometimes a call to get moving. Now, with Zoom, God feels even more present and S/He's brought some fabulous guests – S/He's brought all of you. I hope you like dogs.

Susan+

IN THIS ISSUE

Church of the
Ethereal, by the Rev.
Susan Parsons

Join Us For Virtual
Worship and Bible
Study

Report from the
Vestry

Make Good Use of
"Stay Home" Time:
Take a Look at Your
Estate Planning
Documents

Grace and Gratitude

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

SUNDAYS

10:30 AM

Morning Prayer
followed by
Coffee Hour
with the Rector and
Associate Rector

FRIDAYS

8:30 - 9:00 PM

Compline

JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays

10:30 AM

with the Rector
*St. Paul's letter to
the Philippians*

Third Saturday

Breakfast Bible Study

May 16 at 8:00 AM

Ephesians 2:11-18

All events (for now) are by
Zoom call; contact
information will be emailed
parishwide in advance.

Report From the Vestry

Happy Easter!

It was only a few weeks ago that we celebrated the most holy day in the Christian year, Easter. Well, I think we can all agree that this has been an Easter to remember!

It seems only a few weeks ago that we were entering the season of Lent. As we started Lent, we had a wonderful Mardi Gras celebration replete with great food and awesome entertainment. **Phyllis Sims** served as our matron of honor. What a delightful time!

But in a very short time, our lives were forever changed by the Covid 19 crisis. But maybe, this time has also taught us that our calling is not simply about buildings and budgets, but about a family of believers. The challenges posed by this deadly virus are many, ranging from grave impacts on our health to loss of jobs and income. But clearly, the most profound impact has been the loss of dear family and friends.

First and foremost, many thanks to the members of the vestry and their families who have consistently gone beyond what has been asked.

Since the start of this crisis, the vestry has met every week. These weekly updates have allowed vestry members to stay informed, connected and aware of ongoing issues. Additionally, these weekly updates serve as a platform to raise and vet new ideas.

This year we elected to have two junior wardens. **Kathryn Haskin** serves as our junior warden for buildings and grounds and **Martha Shimkin** serves as the junior warden for administration. We are incredibly lucky and indeed blessed to have their dedication and leadership. If anyone ever doubts God's providence, look no further than the decision to have two junior wardens.

The Communications Committee has worked hard at providing online services, weekly eblasts and have revised our newsletters. During this period of uncertainty, our parishioners look for familiarity; they look for those constants such as church services. Over the past few weeks, the number of visitors to our online services have steadily increased. **Sandra Graham** has overseen this critical area that has a profound impact on the parish during this difficult time.

At the most basic level, the greatest challenge is to connect and to remain engaged with everyone. This started with letters but has continued with phone calls, emails and in some cases, letters. **Shawn Whitman** and our Pastoral Care Committee have worked to maintain contact with Immanuelites who may require special attention including members undergoing medical treatment.

Our worship committee, headed by **Darrell Wilson**, has done an extraordinary job of adapting services during this period. Our Good Friday and Easter services were a testament to Darrell's commitment and dedication. Closely connected to our efforts are welcoming newcomers. Despite the challenges of virtual services, **Francine Wargo** has continued to attract and welcome newcomers.

Outreach is one of the greatest strengths of Immanuel. Indeed, a great many of us were drawn to Immanuel by the Pumpkin Patch. **Chandley McDonald** and the Outreach Committee have worked to remain engaged with ALIVE!, Carpenter's Shelter, West End Lazarus and Refugee Ministries as well as other community and international agencies. The Outreach Committee has already increased our level of support to the community.

(See **VESTRY** on back page)

Make Good Use of "Stay Home" Time -- Take a Look at Your Estate Planning Documents

No matter what your age, your current health status, or the amount of your assets, it is worthwhile to make sure that you have estate plan documents and that they are current and reflect your wishes. Now is an excellent time to create or review your estate planning documents and see if they are up to date.

Estate planning documents can include your Will, Power of Attorney, Health Care Power of Attorney, Advance Medical Directive or living will, and Revocable Trust.

1. Review your fiduciaries and guardians of your minor children. Fiduciaries are the Executor under your Will, the individuals you have identified in your Power of Attorney, Health Care Power of Attorney, and the Trustee of your Trust.
 - a. Are these individuals still the ones you want managing your estate and making important decisions for you?
 - b. Are you still in close touch them? Do they know and understand your wishes?
 - c. Do they know where your important documents are kept?
 - d. Do you have alternates named in case they cannot serve?
2. Do your documents still reflect your wishes, or have your decisions changed since you created them? You can make necessary changes through a Codicil to your Will or Amendment to your Trust, or you can create new documents.
3. Do you have a current list of all your accounts, such as bank accounts, brokerage account, and have them stored with your estate planning documents?
4. Are your accounts titled correctly? As life circumstances change through marriages, births and divorces, make sure the accounts list the owners accurately.
5. Are the beneficiaries (and contingent beneficiaries) of your accounts, such as your insurance policy or 401(k) plan as you wish? They can be easily updated by completing a Beneficiary Designation form.
6. Have you created a list of special family items that you want specific family members to know the history of and be sure to receive? Is it stored with your estate planning documents?
7. Do your documents give someone control of your digital assets? Does that person know how to find your current passwords?

