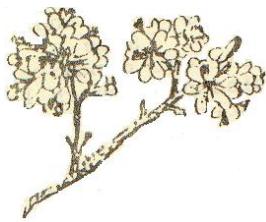


# THE ALMOND TREE

## Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

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



December 12, 2012

Dear Friends,

On the wall of our family room is a framed poster that was wildly popular a number of years ago. The poster, "The Doors of Ireland" consists of a series of photos of doors, some open, most closed, that were taken throughout Ireland. The open doors always offer a glimpse of life even in the shadows. I always wonder about the doors that are closed. What ordinary, or for that matter extraordinary life goes on behind the closed doors? What do people dream, hope and love? What do they dread and fear?

The richness of the Christmas story is in the many images that it offers in that well-known and well-loved story of the birth of Jesus. The longer that I live and celebrate Christmas in a congregation the more I have to believe that it is a scandalous feast about doors, doors that are open to the impossible (and those who are opening doors to God's impossible possibilities) and those whose fear, whose diminished hope and expectations insure that doors remain closed.

One of the Christmas messages is that the final, defining word of God is the open arms of love, the willingness of God to throw open the doors of heaven to all in this birth of Jesus. This baby will grow up and throw open the doors of new life to the poor, the needy, the captive, the sick and the oppressed. This baby will as a man open wide his arms on the doorposts of death and fulfill the promise of God's deliverance, opening for us the door of eternal life. God in Jesus Christ opens these doors for us not by logic, nor argument, but by placing into our open hands this child, who in bread and wine nourishes us, is born in us, if we will by grace open the doors of our lives to God.

This is a story about who opened the door to a baby, a child and a man, and who did not. Those who opened their lives to what was unbidden, undreamed of, unasked for, received the gift of open doors from God zealous for love of us. This is a story about a love so great that to redeem us God opened the door of divine life, taking our flesh as Jesus Christ.

As Christmas draws near, behind what closed door do we wait? What cold comfort do we consume, or worse consumes us? This wonderful story tells us that we can make no door that will keep out our God. We have been given a Savior, Christ the Lord who chose to be born among us, as one of us, amid all our troubles so that even the worst that life throws at us would be a door through which we could also find joy, and the presence of God. Christmas celebrates that one night, long ago a door to heaven was flung open in a manger, kept open by a cross of love, and by the Spirit born in us anew today.

*Holy God, strong God, immortal God, give the peace of heaven to our earth, and open the door of your mercy to the beggars of your love. (From You are holy, by the Reverend Lucien Deiss.)*

God's peace and blessings in this holy season,  
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, Kerry Kelly.

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, Percy Hays, Nancy Engleman.

**Pray for those who have died:** Roberta King. *Eternal rest grant to her, O Lord, and may light perpetual shine upon her.*

**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

### CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:

(Unless otherwise noted, all services, except for the Pageant on Christmas Eve, will take place in the Zabriskie Chapel.)

**December 23, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent**

8:00 a.m., HE-I

10:00 a.m., HE-II

**December 24, Christmas Eve**

5:00 p.m., Christmas Pageant, HE-II,

Calloway Chapel, Episcopal High School

10:15 p.m., Choral Preludes

11:00 p.m., Choral Eucharist-II

**December 25, Christmas Day**

11:00 a.m., HE-II

**December 30, Christmas I**

8:00 a.m., HE-I

10:00 a.m., HE-II

The office will be closed from Dec. 24-January 1.

**SERVICES TIMES REMINDER:** Please remember that from December 16 through the end of January we will have only two services on Sunday mornings, at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. – **except for January 13, when the services will be at 9:15 a.m. and 2 p.m.** That is the Sunday when Bishop Shannon Johnston will visit us in the afternoon for a service of confirmations and receptions.



### DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

As you are no doubt aware, the Discernment Committee (previously known as the Search Committee) has reached the point where we are reviewing applications for the position of Rector for

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill. We are "open for business" with respect our search for a new Rector. The parish profile and guidance to prospective applicants is posted on our website at [www.icoh.net](http://www.icoh.net). (Click on "Rector Search") Applications will continue to be considered through 7 January 2013, unless the committee extends the deadline. In the interim, we would ask that if parishioners know of someone who may be interested in the position of Rector to refer him or her to the website. All applications must be submitted via e-mail to the Discernment Committee and meet the requirements for content outlined on the website.

