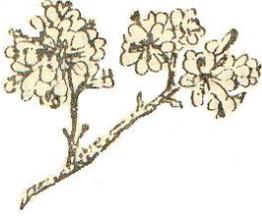


THE ALMOND TREE

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

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



September 25, 2014

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

The Seven-Day-a-Week-Church

I admire some of the goals and role of a Cathedral in a medieval city. A lot of community life revolved around the space. Even for those who might not have attended Church services, at least not very often, they still came to the Cathedral for community activities and major events. You may have noticed that there is more and more activity around Zabriskie Chapel. This is due both to parish events and the events of outside groups that meet in our facilities. This is a little extension of the same medieval principle.

First, our own events are many and varied. In addition to all of our activities on Sunday, each weekday morning we offer Morning Prayer, a quiet, centered way to start the day with prayer and Scripture (see description on page 3). On Wednesday evenings there is a Eucharist at 6:30, followed by Bible Study. We are considering adding another weekday Eucharist soon. In the Spring we had a four-week session of the School for the Spirit, which met on Wednesday evenings for dinner and several different classes. The Early Christians meet (early) on Wednesday mornings, continuing their decades-long tradition of reading and discussing books touching on Theology. The growing Benedictine Group meets monthly. There is choir practice Thursday night, and regular committee meetings almost every week. Of course, the pumpkin patch will also be starting up soon, which will run every day for a month. Our dedicated staff arrives every day to orchestrate, plan, and manage the many facets of parish life. The Vestry meets monthly to oversee our finances, property, and general mission and ministry. Volunteers come in to help stuff bulletins and newsletters, and I'm sure I am forgetting much more.

Second, the many groups that meet here keep the place hopping. Our new Valley Drive Cooperative Preschool is here every weekday. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Orchestra rehearses on Sunday evenings in the Parish Hall. Alcoholics Anonymous meets on Friday evenings. A Muslim community meets for Friday prayers in the Parish Hall. A Dignity chapter, for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Roman Catholics, meets in the Chapel for Eucharist on Saturday evenings. A fitness group affiliated with the INOVA Health System meets in the Parish Hall. Other groups meet here, as well, including garden clubs, Girl Scouts, and the Seminary Hill Neighborhood Association. There are also occasional Yoga classes, led by our own Denise Freeland, and yet another outside fitness group.

Above it all rises the steeple, topped by the Cross, which is so fitting. Named explicitly or not, everything that we do is aimed towards the glory of God in Christ, and for the healing and up building of God's beloved people. Sometimes a lot goes on right under our noses! Imagine what we can do when the new Chapel is completed. . .but let us never forget this guiding Scripture: "Unless The Lord builds the house, their labor is in vain who build it" (Psalm 127:1).

See you in Church,
Randy

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, Marcia MacDonald, Elspeth MacDonald, Fiona MacDonald.

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, Rhonda Busch, Courtney Ashmore.

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

FLU SHOTS: On Sunday, October 12th from 9-11am, Walgreens will be at Immanuel to give flu vaccine to parishioners, ages 7 and above. They take most insurances for payment (bring your insurance card!) but need to process your insurance information ahead of time; consent forms are available in the narthex, down by the parish office and up in the Parish Hall. Please take a consent form, fill it out and return to the return envelopes located next to the consent forms. Flumist is available as well as other vaccines (pneumonia, Tdap..); please indicate on your consent what you are interested in. Another option is to pay on October 12th (\$25.99) and get reimbursed from your insurance company. Insurances NOT taken include Tricare and Kaiser. Questions, call Lisa Clausen at 703-684-3936 or lisa.clausen@verizon.net

GRACE & GRATITUDE: for Susan Carter, long-time Birthday Wishes caller and coordinator/ facilitator of meals at Christ House who, along with husband Frank, made away to North Carolina before summer's end. She



said, "Leaving Immanuel was one of the hardest parts of moving." The Carters' phone number remains the same (703.307.9955) while their address has changed: 1200 Old US 70 West, Black Mountain, NC 28711. Susan added, "Thank heavens, the Almond Tree is on line, so I will try to keep up with you all. The best part of the move is getting to be with my granddaughter, Grace."

REGISTER NOW FOR ALIVE!'S ROCK AND STROLL TO END HOMELESSNESS Rock and Stroll is the flagship fundraiser for ALIVE! House; we are counting on lots of participants in this fun event to support the women and children who are working toward independence at ALIVE! House. With drastic cuts to public funding for transitional housing like ALIVE! House, we need community support now more than ever. Rock and Stroll will take place on October 11, 2014. Events include a 10k race, a 5k race, a fun run, and a family festival at John Carlyle Square in Alexandria. To support Rock and Stroll and ALIVE! House: · Register today. · Make a donation on line. · Start a Rock and Stroll Team at your workplace, club, or congregation. · Spread the word.

To register and for event details, visit www.rockandstroll.net.



Apple
Crisps

APPLE CRISP MAKING TIME!

One of our all time big sellers at the Pumpkin Patch is our famous apple crisps. These take many hands to put together and you have a chance to help. Baking times will be on Saturday and Sunday, the 11th-12th and the 18th-19th in the church kitchen. Please come help for just one or a few hours. It is fun and profitable. No experience necessary. Contact Melinda Ashton at melindashton@gmail.com or 703 549-7295

TAKING NAMES FOR THE WAITLIST FOR THE ADVENT RETREAT:

The 15 spaces for the Immanuel Advent Retreat are filled, but we are taking names for a waitlist in case of cancellations. Please contact Jennifer Addington, our Parish Administrator, if you would like to be placed on the waitlist. No payment is required unless a space becomes available, and then you will be contacted.