Online resources are available and can be a way to get started. If you use an online tool to draft documents, it is important to have those documents reviewed by your attorney to ensure they both meet your needs and comply with all statutory requirements.

Every situation is different, and this guidance is not legal advice. So be sure to work with your legal, financial, and estate advisors to determine what is best for you.

As you do this, we hope you will consider leaving a future gift to Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill. The Zabriskie Society recognizes parishioners who have made Immanuel, or one of its trust funds, a beneficiary of their will, insurance policy, financial account, or other planned giving program.

For more information about how you can become a member of the Zabriskie Society, contact **Danette "Dani" Kauffman**, danettekauffman@starpower.net or 202-258-9743.



Grace and Gratitude

As you know, Immanuel celebrated Easter virtually this year, live-streaming the Eucharist from Zabriskie Chapel.

And for the 300+ people who viewed the service on the spot or the video later, one of the highlights was the traditionally beautiful chapel setting.

Immanuel thanks our dedicated Altar Guild chair **Rosi Urbine** for taking care of the Altar, and Flower Guild chair **Candy Levin**, with Flower Gilder **Sarah Glassco**, for the joyful Easter flower display.



(VESTRY, continued) Our Children, Youth, and Families Ministry has worked to remain connected to families and the youth in the church. With graduations, proms, and other traditional end-of-year events being canceled, this has been a particularly hard time for youths, especially graduating seniors. **Hartley Hobson Wensing** has worked with families using Zoom and other forums. The vestry is also now blessed with a youth advisor: **Rachel Wilson** has stepped into that new role. We have already benefitted from Rachel's perspective and insight.

Our stewardship and planned giving efforts have been extremely important. **Dani Kauffman** and our Planned Giving Ministry have been innovative and resourceful in figuring out how we remain not simply connected, but engaged.

Jamie Conrad has worked to establish virtual adult forums. In some ways, this will allow us to reach even more Immanuelites with our forums. Jamie has also taken the lead in figuring out how we might have Shrine Mont this year.

I would also highlight the great work done by our treasurer, **Tom Hewson**. As you might imagine, this has been a tough time for church finances. I would ask that you share any ideas or things we can do as a vestry to better support you. And I ask your prayers for the vestry that we do God's work during this difficult time.

April 26, Reverend Susan gave a beautiful sermon on the road to Emmaus. The road to Emmaus is a powerful story. The passage is in part about sharing a journey. It is about the unexpected and what we find when we open our eyes. We may never know who is with us on our journey until a difficult time like now.

Let us share this journey together. Let us face this challenge as we have faced other challenges at Immanuel, with love, compassion, and with God as our light and guide. -- **Keith June, Senior Warden**



Immanuel is an Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Virginia, and is part of the world-wide Anglican Communion. We are one parish that currently worships virtually online, hoping to soon resume in-person services in two locations: the Zabriskie Chapel (3606 Seminary Road), and Immanuel Chapel (3737 Seminary Road), in Alexandria, Virginia.

Vestry

(all may be emailed at vestry@icoh.net)

Keith June, Senior Warden

Kathryn Haskin, Junior Warden: Buildings and Grounds

Martha Shimkin, Junior Warden: Administration

Jamie Conrad, Register, Adult Formation and Discipleship

Alexandra (Sandra) Graham, Communications

Danette "Dani" Gentile Kauffman, Stewardship & Planned Giving

Chandley McDonald, Outreach

Phyllis Sims, Fellowship

Francine Wargo, Evangelism and Newcomers

Hartley Hobson Wensing; Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Shawn Whitman, Senior Ministry and Pastoral Care

Darrell Wilson, Worship

Tom Hewson, Treasurer

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Laura Snow, Assistant Treasurer

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Staff

Aleta Y. Powell, Parish Administrator

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Sugra Bakhtiari, Bookkeeper

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Gilma Balcarcel, Nursery Coordinator

Stuart Dahlinger, Sexton

Clergy

The Rev. J. Randolph Alexander, Jr.

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Rector

The Rev. Susan D. Parsons

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Associate Rector

The Rev. Sureshkumar Shanthakumar

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International Student/Priest-in-Residence

Priests Associate

The Rev. Dr. J. Barney Hawkins IV

The Rev. Dr. Ruthanna Hooke

The Rev. Jan A. Maas

The Rev. John R. Smucker

The Rev. Canon Rosemari G. Sullivan

The Rev. Dr. Francis H. Wade

Director of Music

Dr. Jane Tavernier

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