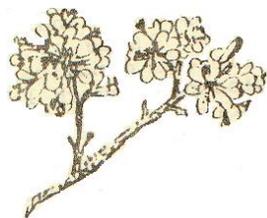


# THE ALMOND TREE

## Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

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



July 24, 2014

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

### CHRISTMAS FAMILIES IN AUGUST: AFGHANISTAN, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, HAITI, ALEXANDRIA

#### Help children with school supplies – critical tools for learning!

The mind needs tools, tools to take notes, organize notes to comprehend the world, tools for writing and expression in art. In a word, children need school supplies for learning and a backpack to carry them in. Every fall in the past years we have helped children in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Alexandria so they do not go off to school without the critical tools for learning. We provided backpacks, notebooks, crayons, pencils, scissors, calculators, or the money for gym uniforms and fees. This is so important not only by giving children the supplies they need but also by raising their spirit and joy of learning.

This year we add orphanages in Afghanistan to this ministry, responding to a plea from parishioner Keith June, who is stationed there. We will send supplies – plain and colored pencils, crayons, markers, composition books.

#### Status report

The Alexandria Community and Human Services department sent us a list of 45 families with 90 school-age children. Parishioners signed up to provide school supplies for all but four of these families (including two large ones). We use the supply lists for each grade as posted by each school.

Parishioners have also bought supplies for Afghanistan. The first special collection on July 20 raised \$ 450.

#### How you can help between now and August 17.

You can still sign up for one of the remaining families, perhaps partnering with others for one of the large families. You can bring supplies for Afghanistan (collection box in the Narthex). Last, and most critical, **you can donate money** between now and the second special collection on August 17. Please make checks out to Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill and mark them XFAM. We hope to exceed last year's total of \$6,000 so we can send to each of the receiving organizations an amount that will make a difference. The money will be allocated approximately as follows:

First we will determine how much is needed to round out the school supplies to be sent to Afghanistan and for postage. Then:

One third to Episcopal schools in the Dominican Republic

One third to Episcopal schools in Haiti

One third to Alexandria (1/6 to Child Protective Services and 1/6 to Community Lodgings)

#### Let us give all children a good start in the new school year!

Lissa Soergel (703-823-2840, 703-869-9848, <lissa@whollygenes.com>)

Dagobert Soergel (703-823-2840, 703-585-2840, dsoergel@umd.edu)

Julie Bruns (703-534-7913, <drbruns@bellatlantic.net>)

Linda Serabian (703-836-4670, <serabian@somaarchitects.com>)

**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, Dick Hobson, Callie Curtis, Marcia Murray, Opal Beverly, Kay Neer, Susan Kernan, Perry Epes.

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., Lois, Jane Burton, Tom Hewson, Sr., Jim Clear, Ann and Larry Kaplan, Aubree Bowling, Paul, Carol Brown, Thomas Arminio, Robert Carter, Preston Atwood, Stephen Miller, Jim Rarick, Kyle Bruse, Andre Casavant, Mollie, Marianne and Gerard Ennis, Bill Ennis, Donna Gray, Tina Bennett Kirkwood, Dorothy Phaneuf, Mildred, Nancy, Brian Crowley.

**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.

*Please note that we have recently edited the Extended Parish Family prayer list and removed some names for whom we had no information, as to who put them on the prayer list or their current condition. If we have removed someone who should be on the prayer list, please let us know. Also, if there is a name on the list which can be removed, please let us know that as well.*



**A GENTLE REMINDER FROM YOUR**

**TREASURER:** Summer is here and I hope everyone is enjoying a most wonderful summer season! But .....

Please don't forget your annual pledge and Capital Campaign pledge payments while busy with all those fun summer activities. Susan Gilbertson  
Treasurer

**AID FOR AFGHAN CHILDREN:** As part of Christmas Families in August, we have been asked to donate school supplies to help orphans in Afghanistan. Immanuel parishioner Colonel Keith June is stationed in Afghanistan. Keith emails us about the need: "One of the things done here is providing items for orphanages in Afghanistan. This is initiative of the church and not formally tied to the [military] mission. ... One of the things that breaks my heart is the plight of Afghan children. While we can't change the nation of Afghanistan, I think we can make a small difference in the lives of the children who ultimately will decide the future of this troubled land."

Keith asks us to send school supplies. What's needed are composition books, crayons in snack bags, colored pencils, wooden pencils. We will repack many of the items in gallon size plastic bags to reduce the weight and associated shipping costs. A collection box will be placed in the narthex for your donation.

We are asked not to send cash. However, if you want to make a cash contribution as part of Christmas in August, part of that money will be used to help Afghan orphans. We will also be providing school supplies for kids in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Make your check out to ICOH and designate "Christmas in August" on the memo line.

**NEW BOOKKEEPER:** Please join me in welcoming Gerry Sheeran, Immanuel's new bookkeeper. Gerry brings a wealth of experience to Immanuel as an auditor with several federal agencies as well as George Mason University. He is both a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Internal Auditor. Gerry is a faithful member of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Alexandria, Virginia and is active in their Meals on Wheels program as well as Christ House's food pantry. Gerry officially starts with us on August 1, and can be contacted through his email at [gsheeran@icoh.net](mailto:gsheeran@icoh.net).

