



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

Christian Education at St. John's

Education for Ministry

Many people think that one must be ordained in order to be "a minister." The fact is that all baptized Christians are called to continue the ministry of Jesus. He reconciled the world to God. We are called to incarnate that reconciliation in our own time and in our own place through worship, service to others, and by proclamation of God's Word to all people. It is that vocation for which we pray at the end of the eucharist: "And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord."

At St. John's, we are fortunate to have a wonderful program—Education for Ministry (EFM)—that helps to prepare participants for the ministry to which we all are called. EFM was brought to St. John's by our previous rector, the Rev. Ann Stribling, and Patricia Bleicher, who has served as EFM Mentor here for nearly ten years.

EFM is a program of theological education of the School of Theology of the University of the South. Students sign up one year at a time for this four-year program. It covers the basics of a theological education in the Old and New Testaments, church history, liturgy, and theology. Students meet regularly, usually once a week, in seminars under the guidance of trained mentors. The program grants a certificate at the completion of the four years and 18 Continuing Education Units for each year's work.

If you are interested in deepening your understanding of our faith, three places are available in the EFM seminar that begins on September 9. Contact Pat Bleicher at 703-532-9156 or pbleicher@aol.com. Or talk to Eileen Flynn, an EFM graduate who served as co-mentor for five years, or ask our new co-mentor, Christopher Van Wyk.

Christian Education Resumes on September 9

Our Christian education programs resume as usual the Sunday after Labor Day. Sunday morning adult education, Sunday morning children's education, Children's Chapel, and Education for Ministry will all begin that day.

Because of Ann's surgery, Sunday morning adult education is not yet firmly in place. Possible beginning topics include the Apostle's Creed and the problem of evil. Later in the year, Lorraine Underwood will teach a course about Celtic Christianity, with a focus on Celtic and Anglo-Saxon saints such as St. Columba, St. Aldan, St. Hilda of Whitby, and the Venerable Bede.

St. John's Episcopal Church, Arlington • The Rev. Ann Barker, Rector • September 2007
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In our 9:00 a.m. Sunday School hour, the children will continue to work with their fair trade coffee project. Closer to home, they will also be in charge of hospitality one Sunday a month. In addition, they will continue to work on musical offerings and learn about Bible stories, church traditions, holidays, and sacraments. During Children's Chapel (offered during the first part of the 10 a.m. service), they will participate in a worship service designed for children and learn from the gospel lesson for each Sunday.

Then they will join us at the Peace.

If you have any ideas for any of these programs, please let Ann know.

St. John's Vacation Bible School Makes a Splash

More than 20 young people took part in this year's Vacation Bible School, held July 8-12. The program centered around water, and the stories were all about lessons Jesus taught that involved water, including calming the storm and washing the disciples' feet. Children from St. John's, Cristo Rey and the neighborhood took part.

The program was ably directed by Norka Antelo, who leads St. John's Children's Chapel and is the children's education director for Cristo Rey. She was helped by the Rev. Catherine Campbell of Cristo Rey, who did music; crafts leader, Carrie Harbin; and recreation leaders, Clelia Espinoza and Stacy O'Connor. Sheryl Pardo provided snacks and general help. Other helpers included Diane Henderson, Lindsey Miller, Caitlin O'Connor, Valeria Antelo, and teens from Cristo Rey. Meals were provided by Cristo Rey, Leslie Mead, Stephanie Beavin, Eileen Tallent, and Stacy O'Connor. Bill Pritchard and others took photos. Look for them on the St. John's board soon, as well as an updated bulletin board.

Vacation Bible School is one of our many ways to reach out to the community and an important part of our education program for young children at St. John's and Cristo Rey. We are so grateful to everyone who helped.

From the Rector: The Work of Healing

For the past month or so, I have had a new full-time job. Ever since my surgery in July, my full-time job has been to heal. I am supposed to do whatever I need to do that will support God's healing efforts on my behalf. I'm not used to this! Occasionally, I might take an afternoon off when I'm sick, but not much more. And I haven't had major surgery since I was a teenager. I have learned that having healing as a full-time job is hard work—mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

First there are the obvious physical disciplines, which for me began with "hip precautions": No crossing your legs, no bending over more than 90 degrees, no moving the operated leg across the midline of your body. What does this mean? Anything below the waist has to be put on with long, weird-looking instruments—sock pull-ons, extended shoe horns, wooden poles for taking off socks. Everything takes so much longer than normal.

