

THE ALMOND TREE

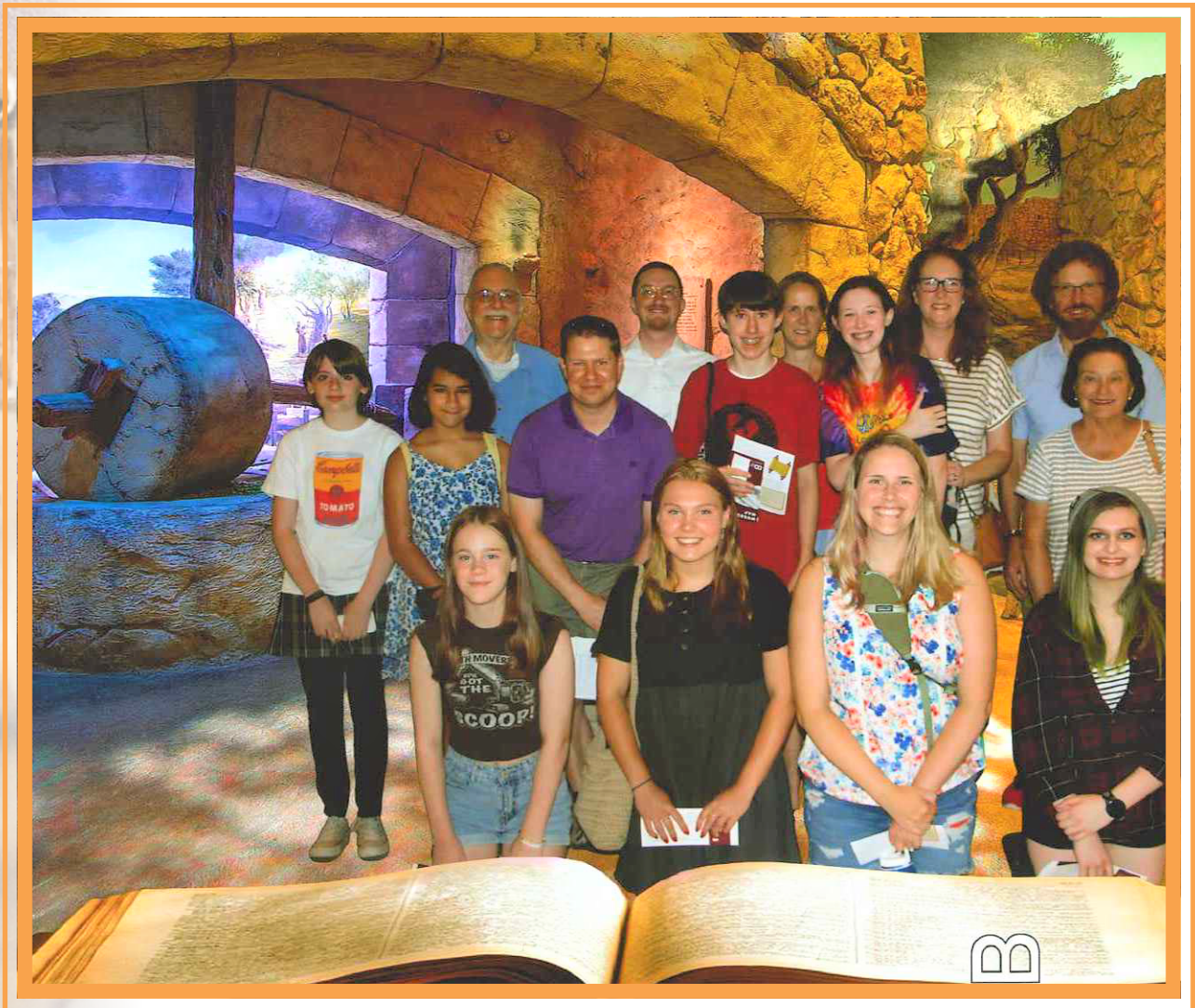
QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL



SUMMER/ FALL 2021

HOMECOMING HOLY EUCHARIST & BOX LUNCH PICNIC

Youth Groups from Immanuel and St. Matthew's at The Museum of the Bible, Washington, DC





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ANNOUNCED

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Enjoy a box lunch and games for kids at Immanuel’s Homecoming Picnic following tomorrow’s Holy Eucharist -- all at The Grove on the grounds of the Virginia Theological Seminary; learn about our new fall schedule services -- including Lament Sunday, next week, formation opportunities, and monthly Saturday services. In addition, take our parish-wide survey as you review updates on our Pumpkin Patch, volunteer opportunities with OAR and our Bishop Diocesan Transition Committee, ways to help newcomers from Afghanistan, assistance for residents in need of immediate affordable housing, and much more.

Cover photo: Immanuel’s CYF and EYC Youth Groups joined members of St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church Sterling for a summer day trip to The Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC on July 9, 2021. View a few more photos on pages 16-17.

Photo This Page courtesy of Marcus Rarick: “Les Colombes,” an art installation in the Washington National Cathedral, as visited by Immanuel’s Senior Adult Ministry Bus Trip on July 28, 2021.

From the Assistant Rector

Dearest Immanuel Friends and Family,

Most of the conversations I have with people are about beginning a new school year, a new job, a new program year for the church, and for so many people a new return from online work to hybrid or in-person activities. In short, most of the conversations I have are in some way about burnout. Many of us are exhausted, overwhelmed, getting used to new modes of operating and ways of being. It's a lot. If you think you're going through a lot right now you're probably right and you're definitely not alone.

In response, I asked Randy if I could share this sermon at the beginning of this Summer/Fall issue of The Almond Tree Quarterly. I wrote it for one of our Wednesday Eucharists, which are small, quiet, and lovely services. My hope is that it may offer a frame for what many of us are going through in this season of our lives. It was written for Exodus 3:1-12, the Burning Bush, and Matthew 11:25-30, Jesus saying His yoke is easy and His burden is light. I offer it to you in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In peace



The Rev. Sam Sheridan
Assistant Rector

Moses is out beyond the wilderness, that's what it says. And that phrase doesn't make sense—just like a bush on fire but not being consumed doesn't make any sense. There's nowhere else in scripture that there's anything beyond the wilderness. The wilderness is the beyond. It's out beyond the reach of empire, out beyond the city walls, beyond the protection or control of any authority. He's not just out of the way, off the map, off the grid. That would be Moses in the wilderness. Moses is out beyond the wilderness. As a reader, as a listener, that should be our first clue that what transpires here is less of a thing that happens at a place... it's more transcendent, visceral, primordial than that. The place on which you're standing is holy ground but it is, again, not a place, it is every place.



Horeb also isn't a place. Some passages make some people think that Mount Sinai is where this really happened. You can go to the traditional location of Mount Sinai and there see where some people have generally believed the Ten Commandments were given to Moses. But you can't go to Horeb because Exodus uses a place name that, at the time of the writing of Exodus, wasn't used anywhere else at all. (About 150 years later the writers of 1 and 2 Kings decided Horeb was where Elijah heard God not in the mighty rock-breaking wind, or the earthquake, or the raging fire—but rather in a still small voice. That story takes the same setting. Horeb; where God speaks in a whisper, in a breath, which we remember is how all Creation was formed. Horeb is not a place, but it is all places.)

Moses is beyond the edges of the map, out beyond the wilderness, beyond anything that we could go and see or touch. Suddenly tongues of fire leap up from a bush, and Moses stops because he cannot fathom how this bush can so clearly be ablaze and yet not consumed. But it is just that he does not yet know God. God knows him, mind. God knows Moses. Moses does not need to introduce himself. God already knows Moses by name, but here Moses will learn God by name, and henceforth it will absolutely make sense how a bush could burn and not be consumed. Because that is everything we know and claim about God, still, in one image. What God burns is not consumed.

What God burns is not consumed in Revelation where after the fire is the white robed army of martyrs. What God burns is not consumed in 1 Corinthians where Paul says the workers build on the foundation of Jesus Christ, with some gold, some silver, some precious stones some wood, some hay, some straw, and and a fire will come and show just what we built and though we will be burned we will also be saved. Paul says Jesus is coming with fire. John the Baptist says Jesus is coming with fire. Not to put too fine a point on it, Jesus actually says Jesus is coming with fire and the sword.

But the fire of Almighty God does not destroy that which it burns, does not consume; rather it sanctifies! It sets apart. It makes holy.

Moses meets a fire that does not consume in a place that is all places. That fire burns within. The spark of the divine—that is us made in the image of God—that we are meant to see in one another and even find in ourselves burns but does not consume. It doesn't need to be fueled. It can't burn out, it can't run out. So many of us worry that the best or most important parts of us will fail, will disappear, will wither... and it just absolutely never happens.

Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest, says Jesus. And of course we're weary, of course we're exhausted, of course we're—if you'll pardon my pun—burned out. The parts of us that are of the world burn just like everything else that burns... eventually you run out of fuel and everything's spent. We can fall apart emotionally and physically. We can get sick. We will all eventually even die. So stress and anxiety are killers and they do wear us out, wear us down. And Jesus knows this, knows this wearying world, and then says, Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you

will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

Because out beyond our burdens, out beyond everything that wearies us, out beyond the power of any authority or empire, in the wilderness —beyond the wilderness— in the place that is no place where only God can be... is the very fire that burns inside you at every moment. And it’s easier than every hard thing about this world.

You are not the jobs you’ve had. You are not the places you’ve lived. You aren’t the mean things people have sometimes said. You aren’t your failed relationships or broken friendships. Though you have, at times, exchanged your labor for a salary or a wage... you’ve never once in the eyes of God, in the only eyes that matter, actually been a commodity.

You are not something that can be used up, spent, or finished. You can feel drained, exhausted, burned out. But you are made in the image of almighty God. You are something that can burn and never be consumed. You are something else, something other, something set apart— something sanctified. In you, one can glimpse the beating heart of the whole universe. In you, one can glimpse the beating heart of God.

The burdens and cares of our lives do matter and need dealing with... but they are not all we are. The burdens of now will run their course. In every sense that matters we will still be here, and we will in time find rest.

Father Sam

Father Sam

FUNERAL FOR

THE REV. JOHN SMITH

followed by Internment in the Seminary Chapel Memorial Garden and Reception



Saturday, October 2, 2021, 12 Noon,
Immanuel Chapel
3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA



Congratulation to the Class of 2021

Immanuel is proud to honor our five high school -- and one college -- graduates of 2021. May we all pray for them as they pursue higher education or enter into the workforce.



Peter Alexander

ST. ANDREWS EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Ohio Wesleyan University Class of 2025

son of The Reverends Randy and Patty Alexander





Sameer Aaron Augustine

ST. STEPHEN'S AND ST. AGNES SCHOOL

Worcester Polytechnic Institute Class of 2025
Robotic Engineering

son of Sanjiv and Sujatha Augustine;
grandson of Q. Freddy and Malathy Frederick

Zach Cohn

WEST POTOMAC HIGH SCHOOL

University of Virginia Class of 2025
Statistics/Economics.

son of Mr. and Mrs. Adam and Laura
Cohn

grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Tom and
Roz Kerns



Thomas Cuddy

THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL

University of Michigan Class of 2025
Engineering

son of Tom and Carrie Cuddy



Elise Marie Lein

Alexandria City High School (formerly known as T.C. Williams) and Morgantown High School.