Your Discernment Committee is comprised of Caroline Bergmark, Tom Brown, Governor Burke, Jim Clausen, Carrie Cuddy, Barbara Currie, Tom Harris, Doug Henry, Wendy John (Chair), Chandley McDonald, Eileen Monnin-Kirby, Martha Sedgwick.

**SCHEDULER-PRO ACCESSIBIITY:** We have noticed that for many families, we may have only one e-mail address. If more than one person in a family is involved in various ministries, it would be helpful to have eachperson's e-mail address. If you are not receiving the "This week at Immanuel" on a personal email, please send your personal email address to Jennifer at [jaddington@icoh.net](mailto:jaddington@icoh.net). Thanks very much. Also, please remember that it gets more and more important as we go more and more "digital" to send us your changes of email address! We still get back several emails as "undeliverable" each week, and we don't want you to miss out on any important information.

## **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)).

**BUILDING SECURITY:** When David Crosby arrived at Zabriskie Chapel for a busy day on the morning of Friday, Nov. 30, he encountered a threatening visitor who had let himself into the building. This wasn't the first such incident. That's because on occasion doors to our facility are accidentally left unlocked or even open. The doors to the kitchen, the Fairchild Room, the basement (under the deck) and the Narthex have all been found unlocked or open in the early morning during the previous year.

The doors to the Narthex were the culprit on Nov. 30. Not everyone knew or noticed that after many years of faithful service, the Narthex doors needed some gentle assistance to close securely. The Monday after the latest incident of a surprising visitor, Eric -- a locksmith with Baldino's Lock & Key -- came over to inspect, lubricate and calibrate the hardware so the doors can now close all the way by themselves. This is just one example of the continuous maintenance that our facility requires.

Another potential security threat involves two of our doors with electronic locks that open with key codes (the basement door nearest the parking lot and the new door to the Parish Hall). The electronic locks are a blessing in the sense that they don't require keys and they return to the locked setting automatically. On the other hand, electronic locks are useless if the key code is an open "secret." We don't know for how long our current key code has existed or how many people know it.

We would like to be able to change the key code periodically and notify everyone who has a legitimate purpose for using it to enter the building. That way, anyone who learns the key code by unauthorized means would not receive notification of changes. We plan to submit an announcement to appear in the next Almond Tree inviting anyone who wants to use a key code to enter the facility in the future to submit a request to Jennifer Addington so they can be added to a list for receiving immediate notification of periodic changes to the key code.

If you have any suggestions for making our facility safe and secure, I hope you won't hesitate to share them with Bryan Phillips or me, your Vestry stewards for resources.

Hance Haney

**YOUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DOLLARS @ WORK:** Thanks to the strong support of the Immanuel community, the Capital Campaign concluded this fall, raising \$500,000 to improve and maintain Zabriskie Chapel. The Vestry has now approved the first use of the funds: We are adding additional electrical circuits to the Narthex and front building exterior, to the tune of \$1,540. The new circuits will provide the necessary power to safely operate three coffee makers in the Narthex, when coffee is served there, as well as a small freezer to display and safely maintain frozen soups and apple crisps in the sales tent during the annual pumpkin patch.

Big-ticket projects for 2013 and beyond include upgrading Zabriskie's heating and cooling system, replacing the roof, repairing parking lot pavement and work on the building's interior finishes, such as flooring, lightening and painting. Watch for updates, and thanks again to all those who made keeping our parish home in good shape possible.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Lectionary Readings and  
Schedule of Services



**December 16, Third Sunday of Advent (Begin 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, 10:00  
a.m., Lessons and Carols, HEII

**December 23, Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Micah 5:2-5a; Canticle 15; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45  
8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:00 a.m., HEII

**December 24, Christmas Eve**

Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 26, Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20  
5:00 p.m., Pageant and HEII; 11:00 p.m., Choral Eucharist II

**December 25, Christmas Day**

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4; John 1:1-14  
11:00 a.m., HEII

