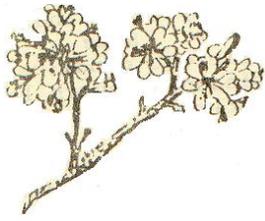


# THE ALMOND TREE

## Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

The Rev. Mary Sulerud, Interim Rector  
The Rev. David Crosby, Assistant Rector  
Jennifer Addington, Editor

September 12, 2012



### HERE I AM! THE MINISTRY OF PRESENCE CONSIDERED.

One of the favorite quotes of the late Churchill Gibson, long-time chaplain at Virginia Theological Seminary, was that ministry was 95-99% showing up. (He also used to say to us at our most earnest and anxious that if it was Friday at noon and you felt that it was time to climb up on the cross, it was time to go home and take a nap.) In a culture in which so much social interaction is via Facebook, Twitter or a host of other social media, the church is one of those places, like school, where showing up, being physically present, matters. As a community of faith we put a high value on interacting with other people, face-to-face, no Skype involved. As much as I value email and social media for staying in touch with many, many people, family, friends and acquaintances, finally to benefit deeply from a relationship I need to spend time with the people who are in my life. There's another party to this relationship in our lives as a congregation, and that party is Christ. While I believe that God in Christ is everywhere and with us always, the well where I go to eat and drink of this presence is a church full of God's people.

In the nearly four months that I have been at ICOH you have been faithful and honest about what you are seeking from God and from the relationship with one another that defines what it means to be this congregation. In response, throughout the summer, the Worship, Mission and Outreach, Growth and Education Committees have met and planned a fall, winter and spring full of opportunities to engage in our relationship with Christ and one another in many ways that we hope will deepen our lives as a congregation as well inspire us to bring Christ's reconciling love to the world. Opportunities for all ages abound to worship, learn, play and serve. Now we need you to be present.

We can offer outstanding opportunities for our youth through Godly Play, Sunday school, confirmation, acolytes, youth group, choir and community service, but if we don't have a critical mass of young people participating offering these ministries becomes very challenging both for the adults who give of their time and their lives, as well as the young people who do participate and wonder where everyone else is. Likewise we have expanded our worship and formation opportunities for adults as requested, but there too we need folks to say "Here I am". Pumpkin season will be upon us and one of the largest efforts in the metropolitan area to serve the neediest in the world will require a little bit of time from as many of us as are able to make this event a reality. We need you to be present.

A great deal competes for our time. Most of which is very good and fun. For congregational life to be holy and formative, we need to choose it, and the God of love, justice and mercy who makes it possible at least as often, if not more, than everything else in our lives competing for our time. This is how we are formed and made disciples of Christ. All these years later there is great wisdom in the adage that a great deal of ministry is just showing up. My prayer for us is just that.

God's peace,  
Mary+



## Preliminary Pumpkin Proclamation 2012

*John C. von Senden*

### October is Coming — and so are Pumpkins

Pumpkins will arrive at 11:30-am, Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2012. We will be celebrating Mass-on-the-Grass that morning at 10 a.m. with the Very Rev. Ian Markham, Dean of VTS as our guest preacher. Pumpkin unloading will begin immediately after the service, so wear pumpkin appropriate attire – suitable for unloading. This year we will again have two trucks the first day. The next two trucks will arrive at 4-pm, Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of October. This is our largest fundraiser for **OUTREACH** and this is our **Nineteenth** year for this wonderful project. So how can you help now?

**First** If you are new to Immanuel since last October, or you just want more information about our Pumpkin Patch, please talk to John von Senden, Jim Snow or anyone on the Outreach Committee.

**Second** Please start **COOKING** and **FREEZING** you own preferred recipe of **SOUPS** and **BREADS** and list the ingredients. A substantial portion of our profit comes from food sales.

We have standard quart containers for soups; we've learned this size and container works best for both cooks and customers. Breads can be packaged as you choose. The containers are located in the Narthex. If you run out of freezer space at home we have a freezer at church; please coordinate with Mary Taylor before using the church freezer though.

Remember that pretty packaging (such as a ribbon or sticker) really helps our sales of these items. And please don't forget the **LIST OF INGREDIENTS** (which helps avoid food allergy issues).

If you have any questions contact Mary Taylor

**Third** Talk to John von Senden or Jim Snow about becoming a team member. This is a fun and worthwhile endeavor and there are many opportunities to take a leadership role; it is also a great way to meet everyone in the Parish.

