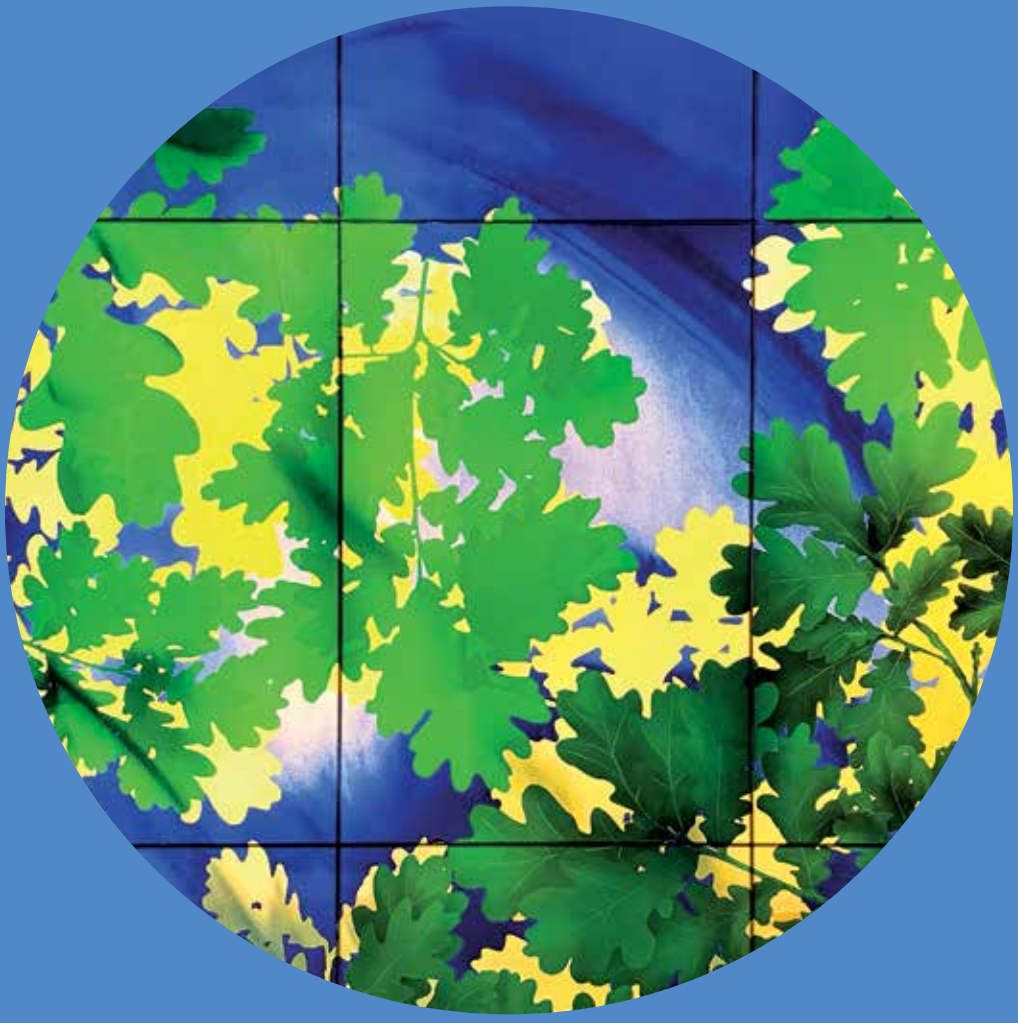
The Immanuel Chapel

A Self-Guided Tour



VIRGINIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

WELCOME TO VIRGINIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

Worship is central to what we do, and the Immanuel Chapel is at the heart of our worshipping life. We are glad you are here and hope you will enjoy a lovely tour of our Chapel and surrounding grounds.

IMMANUEL CHAPEL FEATURES

As you arrive into the Worship and Welcome Quad, notice the details that have been picked up from the existing buildings on the campus. The historic architectural features of VTS are captured on the exterior. Brick patterns from the 1881 Chapel, including the herringbone pattern around the Oratory windows, are some of the brick details borrowed from local Georgian architecture, executed by Old Virginia Brick Company as directed by Whiting-Turner, the general contractor on the project. VTS is grateful to Robert A.M. Stern Architects, and especially senior partner Robert A.M. Stern and partner Grant F. Marani, for personally directing the Chapel design. The road design, by landscape architect Michael Vergason, who also designed all of the landscaping around the Chapel and the Chapel Garden, encourages visitors to turn into the motor court with the Welcome Center representing love of neighbor and the Chapel representing love of God. The entrance situates the Chapel in the broader context; the VTS community opens to the Grove, and Seminary Road opens to the wider community.

