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

August 14, 2014

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

WORSHIP MINISTRY – SHARE YOUR TALENTS!

As we move from summer into the flurry of Autumn activities, our Worship Committee invites adults and youth to participate in our various ministries. In all cases, Immanuel will hold training for those new to these ministries and refresh current participants with updated processes. Take a moment to reflect on how you can share your time and talents with Immanuel. Participation is scheduled according to your availability. Contact Rosi Stewart, Worship Steward at rustewart@comcast.net or 703-647-9218.

Acolytes - Adults and Youth - consider serving during the Eucharist on Sundays by being an Acolyte. Our clergy and Acolyte Coordinator will hold a training session to explain the procedures of how acolytes assist the clergy during the Eucharist.

Altar Guild – The Altar Guild prepares the Altar for Worship services. We welcome both men and women to participate in this ministry. Altar Guild members care for the sacred vessels, the bread and the wine, the fair linens and hangings, the candles and torches and much more. The Altar Guild prepares all things for the Altar "properly and in good order." There will be training, mentoring, and an accessible book of pictures and descriptions to assist those preparing the Altar.

Chalicists – Chalicists assist the Clergy during communion by administering the cup of wine to members of the congregation. Chalice Bearers receive training on administering the chalice, become licensed, and must be confirmed and 16 years of age or older to serve.

Choirs - With inspired direction, our choirs are active and talented, regularly uplifting worship at Sunday and special services. We welcome all ages to join in singing God's praise. A bell choir is open to those who understand rhythm, performing for Christmas and Easter services. A children's choir, Immanuel's Angels, has begun to sing at periodic services. Please let Dr. Jane Tavernier know of your interest.

Flower Guild - Share your artistic talent and love of beauty by preparing flowers for the Altar. Our Flower Guild members will mentor and guide those new to flower arranging.

Intercessors – The Prayers of the People are an integral part of the Worship service and are prepared by the clergy. We encourage adults and youth to consider leading the prayers – again, training will be provided.

Readers – Immanuel welcomes both adults and youth as readers of the Old and New Testaments and the Psalms. There will be a training session for new and experienced readers on the mechanics of reading. We can work with you on protocols, projecting your voice, pronunciation of Biblical names and more!

Ushers – This is a perfect opportunity for teamwork with your spouse, partner and/or family members. Ushers greet those coming to worship, distribute Sunday bulletins, assist with seating, carry the gifts during the offertory, and pass the alms plates.

Ministry Scheduler – Immanuel has an online Ministry Scheduler that takes the profiles of ministry participants and compiles schedules based on input. Like many computer programs, the Ministry Scheduler can only work well with the input that is submitted. We will be working with and reviewing every ministry participant's profile in the scheduler to make sure we can distribute the workload evenly and accommodate everyone's schedule.

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, Marcia Murray, Opal Beverly, Kay Neer, Susan Kernan, Perry Epes, Tony Rogers.

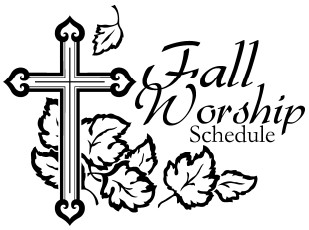
Please also remember in your prayers members of our extended Parish family: Dean and Charlotte Kellogg, Chris Rarick, Eleanor Boothe Smith, Sam Faeth, Anthony Christino, Jr., Lois, Jane Burton, Tom Hewson, Sr., Jim Clear, Ann and Larry Kaplan, Aubree Bowling, Paul, Carol Brown, Thomas Arminio, Robert Carter, Preston Atwood, Stephen Miller, Jim Rarick, Kyle Bruse, Andre Casavant, Molli, Marianne and Gerard Ennis, Bill Ennis, Donna Gray, Tina Bennett Kirkwood, Dorothy Phaneuf, Mildred, Nancy, Brian Crowley, Judy Pearson, Bill and Barbara Stafford, Miles, Eddie, Dale Smyth.

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.