University of West Virginia Class of 2025
English

daughter of The Rev. and Mrs. John and Miriam Lein



Ben Wilson

ALEXANDRIA CITY HIGH SCHOOL
(formerly known as T.C. Williams)

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State
University Class of 2025

son of Mr. and Mrs. Darrell and Leah
Wilson



Amanda Eisenhour

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
CLASS OF 2021

BA in African and Latin American Studies

daughter of Mr. Mark Eisenhour and Mrs. Jeannie Cummins-Eisenhour

Farewell Immanuelites

We say “goodbye” to two families who are moving



On June 18th close to 80 Immanuelites descended on Café 1823 on the grounds of the Virginia Theological Seminary to bid farewell to the Cowan Family. Immanuel’s own old time music group, The Shrinemonters performed live for an evening of music and merriment at the café (commonly known as “the Pub”), beginning around 6:30 p.m. and braved the summer heat to play for over two hours!

We pray for Curt, Corrine, Billy and Sara, as she begins her new ordained ministry in the Diocese of West Tennessee. For the next month, the address to their new home will remain in our parish directory.





Goodbye Marcia and Elspeth!

Marcia MacDonald and her daughter Elspeth are moving to Brooklyn, NY. Marcia became a member of Immanuel nearly 35 years ago, serving in numerous capacities and ministries -- including as a choir member.

Homecoming Sunday will their last Sunday here, so do stop buy and see her and Elspeth at our luncheon picnic.

Their new address is listed in our parish directory.

Immanuel's

Creation Care News

The Creation Care Action Team was re-energized at the end of the summer last year with a parish Recycling Challenge to collect 500 pounds of plastic bags and films in exchange for a responsibly created bench that the Trex Company would manufacture from that plastic. With typical Immanuel enthusiasm, our parish families and friends donated 500 pounds by mid-January this year and our Trex bench will be arriving soon.

We are working with Chain Bridge Native Landscapes, a local company focused on integrating native plants and sustainable design, on several areas of our property that need new planting, especially to deal with rainwater management and erosion control. The newly-planted area behind Zabriskie Chapel features *Packera aurea* (Golden ragwort), *Itea virginica* (Virginia Sweetspire), native ferns, and rushes to name a few. A complete list of the garden plantings will soon be available. We hope these plants inspire parishioners and visitors alike to consider incorporating native plants for use in home gardens. Stop by to see the garden and then take a rest on the new Trex bench. *****

The Creation Care Action Team welcomes your thoughts and ideas for projects and opportunities that engage our congregation and the larger community in creation care. Please contact Denise Freeland at eco.voce@verizon.net or 703-683-0322.



Kevin Kirby, Buildings and Grounds, and Kathryn Jackson Haskin, Senior Warden, take a break after weeding the newly-planted area.

**Immanuel's EYC Joins Youth from St. Matthews
to Visit **THE MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE**
Friday, July 9th, Washington, DC**





Update on Haiti

Jim Snow

Sadly, Haiti is again in the news. For many years, Immanuel has supported the Haiti Micah Project (HMP), a local charity that serves orphaned and at-risk children in the city of Mirebalais, Haiti.

Mirebalais is located about 70 road miles northeast of the capital of Port-au-Prince. HMP was founded

in 2005 by the Reverend Joseph Constant, who was then on the faculty of the Virginia Theological Seminary. Father Joseph is a Haitian-American who founded HMP in response to a growing number of orphaned and at-risk street children in Mirebalais, many coming from the Azile, the worst imaginable slum. Since its founding, HMP has supported an orphanage with a capacity of 30; a feeding program providing daily meals to over 400 children; a vocational training program; and educational support for over a hundred children (education is not free in Haiti).



The 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck on August 14th has again focused our attention on Haiti. Although stronger than the 2010 earthquake that killed 300,000 in and around Port-au-Prince, the epicenter of the latest quake was in the less populated southwest. However, the entire county is affected. This latest natural disaster comes when Haiti is already facing the pandemic, economic instability and civil unrest. The recent assassination of President Jovenel Moise has left the country

in turmoil, with armed gangs controlling roads and neighborhoods and terrorizing the population. The resurgence of the coronavirus threatens an already fragile economy.

As a member of the board of HMP, I have been asked how our work has been affected by the earthquake. I am thankful to report that HMP facilities, children and staff in Mirebalais were not directly impacted. The tremors were felt, but there was little physical damage. However, we're already seeing the collateral psychological and economic damage. Throughout Haiti, the challenge for many is simply survival.

HMP has had to be resilient in the current situation. For the past year, we have been coping with the civil unrest and the pandemic, exacerbated by currency inflation and scarcity of supplies. With the earthquake, it is going to get worse. For one thing, much of the agricultural breadbasket of Haiti in the southwest was destroyed, limiting the availability of food and inflating its cost. Fuel for transportation and cooking was already in short supply and has dramatically increased in price. Medical supplies and services are in short supply and needed in the south, which leaves Mirebalais and areas north more vulnerable to covid. The long-term impacts of the earthquake are unknown, but we already know that our day-to-day work is becoming more challenging.

HMP takes its name from Chapter 6 of the Book of Micah where we are told to “do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God.” When we contrast the comforts of our own lives with the daily challenges faced by Haitians, justice and kindness necessarily take on a broader meaning. What

does justice demand of us when there is such a huge resource disparity between the average American and the average Haitian? Clearly, Haiti's multiple calamities continue to challenge our faith and our humanity – how do we respond?

For one thing, we have to guard against resignation and pessimism – the notion that because Haiti's problems seem so intractable that there is no use in trying. The simple fact is that what we do does matter and does have a positive impact. At HMP, we focus on the needs of those children we can help with food, shelter, education and love. Father Joseph reminds us that in Galatians 6, the Apostle Paul tells us not to be “weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” We know that our work over the last 16 years has resulted in hundreds of children leading happier and healthier lives.

HMP is grateful for Immanuel's generous support over the years, including a \$5,000 grant this year from Outreach. In addition, many parishioners participate by sponsoring a child for a yearly donation of \$365. That is a blessing, but we need your continued support. The easiest way is to donate through the HMP website at <https://haiti-micah.org/>. Better yet, simply write a check payable to “Haiti Micah Project” and send it to the parish office.

Working with Haiti is a humbling experience for many of us, but there is purpose in this ministry. The children we nurture today will soon be the adults who will need to meet Haiti's future challenges. Please keep Haiti and its children in your prayers.

We've Got Mail

Hi all!

It has been a while and I wanted you to know you are in our thoughts and we've been tuning in via You Tube.

In case you missed it, we moved in March into Old Town -- feel free to contact the parish office for our new address. Chris and I are blessed to continue to work in Alexandria and at Potomac School still.

Henry was home for the summer working at The Dairy Godmother and headed back up to Ithaca College. He continues to study film/photography and is looking into a spring semester internship in Rome.

Caroline is headed into her senior year. Her plans to study in Spain got deferred from her junior year to now. She left for a senior year in Zaragoza on September 5th. She too was working at Dairy Godmother besides taking SATs and working on college essays.

The last year or so has been so strange but we give thanks to being connected to Immanuel via emails, Zooms and You Tube. Thanks for your work and community.

Looking forward to seeing you soon in person later this fall.

Much love,
Diana
Diana Page

STORY CALL: ONE CONTEST YIELDED **THREE WINNERS!**

By: Aleta Y. Powell

Our new feature of Immanuelite trivia, **DID YOU KNOW**, debuted in our Spring 2021 issue of The Almond Tree Quarterly with a story on the namesake of The Fairchild Room in Zabriskie Chapel. I offered a contest to suggest a subject for our December 2021 and March 2022 issues, encouraging all current parishioners and associates of Immanuel to present a name, topic, or mystery that directly relates to our church. Initially, members of both our Communications team, and editorial team, The Almond Tree Branches, were to cast a vote among all entries received by Sunday, August 22nd; however, by that date I'd only received three entries, so it only seems fair to run all three stories in our upcoming issues.

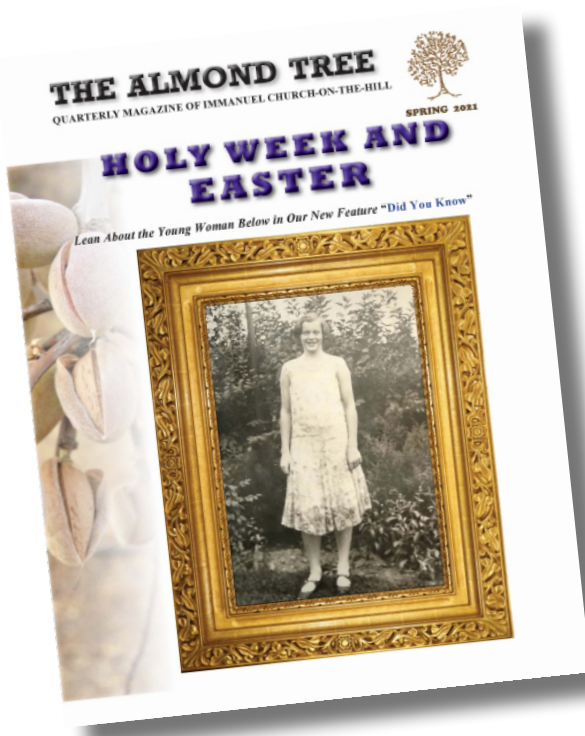
Let's congratulate our story idea contest winners, listed in the order that their submissions were received in the parish office, Look for their stories in our upcoming issues.



JANICE CORBETT

THE REV. RANDY ALEXANDER


JACKIE PHILLIPS



Congratulations to all of our winners and thank you for helping to make **The Almond Tree** better with your great story ideas!

Will Hap

Fall Schedule and Beyond

September 12	8: 00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Rite I	Zabriskie Chapel
		H+MECOMING	
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Rite II followed by box lunch picnic and games for children	The Grove at VTS
September 18	8:00 a.m.	Breakfast Bible Study on Ephesians	Zoom online & by telephone
September 19		LAMENT SUNDAY	
	8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Rite I with return to healing prayers	Zabriskie Chapel
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Rite II -- healing prayers	Immanuel Chapel
	1:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist Rite II - healing prayers	Zabriskie Garden Dect and online via Zoon
September 20	7:30 p.m.	Sacred Ground Dialog Circle	Zabriskie Garden Deck and online via Zoon
September 26	9:00a.m.	Forum Hour: Pumpkin Patch Briefing	TBD
September 29	12 Noon	Senior Adult Ministry Luncheon at Goodwin House Alexandria	The Arbor Room
	6:30pm.	Wednesday Evening Eucharist	Zabriskie Chapel
	7:15p.m.	Grief and Support Group Meeting	Fairchild Room
October 3			
	8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Rite I	Zabriskie Chapel
	10:30 am.	Holy Eucharist Rite II	Immanuel Chapel
	1:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist Rite II with Music	Zabriskie Garden

* *Forum Hours held on select Sundays; please check your weekly e-mail for topics and dates.*

penings

Highlights of the Fall Season

HOMECOMING

Sunday, September 12

8AM Holy Eucharist Rite I, Zabriskie Chapel

**10:30AM Holy Eucharist Rite II with music from Brass Quartet and The Immanuel Choir
followed by Box Lunch Picnic and games for the Children**

The Grove at Virginia Theological Seminary (weather permitting, rain location is Immanuel Chapel)

Please Note: Physical distancing encouraged, with the exception of infants and toddlers, everyone is asked to wear a mask when meeting indoors for services. The Celebrant and/or those distributing Communion will now wear gloves for a time.

LAMENT SUNDAY

Sunday, September 19

8AM Holy Eucharist Rite I with a return to Healing Prayers, Zabriskie Chapel

10:30AM Holy Eucharist Rite II with music from The Immanuel Choir and Healing Prayers

1 PM Holy Eucharist Rite II

NEW FOR IMMANUEL, we are calling Sunday, the 19th, Lament Sunday, focusing on many of the personal and communal losses we have experienced during the pandemic, thus far. This theme will be reflected in the music and in the prayers, and we will resume offering individual prayers – now, every Sunday -- after receiving Communion.

