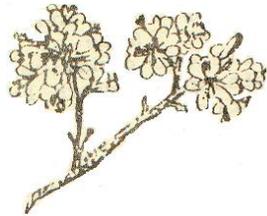


# THE ALMOND TREE

## Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

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



July 30, 2015

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

### How David Took, How Jesus Took, and How We are Invited to Take

The Sunday readings at the end of July have featured the account of King David's taking of another man's wife and our Lord's taking of a few meager loaves and fishes to feed a massive crowd. Not much, if anything, to connect those two, at least on the surface! But it occurred to me that both involved a kind of taking. David's taking of Bathsheba is like the king of taking we expect in this world, where the most powerful win and the ends justify the means. His abuse of power, and trust, is not unlike that of any number of infamous characters. It is the kind of taking Saddam Hussein practiced in 1990, when he eyed oil-rich Kuwait and, sadly, it is the way women have been treated for far too much of human history.

This taking contrasts sharply with the way Jesus took those loaves and fishes. The first thing He did after taking them up was to give thanks for them, to bless them. This is a kind of mindful, thankful way of living that our world sorely needs. This is a crucially important way for the Christian to approach our environment, our relationships, our time, and our work. Jesus' goal was to take what was given, and in receiving it mindfully and thankfully, **to make more of it**. That is just how He takes us!!

I am struck by the words we hear at the Altar: "Take this is remembrance that Christ died for you. . .", and I am reminded that Eucharistic "taking" is really about receiving. It is driven home by the way we usually hold our hands when taking Communion, in the shape of a cross.

I wish you many of the blessings of the Summer season. One of those blessings, on occasion, is a bit more time to reflect on how we inhabit this world. How do we "take" our time? As a means to an end, and without much thought, as David did? Or mindfully, thankfully and intentionally, as Jesus did? The words of the hymn "Come, Labor On" come to mind: "Redeem the time, its hours too swiftly fly."

How do we "take"?

See you in Church, *Randy*

**Rector to lead forum on Chapel experiment**, and tour of Immanuel Chapel, on August 30<sup>th</sup>  
The Rev. Randy Alexander will lead a forum on August 30<sup>th</sup> focusing on our upcoming experiment of using both Immanuel and Zabriskie Chapels. The forum will begin at about 11:30, after the 10 AM Eucharist, and anyone interested will be invited to go on a short tour of the Immanuel Chapel immediately afterwards.

**PASTORAL CARE CORNER:** Please remember these parishioners in your prayers: Chris Stanek, Mary, Jacquie, Senie Oglesby, Nancy Kelly, Everett Post, Arlo Lloyd, Georgia Maas, Morgan, Catherine Sinclair, Kay Neer, Dana Hengst, Cadence, George Currie, Gary DeVight, Barney Hawkins

**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, Kathryn, Anna, Robert Barnes, Leila Fortune Bell, Vincent, Mary Elizabeth Goodwyn, George B., Arthur Sachs, Linda Taucher, Shelva Rarick, Toy Taysavang, Lloyd Chenoweth, Janet, Dorothy Moon, Becky Bunton, Mary Jayne, Janet, Annette Cuzzocrea O'Hara, Scott Schwartz, Anne Newcomb, George Morris, Steve Barron, Linda Patton, Sam Ellis, Tony Ellis, Cealia Robertson, Allison St. Louis and her family, following the death of her father, Lawrence, Alexandra Conrad and her parents, David and Barbara Conrad, friends of the Taliaferros

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

## **VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY AT LAZARUS MINISTRY IN THE WEST END:**

For some years, Christ Church and St. Paul's in Alexandria have jointly operated the Lazarus Ministry, which meets emergency assistance needs by helping Alexandria's vulnerable citizens with utility payments, rent help, prescriptions, and other pressing needs. Immanuel and other Episcopal parishes of Alexandria have joined together to expand this effort to the West End of Alexandria, where the people in need of these services have increasingly been located.

