



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

Correction

Choir Practice takes place *every* Thursday, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., not once a month as we stated in the September LOGOS. Many apologies to our wonderful choir!

From the Rector: Are We Having Fun Yet?

What do you do for fun? I read mystery novels, work crossword puzzles, talk to friends on the phone, take walks, and sing. Evan watches baseball, football, and NASCAR on television, listens to country music, and plays intramurals with his frat brothers. We all have things we like to do that we identify as fun—stuff we do in the evenings or on the weekends, whenever we have a minute to relax.

Then there are the long periods of fun we refer to as vacations. We get away from whatever we need to get away from and go someplace else to sightsee, lie on the beach, backpack, or whatever else we enjoy doing that we don't do on a regular basis. I usually don't go away unless it is to see family because I don't enjoy vacationing alone. Instead, I make play dates with friends to go to museums, movies, or lunch. I may visit one of my siblings or take a trip with a friend.

Having Spiritual Fun

Leisure pursuits and vacation activities are what we think of most often when we talk about having fun, but I want to talk about another kind of fun—a deeper kind of fun. Sometimes we call it joy, but I'd like to call it spiritual fun. The New Testament reading in recent days has been from Acts, which is filled with stories about the apostles and their mission to bring the good news to the world. Some days good things happen to them, and some days they end up in jail. Paul was released from prison by an angel, but James the brother of John, was killed. It was not an easy life, being an apostle, but I realized as I read that they were having fun!

They were spreading the gospel willingly and joyfully because they wanted to. They loved the preaching, they loved the teaching, and they loved it when people's eyes lit up when they were baptized in the Holy Spirit. The apostles were in danger all the time. Yet they were having fun because they were following their call from God. They were doing what they were passionate about—spreading the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ.

St. John's Episcopal Church, Arlington • The Rev. Ann Barker, Rector • October 2006
415 South Lexington Street • Arlington, VA 22204 • <http://stjohnsarlington.thediocese.net>
Phone: 703-671-6834 • Fax: 703-671-8023 • Email: StJohnsRector@verizon.net

Are we—you and I—having fun yet? Is your job fun for you? Are you passionate about it? Are you getting a kick out of it? I wake up every Sunday morning feeling just a little different than I do other days of the week. When I was first ordained, I thought the little flutter was nervous energy about being on time, or performance anxiety about whether the sermon was any good, or even worry about making a mistake in the liturgy as I did one morning when we ended up saying “The Nine Commandments.”

But I’ve been ordained seven years now and that “little flutter” is still there. I’ve discovered it is excitement. I love Sunday mornings. I love preaching, I love celebrating, I love people. I have great fun on Sunday mornings!

Living Passionately

Fun in this sense also means satisfying. I also am deeply satisfied by my pastoral counseling work. If someone is in trouble and needs help, the work is not fun in the sense of good times or kicking back. Being available to God on another’s behalf is challenging work, and a great privilege. It is fun in the deeper sense of knowing that this is what God has called me to do; doing this work is my heart’s desire.

God wants us to enjoy life, to live passionately and fully. When we are miserable, God is miserable with us. What in your life do you enjoy? Anything? Everything? Nothing? Deep fulfillment is God’s gift to us when we respond to God’s call, and God can give us opportunities for fulfillment that life circumstances might not present.

As you go through this next month, think about what you are doing that satisfies you and what you are doing that does not satisfy you. Change what you can and ask God for help with what you cannot. If there is something that you want to do, but are scared to try, ask God for help there too. So the next time God whispers to you in your prayer, “Are we having fun yet?” we can say yes with grateful hearts.

Ann†

Sprucing Up Our Image

St. John’s Web Page

If you haven’t checked the web site lately, you are in for a treat. The site has been updated, information is current, and soon there will be pictures on every page. It looks great. Thanks go to Jane Edwards for her hard work not only to update the site, but to keep our events page updated on a regular basis. Thanks also to Bill Pritchard for his photos.

You can find copies of sermons and the current issue of the *LOGOS*, as well as a photos page which currently has photos of last year’s blessing of the animals.

The website for St. John’s, Arlington is:
<http://stjohnsarlington.thediocese.net>.

Materials for Newcomers

We have some new material for newcomers. There’s a card in the pew newcomers can tear off and fill out. We have bookmarks that give basic information about St. John’s to hand out at our events. Bill Pritchard and Pamela Corey-Archer worked very hard to put these together. In addition, we are working on updating the rector’s letter and brochure that goes in our newcomer’s gift bag, as well as the development of a guide to the various ministries at St. John’s, with contact names for those interested.