HEY NATIONALS FANS FAITHFUL

The Washington Nationals will host a **Faith Day** event **Saturday, September 6** following their 4:05 p.m. game vs. the Philadelphia Phillies at Nationals Park. Besides watching our hometown 1st place team play America's favorite pastime, there will be a postgame concert by contemporary Christian musician, Lincoln Brewster, and personal testimonies offered by 1B Adam LaRoche, CF Denard Span, SS Ian Desmond, and others about how the gospel of Jesus Christ shapes their lives. The event is free with a ticket to the game and group ticket discounts are available. Please let Rev. David know of your interest.

DID YOU KNOW? Did you know that two Immanuel "children" sang at major league baseball games this weekend?
Greta Arnold, daughter of Terry, sang the "Star-Spangled Banner" at the Nationals game, and Elizabeth Eckert, daughter of Beth and Bob, sang "God Bless America" at the Houston Astros game.



RETURN TO THREE SUNDAY SERVICES

On September 14 we return to our schedule of three Sunday services: 8:00 a.m. (HE Rite I), 9:15 a.m. (HE Rite II) and 11:15 a.m. (HE alternating Rite I and Rite II). This will be the Sunday schedule through the end of December. **Pumpkin Sunday, October 5, we will have only two services, 8 a.m. and Mass on the Grass at 10 a.m. before the unloading of pumpkins to open the Patch.**

WANT TO EXERCISE AND HAVE FUN? Join the Total Body Conditioning class at Immanuel on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:15-7:15 p.m.. The cost is $15 per class or $20 for drop ins. The class is comprised of a small supportive group of women and a super professional fitness trainer. Questions? Contact Jacilyn Sellenrick at <foa.fitness@gmail.com>

ROBIN WILLIAMS TOP 10 REASONS FOR BEING AN EPISCOPALIAN:

10. No snake handling.
9. You can believe in dinosaurs.
8. Male and female God created them; male and female we ordain them.
7. You don't have to check your brains at the door.
6. Pew aerobics.
5. Church year is color-coded.
4. Free wine on Sunday.
3. All of the pageantry - none of the guilt.
2. You don't have to know how to swim to get baptized.

And the Number One reason to be an Episcopalian:
1. No matter what you believe, there's bound to be at least one other Episcopalian who agrees with you.

And for those "newer" members of Immanuel who may not know it: "Patch" Adams and his family were members of Immanuel in the 1980's.

RSVP FOR SUPPERS IN SEPTEMBER

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.

You will have a choice of a 4-6pm drinks event or 7-9pm dinner, and we can help arrange transportation for you, if needed.

Please RSVP by filling out the form in this Almond Tree or the Sunday bulletin – you can drop it in the RSVP basket in the narthex by the church front door on Sunday or mail it to the Parish Office. OR, you can fill out the form online and submit it by going to www.icoh.net and clicking on the News item "RSVP for Suppers in September." **PleaseRSVP by September 7 so that plans can be made!**

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.

FRANK WADE RETIREMENT SEMINAR:
The Stewardship of Retirement
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. This Seminar will be Saturday, September 27, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Box lunches will be provided. Please let the office know if you are coming so we will know how many lunches to purchase.

Did you know that there is no income threshold requirement to qualify as a Meals on Wheels client? Alexandria City residents who are 60+ and certified as homebound may receive meals under the Division of Aging and Adult Services program. Senior services of Alexandria also provides meals for just $10 daily to seniors recovering from surgery, returning home from rehab or who find it difficult to shop and prepare meals for themselves. Contact SSA at 703-836-4414 ext 12 or DAAS at 703-746-5999 if you, or someone you know, might benefit from this type of program.

Come to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria on Wednesday, September 10 at 10:00 a.m. to hear about "Pet Programs for Seniors" and learn about the new Animals pet food delivery program, AWLA's senior pet adoption and grief counseling programs, and enjoy tours of the shelter, located at 4101 Eisenhower Avenue. The event is free and reservations may be made by calling Senior Services of Alexandria at 703-836-4414 ext 10 or on-line at www.seniorservicesalex.org

HOMECOMING SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCH: Come one, come all to the fall homecoming potluck lunch after the church service on **September 7.** Share good food, fellowship and summer stories

Please bring a dish to share that will feed 8 to 10 people. If your last name starts with a letter from:

A to F, please bring a main dish (meat, sandwiches, pasta, vegetarian specialties)

G to N, please bring a side dish (vegetables, fruit, pasta salad, deviled eggs, cheese, chips)

O to Z, please bring a dessert.

