THE ALMOND TREE

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

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

April 10, 2014

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

HOLY WEEK 2014 AT IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL

Holy Week is the conclusion of the Lenten season, as we relive in Scripture, liturgy and Sacrament the last days of our Lord's life.

PALM SUNDAY, April 13, at 8:00, 9:00 and 11:15 a.m., recalls two events. First is Christ's entrance into Jerusalem, in which he rode on a donkey while the people spread branches and garments on the road before him proclaiming "Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord" (Psalm 118:26). We remember this event by carrying palms, and celebrating the Kingship of Jesus Christ. As we celebrate Christ's Messianic entrance into Jerusalem, we remember that Mary, the mother of Jesus, rode a lowly donkey as she entered Bethlehem for Christ's birth. So too, Christ the Messiah humbled himself to ride a donkey through the gates of Jerusalem. Immanuel's friendly donkey will lead us in procession at 9 and 11:15. Palm Sunday is also "the Sunday of the Passion," and encompasses the events of the week that follow -- especially the day of the Crucifixion. On this day the story of the passion of Christ is traditionally read in parts. **(Note: the second service is at 9:00 a.m., NOT 9:15 a.m.)**

Monday, April 14, Holy Eucharist, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 15, Holy Eucharist, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 16, Holy Eucharist, 6:30 p.m.

Tenebrae, 7:30 p.m. A distinguishing characteristic of this service is the series of readings from Lamentations which appear early in the office. The distinctive liturgy of Tenebrae includes use of fifteen lighted candles set on a special, triangular stand. One candle is extinguished as each of the fourteen appointed psalms is completed. The fifteenth candle, symbolic of Christ, is left lighted at the end of the final psalm. But it is carried away to be hidden, which signifies the apparent victory of the forces of evil. A sudden loud noise is made at the end of the service, symbolizing the earthquake at Christ's death. The lighted candle is then restored to its place, suggesting Christ's eventual triumph.

Maundy Thursday, April 17, 7:30 p.m. "Maundy" is an Old English derivation of the Latin *Mandatum*, meaning "a command," referring to Jesus' words at the Last Supper, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another" (John 14:34). The Maundy Thursday liturgy recalls the Last Supper, focusing particularly on the institution of the Holy Eucharist and foot washing. As Christ humbly washed the feet of his disciples, so too will Immanuel clergy wash the feet of parishioners. Parishioners will then turn to clean the feet of other worshippers. All will be invited to participate in the footwashing, but it will be up to each to decide their level of participation.
At the end of this service, the Altar is stripped, and the extra Sacrament which has been consecrated for the Good Friday liturgy is placed on a special "Altar of Repose" where it remains until it is consumed at the Good Friday service. The "Altar of Repose" symbolizes the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed in agony before his arrest. A 'watch' begins immediately following the service, at the Altar of Repose.

PRAYER WATCH: The days, hours, and location of our 16th annual Prayer Watch will be different this year. This will align the Watch better with other Holy Week church services. The Prayer Watch will begin on Thursday, April 17 at 9 p.m. in the Zabriskie narthex, following the traditional Maundy Thursday service. The watch will continue in the Narthex until Friday, April 18th at 6 pm., prior to the Good Friday service. Immanuelites are invited to take part in the Prayer Watch by giving one hour of their time to create an unbroken vigil. Participation may be passive or active, including prayer, reading, music, art work, writing, journaling, or just being present in silence and remembrance. A sign-up board has been placed in the Narthex. Questions? Call Andy Biache, 703-836-6853.

Good Friday, April 18
12 Noon Stations of the Cross
6:00 p.m. A Good Friday service geared especially towards children
7:30 p.m. The Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday

Good Friday is designated a "Fast" in the Prayer Book, and "observed by special acts of discipline and self-denial." It is the day of the Crucifixion, the darkest and most somber of all days in the liturgical year. The Gospel recounts the death of Christ. The service ends with worshippers departing in reverent silence, but awaiting the Resurrection.

Saturday, April 19—The Great Vigil of Easter, 7:30 p.m.

