



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

June 2015

From the Rector: Wide Open Spaces

I was talking to my cousin the other day. He has just lost his wife of many years, his youngest daughter has graduated from college, and he has been retired for a few years. I asked him what he was going to do now. He said, "I'm going to take a year and clean this place out." His wife was a nester and she kept many things—yarn, books, pictures, printouts of classes she had taught, just tons of stuff that I had always noticed when I visited. I asked him if he or any of his children was a nester and he said no, so they were all in favor of the project. Of course they would keep the special things, but he wanted to give things away so others could use them, and some would just be thrown away.

It can be a very good thing to have more space. A friend of mine gave me a brochure for a company that helps you sort and clean out your space. They are expensive, but they help you let go of stuff you really aren't going to use, reorganize things that you need so that you can get to them, and then take all your excess stuff

away. She said her friends that have used the service have just seen wonderful things happen as a result of this bringing order out of chaos. I know I like looking at the practically empty basement Evan and Kristy left. I was hoping the organizing and tossing fairy would rub off on me but so far it hasn't. It's early days yet though. One thing I know is that I won't fill up the space with any more things. I have more than enough on the top floor.

Summer is a season for spaciousness. For most of us there are less activities and more time available. Some of us love that. We have all kinds of projects we want to do or trips to take or parties to plan. Or we are just happy to loll on the back porch with the latest magazine or our smart phone and relax to make up for all the busyness that came before. Some of us are less happy with extra space. I am pretty uncomfortable with unstructured time, and I have a hard time relaxing, unless I am with someone else. I have to be busy with something, and summer gives me more

free evenings I have to fill. I can't just pop in a video and watch it unless I am hopping up to do other things like open the mail or balance the checkbook. I love to read mystery novels, but I usually do that when I am doing something else, like eating a meal or icing one of my joints. However, I am pleased to report that one week not too long ago I actually sat on the porch and read a magazine for a half an hour—work-related but a magazine nonetheless.

Recently someone told me that spaciousness is a gift from God. It is time in which God wants us to do something that fills us, something that we desire. Brother Curtis Almquist of the Society of St. John the Evangelist says that “our desires are worth listening to” to find out “where they are connected to God’s gift of life for us.” So as a first step for the spaciousness summer can bring, we might spend some time thinking about what we really want to do, what fills us up and gives us joy. Sometimes when we move

from one thing to another at a fast clip, we can lose sight of those dreams and goals. As a second step, we make prayerful decisions. Where do what God wants for me and what I want for myself intersect? We know that God has designed us to be lovers, so what would that look like for us? Maybe it would look like plunging into some hands-on volunteer work, either as a regular activity or as a one-time occurrence. Maybe it would look like taking a class to learn something we always wanted to learn. Maybe it would look like just sitting and thinking about who we are, where we are in life, and where we might go from here once all the clutter is gone and we have only ourselves to look at. Whatever it is, take advantage of your space this summer. Find the blessing in it. Do things that express love for yourself or others and enjoy them. You can't go wrong with that.

Ann †



Many volunteers turned out for St. John's spring cleanup days on May 16 and 23. Working both inside and out, tasks accomplished included polishing pews and altar items, pruning trees, weeding, repairing and painting signs, and installing air conditioners in the second floor classrooms.



Celebrate Glencarlyn Day on June 6 *St. John's To Hold Annual Hot Dog Roast*

St. John's will hold its annual hot dog roast on Glencarlyn Day, June 6. Following a long Glencarlyn Day tradition, the congregation will sell hot dogs and drinks on Fourth Street. Organizer Bill Thomson can use help with this fun activity, so please come between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. and he'll find something for you to do! In addition to the hot dog roast, Cristo Rey will sell lemonade and pupusas on Lexington Street.

Other activities scheduled for Glencarlyn Day are the annual pancake breakfast in the park; the parade with a Mardi Gras-Viking Dragon theme, which will start off at 11:45 a.m. in front of St. John's; the Carlin Hall Preschool Fun Fair; house tours; and a plant sale. Come and join the fun and check out the St. John's table highlighting our ministries.



Friends and Family Sunday

St. John's will host a "Welcome Summer Friends and Family Sunday" at the 10 a.m. service on June 14, the last Sunday before school lets out. The youth will put on a skit and prepare something to serve at the hospitality hour. Children can also enjoy a moon bounce. Please invite a friend to church and enjoy this special celebration!

Get Ready for a VBS Adventure

What was it like to meet Jesus in person? Participants at St. John's 2015 Vacation Bible School (VBS) will find out, as they walk in the footsteps of the first followers of Jesus through games, crafts, and other activities. Scheduled for July 6-10 from 5:30 to 8 p.m., VBS will welcome preschoolers through rising fifth graders. The cost is \$25 per participant (\$5 for any additional siblings). Dinner will be provided each evening. To enroll, send an email to familyprograms@stjohnsarlingtonva.org or visit the St. John's web site at stjohnsarlingtonva.org/Family_Programs/Vacation-Bible-School. All are welcome!

St. John's Monthly Financial Statement

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| April income: | \$11,570 |
| Pledge + Plate: | \$10,144 |
| Year-to-date income: | \$51,302 |
| April expense: | \$14,967 |
| Year-to-date expense: | \$53,007 |

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

Words on Hymns: Solid as a Rock

Our processional hymn for June 28 will be *The Church's One Foundation*. This hymn is well known for calling the church to be a community as the universal church of Christ. The basis of the text is from the Bible when Jesus says that the church will be built upon the rock of Peter.

