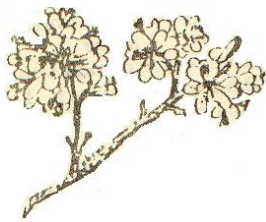


# THE ALMOND TREE

## Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

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



November 28, 2012

*Slow down. Quiet. It's Advent.*

Dear Friends,

During the first Advent we spent in Washington, DC wandering as a family of two parents and a pre-school child from one potential field work site to another, a service bulletin was given to us in one Episcopal Church with a blue sign that said, "Slow down. Quiet. It's Advent." In an exodus journey in which all of us longed for a new church home and some sign that God was alongside us this blue piece of paper was the outward and visible sign that made some sense of our longing. For years every Advent it would get pulled out of the desk drawer and live on the dashboard of our car for 4 weeks as some expression of our desire and hope to be on a different journey than the rest of the world around us. We wanted to give space for Christ to break into our lives anew.

Watching and waiting, longing and expectation are the formative images in the season of Advent.

Amid the frantic preparations that so often characterize our cultural preparation for Christmas, slowing down and being quiet are gentle guides to how it is we might live watching and waiting, longing and expecting God. While we hear in Scripture fearful descriptions of the end of creation as we know it, we are also told that in unexpected ways amid calamity God chooses to take on our life and redeem it.

It is a season in which the pace quickens as we wait for eternity to break into our lives. Our biblical readings will by turns shake us to the core of our being and make astounding promises from God about our life in God. Amid our longing and expectation and the onslaught of the world's darkness in so many ways, God said yes to a new possibility for creation and the Son of justice and mercy was conceived. We prepare in this season both for the end of time and to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. We slow down, and quiet ourselves so that we can listen to God's dream for creation.

As you will see in this issue we will also be experiencing two transitions in our life as Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill. On the 15<sup>th</sup> of December David Crosby will be ordained as a priest and will on the third Sunday of Advent preside at both services for the first time as a priest. On December 23<sup>rd</sup> we will say Godspeed to Linda Murphy who after two years of service as our deacon will take up a new assignment at the request of Bishop Shannon elsewhere in the Diocese of Virginia. (Linda is still awaiting a confirmation of this assignment.) We give thanks for all of the ways in which Linda has called us to dream God's dream and all the ways that David as a priest will continue this prophetic work of preparing the way of the Lord.

Our seasonal blessing says it best. We believe that the Son of God once came to us and we look for him to come again bringing us the light of his holiness and freeing us with his blessing. To receive this gift we slow down and quiet ourselves so that God may make us steadfast in faith, joyful in hope and untiring in love. It's Advent. Come Lord Jesus! Come!

God's peace,

Mary+

**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, Mable Randolph, Eve Anderson, Yvonne Pover.

**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

**Those serving in the U.S. and overseas:** 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.

### **ICOH IS AGAIN HOSTING THE DIOCESAN TRAINING ON ADULT SEXUAL MISCONDUCT PREVENTION**

Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. This short course is required for volunteers serving in the following capacities: Catechists who teach adults or youths, Eucharistic Visitors carrying out home communion, and Vestry members and wardens. If you are prayerfully discerning a call to the ministry of Pastoral Care or are willing to stand for election to Vestry, you should make time to complete this training now. Thank you.

**COME "DECK THE HALLS"** at ICOH's Annual Christmas Carols, Cookies and Crafts Night on Friday, December 7th at 6:00 pm in the parish hall!

We'll frost sugar cookies, make Christmas ornament crafts, and sing joyously. There will also be a potluck dinner, so if you plan to attend, would you please bring a dish to pass that serves 8 - 10? If your last name begins with A - L, bring a main dish (e.g., casserole, lasagna, fried chicken, etc.). If your last name begins with M - S, bring a side dish or salad.

And if your last name begins with T - Z, bring a dessert (we'll already have cookies). We'll supply the drinks and table settings. Please RSVP to Jeannie Cummins at [jceconsulting@comcast.net](mailto:jceconsulting@comcast.net) or (703) 851-5257 and let her know what dish you plan to bring.

