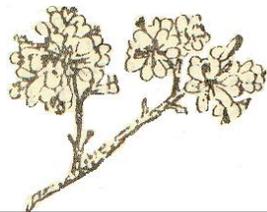


THE ALMOND TREE

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

The Rev. David Crosby, Assistant Rector
Jennifer Addington, Editor

August 14, 2013



Dear Members of Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill,

I am humbled and honored, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart, for the call to serve as your next Rector. I look forward to learning your story as a community, and your individual stories as children of God.

I am blessed to be married to the Rev. Patricia Phaneuf Alexander, and I am further blessed, with her, to be the parents of William, Peter, and Andrew.

I am a native of Virginia, from the small town of Rural Retreat in the southwestern part of the state. My life and ministry has taken me far from that little town, serving in New York, Baltimore, and London. But so much of who I am comes from the solid foundation in life and the faith that I inherited there. I have been specially blessed for the past 12 1/2 years to serve as Rector of Christ Church, Pelham, NY, in Westchester County, right outside New York City.

A favorite image of mine for the ministry we share as Christians comes from a friend and mentor who died recently. He said regularly that even the most sincere Christian should always be like one beggar who is eager to show other beggars where he or she has found bread. There is no room for self-satisfaction or a sense of having arrived; rather, we are on a journey of grace.

I hope and pray that is the spirit in which we, together, will seek to follow our Lord Jesus Christ. The saints and martyrs, both named and unnamed, remind us that we are called to this exciting journey, one that always reaches out and points beyond us to God's hurting, yet wonderful, world.

May we support one another and grow in grace together. I humbly ask your prayers for me and for our family, and for all of Immanuel Church on the Hill, during our time of transition.

The Rev. J. Randolph Alexander, Jr.

PASTORAL CARE CORNER: Please remember these parishioners in your prayers: Duncan MacDonald, Morgan, Lloyd and Jean Mostrom, Janet Siegrist, Catherine, Mary, Natalie Doyle-Hennin, Bill Frye, Yvonne Pover, Chris Enstrom, Arlo and Katie Lloyd, Samantha Taggart, Judy Bednar, Jessi MacLeod, Dorothy Kellogg.

Please also remember in your prayers members of our extended Parish family: Dean and Charlotte Kellogg, Chris Rarick, Eleanor Boothe Smith, Sam Faeth, Anthony Christino, Jr., Jane Burton, Keith Green, Lois, Percy Hays, Alex, Marian, and Bob Love, Tom Hewson, Sr., Danny Christoffersen, Ross Dickerson, Jim Clear, Lindsey Rose, Cathy and Stewart Hoskins, Laura Hudson, Ann and Larry Kaplan, Aubree Bowling, Quinn, Erin Monroney, Marjorie Glassco.

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

WHAT'S NEW ON ICOH'S WEBSITE?: Are you missing the beautiful music of Immanuel's Angels? You can catch a performance of theirs on the newly revised Music page under "Worship" on the website (that's www.icoh.net/Worship/Ministries/Music/). On that page, you can also read about Immanuel's great music program under the guidance of the talented Dr. Jane Tavernier, and even learn a little more about the Mander Organ.

SAVE THE DATE IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL ADVENT RETREAT

Date: Beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, December 6, and ending at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, December 8
Location: Holy Cross Abbey, Berryville, Virginia
Leader: the Rev. David Crosby



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: At the last Resources Meeting, Tom Kerns, Doug Henry, Hance Haney and John von Senden met to discuss the Capital Fund Drive Construction. The Treasurer, Marcus Rarick, previously met with the Wardens to discuss the funding level and current balances of the Capital Fund Drive. To provide the complete renovation as designed would cost approximately \$161,000. This is more than the cash on hand and would fully deplete the fund drive without allowing for any missed pledges. Marcus believes that a conservative number for current expenditures would be closer to \$30,000 (plus the insurance reimbursement) with possibly another \$40,000 available next year or so.



Our choir will begin rehearsing on September 5, on Thursday night at 7 p.m. . I will be recruiting singers and those who have not sung in a while to attend the first choir rehearsal and see if it works for them. We have a wonderful time making music and worshipping and cordially invite you to join us. Gone for the holidays, travel a great deal for work, get home late etc.? You can still sing! I am happy to work with your schedule.

