

IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL

Parish Notes

December 14, 2025

**IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST we welcome you
to Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill!**

Immanuel is an Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Virginia, and is part of the world-wide Anglican Communion. Immanuel was founded by the Virginia Theological Seminary. We are one parish that worships in two locations: the Zabriskie Chapel (3606 Seminary Road), and Immanuel Chapel (3737 Seminary Road) on the seminary grounds. Immanuel Chapel offers a fully-staffed nursery for our infant and toddler parishioners.

Visitors are encouraged to fill out a visitor card — located in the pews or display stands at the entrances of the chapels. Please give your card to an usher or place in the collection plate. Thank you.

For the latest information on our online worship service and to view a video of our most recent service, please visit our website (www.icoh.net).

PRAY FOR PARISHIONERS: Ann MacNamara, Jim, Nancy, Spencer, and Zuzanna Wise, Carolyn Ferguson, Catherine Sinclair, Chris von Schoening, Craig Jackson, Cynthia Morton, Cy Murphy, David Phillips, Debbie Hewson, Gary and MeiLung DeVight, Gordon Johnson, Hugh Campbell, Jane, the Jim and Lisa Clausen Family, John Richards, Joseph, Kenny, Marcus Rarick, Mary Jane Ruhl, Nancy Bishop, Natalie Doyle Hennin, Norma Taliaferro, Rollin Huntington, Susan Montague, Thom Hussey, Tom and Martha Shimkin, and Wendy Hoge.

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY: Andrew Davis, Ann Langdon Days, Ann Woodward, Barbara Kellner, Barbara Sagan, Becky Smith, Betsy Fox Berry, Brian and Joyce, Bridget Rice Rose, Caleb Lusk, Carol Ording, Charlotte Kellogg, Cicely, Donna Becker, George Rustigian, Gerry, the Howerton Family, Hudson Milligan, Jack Allen, Jackson Sirhal, Jean Couban, Jodi Wilson, Joe Micelli, the Rev. John Hogg, Joseph and Elaine Kelly, Judi Rhodes, Leea Gorman, Lilly Pinner, Louise Jackson, Lysbeth, Marcia Richardson, Margie Lidoff, Marie, Mary Horner, Mary Muniz, Marty Childs, McQuade Milligan, Melvyn and Stacy, Michael, Paul, Peter Blackledge, Rosemary Wensing, Russ, Ryan Willis, Sofia, Soundary Dilan, Stacey, Stephen Miller, Stephen Spurlock, Susan Little, Thomas Henry, Tim Williams, Tony, Val, Wesley Johnson, and Winnie Kidd.

Pray for those who are celebrating birthdays this week: Christopher DeMulder, Sydney Onley, Jim Snow, Katherine Warlick, Candy Levin, Susan Stockton, Tiffany McCaslin, Kameran Onley, David Peabody, Kendra Smyth, Martha Byron, Henry James and Jo Ann Toledo.

Pray for those serving around the world: Noah Barker, Ian Phillips, Todd Bates, Jason Osborne, Michael Hussey, Scott, and Philip Pretzinger.

Those who have died: John Carlton Backus, Jr. and Helen Stafford, friends of Dorothy Kellogg. *Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.*

St. Nicholas Exhibit Tour for children ages 1-18 TODAY after the 10am Eucharist. Get on the Immanuel Family Ministries email list to receive email updates on all our offerings for children. Email Rev. Sarah at sspurlockbiggs@icoh.net to be included!



Our **Wednesday Quiet Prayer** session this Wednesday, December 17th, will be the last of the series this Advent, and will be a quiet eucharist in the Oratory (15 mins of silence, followed by a very short eucharistic celebration, finishing as usual by 6pm). We are happy to announce that **Quiet Prayer** sessions will **resume, as before, 5.15 -6 pm in the Oratory, from Wednesday, January 7th through March 25th**. This will provide a wonderful opportunity to enter into the call of Lent, for quiet prayer and preparation, which is deeply counter-cultural in this season which can be so dominated by consumerism. We invite all to join us.

