

# THE ALMOND TREE

QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL



SPRING 2021

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

*Learn About the Young Woman Below in Our New Feature “[Did You Know](#)”*





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The Rev. Sam Sheridan offers an examination of Lent with all of its complexities -- specifically, the difficulty in feeling celebratory during this trying time, and the greater need to find our way through this “wildernes” to deepen or relationship with God.

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Sophia Johnson, environmentalist and longtime member of our Episcopal Youth Community, pens a letter describing her new EYC project and ways that all of us can reduce our carbon footprint -- and keep our oceans clean.

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### 28 - HILL HAPPENINGS

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Photo courtesy of FindAGrave.com

**Cover and Inside photos:** The marks the debut of our new feature “Did you know”, where we examine a bit of Immanuel trivia. The photo above lets you know who she is; learn her story is on page 12.

# From the Assistant Rector

Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel,

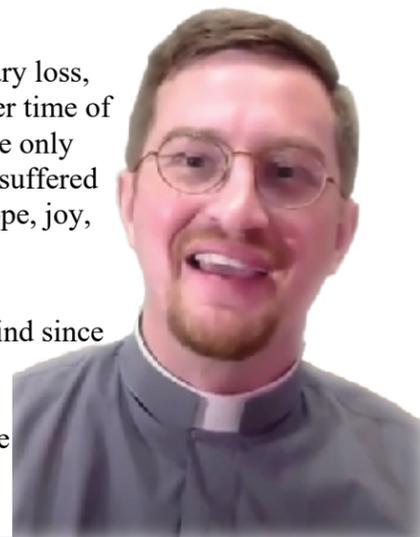
Father Randy opened our Lenten season by urging us to revel in God's love, to allow ourselves joy and comfort, to celebrate. I took that sermon as a beautiful reminder that Scripture is designed as though we know the whole story each time we read any of it. We're meant to know that Christ's story ends in Resurrection and Ascension every time we hear any part of the story. Even the darkest parts have joy and hope.

Likewise, Shawn and I opened our Lenten forum series on fasting by exploring the origins and meaning of a fast—a brief period of forgoing something you love with the expectation that you'll return to it. There is a built in feast to every fast. We, hopefully, tried not to discourage all the other things people do to mark Lent. We wanted only to remind people that there are seasons, that there is a built in rhythm to church life, and that the parts of faith passed down to us in Scripture really imagine celebration, hope, and joy as fundamental to human life.

It can be difficult to imagine or remember joy, hope, or celebration in the midst of all the other images and language of Lent. They seem not very like what we are accustomed to hearing during Lent. Our culture is so often filled with gratuitous abundance, with waste, with gluttony... preachers are wont to describe how we should withdraw from the worst parts of the world and step out into the sparse wilderness and wade knee-deep in the ashes and rubble of our burned-out lives. That's the normal Lenten imagery. It makes for good preaching since it's as close to fire and brimstone as most Episcopalians get!

However those of us who have lived through moments of extraordinary loss, great heartbreak, or the tragedy of a loved one's death near some other time of Lent may already know that those sparse and ashen images are not the only way to read the stories we recall during this season. Those who have suffered throughout centuries and come to mark this time have learned that hope, joy, and even celebration are part of the story already.

These aren't elements we all need to do some mental gymnastics to find since everyone's stressed, and anxious, and depressed, and stuck inside for the 13th month in a row. Reveling, celebrating, finding joy are all things that are here in the Lenten stories every year whether we notice them or not. They aren't a response to the pandemic. They're part of



Scripture's response to the whole world of human experiences.

Jacob wandered in the desert and was renamed Israel because he struggles with God and with people. The children of Israel wandered through the wasteland when God delivered them out of bondage in Egypt—forty long years in wilderness that simply does not take forty years to cross. Jesus goes out into the same wilderness for forty days and is tempted, invited to sate his bodily, social, and political desires by the Devil.

Let us never imagine that we're meant to understand this as some journey Jesus makes to temptation. Jesus goes out into the wilderness to fast, to pray, to prepare. It's a place for meeting and preparing for God. The journey is to God. The overcoming of temptation is swell. Good job. Beat the Devil at the Devil's game. Happy to hear that's how it shook out.

But it isn't the point of the journey. Overcoming temptation isn't really the point of the wilderness—at least not as far as Scripture seems to be concerned.

In Scripture the wilderness definitely doesn't belong to the Devil. The wilderness is, and is always described as, the place where only God is in charge. Humankind huddles together in cities, behind city walls, fearful of what terrors the night will bring... and God is out there, fearful of nothing. Author, Sustainer, and Master of beasts and storms and all the forces of cosmos. Forty years Israel wandered in the wilderness, where there are no cities and no kingdoms. Only God reigns.

The language and images of Lent, of Christ's own pilgrimage through the wilderness, have always been of carving out space in our hearts and lives for God. We want to deepen our relationship with God. We want to make ourselves a part of building up God's Kingdom in the world. We want to live in the kind of love, forgiveness, and grace that is demonstrated over and over again in Jesus' life.

The joy, hope, and celebration aspects of those desires are not artificially inserted now because we need some kind of positive spin on COVID. They're deep down in the marrow of those wilderness stories at every level. Lent isn't always talked about as reveling... but that's always been there. The wilderness has always been good news.

Jacob is protected. He was changed in his journey. His relationships were salvaged and his family was saved.

God's people were fed in their wilderness. Manna, and quail, and water bursting from stone! Newly freed and afraid people were comforted by God's mighty works and wonders.

In the Gospel stories which outline the temptations Jesus faces... He actually gets everything the Devil promises on His own terms. There is a temptation to make bread to feed Himself, and Jesus does end up making enough bread to feed the five thousand. He's tempted to make Himself

Lord of all the nations, and every empire of then has fallen while the number of people who profess Jesus Christ as Lord have only grown. He is even invited to throw Himself down from the Temple because surely no harm would come to Him if He was God's beloved. And we know exactly how that one unfolded, brothers and sisters. Ultimately Jesus threw Himself up on that Cross—and no whips, nails, thorns, or spears could harm Him more than He had the power to heal.

There is rebirth, renewal, and Resurrection in every word of these stories. There is protection, hope, celebration in every wilderness story. There is joy and cause for joy even amidst the meanest suffering.

There is a feast after every fast.

Throughout this Lent we will invite one another, many times, out of the rut and rot we've all known in quarantines and isolation. Those invitations and reminders of the joy, hope, celebration, and revelling we are called to are absolutely influenced by our more than year of pandemic living. But we aren't scraping the bottom of the theological barrel trying to find something redemptive because it'll help us feel good. We've been invited to feel good about life on this planet from the very beginning. Our faith has always been about the things going wrong in the world and our response of proclaiming Redemption.

This may be an unusual Lent because of what we're all going through as we experience Lent. Though we may all see this season differently in this time, I ask you only to consider that perhaps the season isn't actually different at all.

If we're out in the wilderness that's okay. The wilderness is where God is.

In peace



Fr. Sam

## *A Letter to Immanuel* **Episcopal Youth Community**



# Immanuel's

# Creation Care News

The Creation Care Action Team was re-energized at the end of the summer last year with a parish Recycling Challenge to collect 500 pounds of plastic bags and films in exchange for a responsibly created bench that the Trex Company would manufacture from that plastic. With typical Immanuel enthusiasm, our parish families and friends donated 500 pounds by mid-January this year and our Trex bench has arrived!

During the pandemic, this was an opportunity to work toward a common goal as a community while social distancing. It was also a goal inspired by our faith to care for God's Creation, keeping the plastics from polluting our waterways.

The Episcopal Church's Covenant for the Care of Creation is a commitment to practice loving formation, liberating advocacy, and life-giving conservation as individuals, congregations, ministries and dioceses. It is helpful to review this as our Creation Care Ministry moves forward using this covenant as our guide:

In Jesus, God so loved the whole world. We follow Jesus, so we love the world God loves. Concerned about the global climate emergency, drawing from a range of approaches for our diverse contexts, we commit to form and restore loving, liberating, life-giving relationships with all of Creation.

**LOVING FORMATION** For God's sake, we will grow our love for the Earth and all of life through preaching, teaching, storytelling, and prayer.

**LIBERATING ADVOCACY** For God's sake, standing alongside marginalized, vulnerable peoples, we will advocate and act to repair Creation and seek the liberation and flourishing of all people.

**LIFE-GIVING CONSERVATION** For God's sake, we will adopt practical ways of reducing our climate impact and living more humbly and gently on Earth as individuals, households, congregations, institutions, and dioceses.

As Immanuel's Creation Care Action Team grows, we want to share updates on two additional projects already underway.

## SOLAR UPDATE

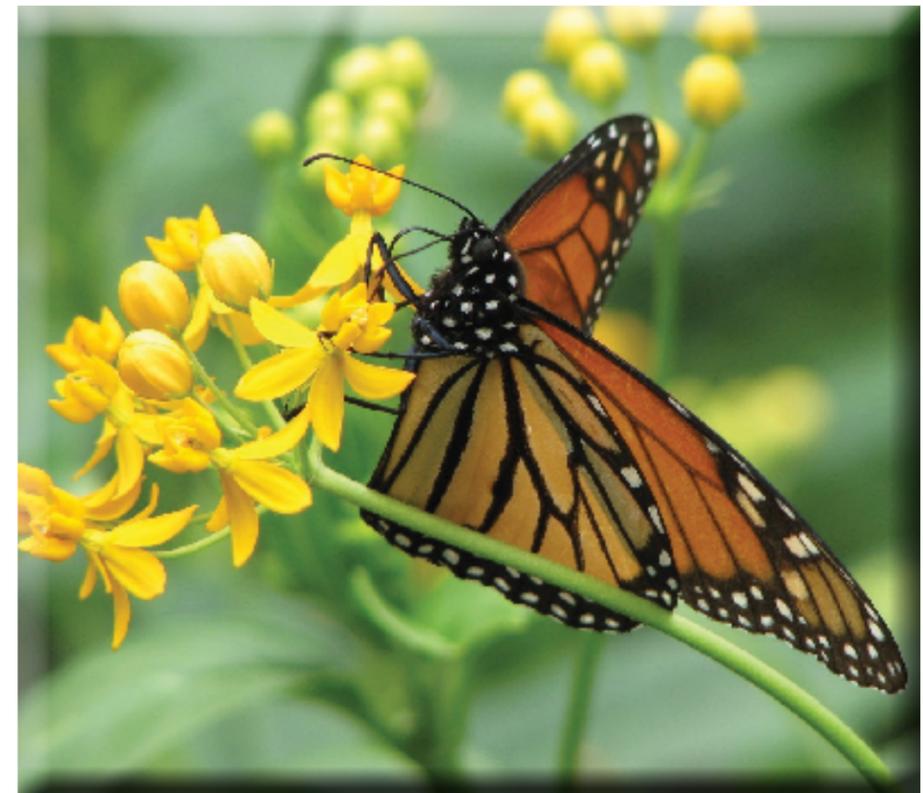
The Immanuel Facilities Group and Creation Care Action Team continue to explore solar power at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill and how best to fund a solar installation. One possibility is a partnership with Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS). Thanks to some conversations between our Father Randy and Dean Markham last fall, a small group from Immanuel, representatives from IPSun Solar and a representative of VTS met virtually in early December to resume the solar conversations and discuss possible ways to fund solar installations both on the Zabriskie Chapel/Parish Hall building as well as potentially on some VTS buildings. Stay tuned for further developments!

