



# 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*

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December 2016



**Christmas Is Coming**  
*Celebrate and Worship at St. John's*

December 11, 10 a.m. service—Christmas Pageant

December 16, 6:30–7:30 p.m.—Christmas caroling in the church (refreshments to follow)

December 18, after the 10 a.m. service—Christmas cookie exchange (RSVP to Lynn Robinson at [mezzsop22204@yahoo.com](mailto:mezzsop22204@yahoo.com) by December 12)

December 18, after Cristo Rey's service—Greening of the church for Christmas

Christmas Eve, 5 p.m.—Holy Eucharist with Christmas carols and a children's message

Christmas Eve, 11 p.m.—Holy Eucharist with Christmas carols

Christmas Day, 10 a.m.—Holy Eucharist with Christmas carols (no 8 a.m. service)

New Year's Day, 10 a.m.—Lessons and Carols service (no 8 a.m. service)



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## From the Rector: Christmas Presents

In December we celebrate Advent, a season of preparation for the coming of the Christ Child as a vulnerable baby. We also remember with hope that he has promised to come again to take us to himself. The season of Advent is a time of waiting for the good news we know is coming. It is a time of joy and hope.

Outside our church, Christmas carols are being played non-stop on a radio station. There are lights everywhere and Christmas sales galore. Children are making lists for Santa, and parents are making lists for shopping trips, guests coming, and meal planning. We get frustrated that in church we don't sing Christmas carols before Christmas Eve. We feel Christmas all around us, and we want to get in on the act.

Well, we can. The culture is feeling a lot of the same things we feel in Advent. So even in Advent, we can be present to Christmas.

We can be present to the joy of the season. We are joyful in Advent that Jesus is coming. We can be joyful along with everyone else at the gaiety, the frivolity, and the fun that is Christmas. People go around with smiles on their faces. Even people who are not particularly religious know this is a season for happiness to reign. People greet each other with smiles. They commiserate in a friendly way over long lines at the stores. They light up when they find that perfect gift for that special someone that is on sale. In Advent, there is joy at the upcoming birth we will celebrate. Be present to all the joy that you can.

Be present to the hope that is Christmas. In Advent we hope for a Messiah to save us, and we pray for peace on earth and good will to all people. In the streets people are hoping too. They are hoping for broken relationships to be

made whole during this special time. They are hoping that the political situation in the world will get better. They are buoyed by the image of Santa, generous and jolly, and they want to hope that the world will be blessed with just a little more of that Christmas spirit.

Be present to the preparation of the season. In Advent we wait faithfully. In the streets, people are preparing in other ways: buying gifts, putting up decorations, sending Christmas cards, trying to achieve the almost impossible—wrangling gift lists out of five nephews. December is such a busy time that we are tempted to rush through it with our coats pulled around us and our heads down against the wind, but the preparation is a time we should savor if we possibly can. It will make Christmas all that much more joyful.

Be present to the people of the season. First, be present to yourself. How are you feeling? What are you thinking, as you prepare for the Christ Child? Does it fill your heart with gladness or get lost in the shuffle? Are you so busy that you get lost in the shuffle too? If you do, take some time out. People can do with one less present, and cards, as I know personally, can be sent after the season is over. You don't have to make it the perfect Christmas at the expense of your sanity. Be a good steward of your time.

Be present to family and friends. God's grace to God's children is present to us in Advent and we need to take it in fully. It is my joy to have a close family that I treasure and to share my life with friends. So far we have all been able to get together every Christmas for at least one day, though my nephew and his wife now spend Christmas in Europe with her family. I try to keep up with the people

I love in the Advent season, just as God keeps up with us, the people God loves, and gifts us with a Savior. Be present to the needy. I get so many letters from charities around holiday time. We are encouraged to give generously to help people have a Christmas; we do that through the Angel Tree. People in the streets are generous during this time of year, and in Advent we think about what Jesus will expect from us when he comes again.

