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 30, 2016

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

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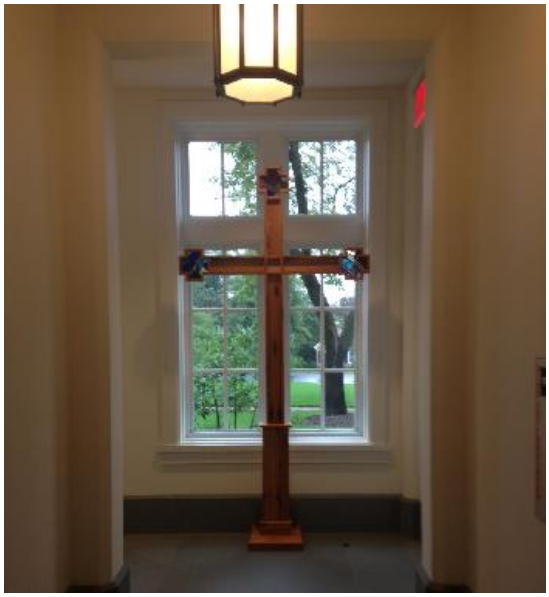
New Crosses for Immanuel!



This beautiful nine-foot cross now graces our services in Immanuel Chapel. A gift from a parish family, and the result of thoughtful design work by Immanuel parishioner and architect Tom Kerns, the cross is made from wood salvaged from the old Immanuel Chapel at the Seminary following the fire. Indeed, one can see burn marks upon close inspection of the wood. The corners of the cross also contain stained glass rescued from the windows of the old chapel after the fire. The stained glass portions also contain bits of clear glass, to let God's natural light pour through. A matching cross, made to scale, is being made for Zabriskie Chapel, and will be installed in a couple of weeks.

A NEW PRIEST ASSOCIATE, AND A NEW KENYAN FELLOWSHIP AT IMMANUEL

At its September meeting the Vestry named the Rev. Peter Gachira as a new Priest Associate of Immanuel. Fr. Peter, from the Diocese of Nairobi in Kenya, is a student at VTS. He has been attending Immanuel frequently since last year. For some time Fr. Peter has felt a call to reach out to his fellow Kenyans in the Washington area. Whether for diplomatic or business reasons, many Kenyans live here, at least for a time. Peter learned that many of them were searching for a church home, or perhaps they had been worshiping in a non-denominational church, even though many of them are Anglicans. Peter felt called to begin organizing a fellowship for these folks.

They have now had three Eucharists here, and there are beginnings of youth ministry and Sunday School. This new outreach has received the blessing of Peter's Bishop, the Bishop of Nairobi, and of our Bishop, Bishop Johnston of Virginia. The plan is to hold a monthly Eucharist for now, at 11a.m. on Sunday mornings in Zabriskie Chapel, while moving towards a weekly Eucharist. The hope is also, unlike a tenant arrangement, that this ministry would be fully part of Immanuel. We will advertise their services, and all Immanuelites are invited and welcomed to worship with our Kenyan brothers and sisters in Christ. Likewise, some of them will join with us this Sunday at Mass-on-the-Grass and then join in pumpkin unloading. Please welcome Fr. Peter!

IMMANUEL SUPPORTS THE WEST END LAZARUS MINISTRY One of the ministries that Immanuel supports, through financial means as well as volunteers, is the West End Lazarus Ministry (WEL). The WEL, which celebrates its first anniversary this month, supports its guests who come seeking emergency financial assistance with tangible resources, advocacy, and case management. The ministry represents a collaborative effort among the Region IV Episcopal churches. Housed in the Church of the Resurrection, the WEL is also supported by volunteers from Goodwin House Alexandria and the Washington National Cathedral. Between September 2015 and June 2016 WEL counselors assisted 284 families with 338 bills. An average of $242.90 was given per family and a total of $68,985.72 (plus $9,000 for salary and administrative costs) was spent toward guests' bills during these first 10 months of operation. The number of guests served by this ministry rose steadily from September 2015 through June 2016. In September 2015, West End counselors assisted 11 guests; by June 2016, 47 guests were served. It is projected that in the next fiscal year a minimum of $108,000 will be needed for WEL's operations.

