

# THE ALMOND TREE

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

The Rev. Corry Weierbach, Interim Associate Rector

February 22, 2012



Wouldn't you like to have:

Time to think. Time to relax. Time in peace and quiet. Time away from the many petty concerns you have to deal with each day. Time with one who truly loves you. Time to talk about things that really matter, with someone who really listens.

Does this sound good to you?

This kind of time can be yours during Lent. This is the season of thoughtfulness, a season to consider our lives, and a season for drawing nearer to God. There are many ways of accomplishing these things; traditional ones are prayer, fasting, and self-denial (such as "giving up" foods or television viewing). Quiet days and Lenten retreats are available, offering prayer and reflection time away from the daily routine. Many people take up practices such as reading the Bible (see the Daily Office lectionary in back of the prayer book, for example), serving in soup kitchens and shelters, and otherwise helping people in need.

These Lenten "habits" serve two wonderful purposes, in my experience: they keep reminding me of God during my daily life; and also, they help me stay focused on the things I believe are most important. Such habits, if we practice them faithfully, can become lifelong practices, and enrich our lives in ways beyond our imagining.

Overall, our Lenten efforts act to make a larger space in our lives for our spiritual life and relationship with God. If we needed an incentive or an opportunity to begin to make a change in the things we do that are not good for our minds, bodies, and souls, Lent can serve this purpose. But first, we must begin! A great place to start will be Immanuel's Lenten Series on Sunday evenings from 5 to 7 p.m. I hope all of us will come to one or more of these evening discussions about who we are and who we might become.

Let's also challenge ourselves to pick something for our individual focus during Lent. Read the Bible; eat and exercise to become more healthy and vibrant; take a course; take part in worship and serving the community. Whatever other things we do, it is most important to set aside some time each day for talking to God, and listening to what the Spirit may whisper in your heart in reply. Here are some conversation starter questions: What am I most thankful for in my life? Where do I see God at work in the world most often? What habits or activities in my life do I most need to change, either by including or excluding something? When I dream of a better life for myself and for the world, what part can I play, and where should I start? You will find that God is a very good listener, and welcomes hearing from you. That discovery in itself will help you along a good path.

*Corry+*

**PASTORAL CARE CORNER Please remember these parishioners in your prayers:**

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, Barbara Fornoff, Vivian Gray, Mary Goeser, Sara Fein, Christine Michaelis.

**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, Joyce 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, Millie and Ray Dovell.

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

**SCHOLARSHIP DRIVE A SUCCESS!** Your response to the annual scholarship drive for kids in Haiti and the Dominican Republic was a spectacular success. Your prayers and support will allow **43 Dominican Children** to get a quality education at San Marcos Episcopal School in Haina. These children are from very poor families who would otherwise never have educational opportunities. Additionally, your prayers and support sustains **15 Haitian orphans** at St. Peter's Church in Mirebalais, Haiti. Through the Haiti Micah Project, headed by Fr. Joseph Constant at Virginia Theological Seminary, these children will be provided love, security, food, shelter, and an education. *Your Outreach Committee thanks everyone for their support!*

**NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE:**

After 11 months of prayerful discernment, the Nominating Committee for Bishop Suffragan announces the following slate of nominees:

The Rev. Randy Alexander  
Rector of Christ Church, Pelham  
Diocese of New York

The Rev. Canon Susan Goff  
Canon to the Ordinary  
Diocese of Virginia

The Very Rev. David May  
Rector of Grace Church, Kilmarnock  
Diocese of Virginia

The Very Rev. Dr. Hilary Smith  
Rector of St. Paul's on-the-Hill, Winchester  
Diocese of Virginia

The Very Rev. Shirley Smith Graham  
Rector of St. Martin's, Williamsburg  
Diocese of Southern Virginia

The Rev. Canon Sue Sommer  
Subdean and Canon Pastor of Grace & Holy Trinity  
Cathedral  
Diocese of West Missouri

You can learn more about the candidates, plus a detailed description of the Nominating Process, in [the Final Report of the Nominating Committee for Bishop Suffragan](#). This report contains the candidates' biographies, a letter of introduction and responses to three essay questions.

