

THE ALMOND TREE

NEWSLETTER OF IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL



June 2018



In This Issue...

From The Rector	2
The Ordination of John Edwin Hogg to the Diaconate	
Our new Priest Associate	5
It's Official: The Rev. Halim Shukair was Recently Ordained a Priest	5
Reflections on Shrine Mont	6
Isabel Frye and Jamie Conrad share their memories of Shrine Mont, while Hollyann Morton shares her favorite photos from this year's retreat	
Newcomers Ice Cream Social	8
Guest Preachers Grace Immanuel	9
The Rt. Rev. Robert Ihloff, Bishop Associate, visits for the first time on The Day of Pentecost	9
The Rev. David Crosby preaches twice on Memorial Day Sunday, and Mr. William Alexander gives the sermon at Mass-on-the-Grass	10
Faith in Action:	18
The Outreach Committee presents the Child and Family Network Centers and its upcoming Relay for Pre-K	
HILL HAPPENINGS	11
The Rev. Rachel's Baby Shower: An All-Parish Party <i>This Sunday!</i>	12
VBS Registration Deadline is July 1st!	11
International Anglican Congregation invites all to two very special events	14
The Zabriskie Society: Estate Planning Help Wanted: Event Coordinator	16
SPECIAL SUMMER SCHEDULE	12

From The Rector



WE HAVE A NEW DEACON

On Saturday, June 2nd, Immanuel was the site and host for the Ordination of John Hogg, our Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, as a Deacon. This follows a long period of preparation, as John graduated from the Virginia Theological Seminary in 2014. He was originally in the Ordination process in the Diocese of Southern Virginia, but after beginning his position at Immanuel, John was able to transfer to the Diocese of Virginia, and we were delighted to help bring his process to a successful conclusion.

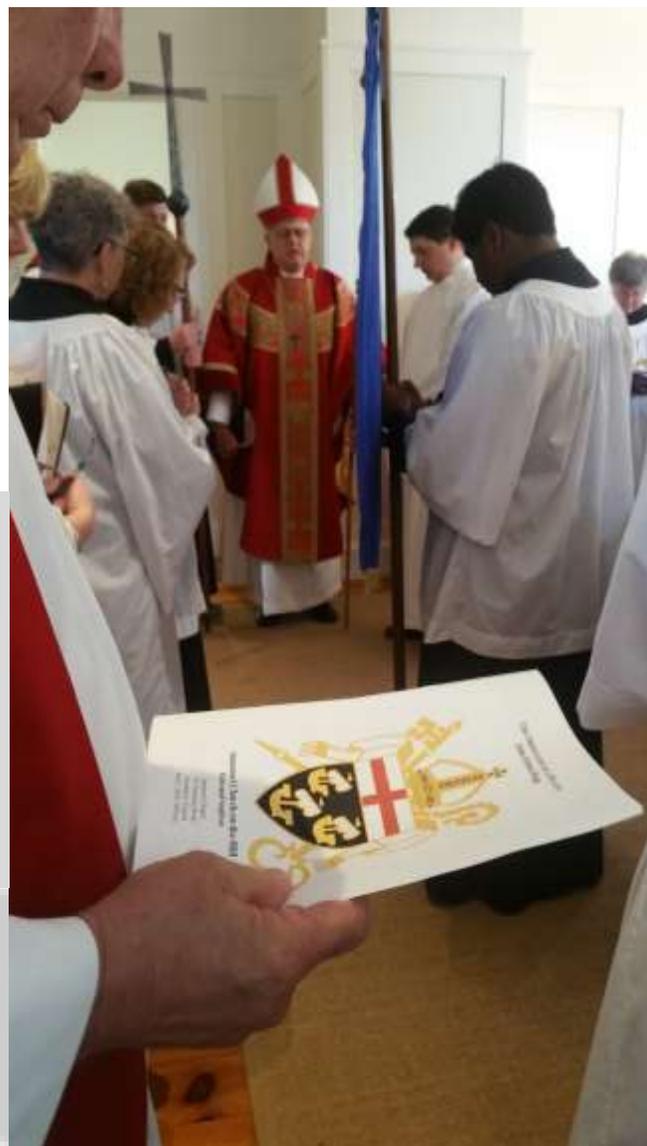
John's title will now change slightly, to Assistant Rector for Children, Youth, and Family Ministries. Congratulations to The Rev. John Edwin Hogg, his wife Cameron, and sons Peter and Silas! God willing, John will be ordained a priest in about six months.

