



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

November 2014

From the Rector: The Choice is Ours

Last month, I went to see a musical called *The Children of Eden*. It covered the first nine or so chapters of the book of Genesis. The first act was the story of Adam and Eve and their family and the second act was the story of Noah. There were some liberties taken with the stories, but for the most part, the portrayal was accurate. These two tales center on the freedom of choice God gives God's beloved children. Eve was almost drawn by the snake to the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and she ate it and then gave it to Adam. The consequence of their choice was to be expelled from the garden. The story moved on to the Cain vs. Abel competition with Abel paying more attention to God and Cain killing Abel in a fit of anger. In the story of Noah, the musical takes liberties. Noah's sons' wives were not to be taken from the descendants of Cain, so God could wipe them all out when the flood came, but of course one of the sons chose to do so.

Choice. It is something we have been given as human beings. Some choices are between clearly good and clearly evil options, but many of our choices are not like that. Some are just choosing something different, something contrary to what we would normally choose. I'd like to suggest some choices we might make that may vary from our normal ways of thinking and acting.

Choose weakness. Most of us want to operate

from a position of strength, but some tasks are beyond us and we have to rely on God. Paul wanted the thorn in his side to be removed, but God said God's strength was perfected in Paul's weakness, and God's strength is perfected in our weaknesses, too.

Choose silence. In this noisy world of ours, busy activity is the norm. God certainly shows Godself in our daily activities. However, it is in the silence that we can hear God speaking most clearly to us about how beloved we are and who God wants to be for us. Paul reminds us that the Holy Spirit prays in us with sighs too deep for words. The Spirit's prayer comes from our gut, from our breath, and it is in silence we can sense the

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.

indwelling God. Silence is also important for listening to the hopes, fears and feelings of our friends and family. It is a gift beyond price to a soul in need of being heard.

Choose receiving rather than refusing. It is hard sometimes to ask for help when we need it or to even take help when it is offered without our asking. We are so used to standing on our own two feet that we are uncomfortable when others want to lift us up and wrap us in love. Think of those helping you as living signs of God's love for you and be thankful.

Choose compassion rather than judgment. It is particularly easy to judge someone who has criticized us or something we have done and it is true that in some cases they are right, but when harm has been inflicted unnecessarily, we tend to rush to judgment of those who have done the harming. Instead look with compassion on those who do not understand the whole picture, who do not know the motivations behind our actions, or who fall prey to projecting self-judgment onto others. It is important to look with this same

compassion and lack of judgment on ourselves when we declare ourselves not good enough for whatever. God has declared us good enough, and it is important to accept rather than reject where we are in the present moment so we can move forward.

Choose a positive attitude instead of a negative one. I recently read an article about a couple who was playing on the beach with their Labrador retriever. The dog was scared to go into the water. Finally his "dad" just picked him up and put him there. When he felt that the water wasn't cold and he was comfortable paddling around in it, his whole attitude changed. For us, positive thinking is the same way. It opens new options and gives us energy to forge ahead.

We have been given the gift of choice. Make some new choices in your life and see where they lead you. Give in to God's nudges and be transformed into the person God is calling you to be.

Ann †

Instructed Eucharist – Part IV

Following the sermon, the Nicene Creed, our common affirmation of faith, is said. It says who we are by binding us to the historic Christian faith. It states what we as a church believe, even as our individual understandings may grow and change over the years.

After the Creed come the Prayers of the People, when we express to God our care and concern for the needs of the world as well as our particular concerns. We pray for those whose needs you have made known to the church.

Following the prayers is the Confession. Like so much else, this is no substitute for our private confession to God of our self-centeredness and brokenness. It is our corporate acknowledgement that our lives have not been worthy of all that has been done for us.

The declaration of forgiveness and absolution leads naturally to what follows: the exchange of Peace, which has its roots in Judaism. This ancient liturgical act, dating from the church's earliest celebrations of Communion, invites us to express openly our unity with one another in Christ. It is not intended to be an interruption of the service, but is rather a formal act of worship and a real greeting. The prayer book does not specify the words to be said, only that we greet one another "in the name of the Lord". In doing so, we acknowledge the Christ in those all around us.