Enjoy Tea and Scones on October 21

by Alice Kniskern

The Morning Guild’s Harvest Tea will be held on Saturday, October 21, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the undercroft. The tea is a wonderful opportunity to chat with old friends and meet new ones while sampling different teas and eating delicious sweets and sandwiches. Admission remains \$20 per person. A portion of the proceeds will go to Habitat for Humanity’s Gulf Coast relief efforts. Come to enjoy the mouthwatering array of treats and to support a worthwhile cause.

We need volunteers to support this event. The Morning Guild appreciates help in setting up, cleaning up, and for donations of finger food. Please look for volunteer sign-up sheets in the narthex and in the undercroft.

Welcome Our New Seminarian: Amanda Eiman

Amanda Eiman, a senior at the Virginia Theological Seminary, is our new seminarian. She's from the Diocese of Newark and will be with us for a year. Amanda's goals include teaching adult education, getting to know the people here at St. John's, and enhancing her liturgical leadership role. This summer Amanda spent a month in Kenya, and we'll hear about her travels and reflections during the 9:00 a.m. education hour this month. (Look for more information about Amanda in the next issue of the LOGOS.)

St. John's Speaker Series

Our new speaker series, "Issues for Today: Actions for Tomorrow," will begin this fall with two presentations. Both speakers come highly recommended. Be sure to join us for these meaningful discussions.

The Four Documents Everyone Needs

On Thursday, October 26, at 7:30 p.m., Karen Kucik, a retired attorney and member of Holy Comforter, Vienna, will share practical tips with us about the four most important documents we need to have at any age: a medical power of attorney, a living will, a will, and a power of attorney. News stories about Terry Schiavo and others like her have made us all aware that we need to have these documents to ensure our wishes are followed and hopefully to avoid family conflict.

Karen, a member of the Diocesan Committee on Aging, told us that a booklet prepared for older people with information about these documents has had an overwhelming response from all age groups. Thinking about end-of-life issues gives us an opportunity to explore the spiritual meaning of illness and death.

Christian-Muslim Dialogue

On Monday, November 23, at 7:30 p.m., Imam Mohamed Magid from the All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) Center, will be with us to talk about how Christians and Muslims (and those from other backgrounds) can engage one another in today's world. The imam will discuss the similarities between Christianity and Islam and help us to explore ways we can work together in interfaith initiatives. To learn more about the ADAMS Center, visit their Web site at: www.adamscenter.org.

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.

AMEN Needs Volunteers to Help with Furniture Bank

Arlingtonians Meeting Emergency Needs (AMEN) is looking for volunteers to help with the Furniture Bank. AMEN's storage room needs organization, and they have 40 families waiting for assistance. Some of the tasks—but not all—require physical labor moving heavy furniture. If you can help, contact Barbara Kane Roberts, Furniture Bank Volunteer Coordinator, mrob3613@yahoo.com, or call the Furniture Bank at 703-237-5118.

LOGOS

The LOGOS is published nine times a year in February, March, April, May, July, September, October, November, and December 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, October 6 at 10:00 am.

Parish News

Thank you to

Don and Penny Hess, for donating a vacuum cleaner to the church

Leslie Mead and Jeff and Paul Petrich for painting chairs to brighten up our children's chapel rooms.

Bill Pritchard and Pamela Corey-Archer for all the work they did on our new St. John's bookmark and pew card.

Bill Pritchard for designing the ads for the neighborhood newspapers inviting folks to join us in the fall.

Liz White for helping with the September LOGOS

Kay Wells, for purchasing rolling baskets for our various hymnals that fit nicely under the rear pew

Beth Fowler, Carrie Harbin, Kay Wells, and Del Hunt for cleaning up the Sunday School rooms upstairs and making the children's chapel beautiful

Ginger Adair (convener), Beth Fowler, Dave Dunlap, Betty Vertiz, Bill Thomson, Del Hunt, and Lynn Christopher for serving on our seminarian's lay committee

Birthdays

Ericka Cullen, October 2

The Rev. Peter Swarr, October 3

Jessica Lemmer (daughter of Charles & Cheryl),
October 14

Liz White, October 5

Carrie Harbin, October 18

Erin Tallent, October 18

Elizabeth Ann "Betsy" Cullen, October 21

John Hart, October 24

Taylor Robinson, (son of Dave & Lynn), October 24

Bryan Harbin, October 25

William Thomson, October 31

Anniversaries

Andy and Cathi Del Gallo, October 7

John Hart and Angela Rollet, October 10

Dave and Lynn Robinson, October 11

Paul Harless and Eileen Flynn, October 13

Tony and Heather Kollath, October 13

Marshall and Ginger Adair, October 24

Christian Education for Adults

Please join us for one or more of these programs:

- On Sunday mornings in October, the adult class will continue its exploration of the gospels and their different views of Jesus, the disciples, and the issues facing the new Christian community. On Shrine Mont Sunday (October 29) we will examine stories that appear in more than one gospel and how they look and feel very different.
- Amanda Eiman, our seminarian, will give a presentation on her trip to Kenya last summer.
- In November, Lorraine Underwood will begin a series on the "Seven Deadly Sins." She'll tell us about how the "list" was created and where it has been used in church history. We'll explore each of these topics further and look at implications for our own lives. After Easter, Lorraine will lead discussion and reflection on the seven (or eight) Christian virtues.

