

# THE ALMOND TREE

## Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

The Rev. Dr. Margaret Ann Faeth  
Rector

January 11, 2012



### “A GODLY VISION”

It was a glorious celebration for our ICOH family this past Sunday as we welcomed the Rt. Reverend David Colin Jones to the parish for his final “official” visit – only three weeks before his retirement at the end of the month. Bishop Jones confirmed seven youth and two adults, and received three more adults into the Episcopal Church from other denominations. Many thanks to all who worked so hard to make this day so special – to the confirmands and their families; to the Rev. Corrie Weierbach- who led the youth confirmation class during my sabbatical; to the worship participants and choir; to the hospitality team who prepared such a lovely reception; to Jennifer Addington who continually astounds me with her behind-the-scenes leadership and grace; and to Bishop Jones himself, for 40 years of faithful leadership in the Church. It certainly was a day to remember!

I invited Bishop Jones to meet with the vestry after the festivities, hoping that he might impart some words of wisdom and guidance gleaned from his long and distinguished ministry. Three years ago, Bishop Jones was so impressed by his visit to ICOH that he gave us prominent mention in his address at Diocesan Council – holding this parish up as a model of Christians who “get it.” When I invited Bishop Jones to offer any advice or insights on our ongoing life together, he counseled the vestry and me to continue to discern and share “a Godly vision” with the parish, and for the parish to continue our proclamation of that vision with the world. The two particular strengths for which this parish is known – lifelong Christian formation and extraordinary outreach ministries – are interconnected and inseparable. Our worship of the living Lord inspires a hunger for learning and growth, which fuels our passion for witness in the world.

A “Godly vision” is never the concoction of an individual imagination, nor the expression of the leader’s personal agenda. A Godly vision is conceived, tested, nurtured and shared in the context of our life together. The inspiration we hear from scripture; the strength we find in our Eucharistic fellowship; the problems we face and solve together; the challenges presented by new realities in our community and the world; our ability to study, learn and grow together; and our ability to extend a welcome - not only to new people but also to new ideas, new hopes and new truths – this is how the dreams of God become the vision and inspiration of a community.

The vestry and I intend to take Bishop Jones’ parting advice seriously as we meet with you in our annual parish meeting on January 22; as we elect new vestry members and make important decisions about our annual budget, and as we gather at the vestry retreat in early February. What can you do to take part in this process of Godly visioning? Three things come to mind: First, PRAY. Attend worship. Listen to the word of God as it is said, and sung and preached. Develop and continue your own practices of private prayer – whether that involves the praying of the Daily Office from the Prayer Book, or setting aside some contemplative time to listen for the nudgings of the Spirit. Second, LEARN. Attend a forum hour. Go over to Cokesbury Bookstore at VTS and treat yourself to a book on a topic that calls to you. Participate in our upcoming Lenten series or a School for the Spirit course later this spring. Take advantage of the many community offerings available at VTS. Last but not least, GIVE. Participate in the life of this community to the fullest extent possible. Talk to someone whose outreach activity has inspired you and find out how you can get involved. Prayerfully consider whether your pledge reflects your level of commitment. Find a community activity that interests you, get involved and then tell us about it! Every day, aspire to make some small difference in the world.

Prayer, learning and giving – these are the ways in which we discern the Godly vision which is our privilege and joy to share. May the wisdom, guidance and energy of the Spirit be with us as we embark on new adventures in mission and ministry.

*Sam+*

**PASTORAL CARE CORNER Please remember**

**these parishioners in your prayers:** Kimberly, Duncan MacDonald, Morgan, Lloyd Mostrom, Nancy Wise, Bobbie King, Marcia, Tom Murray, Janet Siegrist, Becky Graham, Mary, Annie, Catherine Sinclair, Sam Faeth, Sky Beaven, Chris Stanek, Jessi Macleod, Yvonne Pover, Ethel Hoffman, Margaret Messenger Kerekes, Linda Murphy, Sally Guy Brown.

