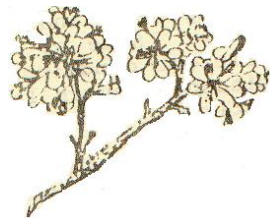


# THE ALMOND TREE

## Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

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



October 23, 2013

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

## A Church that Asks Nothing

Dear Friends,

Imagine the following: a Church with no staff, no outreach to those in need, no education or formation for children, youth, or adults, no pastoral care of its people, and no buildings or property to maintain. Nothing much is asked of its members, except for showing up occasionally.

If I found myself leading such a Church (and I would be hard-pressed to call it a Church!), I would still have to say that, as Christians, we would all need to give. We would need to remember that we are surrounded by God's incredible and lavish blessings, the gift and mystery of life itself being the supreme example.

Immanuel is not like the fictional Church I mention above—far from it, thank God!! I believe God is, and has long been, up to something powerful in the amazing group of folk who meet for worship at the corner of Seminary Road and Quaker Lane. We are a rich tapestry, and the community in which we live needs the strong witness of this historic and beloved Church. For God's mission to be advanced further we all must give; prayerfully, deliberately, and yes, joyfully.

Christian Stewardship begins with the basic recognition of our dependence of God, not with budgets or pledge campaigns or telemarketing or pressure tactics. It begins in the individual heart of the believer, choosing prayerfully and deliberately to give, out of thanksgiving for what God has already given us. This giving comes from all that we have and all that we ever hope to be, and it includes our time, our talents, and our treasure. It is a radically different posture towards money and materials things than our culture teaches us. Sometimes it even seems to go against human nature!

The second part of giving, of course, is deciding prayerfully and deliberately where the money or the time or the talents will be directed. Many opportunities present themselves for the Christian. Indeed, there are many charities that advance God's aims in the world through their work. However, there is only one institution, the Church, which has the central mandate of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and working towards the restoration of relationship of all people with God and with one another. Our Lord said, "Seek first the Kingdom of God, and all these other things will be added unto you, as well" (Matthew 6:33).

The annual pledge drive is a wonderful opportunity to take inventory of what we have been given, and in what ways we are called to give back. I have no reservation whatsoever in asking you to give prayerfully, deliberately, and joyfully towards the health and growth of our parish. A helpful, annual, *spiritual* exercise is to add up all of one's income, then all that one gives away, and then figure the resulting percentage. A further exercise is to find the percentage of giving to the Church out of the overall giving. If that percentage is not what you think it should be, or not the amount towards which you think God is calling you, a time-honored approach towards growth in Stewardship is to raise that percentage each year. **Commitment Sunday will be November 10<sup>th</sup>.**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

See you in Church,  
Randy

*This life is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness.  
This life is not health, but healing; not being, but becoming;  
not rest, but exercise.  
We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it.  
The process is not finished, but it is going on.  
This is not the end, but it is the road.  
All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified.*  
--Martin Luther

## Stewardship Forum Hour -- Imagining Our Future

Immanuel parishioners gathered for an adult forum hour, sponsored by the Stewardship Committee and facilitated by Rev. Jan Maas, to “imagine our future.” After an opening prayer led by Rev. Randy Alexander, the discussion began with a brief overview of how the parish invests its operating budget and pumpkin patch profits by percentage across six broad mission areas: Worship (19%), Pastoral Care (7%), Fellowship (9%), Outreach (26%), Growth & Education (10%) and Our Home (29%). Parishioners were asked to consider where Immanuel might grow or enhance investments across these broad mission areas, and a lively discussion followed.

