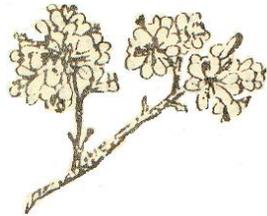


THE ALMOND TREE

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

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



October 9, 2013

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

Lead with Good Will

People tell me regularly of the challenges they face when trying to live, in the real world, the Christian values we talk about so much in Church (although I always contend that Church is part of the real world!). We all know that there are treacherous people out there, people who will stab us in the back the first chance they get, people who are only concerned about money, or power, or moving up the corporate ladder. Thus it has always been and, alas, in this fallen world thus it shall always be. So how do we live as Christ's people in the world, while still acknowledging this reality? In fact, how do we practice the life to which Christ calls us, even in Parish life?

For some time now the phrase "lead with good will" has come to mind for me. Let me unpack that a little. To lead with good will means that, until proven or forced to believe otherwise, we believe the best about someone else and their intentions. It seems to me we are especially called to live this way as brothers and sisters in Christ. We are to assume, even when we disagree about something, that our brother or sister is acting on the best of intentions, doing their best, and desiring the best for the Church. This kind of assumption of good will seems glaringly absent in our current political life, especially in this current state of government shut-down. Yet assuming that good will is operative isn't always true, even in Church life, so there are times when we have to adjust and change our initial assumption. But can we begin anywhere else as Christians?

I think of these words from St. Paul: "Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things" (Philippians 4:8). Now, I say this not out of any sort of perceived lack of civility and good will at Immanuel. In fact, thank God, this Parish, on the whole, displays a remarkable amount of good will towards one another. Yet we are all fallible, and we can so easily bring the defensive way we have to be on occasion out in the world into our Parish life. What I am suggesting is a constant, all-encompassing Christian approach to dealing with others: leading with good will, until forced to do otherwise. This approach seems consistent with Jesus' own advice on how to be in the world: "See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves" (Matthew 10:16). He did not deny the reality of the fallen human condition, but He also emphasized that His followers were called to more and to better. Church is a laboratory where we practice this new life.

See you in the Laboratory,

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, Barbara Currie.

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, Mary Dennis, the Rev. Canon Alan Dennis.

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.,**

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!

Tutoring can make the difference between a child becoming a dropout or a graduate!

The Alexandria Tutoring Consortium needs reading tutors once or twice a week for 30-minute sessions for first graders, 20 minute sessions for kindergartners, at the school during the school day for 160 children. Lesson plans and training are provided. For more information or to register, please go to www.alexandriatutors.org . Contact 703-549-6670 ext. 119 or atc@opmh.org if you have questions or need an application mailed to you.

ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL BOARD OF LADY MANAGERS:

On Friday November 1st at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, The Board of Lady Managers sponsors the annual fashion show, luncheon, and silent auction to raise money for surgical services at Alexandria Hospital. Tickets are \$45.00. For information about reservations, please contact Barbara Ramsdell @ 703-379-1516.

VIRGINIA INTERFAITH CENTER "SOCIAL JUSTICE UNIVERSITY":

The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy is an ecumenical faith-*based* advocacy group that seeks to ensure that the policies of the Commonwealth of Virginia embody the religious values of justice, fairness, peace and sustainability. Every year, the Northern Virginia chapter of VIC organizes a "Social Justice University" to help educate folks about the priority issues that VICPP will be advancing in 2014 before the General Assembly and beyond. This year's SJU will be held at our neighbor Temple Beth El, 3830 Seminary Road, on Sunday, Nov. 24 (the Sunday before Thanksgiving) from 3-5. It's free and you don't need to register in advance. For more information, take a look at VIC's website

(<http://virginiainterfaithcenter.org/>) or contact Jamie Conrad at 703-836-0655 or jwc58@comcast.net.

DID YOU KNOW THAT WE NOW OFFER WEEKDAY MORNING PRAYER? We gather daily 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.

FORUM HOUR: WHY READ THE BIBLE? The Rev. Dr. Frank Wade will lead the Forum Hour on Sunday to continue explaining 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 are available. Please see Caroline Bergmark for information or to sign up: cbergmark@yahoo.com.



FROM THE MUSIC MINISTRY: We had a great turn out for the Immanuel's Angels on October 1. We had pizza and sang several songs and everyone seemed to have a great time. If your child would like to be part of this group, please let me know, or just come to the next rehearsal, 6 p.m. on October 15.

The newly-formed Parish Choir will be singing at the 9:15 service on October 13. We will meet at 8:15 to rehearse a simple piece and then sing the offertory at the service. All are welcome to be part of this new group!