**Pease also remember in your prayers** members of our extended Parish family: Joan Aldretti, Doris Allen, Robert Amick, Karen Beattie, Mike Black, Tim Boyd, Cardiss Collins, Doris Doyle, Gene Gray, Lucas Hawley, Mary Lou Johnson, Dean and Charlotte Kellogg, Tennille Littleton, Chris Rarick, Sue Rehnke, Lucien Russell, Susan Shallbetter, June Sheets, Ellen Shreve, Cheryl Stratos, Suzanne Tellechea, Alexander Droneberger, Tom Stasz, Denise Boucher, Eleanor Boothe Smith, Bill Rarick, Wilson Carter, Biruta Kelly, Jeff Kucine, Mimi Evans, Stephen Miller, Chuck, Jim Rarick, Irv Schiff., Dan Abeyta, Butch Lovette, Shelby, Scott, Mikeala Stevens, Barbara Read, Jim Pearson, Larry Faeth, Mary Goeser, Patricia Ryan, Bob Davies, Patricia Smith, Josie Guardipee, Clinton Ross Fitzgerald, Helen Butler, Wally and Gerry Clinton, Judy Wagner and her family, Mary von Breisen.

**Serving our country at home and abroad:** : Todd Bates, Paul Bednar, Tom and Anne Duffy, Philip Smucker., Ian Phillips, Kyle Stuart, Liza Conrad, Jason Zook, the Chaplains of the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne.

**ALIVE! FOOD DRIVE IN JANUARY** January is one of the two months when Immanuel is responsible for donating food to Alive! The need is great. The program served over 750 families in September and October. Please bring any non-perishable food items and leave them in the Alive! box in the Narthex, Checks are also appreciated and will be used to buy fresh meat, eggs, and produce from the Capital Area Food Bank. Make checks payable to ICOH, noting the ALIVE! Food Program. If you have any questions, please call Ginny Johnstone at 703-845-5745. Thanks!

**EXCITING NEWS IN THE PARISH** – ICOH parishioner, the Rev. Dr. Frank Wade, has been appointed Interim Dean at the Washington National Cathedral. Frank will lead the complex operations of the cathedral during their search for a permanent Dean. The ICOH community will hold Frank and the Cathedral in our prayers during this process and look forward to Frank and Mary's return at the conclusion of this new adventure in ministry.



**LOOKING FOR YOUTH LECTORS** - we would like to encourage our older youth to participate in worship as lectors (readers of the lessons) on Sunday morning. We are looking for youth in middle or high school with a willingness to participate in Sunday worship. Training will be provided. Please contact the rector if your child is interested.



**WINTER KNITTING PROJECT** – My friend and seminary classmate, the Rev. Sean Cavanaugh, is the Chaplain at St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School. Over the past 8 years, Sean and the students and faculty of SSSA have developed a relationship with Pro-Vita Orphanage in Romania. Over 100 students have done mission work at the orphanage and another cohort will visit next March.

One of the ongoing challenges is providing the children sufficient warm clothing in a very, very cold climate. I am inviting any interested knitters to join in a winter project to knit items for the orphans, which the students will take over for us in March. They need any kind of warm item in any size, from infant to older children. Socks, hats, blankets, sweaters, mittens, buntings, etc. will make a difference in their health and comfort. I will collect items as they are finished and deliver them to the students before their trip. If you have any questions, please contact me. *Sam Faeth+, Rector*

**PARTICIPATE IN THE "DAY FOR ALL PEOPLE" IN RICHMOND ON JANUARY 17!** The Virginia Interfaith Center is holding its annual Day for All People education and lobbying event in Richmond on Tuesday, January 17. The Governor's budget contains funding for a number of useful programs, but it cuts over \$700 million from Medicaid and public education rather than seeking to raise any revenues. This is our opportunity to urge legislators to look out for the least fortunate among us. You can register in advance via VIC's webpage on the event, which features a quote from Bishop Johnston, and which has information on free bus transportation there and back that day: <http://www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org/GetInvolved/UpcomingEvents/AdvocacyDay.aspx>

## **SHRINE MONT REGISTRATIONS OPEN:**

Registration for Shrine Mont summer camps is now open. To register visit [www.camps.thediocese.net](http://www.camps.thediocese.net).

## **PARISH PHOTO DIRECTORIES ARE HERE!**

Our eagerly anticipated parish directories are printed and available for purchase for \$12. The vestry greeter of the week will be happy to assist you with your purchase. If you want to print your own, you may request an electronic copy from the parish office at no charge. But please remember, if you change your email address, telephone number or move, to notify the parish so we can keep our records up to date. We are close to 100% accurate now, and we'd really like to keep it that way! Instead of getting dozens of bounce backs on our email notifications, we only get one or two.

