



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: Talking and Listening

A few weeks ago, we learned from Jesus that it is not what goes into the body that defiles, but what comes out of it. More recently in our Epistle, we learned from James that the tongue was one of the worst offenders when it came to defilement. It is a small member he says, but he compares it to a small fire that sets ablaze an entire forest. He called it a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

We have recently had a great example of what the tongue can do. A short video made by a few obscure people and posted on YouTube insults the prophet Muhammad and has set hundreds of people demonstrating against the United States in more than two dozen countries. Four people were killed in the Libyan embassy in Benghazi, and the embassy was destroyed. In Sanaa, Yemen, the U.S. embassy was overrun. "We cannot accept any insult to our prophet. It's a red line," said one protester.

President Obama said, "Make no mistake. Justice will be done." Secretary of State Hilary Rodham Clinton asked, "How could this happen in a country we helped liberate, in a city we helped save from destruction?"

It came from the iniquity of the tongue. From that small movie, the entire U.S. foreign policy in the region, focused on improving relations with Arab countries since the Arab Spring in 2011, has been severely strained. It does not matter that the United States government had nothing to do with the film. "We absolutely reject its content and its message," said Clinton, "but there is absolutely no call for violence as a response." The misuse of the tongue for prejudice and hatred incited huge misuse of the tongue in the Arab world for protest and violence.

There are other examples of the danger of the tongue. Gossiping about someone behind their back at work or at home can cast a shadow on that person's integrity that some people, including bosses and neighbors, may believe. People who are trustworthy may not be trusted because of false words spread about them and good reputations may be overturned. Bullying and cyber-bullying spread hurtful things and the victims of the bullying can become depressed, withdrawn, or violent. People who brag about themselves irritate and bore others, but even worse, spend their energy on themselves instead of those in need.

James says that not all things that come out of the mouth are evil. We worship and praise, we speak kindly to someone in need of help, we encourage a child in his or her adventures, we compliment people. But we do get the idea from James that the

tongue is something that must be watched carefully to make sure we do not let anything bad come from it.

James did not have anything bad to say about listening, however. It is often said that we have two ears and one mouth so we should listen twice as much as we talk. Americans have learned something living in a democracy that people in the Arab world, used to having all “truth” coming from the government, have not yet learned. Americans have learned to listen with skepticism to things that come out over the air waves. They have learned to listen for the source of the message and the particular bias the message contains before they believe something is true. When we listen, we avoid jumping to conclusions too quickly.

When we listen, we encourage people. Last week, a man came to the door and wanted someone to talk to. I listened for nearly an hour, making sympathetic noises but not saying a word. The man said he had no one to talk to at home and I got the feeling he needed to tell his story. I think my listening was encouraging to him in his difficult situation. Parents need to listen to their children to let them know they are valued, respected and loved. Spouses need to listen to each other so that both partners can express their ideas and values

When we listen, we learn things. Of course the obvious place we do that is in school, but we can learn about what is going on in the world from television news; we can learn about candidates’ political positions by listening to their speeches. We can be alerted to danger by listening to weather reports.

We are spiritually fed when we listen. We touch God in nature, in a good piece of music, in a guided meditation. We listen to the Scriptures being read in church and the sermons that are preached.

When we listen, we are brought into relationship. By hearing about other people’s lives, we grow into a more intimate relationship with them. Picking up the phone to find out how a friend is doing keeps us up to date with their lives. I have found I need to call Kristy and Evan more to find out about the

things they are doing every day instead of just hitting the highlights in an occasional call.

We must be discerning in our listening, however, because we can open our ears to talk that leads to evil thoughts and evil actions. And so we circle back around to the tongue again. We must watch what we say very carefully and ask God’s help to use our tongues for good and not for evil, to help and not to harm. We do not want to start a forest fire with our tongues that will cause much damage. Let us all think before we speak and honor God by producing what James calls fresh water with our tongues.

Ann†

Annual Giving

by Ann Barker

We are rapidly approaching the season when we will be asked to renew our annual support for St. John’s.

In mid-October we will be sending out information about the ministries Saint John’s supports with your contributions. These ministries serve to improve the church and the community and to change and save lives. We hope you will reflect on the impact of these ministries as you prayerfully reflect on how much you will be able to return to St. John’s of the abundance God has given you.

