



# 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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January 2017

## Christmas Pageant Comes to Life



The children of St. John's and the neighborhood presented a memorable Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 11. Thank you to all the people who made the pageant possible: Sandy Winger (coordinator); Peter Olivere and Brian Cavey (directors); Roger Ludwig (piano); and cast members Jack Birmingham, Aoife Cahill, Michael Cavey, Tina Cavey, Lucy Drake, Rosa Drake, Abigail Houle, Paula Houle, and Nora Wien. A special offering collected after the pageant will be donated by the children of St. John's to Heifer International, which provides livestock to people in developing countries to help them become self-sufficient.

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## From the Rector: Hope for the Future

Last week my Jewish chiropractor said “Wouldn’t it be nice to have a white Christmas?” I responded quickly, “No, it would not! I have to drive almost six hours to get to my sister’s on Christmas Day, and I don’t want any snow on the roads.” Every year I hope for safe roads for traveling to Galax and so far I have gotten them. My entire family will be there except for one nephew and his wife, whom I will see on their way to Europe for Christmas, and I want to be there too. It is the only other time of the year I get to see Kristy and Evan, and I don’t want to miss that. So I live in hope.

Hope is a wonderful thing with which to begin the New Year. Hope means you want things to go right even if things are really hairy right now. Hope means you believe that it is just as likely—or even more likely—that good things will happen than that bad things will happen. Hope brings a positive, glass-half-full attitude and makes your days brighter. Hope is not just wishing; it is a really solid emotion that can shape the way you live your life. It is an active, growing thing.

There are some things we can hope for in the coming year. In this politically charged climate, we can be resolved to hope for our country. People that voted for Donald Trump are already hopeful. Those who did not are afraid, but fear doesn’t do us any good. We hope and pray for good decisions, we care for others, and we move toward peace in the world. We don’t have a political bias; we have, as Bishop Shannon says, a gospel bias. There was a local Service of Light and Hope held in December to support the Hispanic members of our church and to give them hope that we will stand behind them to assist them in whatever difficulties they will face in any way we can. Not only they, but many others, need the hope we can offer.

We can hope in our fellow human beings. Every weekday morning, the radio station I listen to has a segment called “Tell Me Something Good” that features three positive stories from the news about people helping people. There are so many people in need, so many that seem uncared for, that it is hard to hope that people will do something about that anytime soon. But there ARE people out there, feeding the hungry, helping people find places to live that they can afford, providing job training and the like, including people at St. John’s. Sometimes hoping and the attitude it brings can change someone’s mind and turn them into a helper rather than a neglecter.

We can hope in ourselves. Most of us don’t, you know. We are always counting up what we don’t have going for us, instead of focusing on our assets. We have many self-improvement projects, but they sometimes get overwhelming and we get demoralized. We can’t change our behavior until we accept ourselves just as we are. We need to think we are lovable and gifted by God when we look in the mirror. We need to go into the world with a feeling of confidence—that we can do what we have been given to do.

We can hope in our relationships. Our relationships with family and friends make us stronger. They give us joy, which is sometimes hard to come by. Make the New Year a time to strengthen relationships, especially if, like me, you have not yet sent out your Christmas cards and wait until the New Year to get them done. Check in with your loved ones more often. I know I need to check in with a cousin whose wife died nearly two years ago. I have talked to him in that interval but not nearly enough. Let relationships be important to you.

And above all, trust in God. God is there for you, doing more to promote your cause than you can even imagine. God loves you and

wants you to enjoy your life, even if seas are stormy. God is always working for our good, sending messages of love through the Holy Spirit. Open your hearts and let God in.

As I said at the beginning, hope is not a wish. It is a feeling, but not just a feeling. Hope requires action. Do what you can to bring peace to the world, to bring hope to the needy. Do what you can to accept yourself with

all your foibles—after all, God does. Do what you can to stay in touch with others. Do what you can to hope in God—go to church, let God direct your life (God is happy to do that) knowing God is so good. Hope takes action. Make this year a year of hope in action, and may your attitudes and actions bring you joy.

Ann †

### *St. John's Monthly Financial Statement*

November income:	\$7,440
Pledge + Plate:	\$6,725
Year-to-date income:	\$113,805
November expense:	\$11,621
Year-to-date expense:	\$143,344

### **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

#### **Vestry**

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

#### **Parish Leaders**

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

Del Hunt  
Lisa Pope  
John Restall

## Half Truths and Hazardous Saints: Join the Sunday Seminar

The adult Sunday Seminar will resume its study of “Half Truths,” which examines things people often say about the Bible that the Bible doesn’t actually say. The seminar will then embark on a study of “Hazardous Saints,” a group of people from St. Barnabas to Sojourner Truth to Oscar Romero who made a big difference for Jesus. Please join the seminar at 9 a.m. in the parlor!



### SAVE THE DATE

St. John’s will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, January 22, following the 10 a.m. service. We will elect vestry members, present the budget, thank our many volunteers, and learn about what’s been happening in the church over the last year. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend this important annual session.



#### **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 February issue is January 20. Article ideas for future issues are also welcome.

## Parish News

### Upcoming Events:

➤ Join the St. John's Book Club on **January 3** at 7:30 p.m. as they discuss the classic novella *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. The January meeting will take place at La Madeleine at Bailey's Crossroads in Falls Church. On **February 7**, the club will meet at St. John's to discuss *At Home in Mitford* by Jan Karon. This first book in The Mitford Years series chronicles everyday life in a small North Carolina town. All are welcome!

### Thank you to:

- Bill Pritchard for helping out with technology for the adult Sunday Seminar.
- Peter Olivere and Barbara Wien for teaching Sunday School while regular teacher Peggy Blount was away.
- Faye Pritchard for delivering food to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC).
- Virginia Pearson and Kay Wells for sorting out all of the Angel Tree packages so that the Salvation Army could come and pick them up.
- All who helped with the greening of the church on Sunday, December 18.

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

Patricia Broida, Keelyn Del Gallo, Don Hess, Tony Kollath, Mary Mackin, Janet Spence, Paul Stenger, and Cynthia Todd.

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

Robert L. Rawls, III, and Harriet Sheehan Rawls; Anna and David Scherer

### Rest in Peace

Barbara Hill was interred in Arlington Cemetery with her husband in a small family ceremony on December 23. The Hill family thanks everyone at St. John's for their many expressions of care and sympathy since Barbara's death in October.

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## Resources for Planned Giving

With a new year comes new thoughts about financial planning, including estate planning and legacy gifts. Whether considering charitable tax-planning options or taking the basic step of creating a last will and testament, the Episcopal Church Foundation offers numerous planned giving resources. Brochures and booklets available for free download at [www.episcopalchurch.org/programs/planned-giving/planned-giving-brochures](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/programs/planned-giving/planned-giving-brochures) include:

- Planned Giving: Stewards of God's Bounty
- Charitable Gift Annuity: Guarantee an Income for Life
- Charitable Remainder Trust: Help Loved Ones and the Church
- Pooled Income Fund: Give and You Shall Receive
- Planning for the End of Life: Faithful Stewards of Your Good Gifts
- Writing Your Will: Where There's a Will There's a Way.

The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia also offers information on charitable tax-planning strategies. These include individual retirement account (IRA) charitable rollovers, outright gift of an asset, donor advised funds (DAF), and zero-tax gifts and sales. For more information and assistance in creating a plan that meets individual needs and goals, contact Deal Tompkins, Planned Giving Consultant to the Diocese of Virginia, at [edwtom@msn.com](mailto:edwtom@msn.com).