

IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL

Parish Notes

September 24, 2023

IN THE NAME OF CHRIST we welcome you to Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill!

Immanuel is an Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Virginia, and is part of the world-wide Anglican Communion. Immanuel was founded by the Virginia Theological Seminary. We are one parish that worships in two locations: the Zabriskie Chapel (3606 Seminary Road), and Immanuel Chapel (3737 Seminary Road) on the seminary grounds. Both chapels offer a fully-staffed nursery for our infant and toddler parishioners.

Visitors are encouraged to fill out a visitor card — located in the pews or display stands at the entrances of the chapels. Give your card to an usher or place in the collection plate. Thank you.

For the latest information on our online worship service and to view a video of our most recent service, please visit our website (www.icoh.net).

PRAY FOR PARISHIONERS: Brad Ashton, David Atwood, Edith, Natalie Doyle Hennin, Ann and Rollin Huntington, Frances Johnson, Joseph, Kenny, Ann MacNamara, Cynthia Morton, Linda and Cy Murphy, Tony and Patsy Rogers, Catherine Sinclair, John Smucker, Norma Taliaferro, and Francine Wargo.

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

Pray for those who are celebrating birthdays this week: Gilma Balcarcel, Mike Eaton, Seth Low, Nicole de los Reyes, Patty Alexander, Taylor Houck, Dennis Bruns, Mondy Carter, Catherine Konvalinka, and Allison Biache.

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

Those who have died: Bernard James Rafferty, uncle of Emily Riley. *Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him.*

ONE FORUM HOUR, *TWO* OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE

JOIN US AT **10:00 A.M. TODAY IN THE ZABRISKIE PARISH HALL,**
OR AT **11:45 A.M. IN THE WELCOME CENTER FOR A SPECIAL FORUM HOUR**

WITH
DEAN IAN MARKHAM



Increasingly, some people describe themselves as atheists. Why is this? What are their arguments for their positions? And how should Episcopalians respond? The author of *Against Atheism* makes the case for faith.

The Very Rev. Ian S. Markham, Ph.D, Dean and President of Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS) since August 2007, is our guest host for today's captivating forum hour. All are encouraged to attend.

Announcements

WEEKDAY WORSHIP AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Morning Prayer, Tuesday, September 26th, Zabriskie Chapel

Wednesday Evening Eucharist September 27th @ 6:30 p.m., Zabriskie Chapel

Bible Study “*The Gospel of Matthew: Book of the Messiah*”, Thursday, September 28th @10:30 a.m. online via Zoom. Look for login details in your weekly eBlast email.

Evening Compline, Friday, September 29th, 8:30 p.m., Online via Zoom

Immanuel’s New SUNDAY Worship Schedule

8:00 AM | Holy Eucharist Rite I, a contemplative service without music, Zabriskie Chapel
9:00 AM | Holy Eucharist, Rite II, with choir and nursery care, Zabriskie Chapel
10:30 AM | Holy Eucharist Rite II, with choir and nursery care, Immanuel Chapel
Feast Days, Sunday School, Forums, and Coffee Hours as announced

Weekday Worship Schedule

Wednesday, 6:30 PM | Holy Eucharist Rite II, at Zabriskie Chapel
Tuesday 10:00 AM | Morning Prayer, at Zabriskie Chapel



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

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

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

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



UPCOMING SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

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

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

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

October 2 – TRIP TO NEABSCO CREEK BOARDWALK. This beautiful, tidal marsh waterfront park off the Occoquan River will be refuge for migrating waterfowl during September and October. Come on the van at 8a.m. (I know, *EARLY*) while the tide is in and before the birds leave on the next leg of their journey. There will be hot coffee and tea, Danish and doughnuts to sustain us, and we will return before lunch. \$20 van co-pay as usual. RSVP to Karen Besser at karen.besser@gmail.com.



UPCOMING FORUM HOUR



FORUM HOUR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1ST

10:00 A.M, ZABRISKIE PARISH HALL

Understanding Opioids & How We Can All Help

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Take action to help our neighbors in need! **StepALIVE! 2023 October 15th @ 2:00 P.M.**

Mark your calendars: StepALIVE! 2023 will take place at 2pm on Sunday, October 15th. All proceeds from this 5 mile or 5k walk will be used to support our neighbors in need seeking food, shelter, and emergency financial assistance for rent and other basic needs.

Our church has formed a team to participate in this event. Please join the team (Immanuel Walks) and/or donate to the team at StepALIVE.org.

