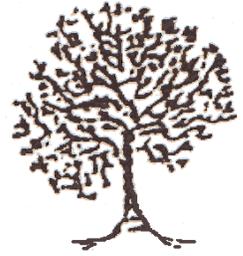




THE ALMOND TREE

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

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



January 19, 2016

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

VESTRY ELECTIONS & ANNUAL MEETING 2016

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

We will elect five new members to the vestry on Sunday, January 31.

Departing members of the vestry are Rick Glassco, Martha Manson, Sudie McGahuey, Martha Sedgwick, and me.

Five parishioners have agreed to stand for election for the five slots. The vestry candidates were asked to respond to a list of questions about their lives at Immanuel. You will find their statements below.

I would like to express particular gratitude to the members of our Nominating Committee for helping to organize this election: Randy Alexander, Ken McDonald, and the departing members of the vestry class of 2016.

Sincerely,

Sara Fein, Senior Warden

VESTRY CANDIDATES

John Bednar



Summarize your church activities and some of the qualities you might bring to vestry service

I have worshiped at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill for 36 years, with interruptions. I accompanied my family on military assignments to Korea and to Germany. I was baptized at Grace Church, Alexandria and confirmed here at Immanuel. I was an acolyte here for seven years. Both of my parents, Dick and Judy Bednar, also worship here. My mother's parents worshiped at Immanuel. My grandfather, Leonard Jaudon, served on the vestry; my grandmother, Dorothy Phillips Jaudon, was on the altar guild.

I am an avid supporter of the Pumpkin Patch; I have donated many hours of my time as a "Pumpkin Man." I am a member of the altar guild. I am currently serving on the Facilities Committee, Outreach Committee and the Communications Committee. I have fried bacon and made pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. I have helped clean up the memorial garden, solved Information Technology issues for our clergy and staff, conducted an inventory of Immanuel's information technology equipment, and served on the emergency response team to help with flooding events. I also provide audio/visual support for both chapels.

I have a strong desire to serve; I bring the energy and enthusiasm of a young man; I have generously given my time and talents to Immanuel and I am ready to do more at a different level.

Describe something that you find very valuable or something that you love about Immanuel

I enjoy the fellowship. Members of Immanuel are like family to me. I feel at home here. I am glad we have a strong outreach program.

Describe how you view the ministry of the vestry as part of your Christian journey

Serving on the vestry would allow me to participate more deeply and more personally in the growth of our shared ministry.



Janice Corbett

Summarize your church activities and some of the qualities you might bring to vestry service

I joined Immanuel in 2002 while I was in Washington preparing for my posting in Brazil. I returned to Immanuel in 2010 after my last overseas assignment and began working in the Pumpkin Patch where I met many members of the church and began to really feel like a part of the Immanuel community. I also enjoy participating in Immanuel's Shrine Mont retreat and the Immanuel knitters. In 2014 I became a chalice bearer.

As a Foreign Service Officer, worshiping in the Episcopal Church provided constancy throughout my career. From this transient life, I gained an understanding of different cultures, people's needs and life challenges. I know what it's like to be new to a parish and the difference a warm welcome and a sense of belonging can make in someone's

life.

I bring leadership, management, organizational, and listening skills and a strong sense of team work to the vestry, gained from managing complex operations in a variety of cultures. These skills will enable me to listen to the congregation's needs and desires and to work with the team of vestry members to maintain programs or implement changes that Immanuel's community desires.

Describe something that you find very valuable or something that you love about Immanuel

I value Immanuel's close knit congregation, warm and welcoming congregation, strong community outreach and educational opportunities.

Describe how you view the ministry of the vestry as part of your Christian journey

I admire the members' solid commitment and contributions that make worshiping at Immanuel such a rewarding experience. I would like to make a greater personal commitment to the parish and expand my Christian journey beyond worship to personal action to make a positive contribution to the community.



Jeannie Cummins Eisenhour

Summarize your church activities and some of the qualities you might bring to vestry service

My mother-in-law first suggested I join her for a service at Immanuel Church- on-the-Hill in 2004. My children and I were warmly greeted by a host of wonderful clergy and families, and soon I became involved in the annual Homecoming show, Christmas pageant, pumpkin sales and Shrine Mont trips. As my children grew, I became a lay reader, sang periodically in the choir, and participated in the selection committee for the current music director. Over the past four years, I have led efforts to revitalize youth programs and supported the expansion of music offerings across services. I bring several

important qualities to vestry service, including an open mind, a commitment to inclusive decision making, a willingness to work through conflict to find creative solutions and an ability to define outcomes and measure progress.