## SACRED SPACE - THE MEMORIAL GARDEN

The team continues to think about how to integrate sustainable practices into our planning and care for the grounds at our church. This spring, we will work with Chain Bridge Native Landscapes, a local company focused on integrating native plants and sustainable design, on several areas on our property that need new planting. As we go through this process, we are also considering the other areas on our property, most especially the Memorial Garden, and we hope to contract with this company for further discussion and planning over the summer and fall. We have been blessed to have strong parishioner support over many years to care for the gardens and other spaces on the property, and we look forward to engaging many in the parish in projects on the grounds through 2021 and beyond.

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The Creation Care Action Team welcomes your thoughts and ideas for projects and opportunities that engage our congregation and the larger community in creation care. Please contact Denise Freeland at [eco.voce@verizon.net](mailto:eco.voce@verizon.net) or 703-683-0322.



# Creation Care News: Recycling Right Follow-Up

Our Forum Hour on Recycling Right with Helen Lee from Alexandria City, held Sunday, February 21st, was very informative to Immanuel members and friends, staff, and others who use our facilities. Ms. Lee's presentation explained why recycling has become so complicated, why it has changed over the recent years, and where it goes after leaving the sorting facility. A fun fact is the glass recycling which grinds glass into tiny bits to be used like sand in sand bags for flooding emergencies. For a quick reminder about acceptable materials for recycling in Alexandria City, please see the poster at right or visit this link to download: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/tes/solidwaste/info/RecyclingYesNoList.pdf>. Here are some additional links Ms. Lee promised to share with our parish community. Alexandria is unique in that it has a three-tier program offering suggestions for reducing our potential trash, reusing or repurposing things no longer useful to us but still usable, and then recycling.

City Resource Recovery Website  
<https://www.alexandriava.gov/ResourceRecovery>

Recycling Sorting Game  
<http://alexandriava.recycle.game/>

Reduce / Reuse Directory  
<https://www.alexandriava.gov/tes/solidwaste/info/default.aspx?id=19202>

Plastic Bag Graphics and Resources  
<https://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org/recycling-bags-and-wraps/plastic-film-education-individuals/>

## Other Reduce & Reuse Resources:

**Reduce Food Waste:** Prevent food waste with tips for shopping wisely, using the food you have, and keeping food fresh longer. Check out Save the Food's website for tools such as an interactive dinner party calculator, a digital tool to help you create your next shopping list to meal prep, an interactive storage guide, and more.

**Stop Junk Mail:** Residents can stop credit card solicitations and other types of unwanted mail through various outlets. Check out this website to learn how to stop the junk mail.

**Builders Recycling Guide:** Visit the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Builders Recycling Guide to search for companies that recycle construction and demolition materials in the DC Metro area.

**Ideas for Simplifying the Holidays:** Looking for ideas to simplifying the holidays? Check out this Guide put together by New Dream based in Charlottesville, VA.

**UpCycle Creative Reuse Center:** Consider donating reusable items that can be used for arts & crafts and learning purposes. UpCycle CRC offers a place to combine imagination with everyday stuff to transform the mundane into something unique and special. For more information visit [www.upcyclecrc.org](http://www.upcyclecrc.org)



# RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING

Empty & rinse all containers. Remove plastic wrap from newspapers & cardboard.  
PLACE ITEMS LOOSE IN CART.

## RECYCLE - YES!



Plastic Bottles & Jugs



Empty Aerosol Cans



Aluminum Cans



Steel & Tin Cans



Paperboard Boxes  
\*Trash plastic wrappers



Clean Aluminum Foil & Trays



Mixed Paper (paper, newspaper, magazines, junk-mail)



Paperback books & Phone books



Milk & Juice Cartons



Flattened Cardboard & Non-Greasy Pizza Boxes

## RECYCLE - NO!



Glass Bottles & Jars  
\*Bring to Purple Glass Bin or Put in Trash Cart



Pots & Pans



Plastic Bag, Wrap & Film  
\*Take back to Retailers or Put in Trash Cart



Food or Food Contaminated Items



Clothing & Shoes



Batteries & Electronics



Garbage Bags



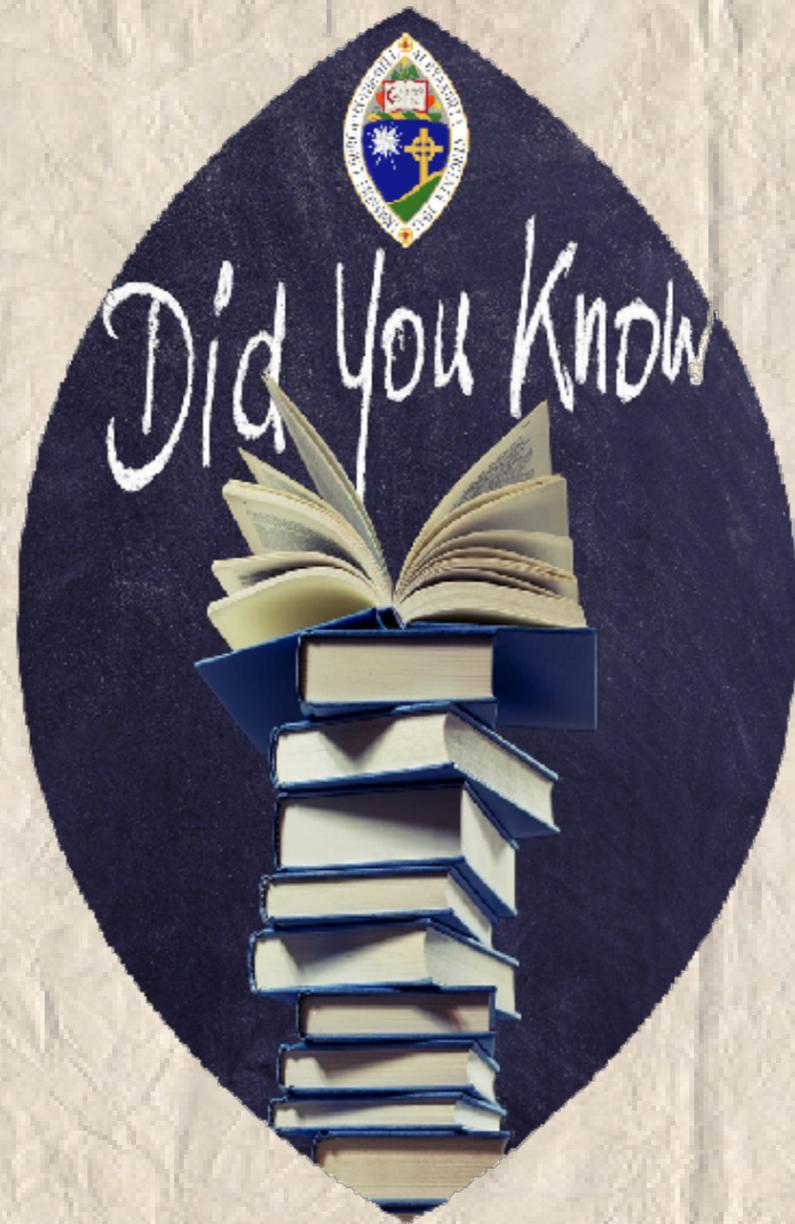
Take out Containers & Styrofoam

For more information, visit [alexandria.gov/Recycling](http://alexandria.gov/Recycling)

To receive trash & recycling news & updates, sign up for e-news at [alexandria.gov/enews](http://alexandria.gov/enews)



January 2020



Welcome to “Did You Know”, a new occasional feature of **The Almond Tree Quarterly** magazine where we examine the people and stories behind some of the everyday mysteries that make up the Immanuel experience for parishioners.

For our debut we look at the namesake for **THE FAIRCHILD ROOM**

*Elizabeth J. Fairchild*

“Can you reserve *The Fairchild Room* Thursday afternoon?... What about the Thursday after next?”  
 “Oh no, Aleta, we’re meeting in *The Fairchild Room*. Don’t worry about the room’s modest size, we’ll make it work”. “When is *The Fairchild Room* available next week?” Ask any Immanuelite if they like convening in Zabriskie Chapel’s most requested meeting room, and most will reply “yes”, and elaborate as to why without provocation. Ask them who Fairchild was, and you get total silence in response. In celebration of Women’s History Month, we debut this magazine’s new occasional feature “**Did You Know**” where we’ll learn a little about the amazing woman behind the name, and suggest why the Fairchild Room was named for her.

In this case, it seems that everyone has a memory of an event, meeting, or conversation taking place in this rectangular space starkly different from conference rooms found in most church buildings. With its tall, built-in bookshelves, large wood-burning fireplace, comfy sofa, oblong cherry coffee table, and glass doors that flood the room with natural light, the environment emits the warmth of a personal library; encouraging even the casual visitor to calm down and relax. The last part is quite the claim coming from me, as my introduction to the Fairchild Room was via a group job interview – with me on the sofa surrounded by a firing squad of seven – and still the room worked its magic. If there’s one bit of magic in her story, it’s the steady stream of coincidences and bits of trivia sprinkled throughout. It all began with her name and two dates on a brass plaque bolted to a wall.

**What I Learned About Her**

Elizabeth Lincoln Fairchild, daughter of Edward L. Lincoln and Margaret Scott Lincoln, was born in Portland, Maine on February 10, 1914 -- spending summers at a family home in Kittery Point -- and died in Alexandria on January 5, 1962. First bit of trivia: despite her maiden name, she was in fact a descendent of our nation’s second president, John Adams. By all accounts, she packed a lot in those short 47 years; living a rich, varied life that seemed to always include service.

The family home of her Great-grandfather, Alexandria native Christopher Kranz, was located on the site that is now Hunting Point apartments, and Elizabeth spent half of her life in this city.

She met seaman, Byron “Barney” Fairchild, Ph.D. a former college athlete and graduate of Princeton, aboard a ship returning to the US from France: they married in 1936. (Return from *France*: John Adams and the Treaty of Paris anyone? OK, I’ll lay off of the trivia references, but you’ll find at least six others in this article.) A prolific, award-winning military writer for the State Department, former history professor at Amherst, and advisor to the Chairman of the DOD’s Joint Chiefs of Staff Office (during the 1962 Cuban missile crisis), he shared her pride in having ancestors that worked to help found this country in the early years: he had relatives that fought in the American Revolution. (I can’t imagine that they didn’t appreciate the shared historic lineage to the very early days of our country’s founding).

