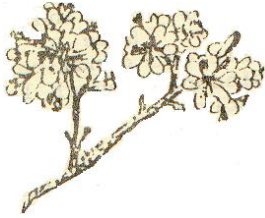


THE ALMOND TREE

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

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



September 11, 2014

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



PUMPKINS ARE COMING!

It's hard to believe, but the start of the Pumpkin Patch is just a few short weeks away. The first two truck deliveries will take place on October 5. The next two will arrive on October 15. In his sermon this past Sunday, our Rector referred to Immanuel's "foundational stories." The Pumpkin Patch, which began 20 years ago, is central to our identity in the local community, where we are known as "the Pumpkin Church."

Last year we earned \$67,000, which funded our Outreach program of support to a wide range of local, national and international organizations to which our parishioners are committed. This effort was recently recognized by the Diocese of Virginia with an award for Outreach. Our ability to sustain this level of good works depends on the entire congregation pitching in.

The sign-up board for volunteers to staff the patch is in the narthex. If you have not done so yet, please sign up. Help is particularly needed on weekends, when 65% of our sales are made. Soups and baked goods prepared by parishioners are critical to a successful pumpkins campaign. A booklet with instructions on food preparation is available by contacting Phyllis Sims at ppg1020@aol.com. Containers for soup are available in the narthex.

The Pumpkin Patch is a wonderful opportunity to live our Christian values. It is also a great way to build community within the congregation and to meet folks whom we might not know. For more information, contact Jamie Conrad, Pierre Shostal, John von Senden, or Rick Glassco at Outreach@icoh.net.

On Sunday, October 5 we will be celebrating Mass-on-the-Grass at the 10 a.m. Eucharist and pumpkin unloading will begin immediately after the service. Please wear pumpkin appropriate attire—suitable for unloading. SEE YOU ON THE PATCH!

PASTORAL CARE CORNER: Please remember these parishioners in your prayers: Morgan, Catherine, Mary, Natalie Doyle-Hennin, Bill Frye, Dana Hengst, Chris Stanek, Jacquie, Cadence, Warren Phillips, Norma and Dick Taliaferro, Dick Hobson, Marcia Murray, Kay Neer, Susan Kernan, Perry Epes, Tony Rogers, Stephen Hansen, Grace Finne.

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 who have died: Duncan MacDonald.

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.

CELEBRATE!! AT COFFEE HOUR! Do you have a special reason to celebrate? Birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, baptisms, weddings, personal successes? We always love to party when good things come into our lives...and we love to rejoice with family and friends. If you have a reason for commemoration or joy, consider Immanuel's newest opportunity to share jubilation with your church family. Become a Coffee Hour Sponsor. For a suggested contribution of \$50, you can fund the delightful goodies, coffee creamer and juice to be enjoyed after the Sunday services. Your name(s) and reason for celebration will be in that Sunday's bulletin as Coffee Hour Sponsor. Should you prefer to bring in and donate the goodies, you will be listed as both Coffee Hour Sponsor and Coffee Hour Host(ess). Look at your calendars, pick your celebratory Sunday, and contact Jennifer Addington, the Parish Administrator, at 703-370-6555 to give her the information for the bulletin.



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). **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.**



A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

As we begin the Fall season at Immanuel, I want to let you know of some new musical options being

offered.

Because we want choral support at both the 9:15 and 11:15 Eucharists, I and some others are forming a new choir to sing at 9:15. The 9:15 choir will rehearse on Sunday mornings from 8AM (sharp!) to 9, and offer a slightly simpler type of anthem and possibly one at Communion. This choir will also rehearse once a month on Thursdays at 7. Of course if you would like to be in both choirs you certainly can. Please consider joining us for either choir!

Youth Choir: In order to include our talented youth in the services, there will be a youth choir, so watch for the announcement about that group.

Immanuel's Angels: This little group is not new but will resume on the first Tuesday in October. The age range is 3-9. The children meet for a light dinner which is followed by a short rehearsal.

Handbell Choir: If you can count, you can ring handbells, which meet seasonally, 5 weeks before Christmas and 5 weeks before Easter.

If you have any questions about any of these offerings please email me: JTavernier@icoh.net or call me at the church.

Dr. Jane Tavernier

WE WELCOME OUR NEW SEMINARIANS



Rachel Shows is excited to start her Middler Year at VTS. She's originally from Alabama, but is sponsored by the Diocese of Virginia and has called Virginia home for the past 6 years. She graduated from Shenandoah University with a B.S. in Psychology, and minor degrees in Spanish and Christian Leadership. This past summer, she served as a hospital chaplain in the Clinical Pastoral Education program at INOVA Mt. Vernon Hospital. In her free time, Rachel enjoys reading fiction, playing with her cat, hiking, Jazzercising, and spending time with her boyfriend James, a fellow seminarian. She is looking forward to serving at Immanuel!