The new ministry will kick off at the Church of the Resurrection on September 17. We need volunteers for this new ministry. If you are looking for an opportunity to serve those in need, have skills in empathetic listening, and are free to volunteer on various Thursdays in the late afternoon, please contact Melanie Gray of Christ Church at [mgray@historicchristchurch.org](mailto:mgray@historicchristchurch.org). Jamie Conrad can also answer questions at [jwc58@comcast.net](mailto:jwc58@comcast.net).

**CALLING ALL SENIOR ARTISTS OF IMMANUEL** The 29th annual Young at Art Exhibition is coming back to the Durant Center later this summer. Senior Services of Alexandria and Goodwin House invite all senior artists 55-plus to submit their works for jurors' selection at the Durant Center on Thursday, August 20th from 10am until noon. Submission forms and detailed information about the show and what types of artwork are eligible can be found on the website, [www.seniorservicesalex.org](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org).

## **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.

The special collection to provide money for school supplies in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Alexandria will be on August 16. More information in the Almond Tree and at [www.icoh.net](http://www.icoh.net)



## **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. #NATTITUDE! Get yourself some!

## IMMANUEL HOSTS OUR HAITIAN FRIENDS:



This July, Immanuel was privileged to help host our dear friend, Father Jean Joseph Jeannot, from Mirebalais, Haiti. Pere Jeannot brought with him his wife and three children for their first vacation in over a decade. Immanuel parishioners joined with other churches in the diocese to host the family during their two week visit. Pictured is the family visiting the National Zoo.

Working through the Haiti Micah Project, Immanuel has had a wonderful relationship with Pere Jeannot for several years. He last visited Immanuel in 2013. His recent visit was a wonderful reunion, but was also bittersweet in that Pere Jeannot has been transferred from his church in Mirebalais to one in Port-au-Prince. Here are some of his parting notes to his many friends in Virginia:

*Dear brothers and sisters:*

*I am saying these words while Roger Bowen types them on his laptop during my visit in the USA.*

*August 1, 2005 - August 1, 2015, are the ten years that I have worked at St. Pierre's Parish in Mirebalais. In the beginning the challenges were huge: 12 churches and almost all of them were under a tent. I only had two partners for the whole parish - the Haiti Outreach Mission in Detroit was partners with St. Pierre's Clinic in Mirebalais, and St. Mark's School and Church in Upland, California was partners with St. Andre's, Trianon.*

*We worked hard, we prayed, and we received abundant grace! Five more churches and schools were opened. And, today we can say that a lot of work has been accomplished - new church buildings, new school buildings, goat projects, water purification systems, and many plans, too, for future projects like agriculture, computer labs, solar power, and teacher training.*

*On Friday, July 10, after a big ordination service at Holy Trinity Cathedral, the bishop made a lot of changes in the Diocese of Haiti. I was concerned by these changes because I will not be working anymore at St. Pierre's Parish in Mirebalais.*

*And so, I want to take this opportunity to send this message of gratitude to you all. You all have supported my ministry in St. Pierre's Parish in Mirebalais and out in the schools and missions of the countryside. Thanks to you I had a blessed and fruitful ministry. Of course all of this, all of these projects are good, but the important part is bigger. It is really about love, about spirituality. We laugh together, we cry together, we share hospitality, we pray together and sing together. We share life and we thank God for that.*

*Today my heart is full of sadness to say goodbye; but I am also full of joy for the work we realized together. When I look back I have the feeling of success even though we still have many things to do.*