Mrs. Fairchild not only played violin for Alexandria Civic Orchestra, she was reported as instrumental in its organization in 1940s-1950s. Seven years after her death, it adopted its current name, the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. At this point, I should state that the only photo I had was of her gravestone – which would have made for one depressing piece of cover art -- so I was continued to scour old newspapers online for photos of the orchestra; no dice. I contacted Ryan Jordon of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, for help. Although he wasn’t able to locate a photo, he graciously offered to go into his office to search the archives. No photos, but he did send me a program of a performance for which she played; and for that I was very grateful.

**“You Hit the Jackpot”**

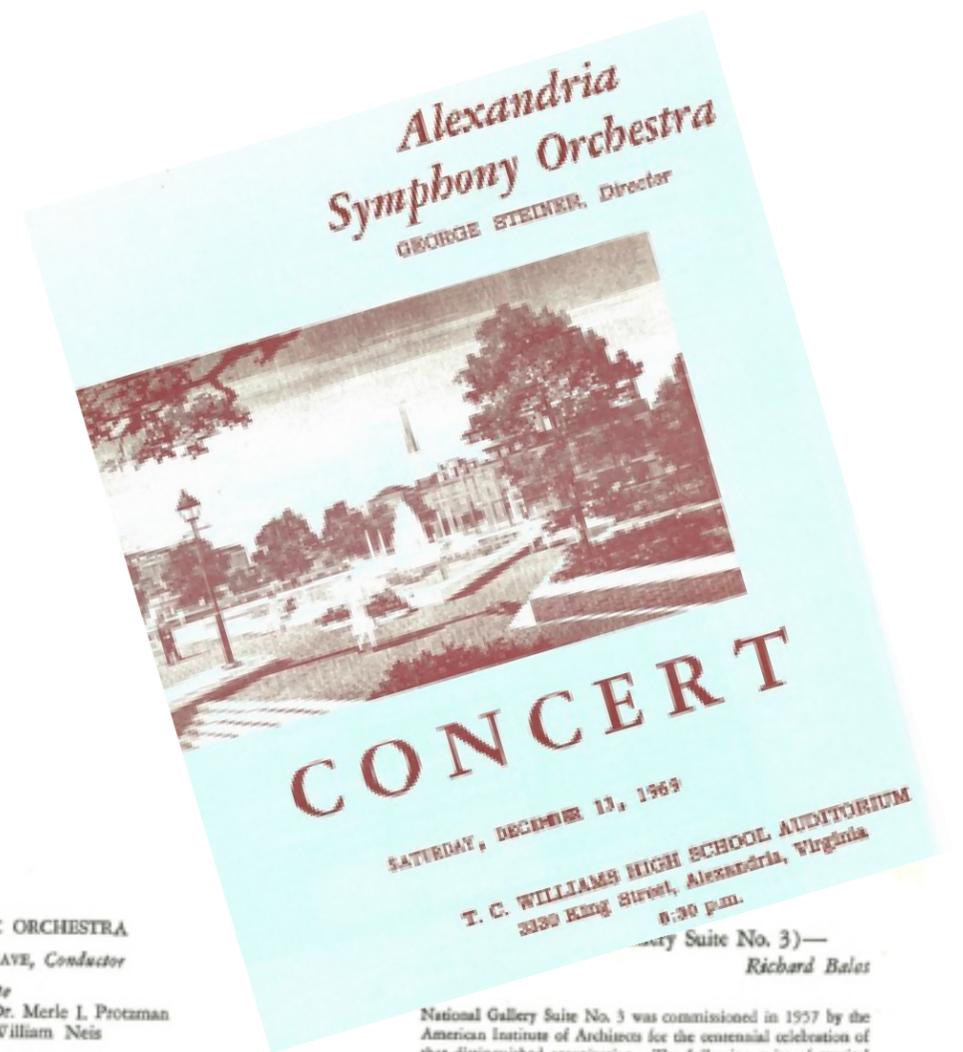
For the better part of two months, I used information gathered from obituaries to try and locate family members online. Days away from my normal deadline, I struck gold and got a pleasant lady on the phone. Calling a stranger out of the blue for information on a story isn't easy, so in an effort not to sound like a would-be con artist trying to rip off her elderly mother, I spilled everything about my employment and how to verify me online to this calm voice over the phone, asking if she knew Mrs. Richard Sweetser, only to have her reveal that she *was* Mrs. Richard (Constance) Sweetser, the youngest half-sister of Elizabeth Fairchild.

Frankly, I was taken aback because the voice sounded like she was around my age. Constance Lincoln Sweetser was 17 years younger than her sister, who was the product of their father's first marriage: Elizabeth's mother died during the 1918 flu pandemic. In 1936 "I was the flower girl at her wedding... Trinity (Episcopal) Church in Portland (Maine)". With such an age difference, the sisters were naturally living very separate lives; however, Constance does remember one summer when she and her mother spent time with Elizabeth, who summered in her mother's house on Gerrish Island in Kittery Point, Maine. "She and Byron were (living) in Long Island. When her youngest, Lincoln, was born, Byron had accepted a job at Amherst. She and baby Lincoln came home and she was alone. My mother and I went there, and I came along to entertain the girls (Elizabeth's two daughters Martha and Margaret)". Unfortunately, Constance never got the chance to hear Elizabeth, then a busy mom, play the violin. When I asked her what Elizabeth Fairchild looked like, she replied "She was a brunette. Average height... You know, I've got boxes with photos underneath the eaves in the house..." I couldn't contain my excitement over possibly getting a photo of Elizabeth, to which Constance rightfully replied, laughing "You hit the jackpot"! One of Ms. Sweetser's children lives with her, and is extremely familiar with the internet, so when she said "when is your deadline" I replied that I'd hold off printing this issue until we get that photo. We ended our call with her offering "Maybe you'll come to Maine sometime". I ask you: could this generous woman be any nicer?! This level of generosity must run in the family.

Another great help to me was Mark Zoeter of the Alexandria Library, who sent me the three obituaries I used to start my research. Once I got over my shock of just how much personal information was contained in printed in 1960s obituaries – her street address was listed! – I read that, at the time of her death, she served as president of the Women of the Church of Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill.

My initial foray into searching all of Immanuel's old files turned up nothing. By braving to venture into a long-forgotten dusty, formerly infested corner of a certain room to search the very last file cabinet in the entire office, I found the motherload: over a dozen files for Women of Immanuel during Elizabeth Fairchild's tenure.

To say that Women of Immanuel was a catchall group for managing many of Immanuel's outreach initiatives would be an understatement. They managed everything from UTO appeals to scholarships for several local schools -- including VTS -- to hosting countless benefit sales, teas held in private homes, famous annual Fall Auction-Barbecue, and Winter Bid-and-Buy Bazaar to raise funds for several dozen local civic organizations working for change; and international charities in Uganda, Japan, Philippines, Cuba, Brazil, and the Caribbean Islands. Fellowship with an educational component seems to be the prevailing theme, as they hosted lectures and workshops



ALEXANDRIA CIVIC ORCHESTRA  
 DR. WENDELL MARGRAVE, *Conductor*

<i>Violin</i>	<i>Flute</i>
Mary Young, Principal	Dr. Merle I. Protzman
Betty Burke	William Neis
Morris Dubin	<i>Clarinet</i>
Dr. Paul Eisberg	Robert Farr
Elizabeth Fairchild	Edmund A. Gibson
Jane Kofler	Stephen Haley
Lottie Meadows	<i>French Horn</i>
Erna Peacher	Robert Bostman
Mathew Repoy	Larry Zea
Molly Turner	Carolyn Russell
Elizabeth Walters	<i>Trumpet</i>
Dorochea Wilson	Paul Allen
<i>Viola</i>	Claude Chestnut
Carolyn Hopkins	Hilton Dunn
Kermit Stewart	James Webb
<i>Cello</i>	<i>Trombone</i>
Brigitta Groenther	James Clark
Lenore Lindquist	<i>Tuba</i>
<i>Bass</i>	James Linn
Frank Barr	<i>Percussion</i>
Elizabeth Cooney	Crndt. C. E. Maddock
	J. T. Arnaud

*Program*

Overture to Iphigenie in Aulis.....*Gluck*  
 Six Contra Dances.....*Beethoven*

CHOREOGRAPHY: Hedi Pope  
 Polly Blair, Dana Bonkemeyer, Bari Dada, Debbie Erskine,  
 Bailey Evans, Elizabeth Hayes, Katherine Howard, Martha  
 Powell, Susan Pyle, Nancy Rexroth, Laura Smith, Susan  
 Warner, Alison White, Diana Worsley.

COSTUMES: Doris Joy

Minuet, from "The London Symphony".....*Haydn*

National Gallery Suite No. 3 was commissioned in 1957 by the American Institute of Architects for the centennial celebration of that distinguished organization. The following suite of musical Americana corresponds with water-color renderings from the book, "Index of American Design".

CHOREOGRAPHY: Virginia Freeman  
 Bonnie Green, Sue Heffelfinger, Marilyn Hewitt, Sharon McDonald, Jere Maupin, Betsy Myatt, Ann Radnor, Gayle Remington, Shelley Smith, Betsy Saroveil, Jan VanDyke, Linda Vicker, Mary Wellemeyer.