Having major surgery is tiring. I get up at 9 a.m. and fade out at 6 p.m. Even sleeping is tiring. I have to sleep on my back and be very careful moving around in bed. My back hurts when I get up and the sigh of relief when I sit in my chair is audible.

The physical work of healing—following instructions, resting, exercising, and taking pain medication—is just part of the task. First I was tired, but then I got bored. And I got cabin fever. And I missed Sundays at St. John's so bad I was at my grumpiest every Sunday. Not going out of my house for 10 days straight was not fun, but it was necessary. Dealing with boredom and cabin fever is part of healing.

The emotional tasks associated with healing are mammoth. Patience is vital because everything takes lots more time. Learning to have lower expectations of oneself is part of the process. I can't believe it takes me three hours to get ready in the morning. Or that I can only do one or two things a day. It reminds me of when I first had Evan and my accomplishment for the day was freezing some ground beef.

The real biggie in the emotional area is about receiving. I knew I could never manage cabin fever alone, so I asked for visitors. I found out that I suffered from increased anxiety at night, so I asked for help there, too. I needed help with putting on my socks

and shoes, taking a shower and meals. I dropped things and couldn't pick them up.

It is often hard to call and ask for help, even when you have, as I do, so many people who are willing to give. After all, who else but people who care about me would be willing to fix food according to all my strange restrictions? I have been so blessed in the support that has surrounded me during this time that I feel abundantly cared for.

And that's where the spiritual learning for me of healing comes in. As my sister, a veteran of two hip replacements points out, "Of course you are stir crazy because you can't go and do and be what you want to go and do and be!" I have had a hard time coping on many occasions. Yet God has been so present in so many ways in this challenging and difficult time. The community of St. John's has been so available to God on my behalf that I am grateful beyond words. I have been supported and encouraged by parishioners of all ages. I have received and continue to receive help doing anything I need—emptying my dehumidifier, fixing my computer, putting on my socks. I have been fed and visited and cared for and through your love, God is giving me more lessons in how much God loves me. I now have more reason to believe that my needs are OK, they will be met, and I can take the time I need to heal.

By the time you read this, I will have begun to show up on Sundays and I will be loving it, but I will still be spending a lot of time working at healing. There is no way I could do this work without God and family and friends and all of you in the St. John's community. You have helped me heal physically, you have accepted me wherever I am, you have been there when I needed something and you have taught me new lessons in trusting and in receiving God's abundance. You have prayed for me and told me you missed me. Thank you for helping me do the work of healing that I have to do. Your ministry to me is a gift I will always treasure.

Ann†

Water Where We Need It: In Our Flower Gardens

by Del Hunt

For the past 25 years, Betty Geris and Pat Stewart have led St. John's Gardeners in making the grounds

attractive with beautiful gifts of growing plants, shrubs, and trees. At the same time, more than 100 parishioners have given generously of their time, talent, and treasure in support of these two wonderful and talented ladies. The latest contribution is an automated watering system to keep our plants alive during our hot, dry Virginia summers.

Last year during a coffee hour, several parishioners got together with Pat and brainstormed an easily assembled, inexpensive system to automate the plant watering chores. This would allow St. John's Gardeners to focus on planting, mulching, weeding, and garden design—instead of watering!

Pat presented the idea to the vestry, which approved the system with the understanding that the project would be funded by St. John's angels. Over the past ten months, our angels, ditch diggers, electricians, and pipe fitters have worked closely with Pat to design and install the new watering system. So far, it has cost about \$450 to install the system, which has a life expectancy of about seven years before the hoses will need to be replaced.

As of mid-August, the automated watering system was in full operation on four of our five gardens. Installing such a system for the iris garden by the parking lot would require trenching under or digging up the street to get a hose connection. Until we get more funds that garden will have to wait.

