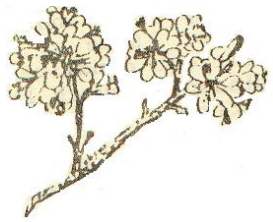
THE ALMOND TREE

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill



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

May 21, 2013

Dear Friends,

Almost exactly a week ago Peder and I were standing on the star in the square of the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela that is the zero kilometer mark for anyone who has walked the Camino pilgrimage. I couldn't help but wonder in that moment if my prayer for you had been answered and that in our absence a rector had been called because I knew without a doubt that our pilgrimage journey together for the last year had come to a close.

Throughout the year I have used many images to describe this time of transition. It took going to any number of sacred places in Portugal and Spain and finally arriving at Santiago de Compostela to understand that perhaps the best description of this time, this experience together is that of a pilgrimage. At times it did feel like we were attempting to walk the truly difficult if not impossible path, like creating an entirely new website, raising a million dollars for a new chapel and a renewed Zabriskie facility, or giving three worship services another shot, or our own Shrine Mont Camp Reunion Sunday or the Bishop of Virginia visiting us in the afternoon. At other times it was almost blissfully easy like the Pumpkin Patch that made money even during Super Storm Sandy, or the Christmas Pageant that joyfully emerged out of a few rehearsals, or the Holy Week in which we journeyed all week through the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus, or the stewardship evensong and dinner that marked our return to VTS to worship, or 300 dozen cookies for a retreat for those in prison, or an outpouring of spontaneous support for countless people in need.

Through it all I was surrounded by a gloriously gifted staff, adjunct clergy, the best wardens and vestry an interim rector could ever fantasize about, countless, talented volunteers, and a congregation that just made it all so much fun and so full of grace. You are easy to love and you are not easy to leave. Leave I must. The biblical injunction by which interims live is a paraphrase of John the Baptist's comment about his relationship to Jesus, "I must decrease that he may increase." In this case I need to move on to the next call at St. Thomas, Richmond so that you may focus your attention and expectation on your new rector. In my more playful moments I am packing and humming my favorite Groucho Marx song from the movie Animal Crackers, "Hello, I must be going." We have laughed, cried, worked and played together in the name of Christ and we have made transition a joyful, graceful pilgrimage in faith to the heart of God.

Thank you for deepening my faith in God and in the church, for generously giving me your time and support so that I could journey with you, for enlarging my heart to make room for more of God's love and yours. Your journey begins anew with a new rector, and I enter into a new time of pilgrimage. God be with you 'til we meet again.

God's peace and keeping,
Mary+

PASTORAL CARE CORNER: **Please remember** these parishioners in your prayers: Duncan MacDonald, Morgan, Lloyd and Jean Mostrom, Janet Siegrist, Catherine, Susan Kernan, Mary, Natalie Doyle-Hennin, Bill Frye, Yvonne Pover, Chris Enstrom.

Please also remember in your prayers members of our extended Parish family: Dean and Charlotte Kellogg, Chris Rarick, Eleanor Boothe Smith, Jim Rarick, Sam Faeth, Anthony Christino, Jr., Jane Burton, Keith Green, Lois, Percy Hays, Alex, Marian, Ray Dovell, Adrian and Bob Love, Tom Hewson, Sr., Danny Christoffersen, Fisher Gray, Ross Dickerson, Dianna Reeves, Cealia Robertson, Jim Clear.

Those serving in the U.S. and overseas: Todd Bates**,** Paul Bednar, Yolanda Bednar, Ian Phillips, John Patrick Miller, Philip Smucker, Jon Anderson, Nicole DeBien, Noah Barker, Ryan.

RECEPTION HONORING THE INTERIM RECTOR. Please join the Vestry for a festive reception on June 2 in honor of the Reverend Mary Sulerud, in recognition and grateful appreciation of her year of gracious, wise and selfless service as our Interim Rector**. The reception will be held in the Parish Hall, between the 8:00 and 10:00 services**. For more information, or to help staff the reception, please contact Laura Snow at thesnowfamily@verizon.net.