**December 30, Christmas I**

Isaiah 61:10—62:3; Psalm 147:13-21; Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7; John 1:1-18  
8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:00 a.m., HEII



JANUARY

BIRTHDAYS


01/01 Derek Johnson  
01/01 Abby Murray  
01/01 Marjorie Burke  
01/02 Mein LaMountain  
01/03 Mollie Warner  
01/03 Virginia Graef  
01/03 James Graef  
01/04 Brian Young  
01/04 Sham Suri  
01/04 James Kelley  
01/05 Kay Neer  
01/05 Alma Yopp  
01/05 Michael Reinemer  
01/05 Stewart Skubel  
01/06 George West  
01/06 Jack Hatcher  
01/07 Dagobert Soergel  
01/07 Christina Becker  
01/07 Leslie Williams  
01/08 Tom Durmick  
01/08 Molly Corkern  
01/08 Anne Hunger  
01/08 Trevor Baltes  
01/09 Thomas Shimkin  
01/09 Scott Conklin  
01/10 Teresa Skubel  
01/10 Jett Bastow  
01/11 Sean Faeth  
01/12 Norma Jean Lawton  
01/12 Doug John  
01/12 Stephen Friday  
01/13 Bennett Miller  
01/13 Zachary Miller  
01/14 Jill Knox-Dick  
01/14 Mary Goeser  
01/14 Sudie McGahuey  
01/14 Daniel Schmidt  
01/14 Colin Swisher  
01/15 Bill Kilpatrick  
01/15 Anne Kilpatrick  
01/15 John Kilpatrick  
01/15 Tiffany Stuck  
01/16 Kim Cook  
01/16 Stuart Nordin  
01/19 Katherine Maas

01/20 Alexis Von Schoening  
01/20 Alex Cummins  
01/21 Betty Claypoole  
01/21 Jessi MacLeod  
01/21 Michiko Haney  
01/21 Ted Compton  
01/21 Jordon Scambos  
01/21 Daniel Guillory  
01/22 Gordon Peyton  
01/22 Yancey Hall  
01/22 Walter Richter  
01/23 Sally Vermilye  
01/23 Mary Ann Rehnke  
01/23 Janet Pawlukiewicz  
01/24 Pat Flagg  
01/24 John Warlick  
01/24 Libby Huffman  
01/24 Juliana Glassco  
01/24 Molly Gray  
01/25 Richard Maynard  
01/25 Nicholas Greiner  
01/25 Phillips Mitchell  
01/25 Katherine Kron  
01/28 Bryan England  
01/28 Eileen Monnin-Kirby  
01/28 Chris Page  
01/28 Sophie Rust  
01/29 David Ingold  
01/29 Susan Gould  
01/30 Susan Post  
01/30 Alex Hollyer  
01/31 Rick Murphy  
01/31 Karen Bastow  
01/31 Charles Calloway

*Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be, keeping them unspotted from the world. Strengthen them then they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their 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!