AN ADVENT RETREAT WITH THOMAS MERTON

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

The Rev. Dr. Ruthanna Hooke, Retreat Leader



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

First person registering for retreat

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail _____

Second person registering for retreat

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail _____

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

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

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

Immanuel Outreach and the PUMPKIN PATCH'S 30TH YEAR

Fall at Immanuel is synonymous with the Pumpkin Patch, now in our 30th year. No other activity in the Parish involves so many people contributing so much effort in so many ways. For many of us, it is a month-long enterprise that leaves us tired but happy by Halloween. So, in anticipation of the work ahead, perhaps it's appropriate to remind ourselves that these efforts are all about Outreach.

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

Since the year 2000, when we first started keeping detailed records, we have raised \$1,225,473 from the Pumpkin Patch, all of which has gone to Outreach.

These pumpkin proceeds have enabled us to do the Lord's work in a wide array of ministries. For example, proceeds from last year (2022) amounted to \$96,000 and helped us support 14 local Alexandria charities, 5 regional charities, and 6 international charities. Included were local grants to ALIVE!, Carpenter's Shelter, Community Lodgings, Culmore Clinic, and Refugee Ministries. Among many things, Outreach funds help support our efforts to aid the homeless, restore dignity to offenders, assist refugees, and aid impoverished children in Haiti and Africa. Usually, some Outreach funds are held in reserve to respond to emergency needs.

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

Pumpkin proceeds are divided 60/40 between the consignor of the pumpkins and Immanuel Church (we keep 100% from the sale of food and crafts). The consignor of the pumpkins supports Navajo farmers who grow the pumpkins on Navajo Nation lands in Farmington, New Mexico. When you think about it, so much good comes from a simple pumpkin. A pumpkin delights a child, a family, a school group; they get painted and bobbed for and carved. God grows a pumpkin, and everyone benefits.

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

See you at the Patch!

Civic Engagement Activity at the Pumpkin Patch

Immanuel is joining with members of several other local faith communities on a non-partisan civic engagement activity the first three weekends of October. We'll have a table and tent, and materials, to remind people of upcoming elections and share information about how to register to vote. We will also have voter registration forms for eligible VA voters, which we will be trained on how to properly support turning into the elections offices.

You may remember that we tried this effort last year, for the first time, during the Pumpkin Patch. We received positive feedback on the activity from guests to the Patch and from parishioners, and we're excited to build on those efforts again this year. If you have any questions or are interested in getting involved, please contact David Atwood or Kathryn Jackson Haskin to learn more.

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. J. Randolph Alexander, Jr. (ralexander@icoh.net) Rector
 The Rev. Susan D. Parsons (sparsons@icoh.net) Associate Rector
 The Rev. Sarah Spurlock Biggs (sspurlockbiggs@icoh.net) Assistant Rector
 Reggie Hayes (r.hayes9@me.com) Postulant Intern
 Daisy Colón (dcolon@vts.edu) Seminarian
 Dr. Jane Tavernier (jtavernier@icoh.net) Director of Music
 Tom Hewson (thewson@icoh.net) Treasurer
 Sughra Bakhtiari (sbakhtiari@icoh.net) Bookkeeper
 Aleta Y. Powell (apowell@icoh.net) Parish Administrator
 Tamika Martin (tmartin@icoh.net) Audio Visual Technician
 Gilma Balcarcel Nursery Coordinator
 Stuart Dahlinger Sexton

THE VESTRY

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

SCHEDULE OF SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I, Zabriskie Chapel
 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II, Zabriskie Chapel
 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II, Immanuel Chapel
 3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA

Online

www.immanuel-on-the-hill.org
[Immanuel's YouTube channel](#)

PRIESTS ASSOCIATE

The Rev. Dr. J. Barney Hawkins, IV
 The Rev. Dr. Ruthanna Hooke
 The Rev. Jan A. Maas
 The Rev. John R. Smucker
 The Rev. Dr. Francis H. Wade

RECTOR EMERITA

The Rev. Dr. Margaret Ann (Sam) Faeth



MISSION STATEMENT: Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill is a Christian community in the Episcopal tradition, striving to be in relationship with God and each other as Christ has taught us, actively attempting to sense and to serve God’s plan with great love. We are guided by Mark 16:15: “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel,” to learn, discern, and proclaim the Good News by being active ministers in the various communities where we live and serve.

Parish Office

3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304
 Telephone: 703-370-6555, Fax: 703-370-0837

www.icoh.net



SCAN ME