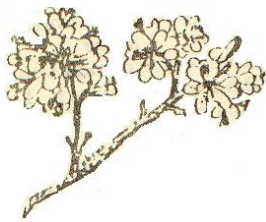


THE ALMOND TREE

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

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



November 14, 2012

A wonderful book from my VTS studies is *Here If You Need Me* by Kate Braestrup. In 1996, a married mother of four lost her policeman husband when he was killed in a car accident while on duty. Braestrup had actively engaged her husband as he discerned a possible call to ordained ministry. Following his death and burial, Kate, who is a writer, found that he had primed her to explore her own vocation. After entering seminary in 1997 and being ordained in 2004, Braestrup has served as chaplain to the Maine Warden Service since 2001.

Here If You Need Me is about her passage from grief to faith and ultimately happiness. Fighting to hold her family together in the wake of her husband's death, Kate Braestrup pursued his dream of becoming a minister, and ultimately found her own calling as a chaplain to search-and-rescue workers. Braestrup's story is vivid, amusing, and poignant. It is truly an uplifting account of experiencing God through helping others and of the small miracles that happen every day when hearts are grateful and love is restored.

Pastoral Care is a challenging, but wonderfully affirming, form of ministry. It calls us to be with people who are confronted by illness, injury or death. There are times when hardships of the world pinch the corners of our lives, causing us discomfort or distraction when we least need or feel we can bear it. It can also be about joy and comfort. My growing ministry here at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill involves many different opportunities for pastoral being and caring.

I believe Pastoral Care is a ministry of presence, touch and prayer. It is vital to approach visits with an open mind and heart, to assess situations based on sight and reception, and to rely fully on the Holy Spirit to guide words and actions. Kate Braestrup understands, having written, "I know not to bother anticipating or planning these calls. Hope and grief make a habit of presenting themselves in novel ways every time, and what is required in the way of a tender and appropriate response changes every time as well."

Immanuel is blessed with a wonderful, but small, Pastoral Care Committee. They coordinate home communions, organize a card and note ministry, respond to at-need transportation or meals requests, and make flower deliveries. Please know your clergy is here also if you need us. We get alerts from former ICOH clergy, from friends on Facebook, and by phone. Word comes through office traffic from parishioners thinking we already know of the needs or challenges of others. This is a ministry we all share. At times, needs are great, but laborers are few. Please prayerfully consider if your pastoral gifts might find a place for active ministry among us.

I humbly pray we all are open to listen and hear, to welcome the stirring of the Spirit that sends us to go and be present. God is there before we arrive, God abides with us while we are there, and God remains after we go. Like Kate, I know you will see God when that Love enters in.

~ David

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, Natalie Doyle-Hennin, Jean Mostrom, Bill Frye, Emma King, Mabel Randolph, Eve Anderson.

Please also remember in your prayers members of our extended Parish family: Joan Aldretti, Dean and Charlotte Kellogg, Tennille Littleton, Chris Rarick, Susan Shallbetter, Tom Stasz, Eleanor Boothe Smith, Stephen Miller, Jim Rarick, Irv Schiff, Patricia Smith, Josie Guardipee, Helen Butler, Sam Faeth, 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, Lois, Steve Wells

Todd Bates, Paul Bednar, Yolanda Bednar, Tom and Anne Duffy, Ian Phillips, John Patrick Miller, Philip Smucker, Sarah White., Jon Anderson, Nicole DeBien, Noah Barker

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

ALMOND TREE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE! We have a new and updated website (with all kinds of bells and whistles!) and one click access to the current Almond Tree and past ones as well. Click on www.icoh.net, and the button that says "Almond Tree" and it will take you directly there. Hopefully this will eliminate the problem we had last month of many of the Almond Trees floating around in cyberspace! We will no longer be mailing the Almond Tree by email but hope you find this an easy way to keep up-to-date with all our activities! We will continue to "snail mail" it to those who receive it that way.



