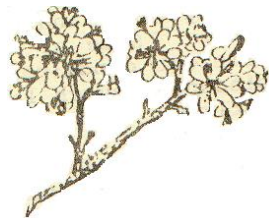


# THE ALMOND TREE

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

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



January 22, 2015

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

**ANNUAL MEETING THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 25**

## **PLEASE NOTE CHANGES IN SERVICE TIMES TO ACCOMMODATE THE MEETING SCHEDULE**

- 8:00 a.m., Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- 8:55 a.m. — Godly Play
- 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m., Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- 9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m., Coffee Hour
- 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m., Annual Meeting in the Parish Hall, Sunday School
- 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m., Holy Eucharist Rite I
- 5:00 p.m. -- Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic, Parish Hall

Please make every effort to attend the Annual Meeting. It will include a presentation of last year's events, and also discussion of plans for the coming year. We also will elect new Vestry members.

The candidates for election to the Vestry are: John Bednar, Tom Brown, Mark Fearer, Tom Hewson, Everett Post and Martha Sedgwick.

**ADULTS FOR CONFIRMATION/RECEPTION/REAFFIRMATION:** When the Bishop is with us on Easter Sunday, in the new Immanuel Chapel, there will be opportunity for any adults who have never been Confirmed, or who have been Confirmed and would be interested in being received into the fellowship of the Episcopal Church, or who might want to reaffirm the vows of their Baptism, to do so, along with our Youth confirmands. If you are interested in this opportunity please let the Clergy know, and we will schedule times to get together to prepare for this occasion.

**PASTORAL CARE CORNER: Please remember these parishioners in your prayers:** Kay Neer, Mary, Bill Frye, Chris Stanek, Grace Finne, Jacquie, Warren Phillips, Morgan, Cadence, Dick Hobson, Catherine, Dana Hengst, Marcia Murray, Natalie Doyle-Hennin, Stephen Hansen, Nancy Kelly, Barbara Fornoff, Martha Manson

**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, Jim Clear, Ann and Larry Kaplan, Aubree Bowling, Paul, Carol Brown, Thomas Arminio, Robert Carter, Stephen Miller, Mollie, Marianne and Gerard Ennis, Bill Ennis, Donna Gray, Tina Bennett Kirkwood, Dorothy Phaneuf, Mildred, Nancy, Brian Crowley, Judy Pearson, Bill and Barbara Stafford, Rhonda Busch, Kathryn, Anna, Kelly, Peggy Ann Stancil, Robert Barnes, Charlie Welcome, Mary Margaret, Brandon, Joe, Betty Hoover, Lyn Lubic.

**Those serving in the U.S. and overseas:** Todd Bates, Ian Phillips, John Patrick Miller; Jon Anderson, Noah Barker, Allen Kellogg, Keith June, Ryan, Kendra Smyth and Ed Kabay.



**INCLEMENT WEATHER CLOSURES:** With winter here and the ever increasing chance of snow, we wanted to remind you that if the Fairfax County schools are closed, that the parish office will be closed as well. The information will be posted on our website.



**ASHES TO GO** Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill will again participate in a movement known as Ashes to Go Ash Wednesday, February 18. The idea for Ashes to Go started about six years ago by an ecumenical clergy group in St. Louis. Since then, a growing number of Episcopal churches across the country, particularly those along commuter rail and metro lines, have joined the movement. As the organizers of Ashes to Go say, "It is about bringing spirit, belief, and belonging out from behind church doors and into the places where we go every day. It's a simple event with deep meaning, drawing on centuries of tradition and worship to provide a contemporary moment of grace."