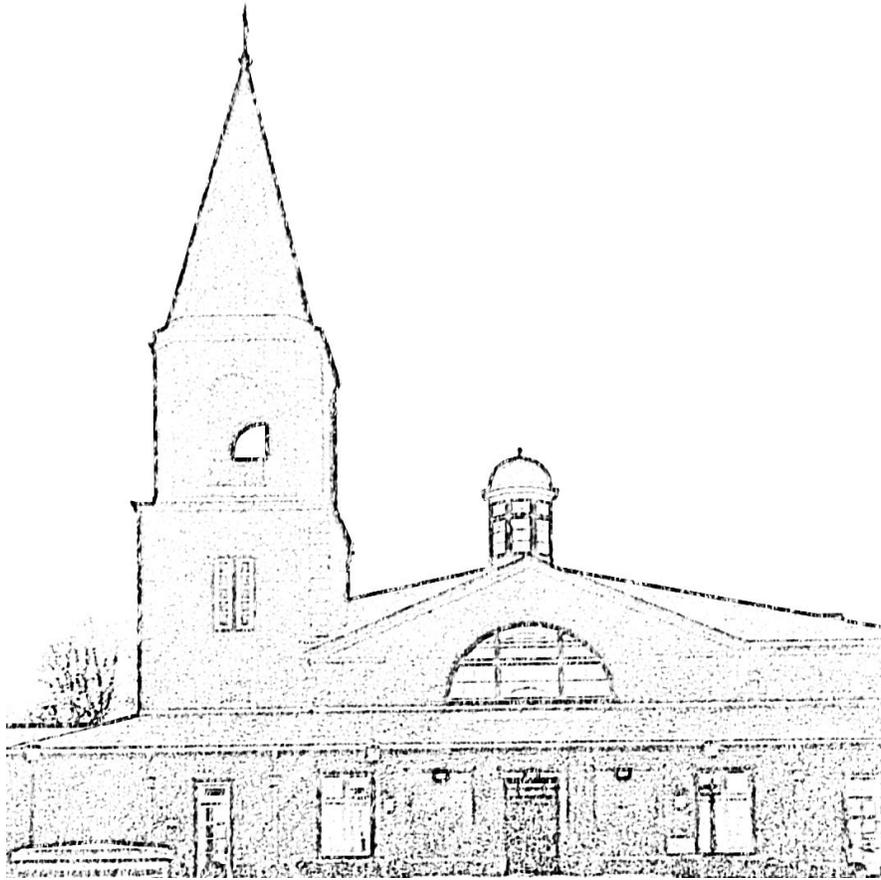
*The new priest will be The Rev Pere Alphonse Jn. Philippe. Please continue to work with him for the benefit of our people. My new assignment in Port au Prince will be St. Martin de Tours on Delmas Road. Once again, thank you all.*

*God bless you, your families and the Partnership Program. God bless Haiti. God bless America.*

*Kind regards, your friend always,*

*Pere Jeannot*

## IMMANUEL CHAPEL TIDBITS



DID YOU KNOW....that the new Immanuel Chapel at the Virginia Theological Seminary received two Craftsmanship Awards from the Washington Building Congress? The WBC awards recognize the outstanding skill and achievement of individual craftsmen in the local construction community. Nearly 300 nominations were reviewed by the WBC, and the new Immanuel Chapel received awards for plaster finishes and architectural millwork.

DID YOU KNOW...that wood from the 1881 Chapel was salvaged and used in the new Immanuel Chapel? The century old timber floor beams were milled and repurposed for hardwood flooring in the parlor.

DID YOU KNOW...that the Immanuel Chapel chandelier is the largest in North America, and the second-largest in the world? The contemporary Gothic ring chandelier has a diameter of 32 feet.

DID YOU KNOW....that Immanuel Chapel is home to eight changing bells crafted by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in England? The bell foundry in Whitechapel is the oldest manufacturing company in Great Britain and, notably, was the original manufacturer of the Liberty Bell. You can learn more about the tower bells and change ringing by viewing the June 21 Forum Hour presentation by Rob Gibson, head of the Guild of Change Ringers for VTS, on our website [www.icoh.net](http://www.icoh.net) under the “Learn” button, or on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J9nycEtPQDg>

**And don't forget: Immanuel will begin holding Sunday services and activities at the new Immanuel Chapel on Sunday, September 13, with services at 8 and 10 a.m. We will begin our schedule of three services (8:00, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.) on September 20.**

**IMMANUEL SUPPORTS REBUILDING BLACK CHURCHES.** At the end of June, following the massacre at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, there were a series of fires that destroyed black churches throughout the south. Some have been identified as arson, others have not – all are devastating blows to the heart of the black community.