OUR NEW SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR THE FALL

8:00 AM—Holy Eucharist, Zabriskie Chapel, followed by coffee hour

10:30 AM--Holy Eucharist, Immanuel Chapel, followed by coffee hour

1:00PM—Holy Eucharist, Zabriskie Memorial Garden Deck (weather permitting)

OUR SUNDAY FORMATION SCHEDULE WILL BE THE FOLLOWING:

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM—Nursery, Zabriskie
9:15 AM—Forum Hour and/or Coffee Hour as scheduled, Parish Hall
9:15 AM—Episcopal Youth Community, EYC, Immanuel Chapel
10:30 AM - 11:45 AM—Nursery, Immanuel Chapel
10:30 AM—Godly Play during Eucharist, Immanuel Chapel
12:00 PM—Catechism / Confirmation Class, Zabriskie Memorial Garden Deck

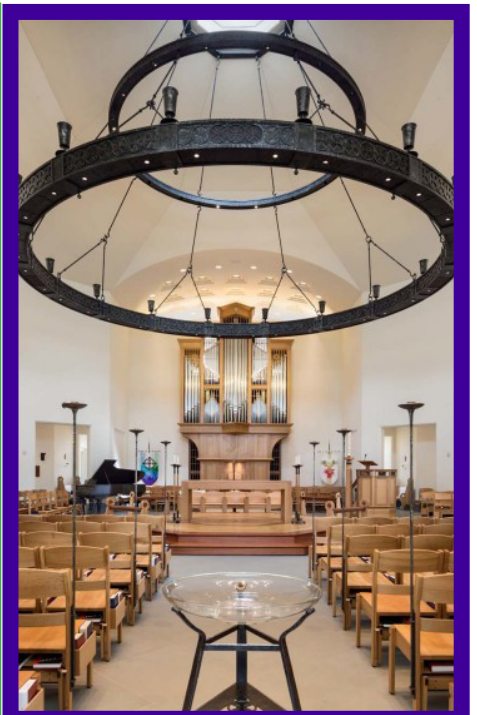
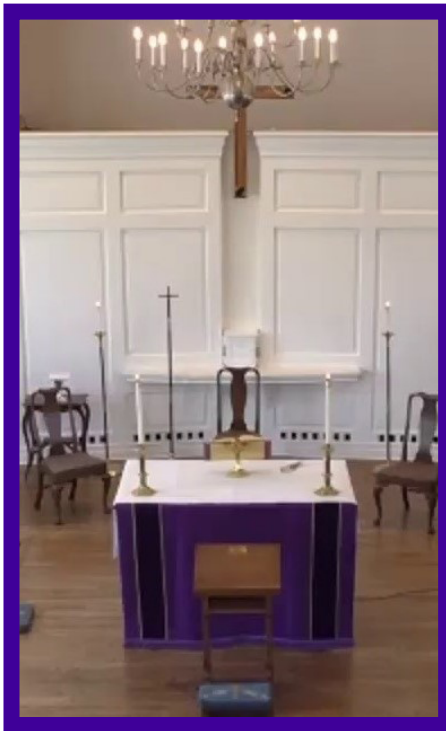
WEEKDAY FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Tuesday Morning Prayer Service - 10AM, Zabriskie Chapel
Wednesday evening Eucharists - 6:30PM, Zabriskie Chapel
Monthly Grief and Support Group Meeting - 7:15 PM, The Fairchild Room *(the last Wednesday of each month)*
Thursday Bible Study - 10:30AM, online via Zoom*
Friday Compline - 8:30PM, online via Zoom*

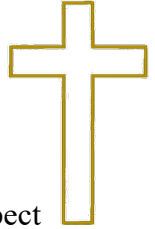
NEW THIS FALL: SATURDAY HOLY EUCHARIST, 5:30 PM, IMMANUEL CHAPEL:

September 18
October 23
November 20
December 18 -- This is also the Children and Young Adult's Christmas Pageant

* See your weekly eBlast email for login information and program details.



The following service was developed by the Rev. Ron Okrasinski of St. Mary's, Colonial Beach.



A SERVICE FOR SEPTEMBER 11

Jesus Said: Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.

Who are the poor in Spirit? We – who in terms of the true realities of life have nothing and who expect everything of our God. We who place our whole trust and reliance in the Almighty Lord of life, death and eternal life. Lord deliver us from arrogance, revenge and evil for evil. For they do not promote healing. Healing is embracing what is most feared. Healing requires that we reach out to something that gives us new life, new hope. Healing is the process of refusing to be wounded.

Blessed are the poor in spirit.

Jesus Said: Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted.

Lord Jesus, you say that those who mourn will be comforted. Mourning alone is no great thing, for mourning can be pretty unreasonable. Mourning is a genuine human reaction to loss and those who mourn with love shall be comforted. We were not created for darkness and death, rather that we should live with all our hearts and come closer to one another. We are called – are called to form a circle of love and try to outdo one another in showing that love – so that no one mourns alone.

Blessed are those who mourn.

Jesus said: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled.

We are a dependant people but ultimately we are dependent on God only. One of the things we learned a year ago is that we are vulnerable. We didn't know how to handle that because we lived in the illusion of being invincible. We are not – we are fragile creatures. Only God is invincible. We were and continue to be thrown back on the infinite resources of God. The power of the human spirit can triumph over tragedy and in the process recover aspects of our humanity but only if we allow God to do His part.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Jesus said: Blessed are the merciful for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God.

It is only the genuinely pure in heart who can truly be merciful; but that is the call from our God. We have been truly wounded and need to be healed. Healing comes to those who, though angry, move beyond anger to each other in compassion. We have come to know so many heroes as gentle healers and have been shown the sheer joy of selfless sacrifice that we have experienced a worldwide outpouring of love and mercy more powerful than any evil.

Blessed are the pure in heart.

Jesus said: Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are the peace makers for they will be called children of God.

The ultimate peacemaker is God – and we are His creatures, His children. On September 11 and the days since, there have been so many peacemakers. Those who value life more than death, hatred and revenge.

Those who overlook differences. For as we mourned together the Great Loss, we became one family. As we cried tears of grief and loss we became one soul – as we continue to struggle we strive to be one people, unity in diversity. The common enemy is those who value violence and death more than life. The goodness of American humanity has blossomed as the tree of life. May we continue to try. Peacemakers of the Lord to be.

Courtesy of [The Diocese of Virginia](#).

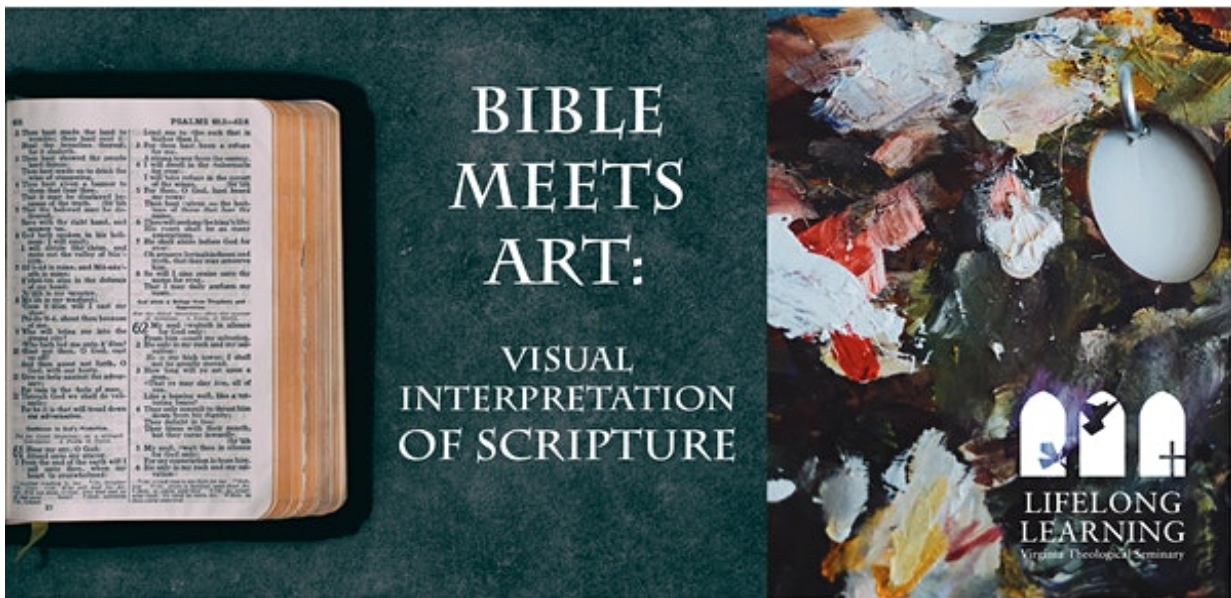


TWO Sacred Ground Dialogue Circles: Immanuel's Starts Monday, September 20th

Sacred Ground Starting Monday, September 20TH: Please consider signing up for the upcoming Sacred Ground dialogue circle, which will be biweekly on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m., from September 20 and going through January 2022 and facilitated by Chrissie Crosby. Sacred Ground offers a safe space to learn and be in dialogue about experiences, feelings, and concerns regarding personal identity, racial history and reconciliation, and justice. It has been developed by the national Episcopal Church and “field tested” by seventeen Immanuelites this past Winter and Spring. (If you want to talk to some of them or ask them questions, feel free to contact Katherine Smith, Marilynn Wilson, or Nancy Reuschel.)

Ten small group sessions -- based on intensive reading and film viewing homework -- review chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. More details are available at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground>. Please contact David Atwood at atwooddavid@gmail.com, or Kathryn Haskin at kathryn.jackson41@gmail.com to sign up.

VTS Tuesday Sacred Ground Curriculum begins September 21: If you want to participate in a Sacred Ground dialogue circle, but cannot make our Monday evening discussion, the Virginia Theological Seminary's continuing education program is offering afternoon and evening remote Sacred Ground dialogue circles Tuesdays beginning September 21st. Click the word “Registration” to learn the details and costs associated with their program.



CLASS BEGINS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

The Department of Lifelong Learning at VTS

Immanuel's relationship with, and proximity to, Virginia Theological Seminary present very special opportunities for the parish -- one of which is the chance to pursue lifelong learning through VTS' continuing education offerings (click here for general information).

For instance, you can join VTS Professor Dr. Stephen Cook (online or in-person) in an exploration of how the visual arts inform and enrich study of scripture in a new 6-part series beginning September 20, called "Bible Meets Art: Visual Interpretation of Scripture." There is a cost to attend. You can register or find more information about the course here (and see a video from Dr. Cook here at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bible-meets-art-visual-interpretation-of-scripture-tickets-163241809647?aff=eand>).



AS THE CRISIS IN LEBANON DEEPENS, AMERICAN FRIENDS OFFERS FOOD ASSISTANCE

July 9, 2021- Posted in Disabilities, Lebanon

On Monday, as he waited for hours behind 70 cars to buy a half tank of gas, Archdeacon Imad Zoorob didn't need to read the New York Times' front page story

about the economic crisis in Lebanon. He has been living with the impact of the rapidly devalued Lebanese Pound since early in the pandemic. Students at St. Luke's Center before the pandemic

"I get up at 6 a.m. to secure a place in line to get enough fuel to go to church," said Zoorob, the sole Episcopal priest in Lebanon. Zoorob serves as rector of All Saint's Church in Beirut as well as director of St. Luke's Rehabilitation Center, the nearby boarding and day school for children with cognitive disabilities owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. "This is a picture of our lives on a daily basis," he said earlier this week. "We ask for your prayers."

According to the World Bank, the Lebanese Pound has lost 90 percent of its value. Life savings, the value of pensions, and the purchase power of wages have been reduced to virtually nothing. Zoorob explained, "People are still receiving their old wages which weren't enough to keep them afloat when the currency was normal. Imagine now with this rate. God help us all."