Thursday, 10:30 a.m.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

There will be no Eucharist on Wednesday, November 21st at 6:30 p.m. Join us instead on Thanksgiving morning at 10:30 a.m. for Holy Eucharist and hymns.

NEW SCHEDULING SYSTEM IN USE: As many of you are already aware, we have put into place a new system that will make Sunday scheduling much easier for everyone. Using this online system you'll be able to specify exactly what services you generally attend (and which services you never attend!). You can also check your schedule from anywhere, by logging onto the Immanuel website (www.icoh.net) and easily find a substitute when you can't make one of your scheduled dates. There is a link, containing your personal password, which you should have received by email to log-on, update your general information, service preferences and unavailable times and check your schedule. There is a very helpful short video that explains how to do this. When you click on the "request sub" button, an email is sent out to all the people who serve in the ministry (reader, usher, chalice, etc.) for which you need a substitute, and when the first person responds, that person is automatically entered into the schedule in your stead. You do not need to go through the office to make your changes. (You also do not need to contact the office to say that you cannot respond to the request for a sub.) You will get reminders by email (not phone call) of your service 5 days ahead of the Sunday on which you are scheduled. It is a new experience for all of us (including your parish administrator) and for a short time there are undoubtedly going to be a few glitches, but we hope that it will be running so smoothly very soon that we will wonder how we ever did without it. Just be sure to log into the system, go to your profile and fill in your own preferences. Please be sure to contact Jennifer in the parish office if you are getting emails regarding ministries in which you do not participate.



DISCERNMENT: Your committee met with Lindsay Ryland, our diocesan Transition Ministry Officer, last Sunday, Nov. 4, to discuss the next steps in our rector search process. Diocesan

approval of our Parish Profile and Community Ministry Portfolio has been given; the profile has been posted to the ICOH website to officially open the application period. That period will close on January 7, 2013. We expect to receive applications right away, beginning a concentrated phase of committee work.

Pursuant to diocesan policy, all applications must follow the process described on our website; the discernment committee does not go out and recruit candidates to be our next rector. The only exception involves consideration of a very limited number of candidates which the Bishop might add to our list. As applications arrive, they will be evaluated against criteria established by your committee to reflect the Parish Profile, as distilled from multiple listening sessions and the extensive on-line parish survey. As the applications are examined and refined to a short list best matching the criteria for ICOH, the committee will proceed to the next selection phase--personal contacts and interviews.

Discernment Committee: Caroline Bergmark, Tom Brown, Governor Burke, Jim Clausen, Carrie Cuddy, Barbara Currie, Tom Harris, Doug Henry, Wendy John, Eileen Monnin-Kirby, Chandley McDonald, Martha Sedgwick

GRACE AND GRATITUDE: For all who helped make our Harvest Dinner a success: Melinda Ashton, Elaine Davies, Kerry Kelly, Connie Kurz, Martha Shimkin, and a special thanks to Hance Haney for giving us the capability to RSVP online at ICOH.net!

A PARISHIONER HAS AN APARTMENT TO RENT: Sunny one bedroom apartment in ParcEast Condominium. 1225 Martha Custis Drive, adjacent to Park Fairfax. Fourth floor unit with balcony. Utilities included. On-site Fitness Center, Bus stop at front door. \$1300/month. No pets, no smoking. Contact Betsy Perkins, 703-998-6924 or betsperkins@gmail.com.

MISSION TRIP TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC -- The next ICOH mission trip to the Dominican Republic (D.R.) will be the week of Feb. 16-23, 2013. We have been invited to visit the mission church in Guerra, a small village about 30 km east of the capital of Santo Domingo. Our host will be our friend and priest, Fr. Adolfo Moronta, who recently received his masters from VTS and has since returned to the D.R. We will stay in the nearby city of Boca Chica which is on the Caribbean coast. The activities for the week will be doing some work projects at Adolfo's church, probably involving painting and minor repairs. We will get to meet, worship and work with his parishioners. We will also spend a day touring various churches, clinics and day care facilities in order to get a better understanding of the many and varied activities of the Episcopal Church in the D.R. Generally, the costs of air fare, food and lodging for the week will run around \$1200 (which is usually tax deductible). Participants in previous mission trips to the D.R. have found the experience filled with fellowship and renewal, and we enjoyed seeing an interesting country and meeting wonderful people. If you may be interested, please contact Jim Snow at thesnowfamily@verizon.net.

