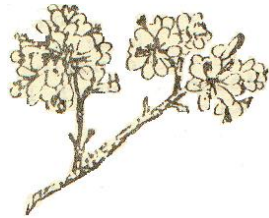


THE ALMOND TREE

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

The Rev. J. Randolph Alexander, Jr., Rector
The Rev. David Crosby, Associate Rector
Jennifer Addington, Editor



September 25, 2013

"I said to the almond tree, 'Sister, speak to me of God.' And the almond tree blossomed." Nikos Kazantzakis

Discipleship 101: Walking the Walk

It's easy to admire Jesus. He clearly was smart, He could think on His feet, He was not intimidated by authority figures and He didn't mind shaking things up. He brought an incisiveness to His ethical teachings that speaks to people the world over, whether or not they are Christians. He defied social customs in treating women with respect, in welcoming children as full human beings, and in eating with sinners and tax collectors. He had a depth of empathy for the poor that is hard to overstate. In short, the more one learns about Jesus, even if one is not a believer, the more one realizes what a revolutionary He was. His life and teachings have probably affected our world more than that of any other person who has ever lived.

Yet as Christians we take it a lot further. We don't just like and respect Jesus, we *worship* Him as the definitive intersection of God with humanity, as God taking on human flesh, living our life, even dying our death, at our hands. "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"...and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...full of grace and truth" (John 1). The New Testament tells us there will come a time when all humanity will worship Jesus: "At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:10-11). You may notice that some of us bow our heads slightly in the Liturgy when the name of Jesus is mentioned. It is a simple way of showing respect. Likewise, one tradition is to bow slightly during the section of the Nicene Creed that speaks of the Incarnation ("by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man"). Only Christians claim this, and it is a claim scoffed at by many other world religions as they reject even the possibility that God could become one of us. We believe God is as close as our next breath, as the touch of our neighbor, as the consecrated bread and wine of Communion, as the saint dying while knowing that Jesus has already traveled that road.

Still, we are called to a lot more than liking and even worshipping Jesus. We are called to *follow* Him, to pattern our lives after His example. Jesus boils all of this down in the great Summary of the Law: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matthew 22:37-40).

It should be quickly obvious that we cannot follow someone unless we know quite a bit about him or her. I am deeply moved by two of my heroes, Robert E. Lee and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (I know, they are seemingly contradictory heroes, but not so much when we learn more about their character and example). I have benefitted and grown from reading about their lives and struggles, their beliefs and practices, and reading some of their original speeches, sermons and orders. Let's be clear – I don't worship them, but I view them as examples, much like my son William views Derek Jeter. So isn't it exceedingly more incumbent upon me, and all who call ourselves Christians, to learn about the life, example and teachings of Jesus? *There is no way we can pattern our lives after Jesus unless we know about Him.* Admiring, worshipping, following – this is discipleship, and it is a call to spiritual maturity. This is the goal of Church School, of Confirmation Class, of youth ministry, of sermons, of Bible Study, and of prayer.

It seems clear to me that Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill has a deep heritage of being clear in its focus on forming mature disciples of Jesus Christ, believers who live an infectious faith and who serve as role models to

others who are newer to the faith. This does not mean perfect followers, Lord knows, but followers who hold the vision of intentionally following Jesus. Let us look for more opportunities to grow in discipleship this year as we grow together.

With you in it,
Randy+

PASTORAL CARE CORNER: Please remember these parishioners in your prayers: Duncan MacDonald, Morgan, Jean Mostrom, Janet Siegrist, Catherine, Mary, Natalie Doyle-Hennin, Bill Frye, Yvonne Pover, Arlo and Katie Lloyd, Judy Bednar, Jessi MacLeod, Barbara Fornoff, Mei Lung DeVight, Betty Wannamaker.

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, Paul, Bill Abernathy, Carol Brown.

