

# IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL

## Parish Notes

### December 7, 2025

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**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](http://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:** Sarah Glassco, Maggie Goodyear, Liam Kirby, Joy McLaughlin, Ryan Rodriguez, Anthony Burke, Rick Glassco, Celeste Rush, and Jamie Conrad.

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

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Our *Wednesday Quiet Prayer* sessions provide a wonderful opportunity to enter into the call of Advent, for quiet prayer and preparation, which is deeply counter-cultural in this season which can be so dominated by consumerism. Simply join us in the Oratory (the side chapel at Immanuel Chapel) from 5:15 p.m. until 6p.m.



### **OPPORTUNITY TO ACCOMPANY IMMIGRANTS TO ICE CHECK INS OR TO IMMIGRATION**

**COURT:** The Episcopal Diocese of Washington, DC has developed a short (3 hour) training program for people who are interested in accompanying immigrants to ICE check ins or to immigration court in the Maryland, DC, and Northern Virginia area. A number of immigrants are requesting such accompaniment. The purpose is not to protest, disrupt, video, or offer advice, but rather to serve as a companion, walking with the immigrant (and sometimes driving them), whatever the outcome. If you are interested in learning more, please contact David Atwood, Julie Bruns, or Nancy Reuschel. Upcoming trainings are taking place December 7 and 13.

# Announcements

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## WEEKDAY WORSHIP AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

*All are welcome to participate*

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Morning Prayer Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 a.m., Zabriskie Chapel

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*Quiet Prayer*, Wednesday December 10<sup>th</sup>, 5:15 - 6:00 p.m.

The Oratory Chapel inside Immanuel Chapel

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Weekly Bible Study: “*The Gospel of John*” Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

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

*Look for login details in your weekly eBlast email.*

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Compline, Friday December 12<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30 p.m, online via Zoom

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

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



## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP: DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

Senior Adult Ministry and Fellowship will visit the **National Gallery of Art** December 12<sup>th</sup> for a guided tour of *The Stars We Do Not See: Australian Indigenous Art*. This exhibit is drawn exclusively from the collection of the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne, Australia and is the largest exhibit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art ever shown in North America. Connecting 250 nations across 65,000 years, these works “reveal the rich, living history of creativity behind the world’s longest continuous culture.”

Our van will leave from Zabriskie Chapel’s parking lot at 10:00am, heading to the East Wing. After lunch on your own in the Gallery’s café and a chance to visit your own favorite art work at the Gallery, we will assemble for the 50-minute tour at 1:00pm. We should return to the Parish Hall no later than 3:00pm. The co-pay for the van is \$20. (No cost for the exhibit.) RSVP to Karen Besser at [karen.besser@gmail.com](mailto:karen.besser@gmail.com).

## 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, 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](mailto:sparsons@icoh.net)) if you are not a resident of Goodwin House, and to Susan Kernan ([skernan40@aol.com](mailto:skernan40@aol.com)) if you are a resident.

# 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](mailto:DEDICATIONS@ICOH.NET). Any amount is welcome and appreciated.



GREENS/FLOWERS: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Given by:

Phone Number: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

In Thanksgiving for:

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In Memory of:

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CHRISTMAS MUSIC: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Given by:

Phone Number: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

In Thanksgiving for:

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In Memory of:

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Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill  
3606 Seminary Road/ Alexandria, VA 22304-5200  
ICOH.net [DEDICATIONS@ICOH.NET](mailto:DEDICATIONS@ICOH.NET)



# CHRISTMAS FAMILIES 2025 -- November Update

## *A good start but still a ways to go*

This table shows the families referred to from Community and Human Services, but there are still more to come from DCHS and the Lazarus Ministry (Episcopal Region IV):

	Families	Parents	Children	All people
On our list from DCHS so far (more to come)	83	91	197	288
Signed up for	22	22	44	66
<b>Remaining</b> (more to come)	<b>61</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>222</b>

So we hope for many more sign-ups **today**, before or after each service and in the Zabriskie Narthex in between to provide nice lasting gifts that lift the spirit and support learning. Large families are divided; you can sign up for part of a family or perhaps team up with another parishioner to take a whole large family.

**Used bicycles in any shape are also welcome.** You can take them directly to Vélocity Bicycle Cooperative (<https://velocitycoop.org/donate-stuff/>), 2111 Mt Vernon Avenue, Tuesday. – Sat. 10 am – 4 pm or bring to church any time.

There is a space crunch at Human Services this year since staff have been temporarily relocated from City Hall, which is being renovated, to Mark Center. So we must skip the Boutique this year. Please donate used clothing and toys to your favorite nonprofit from which they will find a new home. The Boutique will be back next year.

Dagobert Soergel <<mailto:ds@dsoergel.com>>    Linda Serabian <[serabian@somaarchitects.com](mailto:serabian@somaarchitects.com)>  
 Dorothy Kellogg <<mailto:djaskellogg@gmail.com>>    Connie Kurz <<mailto:cgkurz@aol.com>>  
 Laura Snow <[laurabsnow@verizon.net](mailto:laurabsnow@verizon.net)>



**St. Nicholas Exhibit Tour for children ages 1-18: December 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:sspurlockbiggs@icoh.net) to be included!



### ***SIGN-UP TO SERVE: DECEMBER - JANUARY 2026***

#### **IT'S EASY AND ONLINE**

Sign-up to Serve in our Sunday Services *through January 2026* **ONLINE** by visiting the landing page of our website at [ICOH.net](http://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!**



## 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](http://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](http://ICOH.net)



Ways to GIVE