

THE ALMOND TREE



NEWSLETTER OF IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL

January 2018



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CELTIC PRIDE on Display at SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS CEILIDH!



Immanuelites got into the Christmas Spirit — while *enjoying spirits*, among other treats — at the Senior Ministry's **Scottish Christmas Ceilidh** on Saturday, December 3rd in the Parish Hall.

The Ceilidh (pronounced “kay-lee”) started with Christmas carols expertly played by the youth orchestra while guests were treated to a buffet table brimming with tea sandwiches, scones, mini muffins — all homemade buy a small army of volunteers.



More entertainment followed, with synchronized Irish dancing duo Madison Eaton and Abigail Murray; harp solos performed by Rick Glassco, followed by singing Christmas carols (led by Jeannie Cummins-Eisenhour on piano); more food, followed by games and — you guessed it — more food.

Winners of the trivia games got to take home Celtic-inspired fresh floral arrangements and homemade shortbread.

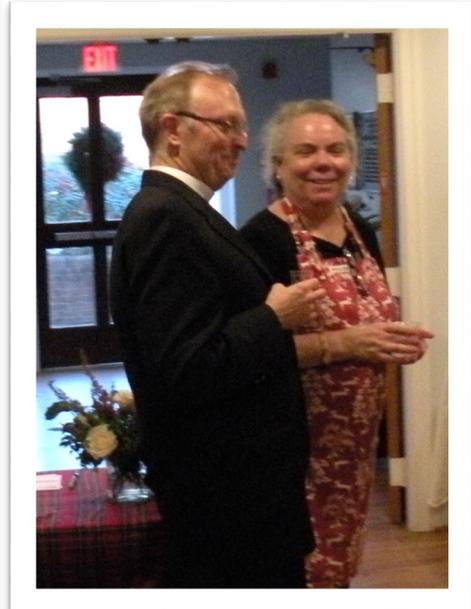




Martha Manson chats with Irish Dancers Madison Eaton and Abigail Murray

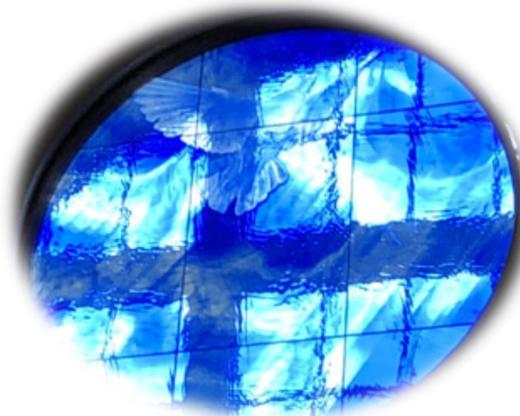


Rick Glasco plays "What Child is This"

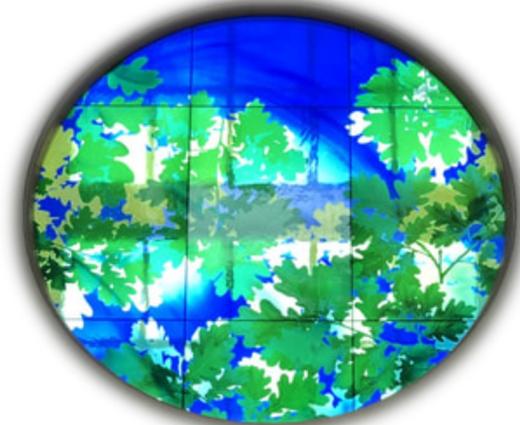


New Windows in Immanuel Chapel

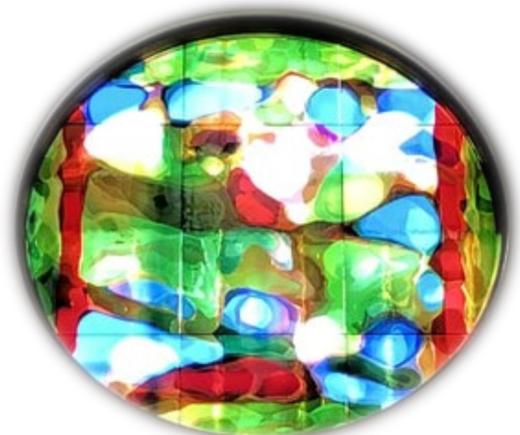
January 5, 2018



It might be bitterly cold. It might be the season of the GOEs. It might be hard to get to work. But actually, today is a very exciting time on the campus. At 6am this morning a team of specialist installers arrived on the campus. Working in the darkness in the Chapel, three remarkable stained glass windows are being installed.