Most of all, be present to God this Advent season. God sends the joy, the love, the hope,

the anticipation, the people to be with us, the sense of peace we pray for. God sends it to those that celebrate Advent and those that do not. God wants to grace the whole world, especially at this time of year. Be present to God's grace in the gift of Advent and the other ways we prepare for Christmas. Advent tells us that Christ is near, and we are overjoyed. Let us take that joy into all that we are present to this season.

Ann †

*St. John's Monthly Financial Statement*

October income:	\$6,926
Pledge + Plate:	\$5,941
Year-to-date income:	\$106,365
October expense:	\$15,457
Year-to-date expense:	\$131,723

**St. John's Staff and Leadership**

**Staff**

Rector: The Rev. Ann B. Barker  
 Minister of Music: Lynn Robinson  
 Organist: Judith Marcinko  
 Parish Administrator: Virginia Pearson  
 Sexton: Juan Figueroa

**Parish Leaders**

Bill Thomson, Treasurer  
 John Restall, Pledge Clerk  
 Dave Dunlap, Chair, Finance Committee  
 Eileen Tallent, Chair, Altar Guild

**Vestry**

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

Del Hunt  
 Lisa Pope  
 John Restall

## Sunday Seminar: Enjoy an Advent Study

The Sunday Seminar will interrupt its study of “Half Truths: Things the Bible Doesn’t Say” to enjoy an Advent study. Two are under consideration. Look for the title in an upcoming Sunday bulletin or listen to the announcements during services. Joining the seminar for this study is an excellent way to prepare your heart for Christmas. The seminar meets at 9 a.m. in the parlor. All are welcome!



### **St. John’s Vision Statement**

St. John’s Episcopal Church is an inclusive congregation that nurtures Christian spiritual growth and community through worship, education, outreach, mutual care, and fellowship.

### **St. John’s Mission Statement**

St. John’s mission is building a strong spiritual community; welcoming all who enter our doors, including believers, seekers, and doubters; and reaching out to those in need both within our congregation and around us.

## **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](mailto:logos@stjohnsarlingtonva.org) (preferred) or left at the church office. The deadline for the January issue is December 14. Article ideas for future issues are also welcome.

## Parish News

### Upcoming Events:

➤ Join the St. John's Book Club on **December 6** at 7:30 p.m. as they meet to discuss *The Ship of Brides* by Jojo Moyes. The novel tells the story of the many war brides who crossed the sea to England following the end of World War II. On **January 3**, the club will discuss the classic novella *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. All are welcome!

### Rest in Peace:

➤ Barbara Hill, who entered the life of the Resurrection on October 4.

### Thank you to:

- Peter Olivere for changing the toner cartridge in the church office.
- Sandy Winger for agreeing to chair the upcoming Christmas Pageant.
- Peter Olivere for teaching Sunday School on November 20.
- Everyone who participated in the second Fall Clean-Up Day on October 29.
- Dave Dunlap for agreeing to be the Finance Committee chair and to Peter Olivere, John Restall, Bill Thomson, and Linda Trochim for serving on the committee.
- Everyone who submitted pledge cards (there is still time).
- Kay Wells for all her work in the church office on stewardship mailings and volunteer list mailings.
- Lisa Pope, Lynn Robinson, Debbie Carter, and John Restall for chairing the Thanksgiving Brunch on November 20 and to all the people who brought dishes.
- Everyone who has given school supplies and clothing for Carlin Springs and Campbell elementary schools.
- Everyone who has taken an Angel Tree angel or two to make Christmas brighter for a needy child (items are due December 4).

### We celebrate with all who have birthdays in December:

Rev. Catherine Campbell, Eileen Flynn, Madeline Harbin, Lori Held, Galen Henderson, Del Hunt, Vernon Martin, Barbara Olivere, Angie Rollet, Angela Swarr, Camron Tallent, and Laura Wallace.

### We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in December:

Carol and Dave Dunlap; Klaus and Lori Held; Penny and Don Hess; Cooper and Mary Mackin.

## Get Ready for the Christmas Pageant



As the children of St. John's prepare to present the annual Christmas Pageant on December 11, enjoy some scenes from last year's pageant!