



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

May 2014

From the Rector: Think Big

Brother Mark Brown of the Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE) says that God has created us with the capacity to become big in heart. This month, as we have just celebrated the new life promised us in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, is a good time to think about how we might increase the size of our hearts by increasing the footprint of our lives on earth.

The first thing we can do is think big about ourselves and others. We are all made in the image and likeness of God. Who we are is something to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not something to be compared to other created beings so we come out smaller or larger. It is knowing that we are all children of God with different gifts and graces. Being on the quiet side might make you a good listener. Being cheerful might make you a good encourager. Being analytical can make you a good problem solver. Being artistic will help you create beauty for others to enjoy. God needs all of us to make God's world, and we can develop a big heart about ourselves and others by remembering that each of us is special and necessary.

We can live big, that is, we can live into the abundant life God meant us to have. Living big often requires a change of perspective, of beginning to look at all we do have instead of all we do not have. It means gratitude to God the giver

for that full to overflowing cup we have been given. We have all been given the natural world to experience with joy and wonder. We have been given loving relationships, which support and uphold us through our ups and our downs. When we live an abundant life, even those downs have moments of gratitude. That does not mean that we live like Pollyanna, sticking our heads in the sand when life takes a wrong turn or bad things happen; it means we bless God in our joys and in our trials, even as we work with God to ease our difficulties.

We can dream big. Brother Curtis Almquist of SSJE reminds us that desire is God-given and we should listen to it. I read an article in the *Washington Post* about a woman who was paralyzed from the waist down who is learning to walk with a robotic cage to do the work of joints and muscles for her. She has dreamed big for herself and travels around speaking to other disabled people so that they might dream big too. In the *Smithsonian* magazine, an article about refugees from Bhutan talks about the hard work they are doing to get an education and find good jobs. Many of them had been living in refugee camps for several years under heavy deprivation, but it has not quenched their desire to live good lives. Our dreams are worthwhile, even if we discard them after a while or they go up in smoke.

They have motivated us to learn and grow physically, emotionally and/or spiritually and have kept us focused on a larger self, who can act in a big way for God in the world.

We can serve big. I recently saw a TV show about Operation Smile, which focuses on repairing cleft palates of children who cannot afford surgery. The staff is all volunteer, and the spokesperson was asking for contributions to this effort so that even more children could be helped. The effect of a surgical procedure that takes less than an hour is stunning. Children are no longer shunned or made fun of. They can go back to schools they left in shame, eat and drink normally and live brand new lives. When we contribute even a small amount to

an organization like this, we become part of a community effort to give big in God's world, to do what Christ commanded us to do. In April, our AFAC workers bagged enough potatoes for 450 families. I don't think those of us who have food when we need it can imagine how big our impact is on those families.

God has given us a lot of power to work alongside God and be God's people in the world. God wants us and needs us to have the biggest hearts we can have to make the biggest impact we can. So live big. You will change your lives and those of others for the better.

Ann †

Parish News and Opportunities

Adult Education to Focus on Unnamed Heroes

Adult education in May will focus on unnamed heroes of the Bible, people who were all chosen by God to do something very special. Come and join the discussion and learn to look for opportunities in your life where you can do something heroic for God.

Our thanks to:

- Faye and Bill Pritchard, Barbara Olivere and Patricia Broida, who helped host the Region 3 Lenten dinner on April 1.
- The altar guild, the musicians (including our guest musicians), the egg fillers, the egg hidiers, the people who brought goodies and all those who helped make Easter such a beautiful occasion. A special thank you to the Family Programs ministry for hosting our Easter reception. About 65 people attended Easter services and all appreciated the music, the hospitality, and the fun.

We welcome

- Justin Thomas, our new sexton, who began his duties on April 1.

In May we celebrate the birthdays of:

Patricia Bleicher, Debbie Carter, Andy Del Gallo, Jane Edwards, Rob Hardman, Kim Houghton, Alice Kniskern, Abigail Kollath, Romana Martin, Bill Schenck and Owen Tallent

And the anniversaries of:

Jeff Petrich & Leslie Mead, Christopher & Laura Van Wyk

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The LOGOS is published monthly except August, at 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 June issue should be submitted no later than May 23.

Oportunities for Service

St. John's Tea

"Time out of mind" as the ancient Greeks would have said, St. John's has hosted a Spring Tea the Saturday of Mother's Day weekend. This year there will be no Spring Tea. The Morning Guild, which for years organized and hosted the Spring Tea, has officially turned the project over to the church, but no one has stepped forward to lead the effort. If we are to continue the tradition of hosting a tea, we need to find a volunteer to coordinate the project. Numerous people from the community have already called the church office asking about the May tea, only to be disappointed to find it will not be held.

In the past we have had a Harvest Tea in the fall. We can still do that, but we need a coordinator and helpers. Please consider volunteering for this important job.

If you want more information about what coordinating the tea entails, the church office can put you in touch with past coordinators who would be pleased to share their experience with you.