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



**IMMANUEL
HARVEST
DANCE
PARTY
October 19**

7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Take a break from selling pumpkins and enjoy rock'n'roll from the 60's through today's hits performed by *Law & Disorder*, returning by popular demand for their third gig at Immanuel. Soft drinks and snacks will be provided. Bring your own beer and wine, and have fun!

FORUM HOUR: WHY READ THE BIBLE?

The Rev. Dr. Frank Wade will lead a Forum Hour on September 29 on the role of the Bible in our lives today. This is the first of two Forum Hours to introduce Immanuel's Bible Study this fall. The second Forum Hour will be on October 13 to introduce the approach to Bible Study we will be using in our small groups. 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! 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 four sessions between October 20 and November 16. The sessions are free, but reservations are required. Sign up sheets will be available September 29 - October 13. Please see Caroline for information or to sign up: cbergmark@yahoo.com.

NEW WORSHIP SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

WELCOME! If you are interested in contributing to any of the three services as a chalice bearer, reader of Scripture or Prayers of the People, usher, or Altar Guild member, please contact Jennifer Addington or Vestry Worship Steward Rick Glassco. There will be training sessions later in the fall to review everything you need to know.

ACOLYTES! – Information for both New and Returning Acolytes.

Calling all Immanuel youth in grades 4-12. Become an acolyte and join us in this exciting and important ministry! We will have a **meeting for all acolytes** - New and Returning – on **Sunday, September 29** from **11:30 AM to 1:30 PM**. Lunch will be provided. We will measure for robes and conduct a training and review session. New acolytes will be paired up with an experienced acolyte mentor, who you will follow and observe at various services. This is a great way to give your time to God's service and see what Church is like on the "other" side of the seats. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Francine Wargo at wargo12@yahoo.com.

IMMANUEL TO OFFER WEEKDAY MORNING PRAYER: Beginning Monday, September 30th, and continuing through Christmas, Immanuel will offer daily Morning Prayer at 9:30 a.m., in Zabriskie Chapel. This is prayer in which the staff already engages, but it seemed fitting to open this to the community, at least for an experimental time, to see if others might want to join. Please come by and pray any time that you are able, but also know that others are praying for you, whether or not you are able to be there.



**PUMPKIN PATCH COUNTDOWN: 10 DAYS
TIL PUMPKIN SUNDAY! :**

Sunday, October 6 is the day we unload two truckloads of pumpkins to kick off the 2013 20th Anniversary Immanuel Pumpkin Patch!

The action will start after the 10 a.m. Mass on the Grass, so please plan to return to church or attend that service in your pumpkin-unloading clothes.

Can't help that day? You can still give Immanuel's Pumpkin Patch a big boost by:

- Signing up on the Narthex (Immanuel's entry foyer) board to sell pumpkins sometime in October!
- Baking cookies and/or cupcakes and/or cooking & freezing soups (with clear labels of contents) to sell at the Pumpkin Patch (100% of food profits go to Immanuel's charities!);
- Planning to bring a friend/relative/neighbor when you stop by to buy your pumpkin(s), (or bring the entire garden club/book club/poker group/Seniorize class/etc.)!
- Sending our one-page factsheet to any listserv or email list you can access (contact Jennifer in the church office for the one-pager);
- Letting Melinda Ashton know if you can help with Apple Crisp production the weekend of October 12-13 or October 19-20 – no culinary skills needed! You can contact her at melindashton@gmail.com or 703-549-7295.

Please feel free to contact any of the Pumpkin Patch managers (Pierre Shostal, Jamie Conrad, Jim Snow, Martha Manson) with questions or by emailing to pumpkins@icoh.net.

**LETTER FROM KELLY FOUNDATION/
CENTER POLE FOUNDATION**

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your past support. You have supported the Kelly Foundation for over 30 years and the Center Pole for 14 years. The Center Pole, which was built by you is an indigenous grassroots organization located in the heart of the Crow (Apsaalooke) Reservation in rural southeastern Montana. Last year with the Kelly Foundation it served more than 4,000 area youth with its programs and basic needs donations.

