

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

April 2016

Volunteers Come Together to Stop Hunger Now



St. John's volunteers Debbie Carter, Barbara Olivere, John Restall, and Sandy Winger joined others at St. Peter's on March 19 to package meals for Stop Hunger Now.

On March 19, volunteers from throughout Region 3 gathered at St. Peter's in Arlington to package meals for the organization Stop Hunger Now. Sandy Winger, Debbie Carter, Barbara Olivere, and John Restall represented St. John's at this Lenten outreach initiative. Rice, soy meal, and dried vegetables were measured into plastic bags and sealed, ready to be sent to people in need throughout the world. In less than two hours, 40 volunteers packaged 10,152 units of food, each providing a meal for

six people. Each meal also included a package of vitamins.

Established in 1998, Stop Hunger Now has provided more than 225 million meals in 73 countries to date. To learn more about its work, visit www.stophungernow.org.

Donations were collected at St. John's to help defray the costs of the project. Thank you to all those who helped contribute a total of \$488.18!

2016 Diocesan Council: Connected in the Kingdom

The Diocese of Virginia's 221st annual council was held March 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Epiphany Episcopal Church in Herndon. The one-day council took the place of the regular council, scheduled for January 21–23, which had been canceled due to the blizzard. The council's theme was "Connected in the Kingdom" and the guiding Scripture verse was "There are many members, yet one body" (1 Corinthians 12:20).

The council passed three resolutions. The first was called "Justice, Pay Equity and Leadership." It addressed equal pay, pension equity, and hiring practices for all women clergy in the diocese and asked the bishop to establish a task force to report and issue recommendations to the 222nd annual diocesan convention for diocesan-, regional-, and parish-level actions to address pay and pension disparities. The task force is to include data analysis and identification of best practices to provide context for its recommendations.

The second resolution called for the diocese to support Syrian and other refugees, including working on ways to grow refugee ministries focusing on prayer, advocacy, and resettlement in the diocese and elsewhere.

Resolution R-3, "No Guns in God's House," resolved that the council recommend that no firearms of any kind or other dangerous weapons should be permitted during worship services or meetings for religious purposes in a church or institution of the diocese, except for law enforcement purposes, humane animal control, and other circumstances as determined by lay and ordained leaders.

The council passed a budget of \$5.1 million. While everyone did not get all that they asked for, committees and commissions got at least what they received last year. This result was made possible by a reduction of

\$79,000 in the request from the national church. It was helpful, the budget committee reported, to hold the council later because more churches had a chance to submit their pledges.

Four members were elected to the standing committee: the Rev. Randy Alexander, the Rev. Elaine Thomas, Ms. Helen Spence, and Mr. Steve Wachenfeld.

The canonical amendment to change the Constitution of the Diocese to read "convention" instead of "council" means that the annual meetings will be called diocesan conventions from now on. (Council was a name that was adopted during the Civil War, and the name change is part of the diocesan emphasis on racial reconciliation.)

A second amendment was approved to change the canons of the diocese to also read "convention" instead of "council." This amendment must be adopted at one more meeting. The third constitutional amendment had to do with the bishop appointing vice chancellors of the diocese if needed to assist the chancellor in his or her duties.

Bishop Johnston's pastoral address let participants know that after several years of small declines, the diocese is growing again. He discussed the importance of working together in the diocese, noting that "We are doing more for our ministries to serve God and one another by working together—by connecting through shared ministry and mission."

The bishop also discussed racial reconciliation, especially in light of the country's resurgent racial tensions. He discussed the hand-in-hand listening sessions and urged congregations to adopt their own ministry initiatives in this area that address their own contexts. He mentioned that this important initiative has been enhanced by

working with the companion diocese of Christ the King in South Africa. Though they were not able to attend council, representatives from Christ the King spent 10 days in the diocese traveling to churches and gatherings “to teach and learn, to offer perspective, and to reflect about the issues of racism in our lives.”

The bishop highlighted Shrine Mont, announcing that the diocese had passed its initial fundraising goal of \$2 million and is now working toward the stretch goal of \$2.5 million.