Jane Tavernier, Director of Music

YOU WANT TO GO WHERE EVERYBODY KNOWS YOUR NAME... If you were part of the capacity crowd who attended the August 11 Sunday Forum Hour with the Rev. Dr. Francis Wade, you heard that one of the very best ways we can help our new Rector Randy Alexander get to know us all is by wearing nametags. The Vestry has obtained enough magnetic and hanging nametag holders for all parishioners to have a nametag, as well as storage trays to keep them organized when not in use. In the days ahead, the names in Immanuel's directory will be printed on attractive, readable inserts for those holders; you will have the opportunity to correct the nametag, if there is a mistake or you prefer to be called a nickname. You will also have the opportunity to select the kind of nametag holder you want and to leave your nametag at church "on file" when not in use. Now comes the most important part: as Dr. Wade pointed out, the usefulness of nametags increases exponentially when they are actually worn, instead of stuck to a display board. **Please help our new Rector by wearing your nametag** (an additional benefit is that you may learn the names of fellow parishioners, as well!).

With that in mind the Resources Group discussed various options for prioritizing the available funding. Options included focusing on piece parts (all of the ceilings, then all of the floors and so on) or focusing on spaces. The group's consensus was for the latter. The four spaces that were discussed during the Capital Drive were the Sanctuary, the Parish Hall, the Fairchild Room and the Sunday School spaces.

The consensus was to prioritize as follows:

1. Sanctuary: Approximately \$16,000
 - Paint the wood millwork (pew ends, lectern, window sills and so on)
 - Refinish the Chancel floor (with a natural wood finish to match the existing)
 - Paint the ceiling and walls.
 - Patch the damaged floor tile.
2. Fairchild Room: Approximately \$8,000
 - Replace the carpet
 - Replace the ceiling
 - Repaint the walls and trim
3. The Sunday School and Office Spaces (at this point the corridors) Approximately \$6,000
 - Replace the hall lighting
 - Replace the hall ceiling
 - Replace damaged flooring
 - Repaint damaged walls
4. The Parish Hall: will have to wait until later funding and is approximately \$30,000.
5. Exterior Painting: will have to wait until later funding and is approximately \$20,000.
6. Everything Else: will have to wait until later funding and is approximately \$58,000.

On Friday 9 August, Tom Kerns and John von Senden met with Chamberlain Construction Company (CCC). CCC informally indicated the totals for the first three lists above look achievable. They are proceeding with pricing the work. In addition, as the drywall subcontractor is on-site patching for the HVAC work, they will proceed with replacing the Fairchild Room ceiling. Delaying would mean not having spaces ready for Homecoming Sunday.

CCC is also preparing the appropriate documentation to present to the Insurer (estimated to be approximately \$22,000).

The Kitchen Air-Handling Unit (AHU) was incorrectly specified by the engineer. This error wasn't caught until the unit arrived on site. GPI is working with the manufacturer to (1st) obtain the correct AHU, and (2nd) credit the miss-specified unit. While this won't cost Immanuel any additional money, it is delaying the project in the Kitchen and Parish Hall.

Upcoming Work: The drywall work should be complete this week; next week for the Fairchild Room. New flooring and the repair and replacement of the damaged finishes on the basement level should start and be mostly complete next week. The fan-coil units should start cooling later this week.

The majority of the work should be complete before Homecoming Sunday (8 September), although there will still be small work tasks left to perform. Unfortunately some work in the office areas will not start until Randy Alexander's arrival.

-- John von Senden, vestry steward for Resources

Dear Immanuel Family:

As I grew up, I knew my mother was an avid listener of the Paul Harvey radio show. I too was drawn in, hearing his distinctive and unique cadence and listening to his thought-provoking topics. I was especially taken by his illustrations of Americana such as his speech, “So God Made a Farmer.” Yet I rarely could walk away until I heard his famous tagline, “And now you know the rest of the story.”

A benefit of this interim time for me between Mary and the arrival of Fr. Randy is the clergy mentors surrounding me in this parish. How rich we are to have so many capable clergy who worship among us in our pews! One is Frank Wade, a long-time friend, a recent teacher in seminary, and now a treasured clergy colleague at our altar. Frank offers me good counsel and wonderful advice. This Sunday after services, he asked, “How do we equate ‘Hydrate, Perspire, Urinate’ (my Aug. 11th sermon) to our own lives?” If you missed it, find our sermons video library at www.icoh.net/Sermons

How do we equate ‘Hydrate, Perspire, Urinate’ to our lives today, here at ICOH?