ALIVE! FOOD DRIVE– June is one of the two months when Immanuel is responsible for donating food to ALIVE! Please bring any non-perishable items and leave them in the box in the Narthex. Checks are also appreciated and will be used to buy fresh meat, eggs and produce from the Capital Area Food Bank. Make check payable to ICOH, noting the ALIVE! Food program. Questions? Please call Ginny Johnstone at 703-845-5745. **ALIVE! Food items needed:** Baby food, dried milk, crackers, tea, instant coffee, tuna, canned meat, canned spaghetti sauce, Jello, complete pancake mix(needing only water) , pancake syrup, peanut butter and jelly (especially large jars).

Kendall Gildersleeve, graduating from TC Williams, attending University of Rochester (NY).

Allen Kellogg graduated May 11 from Texas Christian University with a degree in strategic communications. Next fall he is expecting to spend a "gap-year" living and working in New Zealand.

Emily McDaniel: UVA
Kelly McDaniel: Stone Bridge High School
Ashburn, VA

Johnathan Mason graduated from Ashford University (Mar 2013). He graduated with honors 'cum laude'.

Phillips Mitchell will be graduating from The Johns Hopkins University on May 23.

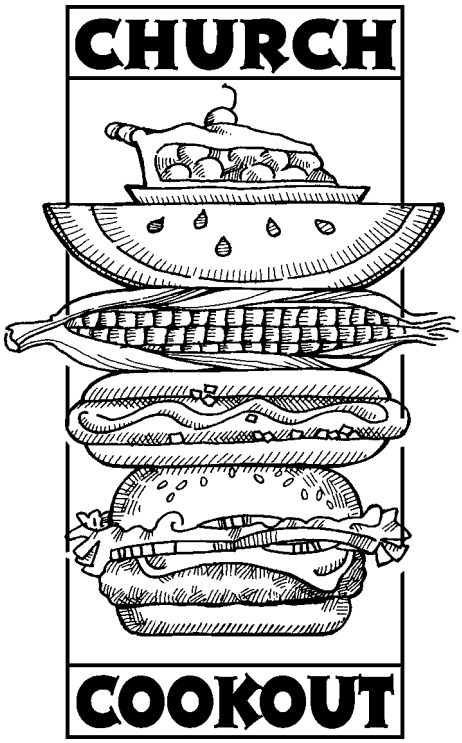
Katja Shimkin, graduating from TC Williams, attending Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio.

Heidi Van Benthem Hope Christian High School
Albuquerque, NM
Max Van Benthem Naval Academy

Katherine Werner, graduating from H.B. Woodlawn, and plans to attend VCU in the fall, majoring in psychology.

RETURN TO TWO SERVICES: Sunday, May 26, we return to two services: 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. every morning until after Labor Day. We will continue the schedule of Holy Eucharist at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS: Due to the construction throughout the building this summer (your capital campaign dollars at work), summer office hours will begin June 10. The office will be open from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. through Labor Day.



HOT DOG! THE PARISH PICNIC IS SUNDAY JUNE 9!

Please join the Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill family for our annual Parish Picnic on Sunday June 9. This wonderful, family friendly event occurs rain or shine following Mass on the Grass, so please come prepared to eat, talk and share in the fellowship and
fun of life at Immanuel. It's also an opportunity to meet and greet the newest members of our parish family as we celebrate Newcomers Sunday.

This is a potluck event, so please bring your favorite or signature "picnic" dish -- in a size to serve 8 to 10! -- according to the first letter of your surname:

A to C: Desserts!
D to M: Side dishes: All sorts of vegetable, fruit, pasta or grain salads, vegetable casseroles, deviled eggs, baked beans, cheeses or dips, chips and crackers, etc.
N to Z: Main course dishes: Sliced ham
or fried/roasted chicken, sandwiches, casseroles, quiche, chicken/tuna salads, pasta dishes, vegetarian specialties, etc.

