



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: Good Job, God!

Thank you, God, for creating me! — St. Clare of Assisi

I have some lovely crocuses in my front yard—about ten of them, all pressed up together and wide open, like a choir singing their hearts out. Good job, God!

Sometimes I get a chance to watch the sunrise outside my kitchen window after I have finished my bike ride. I'm amazed by the aquas and oranges and blush reds that streak the sky with color. Good job, God!

In this season of Easter, we remember God's best job of all—sending Jesus to be God-with-us, to teach us, live with us, love us, and, ultimately, to die for us. God resurrected Jesus from the dead so that we, too, might be eternally with God. Surely God's best work ever!

My spiritual director says that one way of reminding ourselves of God's constant presence with us, around us, and in us is to notice God's handiwork and express our gratitude for it. The beauty of nature is one of the most obvious expressions of God's handiwork, but there are many others—signs of life and love in our world, even in the midst of darkness.

I often sense God's presence during the workday as I pray for guidance and direction each morning. If I take a deep breath and listen, I get exactly what I need to do my job that day, and it does not require any more energy than I have. Thanks, God!

No matter what size the church, clergy are always concerned about getting volunteers. When I ask for a volunteer and get a response, I am always grateful. When projects that seem totally chaotic fall into place, I am grateful. Sometimes I don't know that the community needs something, Yet, somehow, the need is met—with time, talent, or treasure. When I realize that a need was unknown—and yet fulfilled—my heart overflows with gratitude.

In any job, the work, the day—everything—goes better if you invite God into your day. Notice when God is there, even if you were too busy or too distracted to issue God an invitation.

Notice God's love and care in your relationships. I have wonderful neighbors who have been putting my trash out for months. They moved in with me the week I had surgery and have been absolutely wonderful about changing a light bulb if I need it and caring in so many ways. My brother and sister-in-law brought me a new sofa I can sit in. A great mechanic keeps my old car together until I can find the energy to get a new one. Thanks for caring people, God!

St. John's Episcopal Church, Arlington • The Rev. Ann Barker, Rector • April 2008
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In the past, if I couldn't do something myself, I felt alone and desperate. But I don't feel that way anymore. If I need company, but can't make a phone call because I'm so tired, someone calls. Just when I needed a place to stay, I had a surprise offer to stay with someone during my vacation in Atlanta. I don't have to do it all myself. God is looking out for me.

Not only does God send people to help me, God gives me the joy of helping others. What a great blessing, to give my gifts in a way that makes others smile. How wonderful it is when sharing my experience is a blessing to another. Yesterday someone sent me a reading because she was reminded of it by something I said. I had seen it many times, yet I needed to see it again, and God sent it. Our relationships are truly God's gifts to us, and we are God's gifts to others.

Sometimes we forget to notice the wonder of one of God's greatest gifts to us—ourselves. We are so caught up in what we cannot, should not, or did not do, that we forget we have talents, skills, and abilities that God has given us to help God bring in God's kingdom. In God's scheme of things, each of us is infinitely valuable—so valuable that even if only one of us had needed salvation, God would have sent Jesus rather than let go of that one person. We are the lost sheep and the lost coin in the parables. We are valuable because we exist. We exist because God created us.

As she was dying, St. Clare of Assisi exclaimed, "Thank you, God, for creating me!" Remember to thank God every day for the gift of life.

During the Easter season we celebrate new life—from purple crocuses to Jesus' resurrection from the dead. God is always inviting us to notice the new life God is constantly creating in the world, in us, and in our relationships with others. May you have a joyful Eastertide as you look for and celebrate the gift of new life!

Ann†

Parish News

Thank you to

Everyone who helped to make the St. John's Lenten dinner a huge success, especially those who spent much time setting up, cleaning up, and preparing and bringing food

Kay Wells, who set up all the candles for our Compline service after the Lenten program

Bill Pritchard and his helpers, who took care of covering the steeple when we lost some of its panels

The men's fellowship, who hired a landscape architect to look over the church grounds and develop a plan to coordinate our efforts to beautify them

Rest in Peace

Wayne Miller, a resident of Glencarlyn killed in a house fire, who entered the Life of the Resurrection on March 6, 2008

Natalie Kniskern, who entered the Life of the Resurrection on March 21, 2008

Christopher McDonald Horne, who died on November 21 in a head-on automobile accident in San Juan del Cabo, Mexico, where he was on vacation