Celebrated after sunset on the night before Easter, this service dates back to the first and second centuries of the early Christian Church. Perhaps more than in other service we revert to our Jewish roots, in that Easter begins at sunset. We gather outdoors, in the Memorial Garden, to build the New Fire of Easter, and then process into a darkened church. By candlelight we hear Scripture lessons reminding us of the history of Salvation. We renew our Baptismal vows, and Easter begins, with the first Eucharist of Easter. While not intended to replace the services on Easter Day, this most ancient liturgy is meant to enhance our Easter experience and make it richer and more meaningful. A festive reception will follow. All are invited to bring a bell to ring at the announcement of the Lord's Resurrection.

Easter Sunday, April 20, The Feast of the Resurrection, Easter Day
6:30 a.m.-- Sunrise service of Holy Eucharist, in the Memorial Garden
8:00 a.m.--Holy Eucharist, Rite 1
9:15, 11:15 a.m.—Festival Holy Eucharists, with choir, brass quintet and festival processions

Easter is the celebration of our Lord's Resurrection and the life of the risen Christ, which we are called to carry into the world. It is the highest feast day of the Christian year, and the Easter morning services are bright and triumphant. Christ, our Savior is Risen! Alleluia!
A festive coffee hour will follow each service to celebrate and share.

And, there will be an **Easter egg hunt** for the children, rain or shine, following the 9:15 a.m. Eucharist.

PASTORAL CARE CORNER: **Please remember these parishioners in your prayers:** Jean Schnedl, Morgan, Catherine, Mary, Duncan MacDonald, Yvonne Pover, Natalie Doyle-Hennin, Bill Frye, Dana Hengst, Chris Stanek, Warren Phillips, Sharon Waiss, Norma and Dick Taliaferro, John and Louisa Smucker, Mary-Jo Cooney, David Lindsey, Dick Hobson.

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, 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, Marjorie Glassco, Paul, Kathryn, Carol Brown, Scott, Bob Weeks, Sharon Laboditz, D. Elizabeth Peters, Patricia, Howard Sutherland, Mary Jean Anderson, Mildred, Dan Wells, .Erin and Rob Schiesel, Marianne and Gerard Ennis, Bill Ennis Linda Monzi, Elesa McFadden, Thomas Arminio, Boyd Noorda, Jewel, Ryan, John Dunsmoor.

Those serving in the U.S. and overseas: Todd Bates**,** Ian Phillips, John Patrick Miller; Jon and Nicole Anderson, Noah Barker, Will Murtha, Allen Kellogg, Keith June, Carolyn Bartley, Janice Corbett.

EASTER VIGIL RECEPTION HELPERS NEEDED: Following the Great Vigil of Easter service on Saturday, April 19, there will be a festive reception in Nelson Parish Hall to break our Lenten fast. Volunteers are needed to help organize, set up, serve, and/or clean up at this event. Please help! To volunteer or find out more, contact Sara Fein at sarabfein@gmail.com or 703-931-5824.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS: In this season of the Church year, we can expect to see more visitors or non-regular attendees at Immanuel's services, so please be on the lookout for opportunities to give a warm welcome, introduce yourself, and help with directions or information. Also, please remember that Immanuel's worship services sometimes overlap other activities, and be mindful of comings and goings that may distract worshippers.

PALM SUNDAY FORUM: Dr. Elaine F. Davies will set the stage for Holy Week by introducing and exploring the iconography displayed and venerated by Eastern Orthodox Christians during this most solemn of times. In the Eastern Church an icon is considered to be visual Scripture and is meant to elicit a response from the viewer, one that will aid him or her in coming closer to God. As such it contains signs that are meant to promote awareness of the divine. Elaine will discuss the meaning of some of these signs in order to enhance your encounter with these Holy Week icons.

