



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 Opposites of Advent

Advent is a season of anticipation. We are getting ready for the coming of the Lord Jesus into the world, into our lives and into our hearts. We are celebrating the gift of the Incarnation more than 2,000 years ago, and we are proclaiming our faith that Jesus will come again "with clouds descending" to fully bring in the reign of God that began in our world one night in a manger.

We have been taught that Advent is a season of waiting—and it is. But it is not a season of inactivity. It is a season of preparation. God will come when God comes, whether it is on December 25 or sometime in the future. The first coming was on God's clock and so will Jesus' future coming be. But that does not mean there is nothing for us to do during Advent except show up at church once a week, then run off to do our Christmas shopping, attend parties, decorate trees and all the many other activities that surround the Christmas season. There is nothing wrong with any of these activities—hopefully they are even fun for us—but there is something amiss if we think that is all the preparation we have to do to welcome the Lord Jesus.

John the Baptist proclaims that the kingdom of heaven is at hand. We cannot do anything about that. We can't say, "No thanks, God, this is not a good time for me. Can you postpone this for a while? I'm not ready." We can't change God's timing. However, John also says, "Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a highway for our God." John doesn't say "Go about your business and God will let you know when the manger scene is ready." John says "Prepare!"

What can we do to get ready for Jesus? John tells us, "Repent!" Traditionally, Advent has been a time for self-examination and confession. In many churches, its liturgical color is purple—as is the color for Lent—or blue. Advent is not as deeply penitential as Lent, but it still calls us to search ourselves with God's help to see where we are at odds with our Creator. A good place to begin is our broken relationships. Where in our lives have we failed to depend on God to provide? What parts of ourselves do we really dislike? Anytime we find ourselves saying we should do this or should do that, we don't have to look far to find a part of ourselves we judge. Most of the time, the part we judge is not something offensive to God. How about our neighbors? Where are we holding grudges, refusing to forgive?

Once we have examined ourselves, we need to confess those sins and ask God to forgive us. Then we need to take action to make the crooked straight, the broken whole. Again,

we need to turn to God for help and direction so we know what God wants us to do right now, in this season of Advent 2007.

But self-examination is not only about confession. Self-examination is also about looking for our gifts. What do we have that we can give in God's service? What are the yearnings of our hearts? Where might we want to grow? Equally important, where might we need to cut back, so we can get enough rest or follow a new interest. Sometimes looking for our gifts is harder than looking for our brokenness. Some of us grew up in environments that taught us it was boastful or arrogant or sinful to claim our gifts and offer them to God. But it is really true humility. Knowing who we are before God is knowing about the parts of ourselves that give us and others joy and being grateful for those as much as it is about knowing the broken parts and being sorry for those.

Looking for our gifts implies action—we are to use those gifts in the service of God. And we must turn to God and ask what God is inviting us to do now. Are we called to a new ministry? Do we need to change jobs? Is there something we can offer a family member, a stranger? What does God want us to do this Advent to be God's faithful and loving servants. Are we being called to be a channel of Christ's advent to the world this December and beyond?

Preparing the way of the Lord—our most important job in Advent and all the time—requires time and energy and effort. Quiet prayer, a time of writing, conversations with a trusted friend are all good ways to engage in self-examination. We need to be intentional about taking the time to do it. Advent is a busy time, but also a good time to begin the process of self-examination. It is our job to prepare the way of the Lord not just during Advent but every single day, not just in church or in ourselves but in the world by proclaiming the good news in word and deed. May your Advent be blessed and may the God's gift of Godself in the Incarnation fill you with joy.

Ann†

Bishop Lee Visits on December 16

The Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee, Bishop of Virginia, will visit us on December 16. He will preach and celebrate at a combined service at 10:00 a.m. Three people will be confirmed or received. Bishop Lee will also be at the adult forum to talk with us about various topics. We will have a reception for the bishop following the service. Please plan to be present to welcome Bishop Lee and congratulate those who were confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church.

Book Club

St. John's Book Club meets on the first Tuesday of the month, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. We welcome anyone who is interested. Please join us! Here is our schedule for the next two months:

- ▶ December: *The Alchemist: A Fable About Following Your Dream*, by Paulo Coelho
- ▶ January: *A Wrinkle in Time*, by Madeline L'Engle

Adult Christian Formation

Adult education the first three Sundays of December will be an eclectic mix. We will be looking at the Millennium Development Goals one Sunday and Bishop Lee will lead the adult forum when he visits on the 16th. We will also discuss apocalyptic literature in preparation for studying Revelation in January.

Last month, Lorraine Underwood led a four-week discussion of Franciscan spirituality, focused on the lives and friendship of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi.

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.

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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, January 18 at 10:00 am.

