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

May 5, 2017

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

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Staff Changes at Immanuel

By now you should have received a letter from Associate Rector David Crosby saying that he feels his service at Immanuel is complete, and that he feels called to step out to follow God's call for the next leg of the journey. I know you join me in saying that we will miss Fr. David and his faithful, dedicated service to God and to God's people in this parish. He has been, and is, a real colleague and a brother in Christ. We wish him and Chrissie all the very best of God's blessings as they venture on in faith. **We will celebrate David's ministry here at Immanuel with a festive reception on Sunday, July 2nd.** More details to follow.

What does that mean for us? I have begun initial conversations with possible candidates for Assistant Rector, and I will be calling together a small group to meet with them. I ask your prayers during this process of discernment. I am also sad to announce that our wonderful Parish Administrator, Jennifer Addington, has decided that it is time for her to retire. I am so grateful to Jennifer: for her cheer, for her humor, and for her professional and sensitive care for the people of this parish. She, too, is a valued colleague, and a sister in Christ. As you will see in her note below, she has decided it is time to focus on some other important aspects of her life, and we wish her and Rod God's richest blessings. Her plan is to be with us until the end of September, and we will plan to have a new person on the job at the beginning of September, to work with Jennifer throughout that month. Stay tuned for further details of how we will celebrate Jennifer's ministry among us.

See you in Church,
Randy

To my dear friends at Immanuel. This past April I celebrated my 13th year here as your Parish Administrator. It has been quite a ride! I was hired by Steve Wade, worked for many years with Sam Faeth (who was presented for ordination by my late husband, the Rev. Lloyd Addington, proving yet again how small the Episcopal Church really is!), then after her retirement, with Mary Sulerud, the interim rector, David Crosby (not only my brother in Christ, but also my brother-in-law!), and now for the past four years, with Randy Alexander. It has been fascinating, fulfilling, and more than I ever could have hoped a "mere job" could be. I remember once talking with the Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee (our retired Diocesan Bishop) and telling him that every time I had left a parish job for a "non-church" job for what seemed like right and good reasons (more money, closer to home), the non-church job simply didn't work out. Each time, without my even searching for it, a new church job simply fell into my lap. I said to Bishop Lee that I felt that God was poking me in the chest, saying "I want you working in my church – now get back where you belong!" I feel as though I really have belonged here and been a true part of the Immanuel family. However, the time has come for another chapter in my life to begin. I plan to retire from Immanuel effective September 29. I want to spend time with my children and grandchildren in Colorado, do some other traveling and also find some interesting volunteer work. I hope to have sufficient overlap time with whoever is hired to replace me that it won't be a difficult transition. But this is a complicated job so I would ask all of you to please have the patience with her (or him!) that you have always given to me. I have loved my time here, and have many friends whom I will miss dearly. I pray God's blessings on all of you.

Jennifer Addington

THE ANNUAL IMMANUEL PARISH RETREAT AT SHRINE MONT RETREAT CENTER IN ORKNEY SPRINGS, VA (about 2 hours away) will be Saturday, May 27 (noon) through Breakfast Monday, May 29, 2017. What better way to start your summer than with Immanuel friends in a beautiful and relaxing setting?! There will be time for fun, food, swimming, singing, relaxation, spiritual reflection, worship, hiking, yoga, porch entertaining, and spending time with clergy, family, and friends.

Cost: $173 per adult, $93 for children 8-12, $40 for children 4-7, free for children 3 and under. There is also a ceiling on the overall rate for families over 4. For those wanting to come up Friday, the cost is $55 per person (includes Saturday Breakfast). Please contact our rector, Randy Alexander, to discuss scholarship options – full or partial. We would like to collect money before the weekend so please bring checks, payable to "ICOH", with a notation saying "Shrine Mont" to the church office before the weekend. You can also register and pay with credit card by going to the Immanuel website www.ICOH.net and following the Shrine Mont link.

For more information or to register, contact Lisa Frye at lsfrye323@gmail.com or tel. 703-548-8591 (h) 571-214-4735 (c)

UPCOMING EVENTS

HAYDN'S *CREATION*: As part of the 75th anniversary of Immanuel, the choirs will present selected choruses and solos from *The Creation* by Joseph Haydn. This is going to be a particularly special offering with visual aids and will be an event combining scripture and glorious music. This will comprise the first part of the service and will be followed by the Eucharist. Please join us on May 21 at 10:30 in Immanuel Chapel.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE: Beginning on May 21st with the Haydn's Creation service, our Sunday worship services will be at 8:00 a.m. in the Zabriskie Chapel and at 10:30 a.m. in the Immanuel Chapel. This schedule will continue through Labor Day.

