

# THE ALMOND TREE

## Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

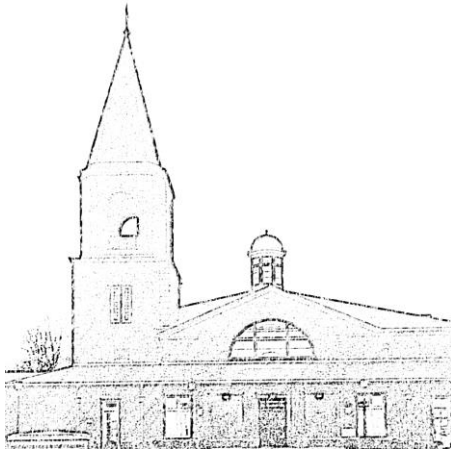
The Rev. J. Randolph Alexander, Jr., Rector  
The Rev. David M. Crosby, Associate Rector  
Jennifer Addington, Editor



August 27, 2015

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

### Immanuel Begins Worship in Immanuel Chapel



We will begin our regular Sunday worship in Immanuel Chapel at Virginia Seminary on Sunday, September 13th. Our Eucharists that day will be at 8 and 10AM, and we will have our annual Homecoming Potluck Luncheon immediately following the 10am Eucharist. The luncheon will be held in our newly-renovated Parish Hall at Zabriskie Chapel. This promises to be an important day in the life of our parish, following so much giving, building, planning, and organizing by so many, for so long.

That Sunday will also mark the beginning of our year-long lived experiment of worshipping in both Immanuel and Zabriskie Chapels. As you know, all of our Sunday activities (worship, education, and fellowship) through the end of December will take place at Immanuel Chapel and in surrounding buildings. Starting in January, and continuing through the end of the program year, we will worship in some combination in both Chapels.

Throughout both legs of the experiment we will be reflecting together, by varied means, on what is working or not working in both legs, and what could be changed.

You will be hearing a lot more details about the experiment, including during the forum hour I am leading this Sunday, August 30th. I hope and pray the main question we will be asking during this whole time is this: to what is God calling us? Related questions will be: What is in the long-term interests of growth, life, health, and outreach for this congregation, and how do we engage the many and lavish gifts and resources at our disposal?

See you in Church,  
*Randy*

**PASTORAL CARE CORNER:** Please remember these parishioners in your prayers: Cadence, Chris Stanek, Mary, Nancy Kelly, Arlo Lloyd, Morgan, Catherine Sinclair, Everett Post, Kay Neer, Jacquie, Dana Hengst, 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, 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, Mike, John Moffitt Smith, Joan Hockbaum.

Those serving in the U.S. and overseas: Noah Barker, John Patrick Miller, Ian Phillips, Jon and Nicole Anderson, Todd Bates, Dan Tessler, Kate Snow

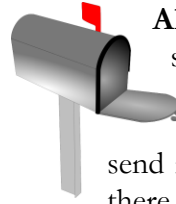
**REMEMBERING GEORGE CURRIE...**

Longtime Immanuel parishioner George Currie died August 22. Please keep Barbara, his wife, and all of their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren in your prayers.

The parish is invited to the interment of ashes, in the Memorial Garden at Zabriskie Chapel, Saturday, August 29 at 5p.m. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall.

Parishioners are also invited to the Memorial Service, which will take place in the auditorium at Goodwin House, 4800 Fillmore Avenue, Alexandria, on Sunday, August 30 at 3 p.m. with a reception following.

In lieu of flowers, any who wish may make donations to the Goodwin House Foundation, with the notation of "Hospice" on the subject line (address: 4800 Fillmore Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22311).



**ADDRESS UPDATES?** We recently sent out a parish-wide first-class mailing and received a large number back as "undeliverable as addressed." We send most communications out by email, but there are times we do need your physical mailing address. If you have moved within the past year, please send us your new mailing address!

**INOVA SENIOR EXERCISE CLASSES AT IMMANUEL:**

Classes start the week of September 14th

**Monday Class Offerings:**

Qi Gong 11AM	Learn simple movements to cultivate your inner "chi" (life, force, energy) to help you attain your greatest potential for health and happiness.
Tai Chi for Beginners 12PM	Learn slow, fluid movements to promote relaxation, balance, strength, and flexibility.
Tai Chi Intermediate & Advanced 1PM	Knowledge of Tai Chi basics is required. The focus will be on refining movements with an emphasis on proper body structure, breathing, balance, and coordination. Movement modifications are available for certain physical limitations.
Yoga for Beginners 6:15 PM	Learn basic yoga positions while stretching and strengthening your entire body.
Yoga 7:30PM	Practice total-body stretching and stretching through basic relaxation and breathing techniques. Learn to relax the mind and body for daily stress relief. All fitness levels welcome.

