

# The Almond Tree: *In Brief*



NEWS CIRCULAR OF IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL

November 1, 2020

## *In This Issue...*

### **TWO ELECTION PRAYER VIGILS FROM ZABRISKIE**

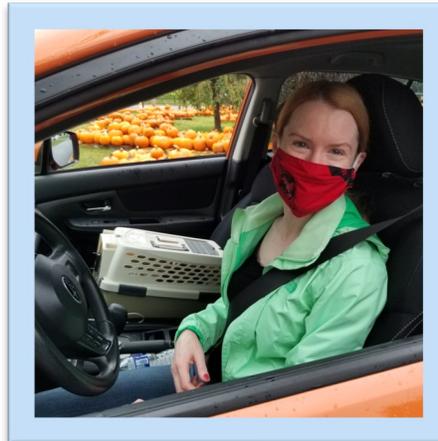
1 Have recent international events and current election caused you to crave a quiet space for contemplative prayer? Join Father Sam and the bishops this Tuesday for a day of prayer for our nation and the world.

### **BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

2 Rain couldn't dampen the lifted spirits and wagging tails of Immanuel's pet family at this year's Blessing of the Animals

3 **ONLY TWO WEEKS LEFT: Submit Your Story for "Christmas Memory Lane" by November 12<sup>th</sup>**

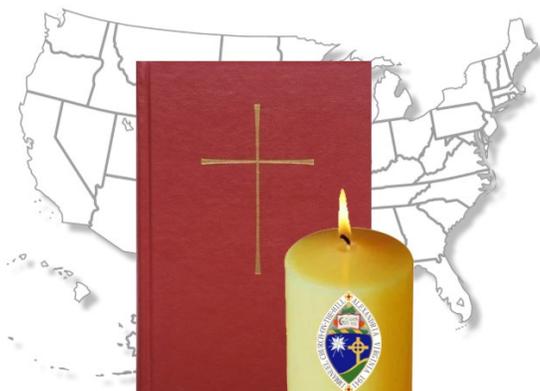
4 **"Every Member Pledge" Campaign begins today, All Saints Day November 1<sup>st</sup>**



(At left: Pet in carrier and happy parishioner at the pet blessing). Below, *The Rev. Susan Parsons* gently pours holy water to the reverently — and momentarily — bowed head of a canine Immanuelite family member during a drive-by Blessing of the Animals.



## **TWO ELECTION PRAYER VIGILS FROM ZABRISKIE CHAPEL**



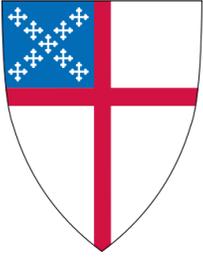
Each night November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, at 6p.m., Immanuel will host a [Zoom/Livestream Prayer Vigil](#) from Zabriskie Chapel to pray for life and health of the United States.

While designed and envisioned as an online service, we have several in-person speaking roles, and ask Immanuel members to volunteer as readers or intercessors — the service portion of the vigil will be entirely taken from the Book of Common Prayer.

If you want to participate as a reader, please contact one of the clergy. To sign-up to participate from inside the chapel, please visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DAEA928ABF4C61-immanuel>. Space is quite limited, as we will adhere to Diocesan guidelines on the number of people who can be in the building at one time. Anyone who does participate must wear an appropriate face mask and remain socially distant. Father Sam will disinfect affected items in the room before, during, and after the service.

Our broadcast services should last an hour; however, the vigil itself will continue online until 10p.m. to offer a sacred space for personal silent prayer and reflection.





For additional [Election Prayer Resources from the Episcopal Church](#) — including addresses from our bishops, an all-day virtual vigil held on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, and a prayer hotline staffed by clergy (in partnership with Virginia Theological Seminary and General Theological Seminary).

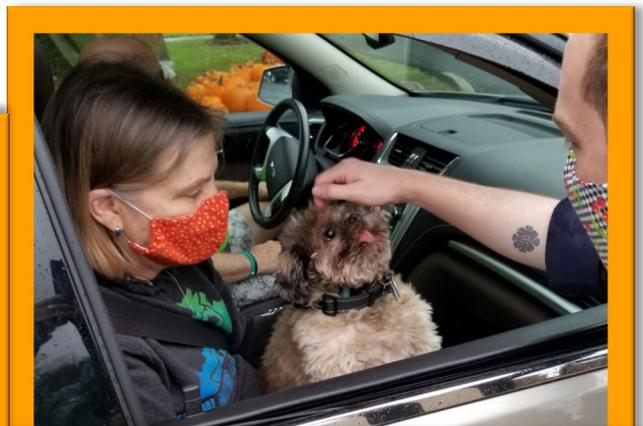
To access either service from your computer, visit [www.icoh.net](http://www.icoh.net). At the top menu under “More” select “Almond Tree Quarterly & In Brief” from the pull-down menu, then the image of this publication. Click the **blue underlined text or corresponding graphic** for either of the services that you would like to attend. For Immanuel’s prayer vigil, you’ll need the following: Meeting ID: **396 509 8614**, Passcode: **545434**.



