



# 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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June 2014

## **From the Rector: Moving Forward**

If you are a Washington commuter, you inevitably experience traffic jams. Even on my three-mile drive, Leesburg Pike gets backed up at 5:30 so that I always take the back way home. Traffic jams are a pain. There we sit, helpless to do anything about them, helpless to move forward. We may be late for an appointment, rushing to get to our kid's soccer game or just eager to get home after a long day. But we can't.

I feel that stuck feeling when I think about driving in Washington. Unless you have been visited by the parking fairy, it is really tough to find a parking space. When I picture myself driving in DC, I see a woman driving in circles around and around the mall or Georgetown or wherever until she runs out of gas. Needless to say, when I think about driving downtown, I quickly decide against it.

None of us likes to be stuck, unless we are inveterate couch potatoes or suffering from obsessive compulsive disorder and bound by routine. We all want to move forward in our lives. We want to do new things, meet new people, eat new food, see new movies. We want to enrich our lives.

We really felt stuck this winter and spring with all the bad weather, but eventually it got better. We put away our snow shovels and ice scrapers. This month we move from spring to summer. The

weather gets hotter and more humid. We get out our summer wardrobe, plan vacations, drink iced tea on the porch. Children get out of school. Our lives are turned upside down as we move forward while the kids are home. Summer camp, travel, swimming pools, play dates, mall visiting and gaming take the place of classrooms, study, team sports and other activities. Summer is a time for moving forward, both into familiar things we have not done for a while and new things, which perhaps we could not try during the winter months.

Sometimes moving forward is about relationships. Current friends and family mean a lot to us, but many of us enjoy getting to know new people and new perspectives. So we volunteer for an organization we support, hoping to meet like-minded people. We join a book club. We check out the new neighbors. Sometimes we move forward by renewing old relationships. My 40<sup>th</sup> high school reunion is this summer. I don't think I'll go, but that is one way to strengthen relationships with friends we have drifted apart from.

Sometimes moving forward is about enriching our lives with new skills, abilities and experiences. Moving forward could be as simple as going to a new restaurant or seeing a new play. Sometimes we may want to learn something new. I have taken classes in country line dancing and art. I would like to learn how to knit better and how to crochet. I

would like to learn Spanish.

Sometimes it is relatively easy to move forward, and sometimes it requires determination. I am getting a new computer. I have been shown the basics, but it is a lot different than my old computer. I am determined to learn how to use it easily. It will take some time and effort. When I was at my brother's a couple of weeks ago, he took me out bike riding. I think I have ridden a bike with hand brakes once. He patiently took me around the parking lot of his apartment complex several times. I fell down and had to stop suddenly, but I was determined to do it.

How would you like to move forward? However it is, be sure to bring God into it, especially if you are contemplating a major change. God wants what is best for us, and God will

confirm our choices through the Holy Spirit. We will also need God's help to move forward in a way that will show our love for God, others and self. God is delighted when we make a move to enrich our lives, whether it is through relationships, self-improvement or even just moving through the year and the changes that brings. Sometimes we will inch forward, as we do in a traffic jam, and sometimes we will have smooth sailing. Whichever way it is, if we are determined, we will get where God wants us to go.

So get out of your ruts. Put a good habit in place of a bad one. Try a new activity. Enjoy each day as it goes by. Moving forward enriches us and others, ultimately making us happier and healthier people.

Ann †

## Parish News

St. John's will have a special Friends and Family Sunday on June 15 with a "Welcome Summer" theme that will include fun activities for both children and adults. We will also have a special hospitality time that Sunday. Please invite members of your family, neighbors, and friends to join us for this special event!

Adult education goes on break for the summer beginning this month. Join us again the Sunday after Labor Day.

We thank all who have volunteered their time and talents to St. John's, especially:

- Pete Olivere for his tireless work in getting the two new computers installed. We're almost there, even though I'll probably have to call him all the time for a while.
- Sandy Winger, our junior warden, for organizing our parish clean up.
- All those who helped with the spring parish clean up: Jeff Aitken, Keith McCartney, Eileen Tallent, Faye Pritchard, Paul and Anne Stenger, Marshall Adair, Bill Thomson, Lenore Schmidt, Pete Olivere, Richard Henry (from St. Paul's) and Brian, Beth, Tina and Michael Cavey
- Pat Bleicher for preaching May 11 and May 18

We celebrate with those who have birthdays in June:

Charles Adair, Sam Beavin, Michael Cavey, Cathi Del Gallo, Angie France, Paul Harless, Adrienne Hubbard, Matthew Hubbard, Kaipō McCartney, Leslie Mead, Stacy O'Connor, Faye Pritchard, James Robinson, Jones Tallent, Matthew Tallent, Christopher Van Wyk, Betty Vertiz

We also celebrate with those who have anniversaries this month:

Peter and Patricia Broida, Pete and Barbara Olivere, John and Valerie Wilson, Bob and Eileen Tallent, The Rev. Peter and Angela Swarr, Ray and Stacy O'Connor, Vernon and Romana Martin

## Opportunities for Service

### Family Programs Minister – 5 hours per week

The Family Programs Minister will work with Rector and Family Programs leaders to plan and teach Sunday School curriculum for 4 to 8 children in elementary school during the school year. For older youth, the Family Programs Minister will work with Family Programs leaders to plan a curriculum that others will teach.