Drop your offering by the kitchen any time from 9:30 a.m. on, and we'll keep it hot/cold until serving time.

In addition to your food contributions, Immanuel will be providing hot dogs, buns, and a vast array of fantastically fun toppings. You'll be able to build your own favorite classic ball park hot dog, or try something new: Imagine a Korean kimchi dog, a Chicago dog "run through the garden," a Sonoran dog with jalapenos, a Hawaiian pineapple dog…

Questions? Want to help? Contact Sue Gilbertson (703/207-0430 susan.gilbertson@verizon.net) or Connie Kurz (703/370- 0062 cgkurz@aol.com).

YOUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DOLLARS AT WORK:

Why is part of the ceiling missing? What's going on with the church's roof? Thanks to the $500,000 parishioners pledged to the 2012 capital campaign, construction is starting right away on two of our largest capital improvement projects.

The most extensive and expensive project ($320,000) is the replacement of the heating and cooling system throughout the church, offices, classrooms and parish hall. The contractor is on a tight schedule and expects to finish by the end of August, to minimize impact on our worship and programs. The work crews will be here from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekdays, and the contractor will let us know two weeks out whether certain parts of the building may be temporarily off-limits. So please check with Jennifer Addington in the church office first, if you need to schedule a meeting space.

The second project involves replacing the existing roof and repairing or replacing some gutters and downspouts. We expect that work to take around a week to accomplish. Have questions about what's next on the list? See our friendly Resources steward, John von Senden (johnvonsenden@comcast.net), who can provide the answers.

JUNE 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Shrine Mont Parish retreat TRINITY SUNDAY **8:00 AM** HE-I, Chapel **10:00 AM** HE-II, Chapel	**27** MEMORIAL DAY, OFFICE CLOSED Shrine Mont Parish retreat **11:00 AM** Qi gong, Parish Hall	**28** Jennifer on vacation	**29** Jennifer on vacation **6:30 AM** Early Christians **8:20 AM - 11:35 AM** Senior Exercise classes **6:30 PM** Holy Eucharist-II	**30**	**31** **8:20 AM - 11:35 AM** Senior Exercise classes **12:30 PM** Muslim Worship, Parish Hall **8:30 PM** AA, Fairchild	**1** **6:00 PM - 8:00 PM** Dignity, Zabriskie
2 **8:00 AM** HE-I, Chapel **8:45 AM, Reception for Mary Sulerud** **10:00 AM** HE-II **10:30 AM - 12:00 PM** Youth Group, Fairchild Room **2:00 PM** Alberta Carten funeral, Goodwin House, followed by interment in Memorial Garden **6:20 PM - 9:00 PM** Prayer Group, Fairchild Room	**3**	**4** **7:00 PM** Benedictine Community, Upper Room	**5** **6:30 AM** Early Christians **6:30 PM** Holy Eucharist-II **7:30 PM** Seminary Hill, Parish Hall	**6** **7:30 PM** Pastoral Care, Fairchild Room	**7** TAT deadline **12:30 PM** Muslim Worship, Parish Hall **2:00 PM** Cathy Hartman funeral, Goodwin House, followed by interment in Memorial Garden **4:30 PM - 6:30 PM** Brownie Troop, Parish Hall **8:30 PM** AA, Fairchild	**8** **6:00 PM - 8:00 PM** Dignity, Zabriskie
9 NEWCOMERS SUNDAY **8:00 AM** HE-I, Chapel **9:20 AM** Circle of Quiet, Upper Room **10:00 AM** HE-II, MASS ON THE GRASS **11:00 AM** Parish Picnic	**10**	**11** **12:00 PM** Goodwin House luncheon **6:30 PM** Vestry Meeting, Upper Room	**12** TAT mailing **6:30 AM** Early Christians **6:30 PM** Holy Eucharist-II **7:30 PM - 8:30 PM** Bibles on Tap, Cafe 1823 VTS	**13**	**14** **12:30 PM** Muslim Worship, Parish Hall **8:30 PM** AA, Fairchild	**15** **2:00 PM** Piano recital **6:00 PM - 8:00 PM** Dignity, Zabriskie
16 FATHER'S DAY **8:00 AM** HE-I, Chapel **9:20 AM** Circle of Quiet, Upper Room **10:00 AM** HE, Chapel **4:00 PM - 8:00 PM** Girl Scout sponsored babysitting, Parish Hall	**17**	**18** **7:00 PM** Benedictine Community, Upper Room	**19** **6:30 AM** Early Christians **6:30 PM** Holy Eucharist-II	**20**	**21** TAT deadline **12:30 PM** Muslim Worship, Parish Hall **8:30 PM** AA, Fairchild	**22** **6:00 PM - 8:00 PM** Dignity, Zabriskie
23 **8:00 AM** HE-I, Chapel **9:20 AM** Circle of Quiet, Upper Room **10:00 AM** HE, Chapel	**24** **6:30 PM** Knitting Group, 1823 Pub/VTS	**25**	**26** TAT mailing **6:30 AM** Early Christians **6:30 PM** Holy Eucharist-II	**27**	**28** **12:30 PM** Muslim Worship, Parish Hall **8:30 PM** AA, Fairchild	**29** **6:00 PM - 8:00 PM** Dignity, Zabriskie
30 **8:00 AM** HE-I, Chapel **9:20 AM** Circle of Quiet, Upper Room **10:00 AM** HE, Chapel	**1**	**2**	**3** **6:30 AM** Early Christians **6:30 PM** Holy Eucharist-II	**4** Independence Day, Office closed	**5** **12:30 PM** Muslim Worship, Parish Hall **8:30 PM** AA, Fairchild	**6** **6:00 PM - 8:00 PM** Dignity, Zabriskie **10:30 PM - 12:00 AM** Muslim Ramadan Worship, Parish Hall

