

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



May 29, 2014

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

VALLEY DRIVE COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL COMING TO IMMANUEL THIS FALL

If you visit the church on mornings starting in September, you may encounter a class of 3-year-olds on the play ground or very young students engaged in a science lesson or art project in our Sunday School rooms. Once again, after a decades-long absence, Immanuel will be the weekday home to a thriving Alexandria institution, the Valley Drive Cooperative Preschool. We count current and former VDCP students among our parishioners.

The school's director of 25 years, Cindy Hodgkins, is well-regarded in the local early childhood community. With a staff of six teachers and a like number of rotating parent volunteers, the school currently enrolls 43 children in three age groups: 2-3- and 4/5-year olds. The school hours are 9 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday. The older students stay until 1 p.m. on Fridays. Parent volunteers clean the classrooms daily.

While we already host two other congregations — Muslim worship on Friday afternoons and the Dignity Catholic service on Saturday evenings — as well as other outside groups (AA, INOVA exercise classes, Girl Scouts, orchestra practice) and one-off private events (receptions, workshops), the preschool represents Immanuel's most significant tenant in many years.

You can read more about the school's mission and staff here: valleydrive.com

You can read VDCP's proposal to Immanuel here: (<http://tinyurl.com/VDCPproposal>) or see a copy on the bulletin board in the narthex.

You can follow developments with Valley Drive on Immanuel's website, on a special page under the "About Us" section: <http://www.icoh.net/About-Us/Valley-Drive-Cooperative-Preschool/>

HERE ARE SOME FAQs:

WHY HOST A PRESCHOOL? Our Rector, Randy Alexander, cites three primary reasons:

**** It deepens Immanuel's connection to the community.** Just as medieval cathedrals functioned as a worship space *and* a community gathering place, our Zabriskie facility should be buzzing with activity. Some young families without a current church home may be inclined to join Immanuel. At least one family has already worshipped with us at Easter.

**** It represents good stewardship of our resources.** Our entire education wing stands empty six days a week, notes Randy, and that's not good stewardship.

**** It offers a generous revenue stream.** Rent for the 2014-2015 school year is \$30,000, money that the Rector and Vestry can use to achieve other important goals, such as hiring a Family and Youth Coordinator.

The Rector's conversations with VDCP have been supported by both the 2013 and 2014 Vestries.

WHY DID THE PRESCHOOL APPROACH IMMANUEL? Short answer: They need a new long-term home immediately. Also a number of VDCP families live in the western part of the city where there is a paucity of preschools.

Founded in 1958, the Valley Drive Cooperative Preschool was located in Agudas Achim Congregation on Valley Drive then Fair Park Baptist Church on Quaker Lane for most of its existence. When the Convergence congregation purchased the church, the school was forced to seek a new home.

Since 2009, VDCP has been hosted by Commonwealth Baptist Church in Del Ray. A year ago, as VDCP's five-year lease was to expire, Commonwealth informed the school that the lease would not be renewed because the church intended to expand its own Abracadabra Preschool in the space used by VDCP. (Alexandria has few preschools, all of which operate with long wait lists.)

In September, the school contacted our Rector who began discussions with the Valley Drive leadership, Immanuel's Vestry and our Resources Committee to explore the school's needs and the City of Alexandria's building requirements. Our Sunday School and Youth leadership also weighed in on sharing space, as the discussions progressed. Our Rector also discussed the possibility of providing scholarships to low-income families with the school director.

HOW WILL THE SCHOOL'S TENANCY AFFECT IMMANUEL'S OPERATIONS? WHAT ABOUT LIABILITY? It should have little to no impact on most parishioners. Most interaction will happen with our clergy and staff. We will work with the Church School and Youth leadership to minimize disruption to their materials and resources. Our sexton's hours will be adjusted to clean spaces after Sunday use, so they are ready for Monday morning. The school carries its own liability insurance.

A reminder: When scheduling gatherings, please check first with our Parish Administrator, Jennifer Addington, to ensure the school — or another group — is not using your intended space.

Doug Onley, our Resources Steward and fortuitously a lawyer well-versed in the insurance industry, has carefully crafted a lease agreement with VDCP, to minimize liability exposure for Immanuel, including indemnification and “hold harmless” provisions, and to require the preschool to carry insurance considered the standard in the childcare industry.

WHAT SPACES WILL THE SCHOOL USE? Our nursery as well as all Sunday School classrooms except the Godly Play room. Music Director Jane Tavenier will move to the current Treasurer's office. Twice a week, the children will use the parish hall. Very occasionally for a special project, they may use the kitchen. Immanuel's old Sunday School furniture will be replaced with VDCP's newer furniture, which our youngest parishioners will be able to enjoy on Sunday mornings.

Outside, the children will have use of the play ground as well as the far corner of the parking lot near the rectory. The school is adding a small shed, like the pumpkin shed, to store bikes and moveable barrier walls for bike time.