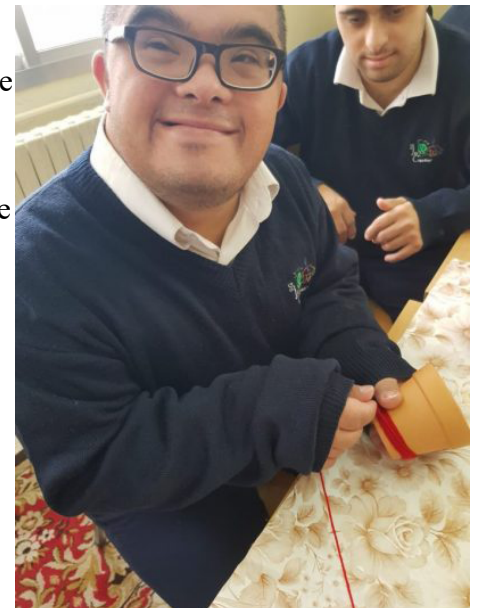
St. Luke's Rehabilitation Center closed in March 2020 due to the pandemic, but Zoorob has stayed close to the students and staff and their families, who are struggling financially. For a time, with the outpouring of financial support from **AFEDJ donors** after the August 2020 explosion in the port of Beirut, Zoorob was able to offer food cards to the 83 families in the St. Luke's community.

As the financial crisis in Lebanon grew worse, Rev. Zoorob established the Food for St. Luke's Families program which AFEDJ donors have continued to support. Zoorob said, "I am really grateful for such great and generous support for St. Luke's families because the staff and the children are in great need."

With its weak caretaker government and worsening economic crisis, Lebanon and its people will continue to face unimaginable challenges. Zoorob said earlier this week, "We are told by the government that subsidies for flour, for bread, for gasoline, for everything will soon end. We are told that this is just the beginning."

Your gift to support the Food for St. Luke's Families program will have a huge impact on a struggling family in Lebanon.

Please donate today!



Students at St. Luke's Center before the pandemic



Dear People of Immanuel:

We began regathering indoors for worship at the beginning of June, and many of you are regularly attending Sunday services at 8:00 a.m. in Zabriskie Chapel, 10:30 a.m. in Immanuel Chapel, or 6:00 p.m. outdoors on the Zabriskie deck – or evening Holy Eucharist at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in Zabriskie Chapel. I know that some of our small groups, including our Vestry, have begun to think about or talk about meeting in person over the summer.

Along with in-person services and activities, we are continuing our online offerings, including **YouTube recordings** of Sunday services, **Zoom Compline on Fridays** at 8:30 p.m., and studies of the Bible and other texts by Zoom.

As we move into the fall, and we confront the realities of this latest wave of COVID, the Vestry and Clergy respect that parishioners are likely to hold differing comfort levels about when and how to participate in worship and other church activities. The beginning of our program year approaches with Homecoming Sunday on September 12, and we would like to hear from you about your ideas, concerns, and hopes for our ongoing parish life.

To that end, the Vestry and the Clergy have developed a short survey, and we are asking that each member of your household respond to it individually. The information you provide will help us discern our best options for living into a strong future for Immanuel.

Please feel free to print out the survey, complete it, and deliver to Immanuel or place in the Sunday collection plate. We will also have copies available for you to pick up at Sunday services or on the table outside the Parish Office.

Alternatively, you can follow the link below to complete the survey online:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Sept2021Regather>

Thank you for giving us the benefit of your thoughts. And, if you aren't comfortable with this survey but would prefer to discuss with me directly, my door is open – and so are my phone and email.

God bless you all.

The Rev. J. Randolph Alexander, Jr.
Rector

Randy



Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill Parish Regathering Survey

The purpose of this survey is to help Immanuel's clergy and Vestry understand the hopes and the needs of the congregation as we return to in-person activities.

Please have individual members of your household fill out the survey. We recognize that even within the same household there may be differing levels of readiness to return to in-person activities.

1. Immanuel currently offers in-person, indoor Holy Eucharists at 8am in Zabriskie Chapel and 10:30am at Immanuel Chapel, plus 6pm outdoor Holy Eucharist in the Zabriskie gardens; at all services, masks are encouraged, social distancing is available, and Communion is offered in one kind (bread-only). Do you feel comfortable attending one of those in-person services?

- a. Yes, I am attending in-person, indoor services with those restrictions.
- b. I am willing to attend outdoor worship services but am not sure about indoor services yet.
- c. I would be willing to attend in-person services with additional restrictions in place.
- d. No, I do not feel comfortable returning to in-person worship of any kind.

2. Immanuel has restarted the nursery for the 10:30am Immanuel Chapel service, offering our youngest parishioners the option of a professionally-staffed, dedicated space during worship. Parents, would you feel comfortable bringing your children to in-person worship at Immanuel?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not sure
- d. Not applicable

3. Regarding the use of face masks, which best describes you?

- a. I plan to wear a face mask and would feel more comfortable if others did the same.
- b. I plan to wear a face mask, but it doesn't bother me if others choose not to.
- c. I prefer not to wear a face mask but will wear one if the church requires it.
- d. Makes no difference to me.
- e. Other (please specify):

4. If NOT attending in-person worship, how likely are you to watch and participate in Immanuel's online live-streamed worship service on Sunday or later in the week?

- a. Likely to watch the livestream as it is happening on Sunday.
- b. Likely to watch the recorded video later Sunday or another time.

- c. Unlikely to watch
- d. I would be interested but am unable to access Immanuel's online church services.

5. What other church activities are you willing to pursue in-person? (Check all that apply)

- a. Serve during worship service (reader, intercessor, usher, acolyte, Altar Guild, Flower Guild)
- b. Small group Bible study or book study
- c. Indoor committee meeting
- d. Outreach activities with other Immanuelites to help the needy
- e. Ecumenical or interfaith charitable projects
- f. Godly Play and/or Sunday School
- g. Receive a Eucharistic Visitor or pastoral visit at my home
- h. Visit fellow Immanuelites who need food, transportation assistance
- i. Forum Hour in the Parish Hall
- j. Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
- k. Volunteer outdoor in the Pumpkin Patch in October
- l. Gardening with other volunteers at Immanuel
- m. Parish outdoor picnic
- n. Other (please specify):

6. What was helpful in keeping you spiritually nourished and/or connected to the Immanuel community in the pandemic-restricted times? (Check all that apply):

- a. Online worship via YouTube
- b. Outdoor worship services
- c. Zoom Wednesday evening prayer
- d. Zoom Compline
- e. Zoom coffee hours
- f. YouTube Forum Hours
- g. YouTube Godly Play
- h. YouTube Sunday School
- i. Letters to the Parish from Fr. Randy
- j. Emails from the clergy
- k. Notes from the Vestry
- l. Personal phone calls
- m. Monthly *Almond Tree* newsletter
- n. Weekly *Simple Gifts* meditation
- o. Weekly eblasts ("This Week at Immanuel," "Friendly Reminder")
- p. Reports from the Vestry
- q. Deliveries of cookies and encouraging notes by Immanuelites
- r. Facebook
- s. Website
- t. Church directory

- u. Shrine Mont
- v. Working with a committee
- w. Arranging flowers for worship spaces as a Flower Guild member
- x. Participating in the Immanuel Choir audiotaping/mix project
- y. Continuing to provide financial support for Immanuel
- z. Helping with the Creation Care plastics project
- aa. Serving on the Vestry
- bb. Zoom EYC meetings
- cc. Zoom Bible study
- dd. Zoom book study
- ee. Zoom Benedictine meetings
- ff. Zoom caregiver/bereaved meetings
- gg. Zoom Godspell/Evensong performance
- hh. Zoom fun events (funny hat ice cream social, Valentine's trivia night)
- ii. Masked, socially-distanced events (Grinch reading, Christmas walk)
- jj. Other (please specify):

7. How important is it for Immanuel to continue offering online worship services even after in-person worship is well established?

- a. Very important
- b. Important
- c. Not important
- d. Not sure

8. What activities or practices do you hope Immanuel keeps from our pandemic-restricted times? (please specify):

9. Are there other ideas or concerns you would like to share with church leaders? (please specify)

Name*:

*Please note: Findings from this survey will be consolidated for vestry review and planning purposes, but individual names will be shared with clergy and wardens, as needed, to allow for follow up for planning or to address specific questions.

Thank you for completing this survey and delivering it to Immanuel!

Thursday Morning Bible Study:

LETTERS TO THE EPHESIANS

AND THE COLOSSIANS



Join the clergy **each Thursday at 10:30a.m.** online for a new Bible study series on the Epistle to the Ephesians and Colossians.

To log-in on your computer:

1. Visit our website www.icoh.net, at the top menu select “More”, then “Almond Tree Quarterly and InBrief” from the pull-down menu.
2. Click on the image of this magazine, find this ad, then click the blue text: **Thursday Morning Bible Study via Zoom NOW**.

To join by phone, dial:1 (301) 715- 8592. At the prompts, enter the Meeting ID: 825 5204 5029, then Password: 312018 using the keypad of your telephone.

For more information, contact one of the clergy.

BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY on EPHESIANS 5:15-21

Join us online for Immanuel’s monthly Saturday morning Breakfast Bible Study on **Saturday, September 25th**, not the 18th -- we normally meet the third Saturday of each month. We will meet via Zoom (link and info below) beginning at 8a.m.. Our theme this year is God’s Loving Concern; we will read **Ephesians 5:15-21**, using the African Model of Reflection. For more information, contact Chrissie at cmcfaddencrosby@gmail.com.

For more information, please [visit our website HERE](#)

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/95954506553?pwd=Y05kOG1mK25abTZqUURvVk4wOTRBdz09>

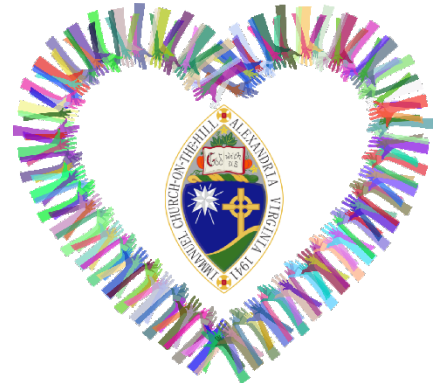
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Passcode: 027913 Friends

GRIEF AND SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

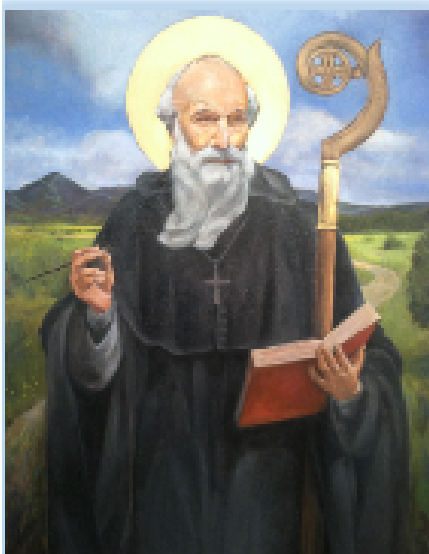
Wednesday, September 29th - 7:15p.m.

The Fairchild Room
Zabriskie Chapel



BENEDICTINE COMMUNITY

Meetings for Benedictine Community Resume
October 5th @ 7 PM Online via Zoom



“Welcome to the Benedictine Community”

“Yes, we want you to join us! We had thought we might be meeting in person this fall but the spike in COVID-19 infections has led us to reconsider once again. If you are attracted to having more contemplation and prayer in your life, you are invited to become part of the Benedictine Community at Immanuel. We’d love to have you join us virtually on October 5th, or any 1st and 3rd Tuesday thereafter, from 7pm-8pm. We will reconsider moving to in-person or hybrid meetings when deemed prudent to do so; safety will dictate our venue.”