Describe something that you find very valuable or something that you love about Immanuel

Of all that I love about Immanuel, perhaps what stands out most is how everyone is welcomed and welcomed back, regardless of who they are, where they come from, what their politics are, or where they are on their spiritual path. It is one small but meaningful way we try to reflect God's love for us in daily life.

Describe how you view the ministry of the vestry as part of your Christian journey

The ministry of vestry service represents an iterative growth opportunity on my Christian journey. We are navigating multiple challenges, such as a new worship space, changing demographics, and a culture that increasingly relies on instant communication using a maximum of 140 characters. These challenges occur against a backdrop of

unprecedented economic, social and political strife in our nation and throughout the world. I hope to help shape this parish's approaches to worship, formation, and outreach in this context, always beginning with the verse that inspires us, "Go Ye Into the World and Preach the Gospel." At the same time, I anticipate this parish community will encourage me to step outside my own limited perspective and explore others' unique experiences of the Way, so I can deepen my understanding of worship, formation and outreach. I pray these deeper understandings will allow me to make meaningful contributions to our life together as a congregation and to the glory of God.



Dorothy Kellogg

Summarize your church activities and some of the qualities you might bring to vestry service

The Kelloggs found Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill about 26 years ago – a young couple looking for a church home in which to raise a soon-to-be-found son. One of us came from an active church family, the other not so much. What we found – all of us – vastly exceeded our expectations of what “church” and a “church family” could be. We sang together, our sons were baptized here, and Jim lies in the Memorial Garden. Now David and I plan to be married here. What a blessing, comfort, and joy this place is.

Through the years I have tried to be an active and contributing member of our community on the Hill. I sing in the choir, I’ve taught Sunday school and Godly Play, I’m a member of the altar guild (brass is my specialty – you do not want to see my sad experiments with flowers), I’ve served on the worship committee, two search committees, the strategic planning committee, and the vestry (2007-2009). Oh yes, I also co-directed about a dozen Homecoming Shows – what talented people worship here!

What do I think/believe/hope I would bring to your Vestry? My career has been with consensus-based membership organizations through which (I hope) I’ve developed skills in planning, budgeting, administration, and especially consensus building among people of good will and different perspectives. During my previous vestry term I was the co-worship steward (three years) and registrar (two years).

Describe how you view the ministry of the vestry as part of your Christian journey

I have a lengthy yet still growing love for this parish. I relish an opportunity to work with the clergy, staff, congregation and vestry colleagues as we explore worship in two spaces, opportunities for outreach, welcome to newcomers and guests, spiritual growth and renewal, fellowship and all the other challenges and opportunities the next three years will present.



Bill Kilpatrick

Summarize your church activities and some of the qualities you might bring to vestry service

I came to Immanuel Church for the preaching and found a community. I have previously served on the vestry, I have served on a Lay Committee and a Search Committee, and I have been a reader and an usher. My career was in banking and investment management. I am now retired but remain as a consultant for my former employer. Over the past 25 years, I have served on various boards and committees for the Inova Health System, Goodwin House and other organizations. I am a Rotarian.

Describe something that you find very valuable or something that you love about Immanuel

Two years ago, I was seriously sick and received prayerful support from the clergy and the Immanuel community. For this, I will always be grateful.

Describe how you view the ministry of the vestry as part of your Christian journey

I hope to use my experience to help Immanuel to continue its ministry in the community and the parish.



RANDI HICKS ROWE: IMMANUEL'S NEWEST DEACON was ordained to the transitional diaconate here at Zabriskie Chapel on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, 2016. She was ordained by Suffragan Bishop Susan E Goff before a crowd of about 150 friends and family. Randi is a longtime member of Immanuel, serving here on the Pastoral Care Committee and in Circle of Quiet. She worked as a journalist, Fortune 500 executive, and communications consultant before answering a call to be a professional Christian educator in the Episcopal Church. She has served as a lay Christian formation associate in parishes in Northern

Virginia for 10 years. After having served in parishes for some time, she began to discern a call to a pastoral and sacramental ministry, as well as a call to preach God's word. That call has led her, through many twists and turns, to where she is now – God willing – on the verge of being ordained as a priest.