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

06/01 Christian Miller
06/01 Jill Hanna
06/01 Tony Christino
06/01 Chris Marbaker
06/02 Sandy Briggs
06/02 Chloe Campbell
06/03 Tom Murray
06/03 James Danly
06/03 Kerstin Shimkin
06/04 Kendall Gildersleeve
06/05 Madeleine Mitchell
06/05 Tom Hewson
06/05 Jacob Cooper
06/06 David Lindsey
06/06 Paul Barnes
06/07 Wayne Iskra
06/07 Linda Kapurch
06/07 Elizabeth Phillips
06/07 Kris Larson
06/07 Shannon King
06/07 Lori Reiner
06/07 Isabella Arciniegas
06/10 Sara Latimer
06/10 Brentan Rath
06/11 Margaret Kerekes
06/11 Dorathea Peters
06/11 Carol Wilkes
06/11 Betsy McWhirt
06/11 Anthony Gabriel
06/11 Bill Duran
06/11 Andrew Drennon
06/11 Addie Biache
06/12 William Packard
06/13 Frank Wade
06/13 Nina Besser
06/13 Gemma Haney
06/13 Claire Rainey
06/15 Katie Lloyd
06/15 Andrew Wilson
06/15 Laurie Clark
06/15 Aksel Nordin
06/16 Gary Campbell
06/16 Carrie Turnbull
06/17 Matthew Schnedl
06/17 David Fite
06/17 Patty MacEwan
06/17 Katherine Coleman
06/19 Marta Evans
06/19 David Forster
06/19 Katie Rhoades
06/19 Meaghan Ross
06/20 Tom Brown
06/20 Jim Kurz
06/20 Kevin Wensing
06/20 Coday Cunningham
06/20 Vivian Gray
06/20 Sebastian Haney
06/20 Zoe Gildersleeve
06/20 Frank Kozuch
06/21 Elaine Davies
06/21 George Currie
06/21 David Temoshok
06/21 Marc Miller
06/21 Jonathan Mason
06/21 Rachel Williams
06/22 Maria Balcarcel
06/22 David Stayanoff
06/23 Sue Lynch
06/23 Kevin Kirby
06/23 Tina Wagner
06/23 Lindsay Friday
06/23 Rachael Turnbull
06/24 Barbara Fornoff
06/24 Eric Arnold
06/24 Ben Blakeslee
06/25 Wendy John
06/26 Kurt Wanamaker
06/26 Chris Boam
06/26 Meredith Irvin
06/28 Larry Lyman
06/28 Taylor Brown
06/29 Keith Huffman
06/29 Katherine Werner
06/30 Veronique Anderson
06/30 Carrie Cuddy