Yours in Christ,

Randy

THE REV. J. RANDOLPH ALEXANDER
Rector

The Rt. Rev. Edwin "Ted" Gulick, Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Virginia (retired) leads the clergy and lay ministers in prayer minutes before the ordination begins. From left are: the Rev. Fred Poteet (visiting from Virginia Beach, VA and holding a bulletin), the Rev. Patty Phaneuf Alexander, a Priest Associate of Immanuel, Karen Besser and Dorothy Kellogg (with the choir), William Alexander (Crucifer), Bishop Ted, John Hogg, Sameer Augustine (Banner Bearer) and Brooke Roberts (far right; choir).





After they presented John with his stole, wife Cameron and son Silas look on, as son Peter gives his father a congratulatory hug.

John's mother, Mrs. Toni Hogg (in white blazer and pearls) can be seen behind him to his right. In partial view standing next to her is John's father, The Rev. Paul "Peter" Hogg.



During his emotional, rousing sermon, Bishop Ted asked John (at the time, still the Ordinand) to approach the pulpit, and preached directly to him. Observing the exchange are, from left; Thomas Cuddy (Lector), Peter Alexander and his younger brother, Andrew Alexander.



The EYC and children give the new Deacon a framed copy of the group photo taken at Shrine Mont, Memorial Day Weekend 2018 below. From left, front row: Rayna, Sofia, Elise, Cadence, Nicky and Lily. Middle row: David, Isabella, Deacon John, Zach, Thomas, Catherine and Maddie. Far back row: Sameer (black shirt), Guinness (white shirt), and Peter (tallest gentleman, to the right of the deacon).



The Rev. J. Randolph Alexander, and the Rev. Deacon John E. Hogg with the Rt. Rev. Edwin “Ted” Gulick, former Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Virginia, (*retired*).



The New Deacon with His Proud Family

Mrs. Judy P. Williard, John’s mother-in-law;
 Mrs. Toni C. Hogg, John’s mother;
 John, holding his son Silas;
 Mr. F. Michael Williard, John’s father-in-law;
 Mrs. Cameron Hogg, John’s wife, holding their son Peter; and
 the Rev. Dr. Paul “Peter” Hogg, John’s father



John's new *handmade* stole.

New Priest Associate

Immanuel is blessed with the addition of a new Priest Associate, the Rev. Canon Rosemari G. Sullivan. Rosemari and her husband, Ted, began attending Immanuel some time ago, following their daughter, Meg, and her family, who were already in the parish. Rosemari is a former Rector of St. Clement's Church down the street, and she also served as Executive Officer of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

More recently, she has served in several interim capacities, including at St. Michael's in Arlington.

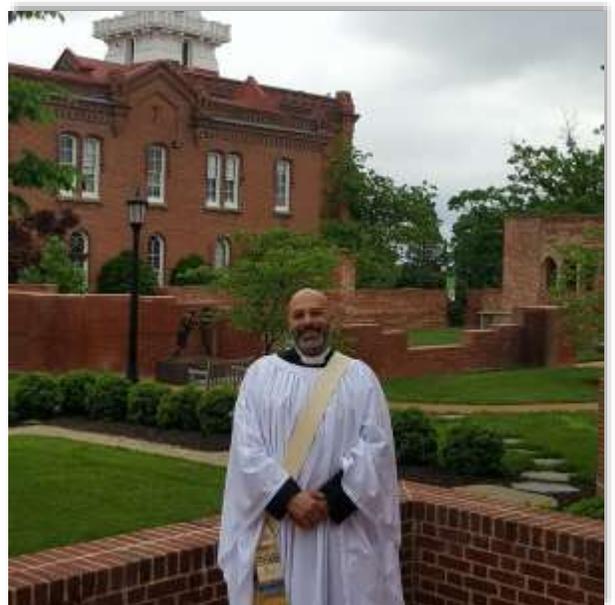


The Rev. Halim Adel Shukair, Immanuel's former seminarian who recently moved to Michigan, was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests on Saturday, June 9th at The Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Detroit. The Rt. Rev. Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr., Bishop of Michigan, presided over the Feast of St. Barnabas the Apostle and ordination. Presenters included; Immanuelite Rosi Urbine, along with Linda L. Dienno, Chaplain Cristian Bitter, Dr. Amy Dyer (who also helped vest the new priest), The Rev. Terri C. Pilarski, and Mitch Yudasz. Father Halim was vested by Immanuelites Mary Lindahl, David Atwood, and Nancy Reuschel; along with Wajih Farkouh, and Layal Katrib Farkouh.

