



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

October 2017

Roundtables Bring Together St. John's and Cristo Rey

Members of St. John's and Cristo Rey gathered on September 10 for roundtable discussions designed to help participants learn more about each other and how the two congregations can bolster their partnership. Attendees discussed the outreach activities supported by their congregations as well as outreach that could be done together. Cristo Rey, for example, sponsors a church in Central America and assembles hygiene supply kits for a local shelter. St. John's also reaches out to the homeless by preparing lunches for the Bailey's Crossroads shelter. Both congregations have collected supplies for local schools and donated Angel Tree gifts for needy children at Christmas, presenting prime opportunities to collaborate. As one participant noted, "we will get more done, and we will get to know each other better." Fundraisers also offer opportunities to work together, with ideas that included hosting a yard sale and sponsoring car washes. Fellowship is equally important in building stronger relationships. The two congregations will gather for a joint Thanksgiving Potluck meal on Sunday, November 19, at 2:30 p.m. Additional ideas include holding a picnic in the summer, sponsoring more frequent Bingo Nights, and partnering to green the church before Christmas. Stay tuned for more information on upcoming joint activities, and thank you to all who participated in the roundtables!



All Hearts Open: Stewardship 2018

“All hearts open.” These familiar words are said at the beginning of every Holy Eucharist service. The prayer affirms that all hearts are open to God. God sees inside each and every one of us and knows our deepest desires. But all hearts open is something each of us needs to do as well. We choose to put ourselves in an attitude of receptivity to God and God’s will for us. We express our gratitude to God for our many blessings, especially the gift of Jesus, who came to help us open our hearts to God’s love. In response to that love, we offer all that we have and are to God, who has blessed us with abundant life, including our time, talent, and treasure.

As St. John’s kicks off its Stewardship 2018 campaign, please consider how you can open your heart to allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in a faithful response to God’s generosity. The way we open our hearts at St. John’s has a profound impact within the church, in the local community, and around the globe. These impacts will be highlighted each week in our Sunday services throughout the stewardship campaign. Stewardship 2018 will kick off on Sunday, October 8, with the distribution of pledge cards. St. John’s will also celebrate the kick-off that day with a “Build Your Own Sub” event during the coffee hour after the 10 a.m. service. Come join your St. John’s community for food, fellowship, and faithful consideration of how we can give back to God.

The goal for Stewardship 2018 is 100 percent pledge commitments from the congregation. The St. John’s vestry has been the first to respond. They have committed to not just taking their 2017 pledge and writing it on their 2018 pledge card automatically. Instead, they have each prayerfully committed to tithe (give 10 percent of their income) or give proportionately (give a percentage of their income) as they can. Please follow their lead as you discern how God is calling you to walk more broadly in the generous path God has provided. As we look toward a new year of worship, ministry, fellowship, and service, join the vestry in their commitment to the mission of St. John’s!



St. John’s Office Schedule

The St. John’s church office is open Monday through Thursday, except for federal holidays. The office is closed each Friday. Please remember that any emails or phone messages for Parish Administrator Virginia Pearson that are received after 1 p.m. on Thursday will not be seen until Monday morning. For any emergency needs over the weekend, please contact Rector Ann Barker (cell: 703-622-2373) or Senior Warden Lisa Pope (cell: 703-346-2705).

From the Rector: Walking Against Traffic

I walk around the gym track for half a mile before I start my workout. It is five times and a fraction around the track, so that means I have to turn around and walk back to the start by going in the wrong direction. Fortunately, there are not ever many people on the track. But what would happen if you got on a moving sidewalk at the airport and tried to walk the opposite way? It would be a hard battle. Not only would people be moving in the other direction, but the sidewalk itself would be going in the other direction and you would have to work to get where you were going.

So it is when we try to walk against the flow of culture, says Brother David Vryhoff of the Society of St. John the Evangelist. It is an effort, but it is worth it to bring some other, better values to bear on the assumptions and values of a nation that is, as Bishop Curry puts it, “in the intensive care unit.” Here are some ways we can walk against the prevailing traffic.

We can work for unity instead of separation. The world is full of hostilities between nations. What can we do to change national policy for the United States? We can contact our representatives and ask their support for bills that promote peace—treaties, trade agreements, and the like. The world is also full of racism and culture-ism. People are sharply divided along racial lines, cultural lines, and religious lines. We can do what we can to look at race relations in this country, to try to produce a more harmonious and fairer society. We read the book *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* in the adult Sunday Seminar and will also look at other resources that may help. We can try to be loving and accepting in our interactions with all people, regardless of their background.

