

LOGOS

The Newsletter for St. John's Episcopal Church, Arlington

"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it." John 1:5

From the Rector: The Promise of Resurrection

The longer I live, the more I am convinced of the old adage: "Life is a mystery to be lived, not a problem to be solved." Life's situations are not always totally good or totally bad. There is no right or wrong answer for every question. Instead, life seems to involve us in a series of cycles, balancing acts, and paradoxes that we muddle through in the best way we can.

Cycles and Paradoxes

On many levels, I also find that life is cyclical. There are the seasons, the emotional ups and downs, and the productivity ebbs and flows. We must constantly balance our need for people and our need to be alone. We try to juggle the balls in our lives so that we have personal time, time for family and friends, time for work and play, and time to grow. Growing emotionally and spiritually is about learning how to balance our lives.

Growing emotionally and spiritually is also about learning to live with paradoxes. The more we think we are in charge, the less control we really have. To be truly free, we must let go.

April: Lent and Easter

This year the first half of April is in Lent, the second half in Easter. What paradoxes in that juxtaposition! In Lent, Jesus tells us that to save our lives, we must lose them, spend them, give them up for Jesus' sake and the sake of the gospel. To be free of burdens, we have to carry our cross. It was really hard for the disciples to understand the things Jesus was saying, and it is hard for us. In Jesus, God shows us God's saving power through weakness and powerlessness, not through strength.

The miracle of the Resurrection is the biggest paradox of all. God does not wipe out death to give us eternal life. Jesus is killed and passes through death to life. There is no empty tomb without the Cross.

As we move through the end of Lent into Holy Week and on to the Feast of the Resurrection, I'd like to suggest some possibilities for reflection, each of which requires giving up something to gain new life, rather than grasping something to hold on to what we have.

Practice Receiving

First, practice receiving. For most of us, that's not easy. To receive we have to give up control, our fear of owing something to someone, our pride in our independence, and our fear of becoming a burden to someone. We have to give these up! Why? Because

our relationship with God begins with receiving. We have to open our arms and our hearts and trust that God will give us more abundant life.

Practice Giving

We must give ourselves away. We must spend our lives. Most of us are not called to sacrifice our lives as Jesus did. Instead we are called to spend our lives “in quarters and dimes and nickels,” as preacher Fred Craddock says, to receive the abundance God wants us to have. If we hold on too tightly to our money and our energy, we become paralyzed, stuck in a mentality of fear and scarcity. We are afraid of losing what we have. Our preoccupation with keeping what we have and with getting more becomes a barrier to receiving what God wants to give us.

Open Hands

Receiving and giving are two halves of a circle. Which brings us back to cycles, mystery, and paradoxes—and back to God. We cannot live the mystery of life fully without God’s love, support, and direction. Because of what God has done in Jesus Christ, we have been redeemed. We have hope. We can trust that God’s gifts are abundant, that surrender to God brings salvation. May your Easter season be full of the new life you receive as you practice keeping your hands open—both to give and to receive.

Ann +

St. John’s Mission Statement

To discover and share the transforming love of Christ

St. John’s Vision Statement

St. John’s is dedicated to making disciples for Jesus through

- attracting and welcoming newcomers;
- sharing faith-deepening worship, education, outreach, and pastoral care; and
- together carrying God’s vision of the kingdom into the world around us.

St. John’s Gardening Angel Needs Help

by Pat Stewart

Volunteers are needed for a one-time grounds cleanup session on Saturday, April 8, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board just outside the kitchen. On the same sheet, you can also sign up to donate one hour a week (from April through October) to help maintain St. John’s flowerbeds. I’m willing to take the lead on this effort if enough people are supportive. Also, please share any ideas you have about yard tasks that need to be done. Call me at (703) 516-9390, or chat with me at coffee hour. With your help, St. John’s gardens can look beautiful again in 2006.