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!

Outreach in the Dominican Republic

Your Outreach Committee wants the Parish to be up to date on our various ministries, and one of them is our ongoing relationship in the Dominican Republic (DR) with our good friend, Father Adolfo Moronta. As some may remember, Father Adolfo was a graduate student at VTS in 2010-2011 and during that time he got to know several ICOH parishioners. During his time in Virginia, he assisted with an Hispanic congregation in Fairfax County. After receiving his Master of Divinity degree, he returned to the DR where he now has parish ministries and teaches at the Seminary in Santo Domingo. Because of a shortage of priests, it is normal in the DR for priests to serve multiple congregations. Father Adolfo describes his churches this way:

"I serve three congregations, separated by many miles and each having their individual challenges."

"Divina Providencia is located in San Antonio de Guerra which is about 45 minutes away from Santo Domingo. The church in Guerra is the oldest of the three, having been founded more than 25 years ago. The people in Guerra make their living mainly from farming, construction work, and small businesses. Many travel each day to Santo Domingo to work. Since I arrived at Divina Providencia, I have been organizing it by creating all kinds of groups (cleaning, Acolytes, Prayer, Youth, Altar Guild...) The number of people attending has increased considerably since my arrival, and we now have between 60-75 people at our Sunday Eucharist."

"De la Gracia located in La Caleta Boca Chica. This is a congregation that had only two members when I came, and now there are 35-45 each Saturday during our weekly Eucharist. I have had to go out and visit people in their homes, have face to face contact with each of them. In this community, I have had the help of the Holy Spirit since I am always celebrating the Eucharist in ways to get people's interest and attention on our congregation."

"San Pablo y San Lucas is located in San Isidro about 35 minutes away from Santo Domingo. This is a very lively congregation, and we are building a new church this spring with the help of some parishes from Michigan. There are 55-65 attending each Sunday at our Eucharist, and I predict that once our worship space is finished the amount of people should double."

"The Holy Spirit is at work among my congregations. I know this because I see the revival of the people, with more coming to worship. People have begun to experience changes in their spiritual lives and feel closer to God."

Immanuel's Outreach Committee has been sending Father Adolfo a small stipend of $750 which enables him to travel between his congregations. Gas prices in the DR are now over $6 per gallon, which can be prohibitively expensive for keeping in touch with parishioners. Adolfo tells us, "With that assistance, I am able to visit each congregation twice a week. This availability is essential for our congregations to grow and for me to serve the needs of my communicants."

Fr. Adolfo at his VTS graduation 2011

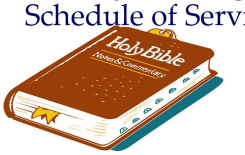
Fr. Adolfo (left) with some of his parishioners

Ground breaking ceremony for the new church at *San Pablo y San Lucas*

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



May 26, Trinity Sunday, Shrine Mont Retreat
Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8, Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15
8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:00 a.m., HEII

June 2, Second Sunday after Pentecost
1 Kings 18:20-39; Psalm 96; Galatians 1:1-12; Luke 7:1-10
8 a.m., HEI, 10:00 a.m., HEII

June 9, Third Sunday after Pentecost
1 Kings 17:8-24; Psalm 146; Galatians 1:11-24; Luke 7:11-17
8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:00 a.m., HEII