We need volunteers to help set up, serve and clean up. If you can help please contact Wayne Iskra, Linda Donahue or Sudie McGahuey. See you there!

UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT IMMANUEL AND BEYOND

SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL BE STARTING SOON
During the Homecoming Lrunch Sunday, September 7, the youth of Immanuel are invited to register for Sunday School classes and Youth Group. The first day of Sunday School in the classrooms will be Sunday, September 14. The annual Puppet Show will be during a Fellowship Sunday, September 28.

BIBLE STUDY THIS FALL: Scott Bunn and Chrissie Crosby are hosting a new Bible study. Meetings will begin on Wednesday August 20, 7:30 to 8:30 pm. We will meet in the Fairchild Room after the Wednesday 6:30 Eucharists. We plan to use the African model of reflection and focus on the Gospel lesson for the upcoming Sunday. Please join us when you can!!

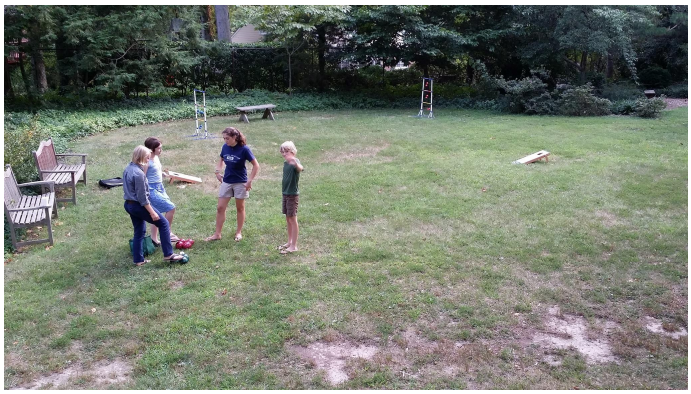
FORUM HOURS 14 AND 21 SEPTEMBER: Led by the Rev. Dr. Frank Wade. "The Art of Believing": The basic premise of these conversations is that belief does not just happen. It is not a gift given exclusively to the hopeful or the pious. Good believing includes conscious decisions. Continued believing includes intentional nurture. Informed believing includes a healthy understanding of what our historic covenant with God provides and, in spite of sentimental theologies, does not provide. Believing is an art that can be developed, relished and relied upon. To develop this premise we will consider three questions: Is there a God to believe in? If so, what is nature of God? How do we know? And finally, how do we keep on knowing?

INQUIRER'S AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES
Planning is underway for the 2014 Inquirer's and Confirmation Classes. These classes are intended for anyone in eighth grade and above, who are interested in learning more about their life in Christ, and/or desiring to make a decision to join the Episcopal Church. Those who wish to make a new commitment to the Church through **Confirmation**, **Reception** or **Reaffirmation** will be presented when a Bishop comes for the annual parish visitation, typically in January.

Confirmation is for those who have never before made an adult, public affirmation of their faith in Christ; others may have spoken for them, on their behalf, at their Baptism. **Reception** is for those who have previously made an affirmation of faith in another denomination and now wish to do so in the Episcopal Church. **Reaffirmation** is for those who would like to renew their Confirmation/Reception vows. Classes are open to all. Please speak to the clergy regarding your interest

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT THE SEMINARY
Virginia Theological Seminary has announced its Traditional and Enriched Classes through the Evening School of Theology for Fall 2014/January 2015 along with Continuing Education & Lifelong Learning Opportunities throughout the 2014/2015 school year. Traditional classes include: Intro to Theological Education; Intro to Hebrew; The Word, The World, and the Whisper: Recognizing God's Creative Spark in Our Lives ; and Found In Translation: How Words Inform. Enriched Classes include: Film & The Bible; Faith in the Triune God; and Vestries & Boards: Governing as a Church. Please visit the bulletin board near the parish office or see the flyers posted on the Associate Rector's office door. More information can be found on the seminary website at http://www.vts.edu under Parishes.

Immanuel Senior Ministry group along with a great gang of helpers from the youth group put on a fun game night and ice cream social Thursday on August 7th. It was a beautiful summer evening so everyone had fun both indoors and out playing a host of games from bocce to Bannanagrams. One lively group put together a jigsaw puzzle while Clue, Sorry, Uno, and Yatzee games were bustling all evening. And we won't even try to describe those ice cream sundaes....yum!