Bishop Goff announced that Dayspring, the initiative to work with the continuing congregations in the diocese that emerged after churches split, is now completed. The congregations are strong and vibrant and moving ahead. She also mentioned the “think tank” she formed to reflect on what it means to be the Church in this time of change. She noted that the group changed its verbiage from words like program, policy, and best practices to vulnerability, relevance, abundance, transformation, courage, and connectedness.

Bishop Goff pointed out that the question “How do we get people in the doors of our churches?” was the wrong question. The question has to be changed to “How do we go out to get to know our neighbors and make meaningful connections, to be friends who want to make new friends at the nearby laundromat, nursing home, or school?” Sometimes people who didn’t grow up in church and see the church as judgmental are attracted by seeing Christians make meaningful connections in the community.

Bishop Gulick spoke about attending a meeting on “The Dangers of Islam” and how wrong it is to demonize our neighbors because of their differences. He also talked about the church encountering the “Black Lives Matter” movement. “Every human being is glorious” because they were created by God, he noted. We are told in Deuteronomy that we should

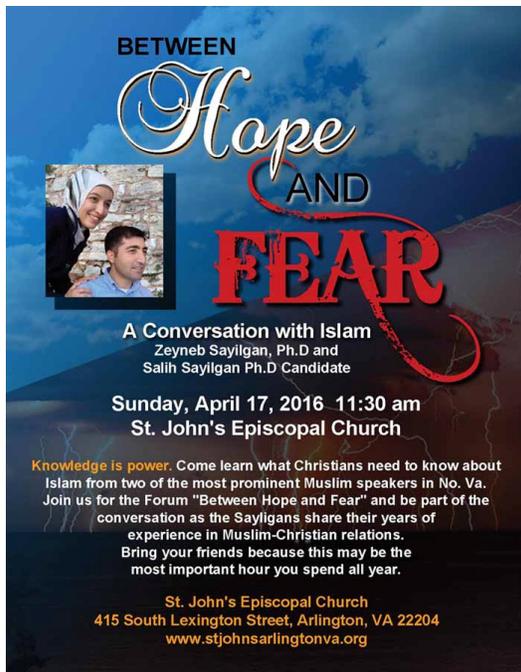
love the stranger because we were strangers in the land of Egypt. Gulick said that our New Testament anthropology was always a baptismal anthropology, that we were buried with Christ in his death so we too might walk in newness of life. We are given the ministry of reconciliation. There is no more radical anthropology, he said, than that of Matthew 25 where Jesus said, I was thirsty, I was a stranger, I was naked, I was sick, I was imprisoned, and you did or did not do it to me. We are all called to love our neighbors.

The council also featured a video about the youth from the diocese of Virginia who are involved all over the world in the Young Adult Service Corps. The video is available at www.thediocese.net/Governance/AnnualCouncil/221st-Annual-Council-2016-/Council-Results/Young-Adult-Service-Corps-Video/.

Because it was a shortened council, attendees did not have a chance to hear from the diocese’s partners from South Africa, but their presentations were posted on the diocesan web site. To watch the presentations, visit www.thediocese.net/Governance/AnnualCouncil/221st-Annual-Council-2016-/Christ-the-King-Video-Series/.



The Diocese of Virginia’s 221st annual council was held March 5 in Herndon.



Between Hope and Fear: A Conversation with Islam

On Sunday, April 17, at 11:30 a.m., St. John's will host Zeyneb and Salih Sayilgan as they lead a discussion on "Between Hope and Fear: A Conversation with Islam." Come learn what Christians need to know about Islam from two of the most prominent Muslim speakers in Northern Virginia. The Sayilgans have many years of experience in Muslim-Christian relations to share with participants. Bring your friends and come and hear about this topic that is so much in the news right now. It may be one of the most important hours you spend all year.

Join the Discussion at the Sunday Seminar

In April, the Sunday Seminar will finish its study on the "Qualities of Discipleship" and then jump back to its last three sessions on "The God We Can Know." The seminar will feature a speaker on C.S. Lewis later in the spring. Come join these lively discussions at 9 a.m. in the parlor!

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.