The hymn was written in the 1860s by Samuel John Stone (1839–1900) in direct response to teachings by John William Colenso (1814–1883), first Bishop of Natal in South Africa, that were considered unorthodox at the time. In 1860, a volume entitled *Essays and Reviews* caused controversy in the Anglican Church. It questioned the historical accuracy of scripture. A few years later, this idea was furthered by Colenso, who published *The Pentateuch and the Book of Joshua Critically Examined* (1862–1863). This book denied that Moses wrote the Pentateuch, called Joshua a myth, called the books of Chronicles fictitious, and disputed the accuracy of Christ's statements about Moses. Colenso's book expressed his thoughts on the different ways the current church was parting from what was written in the scriptures, which created a schism within the Church of South Africa. This topic is alluded to within the fourth verse of the hymn: "Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed, by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed."

The Bishop of Cape Town, South Africa, Bishop Gray, supported by 40 other bishops, deposed Colenso for his heresy. A battle ensued, as Colenso refused to submit. A court confirmed his deposition, but Colenso appealed to a secular court, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and he was reinstated. This created a schism in the South African church that lasted until Colenso's death in 1883. It was after Colenso's appeal to the higher

ecclesiastical authorities in England that Samuel Stone, a supporter of Bishop Gray, became involved in the debate. It inspired him to write a set of hymns based on the Apostles' Creed in 1866. He titled it, *Lyra Fidelium: Twelve Hymns on the Twelve Articles of the Apostles' Creed*. *The Church's One Foundation* is based on the ninth article, "the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints." The text of the hymn shows the importance of the church being based wholly on Christ and being baptized by water. ("She is his new creation by water and the word.")

The hymn also served as inspiration for Rudyard Kipling's 1896 poem, *Hymn Before Action*. It was one of the most famous of the hymns written by Samuel Stone. Born in 1839 in Whitmore, Staffordshire, England, Stone was the son of Reverend William Stone. He eventually attended Charter School and Oxford College, where he was ordained in 1862. Immediately thereafter he began serving orders at various churches until 1870, when he joined his father in his ministries at St Paul's in Haggerston, England. Four years later, Stone took over from his father as vicar at St. Paul's, where he remained until 1890. From then until his death in 1900, he served at All-Hallow-on-the-Wall in London, turning it into a safe haven for working girls and women in England.

Composed by Samuel S. Wesley, the tune "Aurelia" (meaning "golden") was published as a setting for "Jerusalem the Golden" in *Selection of Psalms and Hymns*, which was compiled by Charles Kemble and Wesley in 1864. Though opinions vary concerning the tune's merits (Henry J. Gauntlett, an English organist and composer of over 1,000 hymns, once condemned it as "secular twaddle"), it has been firmly associated with Stone's text

since tune and text first appeared together in the 1868 edition of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*.

Originally this hymn had seven stanzas. In 1868, the hymn was included in *Hymns Ancient and Modern* with five stanzas, omitting the original third stanza and combining the second halves of the sixth and

seventh stanzas as stanza five. Most hymnals use that version. In 1885, three more stanzas were added to the original hymn, giving a total of 10 stanzas, to be used for an ecclesiastical processional hymn in the Salisbury Cathedral.

Carol Dunlap

Learning How To Live into Easter

St. John's and the Church of the Resurrection in Alexandria came together on May 2 for a joint morning retreat focused on "Living into Easter." Through a combination of large-group sessions, one-on-one discussion of scripture passages, and personal reflections, participants examined the meaning of baptism, the Resurrection, the Transfiguration, and what it means to carry Easter in your heart. This first joint activity drew a positive response, and plans are now being discussed to hold a second retreat at St. John's during the Advent season.

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

Parish Leaders

Bill Thomson, Treasurer
John Restall, Pledge Clerk
Lenore Schmidt, Chair, Finance Committee
Eileen Tallent, Chair, Altar Guild

Vestry

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

Paul Stenger
Bill Thomson
Linda Trochim

Parish News

Upcoming Events:

Join the St. John's Book Club on **June 2** at **7:30 p.m.**, as they discuss *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier. The club will not meet in July and August, but get a head start now on reading the **September 1** selection, *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. Winner of the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for fiction, the novel tells the story of two children during World War II—one French and one German—and how their lives come to intersect.

Thank you to:

➤ Diane Henderson, Carrie Harbin, Barbara Olivere, and Lisa Pope for chairing the St. John's Mother's Day weekend tea. It was a wonderful afternoon, and we made about \$1,200.

➤ All those who took part in our parish cleanup days—Marshall Adair; Jeff and Michelle Aitken; Charlotte Bovender; Brian, Beth, Tina, and Michael Cavey; Juan Figueroa; Del Hunt; Monica Lozano; Tom Macia; Keith McCartney; Pete Olivere; Bill and Faye Pritchard; Anne and Paul Stenger; Eileen Tallent; and Bill Thomson.

We celebrate with all 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, Lisa Pope, Faye Pritchard, James Robinson, Jones Tallent, Matthew Tallent, and Christopher Van Wyk.

We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in June:

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

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.