HOW WILL THE PRESCHOOL AND SUNDAY SCHOOL MAINTAIN SEPARATE SUPPLIES? Sunday School coordinator Linda Serabian and parishioner Leah Wilson (a VDPC parent) have met with their preschool counterparts to brainstorm. The preschool currently stores supplies in mobile locking cabinets. Our Sunday School leaders are carefully culling our supplies and are looking into creating similar storage.

HOW WILL THE SPACE BE ADAPTED TO ACCOMMODATE THE SCHOOL'S NEEDS AND CITY REQUIREMENTS? A second door, from the nursery to the fire stair well, directly facing the entrance door from the parking lot to the basement, will be constructed. New play-ground equipment and a surrounding fence will be installed. The current plan is for the preschool to bear the cost of both upgrades.

Immanuel will be painting the classrooms, a Capital Campaign upgrade that was deferred last year. New hall carpeting and lighting in the basement was installed last summer.

PASTORAL CARE CORNER: Please remember these parishioners in your prayers: Morgan, Catherine, Mary, Duncan MacDonald, Natalie Doyle-Hennin, Bill Frye, Dana Hengst, Chris Stanek, Jacquie, Cadence, Warren Phillips, Norma and Dick Taliaferro, John and Louisa Smucker, Dick Hobson, Callie Curtis.

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, Ann and Larry Kaplan, Aubree Bowling, 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, Andre Casavant, Robert Carter, Preston Atwood, Sharon Waiss, Ron Maggiano.

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, and Carolyn Bartley.

Those who have died: Yvonne Pover; Dorathea Elizabeth Peters, mother of parishioner Dorathea Peters; Donzell Small, former sexton at Immanuel on the Hill.

JUNE 8th: CELEBRATE MARCUS. Please come to the parish hall on Sunday, June 8th to recognize the dedication of our recently retired Treasurer, Marcus Rarick. For five years, he has put in countless hours keeping our finances in shipshape. A festive coffee hour has been organized for 10:30 a.m., between the 9:15 and 11:15 a.m. services. Come have something to drink and eat, and greet Marcus yourself.

FORUM HOUR, JUNE 1: Our Forum speaker June 1 will be The Rev. John Y. H. Yieh, Ph.D. He is the Molly Laird Downs Professor in New Testament at Virginia Theological Seminary. A Presbyterian minister originally from Taiwan, Dr. Yieh's special interests are the Gospels, the history of interpretation, and Chinese biblical hermeneutics. He has authored many books, including Making Sense of the Sermon on the Mount (Cambridge, UK: Grove, 2007), and Conversations with Scripture: The Gospel of Matthew (New York: Morehouse, 2012). His forum will offer an overview on Matthew's Gospel.

FORUM HOUR, JUNE 15TH AFTER 10:00 SERVICE: ALEXANDRIA IS A GREAT PLACE TO BE A SENIOR! Come grab your coffee or iced tea and hear Mary Lee Anderson, executive director of Senior Services of Alexandria share information about the many resources available for seniors and their families, including transportation options, recreation programs, and technology training. We'll also learn about volunteer opportunities for all ages, including the **Friendly Visitor Program**, which connects seniors to the community through weekly social visits.

ORAL RE-HYDRATION PROJECT UPDATE:

Our neighbors and friends at Temple Beth El have reported that the more than 15,000 packets which Immanuel and Temple Beth El prepared on March 30th were sent to Tacloban City, in the island province of Leyte in the Philippines. This past November Tacloban was the central target of a tsunami which killed and displaced many of the 250,000 residents of the city. Recovery efforts continue in Tacloban and the packets will assist in these endeavors as water supply systems there remain contaminated. Immanuel has been invited to partner with the Temple again next year, which will be the 8th year of a partnership between the two houses of faith on Seminary Road, working together to make a difference, saving lives at risk due to severe dehydration caused by acts of nature (floods, droughts, hurricanes, etc.) or war which disrupt sources of uncontaminated water.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Thursday, May 29, Holy Eucharist for Ascension Day, 7:30 p.m.

June 8, Pentecost Sunday, Services 8, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.
Reception to say thank you to Marcus Rarick
following the 9:15 a.m. service

June 15, Youth Sunday, beginning of Summer Schedule,
Services at 8 and 10 a.m.

June 22, Services at a.m. in Zabriskie Chapel
Mass on the Grass, 10 a.m., following by parish potluck picnic.

GRADUATES

If you, or a member of your family is graduating from high school, college, or graduate school this year, please let the office know, so that you may be properly recognized and congratulated in a forthcoming Almond Tree.

RAMADAN WORSHIP

Beginning on Wednesday, June 18 and continuing until Thursday, July 17, our Muslim friends, who worship here on Friday afternoons, will be observing their Ramadan period of worship and will be using the Parish Hall from 9:30 p.m. until midnight. Please be respectful of their worship if you are here during those hours.