From the Rector: Remember the Flowers

I think we're past the time that the flowers might be ruined by another snowstorm, so we can take a deep breath and enjoy them. I have daffodils and crocus in my yard right now (though the crocus bulbs have been moved by some creative squirrels). The dogwoods and cherry blossoms will be in bloom before long. In the summer I will have geraniums or dianthus or something else bunnies won't eat (they loveimpatiens, one of my favorites). I will also have crepe myrtle trees. Fall will bring chrysanthemums, and winter will bring the beautiful flowering of my Christmas cactus, not once but twice.

Flowers are a metaphor for me of all that is beautiful in the world. (My apologies if you have allergies; you will have to pick another metaphor.) My Facebook icon is a cluster of daffodils. When I doodle, I draw daisies. I love getting flowers for special occasions.

There are lots of things we label good—God, the creation, our families and friends, our fun times, our cars, our exercise, all kinds of different things. But the one thing I find we fail to label good that is the best of all is ourselves. We have trouble with simply enjoying who we are—children of God, heirs of God's eternal kingdom, passionately loved by our Creator. We have just spent Lent enumerating our faults, which can be relatively easy for most of us. But have we ever sat down and enumerated our assets? It gives us pause doesn't it? When we think about ourselves, we may hardly ever think of what we bring to the world. We may not even know what is special about us, what God made us for, what God finds so endearing about us. We may have heard the Genesis story about God finding humans very good and thought it applied to everyone but us.

But now it is Easter, and we are an Easter people. We have been resurrected to new life

in our baptism. We are given a chance to begin again, not just once but many times. God blesses us with so many gifts, and we have the honor of using them for building up the kingdom.

Let's do a brief inventory of our goodness. Let's at least look at the glass half full.

One part of who we are is what we do. We have the power to change the world for good by our actions. Brother David Vryhof of the Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE) says that we can contribute our time and money and energy to make a difference. Change is frightening, but many changes are good. They are changes that help people. But "change will not happen unless we decide to make it happen," Vryhof says. We can also encourage people, he notes. "We can lift up others because we ourselves have been lifted out of dispiritedness and despondency by the infusion of grace." We can be encouragers and supporters and that is good.

We can also be good in what we think. The writer of Ephesians tells us to think on what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable. We can, as Delores Harmon Kite in the *Upper Room* did, think on one of these things every day and develop a more positive attitude. We can then infuse the world with our gratitude instead of our grumbling. We are happy that it didn't take us as long to get home from work. We are relieved that we didn't plow into the back of a car that stopped suddenly. We feel encouraged that our efforts to build a new habit are moving along, even if it's too slowly for us.

We can be good in what we feel. We can be content. As Brother Curtis Almquist of SSJE says, "We can claim freedom in [our] lives in the context of its limitations instead of constantly itching for something more. That will make us resentful and unhappy instead of

radiating an air of satisfaction with the life God has given us. We can also make a habit of rejoicing in all things. Granted in difficult periods, rejoicing is so tough, but there are always blessings to be found in the worst of situations, even if we have to look hard for them.”

We can be good in what we say. We can always have a kind word for someone. We can always ask for help from a coworker, a boss, a friend, or a family member. As a song on the radio I really like says, “always be humble and kind.”

We are not used to listing how we are good. But God is. God is well-pleased with us,

just the way we are, and at the same time is calling us forth to new things. You can’t beat that. God’s glass isn’t just half full where we’re concerned. It is full to overflowing with love for the good things we are and do and for the good that is just waiting to be developed in us. Start today. Find one asset you have going for you and write it down. Try to do the same the next day or the next week. You’ll know yourself and like yourself better, and you will flower all over the place to give joy to God and your neighbors.

