



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 2017

There's Always Time for Tea



Take time to unwind as St. John's hosts its Spring Tea on Saturday, May 13, from 1–3 p.m. A tradition for many years now, the tea is eagerly anticipated by residents from around Northern Virginia. In addition to a wide choice of teas, attendees are treated to an impressive array of scones, finger sandwiches, pastries, cakes, and cookies. Other treats include a glass of champagne and live piano music as participants relax and enjoy the afternoon. This is a wonderful opportunity to socialize with friends and family, make new friends, or share a memorable experience with your child or grandchild. The cost of the tea is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. For more information, visit www.stjohnsarlingtonva.org or call the church office at 703-671-6834.



Dr. Seuss: Happy Birthday to You!

St. John's birthday party for Dr. Seuss on March 26 was a grand success. About 16 children, including members of Cristo Rey and community residents, came and colored Dr. Seuss-themed pictures, tested their knowledge of Dr. Seuss characters and books in a trivia contest, and listened to a reading of *Ten Apples Up on Top*. No birthday party would be complete without ice cream and cake, of course, which quickly disappeared. The party then finished off with several games. Children and adults alike had fun celebrating the beloved author and their favorite Dr. Seuss characters. A good time was had by all!



St. John's hosted a birthday party for Dr. Seuss on March 26.

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 (preferred) or left at the church office. The deadline for the June issue is May 22. Article ideas for future issues are also welcome.

From the Rector: An Inconvenient Faith

It is inconvenient to be in a car accident. It is really inconvenient to be the one at fault and get a ticket. It is inconvenient to have your rental car hit two days later and then have a flat tire. It is inconvenient to have the car towed because the trunk, which was hit in the accident, wouldn't close. And it is supremely inconvenient to get home at 9:00 at night when you expected to get home at 6:15 and get some things done. Car shopping is a pain too, but it will get done.

There are inconveniences in life all the time, but have you noticed that if you have a living faith, it might be even more inconvenient? Brother John Braught of the Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE) says that "following Jesus will almost always be inconvenient. A convenient spirituality is no spirituality at all, because it means we are simply doing what we feel able to do or comfortable doing. If it is convenient, it means we don't have to rely on God very much."

A friend calls and asks you to take her to the emergency room. "Long hours," you whine. "I was planning to read or garden or do chores. But my friend needs me. If I am going to love my neighbor as myself, then I am going to take her to the emergency room and stay with her if she needs that." That is inconvenient faith. You are passing on the blessings of the love God has given you to a friend. You are acting on faith that this is the right thing to do. You are relying on God to bless you in the midst of this activity and help you take care of the other things you were going to do.

It is inconvenient when you are in a hurry to get to the office because you have so much to do and then someone begs from you. You don't want to just give him money. You want to be sure he gets the food he needs. So you take him to the local convenience store and

buy him a couple of meals. Maybe he is grateful and maybe he isn't. But you do it because of your faith. You take care of the poor and the hungry. You are again relying on God to get you through the day and help you get done what you need to get done.

Going to church can be inconvenient. You had a late Saturday night, and you want to sleep in. You want to go to brunch, but you don't want to get up for the early service. It's just one time, you say to yourself, and before you know it, it becomes more than once, and if it goes on too long it becomes a habit. I don't need to go to church. It's just too inconvenient. But in our baptismal vows we promise to continue in the apostles' teaching, in the breaking of bread in the fellowship, and in the prayers. That's coming to church. That's taking Communion. That's going to coffee hour. That's going to Christian formation. Church can seem inconvenient sometimes, but we can trust God to help us get there, be inspired, and be sent out to do God's work.

It is sometimes inconvenient to give our money, time, and talents to the church and the world. We practice a scarcity mentality. I can't really afford to give much to the church because I might need the money for myself. Now those who do not have much can give little, but the rest of us don't get a free pass. We are called to give as a spiritual discipline, a way to strengthen our relationship with God. I can't really afford the time to put into this ministry. I have too much to do. Sometimes that is the case, but more often than not, we would have time if we made time given to the church a priority. Sure, it is inconvenient, it is not comfortable at first, but we rely on God to give us the power we need to reorganize our schedule to help show God's love in the world.

Having an inconvenient faith requires work, but it is work we can do with the help of

the Holy Spirit. To be a Christian is to rely on God for everything in our lives, especially when we have to make tough choices based on

our faith. Choose God's way, even when it is inconvenient, and live a redeemed life.

Ann †

Feeding the Invisible People

Thank you to all who participated in Feeding the Invisible People, St. John's Lenten outreach project to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). The final tallies are in, with 334 pounds of food and \$1,330 donated! Lent may be over, but please continue to remember the needs of AFAC by donating food and participating in St. John's monthly bagging sessions at AFAC as you're able.