Parish Notes

Rest in peace

Jorge Orango, brother-in-law of Pamela Corey-Archer, who entered the Life of the Resurrection in October

Thank you to

Lynn Christopher, who gave us a new welcome mat for the front door

The Morning Guild and all its helpers for another perfectly delightful Fall Harvest Tea

Jack Turner putting up the signs for the tea.

Kay Wells for her marvelous fall decorations

Bill Schenck for arranging our October speaker on socially responsible investing

Faye Pritchard for arranging our November speaker on the church's role in politics

Linda Trochim, Dave Dunlap, and John Wilson for their work on our various computer problems

Bill Pritchard for taking new photos for our membership boards

The speakers for stewardship

Del Hunt and Carolyn Corlett for their leadership of our Celebrating Abundance campaign

John Wilson and the Finance Committee for their hard work on preparing a budget for 2008

Barbara Hill for another year of dedicated service as pledge clerk

Jean Harrison for another year of dedicated service as treasurer

John Restall for his work as assistant treasurer this year

Jack Turner and Bryan Harbin for working on our new signs

Congratulations to

Simon Alexander VanWyk, who was received into the household of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on November 4

Alexis LaVerne Hart, who was received into the

household of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on November 18

Keith McCartney who completed the Marine Corps marathon on October 28

Birthdays in December and January

Barbara Hill, December 5

Lindsey Miller, December 5

The Rev. Catherine Campbell, December 6

Del Hunt, December 6

Galen Henderson (daughter of Roger & Diane),
December 7, 1998

Madeline "Maddie" Harbin (daughter of Bryan & Carrie), December 11, 1997

Shirley Jones, December 12

Angela Swarr, December 14

Lori Held, December 16

Angela Rollet (spouse of John Hart), December 19

Roger Henderson, December 24

Vernon Martin, December 24

Eileen Flynn (spouse of Paul Harless), December 27

Camron Robert Tallent (son of Matt & Cristina),
December 27, 2005

Emily Tyson (daughter of Karin Ferriter),
December 31, 1990

Emily Lodsun (daughter of Beth Fowler),
December 31

Patricia Broida, January 1

Janet Spence, January 2

Keelyn Del Gallo (daughter of Andy & Cathi),
January 4, 2004

Chris Tyson (son of Karin Ferriter), January 5

Don Hess, January 5

Ashton Lemmer (daughter of Charles & Cheryl),
January 9

Tony Kollath, January 14

Paul Stenger, January 19

Greg Hall, January 20

Ariel Hall (daughter of Greg & Laurie), January 26

Jan Clements, January 27

Anniversaries in December and January

David and Carol Dunlap, December 13

Klaus and Lori Held, December 31

Don and Penny Hess, December 31

Robert L. Rawls, III, and Harriet Sheehan Rawls,
January 11

Greg and Laurie Hall, January 22

St. John's Calendar

December

- Sun 2 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.
Education for Ministry, 6:00–9:00 p.m.
- Tue 3 St. John's Book Club, 7:30–9:00 p.m.,
will discuss *The Alchemist*, by Paulo Coelho
- Wed 4 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 6 Morning Guild, 10:00 a.m. in the vestry room
Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
- Sun 9 Second 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.
Education for Ministry, 6:00–9:00 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, 8:00 a.m., in the undercroft
- Sun 16 Third Sunday of Advent
No 8:00 a.m. service
Adult Forum with The Rt. Rev. Peter James
Lee, Bishop of Virginia, at 9:00 a.m.,
followed by Holy Eucharist Rite II at 10:00
a.m. with the bishop

Christmas Pageant, 4:00 p.m., followed by
pizza and sing-along in the undercroft
Education for Ministry, 6:00–9:00 p.m.
- Wed 19 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 20 Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
- Sun 23 Fourth Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:00 a.m.
No Christian Education
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:00 a.m.
Caroling in the neighborhood, followed by
hot chocolate in the undercroft, 5:00 p.m.
- Mon 24 Christmas Eve
Holy Eucharist for all ages, with children's
message and sermon (childcare provided),
5:00 p.m.

Christmas music and caroling in the

church, 10:45 p.m.

Festival Holy Eucharist, 11:00 p.m.

- Tue 25 Christmas Day
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 10:00 a.m.
- Sun 30 First Sunday After Christmas
No 8:00 a.m. service; no Christian Formation
Holy Eucharist Rite II, with Lessons and
Carols, 10:00 a.m.