One surprise highlight of the service was the live-stream video presence of Halim's mother and sister in Lebanon, who were able to participate in bilingual, English/Arabic intercessory prayers — Father Halim held-up a computer tablet at the altar.

Father Halim serves as Curate and Diocesan Missioner for Arab-Americans at Christ Episcopal Church in Dearborn.

A New Priest



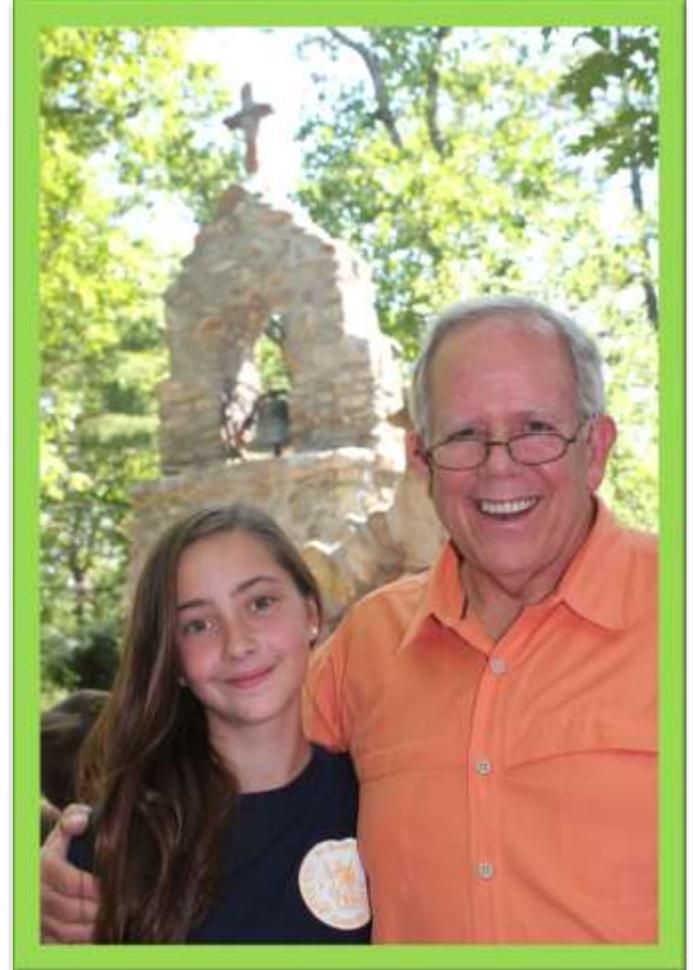
Reflections on Shrine Mont

By Isabel Frye



Isabel and Madison Eaton under Rainbow at Shrine Mont, Memorial Day Weekend 2018

Photos courtesy of Dani Kauffman



Isabel with her late father, Bill Frye. She's visited Shrine Mont every year — a family tradition — since she was a newborn.

I have been going to Shrine Mont every Memorial Day weekend since I was 3 months old, but this was the first time without my dad (Bill Frye). Shrine Mont is “home” to me in so many ways and being there with so many supportive friends and family meant a lot to me, especially this year. I like that there are some “traditions” that are always the same -- like *The Lima Bean Challenge**, retiring flags at the bon fire, freezing in the swimming pool, the singing cabin, eating butt buns* (yes, you can guess how they look) with apple butter, and hiking to North Mountain – but I also love that there were some “new” things this year – like the youth group’s “Dance through the Decades”, that my good friend Maddie Eaton and I did the snow cones, and that my cousin Drew and Aunt Mary could be there with us. Shrine Mont is such a special and unique place. It is a place of rest and rejuvenation. It is a place of joy and it is a place like no other. I’m just so very thankful that I’ve been able to experience something like that so early in my life. I’m very fortunate to have a place like Shrine Mont as well as all the great times that come with it.

