

IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL

Parish Notes

September 21, 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, Aster, Spencer, and Zuzanna Wise, Carolyn Ferguson, Catherine Sinclair, Chris von Schoening, Craig Jackson, Cynthia Morton, Cy Murphy, David Phillips, Gary and MeiLung DeVight, Gordon Johnson, Jane, John Richards, Joseph, Kenny, Marcus, Mary Jane Ruhle, Natalie Doyle Hennin, Norma Taliaferro, Rollin Huntington, Susan Montague, Tom and Martha Shimkin, and Wendy Hoge.

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY: Andrew Davis, Ann Langdon Days, Ann Woodward, Barbara Kellner, Barbara Sagan, Betsy Fox Berry, Brian and Joyce, Bridget Rice Rose, Carol Ording, Charlotte Kellogg, Cicely, Donna Becker, George Rustigian, Gerry, the Howerton Family, Hudson Milligan, Jack Allen, Jackson Sirhal, Jean Couban, Jean Williams, Jill Lane, Jodi Williams, Joe Micelli, José Maria, Joseph and Elaine Kelly, Leea Gorman, Lilly Pinner, Louise Jackson, Lysbeth, Marcia Richardson, Marie, Mary Horner, Marty Childs, Mary Muniz, McQuade Milligan, Michael, Paul, Peter Blackledge, Rosemary Wensing, Russ, Soundary Dilan, Stephen Miller, Stephen Spurlock, Susan Little, Tony, Wesley Johnson, and Winnie Kidd.

Pray for those who are celebrating birthdays this week: Rachel Bekcer, Peter Beckmann, Clay Burke, Grayson Yates, Bill Kerekes, Lorelai Low, Benjamin Richter, Gilma Balcarcel, Mike Eaton, Seth Low, Nicole de los Reyes, the Rev. Patricia Phaneuf Alexander, and Taylor Houck.

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

Meet Immanuel's New Seminarian

Signa Strom was born and raised in the Berkshires of Western Massachusetts. She is an adventurer at heart and spent many years in Lancaster County, PA racing endurance horses, and then many more years in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado skiing, mountain climbing, backpacking, and volunteering on the local Mountain Rescue team. Her last few years however have been spent in central Maine enjoying a slower, safer, and less adrenaline filled lifestyle while learning how to adapt to the sudden onset of an essential tremor and the intensifying of a life-long vocal tremor -- and attempting to discern what in the world God was inviting her to in the middle of it all. With a sense of humor, God replied "Seminary!", so she now lives on the campus of VTS while pursuing a Master of Divinity. She is accompanied there by her eldest grandchild and their dog and cat. She is looking forward to the opportunity to get to know each of us, and has extended the invitation to anyone who is interested to join her for a cup of coffee or tea and a conversation any time that you have a few minutes to do so.

Announcements

WEEKDAY WORSHIP AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

All are welcome to participate

Morning Prayer Tuesday, September 23rd @ 10 a.m., Zabriskie Chapel

Noonday Holy Eucharist Rite II, Wednesday, September 24th, Zabriskie Chapel

Quiet Prayer

Wednesday September 24th, The Oratory Chapel inside Immanuel Chapel

Weekly Bible Study: “*The Gospel of John*” Thursday, September 25th
@10:30 a.m. online via Zoom.

Look for login details in your weekly eBlast email.

Compline, Friday September 26th @ 8:30 p.m, online via Zoom

IMMANUEL CLERGY DAY AT THE VIEW ALEXANDRIA, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST

The View is a retirement community affiliated with Goodwin Living, right across the street from Goodwin House, Alexandria. The Rev. Susan D. Parsons is leading this Eucharist at 11 a.m. today.



WEDNESDAYS IN THE WORLD with *The Rev. Sarah Spurlock Biggs* WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH

Join Sarah for conversation over coffee this **Wednesday, September 24th** from 10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. at the Alexandria Pastry Shop, Bradlee Shopping Center on King Street. All are welcome!