**Wednesdays & Friday Class Offerings:**

Senior Circuit 8:30 AM	A low-impact exercise class that moves you through a circuit of advanced aerobic and strengthening exercises.
Senior Circuit 9:30 AM	A low-impact exercise class that moves you through a circuit of advanced aerobic and strengthening exercises.
Seniorize 10:30 AM	A low-impact aerobics class with light strength training movements to increase your overall fitness ability.

To register by email: [Fitness Class Registration Link](#)  
Or by phone: (703) 698-2441 and speak to Gita.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS THE ANGELS WILL SING...

All children ages 3-8 are invited to come sing with Immanuel's 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 who 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

## INFORMATION FOR CHOIR MEMBERS

**OLD AND NEW...** If you are considering singing in one of the choirs at Immanuel, the first rehearsal is Thursday September 10, at 7:00 p.m. in the new chapel choir room. Both choirs will rehearse at the same time that day for the 10:00 a.m. service on September 13. The three-service schedule begins on September 20; the 9:15 a.m. choir will rehearse at 8:15 a.m. on that Sunday, and the 11:15 choir will rehearse at 7:00 p.m. on September 17, the Thursday before.

Immanuel's choirs are open to everyone. If you think you might like to give it a try, by all means please attend one of these rehearsals and see if this is for you. We do wonderful music in a great place and always welcome new singers!

— Jane Tavernier, Director of Music



## THE FRIENDLY VISITOR PROGRAM SEEKS

**VOLUNTEERS...** 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 (SSA). 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. Some Friendly Visitors also support SSA's Grocery Delivery program.

To volunteer as a Friendly Visitor, or to refer a friend or neighbor who might benefit from these visits, contact Laura Snow, an enthusiastic Friendly Visitor, at [thesnowfamily@verizon.net](mailto:thesnowfamily@verizon.net)

## ATTENTION IMMANUEL SENIORS:

Mark your calendars for **Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>** and put on your traveling shoes for a day trip to beautiful **Rippon Lodge** in Woodbridge. We will depart from Zabriskie parking lot by van or bus at 10:15 a.m. and should be back at the church by 3:30 p.m. at the latest. Parishioner Elaine Davies will lead us on a private tour of the property, the second oldest house in Prince William County. Built in 1747 by Richard Blackburn, the historic home lies on high ground overlooking Neabsco Creek. Learn about the strong tie to the Washington Family, the fabulous garden parties in the 30s and 40s, and the Admiral who searched for Amelia Earhart. Following our tour, we will head to Madigans in Occoquan for lunch, and there should be a little time to stroll the town with its shops and galleries before we return. Please call Jennifer Addington in the parish office to reserve your spot as soon as possible, because the house can accommodate only a limited number of people for tours.



## WHY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT PUMPKINS IN AUGUST?

Because NOW is the time to:

- **mark your calendar** for our #1 fundraising activity supporting Immanuel's robust outreach efforts to help the needy in our community and abroad
  - Based on consumer demand, this year we will accept credit cards for the first time. We are targeting the 9/27 Forum Hour as a training session for our new, incredibly easy-to-use Square-based system.
  - The fun begins PUMPKIN SUNDAY OCTOBER 4 with the great Pumpkin Unloading! Trucks will also come on Wednesdays, Oct. 14 and 21.
- **sign up to work the Pumpkin Patch** on the signup board in the church narthex (entry)!
- **start cooking and freezing** soups (packaged in standard quart-size containers) and breads, being sure to list the ingredients to help customers avoid allergy issues. Remember, much of our profit for outreach comes from food sales!
- **stay tuned for the Preliminary Pumpkin Proclamation 2015** with more dates, contacts, and information!

Meanwhile, feel free to contact either of the following if you have questions or suggestions: John von Senden [jvonsenden@comcast.net](mailto:jvonsenden@comcast.net), or Jim Wise [jrwise52@hotmail.com](mailto:jrwise52@hotmail.com)



**NATIONALS FAITH DAY** Baseball anyone? We are trying to organize attending the Washington National's "Faith Day" event on Saturday, September 19th. The game begins at 4:05 p.m. and player testimonials and post-game performances by local church choirs will be offered afterward. If 13 or more people sign up, ticket prices are \$27.00. Seats will be reserved if we have 13 people committed to attending. Please let your interest be known by calling the church office at 703-370-6555 or email the Associate Rector, Fr. David Crosby, directly at [dcrosby@icoh.net](mailto:dcrosby@icoh.net). Commitments are needed by September 1 to make a group reservation. Thank you.

**NEEDED: A USED CAR...** Do you have a car you're considering selling or giving to charity? Consider this:

Father Adolfo Moronta is a Dominican priest whom Immanuel has supported in his ministry since he came to Virginia Theological Seminary three years ago for graduate work. Since then, he returned to the Dominican Republic where he served three very poor parishes.

When at VTS, he served an Hispanic congregation at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on South King's Highway in Alexandria. He did such a good job that Fr. Adolfo was recently called back to be priest-in-charge of that congregation. He arrived in the States two weeks ago with few possessions, but the generosity of several from St. Mark's and Immanuel have largely outfitted his apartment.