Sign from Black Horse Inn, Saybrook, Connecticut  
 Figurehead, "JUNNY LIND", FROM THE SHIP "NIGHTINGALE"  
 Solists: Sharon McDonald, Jan VanDyke

MANDYBOLL  
 Solist: Shelley Smith

ANGEL GARRETT WEATHERVANE  
 CLEAR-STONE INDIAN  
 WHISKY FLASK  
 DOWRY CHEST  
 Solists: Ann Radnor, Jan VanDyke, Linda Vicker

BASEBALL PLAYER  
 Solists: Sharon McDonald, Ann Radnor, Linda Vicker

COSTUMES: Mary Bonkemeyer

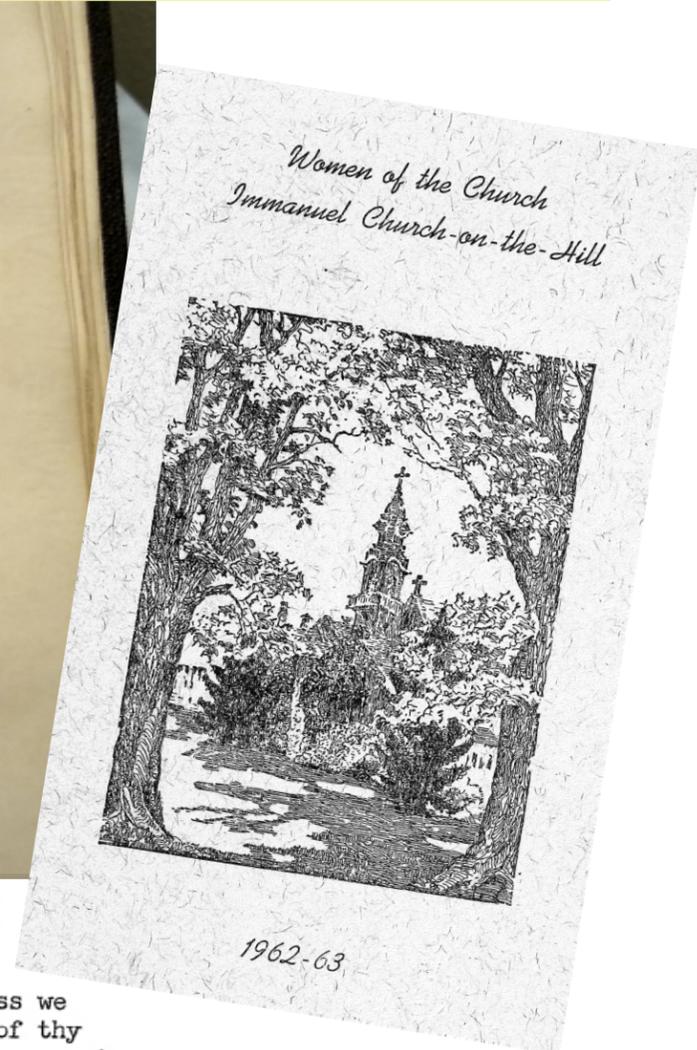
Sundial.....*Margo Moore*

There is a Rose in Flower.....*Brabms*



**Elizabeth Lincoln (Fairchild) in 1930**

(Photo courtesy of Mrs. Constance L. Sweetser)



PRAYER FOR THE WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, bless we pray Thee, our work for the extension of thy Kingdom, and make us so thankful for the precious gift to us of thy beloved Son, that we may pray fervently, labor diligently, and give liberally to make Him known to all nations as their Saviour and their King; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE UNITED THANK OFFERING

O Lord, our heavenly Father, we pray Thee to send forth more laborers into Thy harvest and to grant them Thy special grace for every need. Guard and guide the workers in the field and draw us into closer fellowship with them. Dispose the hearts of all women everywhere to give gladly as Thou has given to them. Accept from grateful hearts, our United Thank offering of prayer and gifts and joyful service: and bless it to the coming of Thy Kingdom through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

by local executives, flower arranging demos with members of the National Cathedral's flower guild, and even had state senators serve as guest speakers.

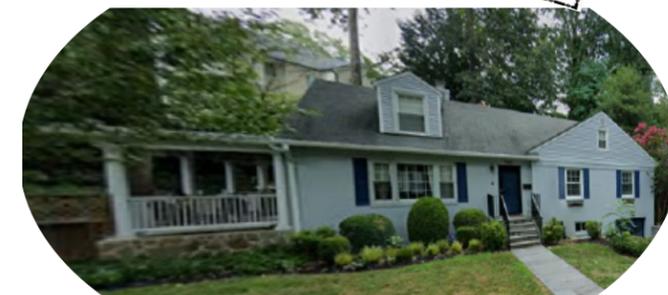
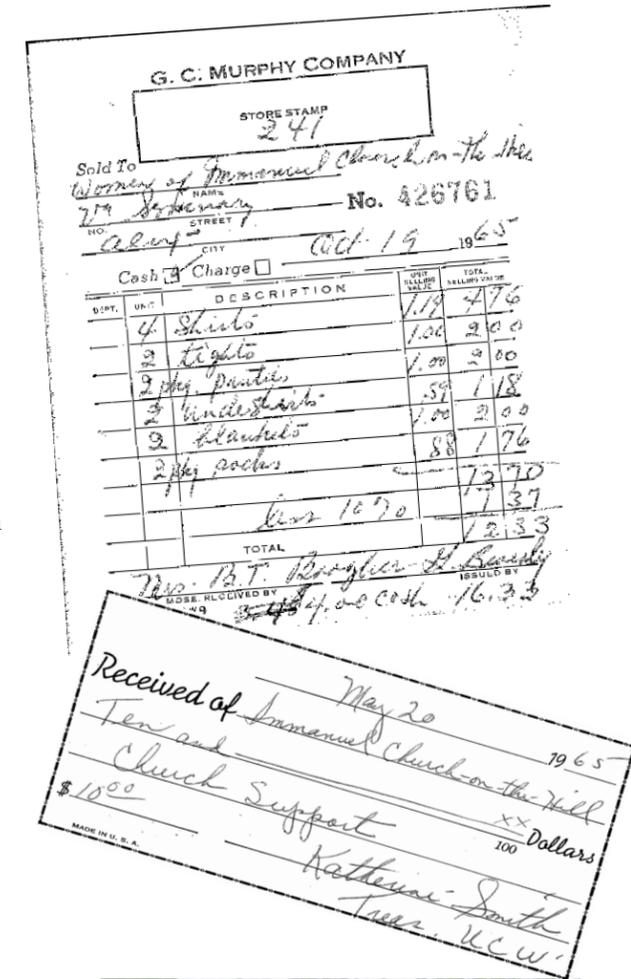
I don't know if it was indicative of the times, but the Women of Immanuel, a branch of Episcopal Churchwomen, Diocese of Virginia, was one serious lay ministry; with extensive bylaws; and their own printed handbook featuring prayers, a telephone directory, and details of their yearly calendar of events. Accounting for their annual budget of \$2,000 (present value \$17,770) was meticulous, right down to receipts for postage – a lone .05¢ stamp was swimming among crisp, clean, cream-colored custom stationery that looked like it was printed last week.

Elizabeth oversaw a tiny volunteer press corps that any first-time challenger for a seat in the Virginia State legislature would envy: these ladies even pressed to get their monthly meetings listed in newspapers on a regular basis, and seemed to have the Alexandria Gazette, Northern Virginia Sun, The Virginia Churchman, and DC's Evening Star on speed dial. Letters proved that they took all advertising for their roster of fundraisers quite seriously, leaving nothing to chance. Concerned that her impending month-long trip to Hawaii would interfere with press releases, then-Publicity Chairman Marion McDonald sent a series of letters outlining the *entire* fall/winter schedule of events – closing each cover letter with "Sincerely Aloha".

Most encouraging about this lay ministry was its willingness to go on the record taking stances considered a bit brave for the turbulent early 1960s; like childcare for working mothers, and calling racial segregation what it really was: racial *discrimination* (and "a shame on the community"). Op ed letters to the editor included open invitations for the like-minded to join them at Immanuel for "a brief business meeting and coffee hour" following the mid-week Eucharist.

Among the many newspaper clippings for its annual auction and white elephant sale, I was pleasantly surprised to see one familiar face, Page Fox, whom I got to know through Immanuel's bi-monthly luncheons at Goodwin House Alexandria. I called and she was delighted that I wanted to use her photo from the "Women's auction of antiques and modern gadgets" that she helped to facilitate.

On Friday, January 5, 1962 Elizabeth Fairchild was at her physician's office, experienced some type of distress



The Fairchild home in Alexandria today.

involving her heart, and suddenly died. Four days later, Immanuel's new Rector, the Rev. H. Coleman McGehee Jr., presided over her funeral at Immanuel -- our registry doesn't specify which chapel; however, I think that it's safe to deduce that the service was held in Seminary Chapel due to a pattern in the registry listings.

At the time of Elizabeth's death, they had two married daughters, Martha and Margaret, and a teenage son, Lincoln -- the latter, a resident of south-western California, still summers at Kittery Point to this day. Apparently, Byron Fairchild remained in Alexandria and never remarried. He died thirty-four years later, on August 1, 1996, and was buried in Ivy Hill Cemetery; sharing a grave site with his wife and (as learned from Constance Sweetser) his mother Josephine, who died in 1971.

#### Why this Room May Have Been Named for Her

Formerly known as The Memorial Room and, unofficially referred to as The Lounge Room, it served as the lounge of the Women of the Church -- Elizabeth Fairchild probably held small meetings there as well. Thanks to the contributions of family and friends, the room was redecorated in time for its dedication as The Fairchild Room on Sunday, September 8, 1963. Byron Fairchild, his and Elizabeth's three children, and a host of friends and relatives gathered in Zabriskie Chapel at 3p.m. for a brief dedication service led by Father Coleman. After touring the room of yellow and brown, with floral drapes and new glass doors leading to the patio, they gathered at the rectory for homemade cake and lime punch. The Fairchild Room was renovated again in 2016, with classic, contemporary furniture given in memory of longtime parishioner Gordon Peyton.

#### What We can Learn from Her Example

Regardless of class, race, nationality, and socioeconomic status, virtually everyone can draw parallels, similarities, or coincidences from this Christian life well-lived that was both ordinary and extraordinary. It's my hope that, by learning a little about the lives of the people behind the spaces we hold dear, we can learn a lesson or two from their example -- despite having never met them. In the case of Elizabeth Lincoln Fairchild, what stands out to me is her devotion to Immanuel, to leading a



robust lay ministry committed to local and international community service, and taking time away each summer to get away, recharge and relax. All told, Zabriskie Chapel's most-requested meeting space, the Fairchild Room, was given the absolute **perfect** name.

