

IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL

Parish Notes

February 8, 2026

**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, Carolyn Ferguson, Catherine Sinclair, Chris von Schoening, Craig Jackson, Cynthia Morton, Debbie Hewson, Dick and Norma Taliaferro, Gary and MeiLung DeVight, Gordon Johnson, Hugh Campbell, Jane, Joseph, Kenny, Marda Robillard, Mary Ann Rehnke, Mary Jane Ruhl, Mike Morgan, Natalie Doyle Hennin, Rollin Huntington, Susan Montague, Thom Hussey, 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, Brian Van Buskirk, Bridget Rice Rose, Father Bruce Stewart, Caleb Lusk, Carol Ording, Charlotte Kellogg, Donna Becker, George Rustigian, Gerry, Gerry and Nan Hardison, the Howerton Family, Hudson Milligan, Jack Allen, Jackson Sirhal, Jean Couban, Jill Perkins, Jodi Wilson, Joseph and Elaine Kelly, Karen Landry, Leea Gorman, Lilly Pinner, Linda Taucher, Louise Jackson, Lysbeth, Marcia Richardson, Margie Lidoff, Mary Horner, Mary Muniz, Marty Childs, Matt, McQuade Milligan, Melvyn and Stacy, Michael, Paul, Peter Blackledge, Rosemary Wensing, Russ, 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: Caroline Conrad, Jim Luft, Abigail DeVight, Josephine Forster, Gabriella Young-Smith, John Wagner III, Tom Cuddy Jr., Susan Kernan, Diana Page, Karen Besser, Jane Flinn, Sophia Johnson, Caroline Hicks, and Connor Lease.

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: Joseph “Joe” Anthony Miceli, Jr., cousin of Rosi Urbine. *Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him.*

Special Election *This Tuesday, February 10* for Two Local General Assembly

Seats: State Senator Adam Ebbin (Senate District 39) recently accepted a position in the Spanberger administration, and State Delegate Elizabeth Bennett-Parker (House District 5) has also given up her seat to run for his. Both seats will be filled in a special election on Tuesday, February 10th. Voting is an important way that we can continue to speak up and live our faith in community.

Here is the timing for that election:

SD-39 includes all of the City of Alexandria and chunks of Arlington and Fairfax Counties. HD-5 includes the eastern and southern portions of Alexandria. You can see if you live in either by going to <https://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov/>. For more information, contact Jamie Conrad.

Announcements

WEEKDAY WORSHIP AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

All are welcome to participate

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

Wednesday Holy Eucharist Rite II, February 11th @ 12 Noon, Zabriskie Chapel

Quiet Prayer, Wednesday, February 11th @ 5:15 p.m., Oratory Chapel at Immanuel Chapel

Weekly Bible Study: “*The Gospel of John*” Thursday, February 12th

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

Look for login details in your weekly eBlast email.

Compline this Friday, February 13th @ 8:30 p.m., online via Zoom

WEDNESDAYS IN THE WORLD with *The Rev. Sarah Spurlock Biggs* February 11th:

Join Rev. Sarah this Wednesday, February 11th at 10 a.m. for coffee and fellowship at the Alexandria Pastry Shop. All are invited to attend.



UPCOMING SUNDAY FORUM HOURS - 11:25 a.m., The Welcome Center

Sunday, February 15th: “*A Year in Retreat: How Living Alone in the Woods Changed Me*”
presented by **Signa Strom**

This year’s seminarian in residence, **Signa Strom**, will share how living in a tiny, 8x12 “cabin” in the back woods of Maine, without power, water, or cell service for nearly a year, changed her. With no companions but her two dogs, and with nothing to do but finish building out her cabin before the snows arrived, study for a Master’s degree by candlelight, and take long silent strolls through the deep, dark pine forests, she discovered inner peace, deeper faith, and a version of herself she never knew existed.

Join us for this adult forum next Sunday, February 15th at 11:25 a.m. in The Welcome Center.

Sunday, February 22nd: “*Eternal Life*” presented by **The Very Rev. Ian Markham, Ph.D.**

The first in Immanuel’s 2026 Lenten Series, *Commending the Faith that is in Us: What might you say when someone asks what you believe?*, Dean Markham will discuss *Eternal Life*.

In a world where Christian believers are surrounded by non-believers, skeptics, and true seekers, believers will increasingly be asked what they believe, and why. Those inquiring will expect credible answers, yet many Christians fear they wouldn’t know what to say, or even how to begin to engage these honest questions.

Our Lenten Series this year features a slate of distinguished speakers tackling some of the central questions seekers might ask. We will model some of these questions and even examine some possible responses together.

All are invited to attend.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 17TH, 5:30-8:00 PM: IMMANUEL'S SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER
ZABRISKIE PARISH HALL: ALL ARE INVITED! We've planned a choice between blueberry or plain pancakes, sausage and bacon with a side of applesauce! All served on warm plates. Dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m., and the cost is \$5.00 per adult and \$12.00 per family.