Spring Tea Set for May 6

St. John’s will hold its Spring Tea on Saturday, May 6, from 1-3 p.m. in the undercroft. Welcome spring with friends, neighbors, and fellow parishioners by enjoying a wonderful assortment of teas and goodies.

The Morning Guild needs help in two areas. They need us to bring food items such as finger sandwiches, cookies, and sweet breads that can be sliced and served. They also need our help with cleanup, beginning about 3:00 p.m. on Saturday. Sign-up sheets will be posted over the guest book and on the St. John’s board downstairs after Easter. Please sign up to help.

United Thank Offering

by Evelyn Sullivan

Our Spring Ingathering of the United Thank Offering will be collected on Sunday, May 14, Mothers’ Day, a wonderful opportunity to express gratitude for mothers everywhere. Those of us who grew up in the Episcopal Church may remember our mothers teaching us the value of prayerful thanksgivings by putting coins in a blue box.

The United Thank Offering of the Episcopal Church provides a way for all of us to offer daily thanks to God for our many blessings by putting coins in a blue box. Every penny collected is used to help human beings in need. Please pick up a blue box from the table downstairs or see Evelyn Sullivan. You can also use an envelope to enclose a check.

Parish News

Thank you to

Those who helped with our annual pancake supper: Del Hunt, supplies purchase; Jack Turner, chief cook; Don Hess, staff recruitment and management; Bill Schenck and Bill Thomson, cashiers; and Jeff Aitken, Bill Pritchard, Greg and Nicholas Hall, Larry Rawls, John Restall, Chris Tyson, and Vernon Martin. We raised \$290 and enjoyed good food and fellowship.

Pat Stewart and Alice Kniskern for teaching children's Sunday school and to all who have signed up to assist in the future.

Beth Fowler, for updating the children's bulletin board in the undercroft

Liz White for helping us put together the bulletins for Ash Wednesday

Cristo Rey, for their contribution to the heating bills

Pat Stewart, for dyeing our old vestry room curtains green for the Sunday school area and for the wonderful sharing of her musical talents in chanting the Great Litany on the first Sunday in Advent

Leslie Mead, for her dedication to the children's coffee sales project

Jack Turner for making signs showing the special timing of the Wednesday night Candlelight Prayer Service in Lent

Birthdays

Linda Trochim	April 2
Carol Dunlap	April 4
John Petrich (Son of Leslie Mead & Jeff Petrich)	April 6
Evan Barker	April 8
Caitlin O'Connor	April 8
Lee Elkins	April 14
Paul Haertel	April 23
Diane Henderson	April 24
Valerie Wilson	April 25
Bob Tallent	April 26
Maggie Buchanan	April 28

Wedding Anniversaries

Bill and Faye Pritchard	April 1
Jud and Lisa Buchanan	April 9
Ray and Stacy O'Connor	April 24
Paul and Dawnann Haertel	April 29

Adult Education

Sunday Mornings, Lent to Pentecost

Sunday morning adult education on April 2 and 9 will center on the topic of reconciliation and forgiveness. We will continue after Easter, on April 23, and we may devote one more Sunday to reconciliation. Then we will talk about resurrection and eternal life from April 30–May 28.

On June 4, Pentecost Sunday, our last day of adult education, Bill Schenck will give us a primer on the Episcopal Church's General Convention, which begins in mid-June. (See article "Experience a Virtual General Convention" on page 6.)

Wednesday Evening, April 5

Come for the Candlelight Prayer Service, Wednesday April 5, at 7:00 p.m., and stay for our last Lenten class on the book of Job, from 7:45–8:45. Please feel free to come even if you have not been before. Each class is self-contained and does not require previous knowledge of the subject. Bring yourself and your life experience to talk about Job's challenge to God and the role of suffering in our lives.

Receive the LOGOS by E-Mail and Help Us Save Money

Would you be willing to help us save on paper, printing, and postage by receiving the LOGOS, volunteer schedules, and other such items by e-mail? If so, please e-mail Ann at stjohnsrector@verizon.net. In the pilot program, you will receive both an e-mail and print copy for several issues. Then you'll be able to choose which version you prefer.

