



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: Loving Lives, Loving Communities

In May and June we are celebrating Easter and Pentecost. It may surprise you to learn that we are still celebrating Easter. Easter is not just a day, but lasts a whole season. It is called the Great Fifty Days because we celebrate it for seven weeks and then on the 50th day comes Pentecost, the arrival of the Holy Spirit to form the community of the church.

The resurrection experience of Easter is transformative. In Easter, we seek to take in the new life of the resurrected Jesus and become different people because of it. Sam Portaro, in a CREDO blog post called "Naked" points to many of the paintings of Jesus' resurrection in which he is pictured nude. The nude Jesus, he says, is Jesus at his most vulnerable. He gives himself over to us without pretense or protection. "It makes us uncomfortable," he says, "because it presents the possibility that Easter is a radical exposure of ourselves. If this is true, then Jesus' own assertions that eternal life is accessible here and now, suggests that a resurrection life is an open life, a life without secrets, but also a life without shame."

If we truly live into that Easter moment, we are called to certain things. We are called to be like Adam and Eve in the garden, fully present to the moment, naked and unashamed. One of the practices that involves is seeing ourselves as God sees us. It is a hard thing to do, especially as we grow older and put on layers of clothing labeled guilt and shame and fear and false pride. We need to live with the reality that God delights in us, that God wants to be in relationship with us—not an us clothed in pretense or fronted by a façade of what we think God wants, but just us, plain and simply human, created by God to be God's lover. Seeing ourselves as God sees us gives our lives a whole new perspective to view the reality of ourselves.

If we are loved unreservedly as the very people we are, it is also important to feel our feelings, one of the parts of us often unattended. Meredith Janson, in a blog post from the IMAGO Center, points out that as children we are not often taught healthy ways to deal with our feelings. We learn to numb ourselves out with everything from chocolate to mindless television to worse things like addictive substances.

The problem in not feeling uncomfortable feelings, she says, is that we cannot feel the good feelings either. We are not able to take joy in the fact that God loves us and wants what is best for us. We are not able to hold ourselves close in a hug or to spread our arms wide to hug God's world.

Living into Easter also means learning to forgive ourselves. If God says that God will forget our sins and remember our iniquities no more, it is our job, with God's help, to let them go as well. Forgiving ourselves for wrongs done to God, others, and ourselves is very difficult. Our sin and shame often become woven into the very fabric of who we are. But at Easter our sins were forgiven and we were reconciled to God, so as much as we open our hands to let Jesus give us the gift of delight in ourselves, we have to keep them open to have him take from us our own negative self-images, so we can actually believe in a God who loves us and delights in us.

Our work at living into the joy that is Easter prepares us for the joy that is Pentecost. Pentecost is about community. It is often seen as the reversal of the Tower of Babel story, when humans tried to reach heaven by building a tower together. To punish them for their pride, God separated them into different people with different languages who could not understand one another. At Pentecost, many people heard the disciples speaking in their own languages about the wonderful deeds that God had done in Christ. More than 3,000 persons became believers that day—instant community.

Now that we have lived into Easter and opened ourselves to God and to ourselves, we are ready to take that step into community. One thing being in Christian community involves is compassion. If God loves us and delights in us, God surely loves all others. And if Christ is in us through the power of the Spirit, then it is possible to see Christ in everyone. Brad Agry, in a CREDO blog post, writes of being told to seek in everyone what is below the surface—the face of Christ. In addition, looking below the surface at the way an irritating person acts can help you understand that person better and have compassion for them.

Another way to live into community is by making connections. Catharine Phillips tells us that studies show we are happier at the end of the day if we connect with someone else. A check in the mail, she says in a poem, does not affect our level of happiness, but connection does.

During this time when we celebrate Easter and Pentecost, let us be intentional about opening ourselves to God and letting God love us and opening ourselves to others with compassion and a desire for connection. We will find ourselves and our community at St. John's strengthened as a result and able to renew our commitment to loving ourselves and one another daily,

Ann†

Spring Tea

The Women's Guild is hosting its annual Spring Tea Saturday, May 12 in the common room. The tea is reminiscent of High Tea in Britain—complete with fine teas, scones, sandwiches, scrumptious desserts, and a complimentary glass of champagne for each paying adult. New this year is special pricing for adults who bring a child with them. It is a lovely way to introduce youngsters to fancy clothes, fine manners and polite etiquette in a fun and tasty way. And since it is the day before Mother's Day, celebrations for Mom can start a day early. The tea will be held from 1:00-3:00 p.m. and will cost \$25 for individual adults, \$30 for adult and child, and \$5 for any additional children. Beth Cavey is coordinating volunteers and food donations. Please consider contributing something yummy to the tea and/or helping out the day of the tea.

