



# 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



February 3, 2017

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

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### REPORTS FROM DIOCESAN CONVENTION

The 222<sup>nd</sup> convention of the Diocese of Virginia met recently in Reston.

Here are the reports of our three delegates.

1. What hit me the most at the Convention was the call to action from our bishops and from our keynote speaker, Bishop Wright of Atlanta. To quote Bishop Johnston "The Church must and **will** be heard. I ask you to consider what your own 'faith in the public square' might look like-and sound like: what would prompt you to step up and speak out?" The Church must not be political but we must be the center of the Jesus movement. The theme of the Convention was Walk in Love. Bishop Wright said that the present conflict is an opportunity for us to show love. He quoted Malcolm X, "no one can do everything but everyone can do something." All three of our bishops stated willingness to be arrested for civil disobedience if necessary.

I was also impressed by activities of the Diocese with reports on acts of its 15 regions, on its 30 mission churches, its organizations working with the poor and disabled and all of its committees for outreach, Episcopal schools and retirement communities. The stories of our activities presented were inspiring. *Everett Post*

2. Rousing keynote address and Friday afternoon Eucharist homily by the Right Reverend Rob Wright, Bishop of Atlanta. He has an amazing personal story and even more amazing preaching style. Look him up on Wikipedia. Well run affair. As our former Rector, Steve Wade, would say, "There's no friction on the Diocesan clutch." Our Rector was elected as a delegate to the 2018 General Convention in Austin, TX. Well done and well deserved. He is also on the Diocesan Standing Committee, and chairs the Committee on the Priesthood. The annual budget of the Diocese shows an income stream of \$5.1M, which seems less than I imagined. A close reading shows significant support to Shrine Mont, mission churches, and other outreach. The Associate Rector serves on the Executive Board (think Diocesan Vestry) and the Budget Committee. Heartfelt welcoming address by the Right Reverend Shannon Johnston. It is available on the Diocesan web site. Recommended reading for everyone. No particularly contentious or controversial resolutions (expansion of Medicaid in the Commonwealth & increased family leave) were offered. All passed by acclamation. Lots of support to expand the college ministries within the Diocese (UVA, JMU, George Mason, Nova, etc.) I was pleased to see that Immanuel ranked #2 in the Diocese in terms of our Diocesan pledge as a % of our budget. Right at 13% where we should be. Many churches gave significantly less, but in fairness the data were incomplete in many cases. *Doug Henry*

3. The theme of the 2017 Diocesan Convention was "Walk in Love," and the message was strong and apparent in every address, Friday's sermon, and all the reports. I came away inspired and hopeful for the future of the Church, while fully acknowledging that there is much work to be done by all, from our engaged and loving Bishops down to our parishioners in the pews throughout the Commonwealth and across the world.

One of the first things accomplished on Friday was the unanimous passage of several resolutions. Two that may be of most interest to the congregation are one that urges our Governor and Legislature to guarantee adequate health care and insurance for all people, especially those of limited means; and another updates the Diocese of Virginia Family Leave Policy and supports paid maternity and paternity leave for all employees within Virginia.

Throughout the weekend we heard 'Stories of the Diocese,' and one that everyone especially enjoyed was from students at St. Stephens and St. Agnes who explained their project on Design Thinking targeting solutions that would help their grandparents (continued next page).

Amendments to the Constitutions and Canon, in addition to the budget were also passed, and they can be reviewed on the Diocesan website along with reports and awards that were presented.

I attended two workshops on Saturday. The first was called a Conversation between an Imam and a Priest - a dialogue across differences, with a side order of friendship. I also attended a great session on Mindful Meditation.

For me, two of the highlights of the convention were the keynote address and the sermon, which were both presented by The Rt. Rev. Robert C Wright, Bishop of the Diocese of Atlanta. I am hopeful that both will be on the website, and I cannot recommend more strongly that everyone tune in to hear his words. Prepare to be inspired! In his witty and engaging way, the Bishop reminded us all of the words of Malcolm X who said "No one can do everything, but everyone can do something."

