

Jamie Conrad



How long have you worshipped at Immanuel? Any other family members who worship here?

The Conrad family (Kathy, Liza, Caroline and me) started worshipping at Immanuel in the fall of 2003, so going on 15 years ago. It doesn't seem that long ago – but then, most things don't!

What are some parish activities or ministries that have captured your time and talents?

I've been a member of the choir since we arrived. One of the things that drew me to Immanuel was how confident but relaxed the choir is -- we take on tough pieces, but we enjoy them more than we stress about them. I also participated in the homecoming musical productions, and am a founding member of the Shrine Monters, our bluegrass/gospel group.

Another feature of the church that really attracted us was its joyous generosity to the less fortunate. We've been active in the Pumpkin Patch and I've been involved in the Outreach Committee for the past decade. I recently stepped down from being one of the "troika" that lead it so that Rebecca Cooper could step up to that role (and lower the average age!).

Last, but maybe most relevant, I served on the Vestry once before, from 2007-2009.

Please name something you find very valuable/something you love about Immanuel.

What I have always most valued about Immanuel is the way in which members of the congregation are actively involved in being Christ's hands in the world outside the parish, rather than being inwardly focused. Immanuel parishioners have all struck me as too busy doing good to worry too much about internal politics. We take care of each other and our church home, and that refreshes and empowers us to keep up the good work.

What gifts, talents, interests and/or goals and objectives do you think you might bring to Vestry service?

Having spent much of my career leading or participating in meetings, I think I am pretty good at helping facilitate deliberation and consensus within reasonable time frames. I also served on the Vestry, and was Senior Warden, at our previous church, so I have a fair amount of experience with the range of issues that Vestries have to address.

How would you view serving on the Vestry as a ministry, as part of your Christian journey?

I've resisted standing again for Vestry for the past eight years so that I could focus on the Outreach Committee and so that other folks could have an opportunity and thus broaden the base of leadership within the church. But I've concluded that I should challenge myself again to move out of my comfort(able) zone and be a useful servant of the parish in a different way, to be determined by events and the Holy Spirit.

Keith June



How long have you worshipped at Immanuel? Any other family members who worship here?

I've worshipped at Immanuel since I arrived in the area in the summer of 2012. I was deployed to Afghanistan for 20 months and during my time, I received incredible support from Immanuel, both material and spiritual so while I was gone, I was still very much a part of the congregation.

What are some parish activities or ministries that have captured your time and talents?

I have been involved in the Pumpkin patch, stewardship, and Lay ministry. I also served as a member of sermon committee for one of the seminarian. Recently, I started the Education for ministry program.

Please name something you find very valuable/something you love about Immanuel.

The thing that I have most enjoyed about Immanuel is the people. We are a blessed community to have a group of very educated, talented and indeed gifted people. I have been greatly inspired by so many people I've been blessed enough to know at Immanuel. Bill Kilpatrick was one of those people. I was deeply moved by his presentation about being at the University of Mississippi in 1962. I was inspired by his story. Bill's personal witness will always be a part of my life journey.

What gifts, talents, interests and/or goals and objectives do you think you might bring to Vestry service?

I have many interests including history, theology and travel. I greatly enjoyed looking at challenges and developing solutions. My life experience has been quite varied. I have lived and served around the world. I hope I can bring a different perspective to Immanuel, both from a spiritual and organizational perspective. I hope I can challenge Immanuel to look at issues and problems from other perspectives.

How would you view serving on the Vestry as a ministry, as part of your Christian journey?

Christianity is in large measure about relationships; Relationships about each other and our relationship with Christ. Each person we meet changes us, even in some small way. I know this journey will change how I see myself, others and Christ.

Chandley McDonald



How long have you worshipped at Immanuel? Any other family members who worship here?

Ken and I have been members of Immanuel since 1969, almost 50 years. Three of our grandchildren were baptized at Immanuel. Our daughter, Leslie, who teaches at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes, also worships here. Ken and I are both life-long Episcopalians. In all the places we have lived we have always been active in our local parish.

What are some parish activities or ministries that have captured your time and talents?

In recent years I've been on the Outreach Committee, learning how valuable the Pumpkin Patch ministry is to many in need of funds and assistance from our parish. I represent Immanuel on the board of Lady Managers, an ecumenical Alexandria group that supports INOVA Alexandria Hospital

Also, I was honored to be on the Discernment Committee, choosing Randy as the new rector for Immanuel. The process of working with other committee members toward such an important goal gave me insight into the organization of the church. Making new friends was among the special benefits of being on this committee.

