



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



November 1, 2016

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

What I Overheard at McDonald's . . .

I decided to go to McDonald's for a Breakfast treat, (specifically oatmeal, hash browns, and coffee, if that helps to set the context). As I was standing in line I heard the man next to me talking to another man about how his children were preparing for Confirmation (yes, my Mother taught me not to eavesdrop, but they were speaking fairly loudly, and there was no way to avoid listening, especially when I heard the topic!).

The one man seemed very kind, and I could imagine he was a good Dad. He said that his children were preparing for Confirmation now, but then he said, "It's a good thing I don't go to Church. My poor wife is having to take care of it, and I think they will stop going after it's done." It became pretty clear they were talking specifically about the Roman Catholic Church, as the other guy talked about the struggles of getting an annulment since he had been married before, and the first guy talked about a friend who had recently had a stillborn child, how they wanted the priest to do some sort of blessing of the body, and how the priest didn't.

I couldn't decide if I was glad I was in my baseball cap and shorts, rather than a collar, or not. Should I interrupt? And what would I say if I did chime in? Would that be rude beyond belief? Or would it be caring, even loving? Could I say something like, "I'm sorry you have had that experience of Church—it's not all like that—might you give it another try?" I was a bit angry at this guy, but I was much more angry at the Church, for letting this man and his family down, on some level. And I felt sad for him, profoundly so.

I didn't interrupt. I decided that might cause further damage. I decided I *could* pray for this man, though, this man whose name I didn't know. I prayed that, in God's time and by whatever means, God's love and pure delight in him might become known to this man. I prayed for healing in his experience of Church. I offered a short confession for any ways *I* may have damaged or impaired the experience of Church, or even of God, for others. I prayed that, somehow, this man's relationship with God could be healed and made manifest in his life.

And I wondered how many there are like him out there. . . hurting, ticked off, distracted, or just plain bored with religion. And I thought of so many of our people who are so giving and loving, to one another and to strangers, who find hope and meaning and purpose in their relationship with God and in our fellowship. How do we connect with more of those many people out there like this man? Might our Anglican branch of the great Christian family speak more to him? Might we be a home he is looking for?

I was only left with some haunting questions. I resolved to trust God's care, love, and grace for this man, but also to hold this question before us—what more can we be doing to reach out to the many like him, right in our neighborhood? How do we even cross their radar? Will you pray about this with me? And don't hesitate to interrupt when you hear a conversation like this, if you think it might help. Otherwise, praying is always a precious resource.

See you in Church,
Randy+

The Associate's Corner

"Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." ~ Luke 10:36-37

Our Pastoral Care program at Immanuel asks us to "love one another as I have loved you." We believe our time, talents and treasures can be used to reach out to parishioners and friends with needs to ease their concerns with support and caring. The time needs for each aspect of this ministry is different.

Flowers from our altar are delivered each Sunday after the 11:15 a.m. service in Immanuel Chapel to persons identified by the clergy.

To reach out to fellow parishioners, the Pastoral Care Program continues to look for folks to write cards once a month to persons on our short-term and long-term pastoral care prayer list. We supply note cards, postage and the recipient's name, as noted by the clergy.

Immanuel parishioners have always cared for one another, offering rides to doctor's appointments or church, a phone call or visit to someone who lives alone, meals for someone recovering from surgery or with a new baby, or longer term help.

These are a few ways we try to offer loving service to others, showing mercy to our parish family, friends, and neighbors. Whatever your gift we invite you to not hide them under a bushel basket. Let your own light shine in whatever you minister to one another.

"Christ has no body but yours,

No hands, no feet on earth but yours,

Yours are the eyes with which he looks

Compassion on this world,

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,

Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,

Yours are the eyes, you are his body.

Christ has no body now but yours,

No hands, no feet on earth but yours,

Yours are the eyes with which he looks

compassion on this world.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

~ Teresa of Avila

It is also important that sometimes we need to be ministered to by others. Please let us know of any concerns you yourselves have that might benefit from dedicated prayer or compassionate action.

Grace & Peace, David+



WALK IN LOVE. . . Stewardship at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill. Our Stewardship Campaign for 2017 is in full swing. Please consider prayerfully God's many blessings in your life, and the ways in which you give back from all that you have been given: of your time, talent, and treasure. Commitment Sunday is November 6th. You may mail in your pledges to the parish office, or you may pledge online via the parish webpage. Please look for your stewardship mailing in the narthex of both chapels.