UNITED THANK OFFERING: with the support and encouragement of the clergy and the Vestry, Immanuel will be participating in one of the oldest ministries of the Episcopal Church between Easter and Pentecost. The United Thank Offering (UTO) was founded by the forerunner of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW), the Women's Auxiliary to the Mission Board, in 1889. The rest has been history. Millions of dollars have been raised through 'in-gatherings' over the past 100+ years and dispensed as grants both domestically and abroad. The symbol of the UTO is the iconic "blue box" or mite box that is the repository for your loose change, which, when combined with thousands of other similar gifts, becomes a powerful means of spreading the Good News. Contributions to the UTO are a daily or weekly discipline of sharing with others and giving thanks for the blessings we enjoy. They are not a response to a conventional fundraiser or an element of our stewardship campaign. There is no direct benefit to Immanuel by our participation. Please see Doug Henry, the UTO parish coordinator, after services during Eastertide to receive a blue box or answer any questions you might have. The Immanuel UTO In-Gathering will take place on Pentecost (4 June).

HEIFER FAIR A SUCCESS!

The goal of this year's Heifer Fair was to raise $5,000 which would bring the total money raised in the 20 years we have been working with this program to $100,000. So far we have received over $4,000 toward this goal. Contributions are still coming in and are most welcome!

SENIORS' UPCOMING EVENTS

HILLWOOD MUSEUM DAY TRIP: Tuesday, May 16, the bus leaves at 8:30 a.m. & returns at 2:30 p.m., from the Zabriskie parking lot Join the Senior Ministry on this delightful outing to Hillwood Museum and Gardens, featuring a docent-led tour through the mansion. Wear your walking shoes and enjoy a stroll through the gardens and the gift shop at your leisure. Box lunches with sandwiches, chips, cookie, fruit and water are included: specify your sandwich choice when you RSVP (turkey, ham & cheese, tuna or veggie). The $25.00 participation fee is due upon boarding the bus: make checks to Immanuel Church on the Hill (write "Senior Ministry" in the memo section). Participation fee for Hillwood members is $10.00. RSVP by May 10 to Jeannie Cummins at jceconsulting@comcast.net or 703-851-5257. For information about wheelchair accessibility, contact Jeannie.

PLANNED GIVING SEMINAR AND RECEPTION, Saturday, May 20TH, 4 p.m., Parish Hall**:** The Stewardship and Planned Giving Committee with the Vestry are hosting a seminar on "Creative Planned Giving" on Saturday, May 20th at 4 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Our featured speaker will be Deal Tompkins, who has worked over thirty years in planned giving for higher education, healthcare and the United Methodist Foundation. He now serves as a planned giving consultant to the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia. With his practical advice about the many giving options that can benefit you and your family, we think Deal will enable you to look at planned giving in a whole new light.

Following Deal's one-hour talk, there will be a reception with wine, soft drinks and hors d'oeuvres for all participants, but especially to thank and celebrate the Zabriskie Society members.

Please let Jennifer Addington in the parish office know if you plan to attend at 703-370-6555 or by email to jaddington@icoh.net before May 15, 2017.

BROWN BAG LUNCH ON "THE FIRST 100 DAYS: ACCOMPLISHMENTS & CHALLENGES"
Tuesday, May 23, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Zabriskie Parish Hall As a life-long political scientist and frequent guest at Immanuel, Dr. Helen Desfosses will share her analyses of how well President Trump has done fulfilling many of the goals that he announced during his campaign, and taking on the policy and management challenges awaiting any new president. She will also discuss challenges particular to the first American president in recent memory to be elected with no political or government experience, and to have triumphed in a campaign with two finalists scoring unheard of negative poll numbers even on the eve of the election. Expect a lively question and answer format, always a feature of Dr. Desfosses's presentations. Bring your lunch and a friend: we will supply refreshments and dessert!

ALIVE* EVENTS

***ALEXANDRIANS INVOLVED ECUMENICALLY**
36TH ANNUAL STEP ALIVE! WALKATHON: On Sunday May 7 ALIVE! will host the 36th annual Step ALIVE! 5K/5Mile Walkathon to benefit the ALIVE! Child Development Center (CDC). The fun begins at 2:00pm at the CDC at First Christian Church, 2723 King Street, with on-site registration beginning at 1:15pm. Fees (including a tee-shirt) are $25 for individual walkers; $10 for youth 12-18 and Seniors 70+; and children under 12 are free. Online registration is available at www.alive-inc.org. After the walk there will be a picnic of food, music and fun and games at the CDC. Proceeds assist ALIVE! in bridging the gap between the CDC's costs and what families can afford to pay. Please consider forming a team and soliciting sponsors.
Questions? Contact Nancy or Jim Wise at 703-642-8225, jrwise52@hotmail.com.