**Fourth** Start considering when in October **YOU** can **SELL**. This will be a busy pumpkin season and we need many volunteers. The **SIGN-UP CALENDAR** is in the Narthex!. Contact Candy Levin or Kyrah Drasheff with questions.

And save the date for Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November (after the Patch) for our Annual Harvest Dinner

**Finally** If you have any ideas, contributions or suggestions please contact John von Senden at [jvonsenden@comcast.net](mailto:jvonsenden@comcast.net) or Jim Snow at (703) 751-4853. And plan on having fun with pumpkins in October.

**PASTORAL CARE CORNER:** Please remember these parishioners in your prayers: Duncan MacDonald, Morgan, Lloyd Mostrom, Nancy Wise, Janet Siegrist, Linda Murphy, Mary Goeser, Catherine, Susan Kernan, Mary, Tom Hewson, Senie Oglesby, Jan Maas.

Please also remember in your prayers members of our extended Parish family: Joan Aldretti, Tim Boyd, Dean and Charlotte Kellogg, Tennille Littleton, Chris Rarick, Susan Shallbetter, Tom Stasz, Bob Davies, Eleanor Boothe Smith, Stephen Miller, Jim Rarick, Irv Schiff, Patricia Smith, Josie Guardipee, Helen Butler, Sam Faeth, Bill Nations, Lawrence Sanchez, Paul, Joan Cummins, Eric Reading, Sr., Cameron, Jim Rehnke, Sue Rehnke, Laurie, Caitlin Rivers, Patricia Ryan, Chris Stanek, Dana Hengst, Lois and Don McCorvie, Anthony Christino, Jr., Dru Eckard, Grafton and Elesa McFadden, Mike Hart, Jane Burton, Marsha Porter, Liz McLeod, Laura, Keith Green, Evelyn Rowe, Meg Clontz, Chris Moore, June Lephien.

**Serving our country at home and abroad:** Todd Bates, Paul Bednar, Yolanda Bednar, Tom and Anne Duffy, Liza Conrad, John Patrick Miller, Ian Phillips.

**Pray for the search and transition process** for Immanuel Church as we seek a new rector.

### **CONFIRMATION CLASSES TO BEGIN:**

Young people who, after appropriate instruction, wish to make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their baptism, are presented to a Bishop for Confirmation by the laying on of hands. Think of it as your 'driver's license in the church.' We expect a bishop to visit us in January 2013. All interested baptized young people are invited to sign up for our Youth Confirmation Class. Please speak with Rev. David in person or by phoning him at the church office. Thanks.

**FALL FITNESS CLASSES:** A variety of exercise classes: Senior-cize, tai chi, qi gong, yoga and more, are offered by INOVA HealthSource and held at Immanuel's parish hall on weekdays. Big news is that Donna Sturm, the instructor who holds classes at our Shine Mont retreat, will once again be offering a beginners' yoga class at 6:15 p.m. on Mondays, in addition to the regular yoga class at 7:30 p.m. Please register promptly so classes don't get cancelled due to low enrollment. Learn more by going to <http://inovahealthsource.org/classes/fitness-a-well-being>. *Classes begin the week of October 1<sup>st</sup>.*



### **ARE YOU A "NEEDLER"?**

Immanuel on the Hill has a knitting group that meets once a month at the Virginia Theological Seminary Pub. We welcome all knitters, crochet folk, needlework of any kind for a time to craft and share fellowship. We are meeting on the fourth Monday of the month at VTS pub at 6:30 PM. Please contact Barbara Fornoff for more information or to be added to the email list, at [cr8weaver@aol.com](mailto:cr8weaver@aol.com) or at 703-978-1767. Please come join us!

### **CELEBRATE THE PAST, DREAM OF THE FUTURE: 50 years of Camps at Shrine Mont:**

Since 1962, diocesan camps at Shrine Mont have grown to presently serving over 700 of God's children. This year, celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the camps and dream about the next 50 years. Join the people of the Diocese and friends of the camps to talk about the camps of the future. Let's discover how the Diocese can best serve our campers at Shrine Mont. There are many meetings scheduled throughout the Diocese, but there will be one here at Immanuel on October 11, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in our parish hall.