We provide hope to very low income at-risk children, underserved Native American children, many living on Indian reservations, for their educational dreams to come true. The activities include language, heritage and arts to strengthen children from within as well as access to college and other educational opportunities beyond the reservation community.

We also provide for basic needs of children, 0 to 18, through our community thrift store and community food bank. Having basic needs met-food, warm clothing, school supplies and blankets- is essential for full participation in learning. But we do not stop there. We are directly involved in children's life journeys and their development into happy, healthy adults.

The Foundations work for systemic change within this community for self-reliance and sovereignty. On our planet, eighty percent of the remaining resources are on indigenous land. In the United States, the Crow are in the forefront of the battle to protect their land, water and minerals from inappropriate development. The Foundations assist community leaders with organizing the community and disseminating essential information. In this bilingual, 60% illiterate community, we assist community members in addressing a variety of injustices, such as Crow children lost in the social service system, violations of the Indian Child Welfare Act or questionable land transfers by the Bureau of Indian Affairs without permission. With deepest gratitude,

Peggy White Wellknown Buffalo
Founder

Susan V. Kelly
Founder



IMMANUEL CONSTRUCTION: WHAT'S COMPLETED, AND WHAT'S AHEAD:

The first phase of Immanuel's construction, funded by your capital campaign dollars, has been completed. We tackled the highest priority projects first: The most extensive and expensive project was the replacement of the heating and cooling system throughout the church, offices, classrooms and Nelson Parish Hall. We also replaced the entire roof, repaired or replaced gutters and downspouts and repaired the skylight.

Other projects completed in the first phase included: recasting and replacing the dangerously bumpy sidewalk on the parking-lot side of the church, replacing the broken counter in the parish kitchen, and laying Ethernet cable and installing a facility-wide Wi-Fi system. The name (SSID) of the new Wi-Fi is "ICoH_Wi-Fi" and the password is "ICoH-3606". The Wi-Fi signal is very strong in the Sunday School area and strong in Nelson Hall and the Fairchild Room. It will be expanded to the upper Vestry Room.

In addition to the capital construction projects, work crews tackled an immense load of repairs to the damage from water incursions on the lower level of the church this summer. Our insurance funded these critical repairs: flooring and carpets were replaced; drywall was repaired and repainted; and the non-functioning Fire Alarm Control Panel was fixed. In the Fairchild Room, the carpet has been replaced, walls and trim repainted, and the ceiling replaced.

We are about to begin the next phase of Immanuel's capital construction. Why the "phase" approach? It's all about money: Pledge dollars are still coming in, and the complete renovation as designed would cost approximately \$161,000 – more than the cash on hand and fully depleting the fund drive. The Resources Committee, in consultation with Immanuel's Treasurer and Wardens, is taking a conservative approach and tackling projects on a space-by-space basis as funds are available.

In the next phase, focus will be the Sanctuary, where the wood millwork (lectern, pew ends, and such) will be repainted; the Chancel floor will be refinished; the ceiling and walls will be repainted; and damaged floor tiles will be patched. In the Sunday School and office spaces the hall lighting and ceilings will be replaced. The exterior woodwork will be painted, and the steeple will be stripped of peeling paint.

Next spring we plan to start the final phase projects: the focus will be on Nelson Hall, where the ceiling and floor will be replaced, and the walls and trim repainted; we'll also install donated ceiling mounted projection screens. We'll also repaint the Sunday School classroom walls. And finally, we will undertake any other projects on our "to-do" list that we can afford.