SIDEWALK SALE On Saturday May 20 ALIVE! will hold its annual Sidewalk Sale to benefit ALIVE! House, the oldest continuously operating shelter in Virginia. The sale will take place between 8am and 3pm at the Icehouse, 125 South Payne St. (the corner of South Payne and Commerce). There will be treasures galore - come out and support this worthy cause. Rain date will be May 21, same time and location. Questions? Nancy or Jim Wise, 703-642-8225, jrwise52@hotmail.com.

NOTES FROM CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Thank You

The incredible journey through Holy Week and Easter is always an exciting and very busy time for a parish. This year was no exception, especially for our family ministries and the many activities that happened throughout the season. I am sure had it not been for the dedicated and generous gifts of time by so many in our congregation we would not have had such a fantastic start to the Easter season. Therefore, I want to thank everyone who gave their time and efforts. It truly was a blessing to watch and to receive all of your help. I especially want to thank Will Alexander, The Beckman Family, Addie Biache, Isabel Frye, Elise Lein and Corey Wargo-Bergmark for overseeing this year's Easter Egg Hunt. Its success was entirely the result of all your work and coordination.

EYC AND THE PYM (Parish Youth Ministry). It happens once a year, which never feels like enough. Once a year a weekend retreat is offered at Shrine Mont to all youth in the 6th and 7th grade from all over our Diocese. It is a weekend led by youth for youth and it is always a joyous time for reflection, formation, fun, and fellowship for everyone who attends. This year Immanuel was able to send five of our youth, Adair, Gabriela, Marjorie, Rachel and Summerson who were joined by our friend Katie from Grace Episcopal. These weekends truly are a blessing for the youth to attend and a blessing for a congregation to be able to send them.

From Left to Right: Katie, Summerson, Adair, Gabriela, Rachel and Marjorie

PYM 2017

NOTHING SAYS FELLOWSHIP like a good Ol' Fashioned Barbecue! The recent all-parish barbecue hosted by Immanuel's EYC on Saturday, April 29, should be a point of pride for our congregation. Not only did it demonstrate further the unlimited potential of our youth, it pulled all generations together and even welcomed visitors from the surrounding community. Everywhere I looked I saw friends enjoying each other's company and witnessed more than a few first time introductions, even among parishioners who attend different services. Our playground was filled with small children, the EYC games and bonfire were both well attended, and at one point it seemed the parish hall was packed to its max capacity. More importantly the fellowship that happened behind the scenes to organize the event was, for me, another example of how much this congregation enjoys simply being together.

First, I want to thank everyone in the EYC who pitched in to make this event be the success that it was. So much of the EYC's hard work, youth and advisor alike, happened behind the scenes that it made the dinner seem as if they had been doing this for years. Even those dedicated few who could not be there on the night of, made sure to contribute in some form or fashion and in very positive ways. In addition, the overall EYC's teamwork and willingness to work during the gathering should be a model to follow. There were additional hands that also need to be recognized for their hard work and dedication in everything from cooking the barbecue, preparing it, and helping in the kitchen or at the grill.

The crew helping to cook the barbecue from Friday morning into the very early hours of Saturday were Jason Cutshall, Paul Beckman, John Bednar, Andy Biache, James Catto, Chrissie Crosby, Tom Cuddy, Jeannie Cummins, Tim Groth, Rob Johnson, and Jim Kurz.

On Saturday the additional hands that made it all possible include; Andy Biache, Chrissie Crosby, Carrie Cuddy, Tom Cuddy, Jeannie Cummins, Laura Snow, Francine Wargo, Brian Young-Smith and Katherine Young-Smith. Thank you! Without everyone's help, youth and adult alike, this fantastic event would not, it could not, have happened.

I also want to thank Bill Frye, Lisa Frye, Bridget Beckman, Diana Beckman, Paul Beckman, Peter Beckman, Corey Wargo-Bergmark and Francine Wargo for using their creative gifts and stringing the wonderful lights to bring a little illumination and color into the gardens. Thank you to Immanuel's Shrinemonters for once again sharing your gifts and providing us with your incredible musical stylings.

