

**IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL**  
**Parish Notes**  
**May 18, 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](http://www.icoh.net)).

**PRAY FOR PARISHIONERS:** Aggie Fortune, Agnes Soos, Ann MacNamara, Catherine Sinclair, Craig Jackson, Cynthia Morton, Cy Murphy, David Phillips, Gary and MeiLung DeVight, Gilma Balcarcel, Gordon Johnson, Jim Wise, Joan Raybold, John Richards, Joseph, Kenny, Kitty Montie, Lynn Gas, Marcus, Melissa Ennis, Natalie Doyle Hennin, Norma Taliaferro, Rollin Huntington, and Wendy Hoge.

**PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY:** Ann Ridenour, Ann Langdon Days, Ann Woodward, Andrew Davis, Barbara Sagan, Betsy Fox Berry, Brian Tolson, Bridget Rice Rose, Cadence Claypoole, Carol Ording, Charlotte Kellogg, Dana De Cecco, Donna Becker, Dorothy Gerhart, Gerry, Dwight and Mary Horner, Emily, George Rustigian, Gerald, the Howerton Family, Hudson Milligan, Jack Allen, Jackie Claypoole, Jean Couban, Jessi Napolitano, Joe Micelli, José Maria, Joseph Fabian, Joseph and Elaine Kelly, Joyce Smith, Louise Jackson, Lucie Bauer, Lysbeth, Marcia Richardson, MariAnn Hollis, Michael, Mary Muniz, Pamela, Patricia, Paul, Peter Blackledge, Richard Zitelli, Rosemary Wensing, Russ, Ryan Willis, Sarah Minor, Soundary Dilan, Stephen Miller, Stephen Spurlock, Tim Williams, Wanda, Wesley Johnson, and Winnie Kidd.

**Pray for those who are celebrating birthdays this week:** John Henderson Jr., Mike McGahuey, Karen Wirth, Evan Drennon, Shirley Dols, Alec Braun, Samuel Wirth, Leif Siegrist, Agnes Soos, Elizabeth Casey, Roger Gildersleeve, Benton Powell-Switaj, David John, Rayna Johnson, Brian Latimer, Logan Marcu, Mave Milligan and Rachel Wilson.

**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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**TODAY: OUTREACH MINISTRY REVIEW Forum Hour**  
**Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 11:45 AM, The Welcome Center**

All Immanuelites are encouraged to join the Outreach Committee for this special forum highlighting all of the outreach ministries and charities which are beneficiaries of our Outreach budget.

We will learn about each ministry, including viewing slides depicting some of their mission. Please come and learn more about how the dollars we raised in the pumpkin patch are at work!



Funeral for **CYNTHIA BURRESS DOLVIN**  
Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> @ 11:00 A.M., Zabriskie Chapel

# Announcements

## WEEKDAY WORSHIP AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

*All are welcome to participate*

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Morning Prayer Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> @ 10 a.m., Zabriskie Chapel

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Noonday Holy Eucharist Rite II, Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, Zabriskie Chapel

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Weekly Bible Study: “*The Gospel of Luke*”  
Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> @10:30 a.m. online via Zoom.  
*Look for login details in your weekly eBlast email.*

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Compline, Friday May 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 8:00 p.m, online via Zoom

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### Want to serve as a delegate from Immanuel to Diocesan Convention? Let’s talk.

We are now searching for three delegates and one alternate to our Convention, which will take place November 6-8 in Fredericksburg. Expenses are covered by the parish. If you have any interest, or would like to learn more, please reach out to Fr. Randy ([ralexander@icoh.net](mailto:ralexander@icoh.net)).



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

Join Rev. Sarah for conversation over coffee this Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the Alexandria Pastry Shop, Bradlee Shopping Center on King Street. All are welcome!



## Caring for God’s Creation

The annual spring migration of birds is currently underway as millions take to the sky in one of nature’s most spectacular phenomena. Here’s how we can help them safely reach their breeding grounds:

Between 11:00 PM and 6:00 AM during May

- Turn off or dim any non-essential exterior building lighting
- Close curtains or blinds to reduce the escape of interior lighting
- Avoid illuminating lobbies, plants, or fountains that may attract birds



Why lights out? Most birds migrate at night, employing an incredible sensory system to navigate and to orient in darkness. Light pollution attracts and disorients these migrating birds, disrupting these systems and increasing birds' vulnerability to collisions with structures. (An estimated 365 million birds die in collisions with buildings annually.) We can dramatically help by turning off all non-essential lighting during migration.

Increase the fun of helping out northern Virginia migrating songbirds by using Cornell Lab’s BirdCast — scan QR code at left which gives information about live migration in real time.