Adult Education

The adult forum at 9:00 on Sunday will go for three Sundays in May ending the Sunday before Memorial Day. On May 6, we will discuss *Day One*, a lesson about life in Jesus' day led by Bill Schenck. On May 13, Ann will lead a discussion either on the meaning of salvation or what it means to be spiritual but not religious. On May 20, we will have Mr. Gregory Prince with us to tell us about the history and practices of the Mormon Church. Please join us.

EFM Graduation

Our Education for Ministry program will graduate two persons from this four-year course that covers the Bible, church history and major theologians in a format of reading and theological reflection. Marion Spraggins and Martha Close will graduate on May 27, the Sunday of Pentecost.

Seminarian's Diary

by Mary Mackin

This is my last seminarian's diary. I have enjoyed writing to you every month, sharing what was happening at the seminary and also sharing some of my thoughts with you. Now it is time to say good-bye, something I find hard to do. My last Sunday with you will be May 13. After that, as many of you know, Cooper and I will be returning to our home parish, St. John's, in Roanoke, Virginia, where I will be the Curate for Pastoral Care. However, before I begin there, I will celebrate two important events: my graduation from VTS on May 17 and my ordination to the diaconate on May 21 at St. John's in Roanoke. After ordination, we'll return to Alexandria to pick up our belongings and move back to Roanoke for good at the end of May.

It seems like only yesterday, but also a long time ago, that Cooper and I visited St. John's for the first time and I felt the Holy Spirit move in my heart to join you as your seminarian. That call has been richly rewarded in my time here. I have grown in my faith and in my understanding of service to God; I have had the opportunity to preach to God's people, to teach young people, to lead worship, and to be a part of the St. John's family.

For all of these opportunities, I give you my deepest thanks. You have consistently been welcoming, loving, and understanding during these two years of training. From the very beginning, both Cooper and I have felt your friendliness and your acceptance; you took us in and made us part of the family. You have encouraged me in my ministry, overlooked my mistakes, and loved me at the peace. St. John's has been a good experience for me, and I credit you, the people of St. John's, for making it so.

I especially want to thank The Rev. Ann Barker for her guidance and leadership. She has been consistent, steady, kind, and gentle as she has instructed me in the liturgy and integrated me into the parish. She has served as a pastor and mentor throughout the two years, and I am grateful. I also want to thank the people who served on my lay committee, especially the chair, Dave Dunlap. These dedicated people spent time with me, encouraged me,

gave me advice on my sermons, and also shared with me their dreams, for and commitment, to St. John's. I have learned from them the perspective of parishioners on ministry as well as the deep faith and caring they have as people of God. Finally, I want to thank the young people of St. John's. They are a remarkable group of teens who love God and actively serve God and neighbor. Clearly, they have found a home at St. John's and St. John's has nurtured them with love.

Cooper and I will miss you all. You have become a part of our lives; you are in our hearts. We will pray for you as you carry out the rich and important ministry God has called you to in this particular community. I pray God's blessings upon you and upon the work God has given you to do.

Good-bye to Mary Mackin

In May we will bid a fond farewell to Mary Mackin our seminarian for the past two years. Mary has become an integral part of the life of St. John's during her time here. She has taught youth and adult Sunday school and attended meetings of the vestry. She has come to our social events and been there when we needed to talk. We have all been delighted by her preaching and her columns in the LOGOS. As noted in her "Seminarian's Diary" Mary will be working at St. John's, Roanoke, her home parish as Cruate for Pastoral Care. Mary and her husband Cooper, who has been a valued addition to the choir, have become a very valued part of this community and we will miss them. Good-bye and Godspeed.

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

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Email Dave at dave_dunlap@yahoo.com (preferred) or leave info in newsletter box in the office.