## JANUARY 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> HE-I, Chapel <b>10:00 AM</b> H-IIE, 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>8:20 AM - 11:35 AM</b> Senior Exercise classes, Parish Hall <b>6:30 PM</b> Weekday Eucharist, Chapel	<b>3</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir, Choir Room	<b>4</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>5</b> <b>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Dignity, Zabriskie
<b>6</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> HE-I, Chapel <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School, classrooms <b>9:05 AM</b> Circle of Quiet, Upper Room <b>9:55 AM</b> Godly Play <b>10:00 AM</b> HE-II, Chapel, Camp Sunday	<b>7</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Qi gong, Parish Hall <b>6:15 PM - 8:45 PM</b> Yoga, Parish Hall	<b>8</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Goodwin House Luncheon <b>6:30 PM</b> Vestry Meeting, Upper Room	<b>9</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>10</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir, Choir Room	<b>11</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>12</b> <b>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Dignity, Zabriskie
<b>13</b> <b>9:15 AM</b> HE-I, Chapel <b>10:30 AM</b> Circle of Quiet <b>2:00 PM</b> HE-II/Confirmation, Chapel	<b>14</b>  OFFICE CLOSED <b>11:00 AM</b> Qi gong, Parish Hall <b>6:15 PM - 8:45 PM</b> Yoga, Parish Hall	<b>15</b>	<b>16</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>17</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Mom's Group, Fairchild Room <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir, Choir Room	<b>18</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>19</b> <b>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Dignity, Zabriskie
<b>20</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> HE-I, Chapel <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School, classrooms <b>9:05 AM</b> Circle of Quiet, Upper Room <b>9:55 AM</b> Godly Play <b>10:00 AM</b> HE-II, Chapel	<b>21</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Qi gong, Parish Hall <b>6:15 PM - 8:45 PM</b> Yoga, Parish Hall	<b>22</b>	<b>23</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>24</b> Diocesan Council, Reston <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir, Choir Room	<b>25</b> Diocesan Council, Reston <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>26</b> Diocesan Council, Reston <b>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Dignity, Zabriskie
<b>27</b> ANNUAL MEETING <b>8:00 AM</b> HE-I, Chapel <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School, classrooms <b>9:05 AM</b> Circle of Quiet, Upper Room <b>9:55 AM</b> Godly Play <b>10:00 AM</b> HE-I, Chapel	<b>28</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>29</b>	<b>30</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>31</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir, Choir Room	<b>1</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>2</b> Vestry Retreat <b>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Dignity, Zabriskie

**SAVE THE DATE, IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL LENTEN RETREAT:** Date: Beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, March 8, and ending at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 10  
 Location: Holy Cross Abbey, Berryville, Virginia, Leader: the Rev. Mary Sulerud



## Christmas Families Update. Ingathering of Gifts and Special Collection on Sunday December 16

We will again bring the joy and good news of Christmas to 130 families, 330 children and 170 parents, 500 people in all. Thanks to the 65 parish families, a record number, who signed up to provide gifts to make another family's Christmas happy, providing for 145 children and 85 parents. This leaves 185 children and 85 parents to buy for. **A generous special offering on this coming Sunday, December 16,** and contributions made outside the collection (please make checks out to ICOH and mark them "Christmas Families") will support buying nice lasting gifts for these children and a small gift for the parents. In addition, under the leadership of Connie Kurz we are providing books bought at a great discount for all the children and healthy cookbooks for the parents; last Sunday parishioners who signed up for a family selected books from the display in the Parish Hall. (If you did adopt a family but did not have a chance to select books, Connie will do it for you.)

If you did sign up for a family, please bring the gifts to either service on Sunday, Dec. 16, when you may present them at the altar, or before Dec. 16 to the church office or to our house, 504 North Quaker Lane, entrance Trinity Drive (NW corner of Quaker and Trinity).

Also very welcomed are (same time and place)

- **good used clothing**, to be sorted and arranged lovingly by Dorothy Kellogg for the social workers who pick them up for their client families;
- **used toys**;
- **used bicycles**, to be cleaned up and refurbished expertly by Bill Frye and crew;
- **used computers** in good working condition, which will find eager fingers and minds.

Also on this coming Sunday, we will wrap gifts in the Parish Hall after the 10 o'clock service until we are done. As every year we need drivers who load up their cars after the 10 o'clock service or around 2 pm when the wrapping and sorting is completed and take them to Social Services, 2525 Mount Vernon Avenue, on Monday morning between 8:30 and 10. Specific directions will be provided.

Let our hands take God's love and caring into the world.

Dagobert and Lissa Soergel, Linda Serabian, Julie Bruns



## Christmas Greens and Flowers and Special Christmas Music

This Christmas season you are invited to make a donation for Christmas greens and flowers or special Christmas Music at the Christmas Eve Services. If you wish to remember a loved one or make a donation in thanksgiving for a loved one, please complete and send this form along with your check to the Parish Office or place it in the alms basin. **Names will be printed in the Christmas leaflets for all donations received by 9 a.m. on Monday, December 17. Please print all names very clearly!**

**Greens/Flowers:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Special Christmas Music:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



**ARE YOU CALLED TO VESTRY SERVICE?** Then our four departing members — **Susan Gilbertson, Martha Shimkin, Laura Snow and Senior Warden Tom Kerns** — would love to hear from you in the next few weeks.