**PRISON MINISTRY TRAINING:** Come join OAR training for volunteers helping with prisoner re-entry in Alexandria. On Saturday, January 21, the group Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR) is doing a six-hour training for Immanuelites interested in helping released prisoners re-integrate into Alexandria. In the weeks after the training, those who are comfortable doing so will be paired up with an inmate recently released into Alexandria. We will work – in a neutral location (probably the OAR office)-- on a weekly and then biweekly basis for a few months with one person, encouraging them, giving them job, spiritual, and practical advice, whatever they need or are seeking, and helping plug them into OAR and other social services they need. If you are interested please get in touch with David Atwood, [david\\_atwood@hotmail.com](mailto:david_atwood@hotmail.com), home 703-933-0184; cell 703-350-6038.

## **THANKS TO ALL THE DEDICATED**

**GARDENERS!** The Garden Team would like to thank the dedicated group that helped at ICOH's property by raking, transporting, shredding and bagging our fall leaves and preparing hearty lunches during the month of December. We especially thank Barbara and George Currie, Nabil Amir, Lawrence Aberli, Sheila and Wayne Iskra, Pierre Shostal, David Tinkle, Melinda Ashton, Beverly and Pete Bolton, Mary Ann Sutherland, Waide Egner, Emma and Cary Cody, Chris Von Schoening, and Kevin Kirby. *Well done, thou good and faithful servants! You are most appreciated.*

## **THE LITURGY OF CHRISTMAS AND**

**EPIPHANY** The celebration of Jesus' birth and his manifestation as the Son of God comes in a pair of seasons with common characteristics. These seasons have been particularly popular in western Christendom and were, in the past, times of such levity and rejoicing that puritans in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries sought to do away with them.

In the last century, when the puritan influence had waned, Christmas became popular in this country again, but by then the churches had all but lost their memory of the old feast. As a result, Epiphany season and the intervening Twelve Days of Christmas were not part of the secular celebration. A host of new secular customs and legends developed during Advent primarily as a means of supporting business. We need to recover our own special heritage if we are to make Christmas and Epiphany central to our faith and life.

Recent historical studies have found that the original reason for setting the celebrations of Christ's birth and his manifestation on December 25th and January 6th, respectively, was related to the date of his death and resurrection. Early Christians believed that the date of Jesus' death was March 25th. They also assumed that, our Lord being perfect, even the span of his life in the world would be perfect; accordingly, they assumed that his life in the world began on March 25th also, on which date they celebrated his conception. We still use that date to celebrate the conception of Christ-the Annunciation of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Therefore, the birth of Christ is celebrated nine months later.

The date of January 6th resulted from the fact that, in the eastern part of the Roman Empire, the calendar differed from that in the west. The date in the eastern calendar corresponding to the western December 25th was January 6th. By the time of the fourth century, the eastern and western calendars had been brought into line; and so the east had its feast-still on January 6th-twelve days after the western feast. Since the eastern feast had centered on Christ's manifestation and that in the west on his birth, the two areas began to borrow each other's feasts and ended up with the two celebrations of Christmas and Epiphany.

From *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year*. Copyright © 2007 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.

## VESTRY BIOGRAPHIES

**TONY CHRISTINO** After attending Episcopal services at the U.S. Army chapel in Heidelberg, Germany, Tony Christino and his family joined ICOH in 2004. During his 20-year career as an Army officer, Tony served in a wide variety of leadership positions throughout the United States and abroad that entailed a great deal of planning, programming, budgeting, and administrative and operations management. He also received formal education in these subject areas at military staff colleges and civilian academic institutions. Upon his retirement from the Army, Tony joined the U.S. Department of Commerce where he currently serves as a Division Director in Export Administration. His responsibilities include achieving consensus on interagency policy issues and facilitating the export of humanitarian items by faith-based groups. Since joining ICOH, Tony has focused his efforts on teaching and mentoring as a leader within the Sunday School and Youth Group programs. He has also regularly participated in the unloading and sale of pumpkins, the Christmas Families Program, and the Shrine Mont trip. Tony, his wife Adrienne Goins, and their daughters Marty and Ruthie, very much enjoy all the family-centered activities at ICOH. He seeks a seat on the Vestry to become more deeply involved in community, outreach, growth and education.