-- John von Senden, Vestry Steward for Resources



Immanuel Church-on-the-Hills Rector Randy Alexander wields the shovel at the historic groundbreaking for Virginia Theological Seminary's new Chapel on September 14, 2013. More than 400 people attended, including many Immanuel parishioners. *(Photo courtesy of Tom Kerns.)*

OCTOBER 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29 8:00 AM HE-I, Chapel 9:10 AM Godly Play, Godly Play Room 9:15 AM HE-II, Chapel 10:15 AM Education Hour 11:15 AM HE, Chapel 11:30 AM Acolyte lunch and training, Parish Hall, kitchen, chapel, narthex 1:30 PM Blessing of the Animals, Front Yard 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Youth Group, Kitchen and Fairchild Room</p>	<p>30 11:00 AM Tai Chi, Yoga, Parish Hall</p>	<p>1 5:00 PM Early Christians, VTS 1823 Cafe 7:00 PM Benedictine Community, Upper Room 7:30 PM Outreach Committee, Fairchild Room</p>	<p>2 6:30 AM Early Christians 8:20 AM - 11:30 AM Senior Exercise classes, Parish Hall 6:30 PM Holy Eucharist-II</p>	<p>3 7:00 PM Choir, Choir Room</p>	<p>4 TAT deadline 8:20 AM - 11:30 AM Senior Exercise classes, Parish Hall 12:30 PM Muslim Worship, Parish Hall 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Jr. Girl Scouts, Parish Hall 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM Chapel auditions 8:30 PM AA, Fairchild</p>	<p>5 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Chapel auditions 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Dignity, Zabriskie</p>
<p>6  8:00 AM HE-I, Chapel 9:00 AM Education Hour 10:00 AM Mass on the Grass 6:20 PM - 9:00 PM Prayer Group, Fairchild Room</p>	<p>7 11:00 AM Tai Chi, Yoga, Parish Hall</p>	<p>8 6:30 PM Vestry Meeting, Upper Room</p>	<p>9 TAT mailing 6:30 AM Early Christians 8:20 AM - 11:30 AM Senior Exercise classes, Parish Hall 11:30 AM Chapel garden dedication</p>	<p>10 12:00 PM Goodwin House luncheon 7:00 PM Choir, Choir Room 7:30 PM Seminary Hill Assoc., Fairchild Room</p>	<p>11 8:20 AM - 11:30 AM Senior Exercise classes, Parish Hall 12:30 PM Muslim Worship, Parish Hall 8:30 PM AA, Fairchild</p>	<p>12 Crisp baking, kitchen 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Dignity, Zabriskie</p>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			6:30 PM Holy Eucharist-II 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM Bibles on Tap, Cafe 1823 VTS			
13 Crisp baking, kitchen 8:00 AM HE-I, Chapel 9:10 AM Godly Play, Godly Play Room 9:15 AM HE-II, Chapel 10:15 AM Education Hour 11:15 AM HE-II, Chapel	14  <i>Columbus Day</i> Office Closed 11:00 AM Tai Chi, Yoga, Parish Hall	15 7:00 PM Benedictine Community, Upper Room	16 6:30 AM Early Christians 8:20 AM - 11:30 AM Senior Exercise classes, Parish Hall 6:30 PM Holy Eucharist-II	17 7:00 PM Choir, Choir Room	18 TAT deadline 8:20 AM - 11:30 AM Senior Exercise classes, Parish Hall 12:30 PM Muslim Worship, Parish Hall 8:30 PM AA, Fairchild	19 Crisp baking, kitchen Haiti Micah Project, Upper Room 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Dignity, Zabriskie 7:30 PM Law & Disorder dance band
20 Crisp baking, kitchen 8:00 AM HE-I, Chapel 9:10 AM Godly Play, Godly Play Room 9:15 AM HE-II, Chapel 10:15 AM Education Hour 10:30 AM Clay Class, Clay Room 11:15 AM HE-I, Chapel	21 11:00 AM Tai Chi, Yoga, Parish Hall	22	23 TAT mailing 6:30 AM Early Christians 8:20 AM - 11:30 AM Senior Exercise classes, Parish Hall 6:30 PM Holy Eucharist-II	24 7:00 PM Choir, Choir Room	25 8:20 AM - 11:30 AM Senior Exercise classes, Parish Hall 12:30 PM Muslim Worship, Parish Hall 8:30 PM AA, Fairchild	26
27 8:00 AM HE-I, Chapel 9:10 AM Godly Play, Godly Play Room	28 11:00 AM Tai Chi, Yoga,	29	30 6:30 AM Early Christians	31 7:00 PM Choir, Choir	1 8:20 AM - 11:30 AM Senior	2 Hunting Creek Garden