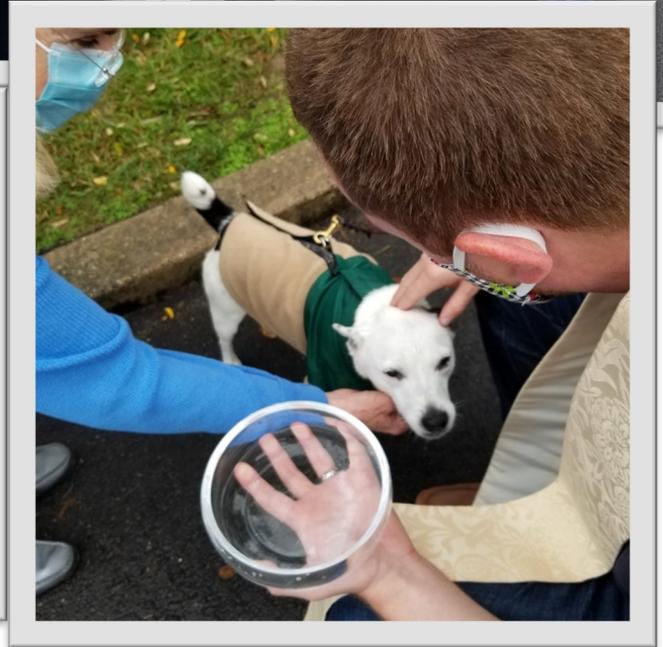
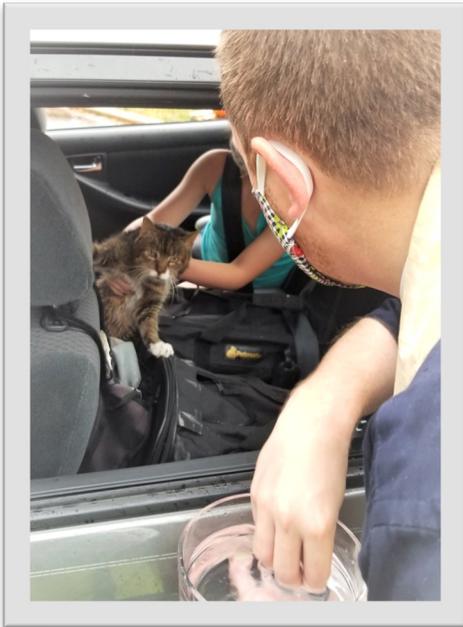
## Rain Couldn’t Dampen Immanuel’s Blessing of the Animals

Over fifty dogs — and two very special cats — accompanied their human family members to the drive-by pet blessing on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> from 5 - 6p.m. in the Zabriskie Chapel parking lot. The line of cars was as steady as the rain as Mother Susan and Father Sam gave blessings to the pets of parishioners — and anyone else who came.

Special thanks to Beth Hendrix, who took all of these excellent photos.



As the light rain helped with air quality, every family had the choice of having their pet blessed either inside of their vehicle or in the parking lot — socially distanced away from all other animals.



# We'd love to hear from you

Story Call for the December Issue of *The Almond Tree Quarterly*  
Deadline for submissions: **November 12, 2020**

## Christmas Memory Lane

Share a special (or funny) Advent or Christmastide memory at Immanuel -- and feel free to include photos! We'll feature them in the December 1<sup>st</sup> issue of *The Almond Tree Quarterly*. Deadline for submissions -- including any photos -- is November 12<sup>th</sup> (earlier due to the Thanksgiving holiday). Send your entries to [office@icoh.net](mailto:office@icoh.net) or mail them to the office. If you don't have a printer, Aleta can scan your photos in the office while you wait — just leave a message for her at the parish office (703) 370-6555.



Screenshot photo of Mary and sheep tussling over the baby Jesus during a live pageant courtesy of Tona Bunson, YouTube, ABC News.

Look for Our next QUARTERLY issue of The Almond Tree: A Magazine of Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill published online **December 1, 2020!**

www.icoh.net

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## **“Every Member Pledge” Campaign Begins TODAY**

*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace  
in believing so that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
you may abound in hope.” Romans 15:13*



To learn about the campaign and make your pledge online,  
please visit <https://www.immanuel-on-the-hill.org/2021-every-member-pledge.html>.

We ask you to please submit your pledge by November 22<sup>nd</sup>  
for the blessing of pledges. We are grateful for your generous  
spirit and dedication of your time, talent, and treasure to  
Immanuel’s ministries.