

IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL

Parish Notes

September 17, 2023

IN THE NAME OF 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 pew card — located in display stands at entrances of the chapels — and give it 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: Brad and Melinda Ashton, David Atwood, Edith, Natalie Doyle Hennin, Ann and Rollin Huntington, Frances Johnson, Hal Johnson, Joseph, Kenny, Ann MacNamara, Cynthia Morton, Linda and Cy Murphy, Everett Post, Tony Rogers, Catherine Sinclair, John Smucker, Norma Taliaferro, Betty Wanamaker, and Francine Wargo.

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY: Jack Allen, Kathryn Anschutz, Felicia Balzano, Bogumil Knypinski, Dave and Betsy Fox Berry, Jean Couban, Steve Davis, Joseph Fabian, Cathy Fick, Linda Gill, Betty Harris, Betty Hicks, Louise Jackson, Peter and Joanne, John, Katja, Tom Kellner, Charlotte Kellogg, Joseph and Elaine Kelly, Winnie Kidd, Marcia MacDonald, Joe Miceli, Stephen Miller, McQuade Milligan, Candy Morgan, Mary Muniz, Shelby Ochs Owen, Paul, Lilly Pinner, Sarah Pollach, Jennie Rae, Michael Rathsack, Rebecca, Jim Rehnke, Sue Rehnke, Larry Rhoades, Roger, George Rustigian, Jim Sanford, Brian Tolson, Fred Vipperman, Mark Vipperman, Rosemary Wensing, Ryan Willis, and Richard Zitelli.

Pray for those who are celebrating birthdays this week: Tracey Friday, Ryan McCann, Kate Snow, Ginny Johnstone, Wilton Corkern, the Very Rev. Ian S. Markham Ph.D, Kathryne Gould, Frances Johnson, Jimmy Moore, Alan Becker, Celia Ochs, Rachel Becker, Peter Beckmann, Clay Burke, Grayson Yates, Bill Kerekes, Lorelai Low, and Benjamin Richter.

Serving around the world: Noah Barker, Ian Phillips, Todd Bates, Jason Osborne, Michael Hussey, and Jonathan, Nicole, Alina and Nolan Anderson, and Scott.

Those who have died: Robert Knott, son-in-law of Ginny Johnstone. *Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him.*

EYC and CYF Meet –n- Greet *TODAY* at 10 AM, Parish Hall

Attention all parishioners interested in Episcopal Youth Community and Children, Youth, and Family Ministries! We are hosting our first meet and greet coffee hour with Rev. Sarah!

When? This Sunday after the 9:00a.m. Eucharist.

Where? In our parish hall.

Why? Because our families need the love and connection of this sacred community.

We want to hear from you and have news to share of upcoming events—so we hope you can make it!

Announcements

WEEKDAY WORSHIP AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Morning Prayer, Tuesday, September 19th, Zabriskie Chapel

Wednesday Evening Eucharist September 20th @ 6:30 p.m., Zabriskie Chapel

Bible Study “*The Gospel of Matthew: Book of the Messiah*”, Thursday, September 21st @10:30 a.m. online via Zoom. Look for login details in your weekly eBlast email.

Evening Compline, Friday, September 22nd, 8:30 p.m., Online via Zoom

Immanuel’s New SUNDAY Worship Schedule

Beginning TODAY Sunday, September 17, 2023

8:00 AM | Holy Eucharist Rite I, a contemplative service without music, Zabriskie Chapel

9:00 AM | Holy Eucharist, Rite II, with choir and nursery care, Zabriskie Chapel

10:30 AM | Holy Eucharist Rite II, with choir and nursery care, Immanuel Chapel

Feast Days, Sunday School, Forums, and Coffee Hours as announced



Weekday Worship Schedule

Wednesday, 6:30 PM | Holy Eucharist Rite II, at Zabriskie Chapel

Tuesday 10:00 AM | Morning Prayer, at Zabriskie Chapel

FUNERAL AND COMMITTAL for **ROBERTA SHAW “BOBBIE” THOMAS**



Tomorrow, September 18, 2023, ZABRISKIE CHAPEL

Funeral at **11:00 a.m.**, followed by Committal *in the Memorial Garden,*
and Reception in the Parish Hall

UPCOMING SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

September 20 - THIRD WEDNESDAY LUNCH AT GOODWIN HOUSE ALEXANDRIA:

Please join us for lively conversation over lunch in the Fillmore Room at Goodwin House Alexandria. We gather at noon on the third Wednesday, which is September 20th. Please RSVP to Mother Susan at sparsons@icoh.net.