Plans are underway to improve the system later this year; this will give Pat and her crew greater flexibility in watering the Cross and front hill gardens. And we can always use more "Angels" willing to provide time, talent, and treasure to make the work fruitful and a joy for all. Please see me if you would like to lend a hand.

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 a CD in the Newsletter box in the office.

The next deadline is Friday, September 14, at 10:00 am.

Belonging ... to Christ, to St. John's, to the Episcopal Church

There are many ways of belonging to St. John's, and we describe most of them here.

Belonging to Christ: Baptism

When you are baptized, you promise to "renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God" and "turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior." After being baptized with water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, the bishop or priest marks the sign of the cross on your forehead and says, "You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever.

If you were baptized as a child, your parents and godparents made these promises on your behalf. To make these promises yourself, you need to be confirmed (see section at the bottom of this page with the heading "Be Received or Confirmed by a Bishop.")

If you have never been baptized, and feel called to make this profession of Christian faith, please talk to Ann.

Belonging to St. John's: Just Show Up!

St. John's is a warm and welcoming community with a simple definition of membership. If you consider yourself a member of this community, then you are a member of this community. We put your name on the list to receive congregation-wide mailings, including the LOGOS and our Commitment Campaign letter. Your name is included in the parish directory. You are welcome to worship at St. John's and participate in all of our activities.

If you are a member of another Episcopal Church and wish to transfer your membership to St. John's, you simply ask your previous church to transfer your membership letter to St. John's. (Ann or Virginia can help you with this.)

Belonging to the Episcopal Church: Be Received or Confirmed by a Bishop

The Episcopal Church also has a definition of membership, which includes being confirmed or received by a bishop. This option is for people who want to join the Episcopal Church at St. John's, moving their membership from another branch of Christ's One,

Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. A bishop will visit us in December to receive and confirm those who wish to become members of the Episcopal Church. Those who have not made an adult profession of faith in another church are confirmed, while those who have done so are received. If you are interested in Confirmation or Reception, please let Ann know.

St. John's Family Portraits

Whether you're new to the St. John's family and you'd like your picture among the friendly faces on our photo display in the undercroft—or you've been in the family awhile and want your portrait freshened up...

It's Photo Time 2007!

Pick a date and time below for a fast and free photo session.

Sept. 9 & 23 • Oct. 7 & 21 • Nov. 11 & 18
9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Questions? Ask Bill Pritchard at the 10 a.m. service or call 703-931-2168

A Fond Farewell to Alice and Natalie

by Ann Barker

In September, we will bid farewell to two of our favorite parishioners, Alice and Natalie Kniskern. They are moving back to Wisconsin. Alice and Natalie have been involved in countless ways at St. John's. They have been faithful participants in the 8:00 a.m. service since I have been here. Alice has sung in the choir and Natalie has served on the Altar Guild. They have made lovely crafts, which have been sold at Morning Guild Teas and other times; the proceeds have been donated to St. John's.

As if that were not enough, Alice and Natalie have been dedicated members of our Intercessory Prayer ministry for many years. Alice has also managed the group's e-mail information network, passing on prayer requests immediately to all participants and maintaining the list of those we pray for.

We wish you happiness in your new home, Alice and Natalie. We will miss you very much!

No More Leaky Roof!

by Bill Thomson

Near the end of May, St. John's experienced a wake-up event. Before that, we've had minor leaks in the sanctuary. On that Sunday in May, members in the south side pews were "blessed" by rain streaming through the roof and falling on their heads. After checking, we discovered that not only were there two holes in the roof over the sanctuary but a sizeable portion of the membrane covering the roof over the transept (office wing) had been blown off.

The first step was to stop the leaks into the sanctuary. A temporary patch plugged the two holes and a temporary membrane patch covered the transept. The patch cost \$500, fixed the leaks in the sanctuary, and protected the schoolrooms.

At the direction of the vestry, companies were asked to bid on replacing the shingles over the sanctuary and the membrane over the transept. Two of the bids were very close together (in the \$23,000+ range) and the vestry authorized one company to begin work. Two crews were used. One skilled in the membrane type of roof (used where the pitch of the roof is not sufficient for use of shingles) and one skilled in replacing shingle roofs.