Birthdays in April

- 2 Linda Trochim
- 4 Carol Dunlap
- 4 Ksenia Shkaruta
- 6 John Petrich
- 8 Evan Barker
- 8 Caitlin O'Connor
- 14 Lee Elkins
- 16 Amanda Pardo
- 24 Diane Henderson
- 25 Valerie Wilson
- 26 Jim Hull
- 26 Sebi Pardo
- 26 Bob Tallent
- 28 Maggie Buchanan

Wedding Anniversaries in April

- 1 Bill & Faye Pritchard
- 3 William & Nancy Gibb
- 9 Jud & Lisa Buchanan
- 24 Ray & Stacy O'Connor

Morning Guild Hosts Spring Tea on May 17

The Morning Guild requests the pleasure of your company on Saturday, May 17, 2008, from 1–3 p.m. Please join us for wonderful tea, scones and other delicacies, and good company. The cost is \$20 a person; proceeds go to charitable organizations.

My Mission Trip to Standing Rock Sioux Reservation

by Anna Minor

I will be spending the summer in North Dakota at Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, home to the Lakota and Dakota peoples. I had often heard that Indian reservations are among the poorest places in our country, but I had no idea how bad it is. The unemployment rate at Standing Rock is about 70%, and 60% of the employed live below the poverty line. The life expectancy for men is about 47 years and for women, 58 years. About half the population is under the age of 20. There are epidemic levels of diabetes and near-epidemic levels of teen suicide and teen pregnancy. The alcoholism rate affects 100 percent of the population; everyone has a close relative who is an alcoholic.

Canon John Floberg, the Canon Missioner for the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota, will be my supervisor. I will also work with other clergy in the area. The focus of my stay will be pastoral care and hospital visitations. There is a very active youth ministry during the summer, with various mission groups and youth camps. I will do some work with them to learn more about Christian education and youth ministry. I will also help liturgically in the neighboring churches by preaching and serving as a Lector and Lay Eucharistic Minister.

I believe that this summer at Standing Rock will be invaluable to me as a cross-cultural experience—and an opportunity to serve a community that is in great need.

Our Youth Collect More than 600 Pounds of Food for AFAC

A few weeks ago, our youth loaded up two cars with food and delivered it to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). The young people spent two months collecting food from parishioners— a total of 600 pounds! AFAC was extremely grateful because they were running short of food. Thanks to all of you who donated the food. Thanks to our young people and their teachers for developing the project.

CPR/AED Training

You can receive training in how to perform cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and/or how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED). Bill Pritchard, safety officer and junior warden, is looking for folks interested in taking this training through the Red Cross so that St. John's will have people trained to deal with emergencies. The training, which is all day on a Saturday, costs \$45 per person. If you are interested in taking the training or helping to fund it, contact Bill Pritchard.

Tax Day Potluck Dinner

To help ease the pain of paying taxes, on April 15 the Men's Fellowship is sponsoring a potluck dinner. The men will welcome diners starting at 6:00 p.m. and will continue serving until 7:00 p.m. The men will provide the beverages (soft drinks, coffee, tea), but need volunteers to provide the rest of the meal. If you would like to help, call John Restall at (703) 578-1942 to coordinate the dishes or volunteer your labor.

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

Jane Edwards, LOGOS Editor and Page Layout

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

The next deadline is Friday, April 11 at 10:00 am.

Minor Electrical Help Needed

We have a parishioner who needs to have a new light fixture installed by her front door. The old one needs to come out and the new one needs to be put in and screwed to the house. If you can offer this service, please see Ann.

Education After Easter

Sunday Mornings: Revelation and Other Topics

In the adult forum, we will finish our discussion of the Book of Revelation and will discuss a few other topics before the season ends in May. If you have a suggestion about a topic you'd like the forum to discuss, see Ann.

Children and Youth: The Sacraments, Fair Trade, and Work Projects Around the Church

Our seminarian, Anna Minor, will teach a class about the sacraments, focusing on Baptism and the Holy Eucharist. (If your children do not normally attend at 9:00 and you want them to learn more about Holy Communion, let Ann know so she can let you know the schedule.)

Our young people will continue to work on their fair trade coffee project and sponsor hospitality once a month. They will also help to refurbish the Plexiglas panes that blew off the steeple and touch up the old St. John's sign for use elsewhere.

Speaker Series: The Role of the Church in the Public Square

On Monday, April 24, John Johnson IV from the Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations, will speak to us about "The Role of the Church in the Public Square," a timely topic in an election year. We also hope to have a speaker in May to address some aspects of developing spirituality in children.