Announcements

WEEKDAY WORSHIP AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

All are welcome to participate

Morning Prayer Tuesday, December 16th @ 10:00 a.m., Zabriskie Chapel

Quiet Prayer, Wednesday December 17th, 5:15 - 6:00 p.m.

The Oratory Chapel inside Immanuel Chapel

Weekly Bible Study: "*The Gospel of John*" Thursday, December 18th

@10:30 a.m. online via Zoom.

Look for login details in your weekly eBlast email.

Compline, Friday December 19th @ 8:30 p.m, online via Zoom

WEDNESDAYS IN THE WORLD with *The Rev. Sarah Spurlock Biggs*

Join Sarah for fellowship this **Wednesday, December 17th** from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the Alexandria Pastry Shop, Bradlee Shopping Center on King Street. **All are welcome!**



Every Member Pledge Campaign Update: We have received 102 pledges so far, totaling \$561,650. This includes 6 new pledges and 57 who increased from last year. We hope for a total of \$725,000.

If you have not yet made your pledge please do so as soon as possible. You may return the pledge card that was mailed to you, or you may pledge by scanning the QR code at right, or pledge through [our website](#), by clicking the "Pledge Here" button.



SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP: DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

FESTIVE HOLIDAY TEA AND CAROL SING

Join us on Tuesday, December 16 in the Parish Hall for a Festive Holiday tea and plenteous goodies at 2pm. Afterwards, we will adjourn to the chapel for a carol sing. Pianist extraordinaire and our own Immanuel Choir bass section leader Daryl Ott will be taking your requests, together with Rick Glassco on the chimes, so think ahead and be ready to call out all your favorite carols. You know...those songs that make the season bright!

Please RSVP to Karen Besser at karen.besser@gmail.com, so that we know how many cookies, cucumber sandwiches and festive candies to have on hand.

THIRD WEDNESDAY LUNCH AT GOODWIN HOUSE-ALEXANDRIA on December 17 at noon in the Fillmore room. Please join us for luncheon and conversation. RSVP to Mother Susan (sparsons@icoh.net) if you are not a resident of Goodwin House, and to Susan Kernan (skernan40@aol.com) if you are a resident.

Upcoming Schedule for Advent and Christmastide

December 21	8:00 a.m.	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent with Holy Eucharist Rite I</i>	Zabriskie Chapel
	10:00 a.m.	<i>Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist Rite II</i>	Immanuel Chapel
	4:00 p.m.	<i>Blue Christmas Prayer Service</i>	Zabriskie Chapel
December 24	4:00 p.m.	<i>Christmas Prelude with Full Choir, and Brass</i>	
	5:00 p.m.	<i>Christmas Eve Festival Holy Eucharist Rite II with Full Choir, and Brass</i>	Immanuel Chapel
	8:40 p.m.	<i>Christmas Prelude with Choral Ensemble, and Brass</i>	
	9:00 p.m.	<i>Christmas Eve Festival Holy Eucharist Rite II with Brass</i>	
December 25	11:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Holy Eucharist with Organ and Carols	Zabriskie Chapel
December 29	8:00 a.m.	First Sunday After Christmas with Holy Eucharist Rite I	Zabriskie Chapel
	10:00 a.m.	First Sunday After Christmas with Holy Eucharist Rite II	
January 4, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Rite I	Zabriskie Chapel
	10:00 a.m.	Youth-led Sunday with Holy Eucharist Rite II	
January 11, 2026	8:00 a.m.	<i>Epiphany Sunday (transferred) with Holy Eucharist Rite I</i>	Zabriskie Chapel
	10:00 a.m.	<i>Children's Epiphany Pageant with Holy Eucharist Rite II followed by Festive Reception in the Welcome Center</i>	Immanuel Chapel



SIGN-UP TO SERVE: DECEMBER - FEBRUARY 2026

IT'S EASY AND ONLINE

Sign-up to Serve in our Sunday Services *through February 2026* ONLINE by visiting the landing page of our website at ICOH.net and clicking our **Red SignUp Genius Button** or scanning the QR code at left. If you're a student planning to spend occasional weekends home, feel free to **sign-up for only a Sunday or two**. Training for all lay ministries available upon request. **THANK YOU for your participation!**