A TRUCKLOAD OF

thanks to everyone who pitched in to help set up the Pumpkin Patch – stringing lights, installing signs, setting up tables, assembling the food displays, unloading the trucks, passing pumpkins, arranging the eye-catching piles, keeping the pumpkin unloaders hydrated, sweeping and bagging hay, cleaning up and everything else that went into making October 6 a successful Pumpkin Sunday! -- *from the 2013 Pumpkin Patch managers: Jim Snow, Pierre Shostal, Jamie Conrad, Martha Manson*

THANKS!

YOUR HELP NEEDED: Now that the Pumpkin Patch is in full swing, your help is needed with:

APPLE CRISPS! On the weekends of **October 12th and 19th**, please come help make apple crisps for the Pumpkin Patch. **Hours are 9-2 on Saturdays, 9-1 on Sundays** in the Church kitchen. No experience necessary—just an hour or two of your time to peel and slice 20 boxes each weekend. If you wish, bring your own apron and favorite paring knife. It is a great way for newcomers to make new friends, and for teens to earn community service hours. (Because of sharp knives, please no younger children.) Contact Melinda Ashton at melindashton@gmail.com, 703 549-7295

- Baking cookies, cupcakes, brownies and other goodies, and/or cooking & freezing soups (with clear labels of contents) to sell at the Pumpkin Patch (100% of food profits go to Immanuel's outreach efforts!)
- Displaying yard signs and car signs to help bring people to the Patch. You can pick up the signs in the church narthex (entry).
- Sending our one-page factsheet to any listserve or email list you can access (contact Jennifer in the church office or check the orange Pumpkins! button on Immanuel's website www.icoh.net for the one-pager).

Bringing a friend/relative/neighbor (or the entire garden club/book club/poker group/Seniorize class/etc.) when you stop by to buy your pumpkin(s)!

WHAT'S NEW ON OUR WEBSITE? There's a bright orange "Pumpkins!" button right in the middle of the homepage at www.icoh.net. If you give it a click, it will take you to the brand-new Resources Hub page for Immanuel's Pumpkin Patch. There, you will find the latest updates from the Patch, as well as the Patch Volunteer calendar, our handy one-page flyer, a list of the outreach programs that are supported by our sales of pumpkins and foodstuffs, a link to the Pumpkin Patch Facebook page, and more!



Advent Retreat

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel!”

Advent Retreat 2013

Holy Cross Abbey

December 6-8

Advent means “coming” in Latin. This first Western Christian season is a time of preparation. We can begin again to ready for the Coming of the Lord. Our time together will be devoted to preparing our hearts, minds, bodies and souls for “God with us.” We will seek

God, explore that which grounds and sustains us, and hope to discover who we are meant to be. Our retreat leader will be the Rev. David M. Crosby, associate rector of Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill.

The Immanuel Advent retreat will be at Holy Cross Abbey in the foothills of the Shenandoah Mountains by the Shenandoah River on a 1200 acre farm near Berryville, Virginia. The Cistercian monks of Holy Cross Abbey have been praying on the Berryville property since 1950; retreat participants will benefit from this location steeped in prayer as they explore the retreat theme. Cistercians observe silence at all times to aid reflection, prayer, and listening to God. During the Advent Retreat, silence will be observed except in the program sessions. For more information about Holy Cross Abbey, consult the website <http://www.virginiatrappists.org/>.

The retreat will begin on Friday afternoon, December 6, shortly before the evening meal and will end after the noon meal on Sunday, December 8. The \$300.00 registration fee includes all materials, comfortable accommodations, individual rooms each with a bathroom, and all meals.

Two scholarships given in memory of Charles Willis are available; please contact the assistant rector for scholarship assistance.

Registration is limited to 15 persons; please reserve your space now using the form in the *Almond Tree*.

**Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill
Advent Retreat
Holy Cross Abbey Retreat House
December 6-8, 2013**