**MARY JO COONEY:** Mary-Jo Cooney was born and bred in the Bronx, and is a graduate of Hunter College. She received a Masters of International Affairs from Columbia University. She was a public policy analyst and speech writer for CBS, Inc. After coming to the Wash, DC area, she earned a law degree from Catholic University. She was an attorney for the U.S. Dept of Transportation and the Transportation Security Administration for over 20 years.

While living in MD, she served on the vestries of Ascension, Sligo Parish and Our Saviour Hillandale and as a delegate to Diocesan Convention for many years. She has been a member of ICOH since 2008. She sings with the choir and serves as a lay reader and chalice. She worked on the ICOH directory and also volunteers with the ICOH crew at Christ House. She lives in Alexandria with her friend Al Gilman and has one son, Alexander Spottswood.

**HANCE HANEY** is a senior fellow in technology policy studies at the Discovery Institute, a nonprofit think tank based in Seattle. He also serves as an acolyte coordinator at ICOH. A fifth-generation Oregonian, he began his career on the staff of former Senator Bob Packwood (R-Ore.), serving as a campaign operative, caseworker, field representative and legislative assistant. He advised Senator Packwood as chairman of the Senate Communications Subcommittee when Congress deliberated the Telecommunications Act of 1996. He subsequently represented the United States Telephone Association and Qwest Communications before Congress and the Federal Communications Commission. He is a graduate of Willamette University in Salem, Ore., where he earned a BA in history and was elected student body president. He is a past president of the Willamette University Alumni Association. He earned a JD from Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, Ore. and is a member of the Oregon State Bar. He is married to Michiko Hamada Haney, an economist. They have two children, Sebastian and Gemma, both acolytes. Hance and Michiko were baptized, confirmed and married at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland.

**KERRY KELLY** has been a member of ICOH since January of 2007. Formerly a member of The Falls Church, TFC's separation from the Episcopal Church in late 2006, prompted Kerry to look for a new church home. With many old friends and new, and a fellow Florida Gator as a much loved Rector, Kerry has found her home. Since joining ICOH, Kerry has served on the Altar Guild of both the Seminary and Zabriskie Chapels and enjoyed volunteering with Christmas Families, the Pumpkin Patch and purchasing school supplies for Alexandria students. While at TFC, Kerry served seven years as a volunteer instructor and small group leader with the church's Jobs Ministry providing spiritual and practical support to community members in job transition. Kerry also volunteered for eight years as an elementary school instructor in DC presenting a values and decision-making seminar developed by the American Red Cross and Junior League of Washington.

Kerry is employed by Waste Management, Inc. as Director of Federal Public Affairs where she represents WM before federal agencies and Congress on environmental and energy issues. Kerry serves on the boards of the Association of Climate Change Officers (ACCO), the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) and the American Biogas Council.

Kerry has a Masters of Public Affairs from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in Austin, and a B.A. in Political Science & Public Administration from the University of Florida.

**BRYAN PHILLIPS** married his wife, Elizabeth, at ICOH in 1999. Their children, Katherine, Avery and Keane were all baptized at ICOH. Bryan practiced architecture for thirteen years before becoming a lawyer specializing in the construction industry. He is a senior counsel with the law firm of Holland & Knight LLP where he has worked for the past fourteen years.

Bryan recently became one of the three Trustees for ICOH, and he just completed a year of service as ICOH's representative to the Virginia Theological Seminary's "Chapel for the Ages Committee" providing guidance and advice for the location and design of the new VTS chapel in the wake of the Seminary chapel fire. Bryan also recently completed the four-year Education for Ministry course with seven other hardy ICOH members. The experience was literally life-changing and helped provide focus to the concepts of "faith" and "mission" in his life. ICOH is an extremely important part of the Philips family's life. Bryan would be grateful for the privilege of serving on the vestry, and for the chance of continuing his family's involvement at ICOH.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Lectionary Readings and  
Schedule of Services



**January 15, Second Sunday after the Epiphany**

1 Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51  
8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:00 a.m., HEII/Baptism

**January 22, Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:6-14; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20  
8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:00 a.m., HEII

**January 29, Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28  
8:00 a.m., HE I, 10:00 a.m., HEI