### **TUTOR, AND CHANGE TWO LIVES!**

The Alexandria Tutoring Consortium needs dependable volunteers who love children and reading to do one-on-one tutoring with Alexandria City Public School kindergarteners and first graders who need extra help with literacy skills. Training, lesson plans and materials targeted at each child's reading needs, and support are provided. 85% of the 192 children tutored last year reached their spring grade level literacy benchmarks. As one tutor remarked, "So little effort for the volunteer, yet so rewarding!" And for the child, learning to read can make a difference that lasts a lifetime. Please go to [www.alexandriatutors.org](http://www.alexandriatutors.org) for more information and to register. Call 703-549-6670 ext. 119 with questions or to have a registration form mailed.

### **FRANK WADE INTERVIEWS WITH OBAMA AND ROMNEY:**

Our own Rev. Dr. Francis Wade spoke with CNN and MSNBC about his interviews with Obama and Romney about their religious views. He also wrote an article about religion in elections which was published in the current issue of *Cathedral Age*. The interviews can be seen on <http://video.msnbc.msn.com/the-daily-rundown/48737575>.

**OUR NEW SUFFRAGAN BISHOP TO ADDRESS REGION IV.** The Rt. Rev. Susan Goff will be the featured speaker at the September 19 meeting of Region IV. All parishioners are invited to attend the meeting and to meet and welcome Bishop Goff to Alexandria. There will be time for questions after the bishop's presentation. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be held in the parish hall of the Church of St. Clement at 1701 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria. The meeting is a potluck supper. Please bring a dish to share or wine or soda to drink. If you have questions, see one of our parish representative to Region IV ([Stefanie Reponen](mailto:Stefanie.Reponen)) or e-mail David Crosby, Associate Rector of ICOH, at [dcrosby@icoh.net](mailto:dcrosby@icoh.net)."

**ADOPT A SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM!** We are looking for groups in the ICOH Parish who want to support our children as their Sunday school year begins. Adopting a classroom offers groups in the Parish a chance to help de-clutter an assigned room and write a welcome letter to the children who will be using that room. We hope to have an open house to walk through the Sunday school rooms on Registration Sunday, September 16. Groups like our Fishermen, the Knitters, School for the Spirit Regulars, Benedictine Prayer, Early Christians and others may find this an opportunity to support the Parish children as they set out to learn more about the Bible and being Christians. What better way to show the children you care about them and support them? Please contact Martha Shimkin ([mshimkin@comcast.net](mailto:mshimkin@comcast.net)), Tony Christino (Tony Christino ([athome1500@comcast.net](mailto:athome1500@comcast.net)) or Linda Serabian ([serabian@somaarchitects.com](mailto:serabian@somaarchitects.com)) to sign up.

**THREE SERVICES ARE COMING!** Next **Sunday** we will celebrate Holy Eucharist at 8, 9 and 11:15 a.m. with education for adults and children at 10 a.m. A weekday service begins this Wednesday, September 12 at 6:30 p.m.



**ALTAR FLOWERS MAKE THE PERFECT GIFT**

Searching for the perfect gift to celebrate a special person or occasion? Consider a donation of altar flowers.

Altar flowers are a beautiful way to share a joyous occasion in your life (such as baptisms, weddings, anniversaries, and births). Altar flowers are also a deeply meaningful way to recognize and thank special persons or groups who have influenced your life or contributed to the ICOH community. And altar flowers are always appropriate as memorial tributes or in thanksgiving for God's many blessings.

To arrange a donation of altar flowers, please fill out the form below or contact Jennifer Addington in the Parish Office at (703) 370-6555. Your suggested donation of \$50 covers the wholesale cost of flowers. Your donation will be printed in the service bulletin and included in Sunday announcements.

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Altar Flower Donation

Donated by \_\_\_\_\_

Service Date \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

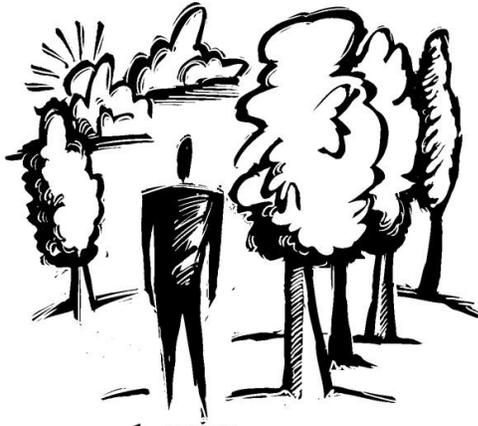
In Thanksgiving for: \_\_\_\_\_

In Celebration of: \_\_\_\_\_



**BLESSING**  
of the Animals

**CALLING ALL PETS!** On Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. we will be blessing animals on Immanuel's front lawn. Special guests include the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. A special "coffee hour" will be available for all creatures great and small.



