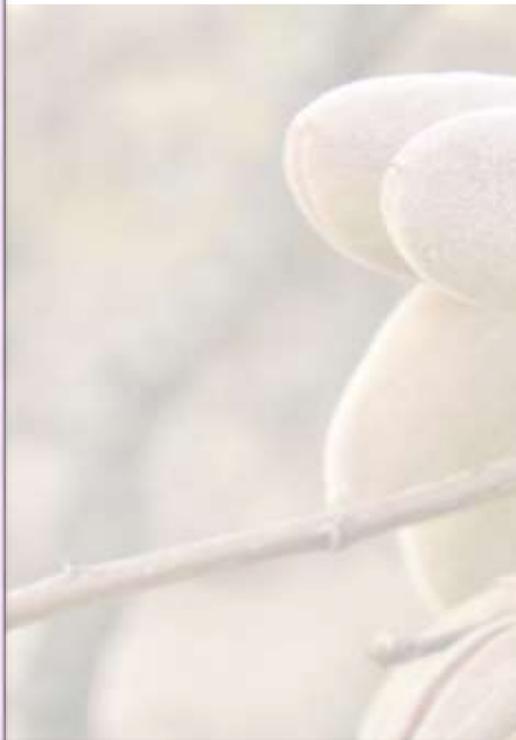


# THE ALMOND TREE

NEWSLETTER OF IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL



July 2018



## *In This Issue...*

<b>From The Assistant Rector</b>	<b>2</b>
Thank you all for my baby shower!	
<b>Highlights from the Rickenbaker Baby's Shower/Parish-wide Party</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>HILL HAPPENINGS</b>	<b>9</b>
Bible Breakfast Study <i>This Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup></i> !, Arriving VTS	<b>9</b>
International Students Need Your Help	
Estate Planning, School Supplies Needed for Alexandria's Economically Challenged Students	<b>10</b>
Our New Parking Lot, A Call for New/Returning Acolytes, Won't you share your travel photos at churches?	<b>11</b>
<b>WHAT'S NEXT THIS SUMMER</b>	<b>12</b>



# From The Assistant Rector

Dear Immanuelites:

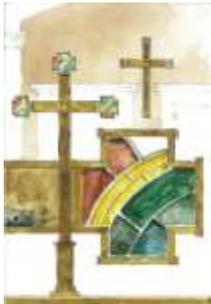
A big thank you from my husband James and me — and our little one on the way — for such a wonderful baby shower on June 24th! I was told throughout the planning process to leave it all to the parishioners and staff to plan, and I was quite surprised at the spread when I arrived in the Welcome Center. It was a beautiful event, with tons of delicious food (and kindly, so many vegan options for James and me!), unique games, decorations, and fun activities for all ages to enjoy. But most importantly, we were surrounded with the warmth and kindness of Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill—so many people came together to plan, provide food and fun, and to celebrate with us! We were really touched by your genuine love, care and generosity.

Thank you all for your continued prayers and support throughout my pregnancy, especially during the most difficult month of January when I underwent surgery and several hospital stays. We look forward to sharing our baby girl with you all soon and ask for your prayers over these next few weeks, that we have a safe delivery and healthy baby. For those who have asked, I will be away from the church for 8 weeks on maternity leave. May God bless you over these summer months, and I look forward to hearing how the Spirit continues to work at Immanuel Church throughout the summer!

In Christ,

*Rachel*

**THE REV. RACHEL RICKENBAKER**  
Assistant Rector



**UPDATE:** The Reverends James and Rachel Rickenbaker just welcomed their daughter:

**ELEANOR FRANCES**  
**July 20, 2018**

1:14 a.m. 6lbs., 14oz.





## A Real Parish-wide Party for The Reverends Rickenbaker

We held our baby shower for soon-to-be-first-time parents The Rev. Rachel Rickenbaker, our Assistant Rector, and her husband, The Rev. James Rickenbaker, Assistant Rector, Aquia Episcopal Church, Stafford, on Sunday, June 24th in The Welcome Center at noon. Read pages 4-8 to see highlights of the shower, which featured tons of delicious vegan food, words of wisdom, custom artwork, fun games and lots of laughter.

- 🍷 Guess the Baby Game and Photo Contest
- 🍷 Baby Bingo with Phyllis Sims
- 🍷 Preschool Picture Bingo with Addie and Maddie
- 🍷 Words of Wisdom with Works of Art Book Submissions
- 🍷 Family Feud: "Church Ministry Edition" with The Rev. John Hogg



# Preschool Picture Bingo!

Our youngest parishioners got into the baby bingo spirit by playing their own version — using pieces of wrapped candy as bingo chips, placed on pictures of everyday baby items. When Wilmerick (in blue striped shirt) won, *everyone* got to eat candy. No surprise that they all wanted to play a second round!