WEEKLY QUIET PRAYER AT IMMANUEL AND THE SEMINARY *CONTINUES* WEDNESDAYS 5:15 - 6:00 P.M.

In recent penitential seasons (Lent and Advent, 2024, and Lent 2025) clergy and congregational members of Immanuel have shared silent prayer time together on a weekday evening, with ordinands and faculty members from the Seminary, and (increasingly) with some members of other local churches. At a time of much need for prayer in our churches and in the world, especially in our ongoing prayers for world peace, we are now responding to several requests to make this practice a weekly option for our parish(es) and the Seminary. With our first season ending on Wednesday December 17, we **gather in the Oratory Chapel inside Immanuel Chapel, from 5:15-6:00pm each Wednesday evening**. Please do consider joining us, either every week or when you have the time. On the first two weeks of our prayer together, a short teaching will be offered to help guide you in the practice of silence, if you are new to it. This time of prayer can be used in many different and profitable ways; but the core theme is that, together, we wait on God’s grace and respond to his calling. By coming together we offer, as Christ promised, more than the sum of our parts.

The Rev. Randy Alexander, the Rev. Sarah Spurlock Biggs, and the Rev. Dr. Sarah Coakley

IT'S AUTUMN AND SENIOR MINISTRY/FELLOWSHIP HAS PLANS. PLAN TO JOIN US!

SEPTEMBER: FOURTH TUESDAY BROWN BAG LUNCH. Please join us in the Parish Hall on Tuesday September 23 at 12:15pm to hear a presentation by our own **Tamika Martin**. You may know Tamika as our resident tech guru, but she is primarily an artist. Come and hear about how her artistic path continues to develop and see examples of her work. Bring your own sandwich and we will provide dessert and drinks. There is no reservation required and no cost to this event.

OCTOBER: JUG BAY WETLANDS SANCTUARY on the Patuxent River includes unique tidal freshwater marshland and forested wetlands. Come and enjoy a guided tour at the sanctuary on Friday, October 10 and learn more about all that our wetlands do for us and myriad other species. We will leave the Zabriskie parking lot at 10:15 am and picnic at the Sanctuary, returning around 3:00pm. Co-pay for the van is \$20 and the box lunch is \$10. Please RSVP to Karen Besser no later than 10/1 to reserve a lunch.

THIRD WEDNESDAY LUNCH AT GOODWIN HOUSE-ALEXANDRIA at noon on October 15 (same RSVP details as above).

FOURTH TUESDAY BROWN BAG LUNCH. The professional hockey season begins in October and if you don't know the difference between a snipe and a dangle, we're not gonna put you in the penalty box! Instead, come on Tuesday, October 28 and hear parishioner **Agnes Soos**, who will help us learn how to follow that fast puck around the ice and maybe become a fan for life. Bring your own sandwich and we will provide dessert and drinks. There is no reservation required and no cost to this event.

SPECIAL ADVANCE NOTICE—CELEBRATE VETERANS DAY WITH A TOUR OF THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY! On Thursday afternoon, November 13, we will travel to Annapolis to tour the Naval Academy. We will get around in nifty little electric cars, so distance and weather are no object. Van co-pay is \$20 and the tour price is \$35. Specific timing details will follow shortly but if you want to go, mark your calendar now and **RSVP to Karen Besser no later than Monday, October 13, as we need to provide names/addresses of all participants to the Academy in advance. This event is strictly limited to 15 people.**



TWO CHALICE BEARERS NEEDED 2ND AND 3RD SUNDAYS OF EACH MONTH

We now offer healing prayers on the second Sunday of each month at both services, and we need to have two Chalice Bearers at the 10:00 a.m. Eucharists. Please consider signing up to serve.