Kyle Martindale graduated from Hastings College in Hastings, Nebraska in 2009 with a degree in Political Science. He then worked as a Men's Director and Director of Operations at a homeless shelter in central Nebraska, before coming to Virginia last Fall. This summer, he completed a program called Clinical Pastoral Education, in which he was a hospital chaplain in rural North Carolina. He enjoys reading, film, and sports and has a special interest in interfaith ministry and outreach.

ALMOND TREE SCHEDULE: Now that summer is over, we will resume our regular Almond Tree schedule – mailings/postings to the website on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, with the deadline for submissions the previous Monday. Please help maintain the editor's sanity by adhering to the deadlines (as much as possible).

FORUM HOURS 14 AND 21 SEPTEMBER:

"The Art of Believing" led by the Rev. Dr. Frank Wade. 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?

UPCOMING 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 led by the Rev. Dr. Frank Wade on 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 order.

VOLUNTEER TUTORS NEEDED: The Alexandria Tutoring Consortium needs volunteers able to tutor first graders and kindergartners, one-on-one, once or twice a week in literacy skills. Tutoring takes place in Alexandria public elementary schools, during the school day, from October through May. Substitutes are available when needed. Training, lesson plans and materials targeted at each child's reading needs are provided. For more information or to register, please go to www.alexandriatutors.org. Contact 703-549-6670 or atc@opmh.org if you have questions or need an application mailed to you.

Jan Campbell

From: June, Keith L USA COL DCOS RES CJ6 Chief HQ ISAF

[mailto:keith.l.june@afghan.swa.army.mil]

Subject: RE: (U) Afghan children needs

I greatly appreciate the time, effort and money to make this happen on such short notice. I simply cannot thank you and the members of Immanuel for such wonderful gifts. The notebooks, pencil, crayons and other items will be distributed to schools and orphanages in the Kabul region. I am scheduled to visit an orphanage next week so I will provide photos of the visit.

As you have no doubt read and seen, the political situation here is still quite tenuous. Votes cast in the last election are being verified. With the help of Secretary of State Kerry, both presidential candidates have committed to a unity government though this is somewhat undefined and is still being worked out.

As President Obama indicated during the recent NATO summit, a great deal hinges on the new Afghan President and government.

Here at ISAF, we have assisted in helping with the ballots being verified. Additionally, we are continuing to advise and assist the Afghan security institutions. Each day is filled with danger and challenges but I firmly believe we are making a difference for the people of Afghanistan and in helping to secure peace in a troubled region.

Despite the challenges, I am optimistic about the future of Afghanistan. As I travel through Kabul and all of Afghanistan, I am quite hopeful about the future of this troubled land. I am optimistic when I see young people especially young women being educated.

The school materials provided by Immanuel will help in educating the young of this country. As much as helping in ensuring security is the need to help in educating the youth of this country. I believe it is the young of this nation that will determine its future. Your efforts in providing much needed school supplies will go a long way in helping to prepare the youth of this nation for the future and help in ensuring the region is stable and peaceful.

As we near the 13th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, I hope we forever memorialize the victims of that tragic day and never forget the horrific events of that day and endeavor to ensure it never happens again.

I have been very active in our congregation here having led several Bible studies. We have a liturgical service led by a British Chaplain who is a Scottish Presbyterian but does his very best to perform a proper Anglican service. In my time here, we've been through four British chaplains now. All have done a magnificent job and each has added a bit of their personality and tradition. Last week as the congregation attempted to sing an old English hymn with music provided on an iPod (with limited success...), the Chaplain, Padre Francis, in his very Scottish accent roared, "what's the difference between a church organist and the IRA? Well, you can negotiate with the IRA!"

I also attend another service which is a general protestant service which is also well done with very good music.

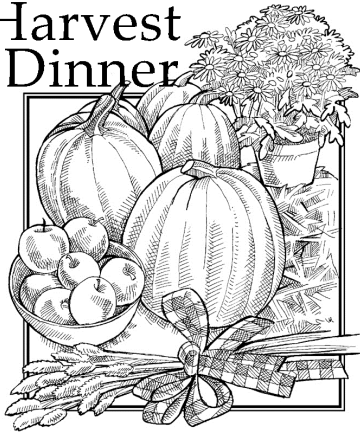
Sincere thanks to my wonderful family at Immanuel for the care packages, letters, emails, prayers, overwhelming support and love. Know that I think of the Immanuel every day. I imagine you will soon be receiving pumpkins. I will miss unloading of the truck and working the pumpkin patch (I really will!).