*Aleta*

Aleta Y. Powell, Parish Administrator

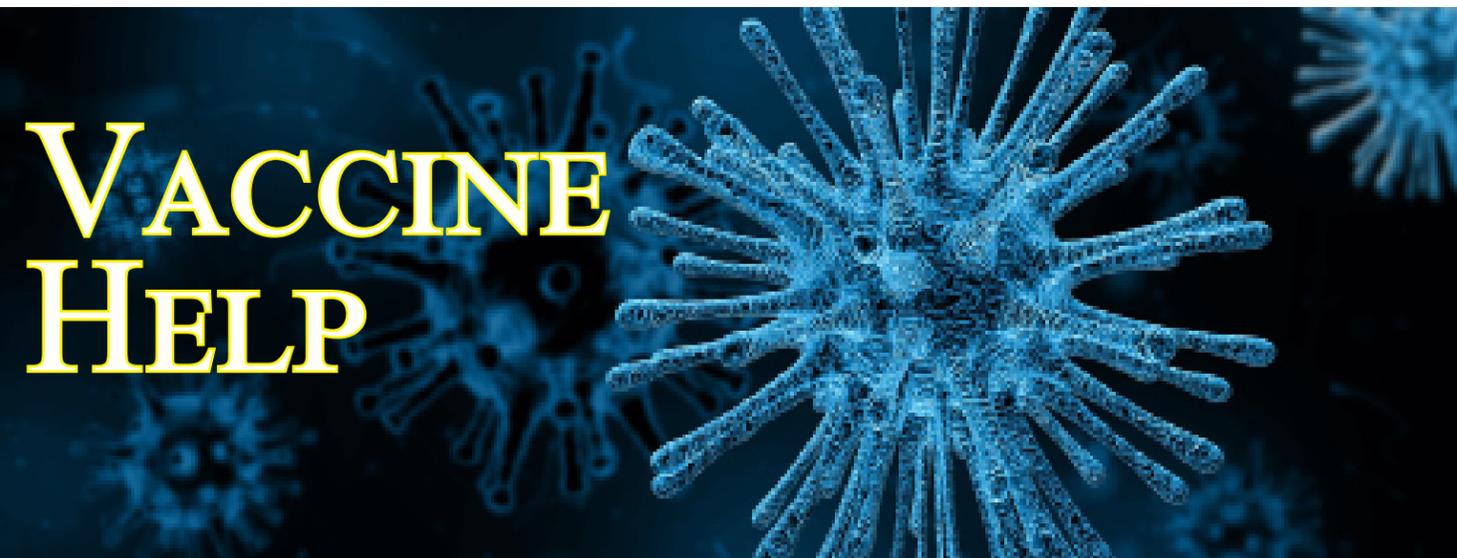
Special thanks to the following for their guidance and assistance with this article:

Mrs. Page Fox  
 Mr. Ryan Jordon, Directory of Operations/Orchestra Librarian, Alexandria Symphony Orchestra  
 Mr. Christopher Pote, CA, Seminary Archivist, VTS  
 The Rev. J. Bruce Stewart, Chaplain, Goodwin House Alexandria  
 Mrs. Constance L. Sweetser  
 Mr. Mark Zoeter, Library Assistant II, Local history and Special Collections, Alexandria Library



The Fairchild Room today. The dedication plaque is on the wall above the lamp.

# VACCINE HELP



## HELP YOURSELF AND OTHERS GET VACCINATED:

For parishioners who may need to seek help in scheduling vaccination appointments, and for those who may want to explore ways in which they can help others schedule appointments to be vaccinated, given the difficulties that some people have had in pre-registering or in booking appointments\*:

- If you are having trouble by phone or internet registering for a vaccination appointment and you fall within the categories currently eligible for vaccination, please let Aleta Powell in the church office know by phone or email, and we will identify someone to help you.
- If you want to explore ways that Immanuel parishioners could help our fellow Northern Virginians who lack access or comfort with online scheduling systems get scheduled for vaccines, the rest of this announcement is for you. Much thanks to Lisa Clausen, Dodd Sims, Sarah Glassco, and David Atwood who have all been reaching out to community organizations in the area to see if there are ways we can assist. Bottom line so far from our outreach and inquiries is that there is not currently an easy way for us to direct parishioners to get involved as a group. If you learn of an opportunity at an organization you are a part of, please contact David Atwood at [atwooddavid@gmail.com](mailto:atwooddavid@gmail.com) to share the information.

We have found or been given the following ideas on ways individuals can support sharing information about the vaccine at this time:

First, Virginia Department of Health is recruiting community ambassadors to spread the word about vaccine distribution in the state. You can sign up here to be a part of vaccine communication support.

Second, here are some ideas that came from the Alexandria Health Department -- these can be shared broadly in communications you may be a part of, like local listservs, email groups, NextDoor sites, and Facebook.

(These are specific to outreach in the City of Alexandria - see next page 22 for [Vaccinate Virginia.gov](https://www.vaccinatevirginia.gov))

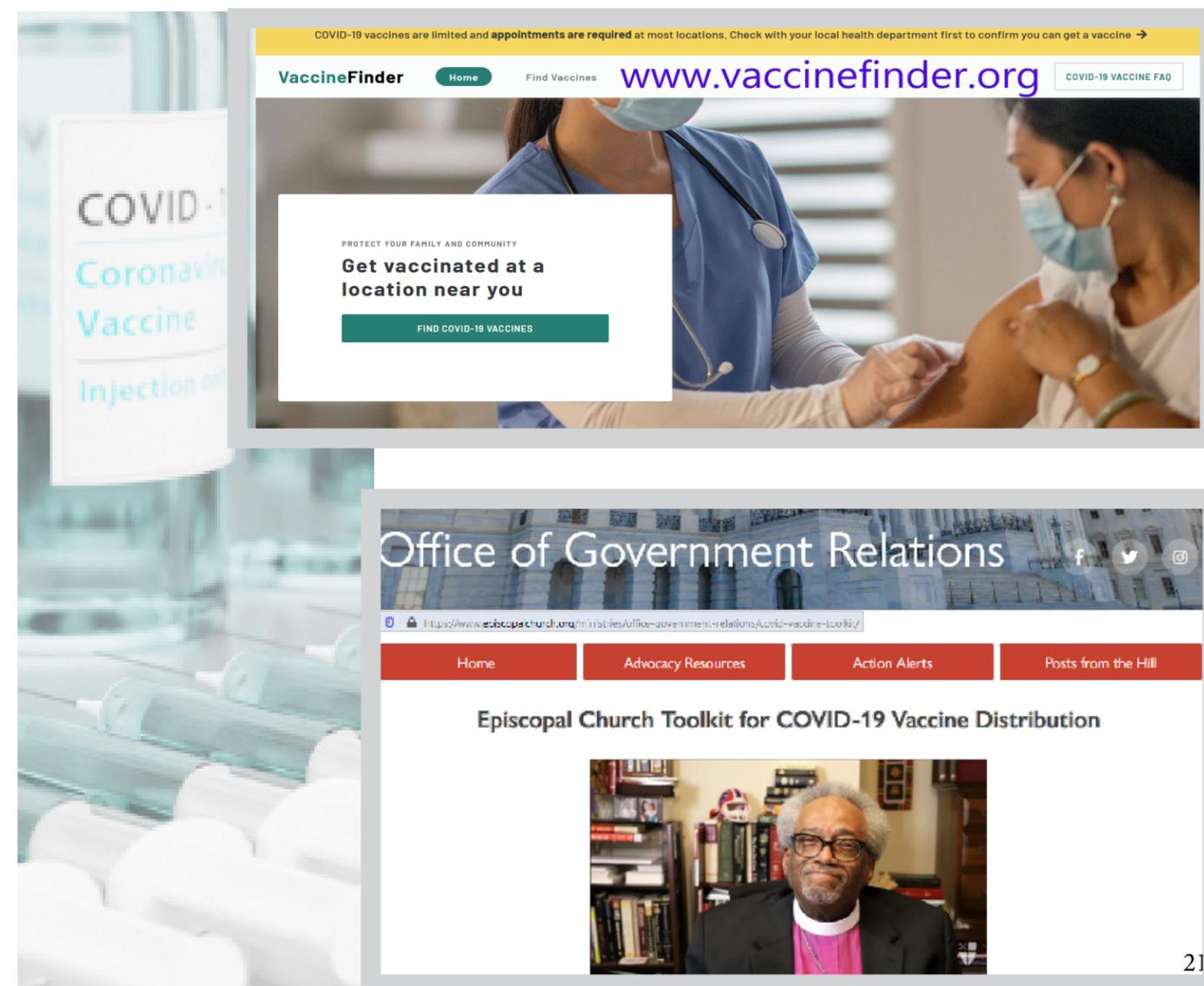
1. For people 75+, they are our biggest priority! If you know of someone 75+ in Alexandria who still hasn't received their first dose, have them call our hotline at 703.746.4988 and we'll fast track them for an appointment.

2. For people 65-74, they need to pre-register to get on our list. If they are tech savvy, have them [visit this link and fill out the form](#). If you have someone that doesn't use the internet, you can fill out the form on their behalf. They do not need to add an email address, just list a contact phone for them and the Alexandria Health Department will reach out by phone when appointments are available

3. For people who are still hesitant about vaccines, we have tons of resources! Visit our catalog of materials and please print and distribute whatever you think might be useful for people.

Finally, here is the [Episcopal Church vaccination assistance toolkit](#).

\*It is recommended Veterans who are already registered with the VA should start there and return to these other methods and suggestions as a second scenario.





Learn More  
about Vaccination in Virginia



## Sign up for free COVID-19 vaccine

& check your pre-registration status.

1. Check the List

2. Sign Up

3. Verify & Update Your  
Record

Additional vaccine appointments may  
also be available at pharmacies through  
[VaccineFinder.org](https://vaccinefinder.org).

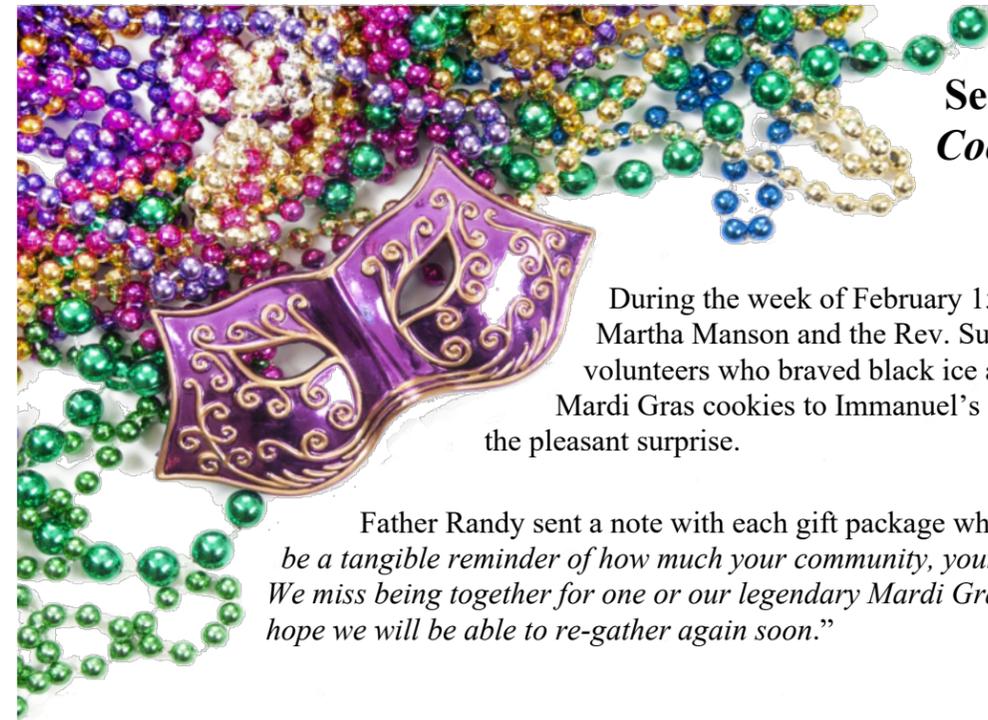
## Talk to someone (877) VAX-IN-VA

(877) 829-4682



The Virginia Department of Health is requesting gender, race and ethnicity data to identify gaps in vaccination coverage. By providing this information, you will help ensure that COVID-19 vaccine distribution in Virginia is fair and equitable.