The next deadline is Thursday, June 21 at 10 am.

Reinvigorating St. John's Christian Education Program

by Beth Cavey

At St. John's annual meeting this year, I listened to fellow St. John's members voice concern and frustration about the need for our church to grow. I was frustrated, too. I reflected. What we need is a nourishing place for families to put down roots.

I realize (with help from Mary Mackin and Lenore Schmidt) that without the foundation of an education program for families we won't attract new families. A leap of faith and a commitment of resources are necessary to grow this church. Rather than a scatter-shot approach, we need to target our efforts into a defined program. So, to coin a phrase from a favorite movie, "If we build it, they will come".

In light of this revelation, I presented a plan to the Vestry to re-energize our education programs. The Vestry responded by asking me to serve as the Minister of Family Programs. I accepted. Lenore Schmidt will serve as the Vestry point of contact and my trusted partner in developing, launching, and improving our education programs.

The goal for our family programs is this: *to build a healthy, spiritually engaging program for children and youth at St. John's that creates a welcoming and rewarding space for families within our overall community.* To meet this goal, our efforts will concentrate around six objectives:

1. Offer a dynamic Education Program (Sunday School, First Communion, and Confirmation) in coordination with Children's Chapel.
2. Build activities and/or participation for children and youth into all St. John's activities.
3. Expand our older youth program to retain and attract members.
4. Create targeted opportunities for any and all parishioners to participate and contribute.
5. Produce an enticing Vacation Bible School Program.
6. Foster outreach opportunities to the Community at Large.

Behind each of these objectives are specific actions that need to happen to achieve success. (These

St. John's Mission Statement

We welcome everyone including believers, seekers and doubters to share God's love and acceptance in a community of worship and service.

St. John's Vision Statement

St. John's is dedicated to nurturing disciples for Jesus by:

- Offering faith-deepening worship, education, outreach and pastoral care;
- Attracting and welcoming newcomers; and
- Sharing God's love with our community and the world around us.

details are posted on the youth bulletin board in the undercroft.)

How do we define success? Simply. By first keeping our small, but dedicated youth group engaged in the church. Second, by growing youth membership individual by individual. And finally, by increasing the number of committed families in our church community.

Efforts have begun already this year that provide the seeds from which we will grow.

- Mary Mackin and Lenore Schmidt helped the older youth improve their meeting space upstairs and offered them interesting Sunday School lessons twice a month.
- Leslie Mead leads our efforts to provide bagged lunches to the Bailey's Crossroads Shelter and fair trade coffee sales to the congregation.
- Carrie Harbin coordinates youth fellowship after the 10:00 a.m. service on a regular basis.
- Several volunteers serve as leaders for Children's Chapel.
- The nursery has a new, clean look and the youth floor will be updated this summer.
- We submitted a request for a Mustard Seed Grant from the Diocese to supplement our budget.
- We are planning a visit to the National Cathedral this month to tour the gargoyles.

Our plan for the fall will blossom from these existing efforts.

This plan, however, cannot succeed without the critical involvement and support of everyone at St. John's. There are ample opportunities to help. We need Sunday School teachers, guest speakers, story tellers, mentors, crafters, and builders—if you bring us a talent, we will put it to use. We need helpers and meals for Vacation Bible School. Targeted donations will ensure that we can financially get the program off the ground without detrimentally impacting the church's operating budget.

And finally, we need help identifying and recruiting new members. This summer we will target potential interested families with mailings, articles in community publications, and advertising. If someone you know might be interested in participating in our budding program, then send them our way.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions please don't hesitate to track me down at hospitality, by email, or on the phone. I look forward to leading this effort and sparking the enthusiasm of St. John's members.

Coming Events

- May 1 St. John's Book Club will be discussing *Brooklyn* by Colm Tóibín at 7:30 p.m. See the *Book Club Notes* article for details on this month's book and come and join the fun!
- May 5 There will be a Glencarlyn neighborhood yard sale from 8 a.m.–2 p.m. St. John's members who want to take part can borrow long tables to display items.
- May 12 Mother Daughter Tea—Mark your calendar for this favorite Spring event, this year featuring special family pricing. Full details are included in the short article on the tea.
- June 2 Glencarlyn Day—all day starting at 10:00 a.m. St. John's traditionally sells hot dogs and has a book sale. Listen on Sundays for information on this year's activities and come help out!
- June 5 St. John's Book Club will discuss *Waiting for Snow In Havana* by Carlos Eire at 7:30 p.m. More information on this selection is in the *Book Club Notes* article.