Family Ministry

St. John's wholeheartedly supports and encourages its Family Programs ministry with its prayers and its money. What the ministry needs now is volunteers' time. We need people to volunteer to be the second person in the room to help the teacher and keep us in compliance with diocesan guidelines that require two adults to be present in every class.

Right now, children's education goes from 9:30 – 10:30 am, so volunteers miss the first half of the Sunday service. Volunteering once a month or once every two months would help immensely without being a major sacrifice. Presently, a small cadre of volunteers are doing this work and our dedicated teachers and moms have not been in church for a whole service in months. There is a real opportunity for service in volunteering and providing these dedicated people additional spiritual sustenance.

If you can help with this ministry, please see Ann Barker or Beth Cavey.

Arlington Food Assistance Center Volunteers

On the second Friday in April a small group of St. John's volunteers spent one hour at the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC), converting 50 pound bags of potatoes into family-sized packages. In one hour our volunteers produced 450 bags of potatoes for needy families in Arlington County. One hour's work benefited 450 families.

The opportunity for service through AFAC is not limited to current volunteers! More workers are always welcome! If you are interested, contact Faye Pritchard for more information.

April Vestry Meeting Highlights

The vestry devoted an hour to discussing St. John's Family Ministries program over the past year. Following the discussion, the vestry approved four steps to strengthen and bolster the ministry.

1. Writing a position description for a paid Family Ministries position to assist with planning activities and procuring materials;
2. Advertising the position description through the Center for the Ministry of Teaching at Virginia Seminary and other venues.

3. Publicizing to the parish the need for greater involvement in the Family Ministries program and presenting opportunities for involvement. (*See the Family Ministry opportunity, above.*)

4. Soliciting input from older youth about their needs and desire for involvement.

Reverend Barker apprised the vestry of our new sexton's progress in fulfilling the duties of the sexton's job. The vestry also discussed having a welcome activity for our new sexton in June.

Words on Hymns

One of my Top Ten hymns is *The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done*, which is our recessional hymn on May 11. The tune is not complex (ABA with an alleluia thrown in at the end), but I like its joyous, triumphant nature, and I love the text.

The origin of this tune lies in an adaptation of the *Gloria Patri* from the 1591 Choral Mass,



Palestrina

Magnificat Tertii Toni (Magnificat on the Third Tone) by the great Italian Renaissance composer Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (b. Palestrina, Italy, c. 1525; d. Rome, Italy, 1594). One of the most gifted composers of his age, Palestrina influenced church music for many centuries. He began his musical training at the age of nine when he went to Rome to become a chorister in the Church of Santa Maria Maggiori. By 1544 he was a singing teacher and organist at the cathedral in his hometown of Palestrina and had begun composing. In 1551 the bishop of Palestrina became Pope Julius III, and he took the musician with him to Rome.

Palestrina lived in Rome until his death. As his fame as choirmaster and composer grew, he held a series of increasingly prestigious positions: teacher at the Jesuit seminary from 1565 to 1571 and choirmaster at the Capella Giulia at St. Peter's from 1571 to 1594. A prolific composer, mainly of church music, he wrote one hundred masses and four hundred motets. For many years after the Council of Trent, Palestrina was considered the model composer for Roman Catholic liturgical music.

British composer William H. Monk (1823-1889), who wrote many hymn tunes, borrowed the first two phrases from Palestrina and,

with a slight adaptation, set this music with the opening and closing alleluias. (One of Monk's best known tunes is "Eventide", used for the hymn *Abide with Me*.)

Some historians credit the text of *The Strife Is O'er* to the 12th century. However, no support can be found for that statement. This Easter hymn first appeared anonymously in a Jesuit collection, *Symphonia Sirenum*, published in Cologne, Germany, in 1695. It was more than 150 years later before the hymn was used by English-speaking churches. In 1859 the translation was made by Francis Pott (1831-1909), an Anglican minister. Pott provided his own translation of the original Latin for his *Hymns Fitted to the Order of Common Prayer* (1861). Pott was on the hymnal committee for the first edition of the famous 19th-century landmark British hymnal, *Hymns Ancient and Modern* (1861); Pott's translation, with alterations, was included in this hymnal. It has become a staple of Easter hymnody since that time.



William H. Monk

The text chronicles the final battle between good and evil.

The last stanza draws upon Isaiah 53:5 – "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed." – and I Corinthians 15:55 – "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"

A soldiers' chorus sang this hymn, Gen. George Patton's favorite, at his funeral on Dec. 23, 1945, in Hamm, Luxembourg, after his death in an automobile accident.