**BECOME A EUCHARISTIC VISITOR!** David Crosby, in his introductory piece in *The Almond Tree* on November 14, 2012, described Pastoral Care as a ministry of presence, touch, and prayer. The ministry of Eucharistic Visitors (EVs), a part of Pastoral Care, is very much defined by these characteristics. EVs help to maintain our community by making participation possible for members of the parish who are not able to come to services because of illness or infirmity. They bring some of the same meal that everyone has shared for the recipient to enjoy. EVs are not counselors or advisors, and so training or experience in these areas is not necessary. This ministry requires that you be able to take several hours after one of the services for the visit and that you have your own transportation. Each EV goes out about once a month, nearly always with another EV. Training and licensing by the diocese are required. The diocesan course mentioned elsewhere in this bulletin, *Prevention of Adult Sexual Misconduct*, is part of the required training and will be offered at ICOH on December 11. The additional required training is offered by ICOH with flexible scheduling. If you would like to know more about this ministry, contact one of the clergy or Sara Fein ([sarabfein@gmail.com](mailto:sarabfein@gmail.com) or 703-931-5824).

## **GOD WILLING AND THE PEOPLE CONSENTING!**

God willing and the people consenting, the Reverend David Crosby will be ordained to the priesthood by the Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnson at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 15, 2012, at The Falls Church, Falls Church, Virginia. A reception in honor of the Ordinands will be held at The Falls Church immediately following the service.

If you would like to contribute finger foods, tea treats and small savories, please bring your offering to the kitchen of The Falls Church after 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 15th, or to the ICOH kitchen no later than 9:00 a.m. Saturday. If you have any questions please contact Mary Jo Cooney (703/212-8442 or [mary-jo.cooney@comcast.net](mailto:mary-jo.cooney@comcast.net)) or Susan Gilbertson (703/207-0430 or [susan.gilbertson@verizon.net](mailto:susan.gilbertson@verizon.net)).

## **REJOICING IN THE POWER OF HIS SPIRIT:**

These are the last words of dismissal that I give at the end of each worship service. On December 23<sup>rd</sup> at the conclusion of the 10 a.m. service, they are the words that I will carry with me when I think of this amazing journey I have been blessed to share with you as your deacon.

A few weeks ago Dean Markham asked me how long I had been serving at Immanuel Church on-the-Hill and it was then that I realized it had been almost two and a half years.

When I began my field placement in the spring of 2010, I had no experience with public speaking and ICOH was well known for its abundance of outstanding preachers, I was nervous. My prayer was "God you promised if I followed you, you would give me the words to speak. Here I am, give me the words."

Soon after I arrived, our rector, Sam Faeth told me that she and the assistant rector, Peter Ackerman, would be at Shrine Mont for the parish weekend retreat and I would be preaching at all services.

In response to my panic at preaching for the first time, Sam told me that Frank Wade would be celebrating and would be there to help me. I felt very comforted until Peter told me that Frank was one of the top four preachers in the Episcopal Church and then warned me not to hold onto the railings of the pulpit because they were loose and would shake.

Thanks be to God, my prayer was answered. Sam and Peter were right. Frank was a wonderful shepherd to me and the congregation could not have been more welcoming.

As a candidate for Holy Orders and as a deacon, I have been privileged to walk beside you in joyful moments and in times of saying Good bye. I have prayed with you at the loss of the VTS Chapel and in the creation of the Chapel of the Ages. I have celebrated along with you, Colin and Peter's call to new ministry. I shared the saying goodbye to our beloved Sam Faeth at her retirement as we celebrated her many years as rector of Immanuel Church on-the-Hill. I have been with you in welcoming Corey as short term interim, Mary as interim and David as assistant and Jane as seminarian.

And now it is my time to say goodbye as I leave to begin a new ministry. The Power of the Spirit shines brightly here at Immanuel Church on-the-Hill, and I will carry that light and what I have learned from you out into the world with me.

My prayer now is "God you promised if I followed you, you would provide me with what I need to do your work in the world. They have raised me well. Here I am, send me."

Rejoicing in the Power of His Spirit,  
The Rev. Deacon Linda Murphy

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

### ALMOND TREE DEADLINES AND MAILINGS

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

#### Lectionary Readings and Schedule of Services



#### **December 2, First Sunday of Advent**

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-9, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36  
8:00 a.m., HEI; 9:15 a.m., HEII; 11:15 a.m., HEII

#### **December 9, Second Sunday of Advent**

Malachi 3:1-4; Canticle 16; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6  
8:00 a.m., HEI, 9:15 a.m., HEII; 11:15 a.m., HEI

#### **December 16, Third Sunday of Advent (Two services only)**

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Canticle 9, Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18, 8:00 a.m., HEI  
Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25; Genesis 3:1-22; Isaiah 40:1-11; Isaiah 35:1-10; Baruch 4:36—5:9; Isaiah 7:10-15; Luke 1:26-28, Lessons  
and Carols, HEII, 10:00 a.m.

## DECEMBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>25</b> <b>CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY</b> Intergenerational event <b>8:00 AM</b> HE-I, Chapel <b>9:15 AM</b> HE-II, Chapel <b>10:00 AM</b> Education Hour <b>10:15 AM</b> Circle of Quiet, Vestry Room <b>11:15 AM</b> HE-I, Chapel	<b>26</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Qi gong, Parish Hall <b>6:15 PM - 8:45 PM</b> Yoga, Parish Hall <b>6:30 PM</b> Knitting Group, 1823 Pub/VTS	<b>27</b> <b>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</b> Benedictine Group, Vestry Room	<b>28</b> <b>6:30 AM</b> Early Christians, Fairchild <b>8:20 AM - 11:35 AM</b> Senior Exercise classes, Parish Hall <b>6:30 PM</b> Weekday Eucharist, Chapel	<b>29</b> TAT mailing <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir, Choir Room	<b>30</b> Advent Retreat begins <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>1</b> Advent Retreat <b>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Dignity, Zabriskie
<b>2</b> Advent Retreat <b>8:00 AM</b> HE-I, Chapel <b>9:15 AM</b> HE-II, Chapel <b>10:00 AM</b> Education Hour <b>11:15 AM</b> HE-II, Chapel <b>5:30 PM</b> Youth Group Meeting	<b>3</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Qi gong, Parish Hall <b>6:15 PM - 8:45 PM</b> Yoga, Parish Hall	<b>4</b> <b>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</b> Benedictine Group, Vestry Room <b>7:30 PM</b> Outreach Committee, Fairchild Room	<b>5</b> <b>6:30 AM</b> Early Christians, Fairchild <b>8:00 AM - 6:00 PM</b> Hunting Creek Garden Club, Parish Hall <b>8:20 AM - 11:35 AM</b> Senior Exercise classes, Narthex <b>6:30 PM</b> Weekday Eucharist, Chapel	<b>6</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir, Choir Room	<b>7</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> Christmas Carols, cookies and crafts <b>8:30 PM</b> AA, Fairchild	<b>8</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Growth and Education Committee, Fairchild Room <b>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Dignity, Zabriskie
<b>9</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> HE-I, Chapel <b>9:15 AM</b> HE-II, Chapel <b>10:00 AM - 11:30 AM</b> Clay Class, Parish Hall <b>10:00 AM</b> Education Hour, Forum on mission work in Costa Rica, Liza Conrad, Chapel <b>10:15 AM</b> Circle of Quiet, Vestry Room <b>11:15 AM</b> HE-I, Chapel <b>4:00 PM</b> Convivium Concert, Chapel	<b>10</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Qi gong, Parish Hall <b>6:15 PM - 8:45 PM</b> Yoga, Parish Hall	<b>11</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Goodwin House luncheon <b>6:30 PM</b> Adult Prevention Training, Parish Hall <b>6:30 PM</b> Vestry, Vestry Room	<b>12</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>6:30 PM</b> Weekday Eucharist, Chapel	<b>13</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir, Choir Room <b>7:30 PM</b> Seminary Hill Association, Parish Hall	<b>14</b> <b>8:20 AM - 11:35 AM</b> Senior Exercise classes, Parish Hall <b>12:30 PM</b> Muslim Worship, Parish Hall <b>4:30 PM - 6:00 PM</b> Brownie Troop, Parish Hall <b>8:30 PM</b> AA, Fairchild	<b>15</b> Christmas Families, Parish Hall <b>10:00 AM</b> David Crosby ordination, The Falls Church <b>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Dignity, Zabriskie
<b>16</b> <b>1:00 AM</b> Youth Group Meeting <b>8:00 AM</b> HE-I, Chapel <b>9:20 AM</b> Circle of Quiet, Vestry Room <b>10:00 AM</b> Lessons and Carols, HEII, Chapel <b>11:00 AM</b> Christmas families wrapping, Parish Hall <b>12:30 PM</b> Greening of the Church <b>4:00 PM - 6:00 PM</b> Randi Rowe discernment group,	<b>17</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Qi gong, Parish Hall <b>6:15 PM - 8:45 PM</b> Yoga, Parish Hall	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>6:30 AM</b> Early Christians, Fairchild <b>8:20 AM - 11:35 AM</b> Senior Exercise classes, Parish Hall <b>6:30 PM</b> Weekday Eucharist, Chapel	<b>20</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir, Choir Room	<b>21</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Greening of the Church <b>8:20 AM - 11:35 AM</b> Senior Exercise classes, Parish Hall <b>8:30 PM</b> AA, Fairchild	<b>22</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Greening of the Church <b>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Dignity, Zabriskie
<b>23</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> HE-I, Chapel <b>10:00 AM</b> HE-II	<b>24</b> CHRISTMAS EVE OFFICE CLOSED <b>5:00 PM</b> Christmas Eve Pageant, HEII, Calloway Chapel <b>6:30 PM - 7:30 PM</b> Dignity Christmas Eve, Zabriskie Chapel <b>10:15 PM</b> Choral Preludes, Zabriskie Chapel <b>11:00 PM</b> Holy Eucharist Rite II, Zabriskie Chapel	<b>25</b> CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED <b>11:00 AM</b> Holy Eucharist Rite II, Chapel	<b>26</b> OFFICE CLOSED <b>6:30 AM</b> Early Christians, Fairchild	<b>27</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>28</b> OFFICE CLOSED <b>12:30 PM</b> Muslim Worship, Parish Hall <b>8:30 PM</b> AA, Fairchild	<b>29</b> <b>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Dignity, Zabriskie
<b>30</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> HE-I, Chapel <b>10:00 AM</b> H-II, Chapel	<b>31</b> OFFICE CLOSED <b>11:00 AM</b> Qi gong, Parish Hall <b>6:15 PM - 8:45 PM</b> Yoga, Parish Hall	<b>1</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>2</b> <b>6:30 AM</b> Early Christians, Fairchild <b>6:30 PM</b> Weekday Eucharist, Chapel	<b>3</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir, Choir Room	<b>4</b> <b>12:30 PM</b> Muslim Worship, Parish Hall <b>8:30 PM</b> AA, Fairchild	<b>5</b> <b>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Dignity, Zabriskie



