



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

July 2014

An Instructed Eucharist

This is the first of a six-part series on the Holy Eucharist. It is called an instructed Eucharist. Some of you may remember doing this in church before when seminarian Peter Swarr was here. We are including it in the *LOGOS* so that more people may read and understand why we come to St. John's on Sunday. The text is reprinted by permission from Forward Movement. Other resources about the sacraments of the church and devotional practices are available at Forward Movement at www.forwardmovement.org.

Part I – Background

We gather weekly for the Holy Eucharist, the central act of Christian worship for 2000 years. Christians across the world have gathered and are gathering for what we are doing today – listening to the scriptures and praying, then partaking of Christ's Body and Blood. Here, in these simple acts, we are enacting the deepest truths of our lives.

It began simply. The night before he was put to death, Jesus, a young Jew, took ordinary bread and wine at a Passover meal, blessed and shared them, and told his friends to do this to remember him. Christians have done it ever since, and have ever since found that when they do, Jesus is still with them.

There are two ways commonly used to refer to the focus of this liturgy. Each points to a key aspect of the Communion service. For one, it is an Altar, which suggests a place offering sacrifice. Every Sunday is a feast of the Resurrection, a celebration of God's triumph in Christ over death and over all that would tear down and destroy the world. The

Eucharist is the great high feast of our faith, for Christ has done for us what none of us could do for ourselves. He has brought to each of us God's healing, forgiving love; he has died for us. Here we come to receive again the gift of his sacrifice, his saving love and power, and to give thanks for what he has done and is doing in us. The word Eucharist our prayer book uses for the service is the most ancient name for the sacrament. It is a Greek word that means "thanksgiving".

Another name used for the altar is simply the Holy Table, which suggests that we are here for a meal. This gathering is something like a family dinner. Families gather at the dinner table, to enjoy one another's company and to feel bound together by a common past and kinship. St. Paul emphasized repeatedly that those who share in the one bread of the Eucharist are one Body. Here we gather to share our lives, to meet Christ in one another – all of us, different as we are, belonging to one another as we belong to Christ. So as with any special meal, we set the table with our finest linens, we give thanks, we eat, and in sharing the meal we

become more deeply united. This is the meal of Christ's family.

We celebrate this meal together and the priest who presides is called the celebrant. Much Christian worship through the years has been passive – choir, sermon, Communion, simply there for us to receive. This service assumes just the opposite. The Eucharist isn't happening up here, or over there. It is what is happening in the whole church as each does his or her part in the celebration. Everything in this service is saying, "Wake up! Wake up! Open your eyes. Listen to the words, the music, to your own restless heart. Your Lord is here with you."

The Eucharist is not a time for private, individual worship. It assumes that each of us has been involved in personal prayer during the week and comes here now prepared to join with other

Christians in sharing in Christ together. So this isn't the time to be intensely private or remote. We should have the silence to listen to our own hearts but be aware we are doing this together. This is a time to welcome children among us as the best reminder of how we are to be: open, friendly, at ease with each other, seeking to bring our real selves to Christ and to those around us. In short, we are to be as human as we can be.

The Eucharist should be celebrated with joy. If there isn't something of delight in all this, we're missing the point. One of the worst mistakes we make in church is to be too serious, too rigid, too cold with one another and with God. Something overwhelmingly good has been done for us, and a great meal is spread for us. So we should sing out the hymns and speak boldly in the prayers.

From the Rector: Building God's Kingdom

Have you ever built a new house or built an addition on your house or even dreamed of doing one of those things? What color would you paint the walls? What kind of kitchen would you build? What would your yard look like? How would your master bedroom and bath be configured? I think most of us dream of these things at one time or another, especially as we drive by lots that are under construction.

Dreaming is a vital component of building something beautiful and loved. In the movie, "Field of Dreams," Kevin Costner imagines a baseball diamond in the middle of a cornfield that will bring the ghosts of past baseball players to once more take the field and play games. He moves his family to a farm and builds his baseball field. And he gets his baseball players. The theme of the movie is "If you build it, they will come."

We are called to build the Kingdom of God, but we don't know exactly what it looks like or what it is. Brother Mark Brown of the Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE) says that "Jesus and the gospel writers were not lacking in verbal skills. Had they wished to define the kingdom of God in specific terms they were capable of doing so. They

chose not to. What the Kingdom of God is to be has been left to us to envision, to dream, to imagine, to build." In other words, we Christians with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, help to create the kingdom.

We are fairly certain about some things. We know that the central power of the kingdom is God's love, which pours forth in mercy and justice for everyone. We know that the poor will be cared for, the hungry fed, the oppressed freed, the sorrowful filled with joy. We know that death and pain will be no more. Our relationships will be ones of equality and care for our neighbors and love, reverence and praise for God. We know that people will be gathered from the north, the south the east and the west to enter the kingdom.