Randi feels a strong call to serve small parishes, either on a full-time basis or as a bivocational ministry (which is a ministry in which time is divided between duties of a parish priest and other duties in the nonprofit or institutional world such as teaching or compassion ministries.) Currently, she is serving part-time at Church of the Resurrection. She also is working part-time as an outreach/marketing specialist for Village Rides, a transportation program for elders of all faiths and ethnicities in Montgomery County that is administered by the Jewish Council for the Aging; and as an adjunct professor of management communications at California University of Management and Sciences near Ballston Common Mall.

She is married to Tom Rowe and has a stepdaughter, Megan. She has a bachelor's degree in communications, an MBA, and a Master of Arts in Christian Education from Virginia Theological Seminary.



Photos by Lenore M. Funkhouser

MILESTONES 2015

Baptisms

Carter Shepherd Harris
Sophia Ann McCaslin
Walter Glenn Nordin
Adeline Lois Haskin
Abigail Hsieh DeVight
Walter Richard Bednar
Katherine Collins Groth

Transfers In

Michael and Diana Walker
Sharon Swain

Confirmations/Receptions

William Stirling Alexander
Martha Lisbeth Christino
Lily Margot Clausen
Madison Hailey Eaton
Isabel Grace McCorvie Frye
Timothy Kevin Kirby
Abigail Cait Tighe Murray
Henry Ridaio Page
Leif Reinemer Siegrist
Scott Middleton Bunn
Wendy Lane John
Wayne Reinhard Iskra
Sheila Russell Iskra

Marriages

Francine Wargo and Caroline Bergmark

Transfers Out or Moved Away

Jacquelyn Bednarz
Suzanne Lamb
James Richmond Hobson
Nancy Saussy Hobson
Gillian Anne Boam
Richard E. Rath
Margaret Burns Rath
James P. Rath
Brentan R. Rath
W. Michael Briggs
Sandy S. Briggs

Deaths/Burials in Memorial Garden

Eugenie (Danie) Rove Barrows+
Grace W. Finne
Virginia LaRochelle Wetherbee
George Alfred Currie+
Virginia Brown Guild+
Douglas Randolph Nolan
Mary Jane Wade

+In the Immanuel Memorial Garden

Newcomers not yet joined, but active

David, Jill, Colin and Ryan Baird
Amy and Bill Bertles
Margaret Bonifant
Jane and Rick Dimsey
Tim and Ashley Groth
Caroline Hicks
John and Mary Mazzuchi
Allison St. Louis
Emily Vinyard

WEATHER ADVISORY: With the likelihood of a “snow event” this weekend, it is a good time to remind everyone that if the Fairfax County Schools are closed, then the office will be closed as well. Any change to Sunday services will be announced on the website.



A NOTE FROM THE REV. DR. FRANK WADE:

Dear Friends,

My family and I are deeply touched and greatly strengthened by your response to Mary's sudden death last month. I lack the ability to sort through and name each kindness in a manner worthy of its impact and meaning. The aggregate, however, is like a fireworks display with a great explosion in the center followed by myriad colors and shades of beauty. Mary's sudden death was the explosion and your response has been the beauty.

I am no longer surprised to see God's Spirit at work in our church, but I remain profoundly thankful for it.

Frank Wade

THE ASSOCIATE'S CORNER: One of the numerous joys of being your Associate, so close to Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS), are the opportunities I have to share in your pastoral ministry as a "teaching church" for those the Church raises up as future leaders. It also affords me many opportunities to 'give back' to my seminary.

As I have been a priest now for more than three years, I am stepping in the realm of becoming a VTS Field Education supervisor working with seminarians. Pilar Padrón, a middler from the Diocese of Western New York, will join us January 31st for the next year and a half; I will be her supervisor. [We will share a profile regarding Pilar in an upcoming edition of The Almond Tree.]

I had a positive field ed experience in NW Washington D.C. during seminary, and I look forward to enhancing my own leadership skills as part of this new work. Pilar is presently in the Holy Land with a VTS immersion group, but she is already giving thought and prayer to identifying her growing edges and learning goals to develop a Learning Covenant for her time here at Immanuel. I will be asking some of you to prayerfully consider if you might work directly with Pilar, and indirectly with me, on her Seminarian Lay Committee.