YOUR HELP AND COMPASSION GREATLY NEEDED: Stefanie's House in Richmond is a place that provides basic needs and a place of refuge for homeless adults in Richmond, who for a variety of reasons, are not able to stay at other shelters. The Rev Deacon Christine Garcia is spear heading a drive in our diocese to provide new white socks and gently used clothing for the many men and women who find compassion, rest, and acceptance at Stefanie's House. During the month of November, a collection box will be available in the Narthex for your clothing donations to the residents of Stefanie's House. If you would like to contribute to the purchase of white socks, please write your checks payable to the Diocese of Virginia, with "Socks" written on the memo line. They can be given to Linda Murphy or mailed directly to: The Diocese of Virginia, Attn: Ed Keithly, 110 West Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23220. Thank you for your caring response. Peace and Joy in All Things,
The Rev. Deacon Linda Murphy

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, November 23, mailing November 28

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

Lectionary Readings and Schedule of Services



November 18, Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Daniel 12:1-3; Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25; Mark 13:1-8

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

November 22, Thanksgiving Day

Joel 2:21-27; Psalm 126; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Matthew 6:25-33

10:30 a.m., HEII

November 25, Last Sunday after Pentecost, Feast of Christ the King

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Psalm 93; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

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

FINAL PUMPKIN PATCH REPORT 2012

10 November 2012—John von Senden

Well this year's Pumpkin Patch is complete – except for preparing for next year. Over fifty people made soup; baked breads, cookies and brownies; made apple crisps or otherwise prepared food for sale. One hundred sixty-five people signed up to sell. It is obvious this is a well-supported project of the parish. While it is always dangerous to thank people by name in an endeavor this large, I do want to thank the team that led everyone to a successful patch. This team was divided into seven areas of responsibility.

Managing the truck deliveries was Stephanie Harris who had an exasperating year this year due to trucks not being as reliable as in the past. She was assisted by Mike Eaton who shepherded the truck unloading on Pumpkin Sunday and by Jamie Conrad who (even though he was out of town) arranged for two schools to help unload on different days.

Managing the volunteers is the single biggest effort in supporting the Patch. Candy Levin was the Volunteer Manager closely supported by the singing pumpkin-gram authority Kyrah Drasheff. Lissa Soergel did her usual quiet role of reminding everyone when they were due to sell.

The actual patch operations were performed by a number of people: Doug Onley took charge of setting the Patch up. The Daily Coordinators were the group that ensured the Patch opened and closed each day in a proper manner and ensured that those working had the support they needed; the Daily Coordinators this year were Wendy John, Sudie McGahuey, Everett Post, Pierre Shostal, Melinda Ashton, Sally Guy, Kay Hobson and Kyrah Drasheff. Francine Wargo coordinated the closing up of the Patch. Ongoing Patch maintenance (that is cleaning up the bad pumpkins) was performed by Bill Duran assisted by Rusty Kolodrubetz.

Mary Taylor outstandingly performed the Food Manager duties. Melinda Ashton led the effort for creating her delicious apple crisps.

Julien Randolph assisted by Jim Snow managed a number of special orders that bring in substantial sums.

Susan Dawson declined to be the Publicity Manager, but did the job with aplomb.

And Jim Snow reprised his arduous task of counting and properly accounting for the Patch proceeds every night in October.

The final numbers are: Gross receipts were \$115,700 – our second best year ever. The net amount to support Immanuel's outreach efforts is \$56,772. All in all a very good year considering a storm called Sandy.