1. First person registering for retreat

Name _____

Address _____

Daytime Telephone _____ Evening Telephone _____

E-mail _____

2. Second person registering for retreat

Name _____

Address _____

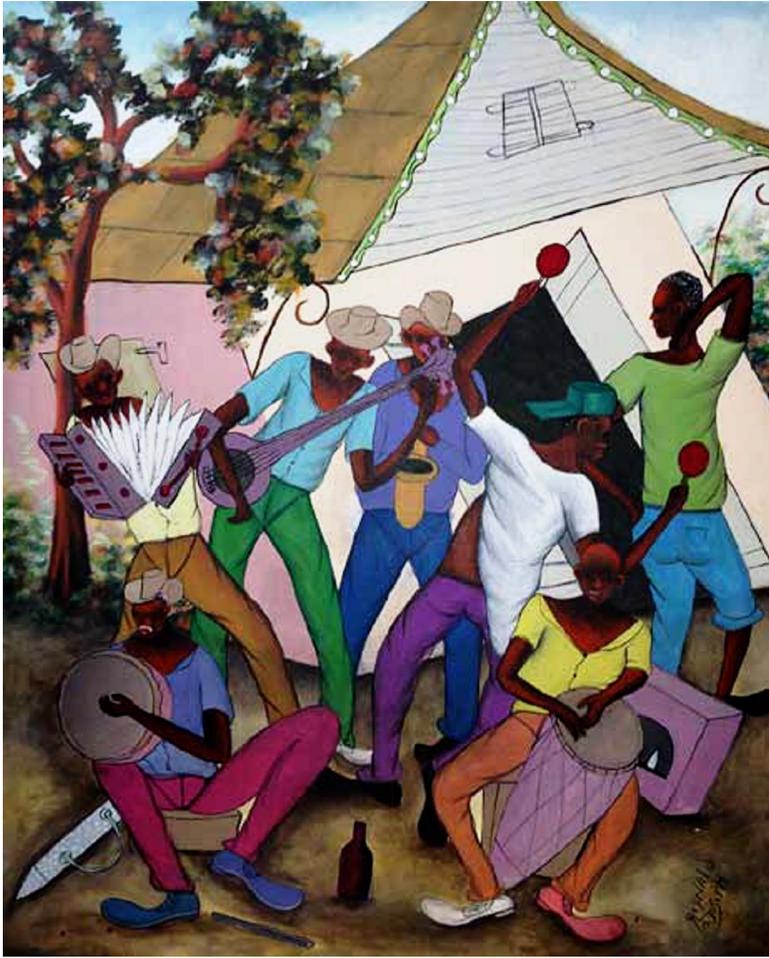
Daytime Telephone _____ Evening Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Number of registrants _____ x \$300 = _____ Total registration fee

Please make check payable to Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill and label it Advent Retreat. Return this form and your check to the Immanuel Church office, 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22304. Please put Advent retreat on the envelope.

If you need to cancel your registration and there is no one on the waiting list who can take your place, Holy Cross Abbey retains the \$50.00 per room deposit. All but \$50.00 of your registration fee would be returned to you.



You are invited to attend the opening of
Haitian Life: Stories in Art
Wed., November 13, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.
St. Andrew's Episcopal School, Kreeger Gallery
8804 Post oak Road
Potomac, Maryland 20854

Refreshments will be served.

RSVP: cjames@saes.org

EXHIBIT DATES AND HOURS
November 13-15, 8:00 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Haiti's art speaks a language of spirit that is born of adversity and deeply rooted in an affirmation of faith and hope for the future. This exhibit captures the history, people, countryside, and the fabric of Haitian life. More than 80 works of art by Haiti's most talented artists are a source of inspiration. The exhibited works remind us of what we share with the Haitian people: our friendship, strong faith, and a common world with collective challenges.

All exhibited paintings are for sale. A percentage of each sale goes toward funding St. Andrew's initiatives at Christ Roi School in Civol, Haiti. Your generosity is much appreciated.

Cover Image: *Ville Imaginaire* by Préfète Dulat (1923-2012)

In memoriam of the artist's life and artwork at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Port au Prince.

If you have any questions, contact the Rev. Patty Alexander, at [<palexander@saes.org>](mailto:palexander@saes.org)



Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill Bicycle Program
(Bibo's Bikes)

There are many parts to our Immanuel Christmas giving programs. One is the bicycle program, which actually began with a single bicycle in 1983 and was never intended to be a program at all. My daughter attended Mt. Vernon Elementary School where one of the teachers worked with children with special needs.

One day a teacher asked if I knew where we might get a bicycle for one of her students, a little boy whose family couldn't afford a bike. She knew that I enjoyed biking to work and for fun. So perhaps I would know where to find a bike. As it was, I did know where to get a nice used small bike, perfect for the little boy. I repaired it and since the boy's birthday was near Christmas, the bike became both a birthday and Christmas present. For a long while, the boy could often be seen riding around Del Ray on the bike.

Since that 1983 Christmas, the bike program became Bibo's Bikes (Bibo was my childhood nickname) and in 1987 it began working with Christmas Families to provide bikes at Christmas. Throughout the year, though, there are many more requests for bikes, from social workers, teachers, Bikes for the World and many others, as well. Most years the program donates about 100 bikes or more. One year almost 400 bikes were donated, with several hundred going to Bikes for the World. Today, there have been more than 5,000 bikes donated by the program since it began.

If anyone would like to help with the program, whether donating used bikes, cleaning bikes or performing mechanical work, please contact the Immanuel church office or contact Bill Frye for information on what you might do.

Bill Frye, wffrye@hotmail.com

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Lectionary Readings and
Schedule of Services



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., HEI

October 20, The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 31:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104; 2 Timothy 3:14—4:5; Luke 18:1-8
8:00 a.m., HEI; 9:15 a.m., HEII, 11:15 a.m., Baptism/HEII

October 27, The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Joel 2:23-32; Psalm 65; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14
8:00 a.m., HEI; 9:15 a.m., Baptism, HEII; 11:15 a.m., Baptism/HEII