Thanks as well for remembering me and other service members and civilians deployed in defense of our nation. Your commitment is a reminder of the great love and commitment of our wonderful nation.

I miss all of you and I look forward to the opportunity to worship and fellowship with you again.

God bless and much love to all, Keith
Keith L. June, COL, US Army

Harvest Dinner



We Gather Together To Ask The Lord's Blessing

November 8, 2014: Choral Evensong and Harvest Dinner

Please join Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill on Saturday November 8, 2014 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 begin with drinks and hors d'oeuvres in Scott Lounge, followed by a buffet dinner in

the Refectory.

Prices for the Harvest Dinner are \$25.00 per adult and \$10.00 per child between 12 and 5 years of age (children under 5 -- no charge). The family maximum is \$70.00.

Once again this is a family friendly event – a children's movie event is being planned in Scott Lounge

Please RSVP, along with your payment, to Jennifer Addington in the Parish Office no later than Monday October 27. RSVPs cannot be accepted after this date as we must provide VTS with a firm number of attendees by October 27.

Also – please note – RSVPs are capped at 200 as this is the maximum number of occupants allowed in the Refectory per the orders of the Fire Marshall.



Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill Harvest Dinner
November 8, 2014
The Refectory
Virginia Theological Seminary

Names: _____

Total Payment _____ Date Rec'd _____

10/01 Emma King
 10/01 John Reading
 10/02 Senie Oglesby
 10/02 Iona Evans
 10/02 Christopher Becker
 10/03 Rebecca Harrington
 10/03 Ann MacNamara
 10/03 Marc Paul
 10/04 Grant Harmon
 10/04 Brad Ashton
 10/04 Natalie Doyle-Hennin
 10/04 Scott Moore
 10/05 Caroline Johnston
 10/05 Nancy Lyons
 10/05 Bill Frye
 10/05 Betsy Huffman
 10/05 Heather Schnedl
 10/05 Anna Post
 10/06 Susan Montague
 10/06 Mary Johnson
 10/06 Noah Taylor
 10/07 Barbara Carroll
 10/08 Merritt Blakeslee
 10/08 Randy Kell
 10/08 Randi Rowe
 10/09 Brooke Roberts
 10/09 Doug Onley
 10/09 Charlotte Barnes
 10/10 Mary Fitzpatrick
 10/10 Emily Friday
 10/10 Elizabeth Phillips
 10/10 Grace Wensing
 10/10 Eddie Boynton
 10/11 Susan Carter
 10/12 Christina Yount
 10/12 Paul Bednar
 10/12 Elio Chavez
 10/12 Cole Bowers
 10/13 Doug Payne
 10/13 Phil Johnson
 10/13 Connie Kurz
 10/13 Karin Kizer
 10/15 Ashley Boam
 10/15 Virginia Larsen
 10/15 Maria Bellinger
 10/15 Claudia Reading
 10/16 Scott Bunn
 10/16 Hance Haney
 10/16 Sumi Sexton
 10/16 Austin Blakeslee



10/17 Mia Mason
 10/17 Kristen Moore
 10/18 Dan Cantu
 10/19 Lane Debevoise
 10/19 Carlton Stockton
 10/19 Mary Lindahl
 10/19 Barbara Kirkland
 10/19 Dick Krueger
 10/19 Rufus Peabody
 10/19 Jazmine Chavez
 10/20 Phyllis Sims
 10/21 Tricia Calloway
 10/21 Beth Eckert
 10/21 Alisa Biache
 10/21 Hartley Wensing
 10/23 Steve John
 10/23 Sara Fein
 10/23 Mark Eisenhour
 10/23 Kate Cantu
 10/24 Susan Gilbertson
 10/24 Paul Beckmann
 10/25 Cordelia Davies
 10/26 April Carlsen
 10/27 Beth Beardsley
 10/27 Kai Egener
 10/27 Trey Hobson
 10/27 Cameron Florell
 10/28 Victor Brown
 10/28 Laura Ellis
 10/28 Patrick Kane
 10/28 Claire Campbell
 10/28 Virginia Campbell
 10/29 Tim Kinsella
 10/29 Emily Clausen
 10/29 Lily Pinner
 10/30 Dick Bednar
 10/30 Tom Peabody
 10/31 Helen Bryant

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
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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



September 14, The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

8:00 a.m., HEI, 9:15 a.m., HEII, 11:15 a.m., Baptism/HE II

September 21, The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105, 1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

8:00 a.m., HEI; 9:15 a.m., HEII; 11:15 a.m., HEI

September 28, The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

8:00 a.m., HEI; 9:15 a.m., HEII; 11:15 a.m., HEII