Susan Gilbertson, Treasurer



**SAVE THE DATE** On Saturday, September 20, we will celebrate our parish community with **Suppers in September**.

We want to bring together

new and long-time members of the parish in get-togethers hosted by parishioners in homes all over the parish. This is to meet or to get to know better all those people who we see in church on Sundays or in the Pumpkin Patch line.

The first step is to Save the Date on your calendars and to let us know if you can participate by emailing an RSVP to the office at [icoh.net](mailto:icoh.net), or filling out the RSVP form that will be inserted in an upcoming Sunday bulletin. At that time, you can let us know if you'd prefer a 4 to 6pm drinks and nibbles event or a 7 to 9 pm dinner and also if you need transportation.

In September, you will receive an invitation from your host with directions to their homes. We hope to see everyone joining in and look forward to an evening of celebration and fellowship.

**BRING BACK A BULLETIN!** As your travels take you around the country (and the world?) this summer, make time to attend a local church. When you leave, please pick up an extra bulletin to bring back home. If there was something that really impressed you, either positive or negative, make notes in the margin of the bulletin. Please bring them to Jennifer in the Parish Office. We are always interested!

**VALLEY DRIVE PRESCHOOL** is pleased to announce that they have moved to Immanuel. Valley Drive is a play-based cooperative preschool serving 2-1/2 to 5 year olds and has been a part of the Alexandria community since 1958. The school is licensed by the State of Virginia and is a member of the Virginia Cooperative Preschool Council (VCPC).

Currently, Valley Drive has openings for the Fall 2014/Spring 2015 semesters. Interested families should send an e-mail to [membership@valleydrive.com](mailto:membership@valleydrive.com) for more information.



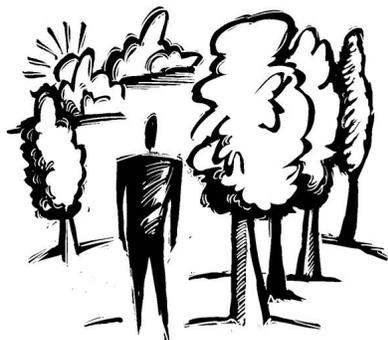
**PARISHONER PROFILE:** In the 1970's, **Betty Wanamaker** was looking for a Sunday School for her children. Emmett Hoy, then Head of St. Stephen's School,

recommended Immanuel Church on the Hill, where Coleman McGhee was rector. It was the start of her long relationship with Immanuel. As time progressed, Betty became very involved with issues central to the parish, diocese and the national church. Among these were the ordination of women and the revision of the 1928 Book of Common Prayer. Both matters figured prominently at the General Convention which Betty attended in 1976. Resolutions for adoption of a new BCP and the ordination of women both passed at that General Convention.

Betty met the Reverend Bill Dols while they were working on a mid-Atlantic parish training program. Bill asked her to interview for a position at Immanuel as a Lay Minister and Assistant to the Rector. She began work at Immanuel in 1977 and soon began a two-year certificate program from the Parish Counseling and Consultation Center of Greater Washington. Pastoral matters were a significant emphasis of her ministry at Immanuel until her retirement in 1995. Becoming aware of the strong interest in spirituality at Immanuel Betty received a diploma in spiritual direction from the Benedictine Monastery in Pecos, NM

For 17 years, Betty was adjunct faculty at VTS. She supervised seminarians in their field work and advised them as a colloquy mentor. A colloquy is a caucus in which middlers, second-year students, meet with their mentors to discuss recent experiences in parish field work. One student whom she supervised was Martha Horne, later dean of VTS. Betty has also served on VTS ad-hoc issue-oriented groups. In 1996, VTS awarded Betty a Doctorate of Humane Letters for her ministries at Immanuel and VTS and in the Diocese of Virginia and larger Church. She is still connected to the seminary in various ways and continues to provide spiritual direction which some of her former seminarians. She maintains a strong interest in national church and diocesan matters and she has served as a member of the Commission on Ministry, the Standing Committee and as a Deputy to General Convention.

Immanuel was, and is, for her and so many others, a faith community of hope and inspiration, challenge and renewal, a place for prayerful reflection and committed service, a place to continue our journeys in the spirit with fellow travelers. It becomes a way of life.



## Advent Retreat

### Listening to the Advent Collects Advent Retreat 2014

Holy Cross Abbey

December 12-14

The collects (collectives or community prayers) of the Prayer Book are designed to teach the church as well as petition the Lord. During our time together we will learn to listen to what the collects are saying to us and focus with special intent on the four Advent Collects. The dozens of collects throughout the Prayer Book will be ours for reflection and meditation. Our retreat leader will be the Rev. Frank Wade, an Immanuel parishioner and an experienced retreat leader, author and teacher.