SPRING INTO ACTION FOR CONGO This week as the world marks the 20th anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda, I wanted to share some important outreach work supported by our Diocese in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo ï a country that continues to feel the lasting impact of the Rwandan genocide. During the last 20 years, over six million people have died in Congo through war, war-related disease, and starvation, a situation that can be described as the worldôs deadliest conflict since World War II. The Women-to-Women Ministry of the Diocese has a partner relationship with the Anglican Diocese of Bukavu in eastern DRC. Rebecca Cooper serves as co-chair of the Women-to-Women Ministry and will be traveling with a small group from the Diocese to DRC in early June. The purpose of the trip is to learn about the trauma situation impacting women and girls of the region who are under the care of the Motherôs Union in Bukavu. In addition, the group will listen and support survivors and uplift our Congolese brothers and sisters who are involved in peace-building efforts. If you would like to learn more about the conflict in the DRC and our Diocesan partnership, you are invited to attend ñSpring into Action for Congo,ò an education and advocacy event held at St. Stephenôs Episcopal Church in Richmond on Sunday, April 27, 3:30-5:30 p.m. The program will feature documentary film clips as well as a panel discussion, including Rebecca Cooper, member of ICOH, educator, and activist. If you would like more information, please contact Rebecca at rcooper@sssas.org or (703)785-8226.

IMMANUEL MEN'S ANNUAL FISHING TRIP Ahoy, men of Immanuel. The date of this year's Annual Immanuel Men's Group's rock fishing expedition is **Friday, May 2nd**. As in the past, our fishing boat(s) will be departing that morning at sunup from Deale, Maryland (about one hour from D.C./Alexandria). Also as in the past, we'll be gathering the evening before (Thursday, May 1st) at the Herrington Harbour Inn (located nearby the boat launch site) for our traditional Amanly meal and a good night's sleep. We have secured the same boats as last year (the "Miss Grace" and the "Miss Margaret") and I have reserved a block of rooms in my name at the Herrington Harbour Inn. I am assembling a list of planned attendees and would like to hear from anyone who might be interested in going by April 4, 2014, so that I can put together an expanded distribution list, and, if necessary, consider making more specific food and room arrangements. I will be issuing a detailed memo in early April, which will contain more information on cost, schedule, *etc.* In the meantime, you can contact me by e-mail, phone or in person at Church. My home phone number is 703-751-9238 and my e-mail address is djohn@jhenergy.com. Doug John

SCHOOL FOR THE SPIRIT: School for the Spirit is coming back to Immanuel for the four weeks after Easter: on Wednesday nights, April 30 and May 7, 14, and 21. Participants are invited to arrive a bit early and join Immanuel's regular Wednesday night Eucharist at 6:30 p.m. Each class session will begin with an informal friendly dinner in the Parish Hall at 7:00 p.m., and then divide into three classes until about 9:15. Classes are: *The Riches of the Book of Common Prayer*, led by the Rev. Randy Alexander; *African Bible Study* led by Sudie McGahuey; and *Heaven, Hell and Points In-Between*, a faith and literature reading group led by Martha Taggart and Lisa Yount. ***Please register either online or via the paper brochure by Tuesday, April 22***. Register online at www.icoh.net; brochures with registration forms are available in the Narthex (foyer) or church office.

HELP WITH EASTER FLOWERS: On Saturday, April 19th, Immanuel's Flower Guild and friends will be transforming the chapel with beautiful spring flowers for Easter services. This year's theme is "Think Pink," and we would welcome extra hands to join in the work and fellowship! "Flowerpalooza" starts at 9:00 a.m. and continues through early afternoon, so any amount of time you can contribute is fine. Anyone can arrange flowers, and we have folks to show you how. Our motto is "the more, the merrier." All you need to bring is a pair of flower shears/heavy scissors. Contact Susan Gilbertson at susan.gilbertson@verizon.net if you can join in.

GRACE AND GRATITUDE: Following is a note from parishioner Suzanne Lamb, who is leaving Immanuel and Alexandria for State College, Pennsylvania:

Dear Immanuel,
I will miss Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill more than I realize right now. Immanuel is graceful, friendly, life-giving and instructive in God's Word and Vision.

Thank you for 39 years of love, peace, beauty and growth.

With love, Suzanne S. Lamb

A FOND FAREWELL TO SUZANNE LAMB

By Candy Levin

One of Immanuel's true gems, Suzanne Lamb, is leaving us and the Virginia area to head up to a retirement community near where she grew up in State College, Pennsylvania. Suzanne joined our congregation in 1975 and began quite the "career" of volunteering and working in the church and the Alexandria community. She was an elementary school teacher in Alexandria for 30 years, followed by service as a substitute teacher for an additional 15 years. That just wasn't enough work for our Suzanne, though!