The biblical standard for giving is the tithe. Ten percent of our first fruits are to be given to God. This is a reminder to us that all we have belongs to God anyway. Considered in that light, 10% does not seem so much. But 10% for some people is more than they feel they can afford. If that is the case, I encourage you still to base your pledge on a percentage of your income. Our pledge cards this year, as in the past, have a chart to facilitate your computing percentages for giving.

The people of St. John’s have always been good and generous givers. We are so grateful for that. Your gift of treasure keeps our many ministries functioning and helps St. John’s to fulfill God’s mission for it in our community and in the wider world. Among other things, you have provided funds to help us bag lunches for the shelter, bring our family ministries program to fruition, support our

worship services and help adults learn about their faith through EFM and Sunday morning adult education. And as the ministries survey the vestry is conducting suggests, this is only a small part of the work of St. John's.

Given our deficit budget, I would ask you prayerfully to consider increasing your pledge for 2013 by looking at giving a larger percentage of your treasure back to the church in thanksgiving for the abundance we all have been blessed with. In the giving you will receive even more abundance.

Family Programs Projects

St. John's launched its re-energized Family Programs in September. We hosted our first Family Sunday on September 16. The kids went apple picking on Saturday, and we worked together Sunday to make apple crisp and sundaes for Fellowship after the 10 a.m. service. Everyone had a great time and the kids enjoyed the project. Every Family Sunday we will have a project that helps our kids learn to work in cooperation and love to put our teachings into practice. The older kids are learning patience with the younger kids and the younger kids are happy to learn under the guidance of their older role models.

Our next Family Sunday is October 21. We plan to go to a pumpkin patch on Saturday, October 20, in the morning to pick some fun pumpkins. On Sunday the kids will carve and decorate the pumpkins and roast pumpkin seeds for Fellowship. We will again have a sundae bar. Please let Beth Cavey know if your kids would like to participate. We welcome all to join us.

Another new exciting program begins in October. Would you like your child to learn about the Eucharist and celebrate a First Communion? St. John's is offering a four-week instruction that culminates in a First Communion Service. Classes will be held October 7, 14, 21, and 28 following the 10 a.m. service and will last approximately 30-45 minutes. The First Communion Service will be held on All Saints Day November 4 at the 10 a.m.

service. We are targeting first and second graders, but all are welcome, even if you have received communion previously. Our instruction aims to build on kids' innate understanding of holiness and teach them the specifics of the Eucharist.

Confirmation classes will begin November 4 and be held after the 10 a.m. service. We are targeting high school aged youth. Our program will be based on the "Confirm Not Conform" interactive lesson plan which encourages kids to ask the hard questions and really develop a personal understanding of their beliefs. Ten classes will be held over the course of the late fall and early winter. Candidates will be presented to St. John's in March and confirmed into the Episcopal Church by the Bishop during the annual visit.

As always, the second Sunday every month is when we assemble bagged lunches for the Bailey's Crossroads Homeless Shelter. First and Fourth Sundays are set aside for instruction and theological reflection. Everyone is always welcome to join us at 9:15 a.m. for all of our activities.

We are still looking for volunteers to help with Children and Youth programs. Talk to Beth Cavey and she can rattle off the opportunities for participation. Working with our dedicated kids is more rewarding than you can imagine.

If you would like more information, please contact us at stjohnsfamilyprograms@gmail.com.

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 (preferred) or leave info in newsletter box in the office.

The next deadline is Thursday, October 18 at 10 am.

Vestry Meeting Highlights August 2012 Vestry Meeting

The Challenge Grant was discussed. Ann Barker said that the donor indicated that the money could be used for various new programs. Ann said there were eight pledges to the Challenge Grant. She said that we had two donations for the general fund, one for the junior warden's unfunded projects, two pledge increases, and three for family programs, including Vacation Bible School.

St. John's has been awarded a Mustard Seed Grant of \$1,500 to help support our Family Programs initiatives.

The Vestry approved using a donation of \$1,500 to remove the stumps on Fifth Street and to plant new trees.

On the recommendation of John Wilson, the vestry will look into the installation of solar panels for the church.

The Vestry agreed to a joint Glencarlyn Civic Association/St. John's picnic on Saturday, September 22 on the church grounds. The following day, September 23, the 10 a.m. Eucharist will be held outdoors, also on the church grounds.

September 2012 Vestry Meeting

Bill Pritchard gave a presentation to the Vestry on a draft high-level Emergency and Continuity of Operations Plan he has developed for St. John's. Over the next few months he will work with Diane Henderson and Debbie Carter to develop the details for implementing the plan.