Currently, Immanuelites Julie Bruns, Janice Corbett, and Pierre Shostal volunteer with WEL. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Pierre at (703) 901-0993 or pshks@aol.com.

HEAR THE SHRINEMONTERS (AND SEVERAL CHOIRS) AND SUPPORT OFFENDER AID & RESTORATION AT SING OUT FOR SECOND CHANCES: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15 Offender Aid and Restoration of Arlington, Alexandria, and Falls Church (OAR) has been an Immanuel Outreach Ministry for many years.

On Saturday, October 15, OAR is holding its first-ever "Sing Out for Second Chances" event to bring together several choirs from local faith communities to sing and rejoice, along with guest speakers from OAR to discuss the importance of second chances for those coming home from incarceration. The Shrine-Monters will be representing Immanuel, and they would love to have some ringers in the audience! The event will be held from 7:00 to 9:00pm at First Baptist Church of Alexandria (2932 King Street). Tickets can be purchased online at http://www.oaronline.org/sing-out-for-second-chances. The early bird ticket cost is $18, and the ticket price will increase to $20 after October 8th. For more information, contact Jamie Conrad at 703-836-0655 or jwc58@comcast.net.

REPORT ON CHRISTMAS FAMILIES IN AUGUST 2016. This summer, Alexandria Human Services shared with Immanuel a list of 55 local families struggling to provide school supplies for their children. Many, many thanks to the parishioners who "adopted" 37 of those families and who made financial contributions to support the remaining 18 families. With your help, we were able to provide all 112 children with supplies for a bright start to their school year.

Through Immanuel's special collections in July and August, parishioners contributed approximately $5,200; those funds were donated to the Fund for Alexandria's Child ($1,300), Community Lodgings ($1,300 for needy children in their after-school program), and the Haiti Micah Project ($2,600).

Krystal Fenwick, Coordinator of Community Resources for the Fund for Alexandria's Child, acknowledged Immanuel's "incredibly generous donation" of funds and backpacks full of supplies, noting that it was "appreciated by social workers, parents and the children alike." She went on to say:
I have heard such moving reports about the children who received the backpacks filled with so many school supplies. One teen examined every item in the bag and positively raved, as if she were handling rare jewels. One grinning youngster wrapped his arms around a backpack and walked around with it for an hour.

Again, thanks to all who assisted with this important project serving vulnerable children here and abroad.

Dagobert Soergel

75TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL

DIRECTORY OF PARISH MINISTRIES

Guide to OUTREACH, EDUCATION, WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

"For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another." Romans 12:4-5

3606 SEMINARY ROAD, ALEXANDRIA VA 22304, 703-370-6555 www.icoh.net

SEPTEMBER 2016

PARISH MINISTRIES FAIR AND DIRECTORY

On Sunday, September 18, 2016, Immanuel hosted a Parish Ministries Fair, featuring representatives and exhibitions from the wide variety of ministries operating within the church. Attendees were able to discover activities that might interest them and find out how to get involved.

A new Parish Ministries Directory was prepared for the event, giving a comprehensive overview of all these ministries and contact information for each. You can download this new directory from Immanuel's website www.icoh.net.

Every child of God has unique spiritual gifts. (Not sure what yours are? There is an assessment tool on Immanuel's website; check the "Spiritual Gifts" page under "Contribute"). We hope the Parish Ministries Directory will inspire you to find ways to develop and use your gifts at Immanuel Church.

