



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

Intercessory Prayer at St. John's

by Alice Kniskern and Lorraine Underwood

Would you like someone to pray for you or for your family, a friend, or a loved one? Are you drawn to pray for others? Asking God to act on behalf of someone else is called "intercessory" prayer. An example of intercessory prayer: "Please keep my brother Joe safe during his tour in Iraq." Asking God to act on your own behalf is known as a prayer of petition. Example: "Dear God, please help me to study for my algebra test."

We are a praying congregation. On Sunday morning, members of St. John's present their petitions and intercessions to God during the Prayers of the People. And we carry those prayers into our daily life from Sunday to Sunday.

St. John's also has a group of 14 members who dedicate themselves to intercessory prayer. Our purpose is to pray for people in need—for health problems, family tensions, job hunting, emotional stress—whatever. The Intercessory Prayer Group was started several years ago by Sue Hardman and has continued to grow (both in numbers and devotion).

We encourage everyone who attends St. John's to let Ann Barker or Alice Kniskern know of situations in need of God's guidance and help. You can request prayer for family, friends, and yourself. You may e-mail, phone, or leave a note in the Prayer Box (in the Narthex) giving the person's name, general problem, and the individual's relationship to you.

We maintain strict confidentiality. Names and situations are shared only with members of the group. Each Sunday the Prayers of the People will include the phrase "for all those for whom intercessory prayer has been requested" (no names). If you wish the Sunday congregation to pray for an individual by name, please be sure to include the name in the book at the back of the nave.

Because we care for those for whom we pray, please let us know when people are no longer in need of our intercession. The situation may have been resolved happily or unhappily; in either case, please tell Ann or Alice so that our prayer list can be kept current.

If you would like to join our group, please contact Ann Barker or Alice Kniskern. The only requirements are a desire to pray for others and the ability to respect confidentiality. Our current members communicate by e-mail, but we will happily establish a "phone buddy" for anyone doesn't have e-mail and wishes to join us. (Phone and e-mail addresses for Ann and Alice are in the Parish Directory).

St. John's Episcopal Church, Arlington • The Rev. Ann Barker, Rector • May / June 2006
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From the Rector: Living in Community

Each month I attend a meeting for clergy who supervise seminarians. This month we talked about e-mail. Our conversation touched on many issues, but we kept coming back to when using e-mail is appropriate and when it isn't. We decided that e-mail is a great tool for scheduling, sending out agendas and minutes, and keeping people informed. It helps us stay in touch with people who may be unreachable by telephone. It's very useful for communicating with folks who may be shy in person, but like to express themselves in writing.

E-mail becomes a problem when conflict or passion is involved. This can lead to a flurry of angry e-mails circulated by people who decide to hit the "Reply All" button. Let me reassure you that this does not happen at St. John's, but many of the clergy in our group are from large parishes. We all decided that the best way to handle conflict is face to face, not e-mail to e-mail. There is too much room for misunderstanding and hurt feelings. It is too easy to vent inappropriately, to hit "Send" before you have time to think. And, unfortunately, people have a tendency to say things in e-mails that they would never say face to face.

On the surface this discussion was about e-mail, but it was really about living together in community. Human beings are relational by nature; God made us to find fulfillment by interacting in healthy ways with one another and with God. Whenever we are in a group of people—a family, a workplace, a congregation—we are in community. And we make choices about how involved we are become, now committed we are to these communities.

At St. John's for the most part, we really want to share with other folks. We enjoy one another and our community. Many of us have close relationships with others here. We enjoy learning and eating together and sharing our love of God, neighbor, and self. But the closer we get to one another—in a congregation, a marriage, a parent-child relationship, or a friendship—the more likely we are to disagree with one another. At some point, we will have to say "no" when someone asks us to do something. We may hurt others unintentionally, because we don't understand what may offend another person. Or, because we are humans and sinful, we may hurt others intentionally. We will disagree about theology, politics, what hymns to sing—or even what kind of coffee to serve after church! This is when living in community becomes difficult.

But maintaining relationships is about trusting one another in challenging situations. When conflict arises, honesty and openness are crucial. We may think that avoiding conflict or maintaining silence will help the relationship, but when the disagreement is passionate or the hurt is deep, being open about our feelings is very important. If you are asked to do something you don't want to do, say so. If you disagree with someone, let them know what you think—and to listen to what they think. If you hurt someone or someone hurts you, it is important to name your feelings and work through the process of reconciliation. Working openly with disagreement and hurt is the way to build healthy relationships.

The adult formation class on Sunday morning is talking about the crucial role that forgiveness plays in building healthy relationships. As God forgives us in Jesus, so we must forgive one another. God sent Jesus to live among us to help us learn to develop whole and healthy relationships rather than destructive and damaging ones.