COME JOIN US ON THE IMMANUEL BUS TO RICHMOND WITH THE INTERFAITH CENTER, WEDNESDAY JANUARY 21:

For the past several years, the Social Justice committee has joined with other Immanuelites for a stimulating and fun bus trip and day in Richmond to meet with our representatives, learn about the Virginia legislative process, and advocate – with Vestry concurrence – on behalf of Immanuel on one or two issues important to our faith. This year, we will be following up on further legislative action regarding higher education opportunities in Virginia's prisons and easing zoning restrictions on those Virginia churches that want to use part of their property for affordable housing. The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy is the overall sponsor of this exciting day. For more information, or to make sure you have a place on the bus, please talk to [Kathryn Haskin](#), [Jamie Conrad](#), or [Julie Bruns](#); registration is required (see QR code at left), and we can defray the fee for anyone who requests it. Lunch will be provided.



Creation Care Tips: Is Your Wrapping Paper Recyclable?

Be mindful of our planet this holiday season and choose gift wrap that can be recycled or is made from recycled content. A lot of gift wrap isn't recyclable because of the coating on the paper, which is often shiny and laminated. You can also reduce holiday waste by using decorative boxes that do not require wrapping and that can be recycled.

The Environmental Protection Agency encourages consumers to reuse gift bags and tissue wrapping paper, and not discard them after a single use. While tissue wrapping paper is not recyclable, it is compostable as long as it is plain and free of glitter or metallic foil.

If you find yourself accumulating more tissue wrapping paper than you need or can store, here are some creative ways to reuse it by crafting gifts: <https://modpodgerocksblog.com/crafts-with-tissue-paper/>

Questions? Contact Denise Freeland: eco.voce@verizon.net



12|19|2025
5:00 PM

T Martin Photography

Join the Reception

Artist Talk | Exhibit | Silent Auction
In the Welcome Center,
Virginia Theological Seminary

*Scan the QR Code to Register and attend
Tamika Martin's Art Exhibit & Auction
(Who on *your list* would appreciate a unique gift this*



TMartinPhotography
EXHIBIT & SILENT AUCTION

12|19|2025

VTS WELCOME CENTER

Artist Talk | Exhibit | Silent Auction

Christmas Families 2025: SPECIAL COLLECTION INGATHERING AND BLESSING OF GIFTS *TODAY*

This table shows the latest count of families referred to us by Community and Human Services and last-minute from Christ Church and a few others

	Families	Parents	Children	All people
On our list from DCHS	94	102	221	323
Signed up for	50	58	92	150
Remaining	44	44	129	173

Thanks to all who signed up to provide gifts for a family; this was a very successful signup.

Now we need to take care of the remaining children and parents, including referrals of refugee families in our collaboration with Christ Church when their large program has reached its limits as Christmas approaches. **This is where the special collection comes in; it is used to buy nice lasting gifts and a stocking stuffer for the remaining children, a small gift for the parents and perhaps a gift card, and books for all. This requires a lot of money, so please be generous.**

In Christmas Families we strive to provide gifts that have a lasting impact by fostering learning through play or by giving comfort or by just giving joy and pride and promoting self-esteem. Such gifts are not cheap, good books are not cheap. But the Christmas Families shopping team is very savvy in getting excellent value for money, getting good books, nice fleece throws, science kits, Lego sets, art kits, and more at steep discounts.

So your generous contribution to the special collection produces great value for children.

Finally, today is the Ingathering and blessings of the gifts with which we bring the good news of Christmas into the world is an integral part of the service, showing the unity of inreach and outreach as inseparable parts of faith. At the forum hour we will show the same spirit in the wrapping of the gifts for children who were not "adopted" and books for all, always an event of both great purpose in outreach and of great fellowship. We will start at 9 am with a pause for the service and continue until all the gifts are wrapped, organized, checked, and loaded on the truck. Alisa and Andy Biache ask for enough dedicated workers who can stay until 3 pm or so to finish the job. Sustenance will be provided. See you there.