On January 27th at the parish annual meeting, we will again elect fellow parishioners to a three-year term. This 12-member group, working with our clergy, makes decisions about the life of this parish, its worship and programs, its staffing and the well-being of the physical plant on behalf of us all. This "Class of 2013" will see Immanuel on the Hill through a pivotal period, as we call a new Rector and deploy the Capital Campaign funds to improve Zabriskie Chapel in 2013 and help us imagine a new worship life at the seminary's new Immanuel Chapel in 2015.

Serving on Vestry can be a richly rewarding experience. It offers a chance to "go deeper" — to think about worship and issues affecting the church, to connect with new friends in the pews, and to use leadership muscles in God's service in our parish home.

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SCHOLARSHIPS.** For almost a decade, Immanuel has supported the education of Dominican school children attending San Marcos School in the City of Haina. This year, we have been asked to support 25 children whose names and pictures are posted on a board in the narthex.

In the Dominican Republic, education is the only way for a child to get out of poverty and many students would face a bleak future without scholarship aid. San Marcos is the largest school in the Episcopal Church's education system with over five hundred students attending classes in morning and afternoon shifts. Our mission teams have visited San Marcos School on many occasions, and we've met the kids and their teachers. Our scholarships are making a difference in the lives of many children.

Please support a scholarship. Send your check to the church made payable to "Immanuel Church on the Hill" with "Dominican Scholarship" on the memo line. A full scholarship for one year is \$350. However, you can contribute any amount. The need is always greater than the available donors so if we could support additional children, that would be wonderful. If you have questions, contact Jim Snow at [JamesBSnow@verizon.net](mailto:JamesBSnow@verizon.net).

Dear Friends:

**PLEASE CONSIDER — OR RECONSIDER — YOUR 2013 PLEDGE:** The future health and growth of Immanuel depends on your strong support right now, at this important juncture. We need additional funds chiefly to attract a strong Rector in a competitive market, to hire a bookkeeper to assist our volunteer Treasurer to ensure sound financial management and to put new programming support into play.

To date, 183 people have pledged a total of \$467,237 in support of our mission and ministries in 2013 — that's nearly \$60,000 short of our \$ 526,763 goal. On January 2, the Vestry may be forced to hold a special session to cut programs across the five stewardship areas to meet that much diminished budget.

The Vestry works diligently to manage the parish's resources prudently. Most of the church's yearly expenses are non-discretionary: In 2012, 223 households pledged a total of \$526,763, which the Vestry administered to cover staff salaries and benefits, building maintenance, utility and office equipment bills, and insurance, plus worship, education and fellowship expenses. As is expected of every parish in the Diocese of Virginia, we contribute 12% of our proceeds — in our case a 12% of that \$526,763 — to the Bishop.

Bottom line, there are no anonymous wealthy patrons underwriting us: Immanuel runs entirely on parishioner pledges. Every dollar you give helps pay for the retreat leader, the coffee supplies, the lawn mowing and snow clearing, the Assistant Rector's salary, the altar candles and flowers, the Easter brass ensemble and the Palm Sunday donkey, the crew that deep-cleans the building quarterly, supplies for Family Fun nights, the considerable printing and mailing costs, the Rector's continuing education, musical resources for the choir, Godly Play and Sunday School materials, Shrine Mont scholarships, some of the delicious reception food we enjoy, just to mention a few things. The replacement parish hall door and new keypad lock installed this fall alone cost \$10,000 (including necessary structural improvements), to cite one example!

Amid this budgetary uncertainty, there is good news to celebrate: Immanuel on the Hill has 926 communicants, and more new members are joining us each month, even as some longtime parishioners have moved or passed away. We are back up to two full-time clergy, and Mary Sulerud has helped us take a fresh look at worship and programming here. And our successful capital campaign in 2012 will allow us to start repairs to the Zabriskie campus in 2013.

The Vestry has carefully assessed where we are and what we hope to become, building on our past strengths and looking to future ones. We and Immanuel's stewardship committee ask each of you to prayerfully consider and examine an increase to your existing pledge, and if you have not pledged, to do so and do so generously.

**Many thanks for considering this request,**

**Your Wardens, Vestry & Stewardship Committee**