All nominees will visit the Diocese in March to participate in a series of walkabouts, a series of meetings scheduled to provide the Diocese with the opportunity to meet, hear from and talk with the nominees. These gatherings are open to anyone and not just to delegates to Council. The only one in Northern Virginia will take place on March 22, at Good Shepherd, Burke (9324 Braddock Road) from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m.

The Bishop Suffragan will be elected at an Electing Council to be held at St. George's, Fredericksburg on April 21, 2012

## **FORUM HOUR ON FEBRUARY 26**, at 9:00am

Come and hear about the orphanage in Romania for which the ICOH knitting group is knitting hats, blankets and socks! The Rev. Sean Cavanaugh, Head Chaplain at Saint Stephens and Saint Agnes School, will be here to talk about his experience with the orphanage and the many trips he has taken with students to the Romanian orphanage named Pro-Vita.



## **ASH WEDNESDAY**

**THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!** Thanks to everyone who participated in the Alive! collection in January, either with food or by check. Immanuel is always a very generous parish and the donations are greatly appreciated.

**ELIZABETH ECKERT LAUNCHES NEW ALBUM PROJECT** Immanuelite and singer-songwriter Elizabeth Eckert has launched a 60 day PledgeMusic campaign, taking supporters on the journey of making and releasing her second album.

Pledgers will receive exclusive updates of new songs, lyrics, videos, and pictures throughout the recording process. The campaign will also support Thistle Farms, a social enterprise for women who have survived lives of trafficking, prostitution, and addiction. Go to [www.pledgemusic.com/projects/ElizabethEckert](http://www.pledgemusic.com/projects/ElizabethEckert) for details.

**HEIFER FAIR ON ITS WAY!** Sunday School will be holding their annual Heifer Fair during the 9:00 coffee hour on Sunday 4 March. Heifer International is a global organization who provides livestock and training to families struggling with hunger and poverty. Each class will pick an animal and ask the congregation to join in and purchase shares. The fair will feature games, snacks and more information about this wonderful organization. A donation makes a wonderful gift. Gift cards will be available. Please join us.

**MISSING COAT:** Did anyone pick up a rain coat by mistake from the coat rack in the parish hall on Sunday, February 19? There seems to have been a switch of as many as three men's rain coats. If you have one that's not yours, please bring it back this Sunday and look for your own!

The church's liturgy on Ash Wednesday invites us "to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word." This first day of Lent sets the pattern for our Lenten observance: one which leads directly to our recognition that we are mortal, we will die and, indeed, are in the process of dying all the time. Our sin is not the primary focus of our attention. Instead, our recognition that we are sinful moves us to an awareness of our need to change and be changed. Our repentance becomes not an end in itself but a renewed relationship of children to God opening us to accept God's love, mercy, and peace.

As a result, prayer, fasting, and self-denial are saved from being mere good works for our own benefit, and instead free us and our time and our resources to a new and deeper scope of ministry to others. Finally, in the scriptures we recover once again the story of God's mighty acts of salvation for the entire human race: we discover once again that we are part of a vast company of believers in every age on pilgrimage into God's kingdom.

When we receive the ashes on the first day of Lent, we do so within the Body of Christ. Here, in the company of our fellow sinners, we are not in danger of taking pride in our penitence because we are all alike in our sinfulness. We should consider carefully, however, the words Christ addresses to us in the Gospel reading on this day, asking ourselves, "Can I wear these ashes into the world without feeling a kind of self-righteousness about them? Should I heed the Lord's word and wash my face before going out from the Body into the world?"

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.

## Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Lent 2012 Message

I greet you at the beginning of Lent.

