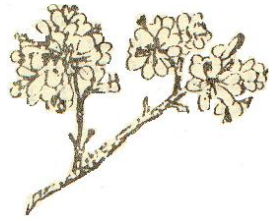


THE ALMOND TREE

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

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



September 24, 2015

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

Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel:

Immanuel Chapel will be consecrated to God's service on Tuesday October 13th, at 10 AM. The Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church will be the celebrant, and the Archbishop of Canterbury will preach. There will also be a festival choral Evensong at 4PM that day, with the Archbishop of Canterbury as officiant. The seminary is organizing and managing all events for the consecration, but we have been given some special consideration for attendance.

A limited block of tickets for the consecration has been given to Immanuel by the Seminary for seating inside the Chapel. We have thought long and hard about how we might distribute these most fairly. If you would like to be included in a lottery for one of these tickets please give us your name by Thursday, October 1st. We will conduct a drawing that day from all names received by this deadline. So, if you are interested and you are certain that you would be able to attend, please send your name to Jennifer Addington in the parish office: jaddington@icoh.net, or call her at 703.370.6555. We will do our best to honor couples who express an interest together, but we cannot guarantee that enough tickets will be available.

You are welcome to reserve a seat in the tent for the consecration, using this link:

<https://give.vts.edu/consecration-october-2015>

We also have a limited block of tickets for the Evensong. If you are interested and able to attend, please give us your name by the same deadline, Thursday, October 1st, for a separate lottery we will have for those tickets.

Like the consecration, there is also seating available in the tent for Evensong. Please use this link if you would like to register for tent seating: <https://give.vts.edu/choral-evensong-october-2015>

Many thanks, and God bless,

Randy+

REMEMBER THAT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 IS PUMPKIN SUNDAY. Services will be at 8:00 a.m. in the Immanuel Chapel and at 10:00 a.m. we will celebrate Mass on the Grass in the Zabriskie Gardens. There will be no services at 9:15 and 11:15 in the Immanuel Chapel that day.

THE ASSOCIATE'S CORNER

It's an exciting time in the life of this parish church as we return to Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS) to worship in the new Immanuel Chapel! We have begun the "all in" phase of Immanuel back at VTS with all Sunday worship, education/formation, and fellowship up on The Holy Hill.

As a VTS alum, it is always special for me to join in worship in and with that community. After the chapel fire in October 2010 which devastated the 1881 Immanuel Chapel, I experienced worship in several different 'interim' spaces. We have known and felt "God with us" in a number of settings, even as our 'tent of meeting' changed and moved.

As a student sacristan then at VTS, and even more now serving as your associate rector since July 2012, I consider Immanuel Chapel to "be the seminary's chapel, but it is our church."

As stewards sharing space, you may want to know the rhythm of worship in the seminary community. The mantra of VTS students, faculty and staff is "chapel, class, lunch": to worship, learn and fellowship with one another regularly. Part of that community building and formation includes regular weekday (M-F) worship which is open to any and all who wish to attend and participate:

- Morning Prayer (8:15-8:45 a.m.) in the larger chapel,
- midday Eucharist (12 Noon-1 p.m.) also in the larger chapel, and
- Evening Prayer (5:15-5:45 p.m.), in the smaller side chapel, or Oratory/Octagon Room.

There are many other things which happen in Immanuel Chapel as part of the VTS curriculum: music classes, seminary choir rehearsals, arranged tours for friends of VTS, homiletics/preaching plenaries and classes, liturgics practicums for students, occasional other gatherings, weddings/rehearsals, funerals, etc. While we worship there on Sundays, it is a central place for activity for Immanuel and VTS.

During this experiment, I regularly remind myself and will encourage all of us to have "open minds and gracious hearts." This space is new to all of us. Your clergy do not have the benefit of knowing all that was done before in past spaces and former times. We're all learning together. Thanks be to God for this opportunity!

Peace, David+



THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

September 27, 2015, 1:30 p.m., front lawn at Zabriskie Chapel.

Our 4th Annual Blessing of the Animals is open to the public so bring your pets & friends along! All creatures great & small (and their humans) are welcome! Treats & refreshments will be available. A friendly reminder – all dogs need to be on a leash & other critters crated for the safety of all. Hope to see you there!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS: All children attending Sunday School are invited to join us at the closing of the 9:15 Eucharist for a procession to the classrooms. At the beginning of the final hymn children are invited to follow the crucifer out of the sanctuary and over to the Addison Academic Building. Parents please remember to meet your children in Addison at 11:15. For questions or concerns please contact Linda Serabian (serabian@somaarchitects.com) or John Hogg, Director of Children Youth and Family Ministries (jhogg@icoh.net)

EYC HANG – TIME THIS SUNDAY: Hang-Time will be offered following the 9:15 Eucharist in the Gibbs Room. This is not to be your traditional Sunday School class and it is designed to be a fun and hopefully rejuvenating time where we will discuss and work with various topics currently relevant to our youth. Please join us; all are welcome and no one will be turned away..