SIGN-UP TO SERVE: SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2025

IT'S EASY AND ONLINE

Sign-up to Serve in our Sunday Services *through November 2025* 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!**

First Sundays + October 5th + at Zabriskie Chapel THE FEAST OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Come celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi and the Awe and Wonder of Creation on October 5th at Zabriskie Chapel at 8:00 (Rite I) and 10:00 (Rite II) and The Blessing of the Animals at 12:00 noon.

Our 10:00 a.m. Eucharist will be followed by our youth gathering where we will pray and play as we head out into creation for our fundraising **ALIVE!** walk. We hope you will join us and support **ALIVE!** by donating. May our neighbors experiencing food insecurity and housing instability know God's love for them!



Immanuelites Receive A Note of Thanks

Thank you so much to you and your church volunteers who put so much time and love into the backpacks and school supplies. I have received so many wonderful compliments from the workers and wanted to share one email with you.

Christine Levine, MSW

Coordinator of Community Resources
The Fund for Alexandria's Child

Dear Friends and Families of Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill,

I want to extend my deepest gratitude for the generous gifts of backpacks that were recently given to the families I am privileged to work with. I had the wonderful opportunity to deliver three of these backpacks to a family with three children, and I wanted to share a special moment that truly touched my heart. As the children explored the contents of their new backpacks, the 12-year-old twin was especially excited to find a refillable cup inside. Her father shared that she had picked out that exact cup from the store just a week prior but, sadly, they were unable to afford it. When she discovered a \$20 bill hidden inside the cup's lid, her face lit up with pure joy and gratitude. She immediately ran over and gave me the biggest hug. Her twin brother and sister then eagerly examined their own bags and found hidden cash inside theirs as well. Their excitement and appreciation were palpable, and their parents expressed sincere thanks to all the families and members of the church who made this possible.

Your kindness has made a meaningful difference in these children's lives, and I am deeply grateful to be a part of such a caring community.

With heartfelt thanks,

Grateful Social Workers



2025: NEW DATE FOR 4TH ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE

The 4th Annual Immanuel Blood Drive will be on Sunday, **November 2nd**, from noon to four in the Zabriskie parking lot. More details to come; please contact Katherine Maas at katherinemaas@gmail.com with any questions.

Pumpkins are Coming: MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SATURDAY 4 OCTOBER!

School has started, Homecoming is behind us, the weather is crisper, and... Pumpkins are coming! Please **come unload pumpkins Saturday morning, October 4 and October 18, 2025**. Like the last five years, the pumpkins come in large boxes on pallets which are removed from the trucks by a forklift.

We need volunteers for Pumpkin Patch 2025: pumpkin unloaders and sellers, soup makers, bakers, knitters, apple crisp makers -- there's a job for everyone! Dorothy Kellogg has plastic soup containers available in Parish Hall Kitchen and Immanuel Chapel Parlor – please help us fill the church Freezers with delicious soups by opening day. If you can make even one batch of soup, please email Dorothy: djaskellogg@gmail.com.

We are still looking for an Apple Crisp Leader. If you feel called to this sweet ministry or think you might – but have questions on how it works, please contact Julie Bruns: drbruns@verizon.net.

Let us follow Jesus's greatest commandment: to love our neighbors as ourselves. Outreach is a force multiplier of good works – it's putting faith in daily action – it's the money we contribute to others, it's the hours of volunteer service, and the joy we can bring to our community. Since 2000, your Immanuel Pumpkin Patch work has raised \$1,388,000 for Outreach charities such as ALIVE!, Carpenter's Shelter, Community Lodgings, Culmore Clinic, Five Talents, Haiti Micah Project, Christ Church Refugee Ministry, and other organizations that feed people, aid the homeless, and bring hope. Please help!

Please **sign up for sales shifts at Immanuel's Pumpkin Patch 2025 by scanning the QR code below**. Stay tuned for more information over next few weeks – and see you at the Patch!



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
Bella Jung	Nursery Director
Miguelina “Mimi” Guzmann	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
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