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

June 10, 2015

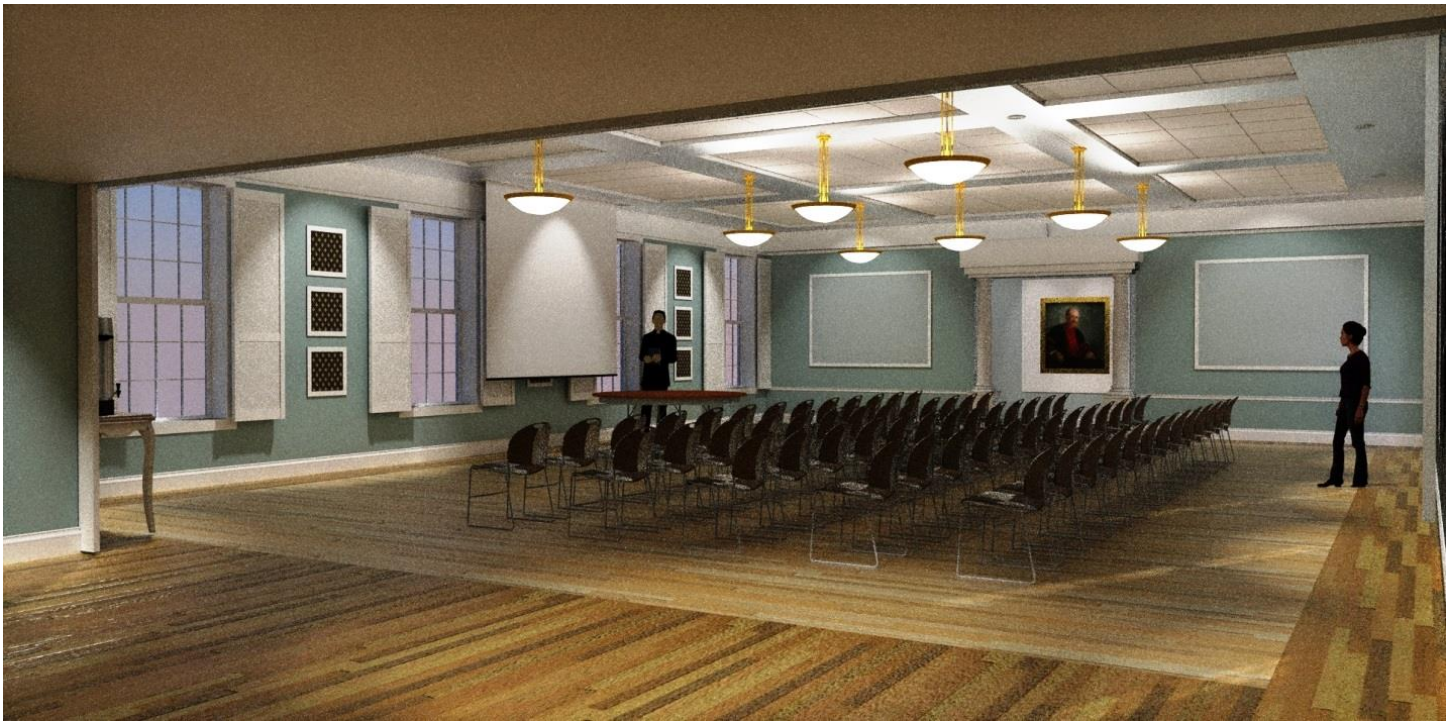
"I said to the almond tree, 'Sister, speak to me of God.' And the almond tree blossomed." Nikos Kazantzakis

PARISH HALL RENOVATION TO BEGIN JUNE 22! The church has cleared its summer calendar – from Monday June 22 through Friday Sept. 4 (the Friday before Labor Day) – to complete the long-anticipated renovation of our parish hall. The beautiful design by Tom Kerns and Paul Beckmann calls for a new ceiling, new flooring, additional recessed lights that, with the existing chandeliers, will result in a 33% boost in lighting, new trim and painting. The plans also call for two super-nifty enhancements: a sliding partition that can create a separate coffee space outside the Fairchild Room (enabling parishioners to continue low-level conversations without disrupting a forum hour presentation) and interior window shutters on tracks that can be moved to cover up the art on the walls (allowing our Friday Muslim worshipers to modify the hall consistent with Islamic sensitivities toward depictions of living things).