The Chapel's West Entrance greets visitors as they arrive from Seminary Road. The Chapel's interior is a step into the future. There is a powerful simplicity in the worship space designed around the 1979 Prayer Book and its emphasis on the centrality of the Eucharist. This sacred space can work as well with 20 people as it can with 400. The coffers add a layer of detailing to the space and help draw the eye upward. The floor is honed bluestone from New York. The chairs are oak, designed by New

Holland Church Furniture Company in Pennsylvania. There are many beautiful pieces throughout the Chapel that were specially commissioned from different artisans and are featured and described in this brochure, and can be read about as visitors make their way through this holy space.

The Chapel's North Entrance that faces the Grove, enters by way of the Moore Terrace, named for Thomas M. Moore and Marie S. Moore. It is the entrance used by most seminarians as they make their way to the Chapel each day for worship.

The Chapel's Steeple was made by Campbellsville Industries in Campbellsville, Kentucky. The 35 foot steeple, with its 4,950 zinc shingles, was lifted by a crane atop the Chapel on October 30, 2014. Thanks to the generosity of Caroline Hooff Norman and James Theron Norman, the bell tower underneath the steeple houses an extraordinary set of eight change ringing bells from Whitechapel Bell Foundry, established in London, England in 1570.

THE CHAPEL GARDEN

The Chapel Garden was dedicated on October 9, 2013. It sits on the site of the 1881 Chapel, which was destroyed three years earlier. Enclosed by the remnants of the chapel's walls, the garden has an area designated for the interment of ashes.

Photos By Peter Aaron / Otto For Robert A.m. Stern Architects

CHAPEL HISTORY

The Immanuel Chapel was consecrated on October 13, 2015. Its design incorporates the adjacent garden, constructed from ruins of the 1881 Chapel, which burned on October 22, 2010.

HISTORY AND MISSION

Virginia Theological Seminary is a seminary of the Episcopal Church. Since 1823 it has furthered the universal mission of Christ's church by providing graduate theological education and serving as a resource for the Episcopal Church, the Anglican Communion, and the wider church. In preparing its students as lay and ordained servants of Jesus Christ, the Seminary has placed theological education in the context of residential community marked by common life and worship.

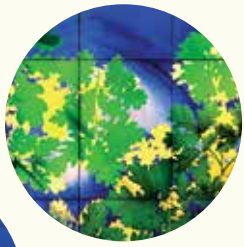
VISITOR SERVICES

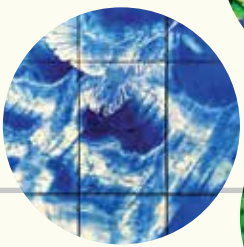
The Welcome Center, normally open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, provides free coffee and tea to visitors. Seminary information as well as VTS apparel are also available.

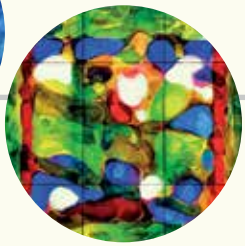
For quiet prayer and reflection we recommend the Oratory, the Octagonal Room, the Chapel Garden, and the South Ambulatory Garden.

The Chapel is normally open for self-guided tours during Welcome Center hours. Please understand it is sometimes closed for music rehearsals or class. To ensure a quality Chapel visit, please email chapeltour@vts.edu and request a docent tour.

CHAPEL FEATURES AT A GLANCE







STAINED GLASS WINDOWS *(1a–1c)*

"GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL" *(2)*

BAPTISMAL FONT *(3)*

CHANDELIER *(4)*

AMBO *(5)*

PROCESSIONAL BANNERS *(6a–6b)*

THE ORGAN *(7)*

AUMBRY *(8)*

STATIONS OF THE CROSS *(9)*

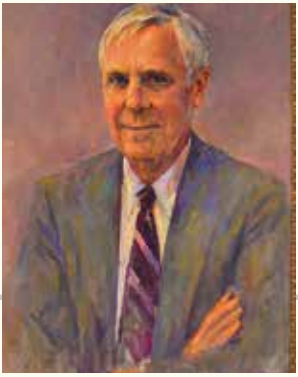
THE PARLOR *(10)*

THE ORATORY *(11)*

ICON AND LECTERN *(12)*

OCTAGON ROOM *(13)*

SACRISTY *(14)*



THE REV. CHARLES P. PRICE PORTRAIT *(15)*

ICON OF THE INCARNATION *(16)*

THE DEAN'S CROSS *(17)*

CHAPEL MAP

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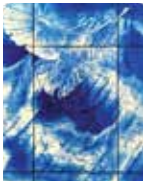
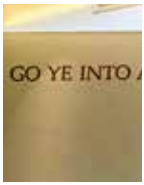

1a

1b

1c

Stained Glass—On February 1, 2018, the Most Rev. Michael Curry, the 27th presiding bishop and primate of the Episcopal Church, dedicated three oculus windows that were installed in the north, south, and west transepts of Immanuel Chapel. Designed by British artist Brian Clarke, the three windows represent the Holy Trinity.



