



# 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: Waiting With Jesus**

I have a small day-at-a-time calendar. The saying on it for February 6 is, "Patience is a virtue that carries a lot of wait." It is true enough. Whether we have the virtue of patience or not, we still do a lot of waiting in life.

We wait for good things. My birthday is at the end of March and I remember how I used to anticipate that event with much excitement. We always had a party and there were presents from the family. I liked having a special day. In one way it is easy to wait for good things because we know what the payoff is, and in another way it's hard because we just want the good thing to hurry up and get here right now.

We wait for bad things. A friend of mine has a spouse with Alzheimer's. First he was okay to be at home alone and now he has to have caregivers. Soon she will have to move him to a facility, because she cannot care for him at home. This is really hard waiting because we know things will only get worse and eventually the person will die.

We also wait for things that are bittersweet — our children coming home from college, then leaving again; a family visit during a holiday, an experience we know we'll enjoy but will be over all too soon.

We wait for unknown things as well. Will we get into the college we want, or get the promotion we are seeking? We wait for the possibility of snow, the chance at a lottery win, and nowadays for the economy to change.

We also do a lot of waiting for God. A friend of mine remarked recently that when God answers prayers, we like the "yes" responses best, and we can even tolerate the "no" responses because at least we know. It is the "wait" responses we have the most trouble with because patience is not one of humanity's most outstanding virtues. Spiritual waiting is one of the most difficult things we do.

This year the month of March is entirely within Lent and we will spend it waiting with Jesus. Epiphany ended February 22 with the Transfiguration, when Jesus appeared in dazzling white along with Moses and Elijah on the mountaintop and God said, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." It is another vote of confidence and encouragement for Jesus, who sets his face toward Jerusalem to face Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. Most of us would rather wait for Easter because we naturally want to wait for a happy time. It is sometimes hard to weather Lent's penitential liturgies, the slower and more mournful music, the lack of flowers on the altar and the missing Alleluias. But like Jesus, we cannot get to Easter without experiencing what comes before as well.

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St. John's Episcopal Church, Arlington • The Rev. Ann Barker, Rector • March 2009  
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There is the bittersweet taste of Maundy Thursday. We give thanks for Jesus' institution of the Eucharist, but we know that it is his last meal with his friends before the Cross. He washes their feet and gives them the commandment to love one another as he has loved them. But we know, too, that he gives them that example because he is going to die and wants to leave his teachings with them. Then we wait with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, as he prays fervently that he won't have to surrender himself. We pray with him, even knowing that God does not change God's mind, and Jesus bows to his Father's will.

Maundy Thursday is difficult, but at least Jesus is still with the disciples and with us. Good Friday is awful and awful. The church is bare; there is no Eucharist. Jesus is on the Cross dying, the disciples have abandoned him and the crowds have turned against him. He has been whipped and the soldiers mock him. Jesus has done nothing wrong; the offenses for which he dies are ours. It is a very hard time to experience, even though our gratitude for his sacrifice is immense.

If it is tough for us, who know how it turns out, to experience all this, imagine what Jesus must have gone through as he went to Jerusalem, still preaching, still teaching, still healing, still caring for each and every person God created, even Judas. Jesus told the disciples what would happen on that third day, but he had never experienced it. He was human and he was afraid. Yet he continued to carry out his mission on this earth as faithfully as he could down to his very last breath.

Waiting with Jesus liturgically helps us prepare for the spiritual waiting our lives bring. When we are waiting for something to happen in God's time, rather than our time, we often do much worrying and fretting, which distracts us from the tasks in front of us. Waiting with Jesus during Lent and experiencing Maundy Thursday and Good Friday teaches us that our first call, no matter what we are facing, is obedience to God. Jesus experienced Palm Sunday — a good thing; Maundy Thursday — a mixed blessing; Good Friday and the Resurrection all within a week. And he did everything, putting obedience to God's will first.