Replacing the membrane roof went smoothly. However, once the crew began work on the shingle portion of the roof, they discovered that the base under the shingles was fiberboard. We learned that fiberboard (1) would not hold the roofing nails properly, and (2) if we kept the fiberboard, the maker of the shingles probably would not honor any guarantees as to the life of the shingle roof.

The vestry authorized the contractor to remove the fiberboard and replace it with plywood at an additional cost of \$4,200 (negotiated down from an initial estimate of \$4,900). All work was completed by August 17, 2007, including the installation of new gutters.

With these actions completed, the vestry believes that St. John's should not have any serious problem with the roof for at least 25 years (the guaranteed life of the shingles). Total cost will be in the range of \$28,000. The vestry authorized using \$20,000 from our endowment funds (leaving an obvious gap in funding this project). We have sufficient funds in our checking account to pay for the difference. However,

because of this unexpected expense, we may end the year with a budget deficit.

The vestry is not asking for a fundraising drive to make up the difference in cost. However, any donation designated for "St. John's Roof" will not be turned away.

St. John's Calendar for September

- Sun 2 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:00 a.m.
- Mon 3 Labor Day, Office Closed
- Tue 4 St. John's Book Club, 7:30–9:00 p.m., will discuss *Radical Evolution*, by Joel Garreau
- Wed 5 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 6 Morning Guild, 10:00 a.m.
Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
- Sun 9 Fifteenth 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.
Education for Ministry, 6:00–10:00 p.m.
- Wed 12 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 13 Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
- Sat 15 Men's fellowship, 9:00 a.m., in the undercroft
- Sun 16 Sixteenth 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.
Education for Ministry, 6:00–10:00 p.m.
- Wed 19 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 20 Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
- Sun 23 Seventeenth 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.
Education for Ministry, 6:00–10:00 p.m.
- Wed 26 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 27 Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
- Sun 30 Eighteenth 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.
Education for Ministry, 6:00–10:00 p.m.

Parish Notes

Congratulations to

Beth and Brian Cavey on the birth of Michael Bernard Cavey on June 26

Chris Van Wyk, who is the new co-mentor for St. John's EFM group

Thank you to

Eileen Flynn, for her years of work as an EFM co-mentor

Pat Bleicher, for bring EFM to St. John's nearly ten years ago and continuing to serve as mentor

All those who participated in open mike this summer: Sebastian Pardo, Roger Ludwig, Jack Turner, Jim Morris, Galen Henderson, and Roger Henderson

The Wednesday night candlelight service attendees who helped clean up the rain that came in the church before the roof was repaired, especially Jack Turner, who came back the next day and did further cleanup

Bill Thomson, for his diligence in seeing to all aspects of having the roof replaced (see related article on page 5) and to the other building and grounds issues that came up this summer

Pat Stewart and her fellow garden angels (see related article on page 3), who worked extra hard during this dry summer to keep the grounds looking beautiful

Del Hunt and helpers, for all the work involved in installing an underground sprinkler system with timers to make the job of watering less time consuming (see related article on page 3)

The many folks who were instrumental in assuring the success of yet another St. John's Vacation Bible School (see related article on page 2)

Liz White, for coordinating the reception after Sid Kaylor's funeral

Kay Wells, Virginia Pearson, Pamela Corey-Archer, Lynn Robinson, Bill Pritchard, and Jan Hull for their work in setting up, handling sales for, and repacking the items for African Team Ministries—we sent more than \$700 to this worthwhile cause

Rest in Peace

Bruce Wilkins, Sheryl Pardo's father, who entered the Life of the Resurrection on June 30

Trudy Hardman, mother of Rob Hardman, who entered the life of the Resurrection on June 19

Billy Taylor, Linda Trochim's friend, who entered the Life of the Resurrection in June.