September Birthdays

09/01 Pam Willard
09/01 Laura Snow
09/02 Duncan MacDonald
09/02 Nick Brown
09/03 Shirley McKinley
09/03 Andy Biache
09/03 Ginger Peabody
09/03 Kevin O'Donnell
09/03 Stephanie Harris
09/04 Casey Kane
09/05 Ralph Fairbank
09/05 Steve Gasparek
09/05 Anthony DeLeon
09/05 Casey Konvalinka
09/05 Carroll Phillips
09/06 Jonathan Anderson
09/07 Keith Akins
09/08 Toni Ross
09/08 Jessica Collison
09/09 Brian Moran
09/09 Melanie Gray
09/09 Jarrett Arp
09/09 John Gross
09/09 Logan Conklin
09/11 Bob Eckert
09/12 Katherine Smith
09/12 Paul Atwood
09/12 Amy Dawkins
09/13 Jim Hobson
09/13 John Huebner
09/13 Frankie Danly
09/14 Leah Wilson
09/14 Ally Powell-Switaj
09/15 Chip Calloway
09/15 Derek Mason
09/15 Khary Stockton
09/15 Benjamin Hewson
09/15 Kent Kachejian
09/16 Leif Christoffersen
09/16 Teri Suri
09/16 Wendy Lane John
09/17 Tracey Friday
09/17 Kate Snow
09/17 Megan Eklund
09/18 Ginny Johnstone
09/19 Bruce Becker
09/19 Frances Johnson
09/19 Alfie Waite
09/19 Wilton Corkern
09/19 Jimmy Moore
09/19 Kathryne Gould
09/20 Alan Becker
09/20 Celia Ochs
09/20 Dana Hemmenway
09/20 Fiona MacDonald
09/21 Georgia Maas
09/21 Clay Burke
09/21 Rachel Becker
09/21 Peter Beckmann
09/23 Doreen Williams
09/23 Bill Kerekes
09/23 Chris Stanek
09/23 Benjamin Richter
09/23 Lorelai Low
09/24 Martha Sedgwick
09/25 Gilma Balcarcel
09/25 Mike Eaton
09/25 Seth Low
09/26 Jean Jackson-Mason
09/26 Patricia Alexander
09/26 Nicole de los Reyes
09/27 Taylor Houck
09/28 Margaret Moring
09/28 Tom Rowe
09/28 Dennis Bruns
09/28 Mondy Carter
09/28 Catherine Konvalinka
09/29 Lawrence Wilkes
09/29 Michael Michaelis
09/30 Allison Biache

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!

SUPPERS IN SEPTEMBER
September 20, 2014

Sign up to join us for Suppers in September - a chance to celebrate our parish community and get to know your fellow parishioners. All adults in the Immanuel community are welcome to attend; children 1 and under are also welcome to join their parents for the evening.

1. **Please include first and last name for each attendee**

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2. **Contact email or telephone number**

Please include an email address or telephone number for the planning committee.

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3. **How many attending? _____**

4. **Can you join us for light appetizers and drinks (4-6pm) or dinner (7-9pm)?**

Please choose only one.

____. Appetizers and drinks – 4-6pm
____. Dinner – 7-pm

5. **Are there any specific food needs that your host should know about?**

Please indicate needs by circling items listed below, or adding information to "other."

- Vegetarian
- Vegan
- Food Allergies
- None
- Other _____.

6. **Do you need transportation?**

Please indicate if you need transportation to and from the evening's activities; we will follow up with you to coordinate details.

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7. **Do you have any mobility challenges?**

Please indicate if you have any mobility challenges that we should be aware of in matching you with a host - for example, issues with walking steps.

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8. **Other questions or concerns?**

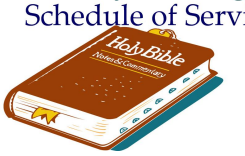
Please share any additional information that would help us match you with a host.

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 September calendar
http://tinyurl.com/ICOHseptember

Lectionary Readings and
Schedule of Services



August 17, The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
8 a.m., HEI, 10:00 a.m., HEII
August 24, The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 1:8—2:10; Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20
8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:00 a.m., HEII
August 31, The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28
8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:00 a.m., HEII