Two major themes emerged. The first was a perceived need to **increase the visibility of Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill in our community** to attract new parishioners. Participants suggested increased communication through local newspapers and newsletters, social media, neighborhood links and email notices, the ICOH website, and development of an ICOH app as ways to advertise and connect others to our fellowship, worship and outreach activities. The second theme was the need to **invest more resources in our youth**. Many participants viewed this as being fundamental to sustaining and growing our parish. Suggestions for building Immanuel’s youth programs included hiring a parish youth minister; planning and institutionalizing activities that bring children and adults together, and minimizing activities that draw parents away from family; empowering our youth with a bigger role in worship; and making connections to local elementary, middle and high school age youth within and outside Immanuel. Linked to these two themes, parishioners voiced the need for greater diversity in planning and implementing parish activities by attracting volunteer resources from all age groups in Immanuel, and maintaining strong links to ECUSA, the Diocese and the Seminary.

The Forum Hour discussion will aid the Vestry as it begins developing Immanuel’s 2014 operating budget, but making these dreams a reality is up to each of us. Please consider prayerfully your 2014 commitment to our Immanuel family and help us to realize our dream of a vibrant, multi-generational church now and in the future.

**PASTORAL CARE CORNER:** Please remember these parishioners in your prayers: Duncan MacDonald, Morgan, 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, Chris Stanke, Warren Phillips, Jean Schnedl, Sally Vermilye, Pierre Shostal.

**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, Erin Lewis, Kathryn, Carol Brown, Scott, Bob Weeks.

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

**HELP THE HOMELESS WALK: Fingers or Feet!** Join the November 3rd Fannie Mae **Help the Homeless Walk** to support ALIVE! House  
**Where:** Start from your congregation and walk to ALIVE! House, 125 S. Payne St.  
No congregations? Start from where ever you choose  
**When:** Arrive at ALIVE! House between 1 & 4 pm;  
Tour the facility, learn why ALIVE! House serves the "hardest to serve", Enjoy refreshments  
Or just use your **fingers** to register - **you don't have to walk**

**Fingers or Feet** - you register at **help the [homelessdc.org](http://homelessdc.org)**  
Click on Get Involved; Click on Sign up to Register;  
Click on Washington, DC;  
Go to Register to Join a Community Walk & Click on Select from a List of Beneficiaries  
Pull down arrow to ALIVE! Click on SEARCH  
Click on ALIVE Congregations Walk  
Use credit card to pay \$30 for adult registration and/or \$20 for a Youth

**AN EVENT TO BENEFIT CHRISTIANS IN PESAWAR, PAKISTAN:** All are invited to join the Virginia Theological Seminary on Tuesday, October 29, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. at an event to benefit Christians in Peshawar, Pakistan. This event has been prompted by the recent attack on Christians there. On September 22, suicide bombers struck All Saints Church, Peshawar, as worshippers were leaving.

More than one-hundred persons died, and nearly two-hundred were injured. Many of those who died were the principal source of income for their families.

Amid their grief, whole families, and the Christian community generally, face uncertain futures. Already threatened by extremism, they confront economic and social loss as well. Christians in Pakistan are a tiny minority of this Muslim-majority nation. Relations between Christians and Muslims have usually been good. But Pakistan, and Peshawar in particular, are the front lines of the war on terror. The violence of a few wrecks great damage.

The featured speaker on Oct. 29 will be the Rev. Dr. Titus Presler, president of Edwardes College, a church-related institution in Peshawar. Dr. Presler will make a presentation on the current situation in Peshawar and be available for questions and further discussion.

A \$20 donation will be requested and further opportunity for donations will be made available at the event. Dessert, coffee and tea will be served. Please note space is limited and those wishing to attend must contact the Center for Anglican Communion Studies at [cacs@vts.edu](mailto:cacs@vts.edu).

All donations will go to directly to the families impacted. Let us take our strength, our faith and our partnership with VTS and reach around the world to help rebuild the lives of these families.

**HOLIDAY ARTS AND CRAFTERS NEEDED:** First Christian Church of Alexandria [home of the ALIVE! offices] is hosting a Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair on November 9 from 9-3. They are seeking crafters who wish to participate. Information can be found at [www.fccalexandria.com](http://www.fccalexandria.com) or by emailing [outreachfcc@gmail.com](mailto:outreachfcc@gmail.com).

