



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

July/August 2018

Nourishing Hope Through the Bagged Lunch Ministry

Their names are Penny, Hasheem, Bryan, Lloyd, and Timothy. They are lingering outside the Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter talking. They tell me where they work and say the shelter is okay. These are the people that St. John's is making bagged lunches for once a month. The shelter has about 50 beds for people experiencing homelessness, which is what they say instead of "the homeless," as if they were some category of people different than everyone else.

When some people hear the words "homeless people," they think drug abusers and pedophiles, said Jan-Michael Sacharko, director of development for New Hope Housing, the new manager of the shelter. But homeless people have jobs and families and prospects. