



# 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*

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December 2012

## Developing 2013 Parish Goals

For the past few weeks Sunday morning regulars have been hearing about the vestry undertaking a process of setting goals for St. John's for 2013. As this issue of *LOGOS* goes to print, we are preparing for a meeting at which the congregation as a whole will have the opportunity to meet and comment on the draft goals for 2013.

The goals are a logical follow-on to the survey conducted by the vestry in the fall to determine where parishioners are investing their time and energy, and where they felt we should be focusing our attention. The draft goals also flow naturally from the mission and vision of St. John's. The process was begun with the vestry discussing setting goals, agreeing on a process to follow, and crafting preliminary goals.

The preliminary goals, along with ideas from the survey, were discussed and consolidated by a small group which eventually produced objectives and goals for five areas: Family

Programs, Outreach, Worship, Parish Growth, and Communications. By the time you read this, the draft objectives and goals in these areas will have undergone scrutiny and comment by the congregation.

The next step after that will be to consider the comments and suggestions of the congregation and to develop goals for 2013 which the vestry will pass on at their December meeting. The final goals will be provided to all the parish in advance of January's annual meeting.

Both the rector and the vestry feel that the involvement of the congregation in the development of parish goals is fully fitting and proper, since our parishioners are the ones who staff our ministries. The rector and the vestry provide leadership and organization; the congregation provides the man and woman-power to reach our objectives.

## From the Rector: Are We There Yet?

The title of this column is one of the most irritating questions a parent can hear from a child during a trip. Children usually do not wait well. We try to give traveling children activities to

occupy their time, we discourage repeated questions, we tell them to think about all the fun things they will do when they reach their destination.

Children are not the only ones who ask “Are we there yet?” Waiting is hard for adults too. On the way to my sister’s this Thanksgiving and on the way home, I was constantly checking the time and the mileage and asking myself, “How long before I get there?” I get tired on long drives if I don’t stop every two hours or so. I begin to feel as if I am sitting on a piece of metal, which of course, I am. Yet the driving is all worth it. Even my summer drive from Washington to Galax, Virginia, to Atlanta is a joy because I get to spend time with my sister’s family and with my son and his wife.

Waiting is a part of this life. Washingtonians wait in traffic and at metro stations. At work we may complete our part of a project and then have to wait for others finish their parts. We wait for new life to come into the world. Those nine months waiting for a baby to be born are some of the most fun, yet the most tedious times in a woman’s – and her mate’s – life. We wait for gardens to grow. We plant and fertilize and water and watch and eventually (we hope) something comes up or blossoms. We wait for company to arrive, we wait for a promotion, we wait for special events.

Sometimes we wait for unhappy events. We wait for sick relatives and friends to recover or to die. The waiting surrounding the loss of a loved one is probably the most difficult waiting of all. To see people grow worse and worse is a terrible thing to have to face at any stage of life.

We usually handle waiting in three ways. First, we prepare. We do what we can to help the hoped-for outcome take place. A friend of mine just got promoted to partner in a law firm. She prepared by filling out her partnership papers and by working many extra hours to prove her willingness to work hard for the firm. For company coming, we prepare by changing the sheets on the bed, buying flowers for the table, making meals or making plans for the visit. Pregnancy is a special time of waiting. People

prepare for a new birth by going to doctor’s appointments, fixing up the nursery, looking at the budget and taking LaMaze classes. We wait for plants to grow by pulling weeds around them and making sure the soil is well watered. We prepare for the loss of a loved one by making sure end-of-life papers are prepared and helping the person feel as loved and as peaceful as possible.

We handle waiting by distracting ourselves. We play with our Ipads or PDAs when we are waiting for trains. We listen to music in the car. When children want to know “Are we there yet?” we give them games and puzzles to keep them occupied, so the time passes more quickly for them. When they are impatient about other activities that are about to happen, such as a friend coming over or a birthday party, we give them things they can do that may have nothing to do with the upcoming activity but keep them engaged. If we are stressed by waiting we can take a walk, read a book, have a drink, take a bubble bath, watch a football game or do anything that takes our mind off the upcoming activity or outcome. We can even prepare for something else we are waiting for as a distraction from something we are feeling stress about and need to get away from.

Or we can just wait. We are quiet and just sit with our thoughts about what is happening to us

**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.

in the process of waiting. We can write about the feelings we are having. We can take a walk in the woods and be with nature to soothe us.

Advent is a time of waiting. We are waiting for a long-hoped-for birth of the Messiah. When I was a child (and even now), one thing we did while waiting was to have an Advent Calendar. One of us four children opened a window on the calendar each night. The best night to open it was Christmas Eve, so I always engineered the opening to go from youngest to oldest so I would get Christmas Eve. We always got our tree the weekend before Christmas and decorated it. We bought presents and made other holiday plans. I practiced choir music. School work was a distraction, so I did not have to think about waiting for Christmas to come. Sometimes I read a book or did a jigsaw puzzle. I was not

### **Vestry Meeting Notes – November 2012**

The vestry gave most of its time to the process for setting parish goals for 2013. The preliminary ideas for goals coming out of the meeting are being further refined by a committee consisting of the Reverend Ann Barker, Dave Dunlap, Pete Olivere, and Faye Pritchard. The parish membership is to be invited to be part of the discussion of their work at a meeting December 2 after the 10 a.m. service.

Lenore Schmidt, the Junior Warden, reported that Washington Gas had repaired most of the damage done to the drainage system while installing a new gas line in September, including replacing the PVC pipe that had been damaged. She said she will handle re-digging the drainage trench in the spring.

The Vestry agreed to have St. John's host a Region III Lenten dinner and presentation in March, with the exact date to be determined. St. Michael's has said they will help us with food.

very good about quiet waiting. I don't think most children do that very well. But now I am a little better about it. I do get stressed because Advent is a busy time of year for me but I am now capable of meditating or taking a long walk to calm my worries about being prepared. I am sure you all have some particular ways that you wait for Christmas.

Mary waited nine months for Jesus to be born. In the church calendar we wait only about four weeks for the blessed event to occur and then we get to celebrate Christ's birth – one of the most joyous and important things we can wait for. This Advent, may you know God's love in the waiting as much as you do at Jesus' coming at Christmas.

Ann †

The Vestry approved Linda Trochim as our delegate to Diocesan Council and to Region 3. Debbie Carter was approved as the alternate.

### **The Times They Are A-Changing**

As you probably have noticed, *LOGOS* looks a little different this month. The masthead has shrunk and there have been some changes in layout. The aim is to make our monthly print and electronic newsletter more up-to-date and responsive to your needs. These changes to

#### **LOGOS**

The LOGOS is published monthly except August, near the beginning of the month.

Dave Dunlap, LOGOS Editor

Articles for LOGOS may be Emailed to [dave\\_dunlap@yahoo.com](mailto:dave_dunlap@yahoo.com) (preferred) or left at the church office.

Material for the January issue should be submitted no later than December 23.

LOGOS are part of the larger communications objective included in our 2013 parish goals.

When it was launched, LOGOS was the primary means of informing our members of parish news and coming events. It is still useful in that regard, but cannot match e-mail and our web site for speed. At the same time, neither of those communications methods matches LOGOS for more extended coverage of events. There is a place for both the old and the new.

There is much that I would like to include in LOGOS. I would love to have articles from members of the congregation reporting on ministries they are supporting. I would like to be able to report more on subjects to be covered in

the Sunday adult education. Pictures of parish activities would be a wonderful addition to our reporting. Most of the current content of LOGOS comes from our rector, your editor, and the senior warden. I would like to broaden that base of authorship.

So keep reading, provide feedback on what you like and what you don't, and we will keep working to improve our communications within the parish. It is easiest for me if you send comments and material by e-mail ([dave\\_dunlap@yahoo.com](mailto:dave_dunlap@yahoo.com)), but you can also call me on the telephone or leave material in the folder for me in the church office.

Dave Dunlap  
Editor

### Coming in December

- Sundays**     **Adult Education** – Sunday morning adult education class in December features Advent study entitled, “Advent Through the Eyes of Those Who Waited.” There will be no class on Sunday, December 30. In January and early February, we will have Lorraine Underwood teaching a series on Jacob from Genesis. Please come and join us.
- December 9**     **Bagged Lunch Program** The Sunday School students will lead the preparation of bagged lunches for people at the Baileys Crossroads Homeless Shelter.
- December 15**     **Men’s Fellowship**, 8:00 a.m.
- December 16**     **Christmas pageant** at 10:00 a.m. service  
                         **Christmas cookie exchange** at 11:15 after the 10 am service
- December 23**     **Greening of the Church** – led by the Altar Guild which welcomes your participation!  
                         **Caroling in the neighborhood** 6 – 7 p.m. followed by cocoa and cookies
- December 24**     **Christmas Eve services**  
                         5:00 p.m. family service with children’s message  
                         11:00 p.m. evening service
- December 25**     **Christmas Day service** at 10:00 a.m.
- December 30**     **Festival of Lessons and Carols**, 10:00 a.m.  
                         *Remember there will be no 8:00 a.m. service December 30.*
- January 6**         **The Feast of the Epiphany**

## **December Lectionary**

### **December 2 – First Sunday of Advent**

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

### **December 9 – Second Sunday of Advent**

Baruch 5:1-9; Canticle 4; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

### **December 16 – Third Sunday of Advent**

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Canticle 9; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

### **December 23 – Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

### **December 25 – Christmas Day**

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14(15-20)

### **December 30 – First Sunday after Christmas**

Festival of Lessons and Carols

## **Parish Notes**

### **Thank you**

- To Paul Stenger for heading up our annual giving campaign
- To Penny and Don Hess for teaching the Adult Forum on November 18
- To Kay Wells, who helped us mail the volunteer schedule, *LOGOS* and the annual giving material
- To Lynn Robinson for coordinating the Annual Giving/Thanksgiving parish potluck

### **December Birthdays**

The Rev. Catherine Campbell, Eileen Flynn, Madeline "Maddie" Harbin, Lori Held, Galen Henderson, Barbara Hill, Del Hunt, Emily Lodsun, Vernon Martin, Barbara Olivere, Angie Rollet, Angela Swarr, Camron Tallent, Laura Wallace

### **December Anniversaries**

David & Carol Dunlap, Don & Penny Hess, Klaus & Lori Held, Cooper & Mary Mackin

### **Rest In Peace**

- Susan Schmidt, mother of Lenore Schmidt, who entered the Life of the Resurrection on Friday, November 23rd

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**Time Sensitive Material—Please Deliver Promptly**

Staff

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

Parish Leaders

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

Vestry

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

LOGOS Editor: Dave Dunlap