You can see from the number of people named in this report that it truly takes a team to put on the Patch. We are recruiting new folks for a three-year commitment – and the last year of the three year commitment, you'd be training your replacement. This is a rewarding endeavor where you not only get to know everyone in the parish, but also get to meet a large number of nice folks in the community. If you are interested in helping next year let John von Senden know.

SPRING SCHOOL FOR THE SPIRIT: Now is the time to prepare for a successful Spring 2013 School for the Spirit! If you are interested in serving as the coordinator/host, presenting a class, recruiting someone to present a class, or simply participating, please contact Vestry Growth & Education Steward Tony Christino at athome1500@comcast.net. Tony will also make himself available in the Narthex to discuss School for the Spirit with those interested after the 9:15 a.m. services on Sunday, November 18 and Sunday, November 25.



The pumpkins and apple crisps have all been packed up, and that means Advent and the Christmas Pageant are just around the corner!

Sign-ups for the pageant start this weekend! There are plenty of parts available, both speaking and non-speaking. The sign-up board will be hanging in the Sunday School hallway.

- Sign-ups for speaking parts will be open November 18th to 25th.
- Rehearsals for speaking parts will take place every Sunday in December at 10:15, after the 9:15 service at Zabriske Chapel.
- Sign-ups for non-speaking parts and parent volunteers will continue through December 23rd. Last minute sheep/angels are always welcome!

The Pageant will be performed December 24th at the 5:00 Christmas Eve Service at Callaway Chapel on the grounds of Episcopal High School.

Keep an eye on the Sunday bulletin, The Almond Tree and the Sunday School Hall Announcement Board for further updates. If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer to help with the Pageant please contact me by phone or e-mail at 703-823-1214, m.e.glassco@gmail.com.

Thanks!

Meg Glassco



2012

Christmas Families 2012 Dates and Help Wanted

This Christmas we will bring again a bright ray of hope to many families. You can sign up to buy presents for a family on four Sundays, Nov. 18, Nov. 25, Dec. 2 and Dec. 9, before and after each service or in the office in between. (Watch for further announcements.) The special loose plate offering and the forum hour for wrapping of presents will be on **Sunday, December 16.**

Join the group of faithful volunteers to help with the following.

If you can help, call or email Linda Serabian; for helping with books call or email Connie Kurz.

Now- Dec. 9	Data input (presents, families) (Santa's Workshop and 504 N Quaker Ln)
Sat. Dec. 8	Move books to the parish hall and get them organized (Connie Kurz)
M – Th Dec. 10-13	Pairing books with children by age and interests. (Parish hall, day or eve)
Th Dec. 13	Inventory remaining books and move back to storage (Connie Kurz)
Sa Dec. 15, 9:30a -	Mark presents to prepare for wrapping (Santa's Workshop). This is a big day that needs many helpers
F - Sa Dec. 14-15	Get the parish hall ready. May include moving books back to storage
Sunday, Dec. 16	After the 9:15 service to approx. 3 pm: Help with the organization of the wrapping and checking presents. After the 9:15 and 11:15 services: Take presents from the church and deliver them to Social Services before 9 am on Monday, December 17.
M Dec. 17, 8:30a – 2p	Sort and check presents and sort used clothing at Social Services. Any time you can give in that period will be helpful
M Dec. 17 –	Various wrap-up tasks

Santa's Workshop: 122 N. Washington St. Above the Ross Department Store, entrance to the right when facing the building

Social Services: 2525 Mt. Vernon Avenue, take Uhler Ave east to rear entrance

Dagobert and Lissa Soergel, 703-823-2840 or 703-585-2840 or 703-869-9848 <lissa@whollygenes.com>, <dsoergel@umd.edu>

Linda Serabian (703) 683-5226 X17, (703) 836-4670 <serabian@somaarchitects.com>

Connie Kurz 703/370-0062 <cgkurz@aol.com>

Julie Bruns, (703) 534-7913 "Julie Bruns" <drbruns@bellatlantic.net>.