Book Club Notes

May's book club selection is *Brooklyn* by Colm Tóibín

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette described Eilis Lacey, the heroine of *Brooklyn* as “One of the most unforgettable characters in contemporary literature.” Sponsored by an Irish priest in Brooklyn, Eilis leaves Enniscorthy, Ireland, and finds herself swept up in a new life in Brooklyn in the 1950s. The novel follows her to work in Brooklyn department store, to finding love with Tony and his large Italian family, and back to Ireland as tragedy strikes. In her book review for Amazon.com, Daphne Durham says “Tóibín's haunted heroine glows on the page, unforgettably and lovingly rendered, and her story reflects the lives of so many others exiled from home.”

In June the book club will discuss *Waiting For Snow in Havana* by Carlos Eire

In 1962, Carlos Eire, the author of *Waiting for Snow In Havana*, was one of 14,000 children airlifted out of Cuba. The Cuban revolution caused him to be exiled from his family, his country, and his own childhood. The memories of his life in Havana, cut short when he was eleven, form the basis for this memoir of a life changed and a childhood cut short by the revolution led by Fidel Castro.

Summer Hospitality Light

During the summer, we want to streamline the responsibilities of hospitality volunteers. During the months of July and August, we propose that we limit the amount of food offerings each volunteer is responsible for bringing to coffee hour. We suggest that each volunteer, in addition to bringing cream for coffee and juice for the children, bring only one food item. You can coordinate with your scheduled partner for the Sunday you are assigned. Simple finger food items that can be cut into small pieces, a small plate of fruit, vegetables, cheese, crackers and a dip, etc. Our goal is to cut down on the more than generous offerings and make it easier for you. If you have any questions, please contact Ann Barker.

St John's Vestry Minutes, April 2012

by Barbara Olivere, Register

The vestry heard a presentation from Bill Pritchard laying out reasons why St John's should develop an emergency plan, especially how to protect our vital records and finances. Bill will prepare a draft document for consideration.

Brian Cavey presented a budget for the Family Ministry Program. Ann Barker and Beth Cavey will submit a proposal for a Mustard Seed grant to help fund the various planned activities. Beth Cavey will make a presentation at the April 29th services.

Faye Pritchard and Debbie Carter are developing a survey for the congregation to complete on the Vestry's first and second priorities.

The next meeting is May 15, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

March 2012 Financial Information

Operating Budget	March 2012	Year to Date	2012 Budget
Operating Income	\$9,716.58	\$30,809.90	\$142,985
Expenditures			
Worship-Rector	\$6,340.76	\$22,190.31	\$90,156
Worship-Music	\$837.17	\$2,511.51	\$10,346
Worship-Other	\$312.00	\$827.71	\$3,550
Christian Education	\$134.00	\$295.50	\$2,883
Outreach	\$401.00	\$1,396.24	\$6,875
Hospitality	\$55.21	\$55.21	\$500
Office Expenses	\$1,099.93	\$3,203.13	\$13,802
General Expenses	\$207.54	\$533.47	\$3,799
Building	\$2,104.32	\$9,243.02	\$33,814
Total	\$11,491.93	\$40,256.10	\$165,725
Income Less Expenditures	-\$1,775.35	-\$9,446.20	-\$22,740
Funds Designated for Special Purposes			
Designated Funds In	\$650.90	\$1,081.10	
Designated Funds Out	\$600.00	\$3,395.91	
Total Financial Assets	\$228,592.75		

Full details are posted on the bulletin board outside the nursery or contact Bill Thomson.

CANA Churches Returning Diocese Property Following Court Ruling

On March 1, 2012, the Fairfax Circuit Court entered a final order in favor of the Diocese of Virginia in its effort to recover Episcopal property for the mission of the Episcopal Church. It also denied the CANA (Convocation of Anglicans in North America) congregations' recent motion for partial reconsideration of the court's original ruling of January 10. Under the final order, the CANA congregations were to convey to the Diocese of Virginia all real and personal property by April 30, 2012. Real property includes seven church buildings and a significant number of other parcels. Personal property includes both tangible items, such as chalices, prayer books and crosses, and intangibles, including funds on hand.