# Advent Retreat

**Leaving Nazareth**

**Advent Retreat 2012**

**Holy Cross Abbey**

**November 30 - December 2**

Advent for Jesus was leaving his Nazareth and heading to John, the Jordan River, and wilderness. The choice to remain within the security and safety of our own ðNazarethö or journey determines whether we meet our ðJohnö and are led to waters of new life. Our retreat time together will be devoted to exploring how this ancient biblical story is our story as well. In small groups and alone we will explore Jesus' stories as well as be stretched and challenged by contemporary poetry, art, movement, film, journaling, and silence. We will sum up our journey together by breaking bread and drinking wine.

For the sixth year, the Immanuel Advent retreat will be at Holy Cross Abbey in the foothills of the Shenandoah Mountains by the Shenandoah River on a 1200 acre farm near Berryville, Virginia. Our retreat leader will be the Rev. Dr. William Dols, Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill's rector from 1972-1983

The retreat center also has a bookstore (a peaceful place for Christmas shopping) specializing in Cistercian/Benedictine literature, CDs, monastery fruitcakes, honeys and chocolates. The retreat will begin on Friday afternoon, November 30, shortly before the evening meal and will end after the noon meal on Sunday, December 2. The \$300.00 registration fee includes all materials, comfortable accommodations, individual rooms with a private bathroom, and all meals.

Two scholarships given in memory of Charles Willis are available; please contact the rector for scholarship assistance.

Registration is limited to 15 persons; please reserve your space now using the form on the back of this sheet.

**Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill**  
**Advent Retreat**  
**Holy Cross Abbey Retreat House**  
**November 30 – December 2, 2012**

**1. First person registering for retreat**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Daytime Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Second person registering for retreat**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Daytime Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Number of registrants \_\_\_\_\_ x \$300 = \_\_\_\_\_ Total registration fee

Please make check payable to Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill and label it Advent Retreat. Return this form and your check to the Immanuel Church office, 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22304. Please put Advent retreat on the envelope.

If you need to cancel your registration and there is no one on the waiting list who can take your place, Holy Cross Abbey retains the \$50.00 per room deposit. All but \$50.00 of your registration fee would be returned to you.

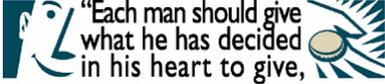
**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN REPORT: WE (YOU) DID IT! WE ARE OVER THE TOP WITH TOTAL PLEDGES AND GIFTS OF \$1003,495.. Grateful thanks to the following individuals who made this possible.**

Addington, Jennifer  
Anderson, Gerald and Eve  
Anonymous  
Arnold, Elizabeth  
Ashton, Brad and Melinda  
Atwood, David and Reuschel, Nancy  
Bednar, Richard and Judy  
Bednarz, Jacquelyn  
Beverly, Opal  
Biache, Andrew  
Brown, Thomas, Jr.  
Bruns, Dennis and Julie  
Burke, Maria  
Campbell, Hugh and Jan  
Carroll, Barbara  
Carter, Mimi  
Christino, Anthony & Adrienne  
Christoffersen, Leif  
Clark, Harrison  
Clausen, James and Lisa  
Conrad, Jamie and Kathy  
Cooney, Mary-Jo  
Cooper, Rebecca  
Corbett, Janice  
Crossmire, Carol  
Cuddy, Emma  
Cuddy, Tom and Carrie  
Currie, George and Barbara  
Cummins, Paul and Gray, Melanie  
Davies, Elaine  
Dawson, Susan  
DeBevoise, Lane  
Dols, Bill  
Dutton, Lynn  
Hoffman, E.  
Eckert, Robert and Beth  
Egener, Waide and Sutherland, Mary Ann  
Epes, Gail  
Evans, James  
Faeth, Margaret Ann  
Fein, Sara  
Flagg, Patricia  
Fortune, Agnes  
Gas, Lynn  
Gilbert, Nancy  
Gilbertson, Susan  
Glassco, Richard and Sarah  
Goeser, Mary