In this year I'm going to invite you to think about the ancient traditions of preparing in solidarity with candidates for baptism, to think about the old disciplines of prayer and fasting and alms-giving and study, through the focus on those beyond our communities, in the developing world, who live in abject poverty.

I invite you to use the Millennium Development Goals as your focus for Lenten study and discipline and prayer and fasting this year. I'm going to remind you that the Millennium Development Goals are about healing the worst of the world's hunger. They're about seeing that all children get access to primary education. They're about empowering women. They're about attending to issues of maternal health and child mortality. They're about attending to issues of communicable disease like AIDS and malaria and tuberculosis. They're about environmentally sustainable development, seeing that people have access to clean water and sanitation and that the conditions in slums are alleviated. And finally, they are about aid, foreign aid. They're about trade relationships, and they're about building partnerships for sustainable development in this world. *(Editor's Note: see other side of this page for the Prayers for the Millennium Development Goals.)*

As you pray through the forty days of Lent, I encourage you to attend to the needs of those with the least around the world. I would invite you to study, both about how human beings live in other parts of the world and our own responsibility as Christians.

What the Bible says more often than anything else is to tend to the needs of the widows and orphans, those without. Jesus himself says, "Care for the least of these."

I invite you to consider your alms-giving discipline this Lent and remember those in the developing world who go without.

I wish you a blessed Lent and a joyful resurrection at the end of it that may be shared with others around the world.

God bless you.

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori

Presiding Bishop and Primate, [The Episcopal Church](#)



## **PRAYERS FOR THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Pray for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and especially for the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger.

Pray for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and especially for universal primary education.

Pray for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and especially for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Pray for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and especially for a reduction in child mortality.

Pray for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and especially for the improvement of maternal health.

Pray for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and especially for the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

Pray for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and especially for environmental sustainability.

Pray for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and especially for a global partnership for development.

# MARCH




03/01 Sharon Waiss  
03/02 Barney Hawkins  
03/02 April Toman  
03/03 Cecile Phillips  
03/03 Owen Davies  
03/03 Carson Arp  
03/03 Tyler Harris  
03/04 Kathy Conrad  
03/04 Katja Shimkin  
03/04 Hayden Arp  
03/05 Carole Phillips  
03/05 Carol Sparhawk  
03/05 Thomas Cuddy  
03/06 Michelle Cook  
03/06 Lily Hunt  
03/07 Tony Rogers  
03/07 Rebecca Rainey  
03/07 Matt Haskin  
03/08 Arthur Dawkins  
03/08 Patrick Bellinger  
03/08 Rob Johnson  
03/09 Louisa Smucker  
03/09 Annie Maynard  
03/11 Bob Bates  
03/11 Cynthia Morton  
03/11 Karyn Moran  
03/11 Reese Goldsmith  
03/12 Chris Karlsen  
03/12 Richard Hobson  
03/12 Melinda Snow  
03/13 Albert Burgess  
03/13 Jenifer Larson  
03/14 Jake Cohn  
03/15 Jackie Phillips  
03/16 Constance Casey  
03/16 Waide Egener  
03/16 Margaret Stockton  
03/16 Harry Diffendal  
03/16 Hillary Clausen  
03/17 Patrick Tribe  
03/17 Marcus Rarick  
03/17 Peter Albritton