St. John's Staff and Leadership

Staff

Rector: The Rev. Ann B. Barker
Minister of Music: Lynn Robinson
Organist: Judith Marcinko
Programs Director: Jill McAfee
Parish Administrator: Virginia Pearson

Parish Leaders

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

Vestry

Lisa Pope, Senior Warden
Bryan Harbin, Junior Warden
Jeff Aitken

Diane Henderson
Del Hunt
John Restall

Parish News

Upcoming Events:

➤ Join the St. John's Book Club on **May 2** at 7:30 p.m. as they discuss *Circling the Sun* by Paula McLain. The **June 6** selection is *The Summer Before the War* by Helen Simonson. The novel tells of life in an idyllic English village on the eve of World War I. All are welcome!

Thank you to:

- The altar guild, musicians, and other volunteers who made the Easter service so beautiful.
- Paul and Anne Stenger for coordinating the Loaves and Fishes meal.
- Sandy Winger, Rev. Ann Barker, Carol and Dave Dunlap, Bill and Faye Pritchard, John Restall, and Lynn Robinson, who took part in Rise Against Hunger, the Region Three Lenten project.
- Jill McAfee, Flo Stewart, Lisa Pope, John Restall, and Lynn Robinson, who helped with the Dr. Seuss Birthday Party.
- Jill McAfee for coordinating the Easter Egg Hunt.
- Debbie Carter and Lisa Pope for hosting the Easter reception and all who brought food.

Rest in Peace:

- Diane Henderson's friend Catherine, who entered the Life of the Resurrection on April 13.

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.

From Hazardous Saints to No Fear in Love: Join the Sunday Seminar

The adult Sunday Seminar will cover several topics in May and June. The seminar will first finish its study on "Hazardous Saints," people whose lives changed the world. Next come sessions on icons and the relationship between religion and science. Seminar participants will then embark on a study of the book, *Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love*, which discusses the way Christians can engage the other. Chapters include: Saved by the Other; The Other, My Enemy; Learning to Fear Like Christians; Loving the Other in Church; and Jesus the Other. This study is sure to be engaging, especially at this challenging time in America. Please let Rev. Ann Barker know if you would like a copy of the book, so that one can be ordered for you. The Sunday Seminar meets at 9 a.m. in the parlor.

Words on Hymns: *The Day of Resurrection*

The words for *The Day of Resurrection*, our processional hymn for May 10, were written by St. John of Damascus (c. 675–c. 749). The penultimate Father of the Greek Church, he is considered to be the greatest of its poets. He was from a good family in Damascus and was educated by the elder Cosmas in company with his foster brother Cosmas the Melodist. He held an office under the Caliph. He afterwards retired to the monastery of St. Sabas, near Jerusalem, along with his foster brother. There he composed his theological works and his hymns. John was ordained priest of the church of Jerusalem late in life and lived to old age, dying on December 4, the day on which he is commemorated in the Greek calendar. His fame as a theologian rests on his work, which covers philosophical summaries, heresies, and the orthodox faith. His three orations in favor of icons, from which he obtained the names of Chrysorrhous and The Doctor of Christian Art, are quite celebrated. His hymns are still used both in Eastern and Western churches throughout the world.

The story is told of John writing a hymn for the funeral of a fellow monk—a monk not yet dead but at death’s doorstep. After writing the hymn, John started practicing it loudly. The

next thing he knew, the dying monk came shuffling into the room to protest the unseemly noise.

The translator of the text for this hymn was John Neale, whom we have encountered before in some of the more than 120 hymns he translated or wrote, including *Good King Wenceslas*; *All Glory, Laud and Honor*; and *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*.

There are at least four tunes for the music of this hymn. The one we use is Ellacombe, written in Württemberg, Germany, in 1784 and adapted and harmonized by William H. Monk in 1868. Published in a chapel hymnal for the Duke of Württemberg (*Gesangbuch der Herzogl*, 1784), Ellacombe (the name of a village in Devonshire, England) was first set to the words “Ave Maria, klarer und lichter Morgenstern” (Hail, Mary, clear and bright morning star). Since Ellacombe’s inclusion in the 1868 Appendix to *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, where it was set to John Daniell’s children’s hymn, “Come, Sing with Holy Gladness,” its use throughout the English-speaking world has spread. The descant for the third verse was written by Cyril Winn (1884–1973).

Carol Dunlap



Children from St. John’s and the neighborhood celebrated Easter with a festive egg hunt.