January

- Thu 3 Morning Guild, 10:00 a.m., in the vestry room
Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
- Sun 6 Feast of the Epiphany
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:00 a.m.
Education for Ministry, 6:00–9:00 p.m.
- Tue 8 St. John's Book Club, 7:30–9:00 p.m., will
discuss *A Wrinkle in Time*, by Madeline L'Engle
- Wed 9 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 10 Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
- Sun 13 Baptism of Our Lord
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 Annual Meeting, right after the
10:00 a.m. service
Education for Ministry, 6:00–9:00 p.m.
- Wed 16 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 17 Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
- Sat 19 Men's fellowship, 8:00 a.m., in the undercroft
- Sun 20 Second Sunday After the Epiphany
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, 6:00–9:00 p.m.
- Wed 23 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 24 Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
- Sun 27 Third Sunday After the Epiphany
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, 6:00–9:00 p.m.

St. John's Annual Meeting and Vestry Election, January 13

Annual Meeting

St. John's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 13, right after the 10:00 a.m. service. We will elect vestry members and thank those who have served St. John's throughout the year. The finance committee will present the budget for 2007, and we will discuss some issues related to St. John's future.

Thank You to Vestry and Officers

Those who served on the vestry and in other leadership positions are vital to keeping St. John's running. They work very hard all year to make sure St. John's is a good steward of its resources, a servant community to the surrounding area, and a vision-based parish, always working to discern God's will. Their giving of time, energy, and talents are greatly appreciated.

We thank this year's vestry for their dedicated service:

- ▶ Linda Trochim, senior warden for two years
- ▶ Bill Thomson, junior warden
- ▶ Pamela Corey-Archer
- ▶ Bill Pritchard
- ▶ Jack Turner
- ▶ Marshall Adair
- ▶ Jan Hull

We are also grateful to

- ▶ Jean Harrison, who has served faithfully as treasurer of this parish for more than 10 years
- ▶ John Wilson, finance committee chair
- ▶ Bill Schenck, finance committee member and insurance monitor extraordinaire
- ▶ Barbara Hill, our long-time pledge clerk

Would You Like to Serve on the Vestry?

We are always looking for people who want to serve on the vestry. To be part of this leadership ministry, you must be an "official" Episcopalian (confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church). If you are interested in serving on St. John's vestry beginning in 2008, please contact senior warden Linda Trochim, Ann Barker, or any member of the vestry.

Gospel Lessons for December 2007 and January 2008

We Begin a New Year of Liturgical Readings— and a New Lectionary

The Sunday Lectionary is a three-year cycle of readings, identified as A, B, and C. The Christian year begins at Advent, and we begin a new series of liturgical readings—from year A. But that's not the only change this year. Starting on December 2, the First Sunday of Advent, St. John's will begin to use the Revised Common Lectionary instead of the Episcopal Lectionary.

The November LOGOS explained this in the article, "Changes in the Lectionary." Additional information can be found at http://www.episcopalchurch.org/liturgy_music.htm.

December 2, First Sunday of Advent, Matthew 24:37–44

In our Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples of the need for readiness because the Son of Man will come at a day and hour which no one knows. People will continue to go about their usual affairs, when suddenly this time of judgment will happen. Disciples are to be ever watchful, imagining themselves like a householder whose alertness could prevent a robbery.

December 9, Second Sunday of Advent, Matthew 3:1–12

Our Gospel lesson tells of the ministry of John the Baptist, his message of repentance, and his prophecy of the mighty one to come. John himself is the messenger of preparation foretold by Isaiah. He baptizes with water those who confess their sins and wish to change their ways, but he chastises those who do not show the fruits of repentance. Soon comes the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and refining fire.

December 16, Third Sunday of Advent, Matthew 11:2–11

In our Gospel passage Jesus responds to a question from John the Baptist about his mission and then describes John's ministry. Jesus' answer to John's question suggests that people must make up their own minds about his role while observing the heal-

ings that are taking place in accordance with ancient prophecies. Those who hear Jesus are also to recognize that John is a prophet and more: he is the one who prepares for the Lord's coming.

December 23, Fourth Sunday of Advent, Matthew 1:18–25

The Gospel tells the story of the birth of Jesus. While she was betrothed to Joseph, Mary finds that she is bearing a child. But an angel tells Joseph not to fear: this is the work of the Holy Spirit. The baby is to be named Jesus, which means "The Lord saves." The evangelist perceives this birth to be the fulfillment of an ancient prophecy that told of a virgin who would bear a son. The narrative makes clear the divine origins of this child who will save the people from their sins.

December 25, Christmas Eve, Luke 2:1–20

The Gospel presents the story of the birth of Jesus. He is born amid very humble human circumstances. A government registration program requires Joseph and Mary to go to Bethlehem, the city of David. Because there is no other place for them to stay, Mary lays her new son in a stable manger. An angel announces the joyful news of the Savior's birth to shepherd's who come to Bethlehem and report the angelic vision.