WORSHIP LEADERS SOUGHT As Immanuel continues to expand, our Worship ministries welcome newcomers and old-timers to consider participating in one or more of our ministries. We welcome adults and youth to be Acolytes, Readers, Intercessors, Chalicists, Ushers, Altar and Flower Guild members. Commitment levels can accommodate those with busy schedules and those with more time to offer. Our clergy, worship steward and ministry chairs will hold training sessions in the fall to make sure all are aware of ministry procedures and processes. Please consider your talents and time and joining our Worship ministries. For more information and should you wish to participate over the summer, please contact Rosi Stewart at rustewart@comcast.net

NEWS FROM THE HAITI-MICAH PROJECT:

Dear Fast Trak Racers, If you enjoy running on beautiful trails, come and join us for a 5K at Great Falls Park, VA on July 4th at 9AM. The Falls 5K trail race is a fun, off-road, running race on a two lap course on the Matildaville and Old Carriage trails in Great Falls Park, VA. Even with a slight uphill start, this is a fast course with wide dirt trails. Mass start in grassy area adjacent to overlook 3. The race route is smooth with minimal vertical change on well defined trails. Packet pickup is at 8:15am, with start at 9:00am, and awards at 10:00am. Results and pictures will be available on Fast Trak Racing web page.

Details: **Date:** July 4, 2014, **Location:** Great Falls Park, 9200 Old Dominion Dr 22102

Packet pickup: 8:15am, **Start:** 9:00am, **Distance:** 5K, **Parking fee:** \$5

Sign-up online at www.fasttrakracing.com.

For this race, Fast Trak will donate a portion of each entry fee to the Haiti-Micah Project (<http://haiti-micah.org/>) - a locally-based mission that provides amazing outreach to kids and teens in Mirebalais, Haiti.

06/01 Christian Miller
06/01 Jill Hanna
06/01 Tony Christino
06/01 Chris Marbaker
06/02 Sandy Briggs
06/02 Chloe Campbell
06/03 Tom Murray
06/03 James Danly
06/03 Kerstin Shimkin
06/04 Kendall Gildersleeve
06/05 Tom Hewson
06/05 Madeleine Mitchell
06/05 Jacob Cooper
06/06 David Lindsey
06/06 Paul Barnes
06/07 Wayne Iskra
06/07 Elizabeth Phillips
06/07 Kris Larson
06/07 Shannon King
06/07 Lori Reiner
06/07 Isabella Arciniegas
06/09 William Alexander
06/10 Sara Latimer
06/10 Brentan Rath
06/11 Dorathea Peters
06/11 Margaret Kerekes
06/11 Carol Wilkes
06/11 Betsy McWhirt
06/11 Anthony Gabriel
06/11 Bill Duran
06/11 Andrew Drennon
06/11 Addie Biache
06/12 William Packard
06/13 Frank Wade
06/13 Mark Sampson
06/13 Nina Besser
06/13 Gemma Haney
06/13 Claire Rainey
06/15 Katie Lloyd
06/15 Andrew Wilson
06/15 Laurie Clark
06/15 Aksel Nordin
06/16 Gary Campbell
06/16 Carrie Turnbull
06/16 Andrew Alexander
06/17 Matthew Schnedl
06/17 David Fite
06/17 Patty MacEwan
06/17 Katherine Coleman
06/19 Marta Evans
06/19 David Forster



06/19 Katie Rhoades
06/19 Meaghan Ross
06/20 Tom Brown
06/20 Jim Kurz
06/20 Kevin Wensing
06/20 Coday Cunningham
06/20 Vivian Gray
06/20 Sebastian Haney
06/20 Zoe Gildersleeve
06/20 Frank Kozuch
06/21 Elaine Davies
06/21 George Currie
06/21 David Temoshok
06/21 Marc Miller
06/21 Jonathan Mason
06/21 Rachel Williams
06/22 Maria Balcarcel
06/22 David Stayanoff
06/23 Sue Lynch
06/23 Kevin Kirby
06/23 Tina Wagner
06/23 Kate Flachsbart-Akins
06/23 Lindsay Friday
06/23 Rachael Turnbull
06/24 Barbara Fornoff
06/24 Eric Arnold
06/24 Ben Blakeslee
06/25 Wendy John
06/26 Kurt Wanamaker
06/26 Chris Boam
06/26 Meredith Irvin
06/28 Larry Lyman
06/28 Taylor Brown
06/29 Keith Huffman
06/29 Katherine Werner
06/30 Veronique Anderson
06/30 Carrie Cuddy

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!

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Lectionary Readings and
Schedule of Services



June 1, Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36; 1Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11
8 a.m., HEI, 9:15 a.m., Holy Baptism/HEII; 11:15 a.m., HEI

June 8, Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:25-35, 37; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 20:19-23
8:00 a.m., HEI; 9:15 a.m., HEII, 11:15 a.m., HEII

June 15, First Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 1:1—2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20
8:00 a.m., HEI, 10:00 a.m., HEII