

THE ALMOND TREE

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

The Rev. Corry Weierbach, Interim Associate Rector

March 14, 2012



(Photo by Holly Foss)

PLEASE WELCOME MARY SULERUD!

We are delighted to announce that the Reverend Canon Mary Sulerud of the National Cathedral has accepted our call to be the Interim Rector of Immanuel on the Hill for the next year as we search for a new leader. Mary — whose last name is pronounced *su-le-ROOD* — will help us discern who and where we are as a parish and what we desire in a leader. She will also keep us moving forward and help us get "in ship shape" to call our next Rector.

The Wardens and Vestry are grateful to Bishop Shannon Johnston and Lindsay Ryland, the Diocese's deployment officer, for their ongoing advice, help and support in locating such a proven leader with a strong background in preaching, worship, stewardship and pastoral care. We especially appreciate that the Bishop and Lindsay sought candidates who would understand the unique ties that this church has with the Virginia Theological Seminary.

Mary, who describes herself as "an Energizer bunny," says that ICOH feels like returning home for her and for her husband, Peder, an architect. The two relocated from Minneapolis to Alexandria when Mary attended VTS, fully expecting to return to Minnesota. But after graduating in 1988, Mary first served as a chaplain at St. Agnes School (now SSSAS) and as an Assistant and later Associate Rector at Grace, Alexandria before accepting a call as Rector at Church of the Ascension, Silver Spring. Once daughter Emily finished at T.C. Williams, the Sulreuds moved across the river to downtown Silver Spring, where they still live today. So now Mary will reverse the commute she once made across the District!

Since 2002, Mary has served the Diocese of Washington in several roles, as canon for deployment and vocational ministry and as cannon for stewardship. Currently she is the Interim Director of Worship at the Cathedral where ICOH's own Frank Wade is Interim Dean while a search for a new dean is underway. She also consults nationally in the areas of congregational development and stewardship — another plus, as we have a capital campaign underway. As for her VTS ties, she has served as a spiritual director and as a co-trainer of seminary supervisors in the field education office.

As a former deployment officer, Mary understands parishes in leadership transitions and the new opportunities for growth during the search process. And, on other side of the coin, Mary is sensitive to the questions priests have in determining whether a congregation is a good fit and a healthy place for them. Finally, having been abruptly displaced for months from her work and worship space by last August's earthquake damage to the Cathedral, Mary is empathetic to loss of Seminary Chapel in our community.

Mary's first day with us will be Monday, April 30. ***Please plan to attend a forum hour and festive reception to meet Mary and learn more about her ministry with us on Sunday, May 6th.***

The stars have aligned, the Holy Spirit has done her work, as Corry Weierbach assured us would happen when we set out on this leg of the journey. Thanks be to God!

Your Wardens & Vestry

PASTORAL CARE CORNER Please remember these parishioners in your prayers:

Duncan MacDonald, Morgan, Lloyd Mostrom, Nancy Wise, Bobbie King, Marcia, Tom Murray, Janet Siegrist, Mary, Annie, Catherine Sinclair, Sky Beaven, Jessi Macleod, Yvonne Pover, Margaret Messenger Kerekes, Linda Murphy, Sally Guy Brown, Barbara Fornoff, Vivian Gray, Mary Goeser, Christine Michaelis, Susan Dawson, Linda Donahue, Dana Hengst, Chris Stanek; Mei-Lung DeVight.

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, 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, Patricia Ryan, Bob Davies, Patricia Smith, Josie Guardipee, Clinton Ross Fitzgerald, Helen Butler, Wally and Gerry Clinton, Millie and Ray Dovell, Sam Faeth, Bill Nations.

For those who have died: Suzanne Tellechea, sister of Sam Faeth.

Serving our country at home and abroad: Todd Bates, Paul Bednar, Tom and Anne Duffy, Philip Smucker., Ian Phillips, Liza Conrad,.



EASTER PRAYER WATCH (in the Vestry Room): Our annual Easter Prayer Watch will begin at 9:00 p.m. on Good Friday, April 6th, following the Good Friday Liturgy service and end at 5:00 p.m., Saturday, April 7th, prior to the Great Vigil service. **Note: The Prayer Watch will**

not be in the chapel but in the Vestry Room to allow the Altar Guild to set up the chapel on Saturday morning.. You are invited to take part in the Prayer Watch by giving one hour of your time, for an unbroken, 20-hour vigil. This will be a time for prayer, reading, music, art work, writing/journaling, or just being present in silence. A sign-up board will be placed in the Narthex. Questions: call Andy Biache, 703-836-6853.

EASTER EGG HUNT: The Easter Bunny has asked the ICOH Mother's Group to help again this year with the annual Immanuel-on-the-Hill Easter egg hunt on Easter morning. Please bring your own basket and join us in the gardens behind Zabriskie Chapel



immediately after the 9:00 a.m. service. Children ages 1-10 will especially enjoy the event but all are welcome to partake. Light refreshments will be served. If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact Ashlei Pujara at rupalp99@gmail.com.