September 26 - FOURTH TUESDAY BROWN BAG LUNCH with Guest Speaker Pierre Shostal:

Join us in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, September 26, at 12:15 p.m. to hear from fellow parishioner Pierre Shostal about his experience ministering to refugees here in Alexandria. Pierre works with other Immanuel folks in conjunction with the refugee ministry of Christ Church, Alexandria.

Luncheon will begin at 12:15 p.m. in the parish hall and our program will start around 12:30. Don't forget to bring your own sandwich or salad and Senior Ministry will provide beverages and dessert. There is no cost for this event and no reservation is required.

UPCOMING FORUM HOURS

Join us at 10:00 a.m. in the Zabriskie Parish Hall for each of the following special Forum Hours below:

FORUM HOUR WITH DEAN IAN MARKHAM NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH

The Very Rev. Ian S. Markham, Ph.D, Dean and President of Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS) since August 2007, will host a special forum hour next Sunday, September 24, 10:00 a.m., in the parish hall.

All are encouraged to attend.



FORUM HOUR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1ST *Understanding Opioids & How We Can All Help*

As you've undoubtedly heard in the news, the opioid epidemic poses a significant threat to public health, nationally and locally. Join us to hear from guest speaker Emily Bentley, LPC. Ms. Bentley serves as the City of Alexandria's **Opioid Response Coordinator** and is in charge of the Alexandria Opioid Work Group. This position was created in 2019 to lead the City's response to the local effects of the national opioid epidemic.

Our parish stewardship theme for 2023 is Rooted and Grounded in Love and Community. What a relevant way to demonstrate our love for others as we learn about the multi-dimensional approach to attacking the opioid crisis in Alexandria.

EASY WAY TO SIGN UP: SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2023
Sign up to Serve in our Sunday Services ONLINE
via Our New SignUp Genius Button

Would you like to serve as a lay minister? If so, please sign up to serve as a Reader, Intercessor, Usher, Acolyte, Altar Guild, Crucifer and/or Chalice Bearer online via [SignUp Genius](#) for Immanuel by visiting the landing page of our website at www.ICOH.net and clicking on the red button at right.



If you are a first-timer and need training, please contact Agnes at the office on **Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.** (ext. #206), or via email at asoos@icoh.net. Finally, if you need training for a particular ministry, please send a request to sparsons@icoh.net or indicate so next to your name on the sheet. Thank you!

**COME LISTEN TO EACH OTHER AS CHRISTIANS BURDENED BY THE ISSUES
OF **VIOLENCE, GUN SAFETY, AND MENTAL ILLNESS****

*A request for those planning to attend the October 3 session on **violence, gun safety, mental illness and loneliness**:* All are welcome and invited to participate in the next listening session on these issues, which can be difficult, sensitive, and divisive. Our July and August sessions demonstrated some consensus that a) so many of us are feeling burdened, sorrowful, helpless, fearful, and angry, but also know that God is with us as we carry these burdens; and b) Immanuel could be a place where we can speak from the heart and seek common ground – rooted in our common faith – to understand and respect each other and search for appropriate responses as a believing community.

We urge and strongly request that if you are planning to attend the session at 7:00 PM October 3 in the Fairchild Room that you:

- Arrive on time, in order to *participate in the opening prayer and ground rules* for listening.
- Prior to October 3, spend some *time in discernment and prayer* seeking guidance on common responses we together might make across our differing perspectives.

We don't know what to do, what the role of a church is in the face of this kind of protracted crisis, but we do know that we are to listen when we hear the Lord tugging at our hearts even as our perspectives on these issues vary widely and as we seek responses as a community. Explore with us what we as followers of Jesus may be called to do in the face of crisis, pain and evil.

The session is Tuesday, October 3 (7:00-8:30) in the Fairchild Room. For questions, concerns, or further information, please talk to [David Atwood](#), [Sanjiv Augustine](#), or Father Randy.

YOU WANT TO GO WHERE EVERYBODY KNOWS YOUR NAME...