Gospel Lessons for April

April 6, Third Sunday of Easter, Luke 24:13-35

Our Gospel is the story of how two disciples were met by a stranger on the road to Emmaus. That evening, as he breaks bread with them, they know the

stranger to be Jesus. While they are walking together, Jesus interprets the scriptures to them, showing that it was necessary that Christ should suffer. Later he disappears from their sight. While their Lord is no longer physically present, the church now knows that Jesus will disclose himself in the breaking of bread, and sometimes through a stranger.

April 13, Fourth Sunday of Easter, John 10:1-10

Our Gospel presents two related images in which Jesus is first the shepherd in charge of the sheep and then the gate through which the sheep enter. These teachings are set in the context of controversy. Jesus' words are directed against religious officials who do not know or truly care for their people. But Jesus knows his own sheep by name. They hear his voice and find the fullness of life.

April 20, Fifth Sunday of Easter, John 14:1-14

In our Gospel passage Jesus speaks with his disciples shortly before his passion and tells them that he is the way, the truth and the life. He is the way because he himself is going the way of the sacrifice of his death, so to prepare a place for his disciples. In this way followers will discover that those who have seen him have seen the Father. All who come to the Father through Jesus will find true life.

April 27, Sixth Sunday of Easter, John 14:15-21

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.

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

St. John's Calendar

April

- Tue 1 St. John's Book Club, 7:30 p.m.
Christian Formation for all ages, 9 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10 a.m.
Education for Ministry, 6 p.m.
- Wed 2 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 3 Morning Guild, 10 a.m.
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun 6 Third Sunday of Easter
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8 a.m.
Christian Formation for all ages, 9 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10 a.m.
Education for Ministry, 6 p.m.
- Tue 8 Vestry Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Wed 9 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 10 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun 13 Fourth Sunday of Easter
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8 a.m.
Christian Formation for all ages, 9 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10 a.m.
Education for Ministry, 6 p.m.
- Wed 16 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 17 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Sat 19 Men's Fellowship, 8 a.m.
Morning Guild Spring Tea, 1-3 p.m.
- Sun 20 Fifth Sunday of Easter
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8 a.m.
Christian Formation for all ages, 9 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10 a.m.
Education for Ministry, 6 p.m.
- Wed 23 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 24 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun 27 Sixth Sunday of Easter
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8 a.m.
Christian Formation for all ages, 9 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10 a.m.
Education for Ministry, 6 p.m.
- Wed 30 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.

May

- Thu 1 Morning Guild, 10 a.m.
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun 4 Seventh Sunday of Easter
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8 a.m.

- Tue 6 St. John's Book Club, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed 7 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 8 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun 11 Day of Pentecost
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8 a.m.
Christian Formation for all ages, 9 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10 a.m.
Education for Ministry, 6 p.m.
- Tue 13 Vestry Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Wed 14 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 15 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Sat 17 Men's Fellowship, 8 a.m.
Morning Guild Spring Tea, 1-3 p.m.
- Sun 18 Trinity Sunday
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8 a.m.
Christian Formation for all ages, 9 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10 a.m.
Education for Ministry, 6 p.m.
- Wed 21 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 22 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun 25 Second Sunday After Pentecost
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10 a.m.
Education for Ministry, 6 p.m.
- Wed 28 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.

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.

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Time Sensitive Material—Please Deliver Promptly

University Course in Theology...and a Moveable Feast, Too!

Education for Ministry (EFM) is theological education for laypersons, made possible by an extension program of the School of Theology at the University of the South. EFM seminars provide theological reflection and college-level instruction in the core curriculum of the seminary in four academic years: Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament), Christian Scriptures (New Testament), Church History, 20th Century Philosophers and Theologians. Worldwide, more than 100,000 adults have participated in EFM.

Our EFM class meets at St. John's on Sunday evenings. Is this the spiritual development opportunity for which you have been yearning? Pray about whether you should be enrolling now to begin classes this fall...and, in the meantime, think of food.

Every year, our EFM class hosts a joyous Passover Seder with great food and wine and Hebrew singing. It is a real learning experience that gives us access to our religious heritage. This year's Seder will be held on Sunday evening, April 20. You are cordially invited, but advance reservations are essential, since meat and wine must be purchased for those who will attend. If you'd like to join us, please contact pbleicher@aol.com or phone Chris Van Wyk at (703) 248-0919.