

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 2015

From the Rector: On Getting Lost

I had a really great time visiting with my family in Pittsburgh, except when it came to getting from one place to another. Oh, I had directions, but I just couldn't seem to follow them very well. When I got off the Pennsylvania Turnpike and got into the rabbit warren of hotels in Cranberry, I drove and drove and couldn't see the roundabout it said I was supposed to take. I finally found it and made it to the hotel. Driving to the venue seemed simple—Drive Route 228, it said. But it didn't say Route 228 curved and veered and generally confused already confused drivers. And getting into Pittsburgh to see Evan and Kristy. Oh boy. Evan had written pretty specific directions for me, but I still missed a turn because I couldn't see a road sign. Going through Pittsburgh on the way home, it was the same thing. I saw the sign for the Interstate I wanted go flying past down another ramp that I couldn't possibly get to.

We don't have to be driving somewhere to get lost though. We can get lost in an obsession. Perhaps it is exercise. If we don't exercise a certain amount a week, we panic that we will gain weight. Perhaps it is a sport. We give up time with our family or social

activities because we can't come unglued from that television set.

We can get lost in a vice. Smoking, drinking, overeating, or you name it, fill our minds with thoughts of when the next cigarette or drink or meal is coming. We take time from work we should not take to feed our addiction. We damage ourselves and others without even thinking about it because we are so dependent on the high we get from indulging in our vice.

We can get lost in our career. That could mean two things. We could succumb to the effects of workaholism, needing to get all our value from what we do, or we could be lost as in not wanting to be in our current career and not knowing where we want to go. Our brains go into overdrive, trying to figure out our future or learn how to cope with where we are, and we don't do either of them very well. The newfangled tools of job hunting and the specter of the unknown have us scared to death and unable to act either way.

We can get lost in a relationship. Maybe our relationship with a friend is changing and we don't know why. Maybe she doesn't call as often or he doesn't want to do things together anymore. We don't know what is happening,

and we are at a loss as to what to do to make it better. We can also get lost in our relationship with God. No matter how hard we pray, God seems distant, somehow not with us. We don't feel the familiar intimacy we used to feel, and we are bereft.

There are things you can do when you get lost. First, ask for help. Evan got his computer out and guided me through downtown Pittsburgh until I reached his hotel. I followed someone to the wedding venue or took someone with me to help with directions.

You can also do two things that seem contradictory. You can be patient and know that things will change and you will get to where you are going eventually. This too shall pass, they say. Or depending on the situation, you can take action. Any action, no matter how small, can start you on the road to finding yourself or being found again. You can go for a

career test. You can list positives and negatives. You can find a support group. Just one telephone call or one click of the internet can start you on your way.

Finally, about relationships. You can talk to the person who seems to be changing and see what's up. It may be nothing, but if it is something you want to know. You can write letters to God, cry out to God, get angry with God, or thank God for what you do have. Sooner or later God will show you how God is with you and wants to be with you in the future.

Getting lost is not fun—at least not for me. But it can help us move on to something better, something God wants for us. If you find yourself lost, try one of the above techniques or one of your own. And may you rejoice at finding and being found.

Ann †



Bright smiles and stylish outfits on display at the St. John's Easter egg hunt on April 5.

Words on Hymns: The Music of Ralph Vaughan Williams

Our gradual hymn for Pentecost, May 24, will be *Come Down, O Love Divine*. This much-loved hymn has a long history. The original Latin text, *Veni, Sancte Spiritus*, known as “The Golden Sequence,” was most likely written by Archbishop of Canterbury Stephen Langton, a voluminous writer (d. 1228). Bianco da Siena (d. 1434), who lived in Venice, wrote 92 hymns during the early 1400s and included it in his *Laudi spirituali del Bianco da Siena*. He died before the invention of printing, but fortunately some of his manuscripts survived and were collected and published by Italian scholar Telesforo Bini four centuries later, in 1851. An English priest, Richard Littledale, discovered da Siena’s hymns, translated a number of them into English, and included them in *The People’s Hymnal*. It is Littledale’s translation set by Ralph (pronounced “Rafe”) Vaughan Williams (1872–1958) to the tune of “Down Ampney” that is sung today.

The hymn tune “Down Ampney” is one of the original hymn tunes composed by Vaughan Williams, as if his editing (with Percy Dearmer) and reharmonizing a vast percentage of the 1906 *English Hymnal* weren’t landmark enough. A conservator of folk tunes and obscure melodies, which he turned into orchestral suites and hymn tunes, his ideal was the tune that upon hearing for the first time, it was as if you’d always known it. His own tunes have that same stirring quality: for example, *For All the Saints* and *At the Name of Jesus*.

The tune was named for Down Ampney, the village located in Cotswold District in Gloucestershire, England, where Vaughan Williams was born.* His father was the vicar at All Saints Church. The village was notable in medieval times as one of the principal seats

of the powerful Hungerford family, and a number of elaborate family monuments survive in the village church.

Vaughan Williams had extensive training in music, beginning at the age of six years. One of his later composition teachers at the Royal College of Music was Hubert Parry, who became a friend. Another friendship first formed there was with fellow student Gustav Holst (composer of *The Planets* and *In the Bleak Midwinter*, among many works). Vaughan Williams and Holst critiqued each other’s compositions and were mutually influential.