## **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.

## **NEWS ABOUT FORMER PARISHIONERS:**

Nancy and Mike Lyons (formerly Nancy Walker) have sold their home in Alexandria and will move to their RV in late October. They will be traveling through the South, while exploring new places to live in retirement. Nancy has been a member of Immanuel since 1969 and will miss everyone very much. She can be reached on her cell phone (703-489-8817) or at [wnancy4@aol.com](mailto:wnancy4@aol.com).



**ALL SAINTS LIST:** : Please phone or email the office with the names of those people you would like to have remembered during the Commemoration of All Saints' on Sunday, November 3. Names must be received by Monday, October 28.

**UPDATE ON THE FUTURE OF SHRINE MONT CAMPS:** Many Immanuel parishioners attended the June 23 forum hour when Churchill J. "Kirk" Gibson, Director of Development at Shrine Mont, led a lively discussion about how Shrine Mont and the Diocese are helping to strengthen and grow the Church through their youth camp programs. He invited the parish to submit opinions about the future of the camps through an online survey.

This week, The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston reported that 98 percent of survey participants in the Diocese of Virginia supported a campaign to ensure the future of the camps. To that end, Bishop Johnston announced a capital campaign designed to raise funds that will pay for repairs and improvements to Shrine Mont's camps and other facilities, establish an endowment for continuing maintenance, add to the camp scholarship program, and raise the stipends for camp counselors to competitive levels. The goal for the capital campaign is \$2 million.

You can read Bishop Johnston's message on the diocesan website at <http://www.thediocese.net/News/newsView.asp?NewsId=40968322>.

You can review a report of Immanuel's June 23 forum hour and see a wonderful video on the Shrine Mont camps at <http://www.icoh.net/News/newsView.asp?NewsId=409684802>

11/02 Max Freeborn  
11/03 Arlo Lloyd  
11/03 Dorothy Kellogg  
11/03 Kristine Hunt-Kron  
11/04 Ollie Patton  
11/04 Arthur Kron  
11/04 Barbara Sheffer  
11/04 Kammy Hambrick  
11/05 Debby Hepburn  
11/06 Gary DeVight  
11/06 Mark Powell  
11/06 Mark Davis  
11/06 Carrie Rodriguez  
11/07 Liza Conrad  
11/08 Nancy Gilbert  
11/08 Caroline Kurz  
11/08 Rebecca Taylor  
11/08 Charlotte Taylor  
11/09 Faith Olson  
11/09 Julie Bruns  
11/09 Elspeth MacDonald  
11/10 Hugh Campbell  
11/10 Dave Cavanaugh  
11/10 Melinda Ashton  
11/10 Jane Temoshok  
11/10 Sasha Koch  
11/10 Isa Stockton  
11/11 Lissa Soergel  
11/11 Anna Mason  
11/11 Anna Woodward  
11/11 Lauren Jennings  
11/13 Richard Gould  
11/13 Beth Miller  
11/13 Paul Hunt  
11/14 Max Miller  
11/14 Melvin Miller  
11/14 Charlotte West  
11/15 Sandy Becker  
11/15 Kerry Kelly  
11/15 Michael Hussey  
11/15 Meagan Perkins  
11/15 Alexander Bruns  
11/15 Sam Hanoura  
11/16 Dana Hengst  
11/16 Stuart Nordin  
11/17 Franc Cooper  
11/17 Doug Henry




## November Birthdays

11/17 Madeline King  
11/18 Rebecca Wise  
11/18 Avery Phillips  
11/18 Madeleine Boam  
11/19 Caitlyn Becker  
11/20 Jane Yoder  
11/20 Dotty Eisenhower  
11/20 Cilla Houck  
11/20 Francesca Gabriel  
11/22 Marybeth Bates  
11/22 Nan Hobson  
11/22 Suzanne Dawkins  
11/22 Lori Jones  
11/22 John Baltes  
11/22 Judith Atwood  
11/23 Barbara Currie  
11/23 Tom Kerns  
11/24 Brian Boynton  
11/24 Nat Elberfeld  
11/25 Mei-Lung DeVight  
11/25 Jim Wise  
11/25 Callie Stewart  
11/27 Anne Ross  
11/27 Alexander Temoshok  
11/28 Chris Von Schoening  
11/28 Marlene Baxley-Cadmen  
11/28 Judy Baroody  
11/28 Greta Arnold  
11/29 Norma Scott  
11/29 Kes Shallbetter  
11/30 Robert Huffman  
11/30 Lani Brown


*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!