A blurb about working with seminarians from our website: "A lay committee is convened for each seminarian completing his/her field education during the academic year at Immanuel. The lay committee is established on an ad hoc basis and consists of five to seven members who are requested to serve by the clergy, as well as a representative from the Vestry. Essentially the purpose of the lay committee is twofold: to assist the seminarian in his or her development as a Christian minister; and to walk with the seminarian as fellow pilgrims and disciples, who share in common the joys and struggles of life and faith, growing and learning together."

Please continue your thoughts, prayers and encouragement for our senior seminarians, Kyle Martindale and Rachel Shows, as they complete their field education experience with us, and be ready to welcome Pilar as she begins her learning and ministry among us. Pray for me also.

Blessings & Peace, David+



LOST AND FOUND? We are looking for the 3 cream colored plastic bins, about 1 x 2ft in size, that we use for apple crisp making and also collecting dirty dishes after parish events. Also missing is the glass beverage dispenser (like an inverted bowl). All leads appreciated. Sudie McGahuey

Also (still) missing is a black leather bound prayer book/hymnal combination, with black electrical tape over a name on the front cover. Please let the office know if you have picked it up inadvertently.

JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM RETREAT 2/20: St. Paul's Baileys Crossroads, St. John's Arlington, and Church of the Resurrection Alexandria are offering a morning Lenten Retreat at St. John's Episcopal Church, 415 South Lexington Street, Arlington, on Saturday, February 20, from 9:00am-noon. Entitled "Journey to Jerusalem," the retreat will have three segments: one on self-examination using both Jesuit and 12-Step practice; one on the intentionality of 'Adding in' rather than 'Giving up' during Lent; and one on prayer and meditation with use of Taizé. All are welcome.

2016 ALEXANDRIA ECUMENICAL LENTEN SERIES

The Theology of Harry Potter

Join us for a Lenten adventure. On our first night, your Muggle experience of past Lents will end and you will be sorted into one of the four Houses. (Suggestion: don't give up chocolate frogs for Lent). Come and let your imagination be fed this Lent so that it might feed your faith for the rest of the year. All ages are welcome.

No prior knowledge of Christianity or of the Harry Potter stories is necessary to be a Seeker!

6:30 p.m. worship, 7:00 p.m. simple supper, and 7:30-8:30 p.m. program

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Host</i>
Wednesday, Feb. 17	★ Why you should care about Harry Potter	St. Paul's 228 S. Pitt St., Alexandria 22314 www.stpaulsalexandria.com/
Wednesday, Feb. 24	★ Choosing between good and evil	Meade/Resurrection 322 N. Alfred St., Alexandria 22314 www.meadechurch.org/
Wednesday, Mar. 2	★ Judging other people	Christ Church 118 N Washington St., Alexandria 22314 www.historicchristchurch.org/
Wednesday, Mar. 9	★ Storing up treasure	Fairlington UMC 3900 King St., Alexandria 22302 www.fairlingtonumc.org/
Wednesday, Mar. 16	★ Casting a spell of forgiveness	Church of St. Clement 1701 N. Quaker Ln., Alexandria 22302 www.saintclement.org

J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series embeds deeply Christian themes. As Christians, we need to be able to make these connections precisely because a vast majority of millennials have embraced its precepts but don't know them to be Christian.

The Rev. Patricia Lyons will lead our 2016 Alexandria Ecumenical Lenten Series. She is an honors graduate from Harvard College in the Comparative Study of Religion. She holds a Master of Divinity degree from the Harvard Divinity School, with a focus on Biblical languages and systematic theology. She received her doctorate from the Virginia Theological Seminary. Her doctoral thesis was a study of the stages of moral and spiritual development of adolescents. Patricia is the author of *The Soul of Adolescence*, a book focused on the spiritual life of teenagers. In November 2015, she was ordained to the transitional diaconate in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington.

Dr. Lyons is currently the Assistant Rector at Christ Church, Capitol Hill and has taught theology at Episcopal High School in Alexandria, as well as teaching summer and evening courses in systematic theology at the Virginia Theological Seminary. Dr. Lyons has taught at seminaries and in parishes on C. S. Lewis, Sigmund Freud, and faith development in families. In addition, she has delivered more than 100 classes, lectures and workshops across the country on the theological themes in Harry Potter. She is currently working on her latest book, *Harry Potter for the Pulpit*, on using Rowling's epic for teaching and preaching the Christian faith.



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



January 24, The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19, 9-14; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

8:00 a.m., HEI, 10:30 a.m., Holy Baptism and HEII

January 31, The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:30 a.m., HEII

February 7, The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99, 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2

8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:30 a.m., HEII