



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

September 2013

Friends and Family Sunday

St. John's will have a Friends and Family Sunday on September 22. This event is a celebration of worship, community and fun for everyone. This special event is intended both as a fun time for the St. John's community and an opportunity to invite friends and newcomers to visit. We encourage all St. John's members to think of a friend or family member they can invite to St. John's on that day.

Following our regular 10 a.m. Sunday worship

we will reconvene outdoors (weather permitting) for hot dogs, snow cones, and other light food fare. At the same time there will a moon bounce and games (like Bible Character Bingo) to keep the younger set entertained. And of course there will be St. John's usual socializing and hospitality.

Nursery care will be available beginning at 9:00 a.m. Children of all ages are invited to join us in worship, but nursery care will be available for those who need it.

Plan Now for Shrine Mont Weekend!

Come, once again, to our annual St. John's retreat at Shrine Mont this fall, where you can feel yourself being restored, body and soul. Our St. John's weekend this year has been set to run from Friday evening October 4 through lunch Sunday October 6.

Among the changing leaves of the mountain forest, you will find yourself in a place apart where you can do just what you need to do to re-create – whether prayer and meditation, hiking, playing board games and pitching horseshoes, reading and studying, taking part in a songfest, socializing and discussing, sitting around a campfire, eating good country food, or just plain resting. It is up to you.

This weekend is designed to let you choose from what re-creates you best – whether active or meditative or both. And, if you bring your children, we will provide activities for them, too.

The registration/reservation forms for the weekend are in the pamphlets that can be found in the pews and in the undercroft. You can also contact Faye Pritchard on 703-931-2168.

Please join us. And please remember that St. John's makes it possible for everyone who wants to go to take part. If this year you feel you need relief because of financial difficulties, just see Faye about scholarship opportunities. We want you there!

Mark Your Calendar For

➤ St. John's Book Club, September 3 – This month's book is David McCullough's *The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris*. There is still time to read this interesting book and join the discussion!

➤ Adult Christian education begins its fall season on September 8 at 9:00 a.m. Planned topics include *Holy Spirit: Here and Now*; *Unnamed*, an investigation of unsuspecting heroes of the Bible; and *God Calls Leaders*. Nursery care is available from 9:00 a.m. to allow those with young children to join the class. Please come!

Sunday School for the younger generation also resumes on September 8 at 9:30 a.m.

➤ Blessing of the Animals on St. Francis Sunday, Oct 6, at 5:00 p.m. This will be outdoors, weather permitting, indoors if necessary.

Education for Ministry Resumes

Following its regular summer vacation, the Education for Ministry (EFM) program resumes in September. EFM was created to teach the core curriculum of the seminary to lay persons. Over four years students cover Hebrew Scriptures (OT), Christian Scriptures (NT), Early Church History, and Modern Philosophers & Theologians – along

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.

with four years of Theological Reflection, Worship and Christian Community fellowship. There are no exams to take, no papers to write and no summer classes, all of which make it easier for busy adults whose study we support.

Over the years St. John's has had more than 25 individuals graduate from the program, people who are now engaged in a variety of lay ministries in our congregation and in the wider world. Add these to the extraordinary ongoing ministries of current and former St. John's students, and it is clear that our parish support of this important program is very good for the Kingdom of Heaven.

It is not too late to make the decision to begin EFM. If you want to join or just want more information, send an e-mail to Pat Blecher at pbleicher@aol.com.

Diocese Sponsors Jump Start Conference

On Saturday, September 14, The Diocese of Virginia, in conjunction with the Episcopal Church Building Fund and Alexandria's Church of the Resurrection, is sponsoring a one-day workshop on how parishes can get a jump start to a renewed and revitalized existence. It is designed for clergy, wardens, vestry members, and other lay leaders who are ready to face head-on their fears about decline in church attendance, decline in finances, and the future of their church.

The one-day event will be held at the Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard Street, Alexandria. It will begin at 9:00 a.m. and adjourn at 4:30 p.m. The Diocese is providing financial support for this program so that the cost of the workshop, including lunch, is only \$25 per person.

Space is limited, so you must register soon. Registration forms are available from the church office.

Faces in the Pews

As you certainly have noticed, there are some new faces in the pews at St. John's pews. We would like to introduce them, in case you have not yet met them.

Somewhat belatedly we welcome Sandy Winger who joined us last December. Sandy has jumped right into activities, augmenting our thin usher staff, volunteering to host fellowship, and helping out with altar guild. Sandy has also promised to join us in bagging produce at AFAC on August 31. It is nice to have you with us, Sandy!



At the 10 o'clock service you can not have failed to notice Matt and Adrienne Hubbard coping with their very young twins. The twins, Matthew and Madeline, will be baptized at the 10 o'clock service on September 29 – be sure to be there!