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Parish News

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

- Patricia Broida, Diane Henderson, Carrie Harbin, Debbie Carter and Barbara Olivere who organized the Harvest Tea held on October 18. The tea was enjoyed by all, and thanks to a dedicated crew of volunteers, setup, serving, and cleanup went quickly and smoothly.
- The dedicated volunteers who helped with parish cleanup – Michelle and Jeff Aitken, Anne and Paul Stenger, Charlotte Bovender, Keith and Kenji McCartney, Faye and Bill Pritchard, Brian and Tina Cavey, Pete and Barbara Olivere

We celebrate with all who have birthdays in November:

Dave Dunlap, Bronwen Berliner, Jud Buchanan, Gage Buchanan, Beth Fowler, Jean Harrison, Douglas Le Sage, Roger Ludwig, Keith McCartney, Robert L. "Larry" Rawls, III, Dave Robinson, Laura Van Wyk,

We celebrate with all who have anniversaries in November:

Jeff & Michelle Aitken, Brian & Beth Cavey, Del & Carole Hunt

Adult Formation Studies – How to Hear God's Voice

In November, the adult formation class will study "Crash the Chatterbox: Hearing God's Voice Above All Others". We will talk about four areas of lies our inner voices tell us and learn how God counters these voices in God's words from the Bible. We will break for an Advent Study beginning Nov. 30.

Saying Goodbye to Martha and Hello to Jonathan

Martha Ambrose's last day as our on-site Family Programs Minister will be Nov. 2. Her husband Grant has been called as rector of Ware Church in Gloucester, VA. While Martha will still develop our lesson plans, Jonathan Muehlke will become our on-site teacher and supplier of materials for our lessons and children's chapel. He and a volunteer will teach the class for children. Youth curriculum is being developed and a separate youth class will begin soon. Please make Jonathan welcome at St. John's.

Intercessory Prayer Group

Do you know that we have an on-line intercessory prayer group at St. John's? We pray for difficult situations in the world, parishioners, family and friends and special needs for St. John's. If you would like to be a part of this group, please email Ann at rector@stjohnsarlingtonva.org. Also email or call her with your prayer requests and updates and we can add them to the list.

Coming in November. . . .

- November 7 – St. John's and La Iglesia de Cristo Rey will host a Bingo night. The \$10.00 entry fee will get you three bingo cards, a soft drink and a hot dog. In addition, home-baked goodies will be available for purchase, so plan to come and have a great time!
- On November 16 St. John's will have a Friends and Family Sunday, featuring outdoor fun (including a Moon Bounce), plus special hospitality food, following the 10 a.m. service. Invite your friends! Invite your neighbors! This is your chance to introduce your church to the people you know!

Words on Hymns

On November 9, the Sunday closest to November 11, we will commemorate both Veterans Day and, in recognition of 2014 being the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I, Armistice Day, the celebration of the end of the “war to end all wars”.

Our processional will be *Almighty Father, strong to save*. The original hymn, *Eternal Father, strong to save* and known as the “Navy hymn”, was written in 1860 by William Whiting, an Anglican churchman from Winchester, England. At the age of thirty-five he felt his life had been spared by God when a violent storm nearly claimed the ship he was traveling on. As headmaster of the Winchester College Choristers' School some years later, he was approached by a student overwhelmingly afraid of an upcoming ocean voyage. Whiting shared his experiences of the ocean and wrote the hymn to “anchor his faith.” In writing it, Whiting is generally thought to have been inspired by Psalm 107, which describes the power and fury of the seas in great detail. Other versions were subsequently issued revised by editors and by Whiting himself.

Meanwhile, Anglican clergyman John B. Dykes composed the tune “Melita” to accompany the *Hymns Ancient and Modern* publication of 1861. Dykes was a well-known composer of nearly three hundred hymn tunes, many of which are still in use today. “Melita” is an archaic term for Malta, an ancient seafaring island nation which was a colony of the British Empire. It was the site of a shipwreck, mentioned in Acts of the Apostles (chapters 27–28), involving the Apostle Paul.

The adoption of the hymn for devotional use and benedictions in the armed services was first recorded in 1879 by the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. It has been played or sung at funerals for those who have served in or been otherwise associated with the U.S. Navy, including Franklin Roosevelt, John Kennedy and Richard

Nixon. Adoption of the hymn by the British Royal Navy may have occurred earlier than in the United States, though no clear records exist for when the hymn was first used in England.