Our relationships are not ends in themselves, but at their best reflect God's love for the world and for each one of us. For example, a prayer in the marriage ceremony asks that the couple's relationship be a reflection of God's love for God's creation. Healthy relationships enable us to serve God, to love God and our neighbor as Jesus commands us.

On Pentecost, God the Holy Spirit became available for a relationship with each one of us, a relationship that is the ultimate in intimacy. God's love in Christ is present with us always in the power of the Holy Spirit, and we are present to God as well. Jesus' life, death and resurrection reconciled us to God and made this communion possible. As God has loved us, we are commanded to love one another, to share ourselves with one another. Sharing our joys, our sorrows, our disagreements, and our hurts with one another is the way to intimacy.

God loves us by sharing Godself with us, and we are called to do the same with one another as we live together in community. The Holy Spirit is present with each of us to help us work out our relationships with one another. With the Spirit's help we learn to value ourselves and value others because we are all God's children.

Ann+

Parish News

Rest in Peace

Oscar Vertiz, who entered the Life of the Resurrection on March 27 (on April 9, the Arlington Symphony Orchestra gave a concert in his honor, for his spirit of volunteerism and long-term support for the orchestra)

A Very Special Easter Thank You to

Virginia Pearson, who spent hours assembling all our Holy Week bulletins

Lynn Robinson, Carol Dunlap, the choir, and other musicians for wonderful Holy Week and Easter music

The Altar Guild, for the beautiful worship space, including the festive Easter Sunday flowers

Pat Stewart, chief Garden Angel, and her assisting angels for beautifying the church grounds especially for Easter

Jean Harrison, Faye Pritchard, Betty Vertiz, and other hospitality helpers for a wonderful Easter reception

Those who filled and hid Easter eggs so that children of all ages—from the parish and the neighborhood—could enjoy an Easter Egg hunt

Jack Turner and Pat Stewart, for our Easter signs and banners

Thank you to

Jack Turner, for updating the Candlelight Prayer Service sign

Alice and Natalie Kniskern, for volunteering to serve as coordinators for the Intercessory Prayer Group

Lorraine Underwood, for leading our thought-provoking Lenten class on the Book of Job

Faye Pritchard, for the wonderful Sunday morning education sessions on the image of Christ in different cultures

Eileen Tallent, for teaching our children about the Passover Seder

Del Hunt, for taking the children on a tour of the church

Alice and Natalie Kniskern, for telling our children stories from their time in India

Kay Wells, for assembling the very complicated Palm Sunday bulletins

Pat Stewart and Del Hunt, for patiently sorting the inserts after Palm Sunday services so that we can use them again next year

Chief Garden Angel, Pat Stewart, and those who have volunteered to help her keep the grounds looking beautiful this summer: Del Hunt, Liz White, Leslie Mead, Paul Petrich, John Petrich, and Pamela Corey-Archer

Liz White, for helping with a variety of office tasks

Our Sunday school teachers for the 2005–2006 year: Beth Fowler, Leslie Mead, Diane Henderson, and Carrie Harbin—and to those who assisted them in many ways

Our Sunday school superintendent, Beth Fowler, who is stepping down after two years in this role; her organizational and teaching talents have benefited our children and all of us

Congratulations to

Beth and Brian Cavey, who welcomed two-month-old Augustina to their family in April

Kenji and Connor McCartney, who were baptized Easter Sunday

Congratulations to Our Graduates!

Clara Naw Mumu graduates in June from Washington-Lee High School.

Penny Hess graduates on May 14 from American University with a degree in literature. She received her A.A. degree from Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) while she was working as a legal secretary, then continued at American University when she retired. Penny decided to finish her B.A. degree because she loves learning—not to qualify for a specific job. She is exploring options for her next venture, which might include returning to work. Penny and Don's son Shane, also a transfer student from NVCC, graduates from George Mason University this year with B.A. in history.

St. John's Calendar

May

Tuesday 2	Book Club, 7:30 P.M.
Wednesday 3	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday 4	Morning Guild, 10 a.m.
Saturday 6	Spring Tea, 1-3 p.m.
Sunday 7	Fourth Sunday of Easter
Wednesday 10	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday 9	Vestry meeting, 7 p.m.
Wednesday 10	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday 14	Fifth Sunday of Easter UTO Spring Ingathering Mothers' Day Reception for Peter Swarr (his last official Sunday with us)
Wednesday 17	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday 21	Sixth Sunday of Easter
Wednesday 24	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday 27	Men's Fellowship, 9 a.m.
Sunday 28	Ascension of the Lord
Monday 29	Memorial Day, Office Closed
Wednesday 31	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.

