



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

June 2013

From the Rector: Grow Up

In all but a few cases, the Sundays after Pentecost until the first Sunday in Advent are green Sundays - green vestments, green altar hangings, and often green outside in the world around us. Bishop Shannon says the way the church year is divided, half of the year is the story of Jesus' life and half of the year is the story of us, of how we become Christians in the face of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. The Sundays after Pentecost are Sundays in which we "grow up" into the Body of Christ.

After Pentecost we can grow in knowing and telling our own stories of our life in Christ. We can take Jesus into the world with us as we go about our daily lives. We can tell the story of how Jesus called us into his family and invite others to come into his family as well. We want to help people begin to identify the places where their stories touch our stories as neighbors and where they touch God's story of Jesus.

Since Pentecost marks the coming of the Holy Spirit into our lives, the weeks after Pentecost are a good time to grow in the power of the Spirit. Jesus is ready to clothe us with the power of the Spirit, says Brother Curtis Almquist of the Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE). "God is waiting for us to say yes with our own lives: our readiness or at least willingness to co-operate with God for what God has in mind for our own lives."

We can grow in gratitude. Meister Eckhardt said that if you only said one prayer in your life and it was "thank you" it would be enough. Practice noticing what is around you that you are grateful for. Be thankful for your body, its head and limbs and fingers and toes and all that they allow you to do. Be thankful for your senses that let you interact with God's world in an intimate way. Be thankful for the world around you and the marvels that it presents to each of us. Thank God for those you love and then thank them for being in your life. Thank God for your daily round of tasks, whether it includes a paying job or a non-paid path in life. Be thankful that they help structure your life and give it meaning and purpose. Be thankful that God has revealed Godself in Jesus Christ and that through him we have eternal life.

Develop your practice of hospitality. Summer is a great time for grilling out, going swimming with a group, visiting with people on vacation. Give hospitality generously to your guests and receive it graciously when you are the guest. Be open to extending yourself with warmth and love. Brother David Vyrhof (SSJE), says that "true Christian hospitality requires a giving of ourselves, an opening up of who we are, a willingness to stretch our sometimes narrow lives to step outside our comfort zone" to be with the world's poor and needy and even its enemies.

As you grow in hospitality, grow in service as well. Plant a row of vegetables for AFAC or take on some other service project to help the struggling in our community. Volunteer for one of the many walks and runs for various causes – or participate in them. Bake something for the new neighbors. Offer to take care of the lawn for new parents (someone cut our grass right after we had Evan and I was extremely appreciative). There are many ways to serve the community that are right under our noses if we just look for them.

Grow in awareness. Brother David Vyrhoff (SSJE) says “Jesus offers to lead us out of darkness and restore our sight. He offers us the chance to see

things as they really are”. Seeing the reality of things leads us to the best way to relate to them, be they good or ill. When we see clearly, we can discern well and make good choices for our lives.

Summer is supposed to be a slower time (I know it is not for many of us), but working on our spiritual growth is never something we should be taking a break from. Learn your story and tell it as it relates to Jesus’ story. Offer yourselves to others in hospitality and service. Be grateful for your many blessings. You will know greater joy and peace in the doing.

Ann †

May Vestry Meeting Highlights

Treasurer Bill Thomson presented a restructured format for the designated funds report, in which funds with a common purpose are grouped under a common heading. Most of the common headings correspond to a line item in the operating budget.

In response to an interest survey of parishioners, St. John’s will be focusing on setting up an expanded partnership with AFAC. (This could include working at their building and packaging supplies at our church, at their building, or both.)

It was reported that Bill Schenck, Bill Thomson, and Ann Barker, who are working on improving worship at St. John’s, will be looking into obtaining OneLicense for the parish. OneLicense would allow the parish to copy and use music from a variety of publishers.

The vestry authorized use of vestry discretionary funds to remove the tree closest to the church on the north side and replace it with a hardwood sapling.

The Junior Warden will start in June to seek bids for a permanent contract for sexton services.

The vestry authorized Paul Stenger to have an accessibility and mobility study done for the church. Paul has said he will pay for the study and he will also be purchasing a refrigerator for the second kitchen.

It was reported that Vacation Bible School,

which will run the week of July 15 at St. John’s, is being co-sponsored with St. Paul’s, Bailey’s Crossroads.

St. John’s Goals for 2013

Family Programs

Enhance family programs to support our children and youth and to draw in new families.

Outreach

Provide focus for and expand outreach activity.

Worship

Further enliven worship to uplift our spiritual lives.

Parish Growth

Attract new members and reach out to inactive, prior, and homebound members.

Communications

Improve parish communications with better strategies to inform prospective and current members about St. John’s and its activities.

Reflections Of An EFM Graduate

Having just finished 4 years of EFM, I want to encourage all of you to enroll in it! Why? Because it is more than a Bible study, lots more. I particularly want to highlight the importance of the group you will study with. The people in each group of my 4 years in EFM have been wonderful. We have learned much from each other, not only through serious study of the religious stuff, but other matters as well. Our mentors, Pat Bleicher and Doug Yon, have been terrific about guiding us through the sometimes (often) tricky maze of biblical/theological study.

When I tell folks about EFM, they sometimes are amazed that anyone would devote 4 years to this kind of study. I say, 4 years or 4,000+ years is not enough. Now I know how much I don't know! Begin this journey and see what YOU can find through serious study. Talk to Pat Bleicher or any of the EFM students. A new class begins this fall.

Doris Page

Words on Hymns

Our processional hymn for June 30 is "Fairrest Lord Jesus." This much-loved hymn is also known as "Beautiful Savior" and "Crusader Hymn." The melody is thought to have originated as a folk song in Silesia, an historical region of Central Europe located mostly in Poland, with smaller parts in the Czech Republic and Germany. After Franz Liszt used the tune for a Crusaders' march in his oratorio *The Legend of St. Elizabeth* (1862), it also became known as "St. Elizabeth." In 1850, Richard Willis, composer of the music for "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear," arranged the folk song for use in church hymnals.

The melody and its German text were first printed together in 1842 under the name (translated) "Most beautiful Lord Jesus." There is less information about the origin of the English translation than there is for the German. Several

popular myths exist about the origins of the hymn. The best-known legend is that it was sung by twelfth-century German Crusaders as they made their long, weary way to the Holy Land. Another, more credible but less romantic account is that it was sung by the followers of John Hus, who were driven out of Bohemia in 1620 in the anti-Reformation purge and settled in Silesia. They had to keep their faith secret, yet had a strong tradition of hymn singing.

The text is listed as attributed to the German Jesuits, who first published it in their *Munster Gesangbuch* in 1677. The words date back at least 15 years earlier, having been found in a manuscript dating back to 1662.

Bulletin Boards

St. John's is a dynamic community that needs more than just one bulletin board to keep its members up-to-date on activities. The St. John's board to the right of the kitchen displays pictures and news items of recent parish activities. It also includes ads and communiques from friends and alumni. The one beside it is devoted to news and pictures of parish youth activities.

The Opportunities board near the nursery is the focal point for community activities, from concerts to centering prayer workshops to activities for seniors. Announcements in the Sunday bulletin will frequently direct you there for more information on activities.

Two more bulletin boards near the piano are devoted to parish outreach opportunities. Here you will find information on many volunteer opportunities beyond our walls. One board highlights the church in the our community and local volunteer opportunities. The other focuses on the church in the world and volunteer agencies. For example this is where you will find the Arlington Interfaith Council newsletter along with pictures from the Heifer project.

All five bulletin boards are updated regularly. Be sure to check them frequently to keep up with everything that is going on!

Parish News

- Adult Christian education is on hiatus for the summer. We will resume at 9 a.m. on September 8. If you have a topic you would like to learn more about, now is the time to let Ann know so that it can be included in the fall Adult Ed schedule.
- Youth Christian education will conclude its season on June 16 with one of our Family Sundays. It will resume at 9:15 a.m. on September 8.

Help Wanted

- Since the young people are off until September, we need people to take charge of bagging the lunches for the homeless shelter for July 14 and August 11. The food and other supplies will be here. All you have to do is put on gloves and get to work making sandwiches and filling 25 bags with them and other nutritious foods. Please think about offering your services to help with this worthwhile project.
- St. John's and St. Paul's Bailey's Crossroads will offer Vacation Bible School from July 15-19 at St. John's from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. The theme is Superheroes and Superheroines of the Bible. Dinner will be provided, and there will be a theme-based activity, crafts, outdoor play and music. We need parishioners to help cook dinner and staff the VBS. Please let Beth Cavey know you will help or use the sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

Congratulations

- To Monica Lozano, who was named teacher of the year by the local chapter of the American Association of University Women
- To Doris Page from Cherrydale Methodist Church, who is graduating from EFM at the 10 a.m. service on June 9.

Thank you

- To Liz White and Leslie Mead for coordinating the reception for Lorraine's memorial service, to all who brought food and to Don and Penny Hess for cleaning up.
- To Beth Cavey for chairing our spring tea, to Kay Wells for decorating, to Bill Pritchard for taking photos and to all the volunteers who cooked and set up and cleaned up. The tea raised more than \$1,200.
- To Pat Bleicher, for another great year mentoring EFM students
- To Lynn Robinson who led the choir through another year of "heavenly" music for our 10 a.m. service and for all her good work convening St. John's Book Club each month!
- To Beth Cavey for all her work with the parish youth, her leadership of Family Ministries, and fostering a partnership with St. Paul's for this summer's Vacation Bible School.
- To Carolyn Corlett for coordinating the reception following Lorraine's funeral.

Coming this Summer. . . .

June 1 – Glencarlyn Day hot dog sale – 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Come help cook and sell hot dogs and don't forget to enjoy all the other things going on for Glencarlyn Day!

June 2 – Bishop Susan Goff makes the annual pastoral visit to St. John's to celebrate Eucharist and for confirmations. **Don't forget: One service only at 10 a.m.**

June 4 – St. John's Book Club 7:30 p.m. will discuss *The Piano Tuner* by Daniel Mason

June 9 and July 14 – Bagged Lunch Program after the 10 a.m. service. See the separate notice about the Bagged Lunch Program's needs!

June 9 – EFM Graduation at the 10 a.m. service

July 15 – 19 – Vacation Bible School. This year's program: Superheroes and Superheroines of the Bible, organized in partnership with St. Paul's Episcopal in Bailey's Crossroads. Sign up your children now!

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.

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

Dave Dunlap, LOGOS Editor

Articles for LOGOS may be Emailed to dave_dunlap@yahoo.com (preferred) or left at the church office.

Material for the July issue should be submitted no later than June 21.



Everybody enjoyed the pancake supper!