03/17 Jack Hambrick  
03/18 Danie Barrows  
03/18 Joella Rhoades  
03/19 Kerry Perkins  
03/20 Lizzie Peabody  
03/20 Ruthie Christino  
03/21 Michael Pawlukiewicz  
03/21 Marianne Ingold  
03/21 Keith Jerdan  
03/22 Katie Elberfeld  
03/22 Jahi Stockton  
03/23 Deborah Peetz  
03/23 Jean Mostrom  
03/23 Peter Phillips  
03/23 Sarah Friday  
03/23 Tyler Conklin  
03/23 Nicky Vassev  
03/23 Isabella Vasseva  
03/24 Wendy Hoge  
03/24 Mary Jane Ruhl  
03/24 Janice Corbett  
03/24 Eleanor Whitaker  
03/25 Page Fox  
03/25 Bobbi Thomas  
03/25 Jackson O'Donnell  
03/25 Bethany O'Donnell  
03/26 Zachary Eisenhour  
03/27 Beverlee Bolton  
03/27 Terri LaGoe  
03/27 Christine Michaelis  
03/27 Christa Knight  
03/27 Miles Malone  
03/27 Zachary Thompson  
03/28 Susan Gildersleeve  
03/28 Suzanne Conklin  
03/29 Gavin Baltes  
03/30 Kyrah Drasheff  
03/30 David Atwood  
03/30 Jessie Riposo  
03/31 Billie Tyler  
03/31 Matthew Shallbetter  
03/31 Ashlei Pujara  
03/31 Joseph Sullivan