Sunday School classes run from 9:30 a.m. through the Peace of the 10 a.m. service (approximately 10:30 a.m.). Sunday School is structured in the following way on a monthly rotation:

First Sunday – Lessons

Second Sunday – Bagging Lunches for homeless shelter and brief lesson or chapel

Third Sunday/Family Sunday – Provide fellowship for congregation through making collaborative themed treats and brief lesson or chapel

Fourth and Fifth Sunday – Lessons

Three to four times each year, the Family Programs Minister will plan a family-friendly service for the 10 a.m. service. In the past these services have included a Christmas Pageant, Saints Lent Madness service, and Welcome Summer Skit.

The Family Programs Minister will also work with families to provide guidance and support as necessary.

The salary for this position is \$100 per week. (If you know of anyone who might be a fit for this job, please let Ann or Beth Cavey know.)

### Church Signs

We need someone to tend the signs outside the church. The church has signs at the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> street corners to advertise special events as well as regular Sunday services. We need someone to update the signs for special events, updating event dates and other information, hanging the new signs in advance of event and removing them after events. The next event is Friends and Family Sunday coming up June 15, for which the sign needs to be up by June 8 at the latest. Keeping our signs current is an important part of our outreach efforts. Please see Ann if you can try take care of signs for even this one event.

### 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 we found no one to lead the effort.

Four volunteers have stepped forward to host a Harvest Tea this fall – Patricia Broida, Diane Henderson, Carrie Harbin and Debbie Carter. The date for the Harvest Tea will be determined by the vestry and will be announced shortly.

With leadership in place, we still need volunteers to make the Harvest Tea a success. Our Harvest Tea coordinators will be calling on members of the parish to support this project. Please continue the support you have shown in the past for this fun community event.

#### 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.

## Highlights of May Vestry Meeting

The meeting started at 7:00 p.m. After opening prayers and bible study, the vestry approved the minutes of the April meeting and the April financials.

The vestry initiated an ongoing Mutual Ministry Review set of discussions. This month, the focus was on recruiting an assistant for the Family Ministries programs. A position description had been prepared and forwarded to several possible recruiting sources.

Members of the vestry are working to set up a structure to support our continuation of a Fall Tea. This effort is on going. Bill Schenck reported that things are going well with the ushers and we are getting more volunteers to serve as tellers.

There is a draft covenant covering interactions/expectations between St. John's and Cristo Rey for the next five years (the previous covenant expired at the end of last year). Issues still remain to be resolved.

The vestry reviewed the performance of our new sexton at the six week anniversary of his employment. The vestry agreed he is doing a good job.

Other issues dealing with the building and worship service were discussed.

The full text of the minutes of the May meeting will be posted along with the May financial report once both have been approved by the vestry at the June meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

## Words on Hymns

Another perennial favorite will be our recessional hymn on June 29. *How Great Thou Art* is based on a Swedish poem written by Carl Gustav Boberg (1859–1940) in Sweden in 1885. The melody is a Swedish folk song. It was translated into English by British missionary Stuart K. Hine, who also added two original verses of his own composition. It was popularized by George Beverly Shea and Cliff Barrows during the Billy Graham crusades. It was voted the United Kingdom's favourite hymn by BBC's



Carl Boberg

Songs of Praise, and was ranked second (after *Amazing Grace*) on a list of the favorite hymns of all time in a survey by *Today's Christian* magazine in 2001. Like many timeless hymns, the words are meaningful and memorable, with complex images.

Carl Boberg himself gave the following

description of the inspiration behind his poem:

“It was that time of year when everything seemed to be in its richest colouring; the birds were singing in trees and everywhere. It was very warm; a thunderstorm appeared on the horizon and soon thunder and lightning. We had to hurry to shelter. But the storm was soon over and the clear sky appeared.

“When I came home I opened my window toward the sea. There evidently had been a funeral and the bells were playing the tune of ‘When eternity's clock calling my saved soul to its Sabbath rest.’ That evening, I wrote the song ‘O Store Gud.’”

Boberg first published *O Store Gud* in the *Mönsterås Tidningen (Mönsterås News)* on 13 March 1886. The poem became matched to an old Swedish folk tune and sung in public for the first known occasion in a church in the Swedish province of Värmland in 1888.

British Methodist missionary Stuart Wesley Keene Hine (1899-1989) was dedicated to Jesus Christ in the Salvation Army by his parents and was baptized in 1914. Hine was influenced greatly by the teachings of British Baptist evangelist Charles Spurgeon.

Hine first heard the Russian translation of the German version of the song while on an evangelistic mission to the Carpathian Mountains in Ukraine, near the Polish border, in 1931. Upon hearing it, Hine was moved to create his English paraphrase known as "How Great Thou

Art". According to Michael Ireland, "Hine and his wife, Edith, learned the Russian translation, and started using it in their evangelistic services. Hine also started rewriting some of the verses – and writing new verses (all in Russian) – as events inspired him."

There have been over 1,700 documented recordings of *How Great Thou Art*. It has been used on television programs, in motion pictures, and has been named as the favorite Gospel song of at least three United States presidents.

### LOGOS

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](mailto:dave_dunlap@yahoo.com) (preferred) or left at the church office.

Material for the July issue should be submitted no later than June 24.

### 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