NOVEMBER 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>27</p> <p>8:00 AM HE-I, Chapel</p> <p>9:10 AM Godly Play, Godly Play Room</p> <p>9:15 AM HE-II, Chapel</p> <p>10:15 AM Education Hour</p> <p>10:30 AM Circle of Quiet, Upper Room</p> <p>11:15 AM HE-II/Holy Baptism, Chapel</p>	<p>28</p> <p>11:00 AM Tai Chi, Yoga, Parish Hall</p> <p>6:30 PM Knitting Group, 1823 Pub/VTS</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:30 AM Early Christians</p> <p>8:20 AM - 11:30 AM Senior Exercise classes, Parish Hall</p> <p>6:30 PM Holy Eucharist-II</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir, Choir Room</p>	<p>1</p> <p>8:20 AM - 11:30 AM Senior Exercise classes, Parish Hall</p> <p>12:30 PM Muslim Worship, Parish Hall</p> <p>4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Jr. Girl Scouts, Parish Hall</p> <p>8:30 PM AA, Fairchild</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Hunting Creek Garden Club, Parish Hall, Daffodil show</p> <p>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Dignity, Zabriskie</p>
<p>3</p>  <p>8:00 AM HE-I, Chapel</p> <p>9:10 AM Godly Play, Godly Play Room</p> <p>9:15 AM HE-II, Chapel</p> <p>10:15 AM Education Hour</p> <p>10:30 AM Circle of Quiet, Upper Room</p> <p>11:15 AM HE-I, Chapel</p> <p>6:20 PM - 9:00 PM Prayer Group, Fairchild</p>	<p>4</p> <p>11:00 AM Tai Chi, Yoga, Parish Hall</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5:00 PM Early Christians, VTS 1823 Cafe</p> <p>7:00 PM Benedictine Community, Upper Room</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:30 AM Early Christians</p> <p>8:20 AM - 11:30 AM Senior Exercise classes, Parish Hall</p> <p>6:30 PM Holy Eucharist-II</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir, Choir Room</p> <p>7:30 PM Pastoral Care, Fairchild Room</p>	<p>8</p> <p>TAT deadline</p> <p>8:20 AM - 11:30 AM Senior Exercise classes, Parish Hall</p> <p>12:30 PM Muslim Worship, Parish Hall</p> <p>8:00 PM Concert to benefit medical missions, Chapel</p> <p>8:30 PM AA, Fairchild</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5:30 PM Evensong and Harvest Dinner, VTS</p> <p>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Dignity, Zabriskie</p>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Room						
<b>10</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> HE-I, Chapel <b>9:10 AM</b> Godly Play, Godly Play Room <b>9:15 AM</b> HE-II, Chapel <b>10:15 AM</b> Education Hour <b>10:30 AM</b> Circle of Quiet, Upper Room <b>11:15 AM</b> HE-II, Chapel	<b>11</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Tai Chi, Yoga, Parish Hall	<b>12</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Vestry Meeting, Upper Room <b>7:30 PM</b> ALIVE, Parish Hall	<b>13</b> TAT mailing <b>6:30 AM</b> Early Christians <b>8:20 AM -</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> Senior Exercise classes, Parish Hall <b>6:30 PM</b> Holy Eucharist-II <b>7:30 PM -</b> <b>8:30 PM</b> Bibles on Tap, Cafe 1823 VTS	<b>14</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Goodwin House luncheon <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir, Choir Room	<b>15</b> <b>8:20 AM -</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> Senior Exercise classes, Parish Hall <b>12:30 PM</b> Muslim Worship, Parish Hall <b>8:30 PM</b> AA, Fairchild	<b>16</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Haiti Micah Project, Upper Room <b>6:00 PM -</b> <b>8:00 PM</b> Dignity, Zabriskie
<b>17</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> HE-I, Chapel <b>9:10 AM</b> Godly Play, Godly Play Room <b>9:15 AM</b> HE-II, Chapel <b>10:15 AM</b> Education Hour <b>10:30 AM</b> Circle of Quiet, Upper Room <b>10:30 AM</b> Clay Class, Clay Room <b>11:15 AM</b> HE-I, Chapel <b>4:00 PM -</b> <b>8:00 PM</b> Girl Scout sponsored babysitting, Parish Hall	<b>18</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Tai Chi, Yoga, Parish Hall	<b>19</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Benedictine Community, Upper Room	<b>20</b> <b>6:30 AM</b> Early Christians <b>8:20 AM -</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> Senior Exercise classes, Parish Hall <b>6:30 PM</b> Holy Eucharist-II	<b>21</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir, Choir Room	<b>22</b> TAT deadline <b>8:20 AM -</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> Senior Exercise classes, Parish Hall <b>12:30 PM</b> Muslim Worship, Parish Hall <b>8:30 PM</b> AA, Fairchild	<b>23</b> <b>6:00 PM -</b> <b>8:00 PM</b> Dignity, Zabriskie
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>8:00 AM</b> HE-I, Chapel</p> <p><b>9:10 AM</b> Godly Play, Godly Play Room</p> <p><b>9:15 AM</b> HE-II, Chapel</p> <p><b>10:15 AM</b> Education Hour</p> <p><b>10:30 AM</b> Circle of Quiet, Upper Room</p> <p><b>11:15 AM</b> HE-II, Chapel</p> <p><b>5:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Youth Group, Kitchen and Fairchild Room</p>	<p><b>6:30 PM</b> Knitting Group, 1823 Pub/VTS</p>		<p>TAT mailing</p> <p><b>6:30 AM</b> Early Christians</p> <p><b>6:30 PM</b> Holy Eucharist-II</p>	<p><b>THANKSGIVING SERVICE</b></p>  <p>Thursday, 10:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>THANKSGIVING DAY, OFFICE CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>10:30 AM</b> Thanksgiving Service</p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> Choir, Choir Room</p>	<p><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>12:30 PM</b> Muslim Worship, Parish Hall</p> <p><b>8:30 PM</b> AA, Fairchild</p>	<p><b>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Dignity, Zabriskie</p>