Greiner, Jennifer and Nick  
Guillory, Susan  
  
Haney, Hance and Michiko  
Harris, Tom and Stephanie  
Henderson, Mr. & Mrs. John  
Henry, Douglas  
Hewson, Tom and Debbie  
Hobson, Dick and Kay  
Hoge, Wendy  
Horne, Martha  
Houck, Taylor and Suzanne  
Huntington, Rollin and Ann  
Hussey, Thomas  
Iskra, Wayne  
Jackson-Mason, Jean  
John, Doug and Wendy  
Johnson, Frances and Gordon  
Johnstone, Ginny  
Kellogg, Dorothy  
Kelly, Dan and Nancy  
Kelly, Kerry  
Kerman, Susan  
Kerns, Tom and Roz  
Kilpatrick, Bill and Susan  
King, Roberta  
Kirby, Kevin and Eileen  
Kirkland, Barbara  
Kron, Art  
Kurz, Jim and Connie  
Lamb, Suzanne  
Lambert, David and Mollie  
Levin, Canice  
Lloyd, Arlo and Katie  
Lynch, Len and Sue  
Maas, Jan and Georgia  
Maas, Katherine  
MacLeod, Jessie Ruth  
MacNamara, Ann  
Marbaker, Chris and Diana, Kevin  
McDonald, Chandley  
McDonald, Ken  
McGahuey, Lindsay and Kathryn  
McGahuey, Mike and Sudie  
McKinley, Shirley  
Michaelis, Michael and Christine  
Morton, Bruce and Cynthia  
Mostrom, Susan  
Murphy, Rev. Jo-Ann

Murray, Bob and Carla  
Olsen, Faith  
Onley, Doug and Kameran  
Pattan, Oliver and Van Gelder, Barbara  
Pawlukiewicz, Michael and Janet  
Payne, Doug and Eloise  
Perkins, Betsy  
Peyton, Gordon and Jean  
Phillips, Elizabeth  
Phillips, Jackie  
Phillips, Warren  
Post, Everett and Susan  
Pover, Yvonne  
Rainey, Gregory  
Randolph, Julien and Mabel  
Rarick, Marcus  
Raybold, Joan  
Reading, Eric  
Reponen, Stefanie  
Roberts, Brooke  
Robillard, Marda and Tribe, Patrick  
Rogers, Tony and Patsy  
Rosselot, Audrey  
Serabian, Linda  
Shimkin, Tom and Martha  
Shostal, Pierre and Hilary  
Sinclair, Katherine  
Skubel, Stewart and Teresa  
Smith, Katherine  
Smucker, John and Louisa  
Smyth, Paul and Freeland, Denise  
Snow, Jim and Laura  
Soergel, Dagobert and Lissa  
Soos, Agnes, and Rogers, Richard  
Storch, TJ  
Sulerud, Peder and Mary  
Taliaferro, Richard  
Von Schoening, Chris  
Von Senden, John and Drasheff, Kyrrah  
VTS  
Wade, Rev. Dr. Frank and Mary  
Wanamaker, Betty  
Warlick, Susan and John  
Warner, Mary  
Wensing, Kevin and Anne  
Whitaker, Eleanor  
Wiard, Susan  
Wilson, Darrell  
Winslett, Virginia  
Wise, Nancy and Jim  
Yates, Teddy and Lindsay

**Well done, thou good and  
faithful servants!**

 "Each man should give  
what he has decided  
in his heart to give,  
 not reluctantly or  
under compulsion,  
  
**for GOD loves a cheerful giver.**  
2 C o r i n t h i a n s 9 : 7

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill  
3606 Seminary Road  
Alexandria, VA 22304  
703-370-6555  
office@icoh.net  
http://www.icoh

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

#### **ALMOND TREE DEADLINES AND MAILINGS**

**Deadline, September 7, mailing September 12; Deadline, September 21, mailing September 26**

**Deadline, October 5, mailing October 10, Deadline, October 19, mailing October 24**

**Deadline, November 9, mailing November 14, Deadline, November 23, mailing November 28**

**Deadline, December 7, mailing December 12 – ONLY ONE NEWSLETTER IN DECEMBER**

#### Lectionary Readings and Schedule of Services



#### **September 16, Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 19**

Proverbs 1:20-33; Wisdom of Solomon 7:26—8:1; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

8:00 a.m., HEI, 9:00 a.m., HEII, 11:15 a.m., HEIII

#### **September 23, Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 20**

Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 54; James 3:13—4:3,7; Mark 9:30-37

8:00 a.m., HEI, 9:00 a.m., HEII, 11:15 a.m., HEIII

#### **September 30, Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 21**

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; Psalm 19:7-14; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

8:00 a.m., HEI, 9:00 a.m., HEII, 11:15 a.m., HEIII