## December Birthdays

12/01 Mercedes Burgess  
12/01 Lisa Frye  
12/01 Adam Donahue  
12/02 Lisa Clausen  
12/02 Catherine Eklund  
12/02 Lawrence Wilkes  
12/02 Morgan Knight  
12/03 Shannon Gehrs  
12/04 Cathy Hartman  
12/04 Ellen Gehrs  
12/04 Auggie Koch  
12/05 Gerry Anderson  
12/05 Martha Manson  
12/05 Paul Faeth  
12/05 Bryan Phillips  
12/05 Preston Brown  
12/06 Timothy Sedgwick  
12/08 Marcia MacDonald  
12/08 Sarah Glassco  
12/08 John von Senden  
12/09 Jim Evans  
12/09 Joy McLaughlin  
12/09 William Albritton  
12/10 Annie Goldsmith  
12/10 Liam Kirby  
12/10 Julia Eklund  
12/11 Betty Wanamaker  
12/11 Rhys Shallbetter  
12/12 Rick Glassco  
12/12 Christine Hall  
12/12 Anthony Burke  
12/13 Susan Guillory  
12/13 Jamie Conrad  
12/14 Jim Snow  
12/14 Christopher DeMulder  
12/14 Katherine Warlick  
12/14 Sydney Onley  
12/15 Candy Levin  
12/15 Elizabeth Paulsen  
12/16 David Donlon  
12/16 Susan Stockton  
12/18 Judy Bednar  
12/18 David Peabody

12/18 Kameran Onley  
12/18 Kendra Smyth  
12/18 Joan Cummins  
12/18 Owen Malone  
12/18 Mike Michaelis  
12/19 Eve Anderson  
12/19 Martha Byron  
12/20 Mary Brinn  
12/20 Jo Ann Toledo  
12/20 Janet Maalouf  
12/20 James Henry  
12/21 David Phillips  
12/22 Gertrude Mitchell  
12/22 Toni Meenach  
12/23 Margaret Fogarty  
12/23 Bill McLaughlin  
12/23 Katydeans Price  
12/23 Holly Morton  
12/24 Candace Quinlan  
12/24 Debbie Hewson  
12/24 Tim Gildersleeve  
12/24 Jason Donahue  
12/25 Susan Johnson  
12/25 Carol Crossmire  
12/26 Amy Parks  
12/26 Anne Wagner  
12/27 Ismael Arciniegas  
12/27 Drew Parks  
12/28 Marda Robillard  
12/29 Norma Taliaferro  
12/30 Ken McDonald  
12/30 Jan Maas  
12/30 Patricia Brown  
12/30 Mae Hunt  
12/31 Honor Fede  
12/31 Charlotte Gehrs

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.*

We hope never to miss a birthday – but there are some we don't know about. Forgive us when we do miss your birthday, and let us know so we don't do it again. Happy birthday to all!