Between 7-9 a.m. on Ash Wednesday, Immanuel will position a team outside the Zabriskie Chapel narthex in the church driveway to impose ashes and pray briefly with those who are drawn by the Spirit. Signs akin to the old "Burma Shave" campaign will dot Seminary Road, Quaker Lane and Janneys Lane to encourage commuters to stop by. We will invite those who stop to join us for Ash Wednesday services that noon or evening, as well as to join us for worship at other times. It is not meant to be a full sacramental experience, but a taste. Again, from Ashes to Go, "God meets us not just in worship, but in the midst of life, and we offer the opportunity to remember our faith to those whose schedules make it hard to stop and pray with others on a busy Wednesday."

Last year, 25 people (mostly non-parishioners) received the imposition of Ashes in our driveway.

For more information, visit [Ashestogo.org](http://Ashestogo.org).

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** Community Lodgings is looking for volunteers to help in our after school Youth Education Program. Volunteers have the opportunity to assist 1st - 12th graders with homework help. Our volunteers are a huge presence in our students' lives and an invaluable asset to our organization. For more information, please contact Katie Young at [703-549-4407](tel:703-549-4407) or [kyoung@community-lodgings.org](mailto:kyoung@community-lodgings.org).



## Lenten Retreat

Lenten Retreat 2015

*Works in Progress: How Does the Gospel Speak to our Growing Edges?*

Loyola on the Potomac Retreat House  
March 13-15

For most of us, our conversion to the Christian faith is not instantaneous, but gradual, and perhaps life-long. Likewise, for most of us there are times when we go astray, times when we forget who, and Whose, we are. The Church, in its wisdom, has long offered the season of Lent not only as a time of preparation for our highest feast, Easter, but also as a time to take inventory, to ask how we are living the faith we profess. To engage is this

inventory we need to disengage from time to time from the routine pressures and schedules of our lives; that is the goal and purpose of this retreat.

Lent draws us to spend more time in reflection and prayer to enhance our spiritual lives. Taking time from busy schedules for a retreat allows the space to listen for God and hear how we may support our growing edges. Join fellow parishioners at the annual Lenten Retreat March 13-15 led by the Rev. Randy Alexander at Loyola on the Potomac Retreat House in Faulkner, Maryland.

Loyola on the Potomac, founded by the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in 1958, is built on a bluff overlooking the Potomac River and is surrounded by 235 acres of rolling woodland. It is an hour from Alexandria, six miles south of La Plata, Maryland. More information about the retreat house may be found at <http://www.loyolaonthepotomac.com/>.

The retreat will begin on Friday afternoon, March 13, shortly before the evening meal and will end after the noon meal on Sunday, March 15. The \$235.00 registration fee includes all materials, an individual sleeping room with half bath, and all meals. Loyola can house 70 retreatants and is accommodating our smaller gathering on a weekend when the whole facility is not needed by a large retreat group. Because we will be sharing the retreat house with a church retreat for women, the sleeping rooms for men will be in a separate wing with a shared bathroom.

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 now, using the form in the *Almond Tree*.

**Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill  
Lenten Retreat  
Loyola on the Potomac Retreat House  
March 13-15, 2015**

**1. First person registering for retreat**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Daytime Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Second person registering for retreat**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Daytime Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Number of registrants \_\_\_\_\_ x \$235.00 = \_\_\_\_\_ Total registration fee

Please make check payable to Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill and label it Lenten Retreat. Return this form and your check to the Immanuel Church office, 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22304. Please put Lenten 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, Loyola on the Potomac retains the \$60.00 per room deposit. All but \$60.00 of your registration fee would be returned to you.

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill  
3606 Seminary Road  
Alexandria, VA 22304  
703-370-6555  
office@icoh.net  
http://www.icoh.net

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Lectionary Readings and  
Schedule of Services



**January 25, The Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:6-14; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20  
8:00 a.m., HEI; 9:15 a.m., HEII; 11:15 a.m., HEII

**February 1, The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28  
8:00 a.m., HEI; 9:15 a.m., HEII; 11:15 a.m., HEI

**February 8, The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-12, 21c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39  
8:00 a.m., HEI; 9:15 a.m., HEII; 11:15 a.m., HEII