Whether our waiting is spiritual or temporal, for something delightful or something traumatic, our obedience to God needs to come first for us, too. Waiting requires prayer to stay focused and directed on

the work in front of us, which is loving one another as Jesus loves us. Waiting or not, we need the guidance, direction, encouragement and support the Holy Spirit gives us, just as the Holy Spirit fed Jesus.

This Lent I encourage you to go to Jerusalem with Jesus, to experience how he does his work in his time of waiting for death, to see how he lives every moment as a gift from God. I invite you to be in prayer for yourselves and others as we journey through Lent together. Make Maundy Thursday and Good Friday part of your worship life. Dyeing eggs and buying clothes and eating chocolate bunnies are fun ways to prepare for Easter, but it is the waiting and walking and working with Jesus through Lent, in penitence and thanksgiving, that let us truly experience the full joy of the Resurrection.

Ann †

### **Outreach Project Brings Meals to the Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter**

On Sunday, February 15, the members of St. John's came together to prepare and deliver over 40 bag lunches for people at the Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter. Because of the colder temperatures this winter more people have been passing through the shelter than usual. The vestry committed to making meals to help feed the increased numbers of people in need. Food for the meals was contributed by parish members.

After the 10 o'clock service, St. John's volunteers of all ages made sandwiches and packed bags with sandwiches, fresh fruit, potato chips, and a special dessert. The Sunday School provided the dessert — special chocolate chip / pumpkin cookies which they had made and shared with the congregation during coffee hour the day they were baked. The bag lunches were then packed in boxes and more volunteers took the boxes to the shelter for distribution along with several knit hats made by Carole Hunt.

The vestry commissioned this project as a community outreach effort. The goal was to meet a community need and to involve as many parishioners as possible. They were especially interested in making this project one that cut across generations and that included our Sunday school children and their families. We hope this will not be a one-time effort, but will continue on a regular basis. Please consider this opportunity, show your support for continuing it, and plan to do it again.

## Keep up the Support for AFAC

The Arlington Food Assistance Council (AFAC) provides food to people in need on a year-round basis. There is a basket at the back of the church for donations which Jan Hull (a vestry member who usually attends the 8 a.m. service) periodically picks up and transports to AFAC's food bank.

In 2008 your generosity provided 800 pounds of food for Arlington people in need. Keep up the good work!

Remember that donations must be unopened and not past their expiration date. When you shop, please remember to pick up some extra canned food such as meat, fish, fruit, vegetables, pasta sauce, and dry goods like cereals, and pasta to help AFAC provide food for people in need.

## The Great Vigil of Easter Concludes the Lenten Series

Each Tuesday in Lent this year the Region 3 churches are conducting a Lenten Study Program. Details of each week's speaker and topic are in the February LOGOS.

Of special note is this year's conclusion of the Lenten Study Series: the Great Vigil of Easter, to be celebrated at St. Peter's on Glebe Road at 7:30 p.m. on April 11.

The Great Vigil of Easter is the first service of Easter, and is held between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter Sunday. The Great Vigil is a moving service, beginning with the kindling of fire in darkness to light the Pascal Candle, and continuing with a service of lessons, Christian Initiation or the Renewal of Baptismal Vows, and concluding with the Holy Eucharist. It is customary for all the ordained clergy present, along with lay readers, singers, and others to take active parts in the service. If you have never experienced the Great Vigil, or just have not participated recently, mark your calendars for April 11 and make a point of attending.

And remember that St. John's will host the Lenten Series on March 10. Be sure to attend and remember we will need people to help with food, setup and cleanup. Watch for the sign-up sheets.

## Adult Formation

In March the adult education class will wrap up its work on setting Christian boundaries in our relationships. Bill Pritchard will lead a two-session class on religion in China (with background help from Ginger Adair). In the Easter season we'll work on difficult passages from Scripture and how they may be interpreted.

The Region 3 Lenten series begins March 3 and runs through April 6 (see February LOGOS for more information). This series, to be held on Tuesday evenings, will feature several gifted speakers on a variety of topics around the theme "Soul School: A New Look at Basic Faith Questions".