Christ Church Cathedral in St. Louis responded by establishing a “Rebuild the Churches Fund” to collect donations from all over the nation for the rebuilding of these churches. The goal for the fund is \$250,000. Christ Church Cathedral’s mission statement is simple: “As fellow children of God, we stand with our sisters and brothers to help them rebuild these buildings -- which are not just houses of worship but centers of ministry for their community.”

Currently, funds collected will be divided equally among six churches: College Hill Seventh Day Adventist Church, Knoxville, TN (Burned June 22 - arson); God’s Power Church of God in Christ, Macon GA (June 23 – arson); Briar Creek Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC (June 24 – arson); Glover Grove Baptist Church, Warrenton, SC (June 26 – undetermined, accidental causes ruled out); The Greater Miracle Apostolic Holiness Church, Tallahassee, FL (June 26 – caused when tree fell on electrical wires, sparking fire); and Mt. Zion AME Church, Greeleyville, SC (June 30 – caused by lightning).

The appeal has resonated nationally. Over 200 churches of all denominations have contributed already. On behalf of Immanuel, your Outreach Committee unanimously agreed to contribute \$500 toward this fund.

**FAMILY MINISTRIES AND FELLOWSHIP** One of my greatest pleasures, while serving as your Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries, has been watching the open and continuous joy we share when in each other’s company. This is why I am excited to announce that we will be hosting our third family cook out and compline on August 21<sup>st</sup>. It is our hope to make this a casual but rich opportunity for fellowship among parishioners. We will be gathering between 6:00 and 8:00, rain or shine, we will be gathering at the church for a fun time of sharing a meal, socializing, and worshiping together. The hot dogs, buns, condiments, charcoal, and grills will be provided, as well as ice tea, lemonade, and ice water.

Please feel free to bring a side to share and anything you would like to grill, should you prefer something other than hot dogs. In addition, please feel free to bring any additional beverages. Coolers with ice will be available. In addition, the Playground will be open (weather permitting) and the nursery with staff will be made available for any who wish to use its services. All are welcome, even if you are brand new to our community; this is a great opportunity to meet other families.

*John Hogg, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries*



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS THE ANGELS WILL SING...** All children ages 3-8 are invited to come sing with the Angels, Immanuel Church’s Children’s Choir, at one or all of the three services listed below. In an effort to help everyone plan ahead we are announcing the dates of our planned rehearsals scheduled for each performance. More information is to follow and we hope to see as many of our children as possible and we will not be turning anyone away that is interested. If

you would like more information or have any questions please contact Dr. Jane Tavernier, Immanuel’s Director of Music ([jtavernier@icoh.net](mailto:jtavernier@icoh.net)) or John Hogg, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries via email: [jhogg@icoh.net](mailto:jhogg@icoh.net) or phone (703) 370-6555

First Performance:

October 18<sup>th</sup>  
9:15 Service (Immanuel Chapel at VTS)  
Practices:  
October 6<sup>th</sup> and October 13<sup>th</sup> 5:45

Second Performance:

November 22<sup>nd</sup> (Christ the King Sunday)  
9:15 Service (Immanuel Chapel at VTS)  
Practices:  
November 10<sup>th</sup> and November 17<sup>th</sup> 5:45

Third Performance:

December 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Pageant)  
Practices  
December 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 5:45

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Lectionary Readings and  
Schedule of Services



**August 2, The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

2 Samuel 11:26—12:13a; Psalm 51:1-13; Ephesians 16:2-4, 9-15; John 6:24-35  
8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:00 a.m., HEI

**August 9, The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 130; Ephesians 4:25—5:2; John 6:35, 41-51  
8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:00 a.m., HEI

**August 16, The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14; Psalm 34:9-14; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58  
8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:00 a.m., HEI