I came away from the experience gratified that in pledging to follow our Lord's declaration of purpose to Walk in Love, the leaders of our Diocese pledged to help all those who might be disenfranchised by recent bans that might cause harm to refugees. In addition, the Church will be supporting efforts to reach out more to students on college campuses across the state.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to represent our parish at this wonderful convention! I will cherish the experience and am inspired to do more.

*Martha Manson*

### **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.

**STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:** Almost there! As of February 2, we had received **174** pledges for 2017, for a total of **\$598,413.10**. Our newly-approved budget includes a pledge goal of **\$600,000**, so we have a little ways yet to go. If you have not yet pledged you may do so by completing a pledge card in either narthex and dropping it in the offering plate, or mailing it in to the office, or you may pledge online at [icoh.net](http://icoh.net), following the Stewardship button on the homepage. 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, towards the growth of God's Kingdom.

**NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATE RECTOR:** I am happy to share that, on the 3rd Wednesday each month, I will serve as a volunteer Nave Chaplain at the Washington National Cathedral. Offering a pastoral presence to cathedral visitors, I will lead a regular interval of prayer throughout the day, celebrate and preach at the noonday Eucharist, and lead a Prayer and Intercessions service at 2:30 p.m. Look for specific reminders in future Sunday bulletin Parish Notes and The Almond Tree. I hope I might see you at the Cathedral. ~ David+



**MARDI GRAS DINNER Sunday, February 19, at 6:00 p.m. in the Zabriskie Parish Hall.** The Senior Ministry invites you to enjoy fine New Orleans fare and *laissez les bon temps rouler!* Registration is \$20 per person (payable at the door) and seating is limited to 80 people. RSVP no later than February 14<sup>th</sup> to Jennifer at [jaddington@icoh.net](mailto:jaddington@icoh.net) or 703-370-6555. Goodwin House will provide a van for transportation for the residents there. If you need a ride, please let Jennifer know that when you RSVP. Costumes, masks and beads are most appropriate!

**SAVE THE DATE:** February 19 – Alexandria Mayor, the Honorable Allison Silberberg, will join us for the Forum Hour that Sunday.

**SHARING A HAPPY OCCASION WITH THE PARISH.** Bill and Lisa Frye recently celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with a renewal of vows during the Sunday morning Eucharist. Pictured below are Bill and Lisa with their daughter Isabel and the clergy. Also below is a tribute Bill wrote to Lisa.

*To Lisa,*

*December 27, 2016*

*On the occasion of our rededication*

*Of marriage vows after 25 years of marriage.*

*You are my light and my love each morning.*

*You are my moon by night.*

*You are my guiding star.*

*You make all my life beautiful.*

*You have given humor, beauty and  
loving guidance through all these years.*

*You even have given us our lovely daughter,  
Isabel, with whom our life comes complete.*

*So I offer in return as much love and life and  
hope and joy as God may give our way.*

*I promise to remain your companion, still,  
for as long as God gives us in our next 25 years.*



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Rite II Yoda

**LENTEN SERIES ON THEOLOGY OF STARS WARS**

The five-week Region IV Lenten series will begin Wednesday, March 8, at Church of the Resurrection. Each evening includes Eucharist at 6:30 pm, simple supper at 7:00 pm, and program from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. This year, The Rev. Greg Millikin, Assistant to the Rector at St. Paul's in Alexandria, is leading all five sessions on the topic "The Theological Themes in Star Wars." Here is the line-up of dates, topics, and locations:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Theological Theme in Star Wars</u>	<u>Host Church</u>
March 8	Myth/Legend (call narratives in the Old Testament)	Church of the Resurrection
March 15	Temptation	St. Paul's
March 22	Journey	Emmanuel Church
March 29	Spirit	Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill
April 5	Redemption	Meade Memorial Church



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING:** Held this year from June 25-June 30. Immanuel will once again be joining the congregations of Grace Church and Christ Church for another wonderful and interactive week of praying, playing and learning. We are also actively seeking youth and adult volunteers to join the fun and come help. If you have questions or want to discuss the many volunteer opportunities, please contact John Hogg, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries ([jhogg@icoh.net](mailto:jhogg@icoh.net))



**OUR CYCLES OF PRAYER:** We are regularly encouraged to join our prayers with others around the world and throughout the Diocese of Virginia in our common witness to the works, needs, hurts, and joys in the Christian communion of the Anglican/Episcopal Church. So recently we reintroduced the discipline of including the Anglican and Diocesan Cycles of Prayer to our spoken Prayers of the People on Sundays.