If you've been in church lately, you probably noticed some new faces, and maybe even some familiar faces you haven't seen in a while. It's a fact: not only have we been blessed with new parishioners and visitors, but more Immanuelites are returning to regular churchgoing. And one of the best ways we can help each other get acquainted – or reacquainted – is by wearing name badges.

You should be able to find your name badge in one of the alphabetically-arranged storage trays in either Narthex. **Please wear your name badge to church worship and activities!** You can feel free to replace it in the tray where it won't get lost between visits.

If you don't see your name, please fill out a "Request Name Badge" form (they're next to the name badge trays) and we will prepare a new name badge for you and place it in the tray.



REPORT TO PARISH

The Immanuel Spiritual Retreat Committee thanks parishioners for responding to the survey they issued this summer which has provided a better understanding about how to support the spiritual needs of our congregation.

Because some parishioners have family or work responsibilities that prevent them from devoting a full weekend to a spiritual retreat, the committee will try to schedule a half day program on a Saturday this coming spring in Alexandria on a spiritual topic rather than provide two weekend retreats.

In planning for future retreats, the committee would strive to avoid the busy Advent season as well as the weeks before Easter. For parishioners involved in choir or altar guild, these are periods when they need to be at church on Sunday mornings rather than on a retreat. Unfortunately, the date of the upcoming Advent Retreat led by the Rev. Ruthanna Hooke scheduled for December 8-10 at Holy Cross Abbey cannot be changed.

It was helpful to learn that being in a beautiful natural setting, having time to focus on one's spiritual life, learning from the guidance of the retreat leader, and stepping away from the stresses of daily life were elements of a retreat that attracted those who participated in them.

Survey respondents encouraged the committee to provide more information about the schedule for a retreat and have past participants share some of the benefits of retreats with the congregation.

Immanuel Spiritual Retreat Committee: *Amy Thomas*
Mark Fearer
Becky McCann
Katherine Maas
Mary Ann Rehnke

AN ADVENT RETREAT WITH THOMAS MERTON

Holy Cross Abbey, Berryville, Virginia
December 8-10, 2023

The Rev. Dr. Ruthanna Hooke, Retreat Leader



In the season of Advent, we await the coming of the Christ child, who is Immanuel, God with us. This waiting time of Advent is a time of longing, a time to connect more deeply with our desire for God and God's desire for us. Thomas Merton, a Cistercian monk and one of the great mystics and contemplatives of the 20th century, is a fruitful companion for those who feel this longing. Merton's writings about such topics as finding the true self, developing contemplative prayer practices in an active world, and discerning the presence of God in everyday life continue to inspire and guide those seeking to know and love God more fully.

This retreat will be held at Holy Cross Abbey, a Cistercian monastery in Berryville, Virginia, a fitting place to spend some time with Merton's wisdom. The retreat will include times for rest, contemplation, silence, and fellowship. If you are desiring a closer relationship with God this Advent season, please join us!

The retreat will be led by the Rev. Dr. Ruthanna Hooke, Priest Associate of Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill and Professor of Preaching at Virginia Theological Seminary. She is the author of *Transforming Preaching*, and she is currently working on *Real Presence: Preaching as Embodied Event*. We are pleased that a priest who is so familiar with Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill and her parishioners will be guiding us through the retreat.

Our retreat will begin Friday afternoon, December 8, shortly before the evening meal and will end after the noon meal on Sunday, December 10. The retreat will be at Holy Cross Abbey, Berryville, Virginia, which is an hour and fifteen-minute drive from our church on a one thousand acre farm by the Shenandoah River at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains. For more information on the monastery, see their website <https://www.virginiatrappists.org/about/>.

The \$350.00 registration fee includes all materials, comfortable accommodations, individual rooms each with a bathroom, and all meals. **Following Holy Cross Abbey policy, we may not be able to accommodate retreat reservations received after November 10.**

Two scholarships given in memory of Charles Willis are available; please contact the rector for scholarship assistance. If you receive a scholarship, please complete a registration form and indicate that you have a scholarship.