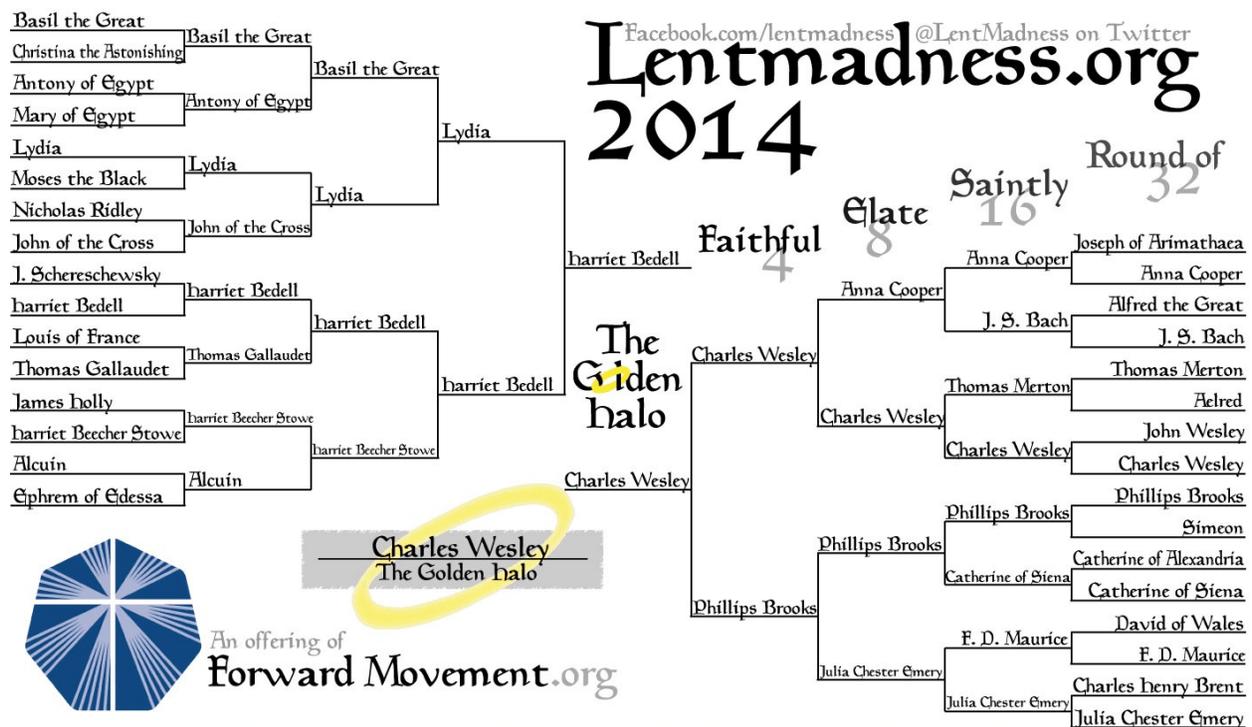
Carol Dunlap

Lent Madness Concludes With Golden Halo Award

The Lent-long contest that winnowed 64 saints down to a single winner of the “Golden Halo Award” concluded with the award going to Charles Wesley. Modeled after college basketball’s “March Madness,” the Family Ministries “Lent Madness” provided an ongoing effort to educate the church’s youth (and adults as well!) to the lives and contributions of religious people throughout the ages. Members followed the process and compared their predictions to weekly outcomes as the contest continued.

Sandy Winger came out the winner with the best overall predictions. Runners-up were Lynn Robinson and Michael Cavey, with Bill Schenck, Maddie Harbin, and Leslie Mead close behind. Kenji and Connor McCartney got honorable mentions for filling out brackets and playing.

The bracket below shows the path from 64 saints to the winner of the Golden Halo.



First Quarter 2014 Financial Report

The revenue and expenses for the first quarter appear below.

The receipts for the quarter exceeded the disbursements to create a budget surplus of \$2,034 for the quarter.

Operating Budget	YTD	Budget
Operating Income	\$42,980.86	\$142,985.00
Expenditures		
Worship-Rector	\$23,086.23	\$90,156.00
Worship-Music	\$2,600.16	\$10,346.00
Worship-Other	\$311.88	\$3,550.00
Christian Education	\$1,092.05	\$2,883.00
Outreach	\$1,383.00	\$6,875.00
Hospitality	\$0.00	\$500.00
Office Expenses	\$3,193.66	\$13,802.00
General Expenses	\$553.80	\$3,799.00
Building	\$8,726.46	\$33,814.00
Total Operating Expenditures	\$40,947.24	\$165,725.00
Income less Expenditures	\$2,033.62	(\$22,740.00)
Funds Designated for Specific Uses		
Designated Funds In	\$4,545.95	
Designated Funds Out	\$1,753.25	

St. John's Staff and Leadership

Staff

Rector: The Rev. Ann B. Barker
 Minister of Music: Lynn Robinson
 Organist: Carol Dunlap
 Parish Administrator: Virginia Pearson
 Sexton: Justin Thomas

Parish Leaders

Bill Thomson, Treasurer
 John Restall, Pledge Clerk
 John Wilson, Chair, Finance Committee
 Eileen Tallent, Chair, Altar Guild
 Beth Cavey, Minister of Family Programs

Vestry

Bill Schenck , Senior Warden
 Sandy Winger, Junior Warden
 Jeff Aitken
 Pete Olivere

Paul Stenger
 Bill Thomson
 Linda Trochim