It was Robert Stern who suggested the stained glass specialist for our Chapel. The BBC had made two documentaries on this designer. He was the man who took stained glass out of churches and put it everywhere - in office buildings, shopping malls, and conference centers. He solicits commissions from around the world. His exhibitions attract considerable media interest. We were delighted when he accepted our commission. Brian Clarke was to be the designer for our windows.



Thanks to three generous donors, the windows have been designed. They are spectacular. **The dove** - almost moving at high speed - hovers over the baptismal font on the west wing; **the oak leaves** - representing the Father, the genesis of all that is - sits dignified in the north transept; and **the parable** of the sower from Canterbury Cathedral as it is refracted by the light onto the ground of the Cathedral represents the power of the Incarnation mediated to us through Canterbury to the Episcopal Church in the United States.

Hopefully later today you will be able to go into the Chapel and see the windows. Try and pick a sunny moment; and as you do so marvel at the great art and the gift it brings to worshippers for generations to come.



The Very Rev. Ian S. Markham, Ph.D.
Dean and President
Virginia Theological Seminary

From The Rector



“Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid”

-- The Book of Common Prayer, page 355

As the Christmas season ends and we look forward to a new year together, the Vestry is working hard to finalize Immanuel’s operating budget for 2018. This year’s “All Hearts Open” campaign has resulted in a strong response so far, with 154 pledges totaling \$625,317. This includes several commitments from newcomers to our parish family.

Yet there are many people from whom we have yet to hear. We have many, many more people in our parish who have not yet pledged, indeed who perhaps have never pledged. Your parish Church needs you! You may fill out a pledge card located in the Narthex of either Chapel, or you pledge online at our webpage, icoh.net (click on the ‘More’ tab on the top, which will take you to Stewardship), or you may call the parish office.

Perhaps you make contributions to the collection plate on Sundays. The Stewardship Committee encourages you to add up the contributions you make throughout the year and consider making a pledge commitment of that amount to nurture your church home. Without pledge commitments by our parish members the Vestry cannot plan an operating budget effectively which will support our worship, pastoral care, youth and senior, Christian education, evangelism, and fellowship ministries.

Please consider prayerfully taking the next step in faith and gratitude and support Immanuel with a pledge. The clergy and members of the Stewardship Committee would welcome an opportunity to discuss stewardship with you and answer any questions you might have about making a pledge or gift commitment to Immanuel.

All hearts open!

Randy

THE REV. J. RANDOLPH ALEXANDER
Rector



HILL HAPPENINGS

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

Senior Ministry Brown Bag Lunch **Re-Scheduled for Tuesday, January 23, 2018**

Dr. Helen R. DesFosses, retired professor of public administration and policy at SUNY-Albany and current lecturer at the George Mason University Lifelong Learning Institute, will give a lecture on "President Trump's Foreign Policy." She will discuss the elements of Trump's foreign policy, his main themes and motivations, as well as his accomplishments and challenges. There will be ample time for audience Q & A. Bring your lunch and a friend; we will supply beverages and dessert!

Join Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill Delegation and Meet with State Legislators in Richmond January 23, 2018

Immanuel has long supported the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, which tries to persuade our state government to spend our tax dollars in ways that accord with fundamental precepts shared by Christians, Jews, Muslims and people of other faiths. **Tuesday, January 23rd** is VICPP's "**Day for All People**," when we gather in Richmond to visit with state legislators and their staff. VICPP sets up the appointments, provides briefings, and hosts breakfast and lunch. It looks like Immanuel will have a sizable contingent. Join us! Here is a link to the registration page (\$30/person) <http://www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org/register-online-annual-meeting-witness-capitol>. We'll also arrange transportation. For more information, contact Jamie Conrad at jwc58@comcast.net or 703-836-0655.

Annual Meeting Sunday



Immanuel's Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 28, 2018 in the Parish Hall @ **10:15am**.

All parishioners are invited to attend.



ALIVE!

ALexandrians InVolved Ecumenically!

ALIVE! Food Collection

Please remember that January is one of the two months when Immanuel collects food in support of the ALIVE! (**AL**exandrians **In**Volved **EC**umenically!) food drive for the needy. Donations can be left in either Narthex (Immanuel Chapel or Zabriskie Chapel) for collection. Items that are most useful to contribute include: canned meat/tuna, canned spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, soup, peanut butter & jelly, complete pancake mix/syrup, dried milk, pasta and other **non-perishable** items. Cash donations are also welcome and should be given to Nancy or Jim Wise (703-642-8225 or jrwise52@hotmail.com). ALIVE! thanks you for your support.