Registration is limited to 15 persons; please reserve your space using the form in the bulletin or on the Immanuel, www.ICOH.net. If you have questions about retreat logistics, please contact Mary Ann Rehnke, mfrb2695@gmail.com. Participants needing a ride to the Abbey or those wishing to volunteer to provide a ride may contact the retreat carpooling coordinator, Katherine Maas, katherinemaas@gmail.com.

**Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill
Advent Retreat
Holy Cross Abbey Retreat House
December 8-10, 2023**

First person registering for retreat

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ **Cell Phone** _____

E-mail _____

Second person registering for retreat

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ **Cell Phone** _____

E-mail _____

Number of registrants _____ x \$350 = _____ Total registration fee

Please make check payable to Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill and write Advent Retreat on the check. Return this form and your check to the Immanuel Church office, 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22304 by **Wednesday, November 1**. Please put Advent retreat on the envelope.

If you need to cancel your registration and there is no one on the waiting list who can take your place, Holy Cross Abbey retains the \$75.00 per room deposit. All but \$75.00 of your registration fee would be returned to you.

Immanuel Outreach and the PUMPKIN PATCH'S 30TH YEAR

Fall at Immanuel is synonymous with the Pumpkin Patch, now in our 30th 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 tired but happy 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 \$1,225,473 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 (2022) amounted to \$96,000 and helped us support 14 local Alexandria charities, 5 regional charities, and 6 international charities. Included were local grants to ALIVE!, Carpenter's Shelter, Community Lodgings, Culmore 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.

Outreach at Immanuel is also about giving every parishioner the opportunity and encouragement to become involved. The Outreach Committee wants to follow where parishioners lead; an important criterion for funding any charity is direct parishioner involvement. Any parishioner can participate in the Outreach Committee.

Pumpkin proceeds 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 Navajo farmers who grow the pumpkins on Navajo Nation lands in Farmington, New Mexico. When you think about it, so much good comes from a simple pumpkin. A pumpkin delights a child, a family, a school group; they get painted and bobbed for and carved. God grows a pumpkin, and everyone benefits.

We need a lot of volunteers for the Patch this October. There's a job available for everyone from making soups, baking tasty treats, making crafts to sell, to manning the sales tables. PLEASE GO TO www.ICOH.net AND USE THE SIGNUP GENIUS TO VOLUNTEER. Our first two pumpkin trucks arrive Saturday, September 30th.

See you at the Patch!

Parish Directory Print Copies Available by Request

Do you need a printed copy of Immanuel's Parish Directory? Aleta updated it on Friday, so feel free to send her an email at apowell@icoh.net with "Directory" in the subject line and she'll make sure you receive one. In addition, you can drop-off your old copies outside of the parish office and she'll shred them for you. Finally, if you don't have internet access, you can leave her a voicemail on extension x200.

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
 Reggie Hayes (r.hayes9@me.com) Postulant Intern
 Dr. Jane Tavernier (jtavernier@icoh.net) Director of Music
 Tom Hewson (thewson@icoh.net) Treasurer
 Sughra Bakhtiari (sbakhtiari@icoh.net) Bookkeeper
 Aleta Y. Powell (apowell@icoh.net) Parish Administrator
 Tamika Martin (tmartin@icoh.net) Audio Visual Technician
 Gilma Balcarcel Nursery Coordinator
 Stuart Dahlinger Sexton

THE VESTRY

Kristi Kubista-Hovis Senior Warden
 Gerry Anderson Junior Warden: Building and Grounds, Creation Care
 Peter Kent Junior Warden: Administration
 Amy Thomas Adult Formation and Discipleship
 Brad Ashton Stewardship and Planned Giving
 Mollie Lambert Outreach
 Kathy Lloyd Senior Ministry
 Kristi Kubista-Hovis and Kathy Lloyd Children Youth and Family Ministries
 Julie Bruns Pastoral Care
 David Atwood Social Justice
 Taylor Houck Communications
 Caroline Bergmark Evangelism and Newcomers
 Matt Haskin Worship
 Caroline Bergmark and Taylor Houck Fellowship
 Sydney Onley Youth Representative (nonvoting member)
 Caroline Bergmark Registrar

SCHEDULE OF SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I, Zabriskie Chapel
 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II, 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
[Immanuel's YouTube channel](#)

PRIESTS ASSOCIATE

The Rev. Dr. J. Barney Hawkins, IV
 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, Fax: 703-370-0837

www.icoh.net