PARDON OUR DUST! During the renovation please do not enter either the parish hall or the Fairchild Room. **For your own safety,** no one except contractors, staff and members of the Facilities Committee are authorized to access the space. There will be signs posted on the chapel and choir room doors, plus the exterior doors off the deck and the main parish hall entrance in the front (with the keypad access) indicating the space is off limits. For those who need to use the kitchen (coffee hour hosts, for example), please access the room through the back door. We have asked the Vestry greeter or counter to ensure the kitchen door is unlocked each Sunday. Coffee hour will take place in the narthex. Our contractor will be removing debris and tidying and sweeping the space every Friday, and we hope to host at least one coffee hour in the parish hall while the renovation is underway. If you have any questions, please email Doug Onley at dougandkam@verizon.net and copy the parish administrator, jaddington@icoh.net.

Doug Onley

MORE PHOTOS OF
THE FUTURE PARISH HALL



PASTORAL CARE CORNER: **Please remember these parishioners in your prayers:** Kay Neer, Mary, Bill Frye, Chris Stanek, Jacquie, Warren Phillips, Morgan, Cadence, Catherine, Dana Hengst, Marcia Murray, Natalie Doyle-Hennin, Stephen Hansen, Nancy Kelly, Ann MacNamara, Senie Oglesby, Christian Finne, Everett Post, Barney Hawkins, Norma Taliaferro, George Currie, Mark Fearer

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, Molli, Marianne and Gerard Ennis, Bill Ennis, Donna Gray, Tina Bennett Kirkwood, Dorothy Phaneuf, Mildred, Nancy, Brian Crowley, Bill and Barbara Stafford, Kathryn, Anna, Robert Barnes, Lyn Lubic, Leila Fortune Bell, Vincent, Peter Ackerman, Mary Elizabeth Goodwyn, George B., Arthur Sachs, Linda Taucher, Lloyd Chenoweth, Janet, Annette Cuzzocrea O'Hara, Scott Schwartz, Anne Newcomb

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

SACRED EVENTS IN OUR PARISH LIFE

Baptisms

Carter Harris**,** son of Stephanie and Tom Harris
Sophia McCaslin**,** daughter of Brent and Tiffany McCaslin
Walker Glenn Nordin**,** son of Trevor and Martha Nordin

Confirmations/Receptions

William Stirling Alexander
Martha Lisbeth Christino
Lily Margot Clausen
Madison Harley Eaton
Isabel Grace McCorvie Frye
Timothy Kevin Kirby
Phoebe LaMountain
Abigail Cait Tighe Murray
Henry Ridao Page
Leif Reinemer Siegrist
Scott Middleton Bunn
Wendy Lane John
Wayne Reinhard Iskra
Sheila Russell Iskra

MILESTONES IN THE PARISH

AWARDS

David Lloyd Stayanoff was presented with the 'God and Me' achievement award by Claire Haymes representing Cub Scout Pack 135 on 26th May 2015. The "God and Me" curriculum is designed to help children become best friends with Jesus and tell their story of "God and Me" together. It provides an enjoyable opportunity for young people and families to explore their faith together. David participated in the Cub Scout sessions and activities with his family. He completed the Student Workbook and reviewed with The Rev. Randy Alexander for final approval and recognition. *Congratulations David! Thanks be to God!*

High School

Zachary Eisenhour will graduate from TC Williams and plans to attend James Madison University
Zoe Gildersleeve will graduate from TC Williams and plans to attend the University of Nebraska
Paul Russell Brigham Johnson (grandson of Frances and Gordon Johnson) graduates from TC Williams and plans to attend Northern Virginia Community College
Madelyn Phillips (granddaughter of Jackie Phillips) graduated from Trinity Episcopal High School and will attend the College of William and Mary.

College/University

Allie Biache graduated from Virginia Tech with a BS in Human Nutrition, Foods, & Exercise. This summer she will be a counselor at St. Elizabeth's Camp at Shrine Mont.
Roger Gildersleeve graduated from Virginia Tech and plans to go to China to spend a year teaching English at Guangxi Normal University in Guilin.
Caroline Kurz received an MBA from Boston College's Carroll School of Management
Elspeth L. MacDonald received her Associates Degree in Liberal Arts from NVCC
Katherine Snow received her B.A. from Sewanee-The University of the South

HEY NATIONALS FANS FAITHFUL: The Washington Nationals will host a Faith Day event Saturday, September 19 following their 4:05 p.m. game vs. the Miami Marlins at Nationals Park. Besides watching our favorite hometown team play America's favorite pastime, there will be a postgame concert and personal testimonials offered by Washington Nationals players about how the Gospel of Jesus Christ shapes their lives. More specifics will be forthcoming. The event is free with a ticket to the game. Fr. David is hoping for a group of 13 or more to coordinate a group ticket discount. Please let the Associate Rector know of your interest.
#NATITUDE! Get youself some!