## Spring Youth Education

This spring our Sunday School youth will continue to minister at St. John's and to others through fair trade coffee sales and sponsoring hospitality several times during the semester. They will also work on a curriculum called Hope Lives, which is about serving the needs of those less fortunate. The children will also work with a new set of lessons based on the Stewards of Creation series. This set will address the earth's environment as it is used to grow plants. Del Hunt will lead the children in reviewing what plants need in order to grow and thrive. They'll weed and prepare space in the cross garden to plant wheat. Then they'll plant the seeds and offer them as new life to be blessed on Easter. Near Palm Sunday they hope to present a play for us. Our youth also will continue to participate through their faithful service as acolytes and readers, and they will experience a Seder around the time of Passover. If anyone is interested in helping with any of these activities, please see Ann, who will pass information on to our committed Sunday school staff.

### 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.

Dave Dunlap, LOGOS Editor

Jane Edwards, LOGOS Editor and Page Layout

Email Dave at [dave\\_dunlap@yahoo.com](mailto:dave_dunlap@yahoo.com) (preferred) or leave info in newsletter box in the office.

*The next deadline is Friday, March 20 at 10:00 am.*

## Attention Golfers

Trinity Episcopal Church is holding its second Annual Golf (and games) Classic at the Penderbrook Golf Club in Fairfax on May 15. Registration will be at 7:30 a.m.; play starts at 9:00 a.m. Proceeds from the event benefit the Columbia Pike Community Chorus and Trinity's handicap accessibility projects.

There will be a special trophy given this year to the top team from an Episcopal Church. If you are a golfer, don't miss this chance for fun and competition. There is a flyer about the event on the bulletin board in the undercroft.

## Parish News

- We give thanks for Keith McCartney's safe return from Afghanistan

## Congratulations

- To Anna Minor and Dave Scherer on their marriage January 24
- To our new vestry officers: senior warden Bill Thomson and junior warden Brian Cavey
- To our newest "official" Episcopalians, received/confirmed by The Rt. Rev. A. Theodore Eastman on January 18: Stephanie and Michael Beavin, Beth and Brian Cavey, Carrie Harbin and Sheryl Pardo

## Thank you

- To Bill Schenck for teaching an adult education class on explanations for why there is suffering in the world
- To Michael Beavin for continuing as vestry register
- To Lizzie Miller for washing the acolyte robes
- To Del Hunt for yard work around the church
- To John Wilson for completing various fix-it chores around the church
- To Del Hunt, Bryan Harbin, Bill Thomson and Jeff Wallace for signing up to serve on the building and grounds committee (and to Don Hess and John Wilson who remain co-chairs)
- To Beth Cavey and Leslie Mead, who volunteered for altar guild

- To Kim Houghton, who volunteered for hospitality
- To Bryan Harbin for obtaining and hanging our new Christmas signs
- To Jeff Wallace for fixing the stair rail going downstairs on the 5th Street side
- To Bryan Harbin and Bill Thomson for fixing the stair rail going upstairs on the 5th Street side
- To Beth Cavey for volunteering to serve as assistant photographer for parish events

## Rest in Peace

- Helene Voightsberger, mother of Virginia Pearson, who entered the Life of the Resurrection on January 26
- Peter Van Emon, cousin of Dave Dunlap, who entered the Life of the Resurrection on January 26

## Birthdays in March

- 1 Cristina Tallent
- 6 Jason Nye
- 8 Evelyn Sullivan
- 10 Beth Cavey
- 17 Nicola Lemmer
- 19 Ian Kunkle
- 21 Dave Vistica
- 31 The Rev. Ann Barker

## Anniversaries in March

- 8 Paul and Anne Stenger
- 10 Jim and Janice Hull
- 31 Charles and Cheryl Lemmer

### 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.

## **Reflections on Stewardship: What is this thing called stewardship?**

by Dave Dunlap

Every year churches have a stewardship campaign, during which members are asked to make a financial pledge in support of the church for the coming year. There are at least two results from this approach. First, it means the annual pledge drive may be the only time during the year that we consciously consider our stewardship obligations. Second, there is a tendency to equate stewardship with money. Both of these results are unfortunate, since there is more to stewardship than an annual pledge card. I will discuss giving as part of stewardship, but first let us consider some other aspects of stewardship.