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH: ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP AT ZABRISKIE CHAPEL

12 Noon: Holy Eucharist Rite II with Imposition of Ashes, Zabriskie Chapel

6:30 p.m.: Holy Eucharist Rite II with Choir and Imposition of Ashes, Zabriskie Chapel



*If you are seeking to deepen your spiritual life, come to our biweekly
Benedictine Community via Zoom*

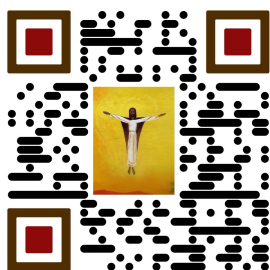
If you want more contemplation in your life, you are invited to become part of the Benedictine Community at Immanuel. We regather in this new year 2026 for reflection – with a new spiritual resource – beginning **Tuesday, February 17** and meet (virtually) twice a month on the **1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 7 p.m-8p.m.** As a community, we reflect on how the tenets of St. Benedict, such as humility, silence, and prayer, can guide us in practical ways in our spiritual lives and our day-to-day endeavors. Individual reflection is guided by short readings from a Benedictine-inspired book. We begin on February 3 to reflect on a new book: *Seeking God* by Esther De Waal.

If you are interested but can't join as we begin anew on February 17, that's fine, too. We welcome those interested to join us anytime. Our focus each week is primarily on reflections sparked by having read a few pages from the book. Our Benedictine Community gather as companions on the journey with one another while drawing wisdom from selected reading material and the ancient traditions and wisdom of Benedictine practice and prayer. With half or more of our current members residing outside of the area, we are using Zoom for our meetings, but if you are not comfortable with the video aspects of Zoom, you can simply call on the telephone and be connected to the Community by voice-only via Zoom. If this opportunity appeals to you or for more information, please contact Dana Hengst (dana.hengst@gmail.com), Barbara Fornoff (cr8vweaver@gmail.com) or David Atwood (David_Atwood@hotmail.com).



Are you looking for a way to grow your relationship with Jesus during this Lenten Season?
Join us for a Lenten book study and discussion on the thought provoking book:
***The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions*, by Marcus Borg and NT Wright**

What kinds of questions have you had about Jesus? Have you ever wondered if he knew that he was the Messiah? Have you ever been curious about how the resurrection could have occurred? Borg and Wright tackle these and other tough questions and come up with very different answers despite both being leaders in the Anglican tradition.



What: Book study and discussion about *The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions*, by Marcus Borg and NT Wright. You can easily purchase the book from your favorite book seller.

Who: A collaboration between two Episcopal churches, facilitated by VTS seminarians Cami Caudill (St. Dunstan's) and Signa Strom (Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill),

When: Thursdays at 7pm from **February 19th - March 19th** (5 weeks total)

Where: Meets on Zoom. Scan QR code to receive Zoom link.

<https://forms.gle/98FBVQmuXPDamfVa6>

Monthly Saturday Breakfast Bible Study's New Theme for 2026:

“CONTENTMENT” (in accepting love and rejecting fear)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21st @ 8:00 AM, Held Online via Microsoft Teams

Join Immanuel's first monthly Saturday morning Breakfast Bible Study for 2026 on **Saturday, February 21st** online via *Microsoft Teams* (find this bulletin on our website under the “Worship” tab, then click on the link below) beginning at 8 a.m. Our new theme for 2026 is *Contentment*. This month we will read **John 15:9-14 “I have loved you as the Father has loved me”** using the African Model of Reflection.

For more information, please visit [our webpage “Breakfast Bible Study”](#), or contact Chrissie Crosby at cmcfaddencrosby@gmail.com. [Join MSTeams Saturday Breakfast Bible Study Meeting](#) / Meeting ID: 959 5450 6553 / Passcode: 027913



Interested in being Confirmed or Received? Might you want to re-affirm your faith publicly?

Would you or your teenager like to learn more about our faith and deepen participation in the life of the Church? Have you been confirmed in another Christian tradition but never received formally into the Episcopal Church? Might it be time to make a new and deeper public affirmation of your faith?

The **Sacrament of Confirmation** offers us the opportunity to renew the promises made for us at Baptism and to seek God's strength as we continue to keep those baptismal promises in our lives. Confirmation and Reception take place as part of Bishop Stevenson's visit, which will occur at Immanuel on **March 15, 2026**. Please contact Father Randy (ralexander@icoh.net) Mother Sarah (sspurlockbiggs@icoh.net) with any questions as we begin to prepare.



Immanuel Spring 2026 Retreat: We welcome everyone to join us for Immanuel's first local contemplative retreat.

Retreating is a restorative practice of Sabbath keeping. Join us as we explore a practice of holy rest and renewal, and ways to intentionally open ourselves to God's ever-presence in day-to-day life.

This retreat is for everyone! If you...

- have an interest in retreats, but are unable to take a weekend away;
 - are not sure about retreats, and would like to try it out;
 - are looking to learn about different contemplative practices; or
 - love retreats and would like to take any and every opportunity to be on one
- ...this retreat is for you.

The retreat will be on **Saturday, March 28, 2026, from 9am to 2pm**, at Bicentennial Hall, on the campus of Virginia Theological Seminary. A light lunch will be served.

If you are interested, please [click here](#) to register for the retreat. The registration deadline is Monday, March 23. Please reach out to Katherine Maas at katherinemaas@gmail.com with any questions.

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) Associate 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. Holy Eucharist Rite II, *First Sunday of every month*
 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