**If you don't know what some of these things are, ask someone at church who's been to Shrine Mont or — better yet — join us next year!*

Reflections on Shrine Mont

By Jamie Conrad

Shrine Mont involves all the things I most enjoy doing in life: playing frisbee in my bare feet like I was in high school again, making music on the porch, hiking, biking, birding, reading, eating, drinking (in moderation, of course), and spending time with friends new and old, in a setting that reminds what I have to be thankful for — and to whom. It's about the only place I know where you can truly tell your children to go out and play, and then pay no attention to where they are or what they are doing, knowing that they will show up in time for the next meal and that the worst thing that can happen to them in the meantime is that they'll fall into a muddy pond while trying to catch tadpoles — which they will think is great.



Photos courtesy of Hollyann Morton, pictured at left (in visor) with Kathy Lloyd. Kathy's son David is in the photo above, with Sydney (wearing facial artwork) and Shrine Monter (singer and guitarist) Kyrah Drasheff.



Immanuel Welcomes Newcomers!

On May 6th, the Rev. Rachel Rickenbaker, the Vestry and the Newcomers' Committee hosted an ice cream social to welcome 17 new members to Immanuel's church family. The Ice Cream Social was held as an open house so that the new members could drop by at their convenience to meet members of the community and ask questions about the church's missions.

The Newcomers' and Evangelism Committee helps newcomers feel welcome at Immanuel. Through Immanuel 101, the new members gain an overview of Immanuel's history, relationship with the Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS), and our many ministries. The next Immanuel 101 is scheduled for November 18th. Social functions, such as the Ice Cream Social, celebrate our newcomers and offer an opportunity to ask questions and familiarize themselves with the church community.



Kathryn Haskin, Rev. Rachel Rickenbaker and Brooke Roberts welcome and register guests.



Newcomer Margie Griffith chats with Sudie McGahuey, a member who has attended Immanuel since early childhood.



Erika Enright, holding her son Nolan, chats with life-long member Karen Besser.

Recent Guest Preachers



Nolan Anton Enright receives the Sacrament of Holy Baptism from the Rev. Rachel Rickenbaker. As the Rev. Randy Alexander looks on, Bishop Bob anoints the baby using Chrism.

THE DAY OF PENTECOST The Right Rev. Robert Ihloff, Bishop Associate

The Right Reverend Robert W. Ihloff, Bishop Associate preached at the 8a.m. and 10:30a.m services on the Day of Pentecost, Sunday, May 20th. After the early morning Eucharist, Bishop Bob led a personal, heart-felt Forum Hour on how his life and outlook have been forever changed by the priesthood. Afterward, he quickly headed to the Immanuel Chapel, where, after giving his sermon, he participated in a baptism and confirmation.

Given that Bishop Bob and his wife live in Baltimore, Maryland, we appreciate his trek down to Alexandria and look forward to his next visit.

The Right Reverend Robert Ihloff, formerly with the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland (*retired*), chats with Immanuel's Rector, the Reverend J. Randolph "Randy" Alexander, just before the processional begins.



Recent Guest Preachers

The Rev. David Crosby preached at both 8 a.m. (pictured here) and 10:30a.m. Eucharists on Memorial Day Weekend, Sunday, May 27, 2018



William Alexander Gave Sermon at Mass-on-the-Grass

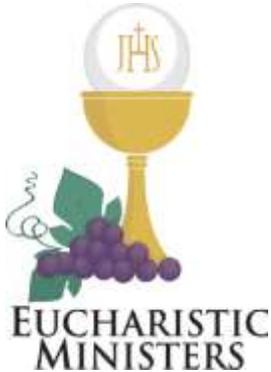
We were delighted to have 17-year-old **William Alexander**, son of the Reverends J. Randolph “Randy” and Patricia “Patty” Alexander give his moving — and at times, humorous — sermon at Mass-on-the-Grass, Sunday, June 10th.

Fortunately, the predicted rain held-off so that Will, a senior at St. Andrew’s High School, Potomac, Maryland, could preach outside. He spoke on that Sunday’s lesson, 2 Corinthians “I believed, and so I spoke!”, sharing his belief in God’s grace, and how his encounters with others have impacted his relationship with God.