St. John's Book Club

By Lynn Robinson

For October, St. John's Book Club will discuss *Home to Harmony* by Philip Gulley, a Quaker pastor. Here's what *Publishers Weekly* says about the book:

Occasionally, a simple book feels like home, and its characters become cherished friends. These vignettes will doubtless become favorites, not only for the quarter of a million people who enjoyed Gulley's *Front Porch Tales*, but also for new readers who will respond to the Garrison Keillor-style humor and pathos of fictional Harmony, Indiana. The town's characters include the wise Quaker pastor who narrates the book and the narrow-minded church elder who "knew just enough Scripture to be annoying, but not enough to be transformed." This book is pure joy.

Please join us on Tuesday, October 3, at 7:30 p.m. for a lively discussion. Need a ride? Let us know. We'll come get you. Got any questions? Just ask me at coffee hour or call me at 703-998-6481. See you at the next meeting of St. John's Book Club!

Blessing of the Animals: October 1

In honor of the Feast of St. Francis, St. John's will hold its annual blessing of the animals on Sunday, October 1, at 5:00 p.m. in the garden area. Bring your pets; bring your friends and their pets. If your animal companions are shy or have difficulty with other animals around, please feel free to bring a photo and we'll pray for them as well.

In addition, during the Prayers of the People that Sunday, we'll read the names of pets, past and present, that have been special gifts in our lives and we'll also hear from our youth.

Gospel Lessons for October

October 1, Mark 9:38–43, 45, 47–48, The 17th Sunday After Pentecost

In the Gospel Jesus bids his disciples to accept all who seek to do good in his name and to deal ruthlessly with whatever part of themselves causes sin. Early Christians were doubtless faced with people outside their communities who claimed they were acting in Christ's name. The tolerant answer given here suggests that Jesus' followers must avoid arrogance and be open to God acting as God wills. On the other hand, it is a serious matter to lead a believer astray. The counsel to destroy offending parts of the body is exaggerated to make clear the importance of avoiding various sins. The description of hell is drawn from the garbage dump outside Jerusalem.

October 8, Mark 19:2–9, The 18th Sunday After Pentecost

In the Gospel Jesus is asked about divorce, and he reaches back to the creation story to set before his hearers the ideal of the marriage relationship. In Jesus' lifetime there were more views held about divorce, some strict, some more lenient. In one sense, Jesus is the most strict of all: what through natural union God has made one cannot be separated by human action. Yet, in another sense, Jesus' answer refuses to deal with the question in the way it is asked. Instead he honors the solemnity and purpose of marriage. The motivation for Jesus' works may have been his concern with men who set aside their wives and, in that society, left them poor and insecure.

October 15, Mark 8:27–38, The 19th Sunday After Pentecost

In the Gospel Jesus counsels a would-be disciple to give all to the poor and follow him. He then teaches his disciples how hard it is for those with riches to enter the kingdom. Jesus first refuses to let himself be called *good*, since that description belongs to God alone. He then finds that the man has tried to live out his duties toward his neighbor in response to divine love. But the decision for discipleship must go beyond this. If the heart is divided by desires for worldly security, there is no way one can enter into the kingdom's loving justice. Yet by the power of God, people can be converted and saved.

October 22, Mark 10:35–45, The 20th Sunday After Pentecost

In the Gospel story, Jesus' followers still expect that his way will quickly lead to a state of glory in which they want special places. Jesus tells them of a different path of discipleship. First Jesus and then his disciples must experience the cup of sorrow and the baptism of death. They are not to live and act like worldly rulers. They must lead in servanthood. Their example is Jesus, who as the Son of Man serves and gives his life.

October 29, Mark 10:46–52, The 21st Sunday After Pentecost

Our Gospel is the story of the new vision of blind Bartimaeus. The evangelist has carefully prepared for this story by illustrating the inability of the religious officials to perceive who Jesus is and by describing the shortsightedness of the disciples. Now, with nothing but his great hope, this blind beggar calls out to Jesus. He uses the only title of honor he can think of—Son of David, dangerous words in the present political climate. But Jesus stops on his own profound journey, and Bartimaeus is healed through his faith. Then, as a model of a disciple who has received healing as a gift, he follows Jesus on the way to suffering and death before glory.

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.

Parish Retreat at Shrine Mont

by Faye Pritchard

Friday evening dinner, October 27, through lunch on Sunday, October 29

For more information, please contact Bill and Faye Pritchard at 703-931-2168.