“The Benedictine Community reflects on the tenets of St. Benedict such as humility, silence, and prayer. Individual reflection is guided by short readings from a Benedictine-inspired book (currently “How to Live; What the Rule of St Benedict Teaches Us About Happiness, Meaning, and Community” by Judith Valente). Our focus is primarily on reflections sparked by having read a few pages from the book. We are not a book study group, rather a Benedictine Community, gathering as

companions on the journey with one another while drawing wisdom from selected reading material.”

“We are using Zoom currently, but if you don’t wish to use zoom or are not comfortable with the technology of Zoom, you can simply call on the telephone and be connected to the Community by voice only. If this opportunity appeals to you during this pandemic and for more information, please contact Dana Hengst, Barbara Fornoff, or David Atwood. “

To learn more about the Benedictine Community, please view our brochure on Immanuel’s website [Benedictine Community Brochure](#).

“Yoga With Donna Sturm”: Two Outdoor Mixed Level Yoga Classes

Beginning Monday, September 27



Mondays 9 - 10:15am at VTS
Virginia Theological Seminary
3737 Seminary Road
(turn onto *Aspinwall* from *Quaker Lane*)
Alexandria, VA



Thursdays 1-2:15pm at Immanuel
Zabriskie Memorial Garden Deck
Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill
3606 Seminary Road
Alexandria, VA

Class will include poses with options for beginners as well as more experienced yoga students. Students will be encouraged to choose the level of pose that matches their ability. Class will include a warm-up sequence, followed by a basic selection of backward and forward bending poses, twists, inversions, standing and balancing poses, as taught by the Integral Yoga system. We will also introduce some breathing techniques, and end with a deep relaxation.

Wear loose, comfortable clothing. It's better not to eat a large meal before doing yoga, but have something light and easily digested if you need to. Bring a yoga mat if you have one, or blanket or towel to place on the floor, and extra pillows, eyebags, blocks and straps if you use them.

A release form will be required for each student. Contact Donna directly if you are interested in either class or have any questions. donnaesturm@gmail.com



Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill Pumpkin Patch 2021!



Where: Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304

tel (703) 370-6555 ext.204

When: Starting October 3 – 31, 2021 - Open Every Day

- M – F: 12 Noon – 6 PM
- Weekends/Monday fed holiday: 10 AM – 6 PM

What We Offer: Beautiful pumpkins and gourds grown by Navajo farmers, delicious home-made soups and baked goods, and autumn-Halloween-themed crafts. 100% of Patch profits support over 25 local, national, and international charities that directly support feeding, housing, educating, and caring for our most vulnerable neighbors (for example, Carpenters Shelter, ALIVE community assistance, Christ Church/West End Lazarus Ministry, Grace Church Food Pantry, Bishop Walker School, Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services (Arlandria Clinic), Haiti-Micah Project, and many others). We welcome visitors – wearing masks – to be part of this 28-year-long community tradition of celebrating autumn, buying pumpkins, enjoying delicious food, and knowing every purchase directly helps those in need.

Special COVID Safety Information: As always - it's all outside in the fresh air! Still - we have been certified by Alexandria Health Department's "ALX Promise" program and will follow their recommendations:

- Visitors and volunteers to Pumpkin Patch are strongly encouraged to wear masks regardless of vaccination status – to protect everyone including children who cannot yet be vaccinated
- Options for touchless purchasing
- Reminder to stay home if experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, no matter how mild
- Hand Sanitizer available for use throughout

We welcome you to the Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill Pumpkin Patch. While we all remain challenged by COVID, with God's help, we continue to put our faith into action, and we know our community will do the same! For additional information go to <https://www.immanuel-on-the-hill.org/annual-pumpkin-sale.html>

*A Fundraising Partnership Event to raise awareness for
Affordable and Transitional housing needs in Northern, VA*



Please join us for the fourth annual Home Run for the Homeless 5K presented by three local nonprofit organizations:



Bluemont Park
329 N Manchester St, Arlington, VA
Saturday, October 9, 2021
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Register below: Adults \$40 -- Youth (6-17) \$20

All three organizations provide housing, employment, and child care services to homeless parents and their children in Northern Virginia and operate primarily in Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax County, and Falls Church.

To register, follow the link below or scan the barcode.

<https://tinyurl.com/homerunforthehomeless>





From: Standing Committee of the Diocese of Virginia
To: Members of the Diocese of Virginia
Re: **Receiving Applications for Bishop Diocesan Transition Committee**

You are invited to apply to be a member of the Transition Committee for the 14th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia. Members of the Transition Committee need imagination, creativity, and experience in event planning. Communication, confidentiality, collaboration skills, and hospitality are paramount traits for this Committee. The Committee will shepherd the process of choosing our next spiritual leader from the time of the selection of the candidates by the Search Committee through the consecration of our new Bishop Diocesan. You may find additional details about the Transition Committee's responsibilities in the attached application, which is available in English, Korean, Spanish and Vietnamese. The work of the Transition Committee is through subcommittees. We ask you prayerfully to consider where to apply your gifts. Download and complete the application in the language of your choice and attach it to an email addressed to standingcommittee@thediocese.net. Send any requests for accommodation for completing the application to the same email address. Applications must be received by no later than midnight on September 30, 2021 in order to be considered.

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

De: Comité Permanente de la Diócesis de Virginia
A: Miembros de la Diócesis de Virginia
Ref.: Recibir solicitudes para el Comité de Transición del Obispo Diocesano

Se lo invita a presentar una solicitud para ser miembro de un Comité de Transición del 14.º Obispo de la Diócesis Episcopal de Virginia. Los Miembros de la Transición necesitan imaginación, creatividad y experiencia en la planificación de eventos. Las aptitudes de este Comité requieren comunicación, confidencialidad, aptitudes de colaboración y hospitalidad. El Comité dirigirá el proceso de elección de nuestro próximo líder espiritual desde el momento de la selección de los candidatos del Comité de Búsqueda hasta la consagración de nuestro nuevo Obispo Diocesano. Puede encontrar detalles adicionales específicos sobre las responsabilidades del Comité de Transición en la solicitud adjunta, disponible en inglés, coreano, español y vietnamés. La tarea del Comité de Transición es a través de subcomités. Le solicitamos que considere en oración donde usar sus dones. Baje y complete la solicitud en el idioma que prefiere y adjúntela a un mensaje electrónico dirigido a standingcommittee@thediocese.net. Envíe cualquier pedido de ayuda para completar la solicitud a la misma dirección electrónica. Las solicitudes deben recibirse a más tardar a la medianoche, 30 de septiembre de 2021 para que sean consideradas.

Indícanos, oh Señor, en todas nuestras tareas con Tu mayor favor y apóyanos con Tu continua ayuda; que en todas nuestras tareas comenzadas, continuadas y terminadas en Ti, sepamos glorificar Tu santo Nombre, y finalmente, por Tu misericordia, obtener la vida eterna; por Jesucristo nuestro Señor. Amén.



From the Desk of Father Sam

Good morning, afternoon, or evening wonderful Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) of Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill.

Some of you are receiving an email from me for the first time. I have combined our lists of Episcopal Youth Community (EYC), Godly Play, and everyone the directory knows to be under 21. Y'all are either those people, their parents, or their grandparents! And I am writing to update you on all the things the CYF is going to be doing for this program year at Immanuel.

This year is a little harder to plan than maybe we would have hoped. We are still in the context of Covid restrictions and a plethora of views on how to best respond to our international health crisis. Some families will want to stay well away from everyone they can until everyone is vaccinated and safe. Some families yearn for connection and fellowship and even (hopefully) formation and service opportunities. I imagine most of you are both of those kinds of families. You want to do things, and you want to be safe. Frankly, we want the same things. Your church wants to offer things to do and wants you to feel comfortable and safe.

This email has a lot of information and a lot of options for how to go about being a church over the next few months. It's not meant to overwhelm. It's meant to give you options. No one at Immanuel expects you to be at or do everything. What we really want is to support your family at this time. That means giving you options and responding to your feedback. What is most important is modeling that building our lives on Jesus teaches us to love one another and to love ourselves as God loves us. Our children must know that we are here for them, and will do whatever it takes to keep them safe. They must also know that even in a time of crisis we're a people who will find a way to worship and support one another in our following Jesus and His way of love.

Yours in Christ,

Father Sam

The Rev. Sam Sheridan +

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EYC Leaders Want You!

SCHEDULE FOR THE PROGRAM YEAR

Sunday Worship and Formation for the remainder of 2021 will be a mixture of online and in-person offerings, attempting to cater to the needs of as many families as possible.

Worship Sept 19th through 2022 will be:

8:00 AM—Holy Eucharist, Zabriskie Chapel, followed by coffee hour
10:30 AM--Holy Eucharist, Immanuel Chapel, followed by coffee hour
1:00PM—Holy Eucharist, Zabriskie Memorial Garden Deck (weather permitting)

Our Wednesday evening Eucharists continue at 6:30PM in Zabriskie Chapel, and Compline is prayed together on Zoom on Fridays at 8:30PM. We are also offering Morning Prayer with the clergy and staff on Tuesday mornings at 10AM, in Zabriskie Chapel, open to any and all.

Monthly Saturday family service at 5:30 pm in Immanuel Chapel

Sept 18 - w/ Creation Care Team

Oct 23 - w/ Outreach Team

Nov 20 - w/ Senior Ministry Team

Dec 18 - Christmas Pageant

Sunday Formation

Our Sunday Formation schedule will be the following:

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM—Nursery, Zabriskie

9:15 AM—Forum Hour and/or Coffee Hour as scheduled, Parish Hall

9:15 AM—Episcopal Youth Community, EYC, Immanuel Chapel

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM—Nursery, Immanuel Chapel

10:30 AM—Godly Play during Service, ending at the Peace, Immanuel Chapel

12:00 PM—Catechism / Confirmation Class, Zabriskie Memorial Garden Deck

Note: Coffee Hour will be held in weeks that do not have a forum, at Zabriskie Chapel during the Forum Hour, and each week after the 10:30 service in the Parlor at Immanuel Chapel.

Other dates of note:

Sept 12th - Homecoming Sunday, service at 10:30 followed by picnic and games if the weather allows.

Sept 19th - Lament and Healing Prayers - services to acknowledge the ongoing Covid pandemic and beginning the process of recognizing those we've lost.

Sept 25th - Kayaking Trip - Most likely Sept 25th. Note about this event and signup below.

Oct 2nd - Pumpkin Unloading

Oct 3rd - Pumpkin Sunday

Oct 16th - Pumpkin Unloading

Nov 6th - Eucharist in the Orchard - As with last year, Covid might turn this into a Eucharist in the Chapel Garden, depending on the openness of nearby orchards.

Nov 14th - Immanuel celebration of Veteran's Day (transferred from Nov 11th)

Nov 21st - StoryCorps Forum for All Generations, no other Formation.

Dec 5th - Christmas Families Sunday

Dec 18th - Christmas Pageant

There will be other formation and fellowship meetings added to the calendar, particularly for the EYC which will involve movie nights, fellowship time, and service opportunities. These are going to be as flexible as possible presuming that we don't actually know what pandemic restrictions will be in place very much in advance.

Sunday Specifics by Age Range

Nursery: 2 and Under

For the program year the nursery will be open at Zabriskie Chapel from 9-10:15 for parents who want to come to coffee hour, forum hour, or are bringing their teenager for EYC. Our hope is that parents can pick their child up promptly from the nursery at Zabriskie because the nursery will then be available at Immanuel Chapel during the 10:30 service.