On Saturday night: remember to set your clocks **back** one hour—lest you be an hour early for church!

EMPTY BOWLS / Alexandria: Mark your calendars for **November 12 at 6:00 p.m.** when ALIVE!'s 2nd Annual **EMPTY BOWLS** fundraiser takes place at the Durant Arts Center in Old Town. **EMPTY BOWLS** will raise funds to assist the 13,500 Alexandria residents who live in poverty. Local restaurants will provide soups and other foodstuffs, and participants will receive a **one-of-a-kind bowl** made by the Northern Virginia Community College Alexandria Fine Arts Department. Tickets are \$30/person. Join us for a great evening of fun and fundraising.

For more information visit the ALIVE! website, www.alive-inc.org or follow ALIVE! on Facebook at fb.com/alive4alexandria. You can also call Nancy or Jim Wise at 703-642-8225, or jrwise52@hotmail.com.

THANK YOU FROM ELAINE DAVIES: I want to thank Reverends Randy and David and the parish for hosting such a lovely coffee hour for me. Candace Quinlan, Rollin and Ann Huntington, and Marianne and David Ingold added their special touches to make it a perfect day and I thank them. A couple of years ago I spoke to you all during Stewardship season, attesting to the fact that for me Immanuel has been a church for all seasons of my life. I began my sojourn in 1978 seeking more than just a place for worship. Through times of happiness and grief you have been there. It has been my privilege to serve you as Altar Guild Chair, Wedding Coordinator, Lector, and especially member of the Vestry and Senior Warden. (And let's not forget singing and dancing for good causes.) I take with me what I learned from you all. Moving to Massachusetts has been the right thing for me to do. God provides me each day with glorious sunrises and an ever changing lake on which I live. I kayak. My sisters (who live 7 minutes away) and I seek out fun places to visit. My Virginia family and friends come to stay. We laugh a lot—it's been a perpetual vacation. And there is no traffic! I have found a mini-ICOH to attend. It is a small parish but I'm proud that it provided 100 children with backpacks and supplies this year and turned the unused rectory into Sober House—a place for people suffering with addictions. I think it will be a good parish home. You always will be a part of me. I will show up occasionally for services when I'm in town to do flowers at the cathedral or to visit friends and relatives. The parish office has my address and phone number. And I'll join Tudor and many of you in the Memorial Garden when the time comes. Continue doing all your great work! I will miss you.

Elaine F Davies

EVENSONG, NOVEMBER 5 Although the reservations are full for the Harvest Dinner, please join us for Evensong in the Immanuel Chapel at 6 p.m. on Saturday, November 5.

**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.

PRAYER FOR AN ELECTION Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States in the election of a president, and of officials and other representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Book of Common Prayer, p. 822

ANOTHER GREAT NIGHT OF PUMPKINS AND FELLOWSHIP:

On Sunday, October 23, Immanuel's EYC hosted its second annual Pumpkin Carving and Bonfire Extravaganza. This was a special youth event open our neighboring Episcopal Churches in the City of Alexandria. Once again the event was a tremendous success of games, carving pumpkins, eating dinner, roasting S'mores and generally enjoying fellowship around a bonfire.

We were joined by approximately forty six youth from four churches, many of whom entered as strangers but all left as friends. It was a fantastic experience to watch so many of the youth connect for the first time with someone that they did not know went to the same school or lived in their neighborhoods. Ultimately, this type of gathering helps all of our youth create the basis for meaningful relationships and grow into a larger community of faith that will serve them well throughout their lives. However, this event could not have happened or have been the success that it was without the hard work, creativity and dedication of Immanuel's youth and their advisors.

All of our youth, especially Addie, Amanda, Lily, Maddie, Phoebe, and Thomas made Immanuel proud with their hospitality and leadership. In addition, our EYC advisors Andy Biache, Chrissie Crosby, Jeannie Eisenhour, Jim Kurz, and Kyrach Drasheff deserve special thanks for their continuous support and dedication leading up to the event and for all of their help throughout the night. Immanuel is truly blessed to have these special individuals guiding and supporting our youth.



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





ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL...

The children in Sunday School worked together to build and decorate a beautiful birdhouse that is now a permanent addition to Immanuel's gardens. This wonderful gift was part of their lessons on Noah and the Ark. In keeping with the lessons of that story the children built the birdhouse so that they may take part in helping to care for all of God's creatures, great and small. We invite you to venture out to the garden to see for yourself the children's handy work that will help feed the birds, squirrels and chipmunks throughout the coming winter months and beyond.