Information gathered by the Virginia COVID Information Center or on Virginia Department of Health websites will not be shared for any other purposes except as authorized or required by law. The Commonwealth of Virginia will never call, email, or text asking for your social security number or payment.



## Senior Adult Ministry Cookies for Mardi Gras

During the week of February 15th, Phyllis Sims, Connie Kurz, Martha Manson and the Rev. Susan Parsons led a group of volunteers who braved black ice and cold wind to delivery custom Mardi Gras cookies to Immanuel's senior adults -- providing quite the pleasant surprise.

Father Randy sent a note with each gift package which read, in part "This treat will be a tangible reminder of how much your community, your Church, values and misses you. We miss being together for one of our legendary Mardi Gras seniors' gatherings, but we hope we will be able to re-gather again soon."



**STORY CALL: ONE CONTEST, TWO WINNERS:** If you like our new feature of Immanuelite trivia, **Did You Know**, on page 12, why not **enter our contest by suggesting a subject** for our **December 2021 and March 2022 issues!** All current parishioners and associates of Immanuel are encouraged to present a name, topic, or mystery that directly relates to our church. Members of both our Communications team, and editorial team, *The Almond Tree Branches*, will cast a vote among **all entries received by Sunday, August 22nd**. Parents of our youngest parishioners should feel free to have their child submit an entry via voicemail on Aleta's extension at (703) 370-6555 (press the number 4 at the voicemail prompt). **Deadline for all submissions is August 22nd.** Send your suggestion to [Apowell@icoh.net](mailto:Apowell@icoh.net) with "Did You Know" in the subject line.



# Practical Ideas for Giving Faithfully



## A Qualified Charitable Distribution Has Benefits for You and Nonprofit Organizations

The Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) is the minimum amount that an owner of a traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA) who is 72 years of age or older must withdraw or distribute from a retirement account for the year.

If you do not need all or part of your required minimum distribution funds for living expenses, it may make sense to avoid paying taxes on your RMD by donating all or part of it directly to one or more 501(c)(3) charitable organizations like Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill. The qualified charitable distribution (QCD) can satisfy your required minimum distribution for the year.

IRA owners who are 70½ and older can make a charitable rollover gift from their IRA to nonprofit organizations and pay no tax on the gift.

You may recall that during 2020, the CARES Act provided a holiday from RMDs, but that waiver was not extended for another year. That means in 2021, those who own IRAs and are 72 years of age or older must resume their RMDs.

### Know the Rules of a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

- Traditional IRA accounts are eligible for qualified charitable distributions. For questions about whether your tax-deferred account is eligible, be sure to consult with your financial or tax advisor.
- For the qualified charitable distribution to count towards your RMD, the funds must come out of your account by the end of the calendar year, December 31.

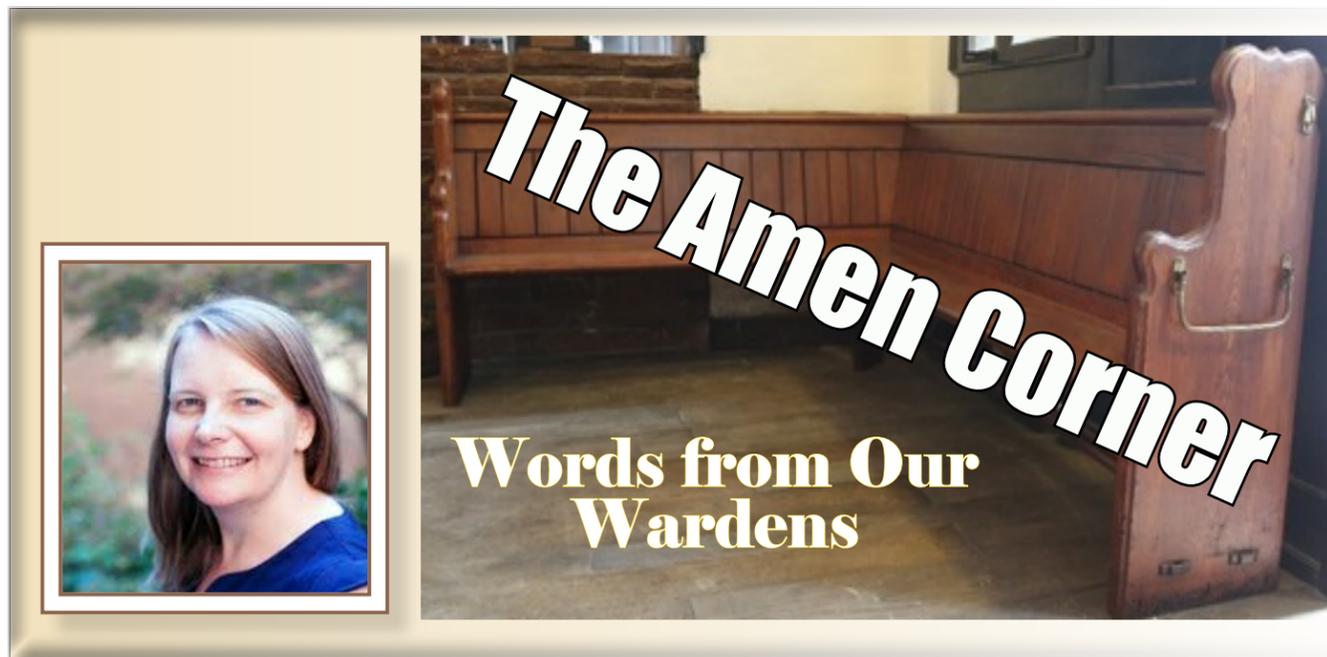
- Funds must be transferred directly from the financial institution that manages your IRA to a qualified charity like Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill. The financial firm must issue the check from your IRA payable directly to Immanuel or another nonprofit organization. If the check is made payable to you, the distribution would not qualify as a qualified charitable distribution and would be treated as taxable income.
- If you wish, you can divide up all or part of the required minimum distribution among multiple charitable organizations.
- You cannot take a tax deduction for the donated amount from a qualified charitable donation, but remember, that amount is not a taxable distribution to the IRA owner. If you receive the funds, they would be taxable as ordinary income.
- The maximum total annual distribution amount that can qualify as a qualified charitable distribution is \$100,000.

Remember these important points:

The tax-free transfer will not count if you withdraw the money from your IRA first and then you contribute it to charity. In this situation, the IRA withdrawal would be considered taxable income.

Be sure to consult with your financial, tax and/or legal advisors before taking any action to ensure you're making the right decision for you.





Friends –

It's the new year, and here we are. Still in Zoom church. Still in Zoom Bible Study – and YouTube Sunday School and Godly Play – and Zoom committee meetings – and Zoom EYC. Still in sweatpants. (Maybe that's just me...)

And yet, it's the new year, and here we are. We are still gathering as a church, regularly. We are still serving our community, in familiar and in new ways. We are still serving as Christ's hands and feet – to our fellow parishioners, to our friends and family, and to those in our broader circles. We are still finding ways to connect, to worship, to share music, to mourn, to comfort, and even to rejoice.

And, and, and – we're not just going through the motions. Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill is showing up. Our faith seems to be compelling us to keep going, to keep giving, and to keep interrogating how we are called to respond to this moment in time as Christians. And, my friends, this is the reason that I am so honored and excited to serve as Senior Warden this year.

I'm not Pollyanna about much – far from it, actually. And, I'm not saying that every one of us is showing up every day ready to take on all the challenges. But, what I am saying is this – every day, someone is willing to pick up the baton of getting through and carry it forward. Here are just a few examples that come to my mind immediately:

- In October, our parish came together and held the Pumpkin Patch, planning as much as possible for the safety of all involved and then going on faith that it would work out. As always, the Patch took a crew of people to make it possible. And they did more than just make it happen – it exceeded all expectations. A record setting year with funds raised, and so many moments of joy seen in the patch.

- We faced the season of Advent in isolation, and yet, we knew we needed a way to be connected and supported. With the distribution of modest items – candles, plastic holders, a wreath of evergreen, a handout of prayers – Phyllis Sims and her team of volunteers connected us back together with a simple activity – the making of our Advent wreaths, so we could each light our own candles at home, knowing that we weren't alone, connected by tradition.

- And, a determined group of parishioners created safe ways for us to hold on to some of the magic of the season and to remind us of the reason we celebrate. A month of activities were born, as a result of so many volunteers, from the Vestry and the rest of the Parish, and with the support and leadership of the Clergy. We started with the Grinch in the Zabriskie parking lot, and then later that month, moved up Seminary Road to take over the circle at VTS to proclaim the Christmas story. Our chapel and the volunteers serving as our technical producers (especially John Bednar) brought us Lessons and Carols, the Christmas Pageant with our Three Wise Women, and beautiful services for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Our flower guild outdid themselves time and again with greens and flowers offered to the glory of God, adorning the altar. We had music – wonderful music – that stayed in our hearts long after the notes ended.

2020 was a year marked with loss for so many of us – deeply personal, life-changing loss. And, as much as we all hope and pray for 2021 to be different and better, we know that it too will be marked in an unusual way by the continued impact of the Coronavirus. And yet....

It's in the lengthening of the days. The familiar turning of the church calendar, preparing again for Lent. It's in the doing the business of the church – the Annual Meeting, the election of new Vestry members, the regrouping of committees, and Bible Studies, and of weekly services. We go on in Outreach and grantmaking, distributing the funds raised from the Pumpkin Patch. We go on in finding ways to bring music to our worship services. We go on in hearing the Word on Sunday and celebrating the Eucharist that we so long to have not just in spirit. We go on in prayer – in remembering those who are sick, those we have lost, those who need an extra special lift these days – and for all those prayers in our hearts and minds. We go on in grief and mourning. We go on, asking what we can do to help make our reality come closer to matching the glory of God's kingdom.

In the midst of all the uncertainty this year, I am certain of one thing. We will continue to go on. With God's Help.