Helping with the Pancake Supper has always been a treat for me.

Ken and I ordinarily attend the 8am service where we serve as lay readers.

Ken and I are members of the Zabriskie Society and have sponsored scholarships for children in the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

What gifts, talents, interests and/or goals and objectives do you think you might bring to Vestry service?

For 30 years I have worked for the State Department as a writer/editor and project manager. I hope this experience might be useful to the Vestry. I also manage an intern program for recent university graduates at State.

How would you view serving on the Vestry as a ministry, as part of your Christian journey?

Having served in a variety of capacities at Immanuel, I would value the opportunity to serve on the Vestry and contribute my time and talents in this new ministry.

Martha Shimkin (completing a one-year unexpired term)



How long have you worshipped at Immanuel? Any other family members who worship here?

My family has been worshipping at Immanuel since the fall of 2003. Tom and I joined the parish a few years later. Our girls were young then and have since graduated high school. Katja was confirmed at Immanuel and still considers it her church home.

What are some parish activities or ministries that have captured your time and talents?

I have been involved in Christian education since I first came to Immanuel, teaching, supporting or otherwise helping with Sunday school. I continuously look for ways to make the children's ministries full of fun so that our young members look forward to church and Sunday school. I was on vestry once before and the role I enjoyed most was to support lifelong learning at Immanuel, coordinating with the Virginia Theological Seminary Center for Ministry of Teaching to find a new Sunday school curriculum, and forming learning activities for older children, youth and adults. I was on vestry when the Seminary chapel burned and our clergy faced illnesses and then moved/retired, which led to my involvement in the selection committee for an interim priest and my planning and response help with the parish listening sessions guided by our interim priest. I also nominated and supported members of the search committee for a new Rector. I was on the outreach committee once, I help with pumpkins and participate in the flower guild.

Please name something you find very valuable/something you love about Immanuel.

I appreciate the community of Immanuel, the community of worship, of fellowship, of mutual support and of welcome. I value the deep theology of the Episcopal Church which I think is a particular gift of Immanuel, also bolstered by our close ties with the Virginia Theological Seminary. We benefit from a deep bench of gifted priests and beautiful space, both at Zabriskie and Immanuel Chapel.

What gifts, talents, interests and/or goals and objectives do you think you might bring to Vestry service?

My goal is to serve the parish, support the people and programs, and step up as required, so that Immanuel continues our strong and important ministry to this unique and powerful place and throughout the world. I believe the vestry is most successful by working through committees, and that our role is to support our Rector, provide leadership to the parish, and look to the future. Professionally, I am a leader and manager in the federal government with budget, operational, and policy experience. As a vestry member I hope to support and advocate for our Christian education ministries, and find ways to continue reaching out to visitors and inviting people to join the Immanuel community.

How would you view serving on the Vestry as a ministry, as part of your Christian journey?

I believe in a call to serve our parish. I know that vestry service brings prayerful discernment and decision-making, and folds the members into a group of professed and faithful believers and servants of Christ. It puts me and others on the edge and in a vulnerable spot. From there we will grow, know each other, understand our ministry, and help propel the parish to meet God's purpose.

Hartley Wensing



How long have you worshipped at Immanuel? Any other family members who worship here?

I was baptized, confirmed and married at Immanuel and have been attending almost all my life. My husband Kevin, daughter Grace, parents Richard and Kay Hobson, brother Rich Hobson and niece and nephew Trey and Ava Hobson also attend.

What are some parish activities or ministries that have captured your time and talents?

I served on the Immanuel Capital Campaign for Zabriskie and Immanuel Chapel at the Seminary and have been teaching Sunday school for 3-4 years. I also love volunteering at the Pumpkin Patch.

Please name something you find very valuable/something you love about Immanuel.

I love the community of families that we have found for Grace and ourselves. I also love both the history I have with many at the church as well as the many new faces we continue to attract. Mostly I love that it is a place where I can be fed on my journey with Christ.

What gifts, talents, interests and/or goals and objectives do you think you might bring to Vestry service?

I bring a commitment to our children, youth and families, an interest in engaging more people in the leadership of the church and understanding of VTS where I work on issues of cross-Communion and cross-cultural engagement and peacemaking. I also have a lifelong love of Shrine Mont which I want to continue to nurture in our parish.

How would you view serving on the Vestry as a ministry, as part of your Christian journey?

I have felt called to serve on the vestry for years and decided this year to heed that call rather than to try to find the perfect time to serve. I see it as a way of deepening my connection to and understanding of God's mission in the world.