Last but not least, I wish to thank the entire congregation of Immanuel Church-On-The-Hill for your generous support of the EYC Barbecue. Because of your many blessed donations and purchases, the EYC is able to expand its outreach programs and ministry. In addition, the EYC is well on its way to establishing a scholarship program aimed at helping our youth to attend retreats, service projects and summer camps. It is through your support that you are helping to show our youth their true standing as equals in this congregation

Thank you and God Bless,
– John Hogg, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries.

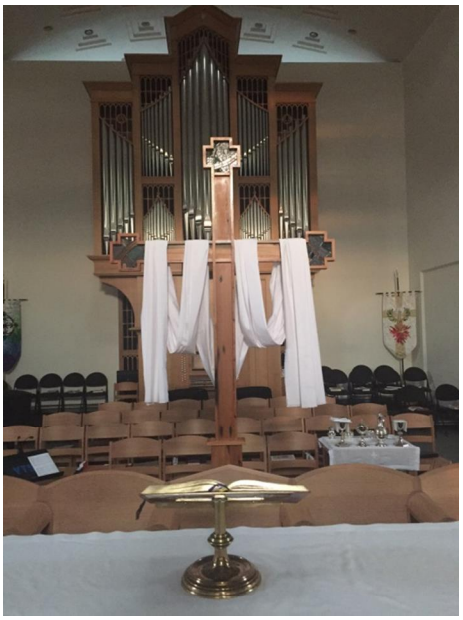
Hard at work manning the grills

Itôs picking & pulling time

Keeping those midnight fires burning

A great night of fellowship and fun were the just rewards.

EASTER AT IMMANUEL



Last Light, just before the Great Vigil

Easter Egg Hunt

The Great Vigil of Easter, the *Exsultet,* chanted by Seminarian Pilar Padrón

VISIT FROM FORMER RECTOR BOB TRACHE

The Rector interviewing the Rev. Robert Trache, former Rector,
as part of our anniversary observances.

A good crowd was in attendance!

THE REV. STEVEN WADE TO BE HERE MAY 14. As we continue with the observance of our 75th anniversary and the welcoming back of former Rectors, we will welcome next Sunday the Rev. Steven Wade, Rector of Immanuel from 1995-2006. He will preach at all three morning services, and the Rector will interview him during the Forum about his time at Immanuel. There will be festive receptions after both the 9:00 and 11:15 Eucharists.

Thank You for your Stewardship and Loving Support of Immanuel

Thank you for "Walking in Love" at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill and for responding faithfully to God's call to transform lives in our church, our community, and beyond.

On behalf of myself, the Vestry, and the Stewardship & Planned Giving Committee, thank you for being a part of this journey with us. Through the generosity of 182 parishioners and families, we have received over $608,000 thus far in annual pledge commitments to support our 2017 ministries and mission. We welcomed 18 newcomer pledges, nearly 100 parishioners increased their annual pledge, and we exceeded our "stretch" pledge goal of $600,000. Your walk with Christ and your commitment at Immanuel enlivens our ministries and mission.

Your continued support of our faith community is a source of renewal and hope for me. Please accept my abundant thanks.

The Rev. J. Randolph Alexander, Jr, Rector

The Stewardship & Planned Giving Committee is pleased to recognize and thank the following parishioners who have pledged thus far for 2017:

Anonymous
The Rev. Randy Alexander
The Rev. Patty Alexander
Gerry & Eve Anderson
Elizabeth Arnold
Brad & Melinda Ashton
David Atwood & Nancy Reuschel
David & Jill Baird
Paul & Diana Beckmann
John Bednar
Richard & Judy Bednar
Caroline Bergmark & Francine Wargo
Karen Besser
Opal Beverly
Andy Biache
Andy & Alisa Biache
Benjamin Bridges
Tom & Sally Guy Brown
Dennis & Julie Bruns
Scott Bunn
Philip Burge
Governor & Maria Burke
Gary & Mary Ashton Campbell
Hugh & Jan Campbell
Cynthia Caples
Tony Christino & Adrianne Goins
Leif Christoffersen
Jim & Lisa Clausen
Adam & Laura Cohn
James & Kathy Conrad
Mary-Jo Cooney
Franc & Rebecca Cooper
Janice Corbett
The Rev. David and Chrissie Crosby
Carol Crossmire
Tom & Carrie Cuddy
Randall & Callie Curtis
Barbara Currie
Bette Davis
Jen Davis
Gary & Mei Lung DeVight
The Rev. Bill & Shirley Dols
Linda Donahue
Natalie Doyle-Hennin
Jennifer Eckel
Dotty Eisenhour
Jeannie Cummins Eisenhour
Tony & Kristina Ellis
Jeremy & Erika Enright
Mark Fearer
Sara Fein
Katherine Ferguson
Pat Flagg
Jane Flinn
Barbara Fornoff
Aggie Fortune
Bill & Lisa Frye
Francois & Lynn Gas
Jeff & Ellen Gehrs
Susan Gilbertson
Rick & Sarah Glassco
Annie Goldsmith
Nicholas & Jennifer Greiner
Hance & Michiko Haney
Thomas & Stephanie Harris
Matt & Kathryn Haskin
Doug Henry
Tom & Debbie Hewson
Dick & Kay Hobson
John & Cameron Hogg
Jesse Holcomb & Hillary Scholten
The Rev. Ruthanna Hooke & Judy Adkins
Suzanne Houck
Taylor Houck
Rollin & Ann Huntington
Thomas Hussey
David & Marianne Ingold
Wayne & Sheila Iskra
David & Wendy Lane John
Doug & Wendy John
Gordon & Frances Johnson
Ginny Johnstone
Keith June
Dorothy Kellogg
Dan & Nancy Kelly
Kerry Kelly
Bill & Margaret Kerekes
Susan Kernan
Tom & Roz Kerns
Bill & Susan Kilpatrick
Steven King
Kevin Kirby & Eileen Monnin-Kirby