Bill also presented a basic outline for providing First Aid training at St. John's for both parishioners and residents of Glencarlyn. The first course will be offered Saturday, October 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Lenore Schmidt, the Junior Warden, reported that a painting day was being scheduled for September 29, starting at 9 a.m. A fall clean-up day is being scheduled for October 20. Lenore also reported that in October she will begin an inventory of the church's most valuable property, starting with the Altar Guild property in the Sacristy. The inventory is being taken for insurance purposes.

Faye Pritchard, the Senior Warden, reported that the St. John's Ministries Survey, which is intended to help the vestry understand how much time parishioners are devoting to church ministries and which they consider priority, would be distributed later in the week. Parishioners are to return the survey no later than October 7. Faye also reported that preparations for the Shrine Mont retreat October 12 through 14 are 90% completed and that there are sufficient funds in the Shrine Mont designated fund to cover anyone who needs financial help to attend the weekend.

Faye Pritchard, the Rev. Ann Barker, and Pete Olivere will continue working on updating our web site.

First Aid Course

St. John's Episcopal Church is offering a Standard First Aid, CPR, Automated External Defibrillator class on Saturday, October 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the church undercroft. The four-hour class is being made available to parishioners and residents of Glencarlyn as part of a St. John's initiative to help its members and its neighborhood to prepare for emergencies in the home and community.

Cost of the class is \$35, which covers the cost of materials and equipment. The instruction itself is free. Class size is limited to a maximum of 10 students. Future classes will be held if there is sufficient demand. Students will receive manuals and, on successfully finishing the course, will be given wallet-sized cards noting they have completed the required knowledge and skills evaluation.

The class will be conducted by Bill Pritchard, who taught Red Cross First Aid, CPR, and AED courses for several years, and has conducted First Aid/CPR instruction for members of the Civil Air Patrol. Bill is a certified instructor of the Emergency Care and Safety Institute (ECSI).

To register, contact Bill Pritchard at 703-931-2168, or bpritch_k@yahoo.com.

Parish News

Thank you

To Marshall Adair and Del Hunt for planting our new crepe myrtle trees along Fifth Street.

To Brad White, Liz White's son, for his generous donation to grind out the old stumps and purchase the trees for our yard

To Beth Cavey, as she begins our fall session of our Family Ministries Program

To John Wilson, for serving as vestry register for our September meeting

To all those who helped keep the church clean when Justiniano was on vacation

To all those who helped with our St. John's / Glen-carlyn Civic Association picnic

To Lenore Schmidt and all her helpers who took care of set up and take down for our outdoor service

Thanks be to God

Bill Thomson has finished his surgeries and radiation for cancer on his scalp and has begun teaching again. He and Joan are going to Australia the first two weeks of October.

Birthdays and Anniversaries in October

We join in celebration with all those celebrating birthdays in October: Ericka Cullen, Erin Tallent Baynham, Jacob Beavin, Betsy Cullen, Carrie Harbin, Bryan Harbin, John Hart, Monica Lozano, Taylor Robinson, The Rev. Peter Swarr, William Thomson, and Liz White.

Our best wishes go to all celebrating anniversaries this month: Andy & Cathi Del Gallo, Angie Rollet & John Hart, Dave & Lynn Robinson, Paul Harless & Eileen Flynn, Tony & Heather Kollath, Michael & Stephanie Beavin, Marshall & Ginger Adair.

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.

Newsletter Volunteer Needed

by Jane Edwards

This will be my last month as webmaster and doing page layout for the church newsletter, and a new volunteer will be needed for the November LOGOS.

Almost 15 years ago, I was asked to become the editor and designer of the newsletter by The Rev. Ann Stribling, replacing Carol Hunt who had the job for 10 years before me. I began the webpage a year or two later. Last month I created the first ePub for iPads and iPhones.

As observed in the article on the September Vestry meeting on page 4, there is now a team of three people who have been working on a new website; so my services as webmaster have become redundant. I am resigning from both duties with this notice. The website appears to be in good hands and is now underway with the new team, according to the article, so it is only the newsletter that needs a volunteer.

I have been using Adobe Creative Suite 6 InDesign, Illustrator, Photoshop, and Dreamweaver, but you can use any software of your choice.

It's been fun, and I wish you all well. Oh, and one more note: InDesign CS6 has a new feature that makes it easy to create a second layout, so I have tried that with this October issue for those who are reading PDFs online and have struggled with columns. I hope you like it!