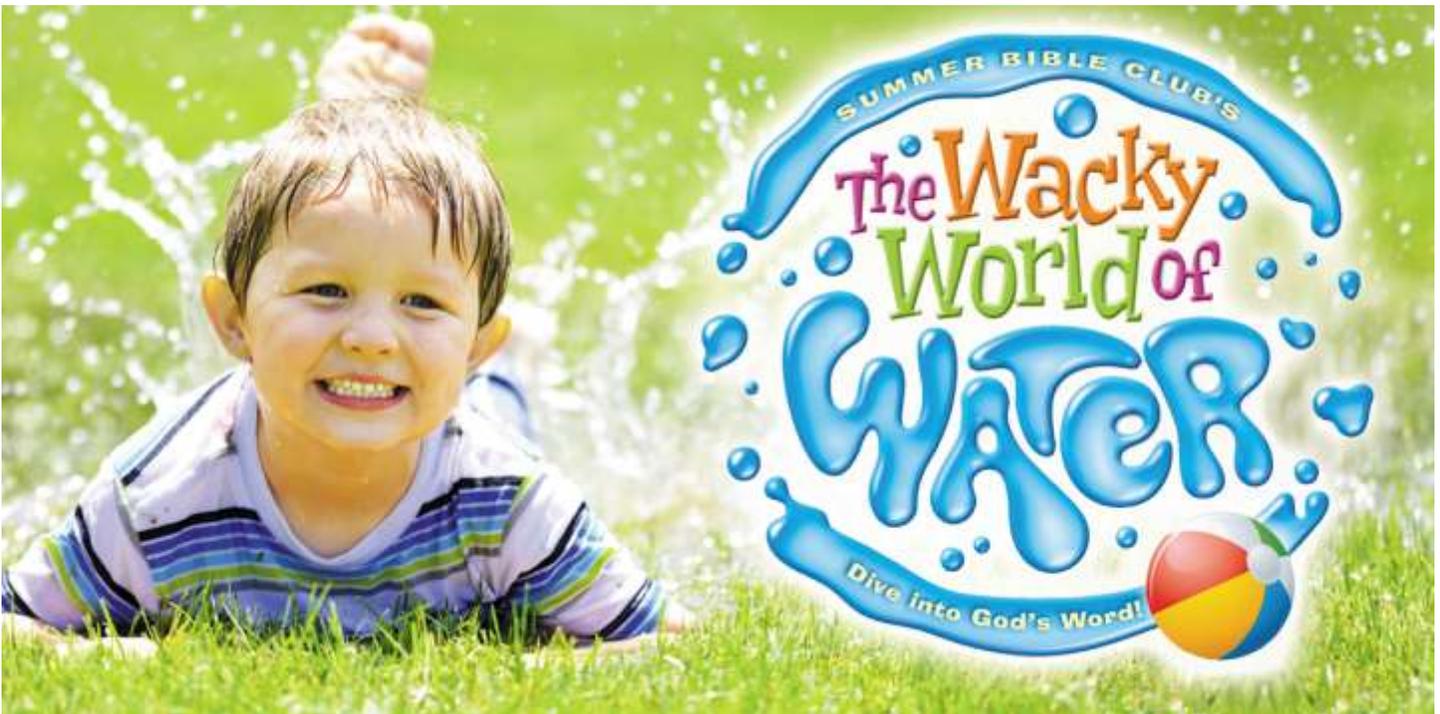
Photo courtesy of the Rev. Patty Alexander

HILL HAPPENINGS

The Special Event Calendar of Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill



Calling all Eucharistic Ministers and those who wish to serve during the Eucharist! Lay people in the congregation who administer the chalice during communion are licensed as Eucharistic ministers by the Diocese. The license follows a brief training session and is good for three years. If you would like to become a Eucharistic Minister at Immanuel, or are one but your certification has expired (or if you have not received the certification for any reason), we will offer sessions on June 24th and July 1st at Zabriskie, beginning at 9:15a.m. Each will last about 45 minutes, and will include instructions for procedures used at all of our regularly scheduled services. Any **member of the congregation who is confirmed and 16 years of age or older is welcome and encouraged to share in this ministry.** If you have questions, please talk with either the Rev. Rachel Rickenbaker or Karen Besser (karen.besser@gmail.com).