Apple Crisps

APPLE CRISP BAKERS NEEDED! Apple Crisps are one of the big money makers at our Pumpkin Patch each year. A merry bad of bakers, led by Melinda Ashton, spend hours in our kitchen preparing these delicious pies. There are several people already signed up to help, but many more hands are needed (and no prior baking experience is needed!). Baking times are October 8, 9, 15 and 16, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you can devote a couple of hours or more, during that time frame, please email Melinda at melinashton@gmai.com – or, just show up! Any and all help is greatly appreciated.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR EPHESIANS IV: NOVEMBER 2, 9 AND 16

"The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, [12] to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, [13] until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-13)

Ephesians IV (also known as Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill 101- a guide to your parish), will be offered in three sessions: November 2, November 9 and November 16 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Zabriskie Parish Hall. Each session will cover different parts of parish life and ministries. The goal of this course is to provide an overview from the ministry leaders on the various ministry activities and ways in which YOU can become involved.

Wednesday, November 2: History of Immanuel and its role in the community. Relationship with VTS. Communications and Vestry.
Wednesday, November 9: Fellowship, Stewardship/Planned Giving/ Capital Campaign, Stewardship Resources. Facilities and Outreach.
Wednesday, November 16: Worship/Lay Ministry, Children, Youth & Family Programs, Senior Ministry, Adult Christian Discipleship & Formation.

SENIOR SEMINAR, "Creative Aging: Attending to the Spiral of Call", Saturday, October 22, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. in the Zabriskie Parish Hall

Is there a purpose for aging? Does God have a call for you now? Exploring the pattern of call as it spirals through our lives, keynote speaker Marjory Bankson will lead us through a three-part process to discover the call which may be emerging at this stage of your life. Expanding on the research that she did for her books, *Creative Aging* and *Call to the Soul,* she will offer insights, provide questions and suggest some practices to enrich this unprecedented gift of years. Afternoon guest speakers include Senior Services of Alexandria and At Home Alexandria. Registration fee is $10.00, payable at the door. Lunch is included. RSVP by 10/19/16 to jaddington@icoh.net or (703) 370-6555 and indicate your lunch choice (turkey sub, ham & swiss sub, tuna or vegetarian).

PARISH REPAYS LOAN TO THE ENDOWMENT In 2013 the Vestry took a $100,000 loan from the endowment, as part of the repairs on Zabriskie Chapel. The plan was that the loan would be repaid over a period of three years, with interest, with proceeds from the Capital Campaign. That loan has now been repaid, in full, and with interest.

DO YOU EVER BUY SOMETHING ON AMAZON.COM? WANT TO HELP IMMANUEL AT THE SAME TIME? If you are planning to buy something from Amazon, and want to help Immanuel in the process, simply access Amazon through our parish webpage, www.icoh.net. On our homepage you may simply click the Amazon button and it will take you to the Amazon site. You may then proceed with your purchase as you normally would, and Immanuel will receive a small percentage of the amount of your order.

CLEANING YOUR CLOSETS? DO YOU HAVE CLOTHING YOU NEED TO GET RID OF?

Visit the Big White Box in the Parking Lot! The big white box in the Zabriskie parking lot is from Samaritan Ministries of Washington, one of our outreach partners. They are happy to collect clothing, stuffed animals, shoes, and other items. Even old ripped and torn clothing is welcome, as the fabric can be reused for new clothing.

ALTAR FLOWERS make wonderful offerings of thanks for special anniversaries and memorial events – as gifts that illuminate God's creation and bless our worship. You may sign up to give flowers by calling Jennifer Addington, the parish Administrator, at 703-370-6555. There have been many weeks when no one has taken advantage of this opportunity--a drain on the church budget as well. Look at your calendars and pick a special day to give flowers!

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come,
Raise the Song of Harvest Home

November 5, 2016: Choral Evensong and Harvest Dinner

Please join Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill on **Saturday November 5, 2016** for a very special evening of grace and gratitude for God's blessings.

Beginning at 6:00 pm with an Evensong service at our Immanuel Chapel at the Virginia Theological Seminary, the Immanuel Choir, under the direction of Dr. Jane Tavernier will sing Choral Evensong.