In faith,  
*Kathryn*

Kathryn Jackson Haskin, Senior Warden

# Hill Hap penings

March 22 - 26	12 Noon	Noonday Prayer With The Saints	Zoom online
March 23	7:30 p.m.	First Meeting of New Social Justice Committee	Zoom online
March 27	10:00 a.m.	Caregivers and Grief Support Group Meeting	Zoom online



March 28	10:30 a.m.	Palm Sunday Holy Eucharist <i>(Received Spiritually)</i>	Zoom online & by telephone
	12:00 p.m.	Collect Palms and Sing Hosanna with Immanuel	Zabriskie Chapel
March 29 - 31	12 Noon	Noonday Prayer with Father Sam's Homily	Zoom online
April 1	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service	<a href="#">YouTube Channel</a>
	8:00 p.m. - 12 Noon	Maundy Thursday All-Night Prayer Vigil The Altar of Repose, Zabriskie Chapel	<a href="#">Reserve Your Spot Online</a>
April 2	12 Noon	Good Friday Liturgy	The Grove at VTS*
	7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross <i>(For those unable to attend, a service will be broadcast on Immanuel's YouTube channel)</i>	Memorial Garden at VTS* and <a href="#">YouTube</a>
April 4	10:30 a.m.	The Feast of the Resurrection: Easter Sunday Holy Eucharist with Children's Homily, followed by Easter Egg Hunt	The Grove at VTS* & VTS Lawn
April 11	11:45 a.m.	Forum Hour: The EYC	Zoom online
April 18	11:45 a.m.	Forum Hour on Social Justice	Zoom online & by telephone

\*Outdoor Services held "weather permitting". Please check our website for updates.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE FORMING:**  
To build on Immanuel's first nine months of social justice ministry, and begin to identify next steps and engage the broader parish community, a social justice committee is forming.

If you are interested in joining, or just want to know more about it, please contact Vestry Co-Stewards for Social Justice, David Atwood ([atwooddavid@gmail.com](mailto:atwooddavid@gmail.com)) or Kathryn Jackson Haskin ([kathryn.jackson41@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.jackson41@gmail.com)). Our first meeting will take place **Tuesday, March 23rd** from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. on Zoom.



**NOONDAY PRAYER WITH THE SAINTS**  
*Every Weekday: LIVE @ 12:00 p.m. via Facebook*

Looking to deepen your Lenten engagement with prayer? Please join our new seminarian, Shawn Rutledge, each weekday at noon in Lent on Immanuel's public Facebook page. We will learn about the saint that the Church celebrates on that day, followed by a An Order of Service for Noonday, found in the Book of Common Prayer on page 103. You can also click download the bulletin from our website by [visiting our webpage](#) and [clicking here](#) for the prayer service.

# Support Group Offers Help



## **Immanuel's Caregivers and Grief Support Group**

**Saturday, March 27 @ 10:00 a.m.**

Join the Immanuel Caregivers and Grief Support Group, a support group for members and friends who are caring for ailing or elderly loved ones or grieving those who have died for its final meeting of the season this Saturday. The group is led by clergy or invited and trained leaders who make space for sharing experiences, offering prayerful and moral support, and sharing resources. We are looking for signs of new life and God's presence. If you wish to join, please contact Father Randy (ralexander@icoh.net) or Mother Susan (sparsons@icoh.net) for an invitation to join the Zoom-based gathering.

## *A testimonial from **Diana Walker:***

Hello My name is Diana Walker and I am writing to introduce you to the caregivers/grief support group you have probably seen listed in the weekly newsletter.

You may not know me but you have been praying for my husband, Michael, every week during the Prayers of the People in the morning services. He and I attended the 8am service until his breathing problems due to COPD prevented him from accompanying me.

Several months ago I saw the announcement for the formation of this group in the newsletter and although it piqued my interest, I had reservations about participating. I know very few people in the parish and was unsure about who else might attend; I have never been a joiner of support groups (they can get preachy or whiny), and I wasn't sure I wanted to define myself as a 'caregiver.'

However, I took the chance knowing I could always drop out and I am very glad I joined. I have come to look forward to meeting with the other members of our small but supportive group led by Father Randy and Mother Susan. It has truly become a high point in my week and I want to encourage others to consider joining us - we are all travelers on similar paths and learning together.

If you are unsure about participating, please talk to Father Randy or Mother Susan - I know they will be glad to fill you in. Consider joining us on Saturday mornings for one hour - we would love to get to know you and support you in your journey.

Please join the Immanuel Caregivers and Grief Support, a support group for members and friends who are caring for ailing or elderly loved ones or grieving those who have died. We meet Saturdays, 10:00-11:00a.m., and are led by clergy or invited and trained leaders who make space for sharing experiences, offering prayerful and moral support, and sharing resources. We will be looking for signs of new life and God's presence. If you wish to join, please contact Father Randy (ralexander@icoh.net) or Mother Susan (sparsons@icoh.net) for an invitation to join the Zoom-based gathering.

*Diana*

*Collect Palms and Sing Hosanna  
with Immanuel*

**PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 28**

All are invited to bring your pod (and pod friends!), collect your palms at the Zabriskie half circle, and then stay for a socially distanced time of fellowship, music, and storytelling outdoors in the Zabriskie Chapel gardens (weather permitting).



**Sign Up for Maundy Thursday Overnight Prayer Vigil April 1-2**

*“Could you not stay awake with me one hour?” -Matthew 26:40*

Please join those from Immanuel and the community by giving one hour to create an unbroken vigil before the Altar of Repose. This is a time when we reflect upon and remember our Lord’s agony in the Garden of Gethsemane through the time of his arrest and trial before his crucifixion. This time could be used for prayer, reading Scripture, or quiet reflection.

The Vigil begins Maundy Thursday, April 1, following the Maundy Thursday worship service, at the Altar of Repose in Zabriskie Chapel, and continues until Friday, April 2 at noon, prior to the Good Friday worship service.

Please [sign up here](#) to serve one hour (two people will be permitted at a time in the Chapel)



**Welcome to the Benedictine Community”**

Has this pandemic led you to want more contemplation and prayer in your life? If so, you are invited to become part of the Benedictine Community at Immanuel. We currently meet virtually twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 7 - 8 p.m. The Community reflects on the tenets of St. Benedict such as humility, silence, and prayer. Individual reflection is guided by short readings from a Benedictine-inspired book (currently “How to Live; What the Rule of Saint Benedict Teaches Us About Happiness, Meaning, and Community” by Judith Valente). Our focus is primarily on reflections sparked by having read a few pages from the book. We are not a book study group, rather a Benedictine Community, gathering as companions on the journey with one another while drawing wisdom from selected reading material. We are using Zoom currently, but if you don’t wish to use Zoom or are not comfortable with the technology of Zoom, you can simply call on the telephone, enter a meeting ID and passcode, and be connected to the community by voice only.

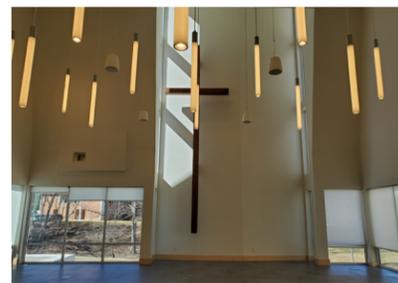


If this opportunity appeals to you during this pandemic and for more information, please contact Dana Hengst, Barbara Fornoff, or David Atwood directly at [atwooddavid@gmail.com](mailto:atwooddavid@gmail.com).

**GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL TO SUPPORT EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF JERUSALEM'S  
OUTREACH MINISTRIES ADDRESSING HEALTH AND ECONOMIC CRISES IN GAZA, WEST  
BANK, JERUSALEM, JORDAN AND LEBANON**

Immanuel has a longstanding relationship with the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, including many Immanuel pilgrims who have worshipped with Palestinian Episcopalians in the Holy Land as well as hosting seminarian Halim Shukir and parishioner Hossam Naoum (to be ordained in June as the new Archbishop of the Diocese of Jerusalem). Covid's toll on health, jobs and businesses throughout the region has been extensive, only exacerbated by last year's port explosion in Lebanon.

The Diocese of Jerusalem continues to face many challenges as it meets the health, education and crisis response needs across the region. Immanuel pilgrims in 2018 visited and were very impressed with what we saw and learned about some of these ministries, which would benefit immensely from your help. Please consider make contributions on-line at the AFEDJ website. Thank you.



**THANKS BE TO GOD: WE DID IT! CELEBRATE WITH  
CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION**

As Resurrection speeds toward occupancy of its new church building around the corner from Immanuel, we invite you to celebrate with us online. We'll begin by thanking the Very Rev. Ian Markham, Dean and President of VTS, and your Rector, the Rev. J. Randolph "Randy" Alexander, Jr. at a **Service of Giving Thanks at 5:00 pm on Palm Sunday**, for their—and your—very generous sharing of space these past 29 months while we built 113 units of affordable housing in The Spire and a new church building. The **ribbon cutting for our new church building will be at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 3** with the Rt. Rev. Susan Goff, Bishop Suffragan and Ecclesiastical Authority, City of Alexandria officials, and the people involved in bringing the project to fruition. At **1:00 p.m. Bishop Goff will preside at the Consecration of the Building**, with our Building Committee, Vestry, and Rector, the Rev. Jo J. Belser. These events will be live-streamed on our YouTube channel and we welcome your participation.

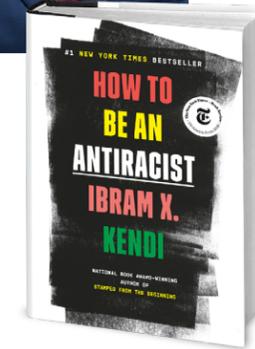


THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA



**Q&A with Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, New York Times  
Best-Selling Author of "How to Be an Antiracist"**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24 | 7-8:30 P.M.**



Province III will host a webinar with Dr. Ibram X. Kendi for a discussion on his book *How to Be an Antiracist*. Dr. Kendi will speak for 45 minutes, followed by a time for questions and answers. Everyone in Province III is invited to join. The event will take place via Zoom. If the space fills up, a waiting list will be started. [Register here.](#)

**It Ain't Easy Being Native: Indigenous People, the Doctrine of  
Discovery and the Episcopal Church**

**MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021 | 12-1:30 P.M.**

This workshop examines the history of Indigenous Americans and the involvement of the Christian Church from early missionary and colonization efforts. The current realities and challenges of Indigenous life will also be presented, with suggestions on how the Church can most effectively respond to the injustices of the past, many of which continue to the present day. The Rev. Dr. Bradley Hauff (Oglala Sioux), Indigenous Ministries Missioner for the Episcopal Church, will lead this workshop. [Register here.](#)



**Retuning Wednesday, April 7th!**



# **JOSHUA IN 3D: A Social Justice-Oriented Bible Book Study**

## **Upcoming Forum Hours in April: EYC (April 11) and Social Justice (April 18)**

As our parish begins the work of opening programs and lines of dialogue about Social Justice, one of our beginning steps has been teased in the Old Testament Bible Study which was taking place Wednesday nights and Saturday mornings. We'll continue with the Saturday version of OT Bible study, but Wednesday night is going to be devoted to the book of Joshua—the most violent and problematic book in scripture. How does this relate to Social Justice?!