June

Sunday 4	Day of Pentecost, Holy Baptism, Education for Ministry Graduation, Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Day
Tuesday 6	Book Club, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday 7	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday 8	Morning Guild, 10 a.m.
Sunday 11	Trinity Sunday
Wednesday 14	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday 18	Second Sunday After Pentecost
Wednesday 21	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday 25	Third Sunday after Pentecost Open Mike begins for the summer

July

Sunday 2	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Tuesday 4	Independence Day, Office Closed
Sunday 9	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Vacation Bible School, 6-8 p.m. (through Thursday, July 13)

Volunteer Schedule Postings

Copies of the volunteer list are now posted in the vestry room on the right wall and on the large bulletin board that contains the calendar in the undercroft. We removed them from the kitchen and vestry room doors because the tape was taking the finish off the doors.

LOGOS Editors Take a Summer Break

To give the editors a break, to save on postage and printing costs, and because there is less activity during the summer, the LOGOS will be published every other month until September. This is the May/June issue; the next issue will be July/August. Then we will return to monthly issues. The deadline for the July/August issue is June 16.

Not Wanting to Hear

by Roger Ludwig

(Inspired by the class on Job)

Not wanting to hear
what love is telling us
year after year
we fill our time
with the sound
of our own voice,
noise of the mind,
until, like Job,
loss and the Voice
from the whirlwind,
the Boundless beyond our ken,
place a hand on our mouth
so that silence at long last
may give birth to sight.

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, June 16 at 10:00 am.

Birthdays

Bill Schenck, Pamela Corey-Archer, May 2
Rob Hardman, May 13
Alice Kniskern, May 19
Romana Martin, May 20
Jane Edwards, May 21
Andy Del Gallo, May 27
Patricia Bleicher, May 28
Paul Harless, June 3
Cathi Del Gallo, June 6
Betty Vertiz, June 9
Samuel Haertel, James Robinson, June 11
Charles Adair, June 12
Leslie Mead, June 15
Kaipo McCartney, June 17
Stacy O'Connor, June 22
Tricia Wells, June 23
Matthew Tallent, Jones Tallent, June 25
Millie Burke, June 26
Elizabeth Appiah, Faye Pritchard, June 29

Anniversaries

Leslie Mead and Jeff Petrich, May 24
Dennis Albrecht and Lorraine Underwood, May 25
Patricia and Peter Broida, June 1
Will and Karen Spencer, June 7
John and Valerie Wilson, June 13
Bob and Eileen Tallent, June 15
Peter and Angela Swarr, June 21
Vernon and Romana Martin, June 28

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.

Gospel Lessons for May

May 7, John 10:11–16, The Fourth Sunday of Easter

In our Gospel reading we are taught that Jesus is the good shepherd who is willing to die for his sheep. He is not like one who has been hired to tend the sheep, and who runs away in time of danger. Instead, he knows the sheep as intimately as he knows the Father. Jesus has shared fully in their circumstances. Together with those who are yet to be called, there will be one flock under the one true shepherd.

May 14, John 14:15–21, The Fifth Sunday of Easter

In our Gospel, Jesus promises his followers that those who love him will be guided by the Holy Spirit and will also see him. The evangelist presents Jesus in final conversation with his followers. Soon he will be taken away from them by death, but God will send another Counselor. The world (that is, Godless society) cannot receive this Spirit of truth nor come to perceive Jesus as still living. Yet those who follow the commandments of love will find new life in intimate association with Jesus and the Father.

May 21, John 15:9–17, Sixth Sunday of Easter

In our Gospel, Jesus speaks of his great love for his disciples and calls upon them to show this same love toward each other which has come to him from the Father. Jesus is talking with his disciples shortly before his death when he will be taken away from them. But this love has now formed his followers into a new community in relationship with Jesus and the Father. They are no longer servants but friends.

May 28, Luke 24:49–53, Ascension of the Lord

In our Gospel, Jesus leaves his followers with the promise of the Holy Spirit and is carried up to into heaven. The disciples are to await their empowerment from on high before beginning their mission to the world. Joyfully they return from Bethany, the town where Jesus had stayed before his passion. They enter the temple and praise God.

Gospel Lessons for June

June 4, John 20:19–23, The Day of Pentecost

The Gospel describes an appearance of the risen Lord in which he bestows the Holy Spirit upon his disciples. He brings his disciples peace and tells them of their mission. The ministry which the Father had given Jesus

is now carried forward in the world by his followers. The disciples have power over the forgiveness of sins in order to guide others to repentance and faith.