Barbara Kirkland
Jim & Connie Kurz
David & Mollie Lambert
John Lansing
Paul & Alexandra Lartey
Canice Levin
Mary Lindahl
Arlo & Katie Lloyd
Kathy Lloyd
Len & Sue Lynch
The Rev. Jan & Georgia Maas
Katherine Maas
Marcia MacDonald
Jessie Ruth MacLeod
Ann MacNamara
Martha Manson
Mia & Ken Mason
Chandley McDonald
Ken McDonald
Robert & Kendrah McDonald
Mike & Sudie McGahuey
Shirley McKinley
Michael & Christine Michaelis
Bryant & Madeleine Mitchell
Gertrude Mitchell
Kitty Montie
Holly Morton
Bob & Carla Murray
Kathleen Norton
Renee O'Brien
Celia Ochs
Faith Olson
Doug & Kameron Onley
Will & Paige Packard
Ollie Patton & Biz Van Gelder
Douglas & Eloise Payne
David & Ginger Peabody
Betsy Perkins
Dorathea Peters
Jean Peyton
Jackie Phillips
Everett & Susan Post
Barbara Ramsdell
Julien & Mable Randolph
Marcus Rarick
Eric & Jennifer Reading
Mary Ann Rehnke
Michael Reinemer & Lisa Siegrist
Stefanie Reponen
Mary Ann Ring
Brooke Roberts
Marda Robillard
Armstrong & Meredith Robinson
Chris & Carrie Rodriguez
Tony & Patsy Rogers
Mary Jane Ruhl
Tim & Martha Sedgwick
Linda Serabian
Tom & Martha Shimkin
Pierre & Hilary Shostal
Halim Shukair
Dodd & Phyllis Sims
Stewart & Teresa Skubel
The Rev. John and Louisa Smucker
Paul Smyth & Denise Freeland
Jim & Laura Snow
Dagobert & Lissa Soergel
Agnes Soos
Catherine Stanish
Kevin & Allison Switaj
Norma Taliaferro
Bobbie Thomas
Rosalie Urbine
Chris von Schoening
The Rev. Frank Wade
RADM Edward Walker, Jr.
Karen Walker
Michael & Diana Walker
Betty Wanamaker
Mollie Warner
Kevin & Hartley Wensing
Jeremy & Margaret Whelpley
Shawn & Kristen Whitman
Susan Wiard
Charles & Pamela Willard
Darrell & Leah Wilson
Jim & Nancy Wise
Steven & Anna Woodward
Teddy & Lindsey Yates
Brian Young & Katherine Smith

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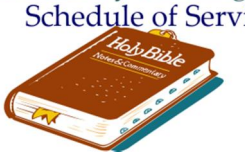
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Lectionary Readings and Schedule of Services



May 7, The Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23, 1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10
7:45 a.m., HEI, 9:00 a.m., Children's Eucharist, 11:15 a.m., HEII
May 14, The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 7:55-60, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14
7:45 a.m., HEI; 9:15 a.m., HEII, 11:15 a.m., HEII
May 21, The Sixth Sunday of Easter
Haydn's Creation will take the place of the Word of God part of the liturgy
8:00 a.m., HEI, 10:30 a.m., HEII (Note schedule change)