



## A FAREWELL TO THE ALMOND TREE

Dear Immanuel Friends and Family,

You have probably noticed... this is not an Almond Tree. What you are holding, instead, is a newsletter with an entirely different purpose. The AT aimed to be comprehensive, filled with events and news from throughout the parish and the community. Often it featured beautiful full length updates about parishioners, ministries, and opportunities that someone wanted to share with everyone. Our Parish Administrator, Aleta Powell, made a particular labor of love out of collecting stories and memories from our seniors and longest-attending members—multiple times a year—to honor, cherish, and archive the impacts our very real people have had on this place. The Quarterly Almond Tree, in particular, became this full-throated depiction of everything we're doing and everything going on around us. And this is not that.

There will be a final Almond Tree coming out in the next couple of weeks. Or rather, a final 'regular' Almond Tree is being finished for mailing. The impulse to collect stories; to make space to share events, opportunities, and updates that do not fit in the bulletins; and especially to archive that YOU are here and you matter will keep going. The future will have some Almond Tree-like collections of photos and stories, the Communications Committee is going to put a lot more on the NEWS scroller on the website, and our eBlast readership rates have never been higher.

But this newsletter will be different. What we will try for at least a few months is this monthly newsletter with three primary components. There will be a pastoral letter from a member of your clergy or Vestry. There will be a ministry highlight for one of the areas that have a Vestry Steward or Committee Chair. Finally there will be a one page calendar of the next couple of months of things going on at Immanuel. Each issue will have some other...



Exciting turnout for the first of (hopefully) three pumpkin deliveries, even in the rain!

small filler things but this will be mostly an update, a highlight, a calendar. We aim to mail this out on the second Tuesday of the month. (Or the next day if we need to clarify anything at that night's Vestry meeting before going to print.)

Our hope is that this meets a communication need that we have heard from many of you. It will be short and sweet, regular, and able to be stuck on the fridge. It is also our hope that it won't be mistaken for the Almond Tree. That newsletter, over time and with the contributions of hundreds of people, became this big beautiful love letter to our parish and community. There is, and will continue to be, room for that kind of love letter. Just as there is, and will continue to be a need for an open-to-the-calendar-and-stick-on-the-fridge kind.

If you have something that would have gone in an Almond Tree and you now want to make sure it's part of our communications, or if you want to write one of the letters for an upcoming Immanuel Newsletter-on-the-Hill, please reach out to the clergy or the office!

Yours in Christ,

Fr Sam

## CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

*10:00 Sundays at Immanuel Chapel in the Oratory, Children's Chapel is a time each week for the little ones to explore an aspect of Christian worship AND an opportunity for parents / grandparents to hear how we talk to children about faith.*



## WORSHIP LEADERS NEEDED

*The eBlast continues to have a clickable [link for signing up](#) to acolyte, read, and intercess—but that's not the only way to sign up! Call or email the clergy! We'd love to lead worship with you!!*





## PRECIOUS MEMORIES

*Every photo the church office has of our last Confirmation Sunday exists because YOU sent it. We want more. Take photos at church, send them to us, tag us on facebook!*

## EUCHARIST IN THE PATCH

*Saturday, October 15 @ 12:00 PM: Eucharist in the Patch (or more like near the patch but not in the way) Come down and help unload pumpkins on Saturday Oct 15th and then stay for our annual outdoor, fun, family-oriented Eucharist!*



## EYC INVITES YOU TO A BONFIRE!



*Saturday, Oct 22 @ 6:00 PM: As our last Pumpkin truck arrives, our EYC is inviting y'all to a night of music, games, maybe a movie, and definitely a bonfire out back behind Zabriskie. Come get your final Pumpkins for the season. Come hang out with your friends and family. Come bring your (leashed) puppy dog!*

# MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT



## OUTREACH AND THE PUMPKIN PATCH'S 29TH YEAR

by Jim Snow, Julie Bruns, and Jim Wise

Fall at Immanuel is synonymous with the Pumpkin Patch, now in our 29th year.

No other activity in the Parish involves so many people contributing so much effort in so many ways. For many of us, it is a month-long enterprise that leaves us pretty tired by Halloween. So, in anticipation of the work ahead, perhaps it's appropriate to remind ourselves that these efforts are all about Outreach.

Outreach is how we act on our faith in our daily lives - it's the money we contribute to others, it's the hours of volunteer service, and it's the people and worthwhile projects that we enable. At Immanuel, Outreach isn't just a category of activities - it's how we try to live our lives individually and collectively. As a faith community working together, Outreach is a force multiplier of good works. We see it in the hours of cooking and serving meals at Carpenter's Shelter and Christ House or the volunteers at ALIVE or in refugee ministries and in so many other ways.