June 11, John 3:1–16, Trinity Sunday

In our Gospel story, Nicodemus, one of the Pharisees, comes during the night to talk with Jesus. Nicodemus is a figure used by the evangelist to represent a type of person who wants to believe but has difficulty understanding spiritual realities. Jesus tells him that individuals cannot enter the kingdom of God unless they are born anew through water and the Spirit. The inner meaning of the passage partly turns on the fact that “born anew” can also be understood as “born from on high,” and that the same Greek word means both wind and spirit. Jesus then tells Nicodemus of the Son of Man come down from heaven who will be lifted up, both on the cross to die for the world and to return to heaven in glory.

June 18, Mark 4:26–34, The Second Sunday after Pentecost

In our Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the seed growing secretly and of the mustard seed in order to suggest what the kingdom of God is like. God’s activity is often unseen and mysterious, but it will produce its fruit and bring about the time for harvest. To human eyes the beginning of the kingdom seems insignificant, but suddenly it will break forth. The great bush, which the mustard seed becomes, is a symbol for the protection of the reign of God. The evangelist closes the passage with his understanding that only faithful disciples can perceive the significance of Jesus’ parables.

June 25, Mark 4:35–41, The Third Sunday after Pentecost

The Gospel is the story of Jesus’ stilling of the storm. The narrative was used in the life of the early church to stress the importance of faith in difficult times. Still more significantly, it served to emphasize the majesty of the Lord Jesus whose power could control destructive natural forces and, symbolically, the cosmic forces of evil. Audiences of that time would recognize the parallel between Jesus’ sovereignty over the storm and the power of God shown when God, according to myth, conquered the watery chaos and formed the world.

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.

Understanding the Needs of the Terminally Ill

by Carolyn Corlett

I was given the book, *Final Gifts: Understanding the Special Awareness, Needs, and Communications of the Dying*, soon after it was published. The authors, Maggie Callanan and Patricia Kelley, are hospice nurses who noticed that many of their patients had similar experiences as they were dying. They offer touching stories about the experiences of those approaching death. Their practical suggestions about how to respond to the requests of people who are dying are helpful to anyone in a caregiving role. I have shared the book with a number of friends with terminally ill family members, and it has helped them during this sad time.

According to *Kirkus Reviews*, the book offers “Impressive insights into the experience of dying by two hospice nurses with a gift for listening. The ‘final gifts’ of the title are the comfort and enlightenment offered by the dying to those attending them, and in return, the peace and reassurance offered to the dying by those who hear their needs.”

Callanan and Kelley describe a phenomenon they call “Nearing Death Awareness,” which resembles the near-death experience sometimes reported by individuals revived after being clinically dead. Nearing Death Awareness, however, develops slowly, and the dying person seemingly drifts for a time between two worlds.

For your information, I have placed in St. John’s library some copies of a brochure, *Near-Death Experiences and Nearing Death Awareness in the Terminally Ill*, put out by International Association for Near-Death Studies. The brochure includes a list of other books that deal with the experiences of terminally ill people.

Vacation Bible School July 9–13

St. John’s, Cristo Rey, and St. Paul’s Bailey’s Crossroads will host Vacation Bible School again this summer, Sunday through Thursday, July 9–13. We’ll need folks to prepare dinner for our guests and help with various other activities. Make a note on your calendar. More information to follow.

Programs at Washington National Cathedral

The Cathedral offers programs that invite you to explore Christian faith. The lectures cost \$15, \$13 for National Cathedral members, or \$8 for students, seniors, and those on limited incomes. For more information, call (202) 537-2221, or go the Web page: www.cathedral.org.

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.

Leaving Church: From Public Truth to Private Truth. After 15 years of devoted parish ministry, Episcopal priest and preacher Barbara Brown Taylor found herself losing her faith, her soul no longer nourished by her work. She made the decision to leave her church and took a teaching position at a small, rural college. In her new book, *Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith*, Taylor paints a deeply personal portrait of her journey through ambiguity and loss to the discovery of her true vocation. If you have ever lost track of your faith, had reservations about God or with the church, or felt yourself drawn forward in an uncertain direction, you will find wisdom, grace and comfort in her story. Wednesday, June 7, 7:30 p.m.

Use Your Gifts: Sign Up for Open Mike

Offer your gifts for the glory of God and the enjoyment of the congregation. Our choir goes on its summer holiday after June 18, so from June 25 through September 3 (the Sunday before Labor Day), you have a chance to showcase your talents. You can sing, dance, play an instrument, or read poetry. Sign up for a Sunday or two on the St. John’s board in the undercroft.

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Next deadline is Friday, June 16 at 10:00 a.m.

Time Sensitive Material—Please Deliver Promptly

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