In addition, we are beginning a Parish Cycle of Prayer. It will be specific to works begun, continued, and ended in the Name of Jesus Christ and to the Glory of God in this community that we know as Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill. These prayers, Sunday after Sunday, will be for a variety of Outreach, Education, Worship and Fellowship activities of our church as outlined in the Directory of Parish Ministries.

If you have any suggestions for this new Parish Cycle of Prayers, please contact Fr. David+. Thank you.

**NEW SUNDAY EVENING EUCHARIST:** Beginning Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m., Immanuel will sponsor jointly a new Sunday evening Eucharist, along with Virginia Theological Seminary and Episcopal High School. The Eucharist will be held in Immanuel Chapel, and it will feature a rotation of preachers, celebrants, readers, intercessors, and musical offerings from the three institutions. It will be a work in progress, and we will evaluate during the Spring whether it seems to be meeting a need. While now directed towards the Parish, the Seminary, and the High School, the hope would be to advertise the service as an intentional outreach to our neighborhood.



Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill  
Founded 1941  
Our 75th Anniversary Year



February 26: William Dols & Betty Wanamaker Appreciation Sunday

- Holy Eucharist – 7:45 am and 9:00 am
- Forum Hour – 10:15 am

April 23: Bob Trache Appreciation Sunday

- Holy Eucharist 7:45 am, 9:00 am, 11:15 am
- Forum Hour – 10:15 am

May 21: Haydn's "The Creation," a musical offering from Immanuel's choirs

- 10:30 Joint Service, Immanuel Chapel

June 11: Sam Faeth & Peter Ackerman Appreciation Sunday

- Holy Eucharist 7:45 am, 9:00 am, 11:15 am
- Forum Hour – 10:15 am

*\*\* Watch this space for more information \*\**

## RECENT CELEBRATIONS AT IMMANUEL



Christmas Families Ingathering



Christmas Pageant

**IMMANUEL LIBRARY UPDATE: It's time to fill the shelves!** The Immanuel Library committee, led by our senior parishioners, would like to invite everyone to peruse their bookshelves to see if there might be some volumes that they think might be good additions to help build our collection located in the Fairchild room. Feel free to stop in to see the subject areas that are coming together, and then send the church office the titles of your possible donations. **Please do NOT drop off any books at the church!** The library committee first needs to review the offerings to make sure we don't have duplications and also to glean the best choices for a balanced collection in the limited amount of space we have in the Fairchild Room. As soon as the committee has reviewed all potential donations, we will be back in touch to let contributors know, with our heartfelt gratitude, what books we are able to accept. If you are interested in making a contribution toward the purchase of some of the titles that our clergy has recommended, you may want to consider a financial contribution with note in the memo line that it is for the Immanuel library. Looking forward to a well-rounded and vibrant collection that will be well used by all our parishioners! Feel free to call if you have any questions. Martha Manson and Jeannie Cummings

**YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASS:** A Confirmation Class for young people, 13-14 years of age and older will be led by the Associate Rector. It is an interactive program that will offer meditative, prayerful sessions, inviting participants to explore the Book of Common Prayer and Holy Scriptures, to share their own faith journeys in light of our Christian heritage and our Episcopal tradition. There will be six 1.5 hour group sessions to cover what we believe in our Baptismal Covenant and the five promises we make by stating, "I will, with God's help" [BCP 304-305]. This opportunity is open also to anyone wishing to reaffirm their Baptismal vows. Please let Fr. David know of your interest by February 15. Thank you.