The congregations of Grace Church, Christ Church, and Immanuel are partnering to bring you a wonderful opportunity for Vacation **Bible School: The Wacky World of Water!** This VBS is designed for children aged 3 years through 4th grade, and will be held **July 27-29, 2018**. Kids will learn from stories throughout Scripture that include water—from creation, to the flood, to Jesus walking on water; and calming the storm. To register (or to volunteer) visit our website and click on the link below.

The direct link is <http://www.immanuel-on-the-hill.org/vacation-bible-school.html>.

Your child won't want to miss this!

This Baby Shower will be...

A Real Parish-wide Party!

Here's a **sneak peek** of a main activity at the shower for the Reverends James and Rachel:



“Words of Wisdom with Works of Art”

An original Immanuel binder book we'll create filled with parenting advice, reflections on caring for infants, personal stories involving kids, personal prayers, and artwork made by our youngest Immanuelites.



Heartfelt and Humorous submissions encouraged!



Let's all get together over food and fun at this party, and create a gift that's distinctly Immanuelite: a simple collection of contributions from the hearts and minds of every Immanuel parishioner!

What We'd Love to Have You Share at (or before) the shower:

- Your advice on raising, caring for and loving infants and children
- Funny personal stories involving infants, children and/or teens
- Prayers for Baby Rickenbaker
- Poetry and Prose <mailto:apowell@icoh.net>
- Advice from teens on how to be the perfect parent
- Refrigerator door-worthy original artwork from our youngest parishioners

Who We'd Love to Hear From:

- Parents
- Grandparents*
- Godparents*
- Aunts
- Uncles*
- Cousins of all ages
- Chaperones
- Siblings—*especially the youngest, middle or oldest*
- Coaches*
- Children who know Rev. Rachel from her children's homilies

Tables will be set-up at the shower for children to create artwork and for adults to hand-write their submissions. Feel free to send your contributions in advance via email with “Baby” in the subject line to apowell@icoh.net.

* In the spirit of Father's Day, we'd really appreciate the gentlemen of Immanuel sharing advice for dad-to-be, the Rev. James Rickenbaker, in advance. Simply send your submissions via email — and yes, you can remain anonymous if you prefer — to office@icoh.net. Thank you!

Come on Immanuelites, let's celebrate! **THIS SUNDAY, June 24th, 12 Noon, The Welcome Center**



COLLECTION! HELP PROVIDE SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR NEEDY CHILDREN: Alexandria Child Protective Services has identified families in need who are supported by Immanuel's Christmas Families program. You can help provide the children in these families with critical tools for learning by:

- Signing up between now and August 12th to provide school supplies for the children in one family. You can sign up after each service or in the narthex of Zabriskie Chapel during the week. Please bring the school supplies to church on or before Sunday, August 20th.
- Contributing money for school supplies at the special collections TODAY and on August 19 (or by mail/drop off at the parish office). Please make checks payable to Immanuel and mark them "XFAM". The money will go to the Haiti Micah project (50%), to Community Lodgings (25%), and Human Services in Alexandria. (25%).

Contact: Lissa Soergel 703-823-2840 cell 703-869-9848 lissa@whollygenes.com
Linda Serabian 703-836-4670, Serabian@somaarchitects.com

Let us give all children a good start in the new school year!



FOOD FOR ALIVE!

Did you know:

- 13,500 of our neighbors live in poverty in the City of Alexandria
- Alexandria has the highest child poverty rate in all of Northern Virginia
- One out of five Alexandrians struggles to put food on their table

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP???

Immanuel is one of the congregations scheduled in June to replenish the food closet at ALIVE! (ALexandrians InVolved Ecumenically!). Food requests have increased, and it takes a lot of food to fill bags with a 3 days' supply for a family. Especially needed are non-perishable, unopened and not expired medium- sized packages of food. Canned meat and tuna, dried milk, peanut butter, complete pancake mix and syrup, soup, coffee and tea are most needed at this time. Boxes will be located in both narthexes during June to accept your donations. Money donations are also helpful because they allow ALIVE! to buy eggs, fresh meat, cheese and produce from the Capital Area Food Bank. Checks can be given to Lisa Clausen or mailed to the ALIVE! Office at 2723 King St, Alexandria , VA 22302.