Building the kingdom will be quite a job in a world that lives with hierarchical models of kingdoms created by power, money and the domination of one class over another. Just as the builders of a house need to know how to pour footings, put up the frame, hang drywall, paint and sand, so we need to be trained to spread God's message of love and light to the world to help build the kingdom. What do we need to be good

builders? One thing we need to know is that we are made in the image of God. Brother David Vryhoff (SSJE) says the Holy Spirit “strengthens us to let go of patterns of pretending and performing that have nothing to do with who we really are.” We can stop pretending to be perfect, to be able to do everything we are asked just right. The kingdom of God is not built by perfect people because none of us is perfect. We can stop acting like we know it all because we don’t. In God’s kingdom it is perfectly alright to say, “I don’t know.” Even Jesus didn’t know when he would return or the kingdom would come in its glory. We can stop beating ourselves up and be kind to ourselves instead. The image and likeness of God is about love, not about perfection.

We need encouragement. We need to know that we are wonderful people, blessed with many gifts and talents and truly able to help God bring in the

kingdom. That is why we live in community – in families, in friendships, in churches. We need other people to tell us we are valuable and worthy children of God.

We need to know that the kingdom of God is not buildings and roads. It is made up of people like us. People who are working toward wholeness for ourselves and others. People who are working to open their hearts, not only to others but to themselves. People who are willing to meet God face to face, says Brother Curtis Almquist (SSJE). People who are willing to see God’s light and not be afraid.

We are all equipped by the Holy Spirit to be builders of God’s kingdom – a kingdom of love and justice and mercy. So go out into the world and build and you will be richly blessed.

Ann †

Summary of June Vestry Meeting

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

The vestry continued work on updating and revising the five-year covenant between St. John’s and Cristo Rey. The vestry is also very interested in creating a standing liaison committee.

The vestry reviewed the updated proposed expenses for the Shrine Mont weekend scheduled for October.

Faye Pritchard presented two new outreach proposals. The first would involve collecting school supplies and appropriate sized clothing for both Carlin Springs and Campbell elementary schools. The vestry approved undertaking the proposal. The second proposal was to support an Arlington program that serves as a clearinghouse for individuals convicted of a crime who need to do community service. This proposal is for the vestry to consider in the future.

Appointments were made to the Finance Committee. They are Lenore Schmidt as chair of

the committee; Linda Trochim as vestry member; John Restall as pledge clerk; and Bill Thomson as treasurer. John Wilson and Paul Stenger’s names were to be submitted to the committee chair for her consideration and vestry approval as at-large member..

The diocese has a proposal to initiate a training program of mentoring for stewardship teams. A number of questions/issues were raised and more information from the diocese is needed before the vestry will make a decision on implementation.

Senior Warden Bill Schenck is starting a series of articles for *LOGOS* about things donated to the church.

The vestry was briefed on steps to be taken to abate water leaking into the second kitchen during heavy rains.

The treasurer’s report was approved.

We now have a group to chair the tea.

Our sexton’s vacation will be the week of July 5th and we need volunteers to do his jobs in his absence.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Parish News

We thank all who have contributed their time and energy to the mission of St. John's, especially:

- Everyone who helped make our Glencarlyn Day hot dog and drink sales a success – Bill Thomson, our chair, Del Hunt, Jeff Wallace, Paul Stenger, Bill Schenck, Bill Pritchard, Jeff Aitken, Brian Cavey and Keith McCartney. We made \$155!
- Beth Cavey, for preaching on EFM graduation Sunday.
- Pat Bleicher, for another year of leading EFM at St. John's.
- Jeff Aitken, for taking on sign duties.
- The choir for another wonderful year of singing and our organist Carol Dunlap.
- The Family Programs Ministry for their wonderful 2014 Summer Games skit on June 15.
- All the people who helped with Family Programs throughout the year – Lenore Schmidt, Kaipo McCartney, Leslie Mead, Carrie Harbin, Faye Pritchard, Pete Olivere and, most important, our Family Programs Minister Beth Cavey.

We celebrate with all who have birthdays in July and August:

- Marshall Adair, Nolan Baynham, Michael Beavin, Carol Bogart, Henry Carter, Brian Cavey, Carolyn Corlett, Dennis Eckhout, Nancy Gibb, Lexie Hart, McKenzie Hart, Klaus Held, Thomas Held, Janice Hull, Billie Jean Keith, Kenji McCartney, Helen Naw Mumu, Ray O'Connor, Virginia Pearson, Paul Petrich, Bill Pritchard, Patrick Rawls, Marion Reed, Lynn Robinson, Lenore Schmidt, Harriet Sheehan Rawls, Christian Tallent, Jones Tallent, Angie Turner, Bill Turner, Simon Van Wyk, Sarah Vistica, Kim White and John Wilson

We also celebrate with all who have anniversaries in July and August:

- Dennis and LuAnne Eckhout, The Rev. Sue and Rob Hardman, Matthew and Adrienne Hubbard, Jones and Sharon Tallent.
- Children and adult Christian Education are on hiatus for the summer and will resume on September 7.
- St. John's book club will return from its summer vacation on September 2. September's book is *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt. Read it now and be ready for the discussion! Also, be ready to suggest more books for the book club, since selecting future reading is on the agenda for the September meeting.