Immediately following Evensong, Immanuel's annual Harvest Dinner will begin with drinks and hors d'oeuvres in Scott Lounge, followed by a buffet dinner in the Refectory.

Prices for the Harvest Dinner are $30.00 per adult and $10.00 per child between 12 and 5 years of age (children under 5 -- no charge). The family maximum is $75.00.

Once again this is a family friendly event – a children's activity is being planned in Scott Lounge

Making your reservations and payment is easy on the Immanuel website by following this link: icoh.net/register

You can find the registration page from the home page of Immanuel's website under contribute.

You may also RSVP, and send your payment, to Jennifer Addington in the Parish Office no later than Friday October 28. RSVPs must be received by this date, as we must provide VTS with a firm number of attendees by October 28.

Also – please note – RSVPs are capped at 200 as this is the maximum number of occupants allowed in The Refectory per the orders of the US Fire Marshall.

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill Harvest Dinner
November 5, 2016
The Refectory
Virginia Theological Seminary

Names: _____

Number of Adults: _____

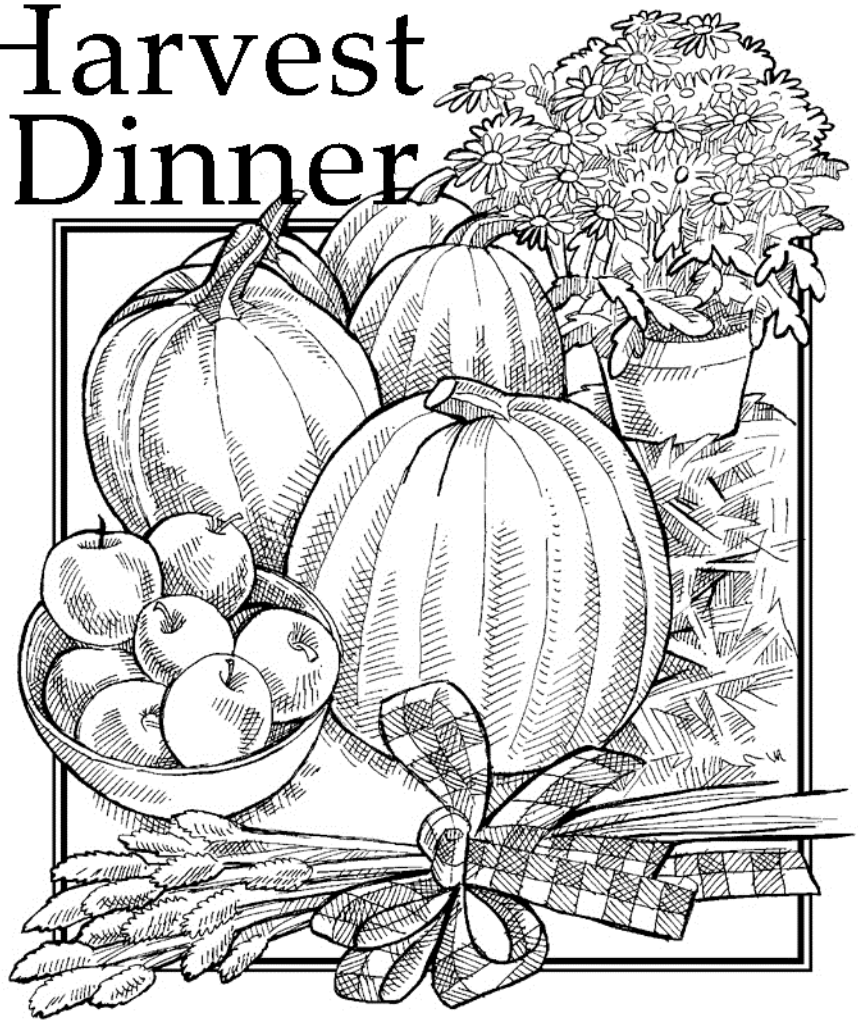
Number of Children between Ages 5-12 _____