Since the ruling, the CANA churches have begun reaching agreements with the Diocese. Epiphany Anglican Church, Herndon and St. Stephen's Heathville reached agreements with the Diocese in March. St. Stephen's returned to its building to worship on Palm Sunday.

The last week in March, the seven CANA congregations involved in the legal dispute with the Diocese of Virginia filed notices of appeal, seeking to overturn the Fairfax Circuit Court's final order that real and personal Episcopal property be returned to the Diocese of Virginia. In addition four of the churches (Church of the Apostles Anglican; the Falls Church Anglican; St. Paul's Church Anglican; and Truro Church Anglican) have sought stays to suspend execution of the court order until their appeals are decided. Until then the CANA congregations would remain in place. The Falls Church Episcopal would be able to use the historic church with the permission of the rector of the Falls Church Anglican. The Falls Church Episcopal celebrated Easter in the historic church. Since the time of the filing of the appeal the Diocese has concluded agreements with St. Paul's Church Anglican in Haymarket and Truro Church Anglican in Fairfax to end their property disputes.

The Diocese of Virginia has a new effort called Dayspring that is to work toward resolving the remainder of the property disputes and getting the continuing congregations back in their places of worship. We are urged to pray for Dayspring, for God's grace, redemption and reconciliation. More information from the Diocese will be forthcoming as disputes continue to be resolved.

Parish News

Congratulations

to Beth Cavey for being named director of our Family Ministries Program

Thank you

to everyone who helped with parish cleanup on March 31: Lenore Schmidt, our junior warden, Del Hunt, the Cavey family, Faye and Bill Pritchard, Debbie Carter, Marshall Adair, Carolyn Corlett, Pete Olivere, Eileen Tallent and any others, as well as our helpers from Cristo Rey, the Rev. Catherine Campbell and Magda and Anna.

to Jean Harrison for coordinating our loaves and fishes dinner and to Faye Pritchard for helping with set up.

to the altar guild, the musicians, the hospitality volunteers, the egg stuffers and hidiers, the worship participants and everyone who made Easter such a glorious occasion for us all

to Barbara Olivere for taking over the card ministry

to Beth Cavey, for hosting our Family Happy Hour on Friday, April 13

Rest in peace

Bill Downey, former brother-in-law of Ann Barker, who entered the Life of the Resurrection April 1.

May and June Birthdays

Charles Adair, Sam Beavin, Patricia Bleicher, Michael Cavey, Andy Del Gallo, Cathi Del Gallo, Jane Edwards, Angie France, Rob Hardman, Paul Harless, Sherwood Hedrick, Kim Houghton, Alice Kniskern, Abigail Kollath, Romana Martin, Kaipo McCartney, Leslie Mead, Stacy O'Connor, Faye Pritchard, James Robinson, Bill Schenck, Owen Tallent, Jones Tallent, Matthew Tallent, Christopher Van Wyk, Betty Vertiz, Tricia Wells,

May and June Anniversaries

Christopher & Laura Van Wyk, Jeff Petrich & Leslie Mead, Dennis Albrecht & Lorraine Underwood, Peter & Patricia Broida, Pete & Barbara Olivere, John & Valerie Wilson, Bob & Eileen Tallent, The Rev. Peter & Angela Swarr, Ray & Stacy O'Connor, Vernon & Romana Martin

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Next deadline is Thursday, June 21 at 10:00 a.m.

Time Sensitive Material—Please Deliver Promptly

Staff

Rector: The Rev. Ann B. Barker
Seminarian: Mary Mackin
Minister of Music: Lynn Robinson
Organist: Carol Dunlap
Parish Administrator: Virginia Pearson
Sexton: Justiniano Garay

Parish Leaders

Bill Thomson, Treasurer
John Restall, Assistant Treasurer
John Wilson, Chair Finance Committee
Eileen Tallent, Chair Altar Guild

Vestry

Patricia Broida
Debbie Carter
Carrie Harbin
Diane Henderson
Pete Olivere
Faye Pritchard, Senior Warden
Lenore Schmidt, Junior Warden

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