We can work for acceptance instead of criticism. I am not talking about not criticizing

structures you feel are unjust; I am talking about person-to-person contact. So many people are critical of others, from road rage to disgruntlement at the office to not accepting the frailties of others, which we particularly dislike because they often mirror our own. We can practice acceptance and love for others just the way they are. We can also practice acceptance and love for ourselves in a culture where so many think too little of themselves.

We can be encouragers instead of discouragers. We can help people think positively about the opportunities that they have and not practice “what ifs” and catastrophizing (we’re going to war with North Korea in a week and the stock market will plummet and I’ll be homeless, for example). There has been a lot of discouraging news in the world lately. We need to go against the grain in our personal lives and spread a culture that feeds people, instead of starving them.

We can stop comparing ourselves to others, finding them better or worse than ourselves and ending up with too much pride or low self-esteem, both of which keep us focused on ourselves instead of an outward focus on loving others. If we are all equal in God’s sight, then there is no need for fruitless competition or equally damaging negative self-talk. Of course there is a place for competition in the world, whether it be a track meet or a plum job opportunity, but there is no place for it in our personal feelings toward others and the actions that come from those feelings.

We can take a look at our work-life balance in our resting time. In *The Upper Room*, Sherrie Lorance talks about playing the drums straight through the rests in the music and how that would ruin the performance. She then compares it with practicing resting in her own life. I am not much of a rester, but I have learned that rest and meditation and play are

productive parts of life. They give you the energy you need to continue doing what you are doing at higher efficiency.

There are characteristics of our culture that we would rather not have. They are damaging to us, which in turn affects the rest of the world. We have personal characteristics that

damage us as well. God wants us—and our world—to be healthy and whole. So walk the other way on the moving sidewalk. Stand up for what you believe in. Check your attitudes and see if they are attitudes Jesus would have. Then move out in faith.

Ann †

St. John's Monthly Financial Statement

August income:	\$9,701
Pledge + Plate:	\$9,275
Year-to-date income:	\$78,443
August expense:	\$13,797
Year-to-date expense:	\$110,799

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
Nursery Attendant: Kaitlyn Osteguin
Sexton: Julio Sorto

Vestry

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

Parish Leaders

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

Diane Henderson
Del Hunt
John Restall



Children from St. John's, Cristo Rey, and the community came out for a Harry Potter Hogwarts Back-to-School Party on Sunday, Sept. 24. Participants celebrated all things Harry Potter by creating wands and bookmarks, answering trivia questions, watching film clips, and enjoying punch and refreshments!

Words on Hymns: *All Who Hunger*

Our gradual hymn for October 22 is found in *Wonder, Love and Praise*, and is called *All Who Hunger Gather Gladly*. The words were written by Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955–1993), a Canadian clergywoman who became one of the leading hymn writers in North America. Her hymn texts increasingly appear in hymnals in the United States. A graduate of York University, she also received degrees in theology and divinity from Emmanuel College in Toronto, leading to her ordination in the United Church of Canada. She served as a prison chaplain for 10 years and was appointed to Malvern Emmanuel United Church in Scarborough, Ontario, just a few years before she was diagnosed with the liver cancer that ended her life at the age of 38. Dunstan received her formal musical education from Sister St. Gregory at St. Joseph's Convent. Growing up on the "evangelical side of the United Church of Canada," as noted by C. Michael Hawn, professor of sacred music at Perkins School of Theology, her musical education at a Catholic convent expanded her spiritual as well as musical horizons.

In the Catholic liturgy of the 1970s, she sang the folk music of Ray Repp and the Medical Mission Sisters. She met one of the Mission Sisters, Sister Miriam Therese Winter, who taught her how to write songs based on Scripture. A child of her time, her early songs used the folk guitar. As she noted, "Most of these songs are now under a well-deserved and merciful curtain of oblivion." Realizing that she was not a gifted musician, she focused instead on writing texts.

Dunstan also realized that the structure of classic hymns with meter and rhyme "empowered" congregational singing. "I came to believe," she said, "that 'meaningful thoughts' in sloppy form are an impediment to

the people's prayer, causing an undue focus on the work itself, rather than pointing to the worship of God." Thus she made a "transition from guitar-strumming, meter-mangling self-indulgence to form-following, tradition-loving classicism...from 1981–1983."