Places for the parish retreat at Shrine Mont are filling up fast. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to refresh your mind and spirit. If you plan to go, send that check *now!* We must have your check by October 16. Place your check in the collection plate or mail it to St. John's Episcopal Church, 415 South Lexington Street, Arlington, VA 22204.

The cost is \$120 per adult, which covers room (2 nights) and board (6 meals) for the entire weekend. Please make your check out to St. John's and be sure to indicate on the memo line that the check is for the Shrine Mont weekend. But don't let the cost prevent you from going: scholarships are available. Talk to Ann if you are interested in a scholarship.

The Rev. Sue Hardman, who led last year's program, will be leading the program again, offering a feast for the mind and spirit. The theme is "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" The Shrine Mont staff will be serving up good cooking, offering a feast to satisfy those big appetites that seem to grow even bigger in the mountain air. And the fall color should be gorgeous, offering one more feast, this time for the eyes.

St. John's Calendar

October

Sunday 1	17th Sunday After Pentecost Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:00 a.m. Christian Formation for all ages, 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:00 a.m. Blessing of the Animals, 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, 3	Book Club, 7:30–9:00 p.m., will discuss <i>Home to Harmony</i> by Phillip Gulley
Wednesday 4	Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday 5	Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
Sunday 8	18th Sunday After Pentecost Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:00 a.m. Christian Formation for all ages, 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:00 a.m.
Monday 9	Columbus Day Holiday (observed), Office Closed
Wednesday 11	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday 12	Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
Sunday 15	19th Sunday After Pentecost Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:00 a.m. Christian Formation for all ages, 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:00 a.m.
Monday 16	Deadline to sign up for Parish Retreat at Shrine Mont
Wednesday 18	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday 19	Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
Saturday 21	Men's Fellowship Group, 9:00 a.m.
Sunday 22	20th Sunday After Pentecost Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:00 a.m. Christian Formation for all ages, 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday 25 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
 Thursday 26 Speaker Series, 7:30–9:00 p.m., Karen Kucik,
 “The Four Documents Everyone Needs”
 Thursday 16 Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
 Friday 27–Sunday 29 Parish Retreat at Shrine Mont
 Sunday 29 **Daylight Saving Time Ends: Set your clocks back one hour!**
 21st Sunday After Pentecost
 Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:00 a.m.
 Christian Formation for all ages, 9:00 a.m.
 Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:00 a.m.

November

Wednesday 1 All Saints Day
 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
 Thursday 2 Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
 Sunday 5 22nd Sunday After Pentecost, All Saints Day (observed)
 Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:00 a.m.
 Christian Formation for all ages, 9:00 a.m.
 Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:00 a.m.
 Tuesday 7 **Election Day: Remember to Vote!**
 Book Club, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
 Wednesday 8 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
 Thursday 9 Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
 Friday 10 Veterans’ Day Holiday, Office Closed
 Sunday 12 23rd Sunday After Pentecost
 Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:00 a.m.
 Christian Formation for all ages, 9:00 a.m.
 Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:00 a.m.
 Wednesday 15 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
 Thursday 16 Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
 Sunday 19 24th Sunday After Pentecost
 Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:00 a.m.
 Christian Formation for all ages, 9:00 a.m.
 Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:00 a.m.
 Wednesday 22 Thanksgiving Service, 7:30 p.m.
 Thursday 23- Thanksgiving Holiday, Office Closed
 Friday 24 Thanksgiving Holiday, Office Closed
 Sunday 26 25th Sunday After Pentecost
 Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:00 a.m.
 Christian Formation for all ages, 9:00 a.m.
 Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:00 a.m.
 Wednesday 29 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
 Thursday 30 Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

December

Sunday 1 The First Sunday of Advent
 Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:00 a.m.
 Christian Formation for all ages, 9:00 a.m.
 Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:00 a.m.

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

Next deadline is Friday, October 6 at 10:00 a.m.

Time Sensitive Material—Please Deliver Promptly

Staff

Rector: The Rev. Ann B. Barker
Minister of Music: Lynn Robinson
Organist: Carol Dunlap
Secretary: Virginia Pearson
Sexton: Justiniano Garay

Ministry Coordinators

Communications/Evangelism Ministry: Vacant
Education Ministry: Diane Henderson (adult),
Beth Fowler (children and youth)
Outreach Ministry: Vacant
Pastoral Care Ministry: Vacant
Newcomer Hospitality Ministry: Michelle Aitken

Vestry

Lisa Buchanan
Pamela Corey-Archer
Don Hess, Junior Warden
Bill Pritchard
Linda Trochim, Senior Warden
Jack Turner
Kay Wells

LOGOS Volunteers

Editor: Lorraine Underwood
Editor, Page Layout and Webmaster: Jane Edwards