EYC (YOUTH GROUP) ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 from 8:30 – 3:30. We will travel to Aldie Virginia to join other 6th - 12th grade youth from all over the Diocese for our first event of the year, Fall Youth Day of Service (FYDOS). FYDOS is a free event focused around volunteer work and giving back to the community and will be held at the Sprout Therapeutic Riding and Education Center. The Sprout Center is a nonprofit organization that provides equine assisted activities and therapies to individuals. Their work revolves around raising public awareness for special needs and providing opportunities for individuals/groups in a horse farm environment. **There is a registration deadline of Thursday October 1st.** For the registration forms or more information please contact John Hogg, Director of Children Youth and Family Ministries (jhogg@icoh.net) or Jeannie Cummins (iceconsulting@comcast.net). Transportation and lunch will be provided. All are welcome and no one will be turned away.



2015 PUMPKIN PROCLAMATION

Have you heard? **PUMPKIN SUNDAY IS OCTOBER 4!**

On that day, there will be two worship services – at 8:00 (at the Immanuel Chapel) and 10:00 am. Please come to the 10 a.m. Mass on the Grass in Zabriskie Chapel’s back yard, wearing your comfortable work clothes. Immediately following that service, we will begin forming the hilarious, hardworking parishioner bucket brigades to unload two pumpkin trucks and create the annual “sea of orange” on Immanuel’s front yard, launching **PUMPKIN PATCH 2015!**

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!

YOU CAN sign up to work in the Pumpkin Patch in October. The signup board is in the church narthex (entry) and/or Immanuel Chapel parlor or Welcome Center, 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. Plan to wear a “Pumpkin Helper” badge and greet all customers warmly!

YOU CAN attend training at the Forum Hour on September 27 (approximately 10:30 a.m.) at Immanuel Chapel. This is for BOTH newbies and veterans: We will be talking about all aspects of the Pumpkin Patch, including the **new technology we are using this year to record all sales**. It’s called the “Square Register,” and you will find that it actually makes your work as a salesperson easier! It also enables us to accept purchases by credit card and provide emailed receipts.

YOU CAN mark your calendar for Wednesdays, October 14 and 21, when the NEXT TWO pumpkin trucks come bearing reinforcements for the Pumpkin Patch that need unloading!

YOU CAN start cooking and baking for the Patch. Soups and baked goods provide a substantial portion of our profit! There’s a “Food Preparation for the Pumpkin Patch” guide – also available online at the big orange “PUMPKINS!” button at www.icoh.net – and standard quart containers for soups in the narthex. 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 help make apple crisps, one of the most popular items for sale at the Pumpkin Patch! No cooking skills needed; this is more of an assembly-line project. Cooking will take place in the parish kitchen the second and third weekends: Oct 10/11 and Oct 17/18, from 8:30 to 3pm Saturdays and 8:30-2pm (or finished) Sundays. **Melinda Ashton** heads up this project and would love to hear from you if you are interested and/or need more information.

YOU CAN pick up yard signs and car signs in the narthex on Pumpkin Sunday, October 4. These are a most effective way to communicate that the patch is open for business.

YOU CAN help spread the word about Immanuel’s Pumpkin Patch. Please tell your neighbors, friends, relatives, coworkers, and anybody else you meet that they can help the world by buying their pumpkins at our Patch. And you can download a one-page flyer to distribute, email, or post -- just click on the big orange PUMPKINS! button on www.icoh.net and look for “one-page flyer.”

AND REMEMBER: IT TAKES A PARISH TO SELL A PUMPKIN!

For more information, contact **Rick Glassco, John von Senden, Jim Wise, Jim Snow, Jamie Conrad, or John Bednar** at outreach@icoh.net

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



September 27, The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; Psalm 124; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

8:00 a.m., HEI; 9:15 a.m., HEII; 11:15 a.m., HEIII

October 4, The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Psalm 26; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

8:00 a.m., HEI; 9:15 a.m., HEII; 11:15 a.m., HEIII

October 11, The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22:1-15; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

8:00 a.m., HEI; 9:15 a.m., HEII; 11:15 a.m., HEIII