Godly Play: 3-7 Year-Olds

Our formation offering for 3-7 year-olds is the renowned Godly Play curriculum (<https://www.godlyplayfoundation.org/>). Children have an innate sense of the presence of God, and we help them explore their faith through story. They gain religious language and enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play. This liturgy of storytelling, prayer, and reflection is offered almost every week this year (there may be some well publicized breaks for our amazing Godly Play instructor team) during the 10:30 service at Immanuel Chapel. The exact location in the building is still being worked out, as we are trying to make the space more convenient than the last time we tried Immanuel Chapel Godly Play and needed to be in a different building. But we'll have it every week for families who want to have Godly Play for their children while parents and older kids and teenagers take part in the Liturgy of the Word—which is the technical name for the first part of the Eucharist service. Godly Play children will join us again at the Peace and be invited to participate in the Eucharistic liturgy.

Children's Homily: Any age, we're all God's children

For this year the Children's Homily will no longer be in place of Godly Play occasionally, which has at times confused at least the Assistant Rector. We will continue to have monthly Children's Homilies and encourage a greater level of engagement in worship on those Sundays, but they will take place after the Peace. On the first Sunday of the month children will go to Godly Play, then come have a homily just for them, then we'll all celebrate the Eucharist together. No more checking the calendar to see which things are being offered.

Sunday School 3-4 years old through 5th grade

Over this past year and a half of pandemic, it has been clear that families whose children are in the Sunday School age range have the most chaotic online/in-person calendars and are least likely to commit to regularly coming to worship or formation. We're so incredibly thrilled when y'all are here, I can't even tell you how much. But we understand 1000% that many of you cannot commit to coming every week. And frankly we just don't know which age groups will show up on any given Sunday.

So for everyone who is too old for the nursery and too young for EYC, Fr Sam is working on a series of activities, arts and crafts, videos, and lessons for whoever shows up on Sunday. This Sunday School alternative will be in the Fairchild Room at Zabriskie Chapel between 9:15-10:15 during the Coffee / Adult Forum hour. Parents with children in this age range can come and know that there will be something for their child to do, though it will not be quite as formal as a normal Sunday School—and there will almost certainly be weeks where no one really brings a child during this time. (Presumably this is more likely to be true when there isn't a Forum Hour)

This Sunday School alternative does require a handful of volunteers. Fr Sam will come up with all the activities, movies, arts and crafts things required for when children do show up on Sunday, but what we're asking is that parents who bring their children to this time be willing to be the adult in the Fairchild Room 2-3 weeks throughout the season. Fr Sam will make a real rota and be there for the first 10-15 minutes most weeks. Some weeks we'll decide together okay no one is here this week and that's fine. You'll never be the only one in the room, you'll never be just at church watching your own children in the Fairchild Room, you'll never have to prepare anything, and there will be many Safeguarding God's Children-trained other adults around. But you also won't have to do it every week. Sometimes you'll get to drop the kids off to draw and you can go have fellowship in the nearby Parish Hall.

Please email ssheridan@icoh.net if you have children that fall into this age group and you know you will be coming to church some this fall and winter. Absolutely no pressure, we've got plenty of online church for people who are waiting for this age group to be able to be vaccinated.

P.S. We're also not giving up the formation part of Sunday School. We will return to weekly YouTube online formation videos starting Sept 19th—found here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFoz8u0DpT9QiCOY8_19AfA . These videos will roughly follow the lectionary for the time being, so people with children in many age groups will get a lot of the same stories each week, and all of those stories will be a lot like what is being preached. What kids watch on YouTube will be similar to what teenagers talk about in EYC. The dream is to have all of formation roughly revolve around the same material so when your child asks you about something... it's something you've been thinking about recently!

Pre-YC 4th and 5th Grade

As a parish we try to honor that there are young people who are not quite old enough for the Middle and High School activities and discussions, but who are starting to be intellectually and socially ready for those kinds of activities. These Pre-YC 4th and 5th graders will be invited to a lot of the fellowship and service activities offered to the EYC. Movie nights and game nights, in particular, are a great way to include these slightly younger members of our parish while also making sure the teenagers have some space and time of their own.

Several of the children in this age range have siblings who might be going through Confirmation Classes. These Pre-YC parishioners are specifically invited to join the Confirmands in that weekly formation (see below), as an acknowledgment that some kids really want a more robust weekly formation than the online Sunday School.

Confirmation Classes Sundays 12:00pm

Catechumenate, or Confirmation Class, is an organized time of Christian formation and education in preparation for baptism or confirmation. The catechumenate is a time for training in Christian understandings about God, human relationships, and the meaning of life. According to Hippolytus's Apostolic Tradition, a third-century document, adult converts to the Christian faith were presented to teachers by those who could vouch for them, and entered into a three-year period of study and preparation in the catechumenate.

Our confirmation classes are NOT three years long. We've put this kind of formation on hold somewhat during Covid restrictions, and that has created time for Fr Sam to work with Rev. Claire Elser, of Grace and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Colorado Springs, on a twenty week fully immersive class for people who are interested in baptism, confirmation, and the Episcopal church. These 45-minute conversations will be a few minutes of lecture, some question and answer time, a lot of room for discussion, and a healthy list of resources for those who might want to know more about each topic. The topics will be church history, scripture, what is a sacrament, what makes Anglicans/Episcopalians distinctive from other common American Christians, and culminating in... what exactly are we supposed to do?!

Starting Sunday Sept 19th, those who are preparing for Confirmation, Reaffirmation, or Reception (and anyone who wants a refresher on what the Episcopal Church is and believes) are invited to participate in Confirmation Classes / Catechumenate behind Zabriskie Chapel at noon. Weather permitting, we will be out on the deck with masks. Weather not cooperating, we will spread out in the Parish Hall, Fairchild Room, or Zabriskie Chapel depending on the size of the group. If you suspect you or your child might be interested in this please still fill out the doodle poll, <https://doodle.com/poll/7h3ibsscem4xnd3e> , with your availability. If Sunday doesn't work for you, we will make another time that will work for you and your family.

As noted above, siblings of confirmands are, in particular, invited to this formation time as a means of acknowledging that some younger siblings are ready for a more robust formation than Sunday School offers. There's nothing wrong with going over things.

EYC, Episcopal Youth Community

The EYC is our formation program for all teenagers. There have historically been some reasons to split up into different age groups within the context of EYC, because some conversations are very different for at twelve than they are at eighteen, but in the context of the pandemic we have mostly made room for Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers to be together, learn from one another, and form friendships and bonds that we hope may last for years.

During this program year the EYC's primary meeting time will be Sundays at 9:15 at Immanuel Chapel. Instead of a dusty basement or a church library with all the church adults able to just hear everything being

said, we've made space for the EYC to meet up the hill in the same building where most of them go to church when there's only two morning services. (We realize that the family service during the program year has been held in Zabriskie Chapel in the past, and any of the clergy are happy to answer questions about the dozens of factors that are changing that tradition this next few months.)

There will be monthly service and fellowship opportunities in a rolling calendar as we make plans and adjustments based on Covid restrictions, but formation itself will mostly take place on Sunday mornings—and mostly with some kind of breakfast, giving us the option to use our new mess kits thereby achieving some environmental sustainability, too!

The lessons themselves will be pulled mostly from the Episcopal Church's "Lesson Plans That Work," which is the newest iteration of TEC's published formation programs. These lesson plans are written by experienced church teachers using practical approaches to respond to the needs of volunteer teachers. They are designed to follow the Revised Common Lectionary—meaning what your teenager talks about most Sundays will be what the preacher talked about and what the online Sunday School talked about. There's a synergy we are hoping to establish so that formation can take place in the context of your children having questions and conversations you feel more equipped to participate in, having been recently exposed to the same material.

Fr Sam and the EYC Leaders communicate with everyone primarily through email (Sam is figuring out the BAND app) so if you haven't been getting EYC emails but feel you should be, please let him know at ssheridan@icoh.net

College Students and Recent Graduates

Recent EYC graduates are invited to a monthly Zoom space to just hang out, and catch up with, one another. This isn't formation time. This is just an invitation for an hour each month where anyone can pop in and see how one another are doing in college and beyond. No obligation.

But also... Sam doesn't necessarily have all our EYC grad's emails. So, please hook him up at ssheridan@icoh.net

Topic: **EYC Graduates**

Time: Oct 3, 2021 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Every month on the First Sun

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81539536204?pwd=dmtFcVhUSVhWcUh0cUfVWlppSFF3UT09>

Meeting ID: 815 3953 6204

Passcode: 187026

A Note to Parents, Grandparents, Godparents, and Guardians

Those of you who are raising or helping to raise children and teenagers need some love too! There are nearby Episcopal churches with regular parent fellowship opportunities, adult / parenting specific formation, and even support groups. For example; my wife, Rev Mary Margaret Winn, has just reached a critical mass of parents navigating the complexity of non-normative gender identities and so is starting a support group for parents who are at all stages of trying to support their child in questions that, frankly, weren't being asked when we were growing up. Maybe we need something that complicated or intense. Maybe we just need an evening every month where people can come sit for an hour and talk to other people who live with teenagers.

I don't presume to know what you, as parents, feel like you want or need. Instead of guessing, or sending out a doodle poll, or just trying a bunch of things to see what sticks... I'd really just like to ask that you give me a call or shoot me an email so we can talk about how best Immanuel can support you.

In peace

Sam+



The National Church’s Grant to Immanuel for Criminal Justice: Will You Pray for Us and for Those in the Criminal Justice System?

Over a number of years, several clergy and parishioners have engaged in individual efforts to be part of Jesus’s call to “visit me while I was in prison,” to “set the captives free,” and to “let justice roll down like waters.” With Father Randy’s encouragement, the Social Justice Committee submitted a proposal in April to the national church to deepen Immanuel’s engagement in criminal justice and in supporting those behind bars, their families, and those coming back into the community, with a strong element of deeper education of our own parish on these issues.

Last month Immanuel was awarded a \$6,000 grant to begin this work. A committee comprised of Karen Besser, Jamie Conrad, Katherine Smith, David Atwood, and Kathryn Jackson Haskin has done initial planning, and we have reached out to potential partners including Offender Aid and Restoration, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, and Alleyne AME Zion church in Old Town.

We now seek your support. Would you consider praying for those in prison, for prison guards and administration, and for a more just and merciful criminal justice system locally and in Virginia; for those you know who are in any way part of or affected by the criminal justice system; for the Social Justice Committee and our clergy as we begin to use this grant to help those affected by incarceration while trying to support a more just system; and for your own possible calling to this ministry -- or at least to learn more about it -- in confidence (not fear) of where the Lord may be leading you. Thank you.

Committed Affordable Housing Options in the City of Alexandria, Virginia



City of Alexandria Office of Housing
421 King Street, Suite 215, Alexandria, VA 22314
703.746.4990 | alexandriava.gov/housing
June 2021



Committed Affordable Housing Programs in the City of Alexandria

Within the City of Alexandria, Virginia public and private owners of rental housing offer a variety of committed affordable housing options for low- and moderate-income residents through participation in local, state, and/or federal programs. These units are available to income-eligible households and some programs give priority or restrict admission to specific populations, such as elderly or residents with disabilities.

For mental health, intellectual and physical disability and substance abuse services and associated housing, please contact the [Department of Community and Human Services \(DCHS\)](#) at 703.746.5700.

Public Housing and the Housing Choice Voucher Program

The [Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority](#) (ARHA) owns and manages public and mixed-income housing in the City of Alexandria. ARHA also administers the federal Housing Choice Voucher program [formerly known as the Section 8 program]. Both programs have waiting lists maintained by ARHA. As of June 2021, both waiting lists are closed.

ARHA owns approximately 1,130 housing units, including townhouses, apartments, and condominium units located throughout the City. Public housing residents pay for their housing based on adjusted household income.