IMMANUELITE STEVE JOHN'S DEBUT NOVEL & BOOK-SIGNING: Steve John's first book, Three A.M., will be published March 27, 2012, by a division of Macmillan & Co.. After a Barnes & Noble book-signing event in California, our local Barnes & Noble at 555 12th St., N.W., D.C. will host a signing event on **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2012**, starting at 6:30 p.m. (Store location is at the corner of 12th & E., N.W.. Convenient metro access via Metro Center is 1 block away; paid street parking starts at 6:30 p.m., and there are 2 commercial lots in the same block as the bookstore.) Please join Steve and our family at the signing and please see his website for more details about his exciting work: www.stevenjohnbooks.com. There you'll see that Publisher's Weekly calls Steve's book a "compelling debut" and you'll learn more about the current activities of this former ICOH acolyte.

HEIFER FAIR REPORT: Thank you to everyone who attended Sunday School's annual Heifer Fair. Heifer International is a global organization who provides livestock and training to families struggling with hunger and poverty. Sunday School has raised money for many years to help support this meaningful program. With your help this year we are again well on our way to purchasing an ark. We will continue to accept donations thru the month of March. Please make checks payable to ICOH. **To the Heifer Fair creative team** — Linda Serabian, Ashley Chappell, Elizabeth Lynch and all the Sunday School teachers — thank you for staging a joyful event where happy kids could make a difference.

SEMINARY MAKES A \$50,000 GIFT FOR ZABRISKIE CHAPEL: At the Sunday Forum Hour on February 19 Dr. Ian Markham, Dean and President of Virginia Theological Seminary, presented the following letter to our parish:

To the Capital Campaign Committee of Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill:

On behalf of Virginia Theological Seminary, we would like to make a \$50,000 pledge (\$10,000 per year for five years starting in academic year 2012-2013), toward the capital campaign for Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill. This should be applied to the 50% of the campaign dedicated to improvements at Zabriskie Chapel.

We value the deep relationship with ICOH. This is a symbol of our shared commitment in ministry.

Yours in Christ,

Ian Markham
Dean and President

Heather Zdancewicz
Vice President for Administration and Finance

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GRACE AND GRATITUDE: Great thanks to Mary-Jo Cooney for her help in hauling all the books from Sam's and Peter's offices up to the Parish Hall on Thursday, March 8. There were more books than we had expected and I certainly couldn't have done it without her. **To the Immanuel knitters** for sending Christ's love into the world through dozens of warm and colorful garments for the children of Romania's Pro Vita orphanage.

NEW POLICY FOR MAILING OUT PLEDGE STATEMENTS: Upgrades to the financial data base system used by the office now enables us to e-mail pledge statements to individuals. This will save the church a fair amount of both money and time and will be good for the environment. Therefore, beginning with the March quarterly pledge statement, all statements will be sent via e-mail. So that you can be looking for your statement, we will post a notice in the This Week at Immanuel the week prior to the emails going out. To ensure accurate delivery, please advise the Parish Administrator, Jennifer Addington, (jaddington@icoh.net), if your e-mail address has recently changed and she has not been previously notified. For those who do not have email, or do not wish to receive quarterly statements by e-mail, please advise the Treasurer, Marcus Rarick (mrarick@icoh.net) before March 31st, 2012. Statements for those individuals will be printed, put in envelopes, and made available either in the narthex or Parish Hall on Sundays for a couple of weeks after March 31st. Those which have not been picked up after a reasonable period will be sent via "snail mail". In the interest of economy and the environment we hope everyone who can, will take advantage of e-mail delivery of pledge statements.

ANNUAL ORAL REHYDRATION PROJECT: About 25 ICOH volunteers are needed on two Wednesday evenings — **March 21 and March 28** — from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Temple Beth El up the street at 3830 Seminary Road. We will be readying the ingredients (sugars, salts, etc.) that will be used in April to create Gatorade-like packets, which, when combined with boiled water, can alleviate suffering and disease like cholera. And **please mark April 22 on your calendar, the date when hundreds of volunteers are needed** at the Temple to assemble the oral rehydration packets which will be distributed to international relief agencies to send to sites of natural or man-made disasters. Look for more details on the April 21 event.

Can you help March 21 or March 28? Contact parishioner David Ingold, davidingold@comcast.net or (703) 751-8635.

ICOH MEN'S ANNUAL FISHING TRIP:



Ahoy, men of Immanuel. The date of this year's Annual Immanuel Men's Group's rock fishing expedition is **Friday, May 18th**. (not May 11 as previously reported). Look for more details in the Sunday bulletin and also the next Almond Tree.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Lectionary Readings and
Schedule of Services



March 18, Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

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

March 25, Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-13; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

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

April 1, Sunday of the Passion, Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:32—15:47

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