



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 12, 2017

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

BISHOP'S VISITATION: This Sunday, January 15th, the Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston, Bishop of Virginia, will be with us at the 10:30 Eucharist in Immanuel Chapel to preach, celebrate, and receive members of the parish into the Episcopal Church. **He will also lead a forum**, beginning at 9:15 in the Parish Hall at Zabriskie Chapel, including time for questions and answers about the life of the Diocese. There will be a festive reception in the Welcome Center following the 10:30 Eucharist. Please come to share in this time with our Bishop, and to celebrate this important occasion in the ongoing celebration of our 75th anniversary.

THE IMMANUEL GUILD OF BELL RINGERS will be ringing for the Bishop's visit Sunday. From 9:30-10:30 a.m. the Quarter Peal attempt will be rung by Ringers from National Cathedral who are also members of our Immanuel Guild. After the service's conclusion until about 12:30 p.m., several Ringers, including Immanuel parishioners, will be ringing rounds and call changes. Bell ringers from the parish are: Rick Glassco, Sarah Glassco, Karen Besser, Martha Byron, and Candy Levin.

VESTRY ELECTIONS & ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 22, 2017

Vestry candidates were asked to respond to the following three questions:

1. Summarize your church activities and some of the qualities you would bring to Vestry service.
2. Describe something that you find very valuable or that you love about Immanuel.
3. Describe how you would view the ministry of the Vestry as part of your Christian journey.



KAREN BESSER: 1. Since coming home to Immanuel 40 years ago, I have taught Sunday school and led jr/sr high youth groups, represented Immanuel on the board of Carpenter's Lodging, and participated in worship planning and EFM. But my longest commitment to our corporate life has been 38 years singing with the choir.

I bring a long view of the life of this parish and familiarity with its rhythms, and experience with various aspects of our ministry.

2. So many things to love about Immanuel. It is wonderful to me that so many Immanuel families include adults who grew up in the parish. I value our terrific preaching and lovely music. And I love the impact of joy and hope the parish brings to our community via the pumpkin patch and

Christmas families.

3. My last vestry term was during staff turnover at Immanuel which brought challenges to the parish. And yet we saw the advent of the pumpkin patch! A parish life has its ups and downs, and accepting and embracing that as gift and opportunity is a significant aspect of my Christian journey.



JIM CLAUSEN 1. Since officially joining Immanuel in 1991, I have taught Sunday School (preschool) and been Sunday School Coordinator; served on the Vestry as Junior Warden (2000-2002); led one Lay Committee workgroup and participated on another; served on our latest Rector Search Committee; and have sung in the choir (joyfully, if not skillfully) since about the mid-'90s. I've also participated in many of the fall Bicycles-For-Christmas charity workshops, and every pumpkin unloading since the start of that great program. As a retired Naval Officer and current Federal Civil Servant, I can bring

organizational ability, strategic planning skills, conflict resolution experience and energy to the Vestry. I am deeply committed to this parish, and have a vested interest in its long term success. My wife and I were married at Immanuel in 1982, and 3 of our 4 children were baptized here...it is my spiritual (and in many ways) my social home.

2. Immanuel parishioners are educated, spiritual, open-minded, versatile, charitable, inquisitive - and fun! Our congregation is, obviously, the most valuable part of our Church; and I love spending time here. I feel uplifted and empowered with every engagement. Our close ties with VTS and Shrinemont are - to me - "crown jewels" of the parish. I am deeply gratified to be able to worship regularly at the beautiful new Immanuel Chapel, and enjoy the outdoor serenity of Shrinemont a few times every year. Our Rector and our Director of Music bring us closer to God, with beauty and grace, at every service...and I know we are very lucky to have such competent, caring professionals in our midst. I am also very grateful for the efforts of our loving and capable volunteer parishioner Sunday School teachers and our Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries. Our youth is our future - and that future looks bright!

3. I believe that Vestry service is a duty and privilege for all parishioners who are able to serve. As much as I gain from my association with this parish, taking a turn "in the driver's seat" from time to time is a welcome responsibility and small payment for the many benefits I, and my family, accrue. Vestry service will deepen my relationship with the Rector and his staff, and with parishioners with whom I do not regularly connect. In this sense, it is very much an outreach mission with existing parishioners and, very importantly, with potential new congregants. I expect that Vestry duty will "turbocharge" the evangelical spirit within me to enable spiritual satisfaction of current parishioners, continued growth of the congregation as a whole, and always needed personal growth.



MARK FEARER 1. I have regularly attended Immanuel for 5 full years, that being 2012 as a visitor and 2013 present as a received member (received January, 2013). My significant other, Marie Repsher, frequently worships with me and attends church functions. As to church activities: Lay Eucharistic Visitor, Circle of Quiet, Communications Committee on which my service includes videotaping sermons for the website, and Lay Committees for Seminarians Rachel Shows and Halim Shukair.

2. Inspirational in getting Jesus' message across, accepting, caring, non-judgmental, outreach. I find the operations of a church to be interesting – all of the moving parts that go into pulling off a service.

3. If it is a Calling for me to do so, I offer my time, commitment, experience and collaborative spirit toward the functions of Immanuel.