Lemuel Scurry, Diane Henderson's uncle, who entered the Life of the Resurrection in June

Carole Jayne Berry Coleman, mother of the Rev. Kim Coleman, rector of Trinity Church in Arlington, who entered the Life of the Resurrection on August 3

Birthdays in September

Davis Edwards Zarfaz, September 1

Kay Wells, September 7

Nick Hall (son of Greg & Laurie), September 11, 1990

Clara Naw Sweet, September 12

Lane Turner, September 12

Dabney Dickerson, September 14

Connor McCartney (son of Keith & Kaipo),
September 15, 2005

Will Spencer, September 15

The Rev. Sue Hardman, September 16

William Gibb, September 17

Karin Ferriter, September 18

Delaney Del Gallo (daughter of Andy & Cathi),
September 23, 1999

The Rev. Dr. Eduardo Guerra, September 23

Laurie Hall, September 24

Charles Lemmer, September 24

Anniversaries in September

Jack & Lane Turner, September 1

Matthew & Christina Tallent, September 28

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.

Gospel Lessons for September

September 2, Luke 14:1, 7–14, Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Jesus tells a parable about humility and teaches his host that he should invite the poor and infirm to his feasts. Both the parable and the teaching have a still deeper significance. The reign of God is the Lord's gift, which comes to those who do not presume their place in it. By his actions as well as his words, Jesus' ministry shows that the kingdom is open to those whom others consider outcast. People who share in God's ruling love and justice are to have a transformed attitude toward the poor and needy.

September 9, Luke 14:25–33, Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Jesus speaks of the necessity of counting the full cost of discipleship. To follow Jesus in the way of the cross means to surrender the whole of one's life. Any relationship that interferes with this primary commitment must be hated. Jesus tells the crowds two stories to make them consider carefully whether they are ready and able to follow him completely.

September 16, Luke 15:1–10, Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Jesus tells the parables of the finding of the lost sheep and the lost coin. The setting helps us to understand that Jesus may have told the story about the lost sheep to defend his acts of reaching out to share the reign of God with those often regarded as beyond God's concern. In several ways it would be foolish to leave many sheep to go after one stray, but the parable emphasizes the lengths to which both Jesus and God will go to bring back one who is missing. The second story illustrates a theme related to the first: the great joy which is experienced when the lost is found.

September 23, Luke 16: 1–13, Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

This is the story of the steward who, when dismissed for mismanagement, showed himself to be very shrewd. This is followed by teaching about Mammon, that is, worldly wealth. The joke would be on us if we fastened on the details of the story. The man's obviously dishonest behavior forces us to look more deeply for what is admirable about him—his

readiness to face up to reality, together with his unquenchable hopefulness in the face of calamity. This is to be the attitude of Jesus' followers as the kingdom, with its time of challenge and judgment, approaches. The teaching on money suggests that disciples must know its significance, while never serving it.

September 30, Luke 16:19–31, Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

This is the story of the life and death of a rich man at whose gate lay a poor beggar by the name of Lazarus. In the next life their situations are strikingly reversed. The rich man wishes that Lazarus could return to life to warn his brothers of the fate that awaits them. He is told, however, that if they do not heed Moses and the prophets, they will not listen even if someone rises from the dead. This last comment hints that there will continue to be a callousness toward the poor even after Jesus' resurrection. The story strongly suggests that now is the time that an irrevocable decision must be made.

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.

Have Books to Donate?

After our Glencarlyn Day book sale, we had many books left over and wondered what to do with them. Lynn Robinson found Diana's Books an organization dedicated to sharing knowledge through the reuse of books. In addition to books, they accept gently used DVDs, CDs, VHS tapes, and books on tape. The organization has shipped books—including text books and Bibles—to Kenya, Zambia, and the Philippines.

Lots of us at St. John's are readers, and we just hate to throw away books. Here is a solution. Diana's Books will pick up if the quantity is large enough. Otherwise they can be delivered. Contact: Diana's Books, 307 Main Street, Narrows, VA 24124 or diana@dianasbooks.com. Web site: www.dianasbooks.com.

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Next deadline is Friday, September 14, at 10:00 a.m.

Time Sensitive Material—Please Deliver Promptly

Staff

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

Parish Leaders

Jean Harrison, Treasurer
John Restall, Assistant Treasurer
Don Hess, Co-chair, Building and Grounds Committee
John Wilson, Co-chair, Building and Grounds Committee

Vestry

Linda Trochim, Senior Warden
Bill Thomson, Junior Warden
Dave Dunlap, Register
Marshall Adair
Pamela Corey-Archer
Jan Hull
Bill Pritchard
Jack Turner

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