2 **"Go Ye Into All the World And Preach The Gospel"**—These familiar words of Jesus (Mark 16:15), were inscribed over the altar in the 1881 Chapel and could be reflected upon during worship. In the Immanuel Chapel, the message to go forth is visible above the west transept as congregants exit and serves as a call to mission and action.

3 **Baptismal Font**—The stand for the baptismal font was made by Lucas House, a North Carolina iron artisan. The bowl on the font is handblown glass by Pablo Soto, an artisan at the Penland School in North Carolina.*

4 **Chandelier**—Upon entry into the Chapel, visitors will immediately notice the large chandelier constructed by Crenshaw Lighting of Floyd, Virginia made out of Swedish iron and aluminum. It is beautiful and functional, bringing light and sound back into the heart of the Chapel.*

5 **Ambo**—The Ambo, where the Word is read and proclaimed, is also made by Woodpecker from quarter-sawn oak. The iron, by Lucas House and inlaid into the piece, represents the emblems of the Four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.*

6a **Processional Banners**—The banners were made by Kerstin McDaniel from Asheville, North Carolina. A Class of 2014 gift,
6b the Phoenix represents the rising of the new Chapel from the 1881 Chapel that was destroyed by fire in 2010. The other banner depicts the Seminary's Dean's Cross.

7 **The Organ**—Taylor and Boody Organbuilders constructed the tracker action organ in stages at their facility in Staunton, Virginia before it was transported and assembled in the Chapel. The two white oaks that were felled for the chapel construction were used in the building of the organ case.

8 **Aumbry**—Recessed in the wall close to the altar is the Aumbry, a small cupboard for storing sacred vessels with remaining bread and wine from a celebration of the Holy Eucharist. The Aumbry was made by Allegheny Millwork in Lawrence, Pennsylvania. The Sanctuary Lamp was hand-crafted by Lucas House whose blacksmith shop is in Cary, North Carolina.

9 **Stations of the Cross**—At the left of the west entrance, the 14 Stations of the Cross are mounted on the walls and go counter clockwise around the perimeter of the Chapel. The candle votives were made by Lucas House and the crosses were made by Woodpecker Enterprises in Apex, North Carolina. They are a gift from Dr. Susan Ackley Lukens, D.Min. '11.

10 **The Parlor**—The pine floor in the parlor was milled from the floor joists that were salvaged from the 1881 Chapel. The room serves as a gathering place for welcoming and hosting guests to the Chapel.

11 **The Oratory**—The Oratory Chapel is the new home of the Rowan LeCompte windows from the 1881 Chapel, along with the pew where President Gerald Ford sat the Sunday after he became President. Ford was a vestry member of Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill.

12 **Icon and Lectern**—Also located in the Oratory is an icon given as a gift by the Most Rev. Frank T. Griswold III, (H) '99. The iron lectern crafted by Lucas House, was given anonymously in memory of Grant and Elma Ferguson. It is also used in the main Chapel.

13 **Octagon Room**—The view from the room connects the new Immanuel Chapel with the ruins of the 1881 Chapel. It is intended for quiet prayer and small group worship. Looking through the windows, one can see the Chapel Garden and the sculpture Mary As Prophet by artist Peggy Parker.

14 **Sacristy**—The intricate woodwork around the room won the WBC Craftsmanship Award. Keeping with the Greek notes in the main chapel, the room includes Mary Blue accents in the Greek style. The piscina drains directly into the ground to ensure that communion wine is returned to the Earth.

15 **The Rev. Charles P. Price Portrait**—A beloved professor of VTS, Charlie Price is featured outside the choir room. Price is responsible for many hymns in the Episcopal Hymnal and many prayers in the Book of Common Prayer. The portrait, painted by Richard Fennell, was a gift from the Class of 1963.

16 **Icon of the Incarnation**—Near the south transept is the Icon of the Incarnation created by Olga Shalamova from St. Petersburg, Russia. The votive light stand was crafted by Daniel Miller from Waynesville, North Carolina using iron salvaged from the 1881 Chapel. From the same iron, Miller also made the Advent Light, a gift from the Rev. Matthew and Danielle Kozlowski.

17 **The Dean's Cross**—The Dean's Cross is central to the South Ambulatory Garden. Its fall from the top of the 1881 Chapel during the fire and subsequent rehabilitation is a poignant reminder for the Virginia Theological Seminary community and its response to the tragedy.

** Designed by Robert A.M. Stern Architects*

EXTEND YOUR VISIT

We invite you to worship with us. Please visit our website at **www.vts.edu** for times during the year. Also, join us on Sunday when Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill worships as a parish. Check their website at **www.icoh.net** for worship times.

To make a gift to the Seminary in support of the Chapel or any program or project, please contact the Vice President for Institutional Advancement Linda Dienno at **ldienno@vts.edu.**

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