We also welcome back Keith and Kaipo McCartney along with their sons Kenji and Connor. And we are pleased to have back with us Ginger and Marshall Adair, who have returned from their summer sojourn in New Hampshire.

From the Rector: SOS!

When we are children, we all go through a stage where we say emphatically, “I can do it myself” when a parent or other adult tries to help us with a task. Doing things on our own is an important part of our work of self-differentiation. But many Americans seem to stay in that stage for the rest of their lives. They want to do everything themselves, from home repairs to purchasing cars to finances, whether they are competent at those tasks or not. The truth is, we cannot do everything ourselves, and many things go better and faster with help anyway. There are many sources of help out there for us.

When we are younger, our parents are the most logical ones to reach for. I used to go to my dad to call out my spelling words and help me memorize what kind of fish some country produced for social studies tests. Dad taught me how to ride a bike, and I therefore didn't fall as often. When I was an active parent, Evan needed my help to organize his asthma medications and to prod him as he was doing his Eagle Scout project. Parents are good for schoolwork, sports practice, carpooling, fixing our meals and being our number one cheerleaders. There is no substitute for parents who love us and care about us and want us to succeed.

When you are faced with a difficult task, consider asking for help from a professional. Characters in the comics and cartoons are always trying to fix their own plumbing or something else and inevitably turn it into a disaster. They finally try a plumber and it costs even more than it would have cost initially. When I was a new parent, Evan had his longest period of sleep in the middle of the day, so I was up a lot at night. Instead of trying to deal with this myself, I finally talked to a nurse, who gave me the easiest of solutions. “Wake him up when it’s time to eat,” she said. He’ll adjust quickly to having his nighttime during the night – and he did.

Friends are wonderful sources of help. I shop much better with a friend to give a second opinion. Friends can babysit, share recipes, talk to you when you are down, laugh when something is funny. They go to the movies with you, share secrets and make you feel loved. Friends are wonderful blessings to have in your life, from the person you’ve known since grade school to the woman you met last week in your yoga class.

Then there are your neighbors. I have some really nice neighbors. When I am gone they water my plants and take any papers I may get to the porch where people are less able to see them. Once I had a neighbor come over and open my chimney flue. I couldn’t even find the place to put the flue

opener, much less have the strength to move it.

Today, the internet is a real source of help for many people. You can Google almost anything and find out the information you need. Sometimes that helps you need fewer people to help you do something, but you have still used a tool to get help. I only use Google very basically, so often I have friends send me a link and this helps. The internet is certainly not my specialty, so I rely on other’s talents.

You can also find yourself asking a stranger for help. When a semi backed into my last car, I can’t tell you how many people gave me their cards or asked me if I needed their cell phone to call someone. Sad as it may be, we have to be very careful in asking for help from strangers, especially if we feel in a vulnerable position.

Sometimes we are so focused on helping our neighbor that we neglect ourselves and fail to ask for the help we need. God doesn’t mind us asking for help. In fact, God put us in community to do just that – to be there for one another in good times and bad. We all know we are called to take care of others; we just don’t know that we are all called to ask for the help we need as well. The next time a task is too hard or too lonely or too overwhelming to do yourself, ask someone for help. You’ll be glad you did.

Ann †

Vacation Bible School a “Super” Success

In July, St. John’s partnered with St. Paul’s in Bailey’s Crossroads, to host a highly successful Vacation Bible School. From July 15th through July 19th, each and every evening saw 17 to 23 young people learning about Bible Super Heroes and Super Heroines, making costumes and other items related to the Biblical Super-People they studied. All in all, it was a huge success, as well as being a lot of fun for the young students.

Sincere thanks go to all the “super heroes and heroines” – the dedicated teachers, workers and volunteers – who made Vacation Bible School a

success. Special thanks go to Beth Cavey, our Minister of Family Programs, who organized VBS and built the partnership with St. Paul’s. Others who helped and thereby earned our thanks (and their super-hero status) include Lenore Schmidt, Marion Reed, Eileen Tallent, Maddie Harbin, Galen Henderson, Bill Schenck, Barbara Olivere, and Brian Cavey, along with Christianna Sargent from St. Paul’s, who provided dinners and assisted with activities. (And if there are others we missed, rest assured that your contributions are appreciated!)

Many Hands Make Light Work at AFAC

A delegation from St. John's visited the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) on August 3 to help bag produce for AFAC's clients. In two hours the volunteers cut and knotted mesh bags and filled them with more than 1,200 pounds of produce. With many working it was light – and very satisfying – work. Our thanks to all who volunteered their time: Kay Wells, Pete Olivere, Billie Jean Keith, Carolyn Corlett, Faye and Bill Pritchard, Lynn Robinson, Debbie and Rob Carter, Dave and Carol Dunlap, and Kim Houghton.