Madison Eaton, the Caller, who held-up photos (*seated, with back to camera*), and Addie Biache (standing), helped bingo players (*from left front*): Silas (in green) and his brother Peter; Adeline, her father Matt Haskin; Aryani (in yellow) and her brother, Wilmerick. Aryani and Wilmerick’s grandmother, Gilma Balcarcel, holds their little sister, Suhaila.



Rev. Rachel's Baby Bingo

Stuffed animals	Rattle	Toys	Diaper cloths	High chair
		Baby	Bottles	Baby powder
June 24, 2018	Shower	Safety gate		
Stork	'Nursery'	Infant carseat		
Diapers	Baby outfit	Bib		



Phyllis Sims, our “Bingo Caller Extraordinaire” offered her bingo winner a grand prize: any balloon he wanted!



Bingo players Rick Glassco, Isabelle and Katherine use dry kidney beans as bingo chips because plastic bingo discs posed a choking hazard to the nearby preschoolers.



Jackie Phillips (right) watches Colleen Foster, the Rev. Rachel's friend since their student days at Shenandoah University, Winchester, sketche a beautiful, detailed "Rachel baby" cartoon with English and Spanish text for the *Words of Wisdom with Works of Art* book. Parishioners of all ages contributed drawings, true words of wisdom, prayers and even "what I've learned as a parent" commentary.

The Reverends Rickenbaker beam as they are surprised with three of the four hand-painted onesies created by Madison Eaton (in plum) and Addie Biache (in yellow). In addition to the EYC, strawberry and Shrine Mont-themed creations here, the Rickenbakers were gifted a fourth one featuring vibrant-colored flowers.



Zoë (wearing pink hair bow) listens as Ally Powell-Switaj chats about parenthood with the Rev. Rachel Rickenbaker.



“Who is that?”

“Awww!”

“That’s Rev. Patty, *definitely* Rev. Patty”

Such was the chorus of comments made as Immanuelites and visitors alike tried their best to guess the identities of ten staff and vestry members — based on their baby picture. **Guess the Baby** was a “play while you eat” photo game where party goers voted on the “Cutest”, “Best Dressed” and “Most Original” baby photo by placing their initials — or, in the case of preschoolers, the letter “x” — on the sheet below each photo. As the winners were announced, the identities of all contestants were revealed — with a lot of surprises.

## GUESS THE BABY

### Game and Photo Contest



The Rev. Patty Alexander (in white and mauve) tells a bemused Sophia that she’s pointing to a baby photo of her husband, The Rev. J. Randolph Alexander, Rector, as Katherine Smith-Young (in black and teal) looks on. The Rev. Patty’s baby photo is to the immediate right of her husband’s.

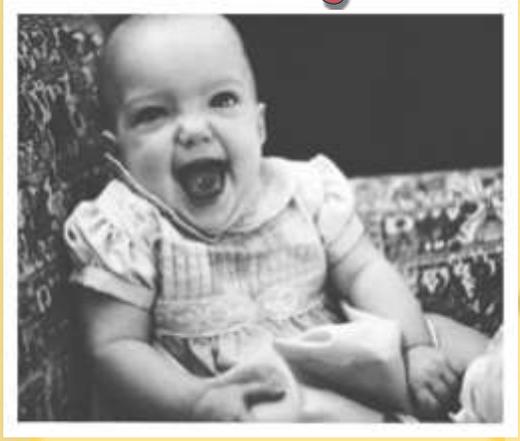
Visible in the background is Dr. Jane Tavernier, Immanuel’s Director of Music and, on this day, winner of the Cutest baby photo category.