Two Upcoming Events:

Immanuel's International Anglican Congregation

A SPECIAL SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING and LUNCHEON: JUNE 24th : This special Thanksgiving service is an opportunity for Anglicans to come together to reflect on the blessings of God upon our individual lives. It is also a service in which we come together to bring our financial gifts as an act of our gratitude to God. The Bible reminds us to, "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good and His love endures forever". Indeed we can all testify that for the last two years since we started the International Anglican congregation at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, God's love has been with us in every aspect of our ministry. We especially thank God for the support we have received from Immanuel and the commitment of our parishioners. As we gather together for this special worship service, we invite all to join us as we show our thankfulness by giving a financial donation to sustain the International Anglican Congregation's ministry.

Thank you, and may God bless you.

Yours in Christ,

Father Peter



A Special Event!

Save The Date!

The **Right Rev. Joel Waweru Mwangi**, the Anglican Diocese of Nairobi, Kenya, will visit Immanuel on **Saturday, July 14th**. An evening Eucharist at 5:30p.m. in Zabriskie Chapel will be followed by dinner in the Parish Hall — all are cordially invited.



Christ Church
Alexandria

Refugee Summer Barbeque

July 7th at 6:00pm

**Children's activities and
outdoor games provided!**

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill
3606 Seminary Road
Alexandria, VA 22304

RSVP by July 1 to:

Kathryn.w.mcnamara@gmail.com

**Donations to purchase
back-to-school shopping gift
cards gratefully accepted



Estate Planning?

Consider

THE ZABRISKIE SOCIETY

Have you included Immanuel in your estate planning within the past 15 months? **The Zabriskie Society** was established in 2000 to recognize parishioners who, after prayerful consideration, have made Immanuel or one of its trust funds a beneficiary of their will or another planned giving document. There are two matching plaques in the church, one in the narthex and the other in the outside entryway to the parish hall, listing the members of the Zabriskie Society as of March 2017. We'd like to update those plaques. If you've made financial provisions for Immanuel since then, we'd love to be able to recognize you. Just contact Jamie Conrad, Vestry Steward for Stewardship and Planned Giving, at jwc58@comcast.net or 703-836-0655. If you haven't made such provisions, we'd be happy to discuss the options with you. Contact Jamie — or one of the clergy.



EVENT COORDINATOR WANTED:

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill is seeking an “on-call” event coordinator who can assist individuals and groups that want to rent parish facilities for events and activities. The coordinator will receive a stipend for each event that is booked. The event coordinator is responsible for showing potential renters the facility and how equipment works, explaining rental terms and fees, scheduling events on the parish calendar, preparing and executing rental agreements with renters, collecting deposits and payments, reviewing room setup and audiovisual needs, coordinating setup with the sexton, and onsite monitoring of certain events to ensure activities are conducted safely and remain in designated areas, equipment is returned and renters leave facilities clean and undamaged.

If you or someone you know — retirees are encouraged to apply — are interested in this position and would like more information, please contact the Rector: ralexander@icoh.net or on 703-370-6555 x 201.

We're on our Summer Schedule 2018!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

9a.m. - 1p.m.
Monday thru Friday

MORNING PRAYER
Wednesdays @ 10a.m.



BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY: Immanuel's monthly Saturday morning Breakfast Bible Study will be on July 21st, the third Saturday. We gather in the Fairchild Room at 7:30 AM for breakfast, with Bible study beginning at 8 AM. We promise to be done by 9 AM! Our theme for this year is Truth and Integrity. This month we will read Proverbs 8:1-9, using the African Model of Reflection. Come, be fed in body and spirit with food, fellowship and God's word. For more information, please contact Chrissie Crosby (cmcfaddencrosby@gmail.com)



Want to become an Acolyte?

Immanuel loves having acolytes; however, our current team is stretched a bit thin, so we need a few more members — including older teens and adults. If you and/or your child is interested, simply let us know with an email to apowell@icoh.net We hope to begin a training class this fall.

Thank you for considering this vital lay ministry.

Faith in Action



The Child and Family Network Centers' (CFNC) mission is to provide caring, high-quality, free early education and related services to at-risk children and their families in their own neighborhoods in order to prepare them for success in school and life.