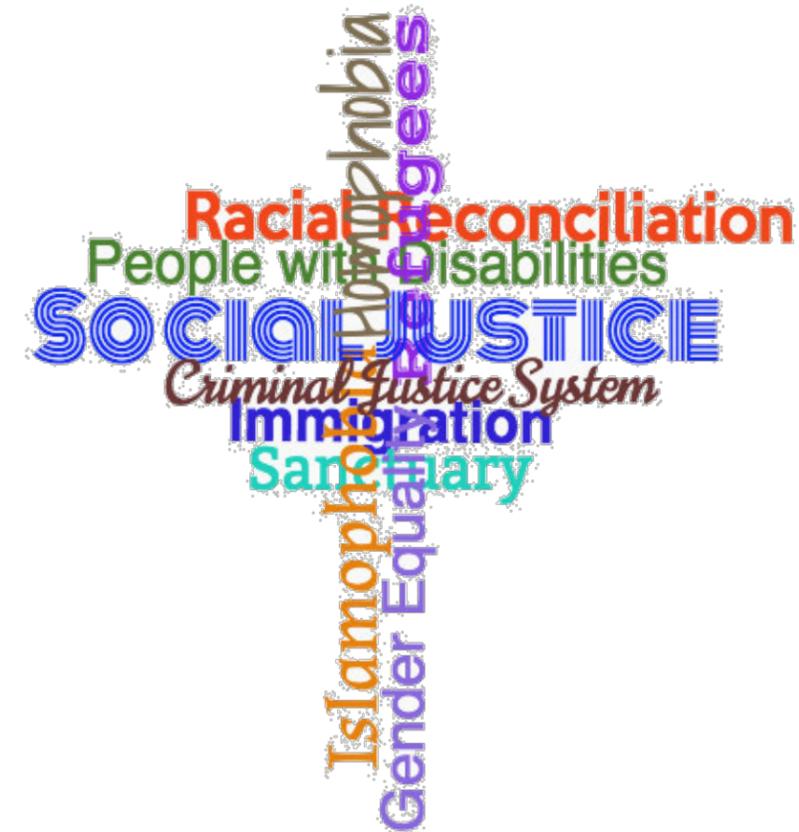
Well, Fr Sam will follow along L Daniel Hawk's Joshua in 3D, which looks at a dimension of the biblical story that trumpets ancient Israel's nationalism, a further dimension which undercuts that dominant narrative of racial and ethnic superiority, and a third in-depth analysis of how European settlers to North America, early Americans, and Americans today imagine ourselves with this story as our backdrop. We'll flit through race, religion, 14th-19th century politics, and a whole host of other things we all worked very hard not to talk about with our families over Thanksgiving.

Hawk is arguably the English-speaking world's premiere student of Joshua and offers superb exegesis of the biblical text and analysis of the land as divine gift and promise, mass killing, Israel's distinctive attributes, the construction of the Indigenous Other, and sets them within their broader biblical context. He then contrasts those elements with America's narrative of westward expansion, the conviction of America's unique character and destiny, total war and ethnic cleansing, the dehumanization of Native peoples, patriotism and homeland, the idea of the American Dream. As a whole, this book offers Joshua as a biblical resource for reading the American experience, challenging readers to reflect on how conquest shaped America's identity and how it continues to influence American attitudes and actions.

Please join us on Wednesday night at 7p.m where we'll give a proper introduction to the fascinating (and horrifying) book of Joshua. We'll discuss, in general, the hard themes of the following weeks so everyone knows what they're getting into AND we'll go over how and when Fr Sam will release some photocopied snippets so that everyone who is interested doesn't have to buy this book until/ unless they're really into it.

### **Join Joshua in 3D Bible/Book Study Zoom Meeting**

Meeting ID: 832 5461 5188    Passcode: 687580



Please join us after worship for two exciting forum hours the two Sundays after Easter. On April 11, the EYC will preview for us the kinds of things they do together and grapple with as young Christians trying to understand and live out their faith. On April 18, we'll have a report by several people who have been involved in the new Social Justice ministry started last summer, have a discussion and Q & A regarding social justice, and look towards social justice plans for the next few months."

## BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY on Luke 15:11-32

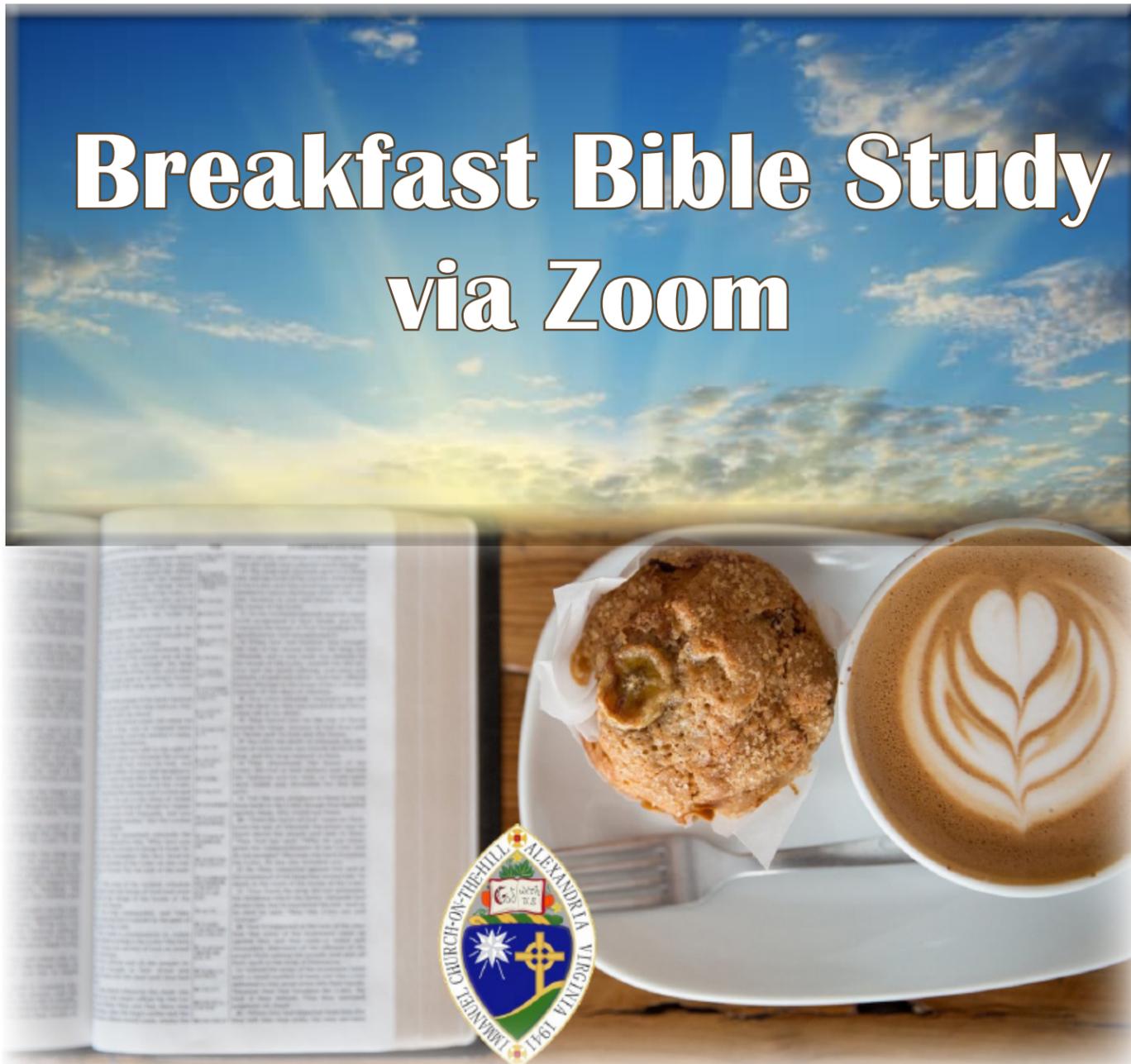
Join us online for Immanuel's monthly Saturday morning Breakfast Bible Study on **Saturday, April 17th** -- we meet the third Saturday of each month. We will meet via Zoom (link and info below) beginning at 8a.m.. Our theme this year is God's Loving Concern; we will read **Luke 15:11-32**, using the African Model of Reflection. For more information, contact Chrissie at [cmfaddencrosby@gmail.com](mailto:cmfaddencrosby@gmail.com).

For more information, please visit our website [HERE](#)

Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/95954506553?pwd=Y05kOG1mK25abTZqUURvVk4wOTRBdz09>

Meeting ID: 959 5450 6553      Passcode: 027913 Friends [By phone: 1(301) 715-8592]



# Shrine Mont Camps Are a GO!

## ANNOUNCING 2021 CAMPS DATES

Shrine Mont Camps is excited to offer both in-person and online camp experiences this Summer. Camp leaders have been hard at work for many months, consulting with medical professionals and other camps professionals across the country to design camps that will be fun and safe for all. And, building on the success of last summer, Shrine Mont Camps will again offer Light in the Valley, an online camp where campers can make friends, play and worship together from home.

Registration will open March 23 but you can check out camp dates today. SMC is also asking camper families to provide feedback via this survey, which will help inform ongoing plans and preparations for the 2021 summer camps. For questions, feel free to contact the office at [office@icoh.net](mailto:office@icoh.net).

### IN-PERSON ON THE MOUNTAIN: WHAT'S THE SAME, WHAT'S NEW

Clearly Summer Camp 2021 will look a little different from year's past, but one thing won't change: Campers will still grow in their relationships to self, others and God in a safe, inclusive and loving environment. Camps will feature smaller groupings for some parts of the day and come together in larger groups outdoors, still employing appropriate safety measures. Medical staff will be in residence to provide expert management of pandemic protocols and response. You can read more about protocols in the FAQs.

### LIGHT IN THE VALLEY ONLINE CAMP

Last summer's Light in the Valley camps proved that online camp can be fun, faith-filled and a time for making friends. We'll be sharing more details about online camps in the coming weeks.

### Now Hiring Camp Staff

Shrine Mont Camps is eager to fill counselor and staff positions for both in person camp and virtual camp. Some virtual camp staff will be able to work from home. If you know someone whom you think would make a great camp counselor or staff member, please forward this email and encourage them to apply today!





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

**ONE CONTEST, TWO WINNERS:** If you like our new feature of Immanuelite trivia, **Did You Know**, consider entering our contest to suggest a subject for our December 2021 and March 2022 issues! All current parishioners and associates of Immanuel are encouraged to present a name, topic, or mystery that directly relates to our church. Members of both our Communications team, and editorial team, *The Almond Tree Branches*, will cast a vote among **all entries received by Sunday, August 22nd**. Parents of our youngest parishioners should feel free to have their child submit an entry via voicemail on Aleta's extension at (703) 370-6555 (press the number 4 at the voicemail prompt). \_

**Deadline for all submissions is August 22nd. Send your suggestion to [Apowell@icoh.net](mailto:Apowell@icoh.net) with "Did You Know" in the subject line.**

***Upcoming quarterly issue June 2021:***

**Immanuel's Ministries**

Submission  
Deadline for  
June *issue* is  
**May15th**