All who hunger comes directly from Dunstan's experience at an annual conference of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, where she was asked to lead a session exploring her hymns. "After the conference, some of us vacationed at Folly Beach outside Charleston, S.C., where I worked out this text, wandering up and down the beach singing the tune *Holy Manna*," she said. The final two lines of each stanza form a refrain: "Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good," a reference to Psalm 34:8 ("O taste and see that the Lord is good!").

Holy Manna is the hymn tune originally written for *Brethren, We Have Met Together*, which is one of the oldest published American folk hymns. It was originally published by Tennessee composer William Moore (1811–1880) in *Columbian Harmony*, a four-note shape-note tunebook, in 1829 and is attributed to him. In addition to being used in a significant number of early American hymnals, including *Southern Harmony* and *Baptist Harmony*, *Holy Manna* appears in a large number of modern hymnals. It is also used as a common tune for other songs, especially *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens, I Will Arise and Go to Jesus* and a piece called *Rise and Shine* from the *Secular Hymnal*. It appears in *The Hymnal 1982* as *Blessed Feasts of Blessed Martyrs*. Even *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* was set to it, although personally I think the tune *Hyfrydol* can't be surpassed.

Carol Dunlap

Parish News

Upcoming Events:

➤ The St. John's Book Club will meet **Tuesday, October 3**, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss *The Thin Man* by Dashiell Hammett. The selection for the **November 7** meeting is *The Rules of Civility* by Amor Towles. Set in the 1930s, the novel depicts the story of a young woman unexpectedly propelled into the upper echelons of New York society. All are welcome!

➤ Join St. John's for food and fellowship as we kick off the 2018 stewardship campaign with a "Build Your Own Sub" event during the coffee hour on **Sunday, October 8**.

➤ Parish Cleanup Days will be held on **Saturday, October 14, and Saturday, October 21**, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Come help beautify the church! You can work indoors or out, and no special skills are needed. Lunch will be provided at noon on both days.

➤ Share in fellowship with the community as St. John's hosts a Spaghetti Supper at 6 p.m. on **Saturday, October 21**.

Thank you to:

➤ Peter Olivere for creating the tags for the backpack blessings on Sunday, September 10; updating the St. John's brochure; and handling glitches in the church email system.

➤ Michael and Teresa Birmingham for providing dinner for Vacation Bible School.

➤ Joy and Bobby Candelieri for coordinating the bagged lunches for the Bailey's Crossroads Shelter in July and August.

➤ Diane Henderson for posting flyers advertising the Animal Blessing held on Sunday, October 1.

➤ Kendrah McDonald, Lisa Pope, and Lynn Robinson for organizing the Harry Potter Party on Sunday, September 24, and to all who helped with setup, food, and cleanup. We couldn't have done it without you!

➤ Michael Birmingham for agreeing to serve as stewardship chair.

We celebrate with all who have birthdays in October:

Erin Tallent Baynham, Jacob Beavin, Betsy Cullen, Bryan Harbin, Carrie Harbin, John Hart, Monica Lozano, Raymond McDonald, Taylor Robinson, the Rev. Peter Swarr, Bill Thomson, and Liz White.

We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in October:

Marshall and Ginger Adair; Joy and Bobby Candelieri; Andy and Cathi Del Gallo; Eileen Flynn and Paul Harless; John Hart and Angie Rollet; Heather and Tony Kollath; Dave and Lynn Robinson.

Adult Sunday Seminar Studies *The Evolution of God*

The adult Sunday Seminar is discussing Robert Wright's book, *The Evolution of God*. The book traces the way views about God have developed through the centuries, from a polytheistic nature to the view of one God held by Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Interspersed with the study will be discussions about different religions. Come join these lively conversations! The Sunday Seminar meets at 9 a.m. in the parlor.

A Warm Welcome

To better introduce ourselves to visitors and newcomers and help them feel at home, St. John's has new Welcome Bags that the ushers have started distributing on Sundays. Please join our welcoming effort by alerting the ushers to visitors and be sure to introduce yourself as we strive to create a warm and accepting community!



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 in Christ; 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.

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LOGOS is published monthly at the beginning of the month, except for a combined July/August issue.

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 November issue is October 20. Article ideas for future issues are also welcome.