Coming in October

- Sundays** **Sunday Adult Education** The Sunday morning adult education class is discussing *The Jesus Priorities: Eight Essential Habits*, by Christopher Maricle. The book discusses the eight top things Jesus did during his ministry—heal, love, pray, spread the word, talk about treasure in heaven, seek God’s will, see children as precious, and live with humility—and gives us principles to follow in our everyday lives to be like Jesus. Please join us.
- October 2** **7:30 p.m. Book Club** The St. John’s Book Club will meet to discuss *An Invisible Thread: The True Story of an 11-Year-Old Panhandler, a Busy Sales Executive, and an Unlikely Meeting with Destiny* by Laura Schroff. This is the tale of a successful ad representative in Manhattan and a homeless 11-year-old panhandler, which began with his asking her for change and developed into a life-changing friendship. It is available from your local library, as well as online if you wish to add it to your library. It is also available electronically at least for your Kindle and probably for other e-readers as well. Read the book, then come and share in the discussion.
- October 7** **Survey** Deadline for completing your survey on St. John’s ministries. The survey was emailed to all with email addresses the week of September 9, and is also available in hard copy at the back of the church and in the undercroft. You may return the form, either anonymously or not, to the basket set up at the back of the church. If you want to provide a more interactive response, you may request completing the survey in a sit-down interview by contacting either Faye Pritchard at 703-931-2168 or Debbie Carter at 703-575-7969. This is an important opportunity for you to provide input on ministries and priorities at St. John’s and the vestry needs your input.
- October 7** **5 p.m. Blessing of the Animals** As we do each year, we will celebrate the Feast of St. Francis with the Blessing of the Animals. If you have a pet you would like to have blessed, bring him or her for a blessing from our rector. If your pet deserves this attention but may not be good in crowds, or you would like a blessing for a former pet, bring a picture for the blessing.
- October 12 – 14** **Shrine Mont Weekend** Shrine Mont provides us with a place apart in the beauty of the mountains to do whatever we need to do to restore our souls, whether prayer and meditation, hiking, reading, taking part in a songfest, playing board games, socializing, or just plain resting. And the entire weekend is also designed to offer child and family-friendly options. Details are in the pamphlets in the pews. *Hurry—you need to make your reservation by September 30.* Contact Faye Pritchard at 703-931-2168.
- October 20** **Fall Cleanup Day** Come and help St. John’s get ready for the coming cold season. Junior Warden Lenore Schmidt needs your help and promises to match your talents to one of the many jobs to be done. Work begins at 9:00 a.m. Come and help!
- October 27** **8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. First Aid Course** See the article “First Aid Course” on page 4 in this issue of LOGOS for more information on this event and plan to come and learn.

Operating Budget

The revenue and expenses for August 2012 and the first eight months appear below. The disbursements for the month exceeded the receipts to create a deficit of \$3133.73 for the month. There is a deficit of \$16,293.93 for the year to date (planned deficit due to decreased pledges compared to past years.)

Welcome back everyone, and thanks for keeping your pledges current during the summer.

Operating Budget	August 12	YTD	Budget
Operating Income	\$9,186.05	\$91,989.82	\$142,985
Operating Expenditures			
Worship-Rector	\$6,340.76	\$61,196.30	\$90,156
Worship-Music	\$942.17	\$6,907.36	\$10,346
Worship-Other	\$31.48	\$2,616.87	\$3,550
Christian Education	\$189.00	\$1,667.50	\$2,883
Outreach	\$618.64	\$4,281.04	\$6,875
Hospitality	\$0.00	\$194.84	\$500
Office Expenses	\$1,094.01	\$9,019.96	\$13,802
General Expenses	\$0.00	\$2,104.79	\$3,799
Building	\$3,103.72	\$20,295.09	\$33,814
Operating Expenditures	\$12,319.78	\$108,283.75	\$165,725
Income Less Expenditures	-\$3,133.73	-\$16,293.93	-\$22,740
Funds Designated For Specific Uses			
Designated Funds In	\$2,104.99	\$11,928.90	
Designated Funds Out	\$1,101.80	\$8,018.40	
Designated Funds Net Change	\$1,003.19	\$3,910.50	
Total Financial Assets	\$229,207.58		

For details, see the posting on the bulletin board outside the nursery or contact Bill Thomson.

St. John's Episcopal Church
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703-671-6834
<http://stjohnsarlington.thediocese.net>

Next deadline is Thursday, October 18 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

LOGOS Volunteers

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Page Layout and Webmaster:
Jane Edwards (Monarch Training)