DO YOU NEED A NANNY OR AU PAIR? A member of our parish is offering services as a nanny or au pair – in her home in Alexandria during the days or in your home on weekends or evenings. Beginning in September she will be available for full time work outside the home. She has some 20 years' experience in childcare. She speaks Swedish, Finnish, and English, and does have transportation. She describes herself as a warm, loving person with a caring heart who likes kids. She says she is honest and respectful and is "always on time." If you are interested in contacting her, please let Jennifer Addington in the parish office know and she will arrange it.

UPCOMING MUSICAL OFFERING: A CONCERT BY OUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, DR. JANE TAVERNIER, with Stephen Brown accompanying her on the piano. Featured music will be Arias of Verdi, Puccini, Caldara, Refice. Thursday, June 18, 7:30 p.m. Zabriskie Chapel.
Free will offering to benefit the clergy Discretionary Funds.

ALIVE FOOD DRIVE: Please remember that June is one of the two months when Immanuel collects food in support of the ALIVE! food drive for the needy. Donations can be left in the Narthex for collection. Items that are most useful to contribute include: canned meat/tuna, canned spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, peanut butter & jelly, complete pancake mix/syrup, dried milk, and other non-perishable items. Cash donations are also welcome and should be given to Nancy or Jim Wise (703-642-8225 or jrwise52@hotmail.com). ALIVE! thanks you for your support.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THIS YEAR'S ADVENT RETREAT: The Rev. Dr. Margaret Ann (Sam) Faeth, Immanuel Rector Emeriti, will lead the Advent Retreat December 4-6 at Holy Cross Abbey. Registration materials will be in a September *Almond Tree.*

FOR THIS IS THE ORIGINAL MESSAGE WE HEARD: WE SHOULD LOVE EACH OTHER.
Breakfast Bible Study: On Saturday, 20 June 2015, we will meet in the Fairchild Room for our monthly study. Breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. and the Bible study begins at 8 a.m. The study will take just about an hour. We focus this year on the theme of converting or returning to God, and will read 1 John 3:4-11 for this meeting. Using the African model of reflection we hope to see how the theme and the reading show up in our lives. Please come, be fed, and feast on the Word.

Chrissie Crosby and Scott Bunn

HELP CHILDREN WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES – CRITICAL TOOLS FOR LEARNING! Alexandria Child Protective Services identified families in need (many of them are families we helped last Christmas). **You can sign up to provide school supplies for the children in one family** any time between now and Sunday, August 9, on the sign-up boards in the narthex of Zabriskie Chapel. Several Immanuel families may want to sign up together to help one large family, and that is okay! Please put your name and phone number with the family you choose, and take from the manila folder the corresponding sheet with the names. Ignore the gift suggestions (those were for Christmas); look in the attachment for the school supplies required for the school and grade. Please bring the school supplies to church on or before Sunday, August 16. For students attending Tucker Elementary School (highlighted on the name sheet) the deadline is Sunday, July 19**,** because they start on August 1.
The special collections to provide money for school supplies in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Alexandria will be on July 19 and August 16. More information in the Almond Tree and at www.icoh.net.

Immanuel Chapel FAQ
(Located on the grounds of Virginia Theological Seminary)

When do we start attending services at Immanuel Chapel?
We will hold our Homecoming Sunday at Immanuel Chapel services on September 13, 2015 at 8:00 and 10:00 followed by our potluck at the newly renovated Parish Hall, back on the grounds of Immanuel Church on the Hill. On September 20 we begin the three-service schedule (8:00, 9:15, and 11:15 a.m.) at Immanuel Chapel.

Will any services be held at Zabriskie Chapel? When do they start?
We will continue to hold weekday Morning Prayer services at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday evening 6:30 p.m. Eucharist at Zabriskie Chapel.

We will return to Zabriskie Chapel for Sunday Eucharist services in January of 2016.

How long does the experiment last?
The experiment will continue through June of 2016. The parish will then engage in deeper discernment to follow God's call for us.