Fr. Adolfo needs a car for his ministry and living. If you have a car that is in reasonably good shape, consider donating it for the use of Fr. Adolfo. For more information, contact Jim Snow at [JamesBSnow@verizon.net](mailto:JamesBSnow@verizon.net).

## **REQUESTING ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NON-CASH GIFTS FOR TAX PURPOSES...**

As Immanuel returns to our fall schedule, I thought it would be useful to remind the parish that if anyone would like a letter from the Treasurer acknowledging a contribution of a non-cash gift (for supplies for the Pumpkin Patch, provisioning Immanuel Chapel, clothes and toys for Christmas Families, flowers for Sunday services, accoutrements for our lovely new Parish Hall, etc.) please send a request to me at [treasurer@icoh.net](mailto:treasurer@icoh.net), through snail mail, or drop off your request in the Church Office. Your request should include a description of your gift and the date given.

Generally, Immanuel does not establish the value of non-cash gifts, and will not include the value in your acknowledgement letter. However, on a case-by-case basis we may ask for an estimate of an item's value so that we may include it in our insurance inventory or depreciation schedules.

As always, parishioners should consult with their financial and/or tax advisor regarding the specifics of their individual donations, including non-cash gifts.

--Susan Gilbertson, Treasurer



**UPCOMING ALMOND TREE SCHEDULE...**Now that summer is (almost) over we have the following schedule planned for *Almond Tree* mailing dates. Dates are the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, except

December, when there will be just one edition. Remember that the deadline for the *Almond Tree* is the Friday prior to publication date:  
September 10, 24  
October 8, 22  
November 12, 25  
December 10



**HOMECOMING POTLUCK LUNCH SEPTEMBER 13!**

Please plan to attend our first parishwide social event in the beautifully renovated Parish Hall: the Homecoming potluck luncheon, following the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, September 13.

This is a great chance to re-connect with your parish family after the summer break, share fun and fellowship, and of course, sample the culinary creations of some of Northern Virginia's best cooks and bakers! All are invited – please come!

This is a potluck event, so please bring a generous-sized dish (serving 8-10) according to the list below:  
Last names beginning with A-F: side dishes  
Last names beginning with G-L: desserts  
Last names beginning with M-Z: main dishes (including vegetarian)

Dishes can be dropped off in advance. This year, we're even offering curbside service: beginning at 9:15 a.m., we will have someone stationed at the sidewalk in front of the Parish Hall to meet your car and take your contribution to the kitchen.



**IMMANUEL TO OFFER CHORAL EVENSONG WITH CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION...**On

Sunday evening September 20th, choirs from Immanuel and the Church of the Resurrection will offer the classic Anglican service of Choral Evensong. The service will begin at 6pm in Immanuel Chapel, and there will be a light reception afterwards. This will be a good chance to worship with some of our other brothers and sisters in Christ from our area.

**NEWS IN THE EYC...**The coming year will be an exciting time for our EYC (formerly known as Youth Group). We will have various gatherings that all aim to offer a fun and formative balance between socializing and ministry. In addition we will be offering Hang Time on Sunday morning. While offered as the same time as Sunday School, Hang Time will not be your traditional Sunday School classroom and is something relatively new to Immanuel Church. It is designed to be a fun and hopefully rejuvenating time where we will discuss and work with various topics currently relevant to the youth.

Last, but not certainly not least, we are very excited to announce that Jim Kurz will be joining your team of EYC advisors. They are Chrissie Crosby, Jeannie Cummins, Kyrrah Drasheff, the Rev. David Crosby and John Hogg. Jim is a long time parishioner of Immanuel, has a history of working with youth, and we could not be happier to have him on board. Welcome Jim!

**GRACE & GRATITUDE...**I want to take a



minute to express my sincere joy and gratitude concerning the growth of our family fellowship and compline. This past Friday August 21, was our third, and largest, gathering with nearly a hundred parishioners, family and visitors joining in the fun. As always, these opportunities for fellowship and worship could not happen without the generous gifts of time and help by everyone involved. I want to thank everyone who attended and to all those who were able to bring food to share. Above all I want to thank specifically some individuals who went above and beyond in their help of cooking and cleaning up. They are John Bednar, Madison Eaton, Mike Eaton, Carrie Cuddy, Emma Cuddy, Tom Cuddy and Francine Wargo. Thank you all for helping a great night go so smoothly. Our next family gathering and compline will be in October and I hope to see you there.

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

Immanuel Church -on-the-Hill  
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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Lectionary Readings and  
Schedule of Services



**August 30, The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Psalm 45:1-2, 7-10; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23  
8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:00 a.m., Holy Baptism/HEII

**September 6, The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 125; James 2:1-17; Mark 7:24-37  
8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:00 a.m., HEII

**September 13, The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, First Services in Immanuel Chapel**

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 19; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38  
8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:00 a.m., HEII