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.

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 (preferred) or left at the church office.

Material for the September issue should be submitted no later than August 26.

Flower Power Needed

It sounds like back-breaking work, but it's not. Last month during the spring cleaning, Faye Pritchard and Anne Stenger totally cleaned and weeded the eight sections of the "Cross Garden" but this past Saturday I noticed it had been totally taken over by weeds again. Charlotte Rice Bovender came out Monday morning and again weeded all eight flower beds in just over an hour.

My request is that each section be "adopted." You would at your convenience weed your section, replant it if you wish and help keep it looking good to all who enter St John's.

Please take a look at the flower beds and let me know which one you or your family would like to adopt. The top section has been taken.

In the coming weeks I will send out a request for a Friday evening and Saturday morning total weeding of the Dr. Frank A. Todd memorial garden, the parking lot flower beds and the beds in front and surrounding the church. It is so important to keep the church looking nice for visitors.

The reason for the two days is so that those who prefer to come when the sun is not overhead can come, while the early birds can come early and have the rest of their day.

Thank you in advance. You may reach me at: the.lost2@hotmail.com or on my cell phone: (703)-498-6990

Cassandra Winger, Junior Warden

Words on Hymns

I thought this month it would be interesting to



Francis Scott Key

learn about the origins of some of our patriotic hymns. Everyone knows the story of how the words to *The Star-Spangled Banner* were written by Francis Scott Key, an amateur poet, while he watched from the deck of a prisoner exchange ship

during the bombardment of Fort McHenry by British ships. The tune is another story. It was a popular British song written by John Stafford Smith for the Anacreontic Society, a men's social club in London. The *Anacreontic Song* (or *To Anacreon in Heaven*), with various lyrics, was already popular in the United States. Only the first of the four stanzas is commonly sung today. *The Star-Spangled Banner* was recognized for official use by the Navy in 1889, and by President Woodrow Wilson in 1916. It was made the national anthem by a congressional resolution on March 3, 1931, which was signed by President Herbert Hoover.

The lyrics to *America the Beautiful* were written by Katharine Lee Bates, and the music was composed by church organist and choirmaster Samuel A. Ward. Bates originally wrote the words as a poem, *Pikes Peak*, first published in the Fourth of July edition of the church periodical *The Congregationalist* in 1895. At that time, the poem was titled *America* for publication.



Katharine Bates

In 1893, at the age of



Samuel A. Ward

thirty-six, Bates, an English professor at Wellesley College, had taken a train trip to Colorado Springs, Colorado, to teach a short summer school session at Colorado College. Several of the sights on her trip inspired her, and they found their way into her poem. Ward had originally written the music, *Materna*, though it was not first published until 1892. Ward's music combined with the Bates poem was first

published in 1910 and titled *America the Beautiful*. The prelude on July 6 will be a meditation on this hymn.

Samuel Francis Smith wrote the lyrics to *My Country 'Tis of Thee* in 1831, while a student at the Andover Theological Seminary in Andover, Massachusetts. His friend Lowell Mason had asked him to translate the lyrics in some German school songbooks or to write new lyrics. A melody in Muzio Clementi's *Symphony No. 3* caught his attention. Smith wrote his own American patriotic hymn to the melody,



Samuel Francis Smith

completing the lyrics in thirty minutes. The song was first performed in public on July 4, 1831, at a children's Independence Day celebration at Park Street Church in Boston. The first publication of *America* was in 1832. The song served as one of the national anthems of the United States before the adoption of *The Star-Spangled Banner* as the official anthem in 1931. The melody used is the same as that of the national anthem of the United Kingdom, *God Save the Queen [King]*.

Variations of the tune go back as far as the 17th century. We will be singing this hymn for the processional on July 6.

The final patriotic selection in the 1982



Daniel Roberts

Hymnal is *God of Our Fathers*. The hymn was written in 1876 by Daniel C. Roberts to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Roberts was an Episcopal priest serving as vicar of St. Paul's Church in Concord, New Hampshire. In 1892, Roberts sent the hymn anonymously to the General Convention to be considered by a group tasked with revising the Episcopal hymnal. Roberts promised to give his name if the group accepted his hymn. The commission approved it. Roberts' lyrics were also chosen for the celebration of the Centennial of the U.S. Constitution. They were originally sung to a tune called "Russian Hymn." Organist George W. Warren, who was on the selection committee, wrote a new tune called *National Hymn*.

Carol Dunlap

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
 Lenore Schmidt, 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

The Youth Ministries program ended the year with a skit during the service that provided a fun end to the scholastic year.



The end-of-year skit gets underway. From left, Maddie Harbin, Beth, Tina and Michael Cavey, Wilson Robertson, Kenji and Conner McCartney



Q: What's an end-of-year skit without balls bouncing through the congregation? A: Much less fun!

Family and Friends Sunday included outdoor games for the whole family!



Kenji McCartney, Wilson Robertson, and Tina Cavey have their bubbles at the ready for all comers!



John Petrich, and Gerald and Laura Robinson pitch in a Family and Friends Sunday activities.