ARHA also administers the Federal [Housing Choice Voucher](#) (HCV) rental subsidy program (formerly known as Section 8) on behalf of the City. HCV holders receive assistance to rent privately-owned housing. As of July 2020, all rental properties with four or more units in the State of Virginia are required to treat HCVs as income when evaluating a rental application.

For more information, please contact ARHA at 703.549.7115 and visit arha.us.

Privately Owned Subsidized Housing

The multifamily apartment complexes listed below participate in federal programs that are subsidized such that eligible households only pay 30% of their gross income for rent. The subsidy is assigned to the unit and is available only while the individual or family lives at that property. Households cannot take the rental subsidy with them if they move. These programs are administered directly by each property and interested persons should contact individual properties for information on availability or waiting lists.

Annie B. Rose[#]
399 Pendleton Street
833.835.1469

Claridge House[#]
301 Ripley Street
703.823.5444

Foxchase
320 North Jordan Street
703.823.5150

The Heritage
431 South Columbus Street
703.350.4093

New Brookside
601 Four Mile Road
833.622.1040

Olde Towne West III
500 South Alfred Street
571.388.3669

** Serves elderly households (62 and older)*

Other Affordable Rental Programs

Through participation in a variety of federal, state and local programs, the complexes listed below offer affordable rents to eligible low- and moderate-income households. Although these properties do not base rents on the income of each household, rents are restricted and lower than most area rents.

Acclaim at Alexandria (Alexandria Station)
318 South Whiting Street
703.751.6990

Arbela Apartments
831-833 Bashford Lane
855.611.3948

Beasley SquareSM
238 South West Street
703.853.0638

Beverly Park Apartments
613 Notabene Drive
703.548.0093

The Bloom at Braddock
900 North Henry Street
703.718.4857

Brent Place
375 South Reynolds Street
703.370.6080

Community Lodgings
3908-3916 Ebert Avenue
607/612 Notabene Drive
703.967.4686

Elsworth Apartments
2801 Seay Street
703.519.5204

Fields of Alexandria
4309 Duke Street
703.823.0077

Fields of Old Town
1229 North Quaker Lane
703.998.0161 / 866.204.8488

Jackson Crossing
120 E Reed Avenue
703.486.0626

Lucy Court Apartments
6 West Nelson Avenue
855.611.3948

Longview Terrace
2900 Seay Street
855.611.3948

Lynhaven Apartments
3521 Commonwealth Avenue
703.548.0093

The Nexus at West Alex
3450 Berkeley Street
571.351.5514

Parcview Apartments
5380 Holmes Run Parkway
703.751.2297

Parkstone Alexandria
3001 Park Center Drive
844.373.9847

Potomac West Apartments
3620 Edison Street
703.549.1349

Saint James Plaza
5140 Fillmore Avenue
571.775.8725

Spire
2875 North Beauregard Street
833.292.1607

Lineage (Ramsay Homes)
625 North Patrick Street
571.388.3124

The Station at Potomac Yard
650 Maskell Street
855.611.3948

Affordable Rental Set-Aside Program

Some newly constructed rental and senior housing developments provide a limited number of discounted units through the Affordable Rental Set-Aside program. These developments are listed below. Units designated as affordable set-asides have long-term affordability requirements, are discounted by the developer to levels affordable to low- and moderate-income renters, and rents and income limits are monitored by the City. The units are rented directly from each participating property and interested persons should contact these properties directly to determine availability (exception noted).

To receive notification about available affordable units, please sign up for e-news alert messages at alexandriava.gov/FYISubscribe and select "Affordable Housing".

[The Alexander](#)

4390 King Street
844.980.3932

[The Bradley](#)

1260 Braddock Place
571.347.9775

[Cortie Place](#)

2251 Eisenhower Avenue
703.348.0986

[Del Ray Central](#)

3051 Mount Vernon Avenue
571.449.2144

[Denizen of Eisenhower Square](#)

2827 Telek Place
844.949.0106

[Foundry](#)

2470 Mandeville Lane
703.552.5639

[The Gables Old Town North](#)

525 Montgomery Street
571.982.8072

[Halstead Tower](#)

4380 King Street
844.329.8858

[Meridian at Eisenhower Station](#)

2351 Eisenhower Avenue
571.281.2701

[Notch 8](#)

2900 Main Line Boulevard
703.350.4242

[The Tuscany](#)

260 Yountum Parkway
833.253.0546

[Parc Meridian at Eisenhower Square](#)

750 Port Street
703.348.6870

[Platform Alexandria](#) (opening Summer/Fall 2021)

1100 N Fayette Street

[Post Corbie Square](#)

501 Holland Lane
703.519.7678

[Silverado Alexandria](#) (memory care)

2807 King Street
866.995.1377 (contact Office of Housing for information on [affordable housing program](#))

[Sunrise Alexandria](#) (assisted living and memory care)

3520 Duke Street
703.348.1022 (contact Division of Aging for information on [affordable housing program](#))

[Sunrise of Old Town](#) (assisted living and memory care)

400 North Washington Street
703.828.9128 (contact Division of Aging for information on [affordable housing program](#))

[Station 650](#)

650 Potomac Avenue
571.305.5190

[Londina Alexandria](#) (assisted living, memory care, and independent living opening 2022)
2620 Main Line Boulevard (contact Division of Aging for information on [affordable housing program](#))

[The Thornton](#)

1199 South Washington Street
833.200.2605



“ONCE-A-MONTH GARDENERS” NEEDED FOR ZABRISKIE

If you haven't wandered the grounds of the Zabriskie complex lately, you haven't seen the wonderful new plantings in the backyard just to the left of the deck, or the landscaping off the Fairchild Room patio. As with any garden, these new starts need watering and other support until they are established, a process that takes a few years typically.

We need volunteers to help water (one day a week), to give a couple of hours over a weekend once a month to keep nature at bay, and others to declare war on the relentless clutter that finds its way to the church and its grounds.

If you are interested, please contact Tom Kerns (rtkerns4@gmail.com), Chair of the Building and Grounds Committee, and Kevin Kirby (casakirby@gmail.com), Trustee of the Memorial Garden Fund. Any help is greatly appreciated and will be paid back with a satisfaction of a job well done.

Interested in Volunteering with OAR?



American Sign Language (ASL) Facilitators (Virtual)

We are looking for several American Sign Language (ASL) Facilitators to do virtual course for residents of Arlington County Detention Facility. You must have access to the internet and a computer with a webcam. If you are interested in learning more about this volunteer opportunity, please email Stephannie Ku at sku@oaronline.org.

Clinical Volunteers (Virtual)

Looking for volunteers with experience in the clinical field or have a clinical background to help support participants virtually. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity email Stephannie Ku at sku@oaronline.org.

Court Volunteers (In-Person and Virtual)

We are looking for volunteers who will go to to the Arlington County General District Court and Circuit Court sessions on a weekly basis every Tuesday (in person) and Friday (virtual) between the hours of 9am to 5pm to represent OAR for Community Service. All information needed will be provided for you and you will receive training from an OAR team member and will have the opportunity to shadow them in Court. If you are available for any or or all of these days and interested in learning more about this opportunity, please email Stephannie Ku at sku@oaronline.org.

Data Entry Volunteers (Virtual)

Volunteer to help **OAR** with database management and data entry. Having access to a computer/laptop/ internet and the ability to connect over email and Zoom is required for this opportunity. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity email Stephannie Ku at sku@oaronline.org.

Faith Communities- Add OAR Updates in Your Weekly News Bulletin/Communications (Virtual)

Want to receive weekly email updates from OAR to include in your new bulletins or communications? If so, please contact Stephannie Ku at sku@oaronline.org.

Social Media Advocates/"Voluntweeters" (Virtual)

Volunteer to be a social media advocate or "voluntweet" for OAR! Be an advocate for OAR's mission, for policies and laws that benefit participants, and for racial justice through social media and online by re-tweeting, sharing our posts, mentioning OAR on social media writing to law makers, and more. Visit OAR's official Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Vimeo pages to help share and spread the word of our mission or email Stephannie Ku at sku@oaronline.org if you have any questions.

Spanish Language for English Speakers Facilitators (Virtual)

We are looking for several Spanish Language for English Speakers Facilitators to do virtual course for residents of Arlington County Detention Facility. You must have access to the internet and a computer with a webcam. If you are interested in learning more about this volunteer opportunity, please email Stephannie Ku at sku@oaronline.org.

Special Event/On-Call Volunteers (Virtual and In-Person) - Currently for *Project Backpack* and *Project Connection*

Volunteer to help out with special events and project as well as serve as an on-call volunteer when needed. You will be added to a special email/text list when we have a volunteer need or opportunity come up including speaking engagements, helping staff an OAR table at a fair, etc. Right now we are taking volunteers to help out with Project Connection and Project Backpack as well. Please contact Stephannie Ku at sku@oaronline.org if you are interested.

Our Contact Information:

OAR of Arlington, Alexandria and Falls Church
1400 N. Uhle Street
Suite 704
Arlington, VA 22201
703-228-7030, info@oaronline.org
<http://www.OARonline.org>



Afghan Refugee Arrivals Information and Resources

The U.S. is evacuating U.S. citizens, legal permanent residents and at-risk Afghans from Kabul, including Afghans who served alongside American troops, diplomats and other government employees to advance U.S. military and diplomatic goals. Evacuees are being flown from Kabul to locations throughout the world for processing and screening, including Bahrain, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Qatar, Tajikistan, Turkey, the UAE, the United Kingdom, and Uzbekistan.

Those who are U.S. citizens are receiving emergency repatriation services and being flown back to locations in the U.S., including Dulles airport, where they are offered various support services.

Currently, it is believed that many of the Afghan evacuees will settle in the U.S., including Alexandria, under Special Immigrant Visas, which are given to Iraqi or Afghan nationals who have been employed by the U.S. Armed Forces as a translator or interpreter, or has been employed by a contractor of the United States government overseas. SIVs are eligible for the same resettlement benefits as refugees for up to eight months after arrival. They arrive with legal permanent resident status and can apply for citizenship after five years.

How Long Will It Take The Afghans To Get To The U.S.?

It is currently unclear how long it will take to process the tens of thousands of evacuees. U.S. citizens, legal permanent residents and Afghans who already hold an SIV are able to enter the U.S. at any time. However, it is likely that many of the evacuees are at various points in the SIV application process and it is unknown how long it will take the State Department to process their cases.

While the great majority of refugees and future SIV holders are currently overseas and may not arrive for some time, some Afghan refugees and SIV applicants have arrived in the U.S. Those arriving in Northern Virginia were initially placed at NOVA Annadale but are now being located at the Dulles Expo Center, from where they are transferred for case processing at military bases like Fort Lee in Richmond and Fort Bliss in Texas. Of those processed at Fort Lee, only a handful decided to stay in Virginia so far.

What happens when the Afghans arrive?

Once an evacuee receives an SIV, they can come to the U.S., where they will be served by a network of local resettlement agencies—in Northern Virginia, these are Catholic Charities, Lutheran Social Services and Ethiopian Community Development Council—who have a cooperative agreement with the Department of State to provide specific services and assist with expenses during a refugee's first eight months in the United States.

Initial support after arrival includes:

- securing housing for the family
- picking up the family at the airport (or Fort Lee)
- arranging a home setup
- ensuring a culturally appropriate meal and a week's worth of groceries are ready for the family in the home when they arrive
- During the next eight months, resettlement agencies provide continued support, such as:
 - enrolling in employment services
 - registering youth for school
 - applying for Social Security cards
 - enrolling in Medicaid
 - medical referrals
 - youth case management
 - Mentoring
 - connecting to necessary social or language services

In coordination with publicly supported refugee service and assistance programs, resettlement agencies focus on assisting refugees to achieve economic self-sufficiency through employment as soon as possible after their arrival in the United States; refugees receive employment authorization upon arrival and are encouraged to become employed as soon as possible.