Carol Dunlap, Carolyn Corlett, and Billy Jean Keith cut bags for produce.



Kim Houghton, Lynn Robinson, Fay Pritchard, Dave Dunlap, Kay Wells (hidden) Debbie Carter and Pete Olivere are ready to fill the bags with produce.

Parish News

Congratulations

- To Jones and Sharon Tallent on the birth of Christian Sydney July 30.

Rest in peace

- Anne Kaylor, widow of Sydney Kaylor, who entered the Life of the Resurrection on July 24

We thank

- The donor of our new welcome mat
- Debbie Carter who bought a new mat to put behind the altar
- John Wilson and Debbie Carter, who coordinated our bagged lunch program in July and August.
- Beth Cavey and Lenore Schmidt, who are organizing our third floor as well as other areas of the church.

Words on Hymns

The recessional hymn for September 8, *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky*, is one of the most popular contemporary hymns. Written in 1981 by Jesuit Daniel Shutte, many Protestants are unaware that this hymn represents a renewal of Roman Catholic hymnody following Vatican II.

An unusual feature of this hymn is the verses which relate the perspective of God, and the refrain which is the voice of the people. The powerful God, who is the creator of all the elements (sea and sky, snow and rain, and wind and flame) also hears his people cry and has wept for them. This is a hymn of transformation. God transforms the darkness into light in stanza one, melts “hearts of stone” with love in stanza two and nourishes the “poor and lame” with the “finest bread”—a reference to the Eucharist. Each stanza ends with the question, “Whom shall I send?” This is not a rhetorical question, for the refrain immediately responds with Samuel’s answer: “Here I am, Lord,” and promises that with the help of God, “I will hold your people in my heart.”

Although this hymn began as Catholic liturgical music, it has progressed into mainstream Protestant worship; surely a sign that the sentiments expressed in the words and music are universal.

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.

Vestry Highlights

July 2013

The vestry agreed to work on pulling together a Friendship Sunday service in the fall to which parishioners could invite friends, neighbors, and family. There would be a regular service followed by expanded hospitality, music, and displays with take-away information on the church’s activities, all preferably held outside. The tentative date is September 29.

The Junior Warden announced that she will begin shopping for updated computers for the rector and the office administrator.

The vestry voted to pay the sextons up to \$12 a month (one hour of work) for washing the cleaning cloths. This will be included in their regular hours. The vestry voted to approve a statement of guidance on the relationship between designated funds and the operating budget when drawing up the operating budget.

The vestry amended a motion on the composition and responsibilities of the finance committee, which was then passed by e-mail vote.

The treasurer reported that Mary Greiner Broman completed the audit on St. John’s books and the Rector’s Discretionary Fund books and found them to be in order. The Audit Committee was set to meet July 13 to finish the audit paperwork for the diocese.

August 2013

The vestry confirmed the following as members of the Finance Committee: John Wilson, chair; Bill Thomson, treasurer; John Restall, pledge clerk; Bill Schenck, vestry representative; and Linda Trochim. They will be developing the budget for 2014.

The vestry discussed starting the stewardship campaign in October or even late September, in part to get pledge information to the Finance Committee earlier in the year.

The vestry agreed that the Animal Blessing would take place on St. Francis Sunday, October 6, even though it is the Shrine Mont weekend.

The vestry authorized using \$2,000 out of the maintenance and repairs line item for repair of light fixtures.

The vestry approved \$1,875 from designated funds for the purchase of two new computers and a new monitor for use in the rector’s and parish administrator’s offices.

Second Quarter Financial Report

The revenue and expenses for the second quarter appear below.

The receipts for the quarter exceeded the disbursements to create a budget surplus of \$1,098 for the quarter.

Operating Budget	YTD	Budget
Operating Income	\$77,291.02	\$138,710.00
Expenditures		
Worship-Rector	\$46,174.83	\$92,323.00
Worship-Music	\$5,228.52	\$10,547.00
Worship-Other	\$378.92	\$3,000.00
Christian Education	\$1,608.49	\$3,124.00
Outreach	\$3,626.27	\$6,555.00
Hospitality	\$176.69	\$500.00
Office Expenses	\$6,661.05	\$14,032.00
General Expenses	\$1,121.74	\$3,338.00
Building	\$11,216.12	\$34,284.00
Total Operating Expenditures	\$76,192.63	\$167,703.00
Income less Expenditures	\$1,098.39	(\$28,993.00)
Funds Designated for Specific Uses		
Designated Funds In	\$5,332.00	
Designated Funds Out	\$5,573.00	
Total Financial Assets	\$241,495.00	

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

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 (preferred) or left at the church office.

Material for the October issue should be submitted no later than September 24.