JIM WISE 1. As a cradle Episcopalian I was baptized and confirmed at St Albans/DC. We have been members of Immanuel since Palm Sunday 1986. While at Immanuel I have been chair of the now-defunct Nursery Committee (and hired Gilma in 1988), sung in the choir for six years, taught Sunday School with my wife Nancy, have worked the Pumpkin Patch every year since its inception, wrapped and delivered gifts for Christmas Families every year, and served on the vestry. I am currently one of three co-chairs of the Outreach Committee, coordinate Immanuel's liaison with Temple Beth El on the Oral Rehydration Project, and Nancy and I are Immanuel's congregational reps to ALIVE! I believe in the power of community and community involvement, and helping those less fortunate. In my professional life I have budget, contract and marketing experience, as well as extensive writing skills.

2. The members are what make Immanuel such a great place to worship, with a global view manifested through local, national and international involvement. As ALIVE! rep I can attest to Immanuel's stellar reputation in the City as a church that gets involved and can be counted on to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves.

3 Simply, that being a part of this (or any) parish requires commitment and contribution. As the saying goes, we're stronger together, and that requires contributions from all of us. I view taking a turn on the vestry as a part of that contribution.

THANKS FROM THE YOUTH DIRECTOR! Immanuel once again enjoyed a wonderful Christmas Eve Pageant. This could not, and would not, have happened without the tireless effort of many of our fellow parishioners especially the children. This monumental task happens yearly and yet I am amazed by the enthusiasm and dedication that is constantly brought into the season by everyone working on the pageant. . The congregation was the clear winner for witnessing the performance and I heard more than one parishioner remark on their amazement in our children's delivery. Therefore, I want to thank all the participants, assistants, and parents for delivering such a wonderful pageant and I wish to express my deep gratitude for everyone's hard work and commitment over the many, many weeks leading up to Christmas Eve.
In Peace, John Hogg, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

NOTES FROM THE DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA, A TAXWISE OPPORTUNITY: *An IRA Rollover Gift is a Simple way to make a Gift:* If you are 70½ or older and own a traditional IRA, please consider making an IRA charitable rollover gift. You can make a gift of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to your parish this year. Your gift will:

- not be included in your taxable income.
- satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year.
- reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions
- not be subject to the 50% limitation on charitable gifts.
- help the programs and ministries of your parish.

An IRA charitable rollover is a very simple gift to make. Please contact us or your IRA administrator for assistance in completing an IRA charitable rollover gift. Don't miss the chance to make a charitable IRA gift this year!

Planned giving is a vital part of the Diocese's stewardship program. It can generate current gifts to support your church's annual operating budget and capital campaigns as well as long term gifts. We hope you and your parish will find these planned giving resources to be helpful. Let me know if the Diocese can assist your parish with its planned giving or capital campaign needs. Please contact Julie Simonton at jsimonton@thediocese.net

VTS EVENING SCHOOL SPRING SEMESTER REGISTRATION takes place from January 13 to 30.

There are especially interesting courses being offered for us all. For instance: *Ethics for Every Christian: From Social Issues to Sex*, taught by the Very Rev. Ian Markham; *Family Ministry*, (ministry to families in the Church today and in the future), taught by Dr. Amy Dyer; *How Shall We Read Revelations: Millennial Madness or Apocalyptic Ethic?* taught by Rev. Katherine Grieb; *Dante: Going to Hell and Getting to Heaven*, taught by Rt. Rev. Dr. Porter Taylor; and *Muhammad: Man and Mission*, taught by Dr. Zeyneb Sayilgan. **To learn more, go to www.vts.edu/evening or contact Anne Karoly, akaroly@vts.edu or attend *A Taste of Evening School* on Wed. Jan. 18, at VTS Addison Academic Center, Lower Level: 6:45 PM Reception and Information Fair; 7:30 PM *The Place of Honor: Class in Church and Society*, a three person panel discussion**

COME TO THE SHRINEMONTERS' MUSICAL SENDOFF FOR KYRAH DRASHEFF AND JOHN VON SENDEN! Immanuel stalwarts Kyrah and John are finally making good on the noises they've long made about moving back to the Redneck Riviera. Kyrah is a founding member of Immanuel's ShrineMonters, and they want to have one last celebratory gig before she heads south. The event will be Saturday, Feb. 4 in the Parish Hall, starting at 7:30. The band will play a set of their personal favorites for your entertainment, and then things will degenerate predictably into a big happy sing- and play- along. Come join us! BYOB (and food), basically.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



ALIVE FOOD DRIVE Please remember that January is one of the two months when Immanuel collects food in support of the ALIVE! food drive for the needy. Donations can be left in either Narthex (Immanuel Chapel or Zabriskie Chapel) for collection. Items that are most useful to contribute include: canned meat/tuna, canned spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, soup, peanut butter & jelly, complete pancake mix/syrup, dried milk, pasta and other non-perishable items. Cash donations are also welcome and should be given to Nancy or Jim Wise (703-642-8225 or jrwise52@hotmail.com). ALIVE! thanks you for your support.

PLEDGE ENVELOPES are available in the narthex of both Zabriskie Chapel and Immanuel Chapel. Please feel free to take a set.

Lectionary Readings and Schedule of Services



January 15, The Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-12; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42
7:45 a.m., HEI, 10:30 a.m., (Bishop's visitation, Reception and HEII)

January 22, The Third Sunday after the Epiphany, Annual Meeting
Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 5-13; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23
7:45 a.m., HEI; 9:00 a.m., HE II; 11:15 a.m., HE II

January 29, The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12
7:45 a.m., HEI; 9:00 a.m., HE II; 11:15 a.m., HE II