LOGOS

The LOGOS is published monthly near the beginning of the month.

Lorraine Underwood, LOGOS Editor

Ms. Jane Edwards, LOGOS Editor and Page Layout

Email Lorraine at logos2stj@aol.com (preferred) or leave disk in Newsletter box in the office.

The next deadline is Friday, April 21 at 10:00 am.

Gospel Lessons for April

April 2, John 12:20–33, The Fifth Sunday in Lent

In this Gospel passage, Jesus presents teaching concerning the meaning of his death. After his prayer to God a voice from heaven is heard. Greeks wish to see Jesus, but he will not draw all others to himself until after he has died and risen. Then, like a seed that falls into the earth, he will bear much fruit. Disciples must also learn to serve Jesus by following him in this way. Now is the hour for the Son of Man to be glorified—glorified both by his willingness to be lifted up on the cross to die for others, and afterward to be lifted up to heaven.

April 9, Mark 11:1–11a, Palm Sunday: Liturgy of the Palms

In this Gospel reading, Jesus approaches the holy city of Jerusalem, and his disciples sing praises to God in anticipation of the coming of a new kingdom of David. He has a colt brought to him. As the kings of old in royal celebrations, Jesus rides on it, while his followers spread their garments and leafy branches in the way and shout “Hosanna.” Here is great drama as he enters the city and temple he would save, but there is also acute irony for those who know what lies ahead.

April 9, Mark 14:32–15:39, Palm Sunday: Liturgy of the Word

Our Gospel is the story of Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, his trials before the Jewish council and Pilate, followed by his suffering and death.

April 13, John 13:1–15, Maundy Thursday

Our Gospel tells how Jesus washes his disciples’ feet during his last meal with them. This action symbolizes the love and humility of Christ in stooping down to wash their sins from those whom he loves. He also sets them an example: he has acted as their servant, so they should serve one another.

April 14, John 18:1–19:37, Good Friday

Our Gospel is the story of Jesus’ trials before the Jewish Council and Pilate, followed by his final suffering and death.

April 16, Mark 16:1–18, Easter Day

Our Gospel tells how three women disciples first learn of Jesus’ resurrection. Coming to the tomb early in the morning, they are astounded to find its huge stone covering rolled back. A young man, in appearance like an angel, announces to them that Jesus is risen and will go before his disciples to Galilee. The event is awesome, even terrifying. The women flee from the tomb and, for at least a time, report nothing to anyone because of their fear.

April 23, John 20:19-31, Second Sunday of Easter

Our Gospel presents two appearances of the risen Lord to his disciples. The first takes place on the very evening of the day of his resurrection. The disciples are gathered in fear, but Jesus brings them peace, gives them their mission, and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. A week later, Thomas, who has been absent when Jesus first appeared and who doubted his resurrection, now knows Jesus by his wounds and worships him as his Lord and God. Future disciples will not have Jesus physical presence, but they will be blessed in their belief.

April 30, John 20:19-31, Third Sunday of Easter

Our Gospel presents two appearances of the risen Lord to his disciples. The first takes place on the very evening of the day of his resurrection. The disciples are gathered in fear, but Jesus brings them peace, gives them their mission, and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. A week later, Thomas, who has been absent when Jesus first appeared and who doubted his resurrection, now knows Jesus by his wounds and worships him as his Lord and God. Future disciples will not have Jesus physical presence, but they will be blessed in their belief.

Lesson introductions are used by permission and adapted from *Introducing the Lessons of the Church Year* by the Rt. Rev. Frederick H. Borsch, retired bishop of the Diocese of Los Angeles. The guide was published by Trinity Press International, Philadelphia.