EYC – LET’S FLY TOGETHER !! All youth in the 6th grade and up are invited to join us at **Flight Trampoline Park** Sunday, **January 21st**. We will meet at 4:30 p.m. at Flight, located at 7200 Fullerton Road in Springfield, Virginia. We will be bouncing, jumping and generally having a good time until 6:30p.m. We ask that you arrive in appropriate activewear and bring \$20/person to help cover the cost of the facility’s socks and the rental of their space. All participants are required to sign the facility’s waivers before we can enter the play area; you can either arrive early to sign one or pick up a blank copy in the cubby attached to the EYC room’s door. For more information, please contact John Hogg (jhogg@icoh.net). We hope to see you there — and please feel free to bring a friend!

FAMILY NIGHT NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 21ST, in the Parish Hall of Zabriskie Chapel: Families of all sizes are invited to join us for this quasi-pot luck dinner beginning at 5:30pm, followed by Sunday School for the kids and fellowship for the adults at 6:30 p.m. We will be serving fried chicken as the main dish – if you’re able, please feel free to bring any dish you wish to share. Refreshments will be provided and coolers will be available for any additional beverages. All are welcome, and our staffed nursery will be opened for infants and toddlers.



EYC BREAKFAST CLUB

All EYC youth are invited to join us for a very special Breakfast Club – January 28, 2018

Anthony Burke, our fellow parishioner, Episcopal Youth Community trailblazer, and adventurer, will be joining us to share his experiences hiking the Appalachian Trail. He began his journey alone in Northern Maine this past spring. Anthony walked all the way to Pennsylvania before stopping to take a standard break for winter weather. He returns to the trail in March and we are fortunate to have him speak to us before he leaves. Join us for this unique opportunity Sunday, January 28th at 10:15a.m. in the Fairchild Room. Breakfast will be provided as usual and friends of EYC youth, 6th grade and up, are always welcome. We hope to see you there.

THE CIRCLE OF QUIET

In our busy and stress-filled lives, it is often hard to listen to the still, small voice of God. Meditation is one means to practice listening for God. Immanuel parishioners are invited to learn more about meditation and explore new ways to enrich their prayer lives. Each of the first three Sundays in February, Circle of Quiet will offer a form of meditation with instructions for that type of prayer. After the format for the prayer has been explained, the group will practice that prayer form. Instructional materials will be provided. No experience with meditation is necessary to participate in the group. Each session stands alone, so parishioners are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions.

The **Circle of Quiet** meets Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in the upper room at Zabriskie. The schedule of meditations is as follows:

- FEB. 4 PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE (LECTIO DIVINA)
- FEB. 11 PRAYING WITH OUR IMAGINATION (IGNATIAN PRAYER)
- FEB. 18 CENTERING PRAYER



Shrove Tuesday is the **13th of February**, so mark your calendars for a delicious pancake dinner in our parish hall beginning at 5p.m.

Tom Kerns can use all the help you can provide. Please call him at 703-965-4610 or his email tkerns@kernsgroup.com to volunteer.

We especially need folks who can come around 2p.m. to cook 50 pounds of bacon and sausage, plus a fresh clean-up crew at the end, perhaps around 7:30p.m.

Come hungry!

COMMUNITY LODGINGS UPDATE

Thanks to the generosity of Immanuel parishioners, CLI's Fifer Family Learning Center in Arlandria is the recipient of dozens of new books to refresh and enhance the CLI After School reading programs. Thank you to all those who contributed to the Christmas Families effort and a big thank you to Connie Kurz and her elves for picking out and organizing the books for distribution.

Lastly, and not least, *save the date of **February 14th*** for Community Lodgings' annual gala. This year's event will be held at the Belle Haven Country Club. For more details, contact Doug Henry via email *at* ddhenry1@gmail.com or by phone on (703) 739-0729.

Save the Date:

SPRING RETREAT

MAY 4-6, 2018

HOLY CROSS ABBEY, BERRYVILLE, VIRGINIA

**Leader: The Rev. Dr. William Dols,
Rector Emeritus
Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill**





Dear Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill:

Thank you so much for all of the donations and help that you gave me for my Eagle Scout Project. Everything went well yesterday and my fellow Scouts and I were able to take many boxes full of donated goods to The Lamb Center — they were very greatly appreciated; it was awesome!

Immanuelites, you're the best! May God bless you all.