Watch over thy child, O Lord, as *his* days increase; bless and guide *him* wherever *he* may be, keeping *him* unspotted from the world. Strengthen *him* when *he* stands; comfort *him* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *him* up if *he* fall; and in *his* heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## MARCH 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b> Lent 1 <b>8:00 AM</b> HE-I, Zabriskie <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School <b>9:05 AM</b> Circle of Quiet, Vestry Room <b>10:00 AM</b> Holy Eucharist I, Chapel <b>5:00 PM - 7:00 PM</b> Lenten Program, Parish Hall	<b>27</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Qi gong, Parish Hall <b>7:30 PM - 8:45 PM</b> Yoga, Parish Hall	<b>28</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> Outreach Committee, Fairchild Room	<b>29</b> <b>6:30 AM</b> Early Christians, Fairchild <b>8:20 AM - 11:35 AM</b> Senior Exercise Classes, Parish Hall	<b>1</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir, Choir Room <b>7:30 PM - 9:00 PM</b> Discernment Group, Vestry Room	<b>2</b> <b>8:20 AM - 11:35 AM</b> Senior Exercise Classes, Parish Hall <b>12:30 PM</b> Muslim Worship, Parish Hall <b>8:30 PM</b> AA, Fairchild	<b>3</b> <b>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Dignity, Zabriskie
<b>4</b> Lent 2 <b>8:00 AM</b> HE-I, Zabriskie <b>9:00 AM</b> Heifer Fair, Parish Hall <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School <b>9:05 AM</b> Circle of Quiet, Vestry Room <b>10:00 AM</b> Holy Eucharist II, Chapel <b>11:30 AM</b> Youth Group, Fairchild Room <b>5:00 PM - 7:00 PM</b> Lenten Program, Parish Hall	<b>5</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Qi gong, Parish Hall <b>1:00 PM</b> Book Club, Fairchild Room <b>7:30 PM - 8:45 PM</b> Yoga, Parish Hall	<b>6</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> ALIVE, Parish Hall <b>7:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Benedictine Community, Vestry Room, Undercroft	<b>7</b> <b>6:30 AM</b> Early Christians, Fairchild <b>8:20 AM - 11:35 AM</b> Senior Exercise Classes, Parish Hall	<b>8</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir, Choir Room <b>7:30 PM</b> Seminary Hill Association, Parish Hall	<b>9</b> TAT deadline <b>8:20 AM - 11:35 AM</b> Senior Exercise Classes, Parish Hall <b>12:30 PM</b> Muslim Worship, Parish Hall <b>8:30 PM</b> AA, Fairchild	<b>10</b> <b>9:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b> Opera rehearsal <b>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Dignity, Zabriskie
 DAY LIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS Lent 3 <b>8:00 AM</b> HE-I, Zabriskie <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School <b>9:05 AM</b> Circle of Quiet, Vestry Room <b>10:00 AM</b> Holy Eucharist II, Chapel <b>11:30 AM</b> Worship Planning, Vestry Room <b>2:00 PM</b> Opera rehearsal <b>5:00 PM - 7:00 PM</b> Lenten Program, Parish Hall	<b>12</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Qi gong, Parish Hall <b>7:00 PM</b> Opera Rehearsal <b>7:30 PM - 8:45 PM</b> Yoga, Parish Hall	<b>13</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Goodwin House luncheon <b>6:30 PM</b> Vestry, Vestry Room	<b>14</b> TAT Mailing <b>6:30 AM</b> Early Christians, Fairchild <b>8:20 AM - 11:35 AM</b> Senior Exercise Classes, Parish Hall	<b>15</b> <b>3:30 AM</b> Saints in Prayer, Fairchild Room <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir, Choir Room	<b>16</b> <b>8:20 AM - 11:35 AM</b> Senior Exercise Classes, Parish Hall <b>12:30 PM</b> Muslim Worship, Parish Hall <b>7:00 PM</b> Opera performance <b>8:30 PM</b> AA, Fairchild	<b>17</b> <b>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Dignity, Zabriskie <b>8:00 PM</b> Opera performance
<b>18</b> Lent 4 <b>8:00 AM</b> HE-I, Zabriskie <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School <b>9:05 AM</b> Circle of Quiet, Vestry Room <b>10:00 AM</b> Holy Eucharist II, Chapel <b>11:30 AM</b> Youth Group, Fairchild Room <b>4:00 PM</b> Opera performance <b>5:00 PM - 7:00 PM</b> Lenten Program, Parish Hall	<b>19</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Qi gong, Parish Hall <b>7:00 PM</b> Opera rehearsal, nave <b>7:30 PM - 8:45 PM</b> Yoga, Parish Hall	<b>20</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Knitting Group, 1823 Pub/VTS <b>7:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Benedictine Community, Vestry Room, Undercroft	<b>21</b> <b>6:30 AM</b> Early Christians, Fairchild <b>8:20 AM - 11:35 AM</b> Senior Exercise Classes, Parish Hall	<b>22</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir, Choir Room	<b>23</b> TAT deadline <b>8:20 AM - 11:35 AM</b> Senior Exercise Classes, Parish Hall <b>12:30 PM</b> Muslim Worship, Parish Hall <b>7:00 PM</b> Opera performance, nave <b>8:30 PM</b> AA, Fairchild	<b>24</b> <b>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Dignity, Zabriskie <b>8:00 PM</b> Opera performance, nave
<b>25</b> Lent 5 <b>8:00 AM</b> HE-I, Zabriskie <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School <b>9:05 AM</b> Circle of Quiet, Vestry Room <b>10:00 AM</b> Holy Eucharist I, Chapel <b>4:00 PM</b> Opera performance <b>5:00 PM - 7:00 PM</b> Lenten Program, Parish Hall	<b>26</b> <b>7:30 PM - 8:45 PM</b> Yoga, Parish Hall	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> TAT Mailing <b>6:30 AM</b> Early Christians, Fairchild <b>8:20 AM - 11:35 AM</b> Senior Exercise Classes, Parish Hall	<b>29</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir, Choir Room <b>7:30 PM</b> Pastoral Care, Fairchild Room	<b>30</b> <b>8:20 AM - 11:35 AM</b> Senior Exercise Classes, Parish Hall <b>12:30 PM</b> Muslim Worship, Parish Hall <b>8:30 PM</b> AA, Fairchild	<b>31</b> <b>10:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b> Music rehearsal, Chapel <b>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Dignity, Zabriskie

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Lectionary Readings and  
Schedule of Services



**February 26, First Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-13

8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:00 a.m., HEI

**March 4, Second Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 16; Romans 8:31-39; Mark 8:31-38

8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:00 a.m., HEII

**March 11, Third Sunday in Lent**

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19:7-14; Romans 7:13-25; John 2:13-22

8:00 a.m., HE I, 10:00 a.m., HEII