Ann †

St. John’s Monthly Financial Statement

February income:	\$12,180
Pledge + Plate:	\$11,625
Year-to-date income:	\$18,810
February expense:	\$10,880
Year-to-date expense:	\$25,028

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
 Eileen Tallent, Chair, Altar Guild

Vestry

Bill Thomson, Senior Warden
 Sandy Winger, Junior Warden
 Jeff Aitken
 Teresa Birmingham

Del Hunt
 Lisa Pope
 John Restall

Words on Hymns: *O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing*

Our gradual hymn for the Sunday after Easter is traditionally “O sons and daughters, let us sing.” This hymn originally had only nine stanzas. Stanzas “Discipulis adstantibus” (That night the apostles met in fear), “Ut intellexit Didymus” (When Thomas first the tidings heard), and “Beati qui non viderunt” (How blest are they who have not seen) were early additions to the hymn. Our hymnal uses only seven stanzas. The hymn tells the story of Easter morning (which our hymnal omits), and the later appearance of Jesus to the disciples in the locked room, followed by Thomas’s reaction. The stanzas not in our hymnal include:

And Mary Magdalene,
And James, and Salome,
Came to anoint the body, Alleluia!

An angel clad in white they see,
Who sits and speaks unto the three,
“Your Lord will go to Galilee.” Alleluia!

And the Apostle John
Quickly outran Peter,
And arrived first at the tomb, alleluia.

The author of the Latin poem *O filii et filiae, Rex coelestis, Rex gloriae*, Jean Tisserand (d. 1494, Paris), is little known to us. He was a Franciscan monk who founded a penitent order for women. The poem was first published posthumously in Paris in 1525. The only thing I was able to find out about the tune is that it is French. The hymn would also be effective if the verses were sung by a cantor and the alleluias by the congregation.

Ye Sons and Daughters is an 1851 translation by the Anglican priest and scholar John Mason Neale (1818–1866). In his book *Medieval Hymns and Sequences*, the Reverend Neale wrote of the poem: “It is scarcely possible for any one, not acquainted with the melody, to imagine the jubilant effect of the triumphant Alleluia attached to apparently less important circumstances of the Resurrection. It seems to speak of the majesty of that event, the smallest portions of which are worthy to be so chronicled.” The words are set to the traditional tune associated with *O Filii Et Filiae*.

Neale was the guiding light of the Oxford Movement, which was devoted to the recovery of ancient practices in hymns, liturgy, and architecture. Rather than a restoration of antiquity, however, the Oxford Movement’s “recovery” of earlier practices was quite romanticized and fit perfectly into a general interest in history common to the period. Nevertheless, Neale has left us with many splendid hymns based on Greek and Latin devotional writings and plainsongs.

Translations of hymns from another language into English are really works of poetic art in themselves, since musical and textual accent must coincide and the work must not become too stilted or pedantic when sung. The 1982 Hymnal contains six of Neale’s translations, including the famous *Of the Father’s Love Begotten* and *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*.

Carol Dunlap

Parish News

Upcoming Events:

➤ Join the St. John's Book Club on **Tuesday, April 5, at 7:30 p.m.** as they discuss *The Sword in the Stone* by T.H. White. The **May 3** selection is *Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth* by Reza Aslan. All are welcome!

Rest in Peace:

➤ Mark Herman, grandfather of Nora and Vladi Wien. May his memory be for a blessing.
➤ Payman Rezavi, friend of Anne and Paul Stenger, who entered the Life of the Resurrection on March 16.

Congratulations to:

➤ Peter and Barbara Olivere on the birth of their grandson, Tobias Judkins, on March 3, 2016.
➤ Mike Birmingham, who is being promoted to Colonel in the U.S. Army.

Thank you to:

➤ Peter Olivere for helping with the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper.
➤ Sandy Winger, Debbie Carter, Barbara Olivere, and John Restall, who participated in the Region 3 outreach activity for Lent, Stop Hunger Now.
➤ All who gave donations to the Stop Hunger Now effort. St. John's contributed \$488.18!

We celebrate with all who have birthdays in April:

Gerard Baynham, Maggie Buchanan, Carol Dunlap, Diane Henderson, Evelyn Hubbard, Madeline Hubbard, Matthew Hubbard, Jim Hull, Cooper Mackin, Caitlin O'Connor, John Petrich, Bob Tallent, Jackson Tallent, Sharon Tallent, Linda Trochim, Abezash VanWyk, Valerie Wilson, Sandy Winger.

We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in April:

Jud and Lisa Buchanan; Nancy and William Gibb; Bill and Faye Pritchard; Angie and Bill Turner; Colin and Kim White.

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 May issue should be submitted by April 18.