**COME HEAR GOVERNOR MCAULIFFE at OAR Second Chance Fundraising Breakfast March 1st.** Immanuel has long supported Offender Aid and Restoration, the absolutely vital group that helps formerly incarcerated folks in Alexandria and Arlington to believe in themselves, to get back on their feet (or, in many cases, to get on their feet for the first time), and to become productive members of society. OAR is holding a fundraising breakfast at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Crystal City on Wednesday, March 1 from 7:45-9:00 am. The most moving part will undoubtedly be the testimonials we'll hear from past clients of the program, but Governor McAuliffe will also stop by to say a few words. I agreed to recruit a table of 10, and am already starting to fill a second Immanuel table. Note that *there is no minimum contribution* to participate — I'm sure everyone will feel moved to contribute something, but it's up to you. To sign up, or for more information, just contact Jamie Conrad at [jvc58@comcast.net](mailto:jvc58@comcast.net) or 703-836-0655.



## Lenten Retreat

March 31-April 2, 2017

Holy Cross Abbey, Berryville, Virginia

### Blessing and Grace: Finding Hope in Troubled Times

If you are seeking to give yourself strength for any challenges, this retreat will be a weekend of hearing meditative music based on resistance traditions, scripture, prayer, silence, and reflection. Come, join us. Be refreshed by fellowship, language, and love.

Chrissie Crosby, will lead the retreat at Holy Cross Abbey near Berryville, Virginia on the weekend of March 31-April 2. Mrs. Crosby, a perpetual student of the Bible, holds an MA in Biblical Interpretation from Virginia Theological Seminary, and a certificate in Theology and the Arts from Wesley Theological Seminary. She is married to the Rev. David Crosby, Associate Rector of Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill.

The retreat will begin on Friday afternoon, March 31, shortly before the evening meal and will end after the noon meal on Sunday, April 2. For more information on the monastery, see their website <https://www.virginiatrappists.org/about/>.

The \$350.00 registration fee includes all materials, comfortable accommodations, individual rooms each with a bathroom, and all meals. **Following Holy Cross Abbey policy, we may not be able to accommodate retreat reservations received after March 2.**

Two scholarships given in memory of Charles Willis are available; please contact the rector for scholarship assistance. If you receive a scholarship, please complete a registration form and indicate that you have a scholarship. To provide an opportunity for parishioners who have not attended a retreat recently to attend, preference in awarding scholarships will be given to those who have not received a scholarship in the last two years.

Registration is limited to 15 persons; please reserve your space using this form. If you have questions about retreat logistics, please contact Mary Ann Rehnke, [mrehnke@verizon.net](mailto:mrehnke@verizon.net) or 703-836-7142. Participants needing a ride to the Abbey may contact the retreat carpooling coordinator, Carla Murray, at [tigmurray08@gmail.com](mailto:tigmurray08@gmail.com) or 703-751-9241.



**Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill**

**Spring Retreat  
Holy Cross Abbey Retreat House  
March 31 – April 2**

**1. First person registering for retreat**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Second person registering for retreat**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Number of registrants \_\_\_\_\_ x \$350 = \_\_\_\_\_ Total registration fee

Please make check payable to Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill and label it Spring Retreat. Return this form and your check to the Immanuel Church office, 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22304. Please put Spring retreat on the envelope.

If you need to cancel your registration and there is no one on the waiting list who can take your place, Holy Cross Abbey retains the \$50.00 per room deposit. All but \$50.00 of your registration fee would be returned to you. If there is someone on the waiting list to take your place, your total registration fee will be returned to you.

Immanuel Church -on-the-Hill  
3606 Seminary Road  
Alexandria, VA 22304  
703-370-6555  
office@icoh.net  
http://www.icoh.net

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**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



#### **February 5, The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112:1-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20  
7:45 a.m., HEI, 9:00 a.m., Children's Eucharist, 11:15 a.m., HEII

#### **February 12, The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37  
7:45 a.m., HEI; 9:00 a.m., HE II; 11:15 a.m., HE II

#### **February 19, The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany**

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18; Psalm 119:33-40; 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23; Matthew 5:38-48  
7:45 a.m., HEI; 9:00 a.m., HE II; 11:15 a.m., HE II