In 1904, at the age of 36, Vaughan Williams discovered English folk songs and carols, which were fast becoming extinct because the oral tradition through which they existed was being undermined by an increase in literacy and the availability of printed music in rural areas. He traveled the countryside, transcribing and preserving many songs himself. Later, he incorporated some songs and melodies into his own music. He was fascinated by the beauty of the music and its anonymous history as a part of the working lives of ordinary people. His efforts did much to raise appreciation of traditional English folk song and melody. His *Fantasia on “Greensleeves”* is a particularly well known version of a folk tune.

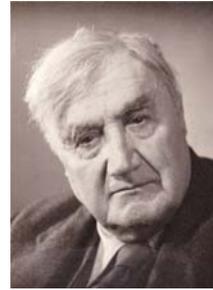
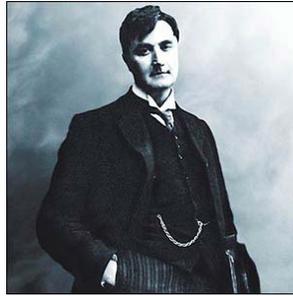
Although he was 41 years old when World War I began and therefore too old to be conscripted, he nevertheless enlisted and served throughout the war. Prolonged exposure to gunfire began a process of hearing loss, which eventually caused severe deafness in old age.

Vaughan Williams was slow to begin his composition career, but he was extremely

prolific during his long life, writing nine symphonies, choral works, ballets, and a huge number of orchestral pieces. He composed or harmonized 33 of the hymns in our *1982 Hymnal*.

Carol Dunlap

*“Down” was Middle English *doun* from the Old English *dune*. This is short for *adune*, which is a derivative of *dun*, meaning “hill.” Thus, “Ampney Hill.” The first known use was before the 12th century. Similarly, a “sand dune” is a “sand hill.”



Ralph Vaughan Williams as a young man (left) and in his later years (right).

St. John's Staff and Leadership

Staff

Rector: The Rev. Ann B. Barker
Minister of Family Programs: Jonathan Muehlke
Minister of Music: Lynn Robinson
Organist: Carol Dunlap
Parish Administrator: Virginia Pearson
Sexton: Juan Figueroa

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Eileen Tallent, Chair, Altar Guild

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

Paul Stenger
Bill Thomson
Linda Trochim

Sunday Seminar: That's a Wrap

St. John's Sunday Seminar wraps up in May with three intriguing classes. First, the class will finish its series on seeing ourselves in the people confronted by Jesus. Participants will talk about the disciples and the women who surrounded Christ. The last class will focus on Paul's nephew, an unnamed hero from the Bible who saved him from death. The seminar series will start again on September 13, the Sunday after Labor Day. During the

summer, read your Bible, listen to NPR's program "On Faith," or make it a practice to read "Forward Day by Day" or some other devotional material. "Our brains don't stop during the summer and our need for God is constant. If anyone would like to talk about the sermon after church or during the coffee hour, please let me know. I'd be happy to have the conversation," says Rev. Ann Barker.

Take Time for Tea

Bring your friends, family, and neighbors as St. John's holds its Spring Tea on Saturday, May 9, from 1 to 3 p.m. For more than 20 years, this fundraiser has featured scones, sandwiches, desserts, fine teas, and champagne. Relax to accompanying piano music, turn off your cell phone, and celebrate Mother's Day weekend with the enduring rituals of afternoon tea. Admission is \$25 per person (\$10 for children 12 and under).

LOGOS

LOGOS is published monthly except for August, at the beginning of the month.

Lisa Pope, LOGOS Editor

Articles for LOGOS may be emailed to logos@stjohnsarlingtonva.org (preferred) or left at the church office.

Material for the June issue should be submitted by May 22. Article ideas for future issues are also welcome.



The St. John's community shared spaghetti, salad, and fellowship at the April 25 spaghetti supper.

Parish News

Upcoming Events:

The St. John's Book Club will meet on **May 5 at 7:30 p.m.** to discuss *Death Comes to Pemberley* by P.D. James. For the **June 2** meeting, the selection is Tracy Chevalier's *Girl with a Pearl Earring*. This blend of history and fiction imagines the life of the young woman depicted in Vermeer's painting.

Thank you to:

➤ All the people who made our Easter services and activities so special. We are especially grateful to the altar guild; our musicians; Pete and Barbara Olivere, who chaired the loaves and fishes meal; and all who helped with the Easter Sunday egg hunt and reception. If your name has been forgotten, please let Rev. Ann Barker know and you will be included in the next issue of LOGOS. All contributions are important.

➤ Pete Olivere and Barbara Wien for chairing our spaghetti supper on April 25. We also thank those who contributed food and set-up and clean-up help: Marshall Adair, Beth and Brian Cavey, Carolyn Corlett, Carrie Harbin, Carole and Del Hunt, Tom Macia, Keith and Kaipō McCartney, Barbara Olivere, Lynn Robinson, Bill Schenck, Bill Thomson, Linda Trochim, Kay Wells, and Sandy Winger.

Congratulations to:

➤ Adrienne and Matthew Hubbard on the arrival of their daughter, Evelyn Maria Hubbard, born on April 2.

We celebrate with all who have birthdays in May:

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

We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in May:

Leslie Mead and Jeff Petrich; Christopher and Laura Van Wyk.

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.