Our History: CFNC was started in 1984 by a group of mothers living in public housing after seventeen of their children failed kindergarten. This endeavor was an immediate success and upon entering kindergarten all of the children from CFNC's first class were recognized by the public school as gifted. Over time, CFNC expanded both its reach and its range of services in response to community need.

Who We Serve: CFNC's programs are designed to meet the needs of four-year-old children who are at serious risk of school failure. CFNC serves working poor families who earn up to 250% of poverty; they don't make nearly enough to afford private pre-k, but don't qualify for federal programs like Head Start. In FY2018: 86% of CFNC's families speak English as a second language, 73% are Latino, 20% are African-American, 7% are Asian/Pacific Islander or White. The average education level completed by parents is 8th grade.

What We Do: Free, early education and comprehensive services are provided in eight classrooms in communities that have the highest concentrations of working poor families in Alexandria, VA.

Preschool: Accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC); all teachers implement the Teaching Strategies Creative curriculum, which is nationally recognized as especially effective for at-risk children in multi-cultural settings. The GOLD assessment and Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) are used to monitor children's educational progress.

Family Services: Two bilingual social workers support parents as they work toward self-sufficiency and learn how to become partners in their children's education. Counseling, case management, home-visits, social skills groups, and a variety of workshops are provided onsite. Parents assist in classrooms to observe/practice developmentally appropriate activities.

Health Services: CFNC's Health Services enable parents to support the healthy development of their children and access community-based services, while ensuring that children enter kindergarten having completed the appropriate physicals, vaccinations, and medical screenings. During the school year with CFNC all children receive vision, hearing and dental screenings.



Benefitting The Child & Family Network Centers

- What:** A 12 lap (3 mile) “relay” around the track. It cost CFNC \$12,000 to educate one child for a year, so we’re walking around the around the track twelve times. Each team should have at least one representative on the track during each lap, but the more the merrier!
- Where:** St. Stephens School & St. Agnes High School Track, 1000 St Stephens Rd, Alexandria, VA
- When:** Saturday, September 22, 2018 at 8:00 am
- Why:** A child’s ability to be ready for school impacts their life’s future. *Getting them ready for school is one of the only changes we can make in a child’s life that will change the odds that predict who they will become when they are middle-aged adults.* The path that determines who a child becomes links all the way back to preschool.
- How:** It’s as easy as 1,2,3.
Register to participate in the Relay for Pre-K @ relay.cfnc-online.org
Set up your fundraising page.
Email family and friends and ask them to help you make a difference in a child’s life.



In our May issue, we saluted the Immanuelite College, University and High School graduates of 2018. Since that issues’ publication, we have learned of one more proud graduate!



ANNA POST

Bachelor of Science
- Criminal Justice
- Law

Bay Path University
Longmeadow, MA

Are you traveling outside of the USA this summer? In our September issue, which will highlight our Parishioners’ pilgrimage to The Holy Land, we’d love to show your photos of you visiting holy places: churches. Send your photos and brief descriptions of your visit to churches outside of the continental United States to apowell@icoh.net with “church photos” in the subject line. Thank you.

In Our July: Mother Rachel's Baby Shower/Party!

www.icoh.net

Immanuel Church - on-the-Hill
3606 Seminary Road
Alexandria, VA 22304-5200



JOIN US THIS SUMMER !

JUNE 24		8:00 a.m., Holy Eucharist Rite I, Zabriskie Chapel
		10:30 a.m., Holy Eucharist Rite II, Immanuel Chapel, followed by the Rev. Rachel's Baby Shower/All-Parish Party, The Welcome Center
July 4	Independence Day	Parish Office closed; no Morning Prayer
July 14	International Anglican Congregation hosts The Rt. Rev. Joel Waweru Mwangi, Anglican Diocese of Nairobi, Kenya	5:30 p.m., Holy Eucharist Rite II, followed by dinner Zabriskie Chapel and Parish Hall
July 15	Special Forum Hour: The General Convention	9:15 a.m., Zabriskie Parish Hall, let by The Rev. J. Randolph Alexander
July 27-28	Vacation Bible School	5:30p.m.—7 p.m., July 27th; 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., on July 28th; Grace Episcopal Church, 3601 Russell Road, Alexandria, VA
July 29		1-5:00 p.m., Zabriskie Chapel and Gardens