## *We Gather Together To Ask The Lord's Blessing*

*November 9, 2013: Choral Evensong and Harvest Dinner*

Please join Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill on Saturday November 9, 2013 for a very special evening of grace and gratitude for God's blessings.

Beginning at 5:30 pm at the Lettie Pate Evans Interim Chapel at the Virginia Theological Seminary, the Immanuel Choir, under the direction of Dr. Jane Tavernier will sing Choral Evensong.

Immediately following Evensong, Immanuel's annual Harvest Dinner will be held in the Refectory.

Prices for the Harvest Dinner are \$20.00 per adult and \$10.00 per child between 12 and 5 years of age (children under 5 -- no charge).

**Please RSVP, along with your payment, to Jennifer Addington in the Parish Office no later than Monday October 28.** RSVPs cannot be accepted after this date as we must provide VTS with a firm number of attendees by October 28.

A map of the Virginia Theological Seminary can be found at:

<http://www.vts.edu/ftpimages/95/download/map.pdf>.

RSVP forms can be found on our website at:

<http://immanuelonthehill.thediocese.net/Events/eventView.asp?EventID=35636>



Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

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http://www.icoh.net

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Lectionary Readings and  
Schedule of Services



**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

**November 3, The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10  
8 a.m., HEI, 9:15 a.m., HEII, 11:15 a.m., HEI

**November 10, The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

Haggai 1:15b—2:9; Psalm 145:1-5, 18-21; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38  
8:00 a.m., HEI; 9:15 a.m., HEII, 11:15 a.m., HEII