St. John's Calendar

April

Saturday 1	Cristo Rey Yard Sale, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
Sunday 2	Fifth Sunday in Lent, Daylight Saving Time begins
Tuesday 4	St. John's Book Club, 7:30–9:30 p.m.
Wednesday 5	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:00 p.m.; 7:45–8:45, Book of Job
Thursday 6	Morning Guild, 10 a.m.
Saturday 9	Garden Cleanup, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Sunday 9	Palm Sunday
Monday 10	Monday in Holy Week
Tuesday 11	Tuesday in Holy Week
Wednesday 12	Wednesday in Holy Week—no service; Candlelight Prayer Service resumes next week
Thursday 13	Maundy Thursday, 7:30 p.m., HE II with Cristo Rey (bilingual)
Friday 14	Good Friday, 12 noon and 7:00 p.m.
Sunday 16	The Sunday of the Resurrection, Easter Day Holy Eucharist I, with hymns, 8:00 a.m. No Christian Education Festival Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:00 a.m., with Children's Message and Holy Baptism Reception and Easter Egg Hunt after the 10:00 a.m. service
Wednesday 19	Wednesday in Easter Week, Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m. <i>(note return to regularly scheduled time)</i>
Friday 21	Friday in Easter Week; Workshop on the Eucharist, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
Saturday 22	Saturday in Easter Week; Workshop on the Eucharist, 9:00 a.m.–Noon
Sunday 23	Second Sunday of Easter; Instructed Eucharist Dedication of the Frank Todd Memorial Azalea Garden
Wednesday 26	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday 29	Men's Fellowship, 9:00 a.m., undercroft
Sunday 30	Third Sunday of Easter

May

Wednesday 3	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday 6	Spring Tea, 1–3 p.m.
Sunday 7	Fourth Sunday of Easter
Wednesday 10	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday 14	United Thank Offering Ingathering; Mothers' Day Farewell Reception for Peter and Angela Swarr
Wednesday 17	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday 21	Sixth Sunday of Easter
Wednesday 24	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday 28	Seventh Sunday of Easter
Wednesday 31	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.

Spring Forward—Fall Back!

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, April 2. Please remember to set your clocks one hour ahead on Saturday night, April 1. If you don't, you'll arrive at church one hour early!

Having the Mind of Christ: Lenten Retreat at Roslyn

This overnight retreat will focus on the work of Ignatius of Loyola around the Passion of Christ, including the Stations of the Cross. Brother Anthony-Bernard "Leo" Campos, a vowed member of the Companions of St. Luke—OSB, will lead the retreat. He is an experienced spiritual counselor, speaker, and retreat leader. The retreat will begin at 5:00 p.m., Sunday night, April 9, and end by 4:00 p.m., Monday, April 10. The \$90 fee includes room, meals, and materials.

Experience a Virtual General Convention

The Virginia Theological Seminary invites you to "join us for a virtual General Convention." This offering of Fridays at the Seminary will give you an opportunity to learn more about how the General Convention works; what issues are emerging for the 75th General Convention to wrestle with; and how the legislative process will seek to respond. There will be an opportunity to discuss and vote on a "trial resolution," to learn how the next Presiding Bishop will be chosen, and time for questions.

The session will be led by The Rev. Rosemari Sullivan, Director of Alumni Affairs. She served as executive officer and secretary of General Convention for six years before taking the position at VTS in 2005. Prior to her years at the Episcopal Church Center, Sullivan was associate rector of Grace Church and rector of St. Clement's, both in Alexandria. Friday, May 5, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$35, which includes lunch. For more information, call (703) 461-1752, e-mail lte@vts.edu, or visit the web page: www.vts.edu.

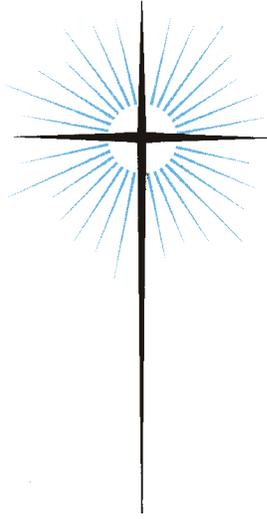
Radical Love for a World Endangered: Programs at Washington National Cathedral

The Cathedral offers programs that invite you to "Open your heart to visions of a hopeful and daring love in an age poisoned by hate." The lectures cost \$15, \$13 for National Cathedral members, or \$8 for students, seniors, and those on limited incomes. The tribute to Frederick Buechner is free. For more information, call (202) 537-2221, or go the web page: www.cathedral.org.