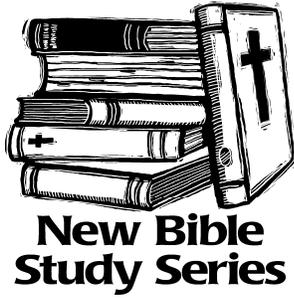
To HYDRATE ourselves with ‘living water,’ we are called to constant prayer, regular worship, diligent study, and finally to action. We assemble for worship as community. We gather around scripture to formulate our own understanding of texts, to join in dialogue, and then to act. We pray together, offering our petitions, supplications and thanksgivings, for ourselves and for one another. We are empowered through the sacraments of our Baptism and fed by the Lord’s Supper. Lifting our voices in prayer and praise, through song and the exchange of Peace, we become stirring waters of God’s Love in the world. Hydrate yourselves. Then Hydrate the World.

To PERSPIRATE comes with work in the vineyards. When we end our worship in Zabriskie, our service begins in the mission field right outside our door. We are well known in Alexandria as “the Pumpkin Church,” and so many good works flow from the funds gained through the year-long efforts of the Patch. I know the heavy work of toting pumpkins, not once but twice in October. But there are also feeding ministries for others and our own, Christmas families backpacks in August and holiday gifts in December, scholarships and aid for students in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. I regularly see the ICOH volunteers who tend to our gardens and grounds. Hydrate and Perspire!

To URINATE. It is imperative our systems process hydration and perspiration properly; for if not, dehydration can occur, and death could follow. How do we share our faith in God, to be ‘not only hearers of the Word, but doers also?’ Our ‘system’ works best if we process what we take in, and release that which can bind us up. This might be through sacramental rites of reconciliation and penance, forgiveness and absolution. Maybe we cope with grief: for a loved one who died, a relationship that has ended, a move that was required. Please remember that the Alexanders coming to ICOH has involved a leave-taking full of great thanksgiving, but also tender sorrow, and now carries with it great anticipation and some anxiety: for Fr. Randy, for Patty, and for their sons, William, Peter and Andrew.

There you have it. And now you know the rest of the sermon.

David Crosby. Good Day!



AFRICAN BIBLE STUDY THIS FALL! The African Bible Study is a method to *experience* the Bible, knowing that the Bible has something to say to us -- if we would just listen! Rev. Frank Wade will lead a Forum Hour on September 29 on "Why Read the Bible", and a second Forum Hour on October 13 to introduce "The African Bible Study" method. Also known as The African Method, it is more of an experience with the Bible, and less of an academic study. We will offer a series of sessions between October 13 and November 11. The sessions are free, but reservations are required. Please look for more information and sign up sheets after September 29. Please see Caroline Bergmark cbergmark@yahoo.com or 703-837-0881 for more information."

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Jump Start Conference to Focus on Creative Solutions for Practical Church Problems

Dear Friends,

I am writing today to invite you to a workshop that is sure to stimulate, support and maybe even jump start new ministry in your congregation. The Diocese of Virginia, the Episcopal Church Building Fund (ECBF) and the Church of the Resurrection, Alexandria, are jointly presenting Jump Start, a one-day event for clergy, wardens, vestry members and other lay leaders who are ready to face head-on their fears about decline in church attendance, decline in finances and the future of their church. The day will be sure to give you new ideas and new hope in the face of swiftly changing realities.

Jump Start will take place on Saturday, September 14, at the Church of the Resurrection in Alexandria, beginning at 9 a.m. and concluding at 4:30 p.m. The day will include substantive presentations by ECBF, a national organization that is headquartered in Richmond. The mission of ECBF is to empower congregations to develop and enhance their mission through strategic, resourceful and creative uses of their buildings. Presenters will share stories of churches that have faced the challenges and found renewal through re-visioning their ministries and re-purposing their buildings. Members of the Church of the Resurrection will tell their compelling, ongoing story. Canon Pat Wingo and I will also be there to share diocesan perspectives and fully invite your questions and responses.

Financial support from our Diocese means that the cost of the workshop is only \$25 per participant, including lunch.

More information about the workshop and a registration form are available at the diocesan website: www.thediocese.net.

I look forward to seeing you at Resurrection on September 14.

Faithfully yours,

The Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff
Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Virginia

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Lectionary Readings and
Schedule of Services



August 18, Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:1-2, 8-18; Hebrews 11:29—12:2; Luke 12:49-56

8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:00 a.m., HEII

August 25, Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Randy Alexander's first Sunday at ICOH)

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:00 a.m., HEII

September 1, Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:1, 10-16; Hebrews 13:1-8; 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

8 a.m., HEI, 10:00 a.m., HEII