What is this thing we call stewardship? Defining stewardship, like defining any abstract concept, is a slippery business. Stewardship does not even appear in my Funk and Wagnall's dictionary. Abstract ideas are always hard to pin down, and the results are rarely satisfactory. I am reminded of Associate Justice Potter Stewart, who said, in effect, that while he could not define obscenity, he knew it when he saw it. Rather than risk a definition, I would like to discuss some aspects of stewardship that we may not think of regularly.

We have already mentioned pledging money as one part of stewardship. Another important part is *caring*. Stewardship involves caring about people less fortunate than ourselves, people who are sick and needy, people who are victims and people who grieve. It means caring about ourselves, the community around us, the air we breathe, the water we drink, the building we worship in, the world we live in. It means not

just caring *about* people and things, but also caring *for* them. It not enough to know that there are people in Arlington who are hungry and who need help from the Arlington Food Assistance Center; we are called on to take an active part in alleviating their hunger.

The stewardship parables in the Gospels reinforce this aspect of stewardship. Who were the “good and faithful” stewards in the parable of the three stewards to whom their master entrusted his talents? The good stewards were those who cared about what was entrusted to them and made it grow for their master.

Serving is another important aspect of stewardship. We should note that the “good and faithful stewards” did more than care. They served. Caring for people and things means taking action, serving. In other words, we are called on to do more than just be concerned and to offer prayers. We are called upon to go out to serve people in need and to serve our community. And it is pleasing to say that the people of St. John's do serve. We serve within our parish as acolytes, choir members, altar guild, ushers, lectors, lay eucharistic ministers, vestry members, and a multitude of other positions. We serve outside our parish by contributing to AFAC, the youth's fair trade coffee project, the Heifer Project, making meals for people at the Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter, and other outreach projects.

These three elements — giving, caring, and serving — do not exhaust the subject of stewardship, but they do provide a framework for talking about our responsibilities. We have not talked yet about the giving aspect of stewardship. That will be the subject of next month's article, which will take up why and what we give to the church.

**Remember Daylight Savings Time begins on March 8.  
Spring forward one hour so you will be on time to church!**

## **Easter Week**

### **April 5 — Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday**

Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist Rite I — 8:00 a.m.

Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist Rite II — 10:00 a.m.

### **April 9 — Maundy Thursday**

Holy Eucharist and stripping of the Altar — 7:30 p.m.

### **April 10 — Good Friday**

Good Friday liturgy — noon and 7:00 p.m.

*Cristo Rey* Good Friday liturgy — 8:30 p.m.

### **April 11 — Easter Vigil**

Region 3 celebration of the Great Vigil of Easter — St. Peter's, 7:30 p.m.

### **April 12 — The Feast of the Resurrection (Easter Sunday)**

Holy Eucharist Rite I — 8:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist with children's message — 10:00 a.m.

No Christian Education or Children's Chapel

Reception and Easter Egg Hunt following the 10 a.m. service

#### **Please note:**

- A loaves and fishes meal is under consideration for Maundy Thursday. The time of the Maundy Thursday service may change if this is added.
- The *Great Vigil of Easter* will be celebrated at St. Peter's on Glebe Road as the conclusion of the Region 3 Lenten series this year. See the article on the Lenten series on page 3 for more information.

## Gospel Lessons for March

### March 1, Mark 1:9-15, First Sunday in Lent

Our Gospel is the story of Jesus' baptism followed by his temptation in the wilderness by Satan. As Jesus comes up from the water, the Holy Spirit descends like a dove and a voice from heaven tells him that he is the beloved Son. The Spirit then guides him out into the wilderness where ancient Israel also met its temptations. Here Jesus has his first encounter with Satan.