CHILDREN'S EUCHARIST CONTINUES, ALONG WITH CHILDREN'S CHAPEL



On Sunday November 6, at the 9:00 a.m. service we will once again offer our Children's Eucharist and all ages are warmly invited to join us. As we saw earlier this month this special Eucharist was well received by our children particularly during Father Randy's homily. As this service grows and evolves naturally, it is our hope that children will grow to feel engaged and included in the worship experience of Immanuel. In addition as we continue on this journey together we pray for 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 to Immanuel. This includes the offerings of weekly Children's Chapel during the 11:15 Holy Eucharist.

Children's Chapel is held in the small chapel adjacent to the main worship space and begins at the start of the service and concludes at the Passing of the Peace when children will return in time for Communion with their parents. This is addition to our services is offered in hopes to meet the desires of families who need a later service on Sundays.

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

ADVENT IS COMING, ARE YOU GETTING EXCITED?

Begin the season of joyous anticipation and come make a family Advent wreath. Families of all ages are once again invited to join us for this year's Advent Family Work Shop. Immanuel Church will be hosting this fantastic workshop on the first Sunday in Advent, November 27 from 1:00-3:30pm, in the Parish Hall of Zabriskie Chapel. There will be lunch, wreath making materials and plenty of opportunities for fun, fellowship and a little learning.

A selection of baked chicken, eggplant parmesan, salad, and refreshments will be provided. Please feel free to bring a side or main dish to share should you prefer something additional.

Wreath-making materials will be made available, but all families are kindly asked, if able, to bring blue ribbon. In addition, individuals are also invited to bring any additional materials they wish to add to their wreaths or to share with others. For example, holly and evergreen cuttings are two materials that are always in high demand but forever in short supply and we will be grateful for any donations received.



Please stay tuned for more information to come. In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like to help in any way please contact John Hogg at jhogg@icoh.net

PARISH LIFE AT IMMANUEL



Above: Former Secretary of State Madeline Albright joined us on September 25 for Evensong and a talk on “The Life of Faith and the Faith of the Nation.”



Immanuel parishioner Kevin Wensing presented a pumpkin from our Patch to Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack.



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.

MUGS AND MAGNETS

Parishioners have been enjoying their post-service coffee in stunning new **75th Anniversary Mugs**, emblazoned with the church seal and our new anniversary logo. After several requests from your fellow congregants, we're making the mugs available for sale -- \$10 for a single mug, \$15 for two -- all proceeds to defray the costs of planned special events for our anniversary year (stay tuned)! Also available (at no charge) is the parish seal on a magnet or a sticker. Come show your pride in our parish and pick up one or both of these!





Immanuel Church on the Hill Senior Ministry

presents...

The 2016 Brown Bag Lunch Series

FRESSEN UND SINGEN: A FALL BROWN BAG LUNCH CONCERT

FEATURING SOPRANO CAROL KNOWLES
ACCOMPANIED BY DR. JANE TAVERNIER

2016

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2016

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

ZABRISKIE PARISH HALL

3606 SEMINARY ROAD, ALEXANDRIA VA 22304

RSVP BY 11/11/16 TO: [JADDINGTON@ICOH.NET](mailto:jaddington@icoh.net) OR (703) 370-6555.

Join Senior Ministry participants and guests for lunch and congenial conversation, followed by dessert, coffee and a cornucopia of art songs and arias. Soprano Carol Knowles, a vocal student of Immanuel's own organist and choirmaster, Dr. Jane Tavernier, will perform a medley of timeless treasures by Debussy, Schubert, Faure, Strauss, Mozart and Dvorak. Bring your lunch and a friend: we will supply dessert and refreshments.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Lectionary Readings and
Schedule of Services



November 6, The Sunday after All Saints'

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18; Psalm 149; Ephesians 1:11-23; Luke 6:20-31
7:45 a.m., HEI, and 9:00 a.m., HEII, Zabriskie Chapel, 11:15 a.m., HEII, Immanuel Chapel

November 13, The Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 65:17-25, Canticle 9; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-16; Luke 21:5-19
7:45 a.m., HEI, and 9:00 a.m., HE II, Zabriskie Chapel, 11:15 a.m., HEII, Immanuel Chapel

November 20, The Last Sunday after Pentecost, Christ the King

Jeremiah 23:1-6, Canticle 4; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43
7:45 a.m., HEI and 9:00 a.m., HE II, Zabriskie Chapel; 11:15 a.m., HEII, Immanuel Chapel