In 1940, the U.S. Episcopal Church altered three verses of the hymn to include travel on the land in the second verse (referencing Psalm 50) and in the air in the third verse (Genesis). This adaptation has been regarded by the Navy in good-natured interservice rivalry as hymnological piracy. *The Hymnal 1982* further revised this version (as Hymn #579) with the opening line “Almighty Father, strong to save...” and adding the word “space” to the final verse, while retaining the “water only” setting as hymn 680. We honor all veterans throughout the years with this hymn.

The choir’s anthem on November 9 will be *Peace among earth’s peoples*, published in *Wonder, Love and Praise*. The words and music are by Margery Stomne Selden. It is a plea for world peace and compares it to “a star beaming just above us, so near, so far.”

The recessional hymn will be *Down by the Riverside*, also known as “Ain’t Gonna Study War No More”. (As an aside, John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail in 1780: “I must study politics and war that my sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy. My sons ought to study mathematics and philosophy, geography, natural history, naval architecture, navigation, commerce, and agriculture, in order to give their children a right to study painting, poetry, music, architecture, statuary, tapestry, and porcelain.”) *Down by the Riverside* is a gospel song that was first published in *Plantation Melodies: A Collection of Modern, Popular and Old-time Negro-Songs of the Southland* in 1918. It has been recorded numerous times by gospel choirs and various artists, including Elvis Presley and Pete Seeger.

Let’s hope that indeed the day will come soon when we can study war no more.

Shrine Mont Campaign: Shout It From the Mountain

Shout It from the Mountain, the diocesan campaign for Shrine Mont Camps, has officially launched. The Bishop's Jubilee at Shrine Mont this past July marked the beginning of the parish phase of the campaign. The campaign's goals are:

- The creation of an endowment to help additional campers to attend a Shrine Mont Camp each year so that the camps reflect the diversity of the diocese;
- A fund at Shrine Mont that will renovate and replace cabins, create new staff housing, and allow for other physical improvements to current camp facilities;
- The establishment of an endowment at Shrine Mont to provide for capital maintenance for camp facilities;
- Financial support for Camp STK in the South African diocese of Christ the King, with whom we enjoy a close relationship.

Should we reach the stretch goal of \$2.5 million, the additional funds will be used to make counselor salaries more competitive with other summer employment so the staff better reflects the diversity of the diocese. Addition funds will be used to expand camp capacity at Shrine Mont and renovate additional facilities.

This campaign is important to the future of the diocese and to the wider Episcopal Church, as it serves as a leadership laboratory and develops

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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 December issue should be

mature Christians to serve God's church.

This is an opportunity which allows every single one of us to enter into deeper discipleship, breaks us open to more grateful stewardship and builds up the community of the Church through which we have our truest, most transcendent experiences of God.

More information about the campaign is available on www.shoutitfromthemountain.org. We urge you to pray for the diocesan capital campaign, which is an answer to God's urgent call to us, and which is a vision for all of us, our diocesan community.

(This article was provided by the Shout It from the Mountain campaign.)

AFAC Always Needs You

On October 10, nearly a dozen people from St. John's gathered at the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) to turn bulk food into family-sized packages. In just one hour we packed 600 pounds of oatmeal into over 500 family servings. This is just a drop in the bucket with over 2,000 families in Arlington receiving assistance from AFAC.

Join us in this ministry! Set aside the hour from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. the second Friday of each month to help our neighbors in need. Faye Pritchard is leading this ministry at St. John's and she will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Lisa Pope Will Be New LOGOS Editor

I am pleased to announce that Lisa Pope has volunteered to assume the job of LOGOS editor, beginning with the February issue. I will work with Lisa to make the transition as smooth as possible.

I want to thank everyone who has provided me with articles, news, pictures, ideas, feedback, and help over the last six years. Producing LOGOS is not a one-person job, you all have been helpful to me and I am sure will provide Lisa with that same help and support.

Dave Dunlap

And Don't Forget This Year's Thanksgiving Potluck November 23

St. John's will have its annual Thanksgiving potluck on November 23. Remember what fun you had last year? Here are some picture from the 2013 potluck to get you in the mood to come again for this year's festivities!



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: Juan Figueroa

Parish Leaders

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

Vestry

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

Paul Stenger
Bill Thomson
Linda Trochim