Suzanne served as Immanuel's representative to ALIVE from 1987 until 2010. As Martha Manson reminisced, "I will always remember her years of announcements when it was our month to collect food or deliver furniture." Suzanne also took on a major ALIVE program, as one of two Food Distribution Coordinators from 2006 until February of this year.

Suzanne has been a gracious Coffee Host for years and has happily greeted newcomers for years. Rosi Stewart recollected that "Suzanne was one of the very first people to welcome me to Immanuel. She was kind, welcomed me, told me about Immanuel and her work at ALIVE. She was most gracious, warm, lively, with such a wonderful spirit". Rick Glassco said "I too remember Suzanne as one of the first people we met at Immanuel in 1980. After we had attended our second or third time she asked us to come paint the downstairs bathrooms, and we did. I remember standing on a toilet with a paint roller in hand wondering how she got us into that job."

Dotty Eisenhour summed up Suzanne's longstanding service to Immanuel with this tribute. "Suzanne will be missed at Immanuel and in the Alexandria community as well. She was a very loyal Altar Guild member. She was also one of the best at taking care of the linens, silver and brass. I don't know how long she served on the Altar Guild, but she has been doing the Altar for many years. I also enjoyed playing handbells with her and she never missed a practice or a performance. She was a great friend and will leave a big hole to be filled at Immanuel. She was also an extremely active volunteer for ALIVE and valuable to that organization for many, many years. Every city and church needs a Suzanne Lamb!!"

We asked Suzanne what inspired all her volunteering. She said that "to perform a service is so wonderful and a part of Christian commitment to the Church. Altar Guild is so different from major coordination projects. It is beautiful and non-taxing, with a lovely calm and peace in preparing the Altar". As for her Immanuel experience, "if I learned anything at Immanuel, it was grace. It is a place of beauty and clarity, with wonderful people…people who are graceful in their coping and calm acceptance of one another. I will miss Immanuel more than I now realize. Beautiful prayers and a depth of preaching from our clergy and VTS. What a House of God – full of grace, life-giving friends and simple, elegant beauty! It has been an honor to serve."

Well, State College, you are a very lucky city to be getting our Suzanne. She is already looking for volunteer opportunities at the elementary school near her new community! And to paraphrase Suzanne, we will miss her more than we now realize. Thank you, Suzanne. We wish you joy in your new home and hope for frequent visits to this, your former home.

Suzanne wants us to stay in touch. Here is her new address:
Foxdale Village; 500 East Marylyn Avenue, E-65; State College, PA 16801

ANNOUNCING GUILD OF BELLRINGERS: Dean Markham of Virginia Theological Seminary recently announced exciting plans for the bells of the new chapel – and Immanuel parishioners are invited to play a role! Read on for details:

Friday, March 28, 2014
Today I am part of a group watching history being made. I am standing at the historic Whitechapel Foundry (where the Liberty Bell was made) watching the last and largest of the bells being cast for our new chapel. These are the bells which will go into our tower - a full set of eight changing bells - the only set of changing bells in all of Virginia.

Today I am pleased to announce that we will start to create, in partnership with Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, our very own guild of bellringers. The guild is open to (a) anyone who wants to learn how to change ring and (b) anyone who wants to be a Friend of all things having to do with the bell tower. Learning to change ring is technical and skilled work, which takes practice to do well. So Ms. Linda Huntington has agreed to take a lead on the creation of the guild; and she will be working with two tower captains - Rob and Catherine Gibson. The Gibsons have offered to start training those who are interested in learning this ancient and beautiful craft. However, the second option of being a friend is a more gentle way of connecting with this remarkable musical world.

Anyone at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill and in our Seminary community should feel free to approach Linda Huntington and express their interest in joining the guild. The bells will be operational in January; it will be fabulous to have our guild ready and willing to announce the significant arrival of our new chapel with a peal of bells.

The Very Rev. Ian S. Markham, Ph.D.
Dean and President

Please speak with the Rector if you are interested in this exciting opportunity!