“Christ ... has no hands, no feet on earth but yours” (Teresa of Avila). In Christmas Families we use our hands and our resources to advance God’s Kingdom and its justice in this World.

Let us bring God’s love to all of God’s children.

Dagobert Soergel ds@dsoergel.com, Linda Serabian serabian@somaarchitects.com
 Connie Kurz cgkurz@aol.com, Dorothy Kellogg djaskellogg@gmail.com,
 Laura Snow laurabsnow@verizon.net

CHRISTMAS GREENS, FLOWERS and MUSIC DEDICATIONS

This Christmas season you are invited to make a donation to help offset the cost of our Christmas greens and flowers, and/or the special music at our Christmas Eucharists. To make a memorial or thanksgiving donation for a loved one, or to make a thanksgiving dedication for some blessing, please complete and send this form along with your check to the Parish Office or place it in the alms box in the narthex. Names will be printed in our Christmas bulletins for all donations received **by noon** on **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH**. Please print all names very clearly, or email names to DEDICATIONS@ICOH.NET. Any amount is welcome and appreciated.



GREENS/FLOWERS: \$ _____

Given by:

Phone Number: () _____

In Thanksgiving for:

In Memory of:



CHRISTMAS MUSIC: \$ _____

Given by:

Phone Number: () _____

In Thanksgiving for:

In Memory of:

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

ICOH.net



DEDICATIONS@ICOH.NET

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. J. Randolph Alexander, Jr. (ralexander@icoh.net)	Rector
The Rev. Susan D. Parsons (sparsons@icoh.net)	Associate Rector
The Rev. Sarah Spurlock Biggs (sspurlockbiggs@icoh.net)	Assistant Rector
Signa Strom (sstrom@vts.edu)	Seminarian
Beatrice Osumba (bosumba@vts.edu)	Seminarian
Dr. Jane Tavernier (jtavernier@icoh.net)	Director of Music
Aleta Y. Powell (apowell@icoh.net).....	Parish Administrator
Tim Lawhorn	Sexton
Tom Hewson (thewson@icoh.net)	Treasurer
Mollie Lambert (mlambert@icoh.net)	Assistant Treasurer
Mike Morgan (mmorgan@icoh.net)	Finance Manager
Tamika Martin (tmartin@icoh.net)	Audio Visual Technician
Mina Sultani	Nursery Director
Miguelina “Mimi” Guzmann	Hospitality Assistant

THE VESTRY

Amy Thomas	Senior Warden
Caroline Bergmark	Junior Warden: Buildings and Grounds, Registrar
Peter Kent	Junior Warden: Administration
Mark Fearer	Social Justice
Matt Haskin	Worship
Rich Hobson	Outreach
Taylor Houck.....	Adult Formation and Discipleship
Dave John	Fellowship
Doug Onley	Stewardship and Planned Giving
Mary Ann Ring.....	Children, Youth, and Family Ministries
Brian Rush.....	Senior Ministry, Pastoral Care
Kristin Whitman	Newcomers and Communications
Sydney Onley	Youth Representative

SCHEDULE OF SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I, Zabriskie Chapel
 10:00 a.m. *First Sunday in October, November & December 2025*
 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II, Immanuel Chapel
 3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA

Online
www.immanuel-on-the-hill.org
[Immanuel's YouTube channel](#)

PRIESTS ASSOCIATE

The Rev. Dr. Sarah Coakley
 The Rev. Dr. Ruthanna Hooke
 The Rev. Jan A. Maas
 The Rev. John R. Smucker
 The Rev. Dr. Francis H. Wade

RECTOR EMERITA

The Rev. Dr. Margaret Ann (Sam) Faeth

MISSION STATEMENT: Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill is a Christian community in the Episcopal tradition, striving to be in relationship with God and each other as Christ has taught us, actively attempting to sense and to serve God’s plan with great love. We are guided by Mark 16:15: “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel,” to learn, discern, and proclaim the Good News by being active ministers in the various communities where we live and serve.



PARISH OFFICE

3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304
 Telephone: 703•370•6555, Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

ICOH.net



Ways to GIVE