How do services and programs provided by the City help?

City services, programs and schools work closely with the resettlement agencies to provide support, such as facilitating Medicaid enrollment, finding employment, enrolling in school and connecting to social services. In addition, the City offers a wide range of services to immigrants and refugees; learn more about these programs and services and how to access them below.

How can Alexandria residents help?

Immediate support needed by the resettlement agencies includes:

- Temporary and long-term housing. The resettlement agencies provide financial support towards rent but without credit or work history, it can be difficult to secure leasing for newly arriving families. Call Catholic Charities at 703.520.4011 or view more information. Sign up to provide temporary or permanent housing with Lutheran Social Services.
- New household items and furnishings or select gently used furniture. View Catholic Charities list for needs and contact information.
- Volunteers to provide transportation, set up apartments and collect and assemble Welcome Home Gift Boxes. Sign up to volunteer with Lutheran Social Services.

Volunteer Alexandria is also collecting supplies. The National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) is coordinating with the Department of Defense to provide support to incoming refugees at military bases; those wishing to support or donate to those efforts should visit the VOAD website for opportunities. Additional volunteer and support opportunities are listed below. Check back frequently for updates. Highlights of Resources, Services, News and Upcoming Events

The DC Bar Pro Bono Center is holding a **Virtual Immigration Legal Advice and Referral Clinic September 20-23**, which is open to anyone with U.S. immigration law questions, regardless of residency; you don't need to live in D.C. to utilize this free service. Call 202.780.2573 between 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. to be connected with a pro bono attorney for brief legal advice only. Representation will not be provided through this service.

Learn more about the upcoming clinic and access flyers for the event in Amharic, Spanish, English and other languages.

Arlington Community Outreach Program Citizenship Classes are open for enrollment. The free, virtual classes are open to both Arlington and non-Arlington residents. Contact Susan at sstolpe@arlingtonva.us or 703.228.1198 with any questions or to register

Afghan Women's Group is offered through ECDC on Zoom. This group provides an opportunity to make friends and gain support during the resettlement process and learn tips on living in the United States as an Afghan woman. Register online onb their website.

The Career Pathways Program is actively enrolling new participants in their employment services program for refugees, SIVs, and approved asylees. Enrollees receive employment assistance with resume development, interviewing practice, case management. For more information check the website or email savannah.hill@alexandriava.gov.

The **City of Alexandria, Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS)** and local preschool providers are working together to connect qualifying families to a free or low-cost educational program. Alexandria residents with a child turning four by September 30 can learn more information by visiting the ACPS website.

Lutheran Social Services is looking for more mentors for refugee youth and families. Now that mentoring is fully remote, you can do so from wherever you live! See the website for details or contact Debi Kant at kantd@lssnca.org.

Adult Dental Service. Dental Services for Adults covered under Medicaid will now be offered through DentaQuest starting July 1. For more information visit vahealthcatalyst.org/AdultDentalBenefit.

Asylee Assistance for Mandarin Speakers. Catholic Charities Diocese of Arlington now has a Mandarin-speaker on staff that can assist Uyghur asylees in need of services. Ms. Lee can be reached at chia.lee@ccda.net or 571.469.2728.

Good Neighbor Partner Program. LSSNCA's Good Neighbor Partner is now recruiting organizational and congregational partners to help welcome refugees to the DMV. To ease this transition and provide an extra layer of care and support, LSSNCA matches families with local congregations and groups as Good Neighbor Partners. For more information contact Shelby Kruczek kruczeks@lssnca.org.

USCIS is no longer applying the Trump administration's Public Charge Final Rule: The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services is no longer applying the has returned to applying the public charge inadmissibility statute consistent with the 1999 Interim Field Guidance. In other words, an applicant's receipt of Medicaid (except for long-term institutionalization at the government's expense), public housing, or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits are no longer considered as part of the public charge inadmissibility determination. Learn more and access a set of FAQs at alexandriava.gov/DCHS.

Updated student financial aid eligibility coming August 2022: House Bill 2123, sponsored by Delegate Alfonso Lopez, and Senate Bill 1387, sponsored by Senator Jennifer Boysko, make any student eligible for state financial aid if they are eligible for in-state tuition, regardless of citizenship or immigration status. This law will take effect August 1, 2022.

Medicaid has expanded coverage eligibility for certain Lawful Permanent Residents: Effective April 1, 2021, a qualified Lawful Permanent Resident who entered the U.S. on or after August 22, 1996, and who has resided in the U.S. for at least five years is no longer required to have any qualifying quarters of work to receive full Medicaid benefits. Lawful Permanent Residents who previously were ineligible due to not having required working quarters are encouraged to reapply online or call CoverVA at 855.242.8282.

Immigrants and Refugees in Alexandria

The City of Alexandria is home to more than 150,000 people from a rich diversity of backgrounds. The City is committed to providing a wide range of effective and essential safety net services to improve or maintain the well-being, safety and self-sufficiency of all its residents—including the hundreds of refugees and immigrants we welcome into our community every year.

According to *New Americans in Alexandria*, a 2018 report, immigrants make up 28 percent of the city's overall population and represent 32.3 percent of the city's working age population and 30.5 percent of its employed labor force. More than half of the city's population growth in between 2011 and 2016 is attributed to immigrants. Below are a few more highlights from the report.

Resources, Programs and Services for Immigrants and Refugees

Below are services and programs provided by the City as well as collaborative partners, nonprofits and other organizations working to improve lives in our community.

Safety Net and Financial Assistance Services

The **Department of Community and Human Services** provides a range of services and programs to assist Alexandria residents, including immigrants and refugees, experiencing needs such as a housing crisis, medical or disability needs, or needing assistance with purchasing sufficient clothing or food for their household. You can apply online for many of the benefits listed below using **Common Help**. For a complete list of services, visit alexandriava.gov/DCHS.

- Refugee Assistance. Financial and medical benefits to refugees.
- Rental Assistance. Assistance to eligible, low-income persons facing a housing crisis.
- Utility, Heating and Cooling Assistance. Assistance to income-eligible households.
- Food, Clothing, Furniture, Prescription and Burial Assistance. Assistance to eligible, low-income residents.
- Homeless Services. A range of services for those experiencing homelessness.
- Food Assistance. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) assists individuals and families who are unable to purchase sufficient food for themselves.
 - Healthcare for Children. The Family Access to Medical Insurance Security Plan (FAMIS) Provides health insurance to children under 19 years-old who are uninsured and who are not eligible for Medicaid.
 - Healthcare for Adults and Children. The Medicaid assistance program that pays medical service providers for medical services rendered to eligible individuals
 - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Provides eligible families with a monthly cash payment to meet their basic needs.
 - Auxiliary Grant Program. Income supplement for individuals who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and certain other aged, blind or individuals with disabilities who reside in a licensed assisted living facility or an approved adult foster care home
 - Food, Clothing, Dental, Prescription Drug, Eyeglasses and Burial Assistance. Services provided by the Office of Community Services.

Employment

The City of Alexandria's Workforce Development Center (WDC) assists individuals and businesses with their employment needs. Offering services including Career Readiness Workshops, individualized case management, assistance with Training and Certifications, and Hiring Events open to the public, the WDC is a Certified One Stop Center for all employment services.

There are multiple programs offered at WDC that can assist with training and certifications. Many of these programs have eligibility requirements. All of these programs have the goal of securing livable-wages so that

individuals are self-sufficient through employment. Several of these programs:

- Northern Virginia Community College offers the American Culture & Language Institute (ACLI). ACLI helps students achieve their goals of language proficiency for self-improvement, academic studies, and professional development.
- Forum Intensive English Center also offers English classes including 7 intensive levels ranging from basic to college preparation.
- Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS): Students are admitted to ACPS programs without regard to immigration status. Below are a few of the ACPS resources that may be of help to immigrants and refugees. For a full list of programs and services, visit www.acps.k12.va.us.

Ongoing Opportunities

The City of Alexandria partners with the local refugee resettlement agencies, which offer a wide variety of on-going opportunities to support and help immigrants and refugees, including:

- Rent to refugees
- Employ a refugee
- Advocate for refugees
- Sponsor or mentor a refugee or refugee family
- Teach English and citizenship classes or help a refugee practice English
- Donate food to pantries, household goods
- Serve in free medical clinics
- Job coach and mentor

Let's Talk Tuesday Sexual Assault Survivor Group - Evenings

The City of Alexandria Sexual Assault Center is hosting an eight-week evening virtual support group for survivors of sexual assault.

Let's Talk Tuesday, open to all genders 18 and up, aims at walking with survivors in their recovery journey.

The support group will meet every week from September 14 – November 2, 6-7:30 p.m. View or download a flyer about the group. Registration is required. If interested in attending, email gloria.saez@alexandriava.gov or call 703.850.9426 to complete intake; a link will be sent prior to each session.

The City's Sexual Assault Center and Domestic Violence Program hotlines are available 24/7, and advocates are ready to listen and help. Call 703.683.7273 for the Sexual Assault Hotline or 703.746.4911 for the Domestic Violence Hotline. Confidential crisis support and chat online is also available at The National Sexual Assault Online Hotline.

For more information about the Sexual Assault Center or Domestic Violence programs and resources for survivors and those who support them, visit alexandriava.gov/SexualAssault or alexandriava.gov/DomesticViolence.



Christmas Retreat at Holy Cross Abbey December 3-5, 2021



Greetings past Immanuel-Church-on-the Hill retreat participants,

This is an early alert before your calendars become fully scheduled that we are hoping to resume holding our annual Advent Retreats and have reserved December 3-5, Friday evening through Sunday lunch, at the Holy Cross Abbey retreat house. Our assistant priest, the Rev. Sam Sheridan, is working on a retreat theme which we plan to announce in a week or two.

The Abbey is taking many precautions because of COVID. All staff are vaccinated and wear masks when they are working in the retreat house; they ask that we only bring retreatants who are vaccinated and wearing masks, too. To minimize contact, the retreat house is at half capacity, so only seven parishioners could register for the retreat. The monks' services are closed to the public and right now the bookstore is also closed, so we couldn't do our usual Christmas shopping. However the retreat house chapel where we have held our Sunday morning services would continue to be available to us throughout the weekend, and we could walk on the grounds, avoiding the monastery buildings.

I realize that each of us has a different level of comfort in participating in activities during a pandemic and would appreciate knowing if you think you might attend the retreat. Of course with COVID proving to be an unpredictable disease, plans could change by the time of the retreat and perhaps the retreat house would be open for more participants or it might not be safe for groups to gather in person. As someone who has spent much of her life planning programs (I was a conference planner for 23 years), the inability to plan with a modicum of certainty is unsettling, to say the least.

Here is a link to the Holy Cross website <http://www.virginiatrappists.org/>

If you scroll down past the picture of the flowers, there is a link which will connect you with some of the monastic services, so you can attend virtually rather than in person.

Blessings,
Mary Ann

Save the Date! Aida Studios Recital December 11 at 2 p.m.



Join Aida Studios/Aida Strings on Saturday, December 11th at 2pm. in the Zabriskie parish hall for a Student Recital featuring performances by professional musicians, followed by a reception. Look for details in our next issue or contact Tona Brown, Director, directly at AidaStringsVA@gmail.com.



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Upcoming Winter issue 2021:

DECEMBER -- Immanuel's new volunteer archivist, Agnes Soos, gives us a trip down *Christmas Memory Lane* with photos from Advents past that are in Immanuel's collection.

**SUBMISSION
DEADLINE FOR
WINTER ISSUE IS
NOVEMBER 15TH**