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 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.

"ANIMEALS" Senior Services of Alexandria and the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria have teamed up to introduce a new program for lower income senior pet owners who live in the City of Alexandria, VA.



The "Animeals" program delivers cat or dog food to the pet owner's residence on the second Thursday of each month. Each senior receives either 10 cans of wet food or 10 pounds of dry food (kibble) for their animal. They will work to match special dietary requests. Please share the attached flyer with any members of your community who may be interested in participating in the program.

For more information contact MaryAnne Beatty at communications@seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414, ext 13.

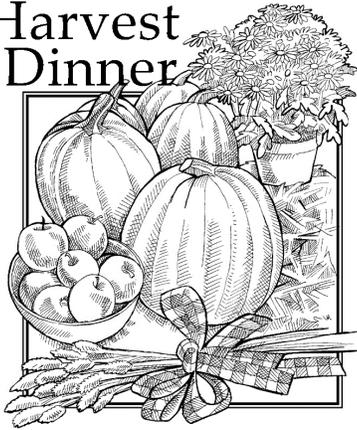
IMMANUAL SENIOR MINISTRY LAUNCHES FRIENDLY VISITOR PROGRAM.

Are you looking for a meaningful volunteer opportunity that can be balanced with a busy schedule? Consider joining the "Friendly Visitors," who bring friendship and companionship to Alexandria's seniors through scheduled weekly visits to their homes. This volunteer program is sponsored by Senior Services of Alexandria. Its goal is to relieve the loneliness and isolation felt by many homebound, elderly residents.

Volunteers must pass a criminal background check, attend a one-hour training session, and agree to visit their assigned senior weekly for 1-2 hours. You will be introduced to a senior who shares your interests. Then, you're ready to schedule visits at a mutually convenient time. You may use your visit to read together, reminisce, discuss current events, play board games, walk, or share a hobby.

To volunteer as a Friendly Visitor, or to refer a friend or neighbor who might benefit from these visits, contact **Laura Snow** at thesnowfamily@verizon.net.

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. Confidential assistance is available; please see the Rector.

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 _____

PUMPKIN SUNDAY IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER! We are only days away from launching **Pumpkin Patch 2014:** Immanuel's one and only fundraiser for our Outreach program.

As you know, ALL of the profits of the Pumpkin Patch go to Outreach, to support charities working locally, nationally, and internationally. A successful Pumpkin Patch will help us reach even further to assist communities in need.

It's a huge project, and we need your help!

What can you do?

YOU CAN sign up to work in the Pumpkin Patch in October. The signup board is in the church narthex (entry), and there are still plenty of options to fit your calendar. If you haven't done this before, don't worry: we will provide instructions and reminders.

YOU CAN join your fellow parishioners on PUMPKIN SUNDAY OCTOBER 5 to help unload pumpkins. Immanuel will be celebrating Mass-on-the-Grass at 10:00 that morning, and as soon as the service is over, we will start unloading -- so wear comfortable working clothes. (And mark your calendar for October 15, beginning at 3pm to help unload the second two trucks!)

YOU CAN start cooking and baking for the Patch. Soups and baked goods provide a substantial portion of our profit! There's a "Baking & Cooking for the Pumpkin Patch" guide and standard quart containers for soups in the narthex under the Pumpkin Patch signup board. Please use the soup containers -- we've learned this size and type works best for both cooks and customers. Baked goods can be packaged as you choose. For all food items, please don't forget the LIST OF INGREDIENTS (which helps avoid food allergy issues).

YOU CAN pick up yard signs and car signs in the narthex on Pumpkin Sunday, October 5. These are a most effective way to communicate that the patch is open for business. The yard signs will have more competition from political signs this year, so place them strategically.

YOU CAN help spread the word about Immanuel's Pumpkin Patch. For a start, you can tell your neighbors, friends, relatives, coworkers, and anybody else you meet that they can help the world by buying their pumpkins at our Patch. You can "like" (and share!) our "Pumpkin Patch at Immanuel Church on the Hill" Facebook site. And you can download a one-page flyer to distribute, email, or post from www.icoh.net -- just click on the big orange PUMPKINS! button and look for "one-page flyer."

AND YOU CAN have fun with pumpkins in October! For more information, contact **Jamie Conrad, Pierre Shostal, Jim Snow, John von Senden, or Rick Glassco** at Outreach@icoh.net



Morning Prayer

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO *A column looking at some of the things we do when we gather for worship.*

Daily Morning Prayer: We gather weekdays at 9:30 a.m. in Zabriskie Chapel for Morning Prayer; to read psalms and canticles, proclaim the Word of God through scripture, and to offer prayers: for the Church; the world; our local community, parish, family and friends; to give thanks for those celebrating birthdays; and to remember our members using the directory as our cycle of prayer. We, as Anglicans and Episcopalians, believe in "*Lex orandi, Lex credendi,*" which loosely translated means 'praying shapes believing.' Prayer is intimate personal communication with God, either privately or corporately; when we share with God our concerns and take time to listen to what God is saying to us. Different individuals, lay and ordained, lead each day while others read the appointed lectionary lessons. We all learn by doing together, and hope that you will gather with us when you can. Please come join us.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Link to the October calendar
<http://tinyurl.com/ICOHOctober>

Lectionary Readings and
Schedule of Services



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., HEI

October 5, The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46
8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:00 a.m., Mass on the Grass

October 12, The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14
8:00 a.m., HEI; 9:15 a.m., HEII; 11:15 a.m., HEI