Tribute to Frederick Buechner. Join us for a very special public tribute to beloved author and preacher Frederick Buechner, hosted by Cathedral Dean Samuel T. Lloyd III. Panelists Peter Gomes and Barbara Brown Taylor will engage Buechner in lively discussion about the broad impact his writings and sermons have had on American religious life. Wednesday, April 5, 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

The Promise of Jesus: Abundant Life for All. The Rt. Rev. John Shelby Spong, retired Episcopal bishop, will ask us to consider a faith stripped of our need for power. He says, "What the Jesus experience showed was a vision of a new humanity, and in that vision no one is diminished." Come hear him articulate a spiritually rich, emerging Christianity where every person will have the opportunity to live fully and abundantly in the spirit of God. Tuesday, April 18, 7:30 p.m.

Simply Christian. Leading Christian scholar and Anglican bishop N.T. Wright shows us how to build Christian faith from the ground up. Known for his clear exposition of traditional Christianity and his eagerness to be in conversation with differing views, Bishop Wright will explore the essence of the Christian faith. Whether you have no predisposition to believe, are negative toward religion, or have deep faith, you will find Bishop Wright's embracing vision of Christianity a source of hope in troubled times. Tuesday, May 16, 7:30 p.m.



St. John's Episcopal Church

The Holy Eucharist is the focal point of Christian worship.
But what is the Eucharist?

St. John's invites you to learn more at a

Holy Eucharist Workshop

This learning experience will help us all:

- ▶ Learn how we got from Jesus and his disciples sharing a meal in the upper room to the Eucharist we celebrate in our liturgy today.
- ▶ Deepen our personal appreciation of the spirituality of the Eucharist.
- ▶ Talk comfortably with Christians and non-Christians about central issues of the Eucharist such as:
 - The meaning of the Eucharist as a *meal*.
 - The *mystery* of the Eucharist.
 - The meaning of the Eucharist as a *sacrament*?
 - The meaning of the *real presence* with respect to the Eucharist?

Time: Friday, April 21, 7:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 22, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon

Place: St. John's Episcopal Church
415 South Lexington Street
Arlington, Virginia 22204

Cost: Free

Pre-registration is not required but will help our planning by letting us know how many to expect.

To pre-register or for more information,
please call the church office at 703-671-6834 or
email the rector: stjohnsrector@verizon.net

Following the Friday and Saturday workshop, St. John's will conduct an
instructed Eucharist service on Sunday, April 23.
All are invited to attend.

St. John's Episcopal Church
415 South Lexington Street
Arlington VA 22204
703-671-6834
<http://stjohnsarlington.thediocese.net>

Next deadline is Friday, April 21 at 10:00 a.m.

Time Sensitive Material—Please Deliver Promptly

Holy Week at St. John's

Sunday 9	Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday
Monday 10	Monday in Holy Week
Tuesday 11	Tuesday in Holy Week
Wednesday 12	Wednesday in Holy Week—No service Candlelight Prayer Service resumes next week
Thursday 13	Maundy Thursday, 7:30 p.m., HE II, Stripping of the Altar, Joint service with Cristo Rey (bilingual)
Friday 14	Good Friday, Liturgy of Good Friday, Noon and 7:00 p.m.
Saturday 15	Holy Saturday
Sunday 16	The Sunday of the Resurrection, Easter Day Holy Eucharist I, with hymns, 8:00 a.m. No Christian Education Festival Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:00 a.m., With Children's Message and Holy Baptism Reception and Easter Egg Hunt after the 10:00 a.m. service