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 12, shortly before the evening meal and will end after the noon meal on Sunday, December 14. Participants needing a ride to the Abbey may contact the retreat carpooling coordinator, Carla Murray, at [tigmurray08@gmail.com](mailto:tigmurray08@gmail.com) or 703-751-9241.

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 rector for scholarship assistance.

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

**ANOTHER OFFERING BY FRANK WADE: THE STEWARDSHIP OF RETIREMENT: Saturday, September 27.** Retirement for most of us describes about one-third of our lives. Yet for many planning for it seldom goes beyond questions of adequate income, a keen anticipation of some things we won't have to do anymore and a vague notion of leisure. These things are essential but life is much more. The Stewardship of Retirement is a Saturday opportunity to focus on the issues of leaving one pattern of life and establishing a new one. Whether your retirement date is far in the future, just around the corner or even in the rear view mirror, this conversation about managing the opportunities, challenges and issues of retirement may prove worthwhile. Watch the Almond Tree, website and Sunday bulletins for more information.

**Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill  
Advent Retreat  
Holy Cross Abbey Retreat House  
December 12-14, 2014**

**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.

08/01 Lynn Dutton  
 08/01 David Duncan  
 08/01 Ken Mason  
 08/01 Kirsi Chavez  
 08/02 Vicki McCauley  
 08/02 Susie Kelly  
 08/02 Sheila Smith  
 08/03 Lois Kling  
 08/04 Sarah Mason  
 08/04 Ian Larsen  
 08/04 Jeff Cook  
 08/04 Samantha Taggart  
 08/05 Crissy O'Donnell  
 08/06 Randy Curtis  
 08/06 Leef Barnes  
 08/06 Wade Greiner  
 08/07 Cynthia Dolvin  
 08/07 Mary-Jo Cooney  
 08/07 Cameron Conklin  
 08/08 Ann Huntington  
 08/09 Mimi Carter  
 08/10 Betsy Perkins  
 08/10 Mable Randolph  
 08/10 Callie Curtis  
 08/11 Mark Shaver  
 08/11 Sylvia Glauster  
 08/11 Cole Wirth  
 08/12 Martha Taggart  
 08/12 Governor Burke  
 08/12 Jennifer Greiner  
 08/12 Ava Reiner  
 08/13 Rod Grandon  
 08/13 Xiaoqing Boynton  
 08/13 Cathleen Martin  
 08/14 Jean Raymond  
 08/14 Brian Chesney  
 08/14 James Byron  
 08/15 Paul Smyth  
 08/15 Carolyn King  
 08/16 Kay Hobson  
 08/16 Bobbie King  
 08/16 Susan Sheets  
 08/16 Alice Kachejian  
 08/16 Madeline Forrester  
 08/16 Bethy Fein  
 08/16 Ethan Butcher  
 08/17 Barbara Williams  
 08/17 Hilary Shostal  
 08/17 Jennifer Jones  
 08/17 Meg Rath  
 08/18 Marty Christino  
 08/19 Mark DeMulder  
 08/19 Kathryn Kachejian  
 08/20 Susan Johnson  
 08/20 Jonie Eaton



# August

08/20 Alex Brown  
 08/21 Jacqueline Calnan  
 08/21 Melissa Low  
 08/21 Elizabeth Mason  
 08/21 Chloe Maratta  
 08/21 Stephen Kellogg  
 08/22 Tim Moore  
 08/22 Jen Kinsella  
 08/22 Emma Packard  
 08/23 Dodd Sims  
 08/23 Harvey Palmer  
 08/23 Peggy Roth  
 08/23 Carol Gabriel  
 08/23 Kevin Switaj  
 08/23 Lindsay McGahuey-Yates  
 08/24 Mary McCormack  
 08/24 Catherine Sinclair  
 08/24 Steve Chill  
 08/24 Laura Cohn  
 08/24 Christian Bowers  
 08/24 Riley Larson  
 08/25 Linda Donahue  
 08/25 Jennifer Addington  
 08/25 Terry Arnold  
 08/25 Brooke Hall  
 08/25 Levi Hall  
 08/26 Ruth Bridges  
 08/26 Brandy Scott  
 08/27 Mary Wade  
 08/28 Jane Tavernier  
 08/28 Sally Guy Brown  
 08/28 Jeff Collison  
 08/28 Owen Larson  
 08/29 Linda England  
 08/29 John Jones  
 08/29 Lynn Latimer  
 08/30 Bob Murray  
 08/30 Vicki Dearborn  
 08/30 Emma Cuddy  
 08/30 Ryan Harris  
 08/31 Bette Davis  
 08/31 Moira Ricketts  
 08/31 William Cook  
 08/31 Melanie Stephens Lyman  
 08/31 Summerson Houck

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Link to the August calendar  
<http://tinyurl.com/ICOHaugust>

Lectionary Readings and  
Schedule of Services



**July 27, The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52  
8 a.m., HEI, 10:00 a.m., HEII

**August 3, The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 32:22-31. Psalm 17:1-7, 16; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21  
8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:00 a.m., HEII

**August 10, The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33  
8:00 a.m., HEI, 10:00 a.m., HEII