### March 8, Mark 8:31-38, Second Sunday in Lent

In this Gospel passage Jesus teaches his disciples the true nature of the ministry of the Son of Man and what it means to follow in his way. Peter has just previously stated his belief that Jesus is the Christ. But now he is called Satan because he tempts Jesus with human ideas rather than God's. Peter needs to understand that, as the Son of Man, Jesus' mission leads through suffering and death before resurrection. Disciples must also learn that the true self and true life are found by those who let themselves be lost for the sake of Jesus and the Gospel.

### March 15, John 2:13-22, Third Sunday in Lent

Our Gospel is the story of Jesus' cleansing of the Jerusalem temple of its commercial activities and his prediction that his body will become the new temple. The fourth evangelist places this incident very early in Jesus' ministry. It signifies the need to cleanse religious practices of corrupting influences and to put in their place a new form of worship. In the future Christians will worship God by sharing together in the risen life of Christ.

### March 22, John 3:14-22, Fourth Sunday in Lent

In our Gospel story, Nicodemus, one of the Pharisees, has come 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 Nicodemus of the son of Man who came down from heaven and who will be lifted up, both on the cross to die for the world and to return to heaven in glory.

### March 29, John 12:20-33, Fifth Sunday in Lent

In this Gospel passage, Jesus presents teaching concerning the meaning of his death. After his prayer to God a voice from heaven is heard. Greeks wish to see Jesus, but he will not draw all others to himself until after he has died and risen. Then like a seed that falls into the earth, he will bear much fruit. Disciples must also learn to serve Jesus by following him in this way. Now is the hour for the Son of Man to be glorified — glorified both by his willingness to be lifted up on the cross to die for others, and afterward to be lifted up to heaven.

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.

#### Website

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

Misplaced your LOGOS? Can't remember the time an event begins? Visit the website for the latest copy of the newsletter, times and places of events and activities.

## St. John's Calendar

### March

- Sun 1 First Sunday in Lent  
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 3 St. John's Book Club, 7:30 p.m.  
Region 3 Lenten Program
- Thu 5 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun 8 Second Sunday in Lent  
*Daylight Saving Time Begins*  
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.
- Mon 9 Vestry Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Tue 10 Region 3 Lenten Program hosted by  
St. Johns
- Thu 12 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Sat 14 Men's Fellowship, 8 a.m.
- Sun 15 Third Sunday in Lent  
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 17 Region 3 Lenten Program
- Thu 19 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun 22 Fourth Sunday in Lent  
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 24 Region 3 Lenten Program
- Thu 26 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun 29 Fifth Sunday in Lent  
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 31 Region 3 Lenten Program

### April

- Thu 2 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun 5 Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday  
Liturgy of the Palms & HE Rite I, 8 a.m.  
Liturgy of the Palms & HE Rite II, 10 a.m.
- Tue 7 St. John's Book Club, 7:30 p.m.  
Region 3 Lenten Program
- Thu 9 Maundy Thursday  
Holy Eucharist and stripping of the Altar,  
7:30 p.m.
- Fri 10 Good Friday  
Good Friday liturgy, noon and 7:00 p.m.  
*Cristo Rey* Good Friday liturgy, 8:30 p.m.
- Sat 11 Great Vigil of Easter celebrated by Region 3  
at St. Peter's, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun 12 Feast of the Resurrection (Easter Sunday)  
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10 a.m.  
No Christian Education or Children's Chapel  
Reception and Easter Egg Hunt following the  
10 a.m. service
- Tue 14 Vestry Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Thu 16 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun 19 Second 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.
- Thu 23 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun 26 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.
- Thu 30 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.



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*Next deadline is Friday, March 20 at 10:00 a.m.*

## **Time Sensitive Material—Please Deliver Promptly**

### **Staff**

Rector: The Rev. Ann B. Barker  
Seminararian: Anna Scherer  
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**

Bill Thomson, Senior Warden  
Brian Cavey, Junior Warden  
Marshall Adair  
Michael Beavin  
Jan Hull  
Del Hunt  
Liz White

### **LOGOS Volunteers**

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