Questions? Contact Denise Freeland, [eco.voce@verizon.net](mailto:eco.voce@verizon.net)

## IMMANUEL CHURCH ON-THE-HILL EASTER APPEAL

In thanksgiving for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, and as a concrete expression of support in His name for two immediate needs during the Great Fifty Days of Easter, Immanuel's Easter Appeal began Easter Sunday, April 20th and will conclude on Pentecost, June 8th. Two of the ministries Immanuel supports have especially urgent needs:

### HAITI MICAH PROJECT -- EMERGENCY IN MIREBALAIS

For over ten years, Immanuel has supported the **Haiti Micah Project (HMP)**, founded in 2005 by Joseph Constant, then a priest at Virginia Theological Seminary. HMP established an orphanage and vocational school, along with a large nutrition program feeding impoverished children. Incorporated as a Virginia charity, HMP employs a staff of over twenty in Mirebalais, Haiti. Mirebalais is also home to the country's most advanced medical facility, the University Hospital. Haiti has been gripped with violence and unrest since 2021—but mainly in its capital, Port-au-Prince. However, two weeks ago, Mirebalais was overrun by armed gangs. A local priest described the situation in terms of “unspeakable scenes of terror unfolding before our very eyes”. People living in Mirebalais have been killed; and others “walk barefoot, without clothes, without food, without hope.” Thankfully, the Haiti-Micah staff evacuated its children to another town. They are safe but traumatized. We don't know the status of HMP facilities in Mirebalais; but the town's schools, churches, and businesses are closed. The immediate goal is to get food, clean drinking water, clothing and temporary shelter for staff and children. The international response to this emergency has been one of detachment. Yet the children of Mirebalais are precious to God. They pray—as we do-- for their daily bread and to be delivered from evil. It may seem hopeless, but they need our prayers and our help to survive.

### CHRIST CHURCH REFUGEE MINISTRY

Christ Church Refugee Ministry has been helping refugees in Alexandria since 2016. The Refugee Ministry – with the help of several Immanuel parishioners – has supported 113 families (roughly 475 individuals) by building relationships with each family, and providing Care Team-support, assistance, and friendship. 13 newer families still need some assistance, but the remaining 100 are self-sufficient – a wonderful metric considering it takes an average of 6 months for a family to become self-sufficient. Right now -- Christ Church Refugee Ministry has the highest number of families seeking help at one time in the history of the ministry. The current urgent situation emerged in late January this year when after going through the US State Department's 2-year vetting process, these families -- legally in the US, resettled in Alexandria, and promised 3 months of financial resource support—learned overnight with no notice -- the new administration cut all funding to their resettlement agencies. Most families are Afghan, and many of the fathers served with U.S. military or aid groups. Most have children. Rent assistance is especially critical in the early months, as newly arrived parents try to find jobs, enroll their kids in school, learn the bus systems, learn/improve English, and just navigate a completely new life. Our donations help these families stay housed, learn English, and have emergency medical/dental care until they are self-sufficient. And...they will know people in our community care about them and their children.

Immanuel Parishioners moved to support this appeal may choose one of the three methods below:

- (1) **Write a check** to Immanuel with **Easter Appeal Haiti–Micah** or **Easter Appeal Christ Church Refugee Ministry** in the memo line
- (2) **Donate online** via the QR Code at right and look for **Easter Appeal** dropdown options
- (3) from Immanuel's web site [www.ICOH.net](http://www.ICOH.net), under GIVE, select ONLINE GIVING, then Give Here: select the Easter Appeal dropdown option you want.

Donations made to **Easter Appeal** (without further designation) will be split between both ministries.



With grace and gratitude at Easter, we remember Jesus' words: “*Love God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.*” (Matthew 22:37-40). Thank you so much.

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP EVENTS: May - June 2025

**MAY 21<sup>ST</sup> - THIRD WEDNESDAY GOODWIN HOUSE LUNCHEON:** Please join us for luncheon and conversation in the Filmore Room at Goodwin House-Alexandria. We gather at noon on the third Wednesday of the month, which will be May 21. Please RSVP to Rev. Susan if you are not a resident of Goodwin House and to Susan Kernan if you are a resident.

**MAY 27<sup>TH</sup> - FOURTH TUESDAY BROWN BAG LUNCH: PLEASE NOTE LOCATION CHANGE** Our Director of Music, Dr. Jane Tavernier, will join the Senior Ministry and Fellowship brown bag lunch in two weeks. An adjunct professor of music, Jane will give us a better understanding of the organ, how it produces the glorious sounds that we enjoy weekly in our worship, and the breadth of the organ repertoire that we can experience in many settings.

Please join other seniors in **the Parlor of Immanuel Chapel** on Tuesday, May 27 at 12:15pm,. Bring your own sandwich or salad and we will provide dessert and drinks. During Jane's presentation we will adjourn to the Chapel for the ability to watch the organ and organist in close-up!

There is no reservation requirement and no cost to this event and, as always, friends, neighbors, and family members are welcome.

### **JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup> – HISTORIC TOUR at MARYLAND'S GLEN ECHO PARK with SENIOR ADULT, CHILDREN AND YOUTH, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRIES:**

In the summer of 1960, the Glen Echo Amusement Park, located just outside of Washington, D.C. in suburban Maryland was the site of a season of picketing in an effort to force the park to abandon its Whites Only admission policy. The on-going demonstrations were spearheaded by the student Nonviolent Action Group of Howard University, joined by white supporters including residents of adjacent Bannockburn community and members of the AFL-CIO. The sit-in on the Glen Echo carousel resulted in the arrest of five black student protesters and the court case wound its way to the Supreme Court, which ruled in 1964 that the arrest of the demonstrators violated the Fourteenth Amendment guarantee of equal protection.

On Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 10a.m. Immanuel's Senior Adult Ministry and Fellowship will be joining with Youth and Family Ministry and Social Justice Ministry to visit Glen Echo Park for a tour of the historic Dentzel Carousel where the demonstration began. We will hear a 45-minute ranger-led presentation at the carousel about the history of the park and of the carousel, which culminated with the eventual integration of the park in 1961. We will also be joined on this trip by members of St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church where our beloved Patty Alexander is Rector.

Following the tour, we will have a box lunch picnic under the shade trees next to the carousel and a chance to share the experience and hear what it says to us about our collective past, our present and our future.

We will leave the parish hall parking lot 9:45a.m. and plan on returning no later than 1pm. Co-pay to ride in the van is \$20. If you prefer to drive, there is plentiful free parking in an adjacent lot approximately 1/4-mile walk from the carousel along a winding boardwalk and paved path.



### ***SIGN-UP TO SERVE: MAY - JUNE 2025 IT'S EASY AND **ONLINE*****

Sign-up to Serve in our Sunday Services *through May 2025* **ONLINE** by visiting the landing page of our website [at ICOH.net](http://atICOH.net) and clicking our **Red SignUp Genius Button** or scanning the QR code at left. If you're a student — or planning Summer travel — feel free to sign-up for the Feast of Pentecost only. Training for all lay ministries available upon request. **THANK YOU for your participation!**

## LEARN ALL ABOUT POPE LEO XIV: SATURDAY, MAY 31ST, 7:30 P.M., ZABRISKIE PARISH HALL

Dignity NoVA invites all Immanuelites to attend their post-mass presentation about the new pope led by guest presenter **Francis “Frank” DeBernardo**. We’ll join Father Harry and the Dignity congregation in the Parish Hall at or slightly before 7:30 p.m. for the presentation over refreshments.



Francis DeBernardo has ministered at New Ways Ministry since 1992, and has served as Executive Director since 1996. He has conducted programs on LGBTQIA issues and Catholicism in parishes, dioceses, retreat houses, colleges, and religious communities throughout the United States. He authored *Marriage Equality: A Positive Catholic Approach*, and serves as the editor and a contributor to *Bondings 2.0*, a daily blog of news and opinion covering Catholic LGBT+ topics. His articles have appeared in *The National Catholic Reporter*, *Commonweal*, *The Advocate*, and *The American Catholic*. Mr. DeBernardo was the keynote speaker at the conference on religion and LGBTQIA issues at the first World Pride event in Rome, Italy, in 2000, and a featured speaker at the interfaith conference at World Pride in London, England in 2012.



### **Save the Date! June 8 – Immanuel’s Spring Potluck in Zabriskie**



Following **the 10:30 service** — **held in Zabriskie Chapel** — on the Feast of Pentecost June 8<sup>th</sup> please join us in the Parish Hall for our traditional Potluck to celebrate the end of the school year and the beginning of summer! We need volunteers to set up, serve, clean up, and of course to bring your favorite dishes to share. Please use the Q.R. code at left to the **[Pentecost Sunday Potluck Signup Genius to sign up](#)** (also linked on Immanuel’s homepage) . Food slots include recommended dishes as well as number of servings. We look forward to seeing you there! Please contact Dave John at [d\\_falcon7@hotmail.com](mailto:d_falcon7@hotmail.com) with any questions.



### **Mark Your Calendar: FORUM HOUR ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 11:45 a.m., The Welcome Center**

Join us for an in-depth presentation on the topic of AI (Artificial Intelligence) on Sunday, June 22nd in the Welcome Center. Our speaker is Dr. Najam Hassan, Chair of Computer and Data Science, Capitol Technology University in Laurel, Maryland.

You may find his bio at: <https://www.captechu.edu/news-events/faculty-spotlight-dr-najam-hassan>



### **Save the Dates: November 7-9, 2025 Spiritual Retreat at Holy Cross Abbey**

The annual Immanuel Spiritual Retreat is scheduled for Friday, November 7, through Sunday, November 9, at Holy Cross Abbey, Berryville, Virginia with the Rev. Dr. Frank Wade as the retreat leader. The registration fee is \$350.00 per person. For consideration for one of the two scholarships in memory of Charles O. Willis, contact the Rev. Randy Alexander directly. Look for registration materials — made available the first week in August — in your future weekly eBlast and parish notes.

**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        |
| 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 |
| Bella Jung  | ..... | Nursery Director        |
| Miguelina Guzman  | ..... | Nursery 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                  |
| Bert Shelters   | ..... | Evangelism and Newcomers, Communications        |
| Sophie Johnson, David Lloyd, Sydney Onley, and Isabelle Young-Smith | ..... | Youth Representatives                           |

**SCHEDULE OF SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I, Zabriskie Chapel  
3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA

10:30 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 HOURS**

Weekdays 9:00a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304  
Telephone: 703•370•6555, Fax: 703•370•0837

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



**Ways to GIVE**