**"Cutest"**



**Dr. Jane Tavernier**

**"Most Original"**



**Brooke Roberts**

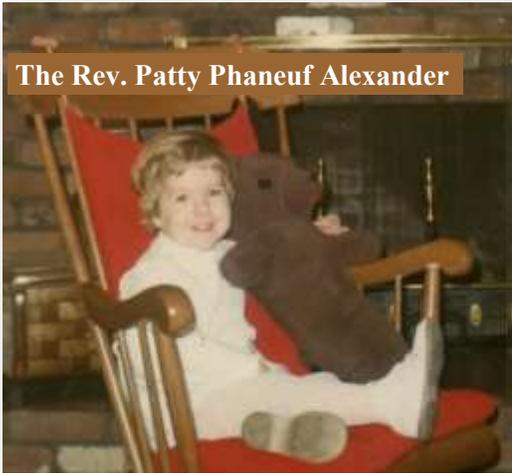
**"Best Dressed"**



**Laura Snow**

**The Rev. J. Randolph "Randy" Alexander  
RECTOR**

**The Rev. Patty Phaneuf Alexander**



**Mark Fearer**



**Hartley Wensing**

**John Bednar**



**Karen Besser**

**Kevin Wensing**



# FAMILY FEUD®



TEAM 1	
Spiders	25
Snakes	18
Death	14

## ALTAR GUILD VS. THE VESTRY: 220 TO 0!

In a spirited game of *Family Feud: Church Family Edition*, the Vestry was no match for the Altar Guild, which won in clean sweeps, never allowing the opposing team to score. Spectator Jackie Phillips (*seated*) poses with Sudie McGahuey, Gameshow Host, the Rev. John Hogg, Sarah Glassco and Rosi Urbine.



Vestry members Mark Fearer and Jim Wise (in shorts) are helped by “audience members” (*foreground to back*) Beth McGahuey (wearing red hair ribbon), the Rev. James Rickenbaker, Marilynn Wilson, Dana Hengst, and Chris Stanek.



Sudie reaches her buzzer first!

# HILL HAPPENINGS

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



## BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY July 21st @ 7:30 A.M!

Immanuel's monthly **Breakfast Bible Study** will be on July 21st, the third Saturday. We gather in the Fairchild Room at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast, with Bible study beginning at 8 AM. We promise to be done by 9 a.m!

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](mailto:cmcfaddencrosby@gmail.com))

## Seeking Donations for Incoming VTS International Students before August 4!

In the spirit of Immanuel's partnership with VTS, Immanuel would like to welcome six new VTS students who arrive August 7. As many of you know, it's difficult to move to a new country and adapt to the new culture. To help them to ease into life in Virginia, Immanuel is seeking the following donations:

- ◆ 6 Comforters for twin or full bed (new or like new)
- ◆ 2 Pillows – new or like new
- ◆ 4-Small bathroom rugs – new or like new
- ◆ Trial size Toiletries- toothbrush, toothpaste, razor (depending on male/female), lotion, soap.
- ◆ Snack foods, such as Pepperidge Farm chocolate chip cookies, crackers, etc.
- ◆ Tea

A donation box will be in the Zabriskie and Immanuel Chapel narthexes for the toiletries, snacks and tea Sunday **July 15-29**. Also, if you can donate pillows, comforters and bath rugs, and/or can help put together welcome kits for the six new students on Saturday August 4, please contact Janice Corbett via e-mail at [Janice.corbett77@gmail.com](mailto:Janice.corbett77@gmail.com); or if you would like to donate cash, please make your checks out to Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill and write "VTS student donation" on the memo line.



Please look out for and welcome the new seminarians: The Very Rev. Ambrose Adegas, (Kenya), Mrs. Katty Diaz-Gomez, (Colombia), the Rev. Shanthakumar Sureshkumar (Sri Lanka), the Rev. Vijayathasa Daniel Jeyaruban, (Sri Lanka), the Rev. Tumaini Sarakikya, (Tanzania), and the Rev. Guimond Pierre Louis, Haiti. We will officially welcome the new seminarians on Homecoming Sunday, September 9 at 10:30 a.m.



# 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](mailto: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.



**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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup>.

 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](mailto:lissa@whollygenes.com)  
Linda Serabian 703-836-4670, [Serabian@somaarchitects.com](mailto:Serabian@somaarchitects.com)

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

# New Parking Lot Completed!



Photo courtesy of Tom Kerns.



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](mailto:apowell@icoh.net) with "church photos" in the subject line. Thank you.



## *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](mailto:apowell@icoh.net). We hope to begin a training class this fall.

Thank you for considering this vital lay ministry.



www.icoh.net  
 Immanuel Church - on-the-Hill  
 3606 Seminary Road  
 Alexandria, VA 22304-5200



Games, crafts and a  
 Waterslide!

July 21 <sup>st</sup>	Breakfast Bible Study	7:30 a.m., The Fairchild Room, Zabriskie
July 29 <sup>th</sup>	Family Fun Day Sunday	1-4:00 p.m., Grace Episcopal Church 3601 Russell Road, Alexandria, VA
August 20 <sup>th</sup> -31 <sup>st</sup>	Holy Land Pilgrimage	Let's all pray for our fellow parishioners as they travel in Jesus' footsteps in the Holy Land.