Sincerely,

Sameer

The cast features **The Rev. David Crosby** as Jacob!

The Good Shepherd Players are proud to present:



Book and Lyrics by Tim Rice Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber

January 26th, February 2nd, and February 3rd at 7:30pm

January 27th and February 4th at 2:00pm

With sensory-friendly show on Thursday, Feb. 1st at 7:30pm

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
9350 BRADDOCK RD. BURKE, VA

TICKETS: \$15 Adult / \$10 Student (18 or younger)
On sale now! Go to: gspjoseph.brownpapertickets.com.

or

www.goodshepherdplayers.com



You're invited!

**Wear your finest
mask and beads!**

**Joint us for
Cajun-Creole fare,
dancing and magic!**

Laissez les bon temps rouler!

SENIOR MINISTRY MARDI GRAS DINNER

**Saturday, February 10, 2018
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm,**

**Parish Hall at Zabriskie Chapel
Immanuel Church-on-the- Hill**

Join the Senior Ministry for fine New Orleans fare and dancing, and laissez les bon temps rouler! Registration is \$20 per person (payable at the door) and seating is limited to 64 people.

**RSVP no later than February 5th to
Jeannie at jceconsulting@comcast.net
or 703-370-6555, press ext. #9 from the voice menu.**

Be sure to **indicate your dinner selection:**

- ∞ SHRIMP CREOLE
- ∞ CHICKEN & SAUSAGE GUMBO
- ∞ RED BEANS & RICE (the vegetarian/gluten free option)

Need a ride? Let Jeannie know in advance and we will try to make a connection for you.

The Amen Corner

Words From Our Wardens



As our 2017 Vestry duties come to an end, allow me this opportunity to brief you on our next steps, and thank our retiring members.

Tom Hewson, our Senior Warden, will present our Vestry Report at Immanuel's Annual Meeting during the Forum Hour at 10:15a.m., Sunday, January 28th in the Parish

Hall. It is during this meeting that all of us will be asked to elect four new Vestry members – and, as a fellow parishioner, I strongly encourage you to be in attendance so that you can vote. Once constituted, the 2018 Vestry will be in retreat that following Saturday, February 3rd to pray, reorganize and plan for the year ahead.

I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to thank the four members retiring from Vestry service after three years of hard work and dedication towards serving our parish:

- † Tom Brown, Stewardship and Planned Giving
- † Tom Hewson, Senior Warden
- † Dorothy Kellogg, Communications
- † Everett Post, Outreach

Although the Vestry will miss working closely with all four retirees, we – and our entire church family -- will especially miss Everett, as he and his wife Susan are moving to Connecticut early next month.

On behalf of Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, I thank all of our Vestry members for their tireless commitment, and on behalf of the Vestry I thank this entire congregation for your trust and ongoing support.

J. William "Bill" Kilpatrick, Junior Warden

A Focus on Lent: What it is and its history.

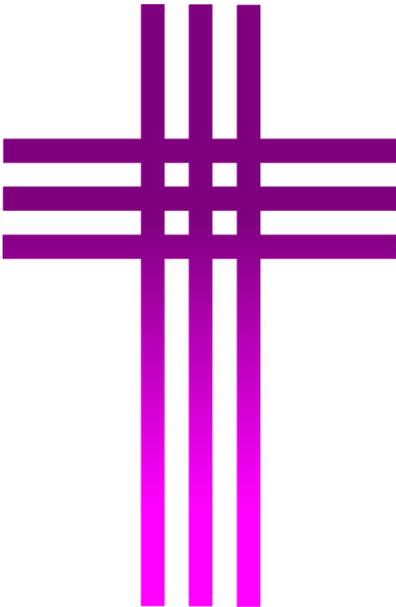
In Our February Issue:

www.icoh.net

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Alexandria, VA 22304-5200



SPECIAL LENT AND HOLY WEEK LITURGIES 2018



Ash Wednesday, February 14 Imposition of Ashes	Noon	Zabriskie Chapel
	7:30p.m.	Zabriskie Chapel
PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 25	8:00a.m.	Zabriskie Chapel
	10:30a.m.	Immanuel Chapel
MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 29	7:30 p.m.	Immanuel Chapel
GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 30 Stations of the Cross Good Friday Liturgy	Noon	Immanuel Chapel
	7:30p.m.	Immanuel Chapel
HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 31 The Great Vigil of Easter	7:30p.m.	Immanuel Chapel
EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1	7:30a.m	Zabriskie Chapel
	9:15a.m.	Immanuel Chapel
	11:15am.	Immanuel Chapel