Since the year 2000, when we first started keeping detailed records, we have raised \$1,129,473 from the Pumpkin Patch, all of which has gone to Outreach.

These pumpkin proceeds have enabled us to do the Lord's work in a wide array of ministries. For example, proceeds from last year (2021) amounted to \$91,257 and helped us support 12 local Alexandria charities, 6 regional charities, and 7 international charities. Included were local grants to ALIVE, Carpenter's Shelter, Community Lodgings, Culmore Clinic, Arlandria Clinic and Refugee Ministries.

Among many things, Outreach funds help support our efforts to aid the homeless, restore dignity to offenders, assist refugees, and aid impoverished children in Haiti and Africa. Usually, some Outreach funds are held in reserve to respond to emergency needs. Last year, we sent \$2,500 to Kentucky to aid tornado victims.

Outreach at Immanuel is also about...

giving every parishioner the opportunity and encouragement to become involved in charitable work of their choice. The Outreach Committee wants to follow where parishioners lead, thus an important criterion for funding any charity is direct parishioner involvement. Any parishioner can participate in the Outreach Committee if interested.

When you think about it, so much good comes from a simple pumpkin. Parishioners sell the pumpkin to a family to the delight of the buyer and their children. The proceeds of the pumpkin sale are divided 60/40 between the consignor of the pumpkins and Immanuel Church (we keep 100% from the sale of food and crafts). The consignor of the pumpkins supports the Navajo Indian Tribe which grows the pumpkins in New Mexico. Our proceeds fund numerous charities and afford parishioners numerous Outreach opportunities. God grows a simple pumpkin, and everyone benefits.

See you at the Patch!



## Calendar in Brief:

For up to the date information about the week you are currently in, make sure to sign up for and check the eBlast and the parish website!

- Oct 15th - Pumpkin Unloading
- Oct 15th - 12:00 PM Eucharist in the Patch
- Oct 19th - 12:00 PM Senior Luncheon @ Goodwin House
- Oct 22nd - 6:00 PM EYC Bonfire and Dinner
- Oct 26th - 7:00 PM Grief and Support Group Meeting
- Nov 1st - 6:30 PM All Saint's Day Eucharist
- Nov 2nd - NO Wed Eucharist
- Nov 5th - 5:00 PM Family Dinner and Game Night
- Nov 6th - All Saints' Sunday
- Nov 6th - Every Member Pledge Campaign Kickoff
- Nov 12th - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Community Blood Drive
- Nov 13th - 9:15 AM - Veterans Day Forum Hour
- Nov 16th - 12:00 PM Senior Luncheon @ Goodwin House
- Nov 22nd - 12:15 PM Senior Brown Bag Lunch
- Nov 20th - Commitment Sunday
- Nov 23rd - 6:30 PM Thanksgiving Eve Eucharist
- Nov 24th - Parish Office Closed
- Dec 3rd - 5:00 PM Reading The Grinch (probably)
- Dec 11th - Lessons and Carols
- Dec 14th - 6:30 PM EYC Watches Elf and Eats Junk Food
- Dec 18th - 5:00 PM Christmas Pageant
- Dec 21st - 6:30 PM Christmas Caroling



# Service Schedule:

## SUNDAYS

8:00 am, Holy Eucharist Rite I

Zabriskie Chapel, 3606 Seminary Rd, Alexandria

10:00 am, Children's Chapel

(Side chapel at Immanuel Chapel, 3737 Seminary Rd., Alexandria)

10:30 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II

With Godly Play for 3-7 year olds

Immanuel Chapel, 3737 Seminary Rd, Alexandria

## TUESDAYS

10:00 am: Morning Prayer

Zabriskie Chapel

## WEDNESDAYS

6:30 pm: Holy Eucharist Rite II

Zabriskie Chapel, address above

## FRIDAYS

8:30 pm: Compline

Via Zoom

## HOLY DAYS

Seasonally, we worship on the Principal and Major Feasts celebrated throughout the Anglican Communion



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*Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill*



If you're missing the Almond Tree, our once quarterly newsletter which was many pages of all the wonderful things going on in our community and our area—we have just the things you are looking for here on the Immanuel website. Go to [www.icoh.net](http://www.icoh.net) OR use this QR code to take you directly to our larger news reel. If you'd like to submit things to that news reel, please reach out to [office@icoh.net](mailto:office@icoh.net)

## WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING?



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