Please list any Dietary Restrictions & number affected:
_____

_____

Total Payment _____ Date Rec'd _____

Harvest Dinner



YOUTH NEWS AND NOTES

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR IMMANUEL This past July Immanuel sent four of our youth, Corey, Phoebe, Lily and Addie to join the Diocese of Virginia's Youth Mission to the Episcopal Mission Center in Philadelphia. For a solid week these four bright and gifted teens worked, played and prayed with fifteen youth from our Diocese and approximately sixteen youth from Maryland. It was a long, hot but rewarding week working through out Philadelphia's inner cities. Over the course of the week they worked tirelessly to help others and strived to live by their faith. For example, some of their activities included helping get food to families, playing with children living in extreme poverty, or listening and supporting those whose dignity and lives were decimated by epidemic gun violence. I was extremely blessed to be among the six adults to go as their advisors and leaders. However, after the first day it was clear that I was not their leader, I was their witness.

Never at anytime did I hear or see anyone become unmotivated or want to quit. More importantly, I never saw them portray themselves as the great saviors coming to help the helpless. It was all I could do to watch and guide them to their work sites, but once we arrived the youth never failed to lead themselves or to be open to what they were experiencing. I was clearly there to be a witness to their work and growth as individuals both personally and spiritually. After nearly two decades of working alongside youth, I do not think I have ever been more impressed or more inspired by a youth mission trip. It was an incredible experience that I wish everyone at Immanuel could have witnessed how these remarkable youth went about living the Gospel.

That is why I am excited to invite everyone to come and hear these four gifted individuals share their reflections and experiences during the forum hour on October 9. Please join them for this great opportunity to hear them speak on the topics of faith, mission and life. It will not only be a chance for them to share their stories, it may be a time when we all learn something from our youth.

IT IS THE TIME….

Every year, October is a special time for Immanuel. The weather is pleasant, the leaves begin displaying their autumnal colors, and the front lawn of Zabriskie Chapel turns a wonderful shade of orange. In addition to these many blessings, we are fortunate to offer two new exciting additions in our ongoing Christian formation as a parish. This month we will have our first Children's Eucharist on October 9 *and* our first Family Night on October 16.

The Children's Eucharist will be held during the regular 9:00 Eucharist. While it will be tailored more to the needs of children, it is open to all families and all ages. It will encourage children and youth to participate as acolytes', readers, ushers and in many other roles and ways. The service will include a children's homily that invites our youngest parishioners to gather up front. As this is a new chapter in the life of Immanuel it will be a journey that we all take together. A journey that we will hopefully walk with patience and openness as we find a way that balances best the spiritual needs of our Children with the worship needs of all who come Immanuel.

Family Night is a new approach that combines the past successes of our Family Complines with your requests to increase the formation opportunities offered to our families. Starting at 5:00 in the Parish Hall we will be offering a social hour for all families that will include a quasi a pot-luck dinner. After dinner the children and youth will break off to go to their program areas. The parents will remain in the parish hall for formation and fellowship opportunities. The theme of the first Family Night will be mostly social in nature with a discussion on possible topics for the year ahead.

We hope you will come and join in these new and wonderful offerings this year and we look forward to watching in time as our children grow and mature into their place in the church.

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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Lectionary Readings and
Schedule of Services

October 2, The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, Pumpkin Sunday
Lamentations 1:1-6; Psalm 137; 2 Timothy 11-14; Luke 17:5-10
7:45 a.m., HEI, Zabriskie Chapel, 10:30 a.m., Mass on the Grass, Zabriskie Gardens
October 9, The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7; Psalm 66:1-11; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19
7:45 a.m., HEI and 9:00 a.m., HE II, Zabriskie Chapel; 11:15 HEII, Immanuel Chapel
October 16, The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 31:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104; 2 Timothy 3:14—4:5; Luke 18:1-8
7:45 a.m., HEI and 9:00 a.m., HE II, Zabriskie Chapel; 11:15 HEII, Immanuel Chapel