December 25, Christmas Day, Luke 2:1–20

Our Gospel tells how the shepherds, after the angelic vision that announced Jesus' birth, come to Bethlehem to see for themselves the promised child. They share with Mary and Joseph the word of the angels. In this little baby, laid in a manger, they perceive the fulfillment of the song of the heavenly hosts. Glorifying and praising God, they return to their fields.

December 30, First Sunday After Christmas, John 1:1–18

The Gospel opens with a hymn to God's Word, the expression of God's very being and the creative power of all life, who has now become flesh and lived among us. The Word is the light of all humankind, and it was witnessed to by John the Baptist. Although the world made by the Word did not recognize the Word, those who did believe in the Word have been given the right to become children of God.

The law came through Moses, but grace and truth come through the only Son, who makes the Father known.

January 6, The Feast of the Epiphany, Matthew 2:1-12

Our Gospel is the story of the wise men from the east, who guided by a star, came to worship the child born to be king. Despite the wicked plotting of Herod, the Magi are able to bring their gifts to Jesus without betraying his exact location. Early Christians found in the rich symbolism and motifs of the story the early fulfillment of both Old Testament prophecy and the dreams of many peoples. The meaning of this birth, amid terrifying human circumstances, enlightens and transcends human history.

January 13, The Feast of the Baptism of our Lord (observed), Matthew 3:13-17

This is the story of Jesus' baptism. John wonders why Jesus should come to him to receive a baptism for the remission of sins, but Jesus tells him that it is right and fitting. After he is baptized, the Holy Spirit is manifest. A voice from heaven proclaims who Jesus is with words that echo ancient oracles concerning the king and the calling of the Lord's chosen servant.

January 20, Matthew 4:12-23, Second Sunday After the Epiphany

This Gospel is a summary of the early ministry of Jesus: his preaching, the calling of disciples, and his acts of healing. After the arrest of John the Baptist, Jesus withdrew to Galilee, an area where many Gentiles lived. The evangelist perceives in this a fulfillment of prophecy and a foreshadowing of the church's mission to bring the light of the gospel to darkened lives. Two sets of brothers are called to leave their nets and become fishers of people.

January 27, Matthew 5:1-12, Third Sunday After the Epiphany

This Gospel lesson is the opening sayings of the Sermon on the Mount—words of comfort and challenge. The values of God's reign are quite different from worldly standards. Those who are to find blessing will know want and thirst, if not because of their own circumstances, then for the sake of others.

Those who hunger for righteousness will find fulfillment, but first they must experience persecution.

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.

Our Children

The children of St. John's are involved in many activities, learning to serve Christ in their community and the world. Here are a just few.

Aumbry Installed

The aumbry made by the Sunday school class, which we dedicated in July, has been installed. You may wonder, what's that? The aumbry is the little church-shaped box on the right-hand wall in the chancel. It is where we keep the reserve sacrament (the consecrated bread and wine). We use reserve sacrament when we take Holy Communion to those who cannot be with us on Sundays. We also use it on Sundays if we need more bread or wine than we have consecrated.

Don't Miss the Christmas Pageant!

The children of St. John's and friends will present our annual Christmas pageant on Sunday, December 16, at 4:00 p.m. The pageant will be followed by pizza and a sing-along in the undercroft. At the end of the pageant we will take up a collection for the Heifer project. This ministry provides animals and other supplies to help those in underdeveloped countries move toward self-sufficiency. For more information, go to <http://www.heifer.org>.

Children's Education

In January, the children will continue teaching Pup, the inquiring dog, about our worship service. Del Hunt led three lessons on this topic in November, and will continue with three additional lessons. Anna Minor, our seminarian, will be helping when she returns from break.

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Next deadline is Friday, January 18 at 10:00 a.m.

Time Sensitive Material—Please Deliver Promptly

Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany at St. John's

Sunday, December 16

9:00 a.m. to 12 noon, The Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee, Bishop of Virginia, visits St. John's

4:00 p.m., Children's Christmas Pageant, followed by pizza and sing-along in the undercroft

The Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 23

5:00 p.m., Caroling in the neighborhood, followed by hot chocolate and cookies in the undercroft. Music and lyrics will be provided. Bring flashlights and dress for the temperature.

Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24

5:00 p.m., Holy Eucharist for all ages, with children's message and sermon (childcare provided)

10:45 p.m., Christmas music and caroling in the church

11:00 p.m., Festival Holy Eucharist, with choir and instrumentalists

Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25

10:00 a.m., Holy Eucharist Rite I

The First Sunday After Christmas, December 30

There is no Christian education this Sunday.

10:00 a.m., Holy Eucharist Rite II, with Lessons and Carols

Sunday, January 6, 2008

8:00 a.m., and 10:00 a.m., The Feast of the Epiphany