Where do we park at the seminary?
There are approximately 88 parking spaces in various lots and along the roadways of Virginia Theological Seminary. The 102 parking lot spaces at Zabriskie will also be available for parking.

Will there be a shuttle van that will run from Zabriskie Chapel to Immanuel Chapel every Sunday?
For special services, e.g., Easter Sunday and Christmas Eve, we will consider renting shuttles. Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill will not be investing just yet in a shuttle van for regular Sunday services.

Where is the handicapped parking for Immanuel Chapel?
There are several handicapped parking spaces on the South side of Immanuel Chapel (to the right, facing the front door).

What about the acoustics and microphones at Immanuel Chapel? It was hard to hear on Easter Sunday.
VTS has replaced the microphone at the pulpit with one that is now centered. Additionally, the Altar now has a flat microphone on it. Both of these adjustments will contribute to hearing the celebrant and readers much better.

Will we still have service bulletins or will we only use AV projected words on the walls of the Immanuel Chapel?
We will continue to use service bulletins.

Where will Sunday School meet?
When we worship at Immanuel Chapel, Sunday School will be held on the Seminary grounds. We are in the process of securing comfortable classrooms for this. When we return to Zabriskie Chapel, we will once again hold Sunday School classes downstairs.

Where will the coffee/Forum hours be held when we worship at Immanuel Chapel?
When we worship in Immanuel Chapel, our Sunday coffee hours and Forum hours will be held in the Welcome Center, just steps away from the front door of Immanuel Chapel.

Will the church offices be moved to the Seminary?
No – the church offices will remain where they are.

Is Zabriskie going to be only a pre-school?
No –even during the experiment of worshiping at Immanuel Chapel on Sundays, there will still be a lot going at Zabriskie for this very busy parish! We will continue to need this space for parish administration, and non-Sunday worship services and other events that take place during the week, such as education, group meetings, and fellowship, yoga and exercise classes, and Vestry meetings.

Following our experiment, we will be making decisions about exactly how to balance our use of both Immanuel and Zabriskie Chapels, but withdrawing completely from our church building has never been contemplated.

When will we use the Parish Hall, especially after it is renovated?
The Parish Hall will continue to be a thriving venue for parish activities including our all-parish lunches after Mass on the Grass and Homecoming Sunday. We will continue to offer the Parish Hall as a venue for School for the Spirit, wedding and funeral receptions and exercise classes, among other activities.

Will we have forums to discuss our opinions about the experiment?
Once the experiment is ongoing, we will have a discernment committee that will hold forum hours and small focus groups to receive parishioner reflections and opinions. We will also be putting a Survey Monkey on the website to gather feedback and distribute hard-copy surveys to make sure that all parishioners have a means of contributing input and thoughts.

What is required of all of us?
Prayer, a spirit of openness to God's leading, a spirit of good will, optimism, and compromise.

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA

THE RIGHT REVEREND EDWIN F. GULICK JR., ASSISTANT BISHOP OF VIRGINIA

May 18, 2015

The Wardens and Vestry
Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill
3636 Seminary Road
Alexandria, VA 22304

To the people of God at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill:

I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for the astounding generosity of your contribution of $2,475 to my discretionary fund. As I mentioned on Easter Day, these funds will be used for scholarships to Shrine Mont camps, and I hope that all of you will rejoice knowing that you will have provided the opportunity for at least five children with the generous amount that you have given.

It is one of the greatest joys of my ministry to have accompanied all of you into the new chapel for the first parish service in that space. I will never forget the joy of being with all of you on that glorious day.

I hope that this week's festival of Pentecost will also be glorious and empowering as you strive to be Christ's hands, feet, heart and mind in this world so desperate for his love.

Faithfully yours,

+ Edwin F. Gulick Jr.

EFG/kw

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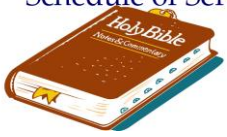
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Lectionary Readings and
Schedule of Services



June 14, The Third Sunday after Pentecost
1 Samuel 15:34—16:13; Psalm 92:1-4, 11-14; 2 Corinthians 5:6-17; Mark 4:26-34
8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:00 a.m., Mass on the Grass
June 21, The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
1 Samuel 17:32-49; Psalm 133; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41
8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:00 a.m., HEII
June 28, The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43
8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:00 a.m., HEII