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:15 AM HE-II, Chapel 10:15 AM Education Hour 11:15 AM HE-II/Holy Baptism, Chapel	Parish Hall 6:30 PM Knitting Group, 1823 Pub/VTS		8:20 AM - 11:30 AM Senior Exercise classes, Parish Hall 6:30 PM Holy Eucharist-II	Room	Exercise classes, Parish Hall 12:30 PM Muslim Worship, Parish Hall 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Jr. Girl Scouts, Parish Hall 8:30 PM AA, Fairchild	Club, Parish Hall, Daffodil show 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Dignity, Zabriskie

10/01 Emma King
10/02 Senie Oglesby
10/02 Iona Evans
10/02 Christopher Becker
10/03 Rebecca Harrington
10/03 Ann MacNamara
10/03 Marc Paul
10/04 Brad Ashton
10/04 Natalie Doyle-Hennin
10/04 Scott Moore
10/05 Caroline Johnston
10/05 Nancy Lyons
10/05 Bill Frye
10/05 Betsy Huffman
10/05 Heather Schnedl
10/05 Anna Post
10/06 Susan Montague
10/06 Mary Johnson
10/06 Noah Taylor
10/07 Barbara Carroll
10/08 Merritt Blakeslee
10/08 Randy Kell
10/08 Randi Rowe
10/09 Brooke Roberts
10/09 Doug Onley
10/09 Charlotte Barnes
10/10 Mary Fitzpatrick
10/10 Emily Friday
10/10 Elizabeth Phillips
10/10 Grace Wensing
10/10 Eddie Boynton
10/11 Susan Carter
10/12 Paul Bednar
10/12 Cole Bowers
10/13 Doug Payne
10/13 Phil Johnson
10/13 Connie Kurz
10/13 Karin Kizer
10/15 Suzanne Lamb
10/15 Ashley Boam
10/15 Maria Bellinger
10/15 Claudia Reading
10/16 Hance Haney
10/16 Sumi Sexton
10/16 Austin Blakeslee
10/17 Mia Mason
10/17 Kristen Moore



10/18 Dan Cantu
10/19 Lane Debevoise
10/19 Carlton Stockton
10/19 Barbara Kirkland
10/19 Dick Krueger
10/19 Rufus Peabody
10/20 Phyllis Ginger
10/21 Tricia Calloway
10/21 Beth Eckert
10/21 Alisa Biache
10/21 Hartley Wensing
10/23 Steve John
10/23 Sara Fein
10/23 Mark Eisenhour
10/23 Kate Cantu
10/24 Susan Gilbertson
10/25 Cordelia Davies
10/26 April Carlsen
10/27 Beth Beardsley
10/27 Kai Egener
10/27 Trey Hobson
10/28 Victor Brown
10/28 Laura Ellis
10/28 Patrick Kane
10/28 Claire Campbell
10/28 Virginia Campbell
10/29 Susan Dawson
10/29 Tim Kinsella
10/29 Emily Clausen
10/29 Lily Pinner
10/30 Dick Bednar
10/30 Tom Peabody
10/31 Helen Bryant

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; 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!

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

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office@icoh.net
<http://www.icoh.net>

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Lectioary Readings and
Schedule of Services



September 29, The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15; Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31
8:00 a.m., HEI; 9:15 a.m., HEII, 11:15 a.m., HEI

October 6, The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Lamentations 1:1-6; Psalm 137; 2 Timothy 1:1-4; Luke 17:5-10
8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:00 a.m., Mass on the Grass (HEII)

October 13, The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7, Psalm 66:1-11; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19
8 a.m., HEI, 9:15 a.m., HEII, 11:15 a.m., HEII