CIRCLE OF QUIET: In our busy and stressed filled lives, it is often hard to listen to the still, small voice of God. Meditation is one means to practice listening for God. Immanuel parishioners are invited to learn more about meditation and explore ways to enrich their prayer lives. Each Sunday in the Easter season, the Circle of Quiet members will offer a form of meditation with instructions for that type of prayer. The leader will explain the format for the prayer, and the group will practice that prayer form. Instructional materials will be provided. No experience with meditation is necessary to participate in the group. Each session stands alone, so parishioners are welcome to attend some Sundays if they are unable to participate in all sessions.

The Circle of Quiet meets Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in the upper room. The schedule of meditations is as follows:

April 27	Centering Prayer,	Andy Biache
May 4	Praying with Our Experiences,	Dana Hengst
May 11	Praying with Icons	Mary Ann Rehnke
May 18	Praying with Scripture (Lectio Divina)	Sara Fein

REPORT FROM THE ORAL REHYDRATION THERAPY PROJECT: For the 7th year in a row, Immanuel Church on the Hill partnered with its neighbor Temple Beth El on this project. Funds raised by Immanuel at the Pumpkin Patch paid for the dental packets. Beth El provided the dry ingredients, as well as the space, tools, and logistical experience. On two Thursday evenings, the 6th and 20th of March, Immanuel volunteers "prepped" packets by inserting in their sleeves or pockets lists of the ingredients which are printed in six languages. More than 50 volunteers came out for these two evenings, including some Episcopal High School students whom the Rev. Gideon Pollach enlisted to help.

On Sunday, March 30th, from 9 AM to 3 PM, volunteers from Immanuel and Beth El, as well as others whom both congregations had enlisted, sat at tables and in an assembly-line fashion measured the dry ingredients and poured them into the packets which were then sealed. By the end of the day, despite sleet and freezing rain, 15,500 packets were assembled!

These packets will be picked up and stored by international relief organizations and then sent by them to scenes of natural or man-made disasters when and where they are needed. (In past years the packets were sent to the Philippines and to Haiti.)

Thanks are extended to everyone who participated on March 30th, at either or both of the packet-"prep" sessions earlier in the month, and who raised the "Pumpkin Patch" funds last fall that paid for the packets. ORT is an ecumenical project in our backyard that helps people around the world. Look carefully at the attached photos and you will see God at work.

DIOCESAN AWARD FOR OUTREACH: A new plaque is hanging in the Narthex, announcing that Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill has received the 2014 Bishop's Outreach Award for "mission and ministries for those in need [that] give practical expression of exemplary Christian service and love of neighbor."

The nomination from Immanuel focused on the annual autumn Pumpkin Patch fundraiser that involves the entire parish. Not only does this event support jobs and education at the Navajo Indian Reservation in New Mexico, but 100 percent of Immanuel's profits are used for outreach, benefiting more than 20 nonprofit organizations that help vulnerable communities.

The nomination emphasized that Immanuel's outreach efforts go beyond dollars: "At Immanuel, outreach is not just a budget line — it is a guiding philosophy and one of the keystones of our community. We don't simply write checks to worthy causes; instead, we leverage our financial resources to support programs in which our parishioners engage actively. We view community involvement as integral to our worship and fellowship."

An endorsement letter from Grace E. (Beth) Wiggers, President of the organization of Region IV churches, further explained the impact of the Pumpkin Patch on the local community and said "The Pumpkin Patch makes friends while raising financial resources that are sorely needed and gratefully received in our community and nationally and internationally."

The award was presented by the Right Reverend Shannon Johnston at the 219th Annual Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia in Richmond, January 25, 2014.

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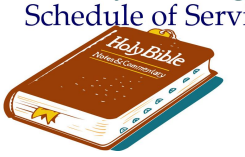
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Lectionary Readings and
Schedule of Services



April 13, Sunday of the Passion, Palm Sunday
Matthew 21:1-11, Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14—27:66
8:00 a.m., HEI; 9:00 a.m., HEII; 11:15 a.m., HEII
April 20, Easter Sunday
Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-20; Colossians 3:1-4, John 20:1-18
8 a.m., HEI, 9:15 a.m., HEII; 11:15 a.m., HEII
April 27, The Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 22-32, Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31
8:00 a.m., HEI; 9:15 a.m., HEII, 11:15 a.m., HEII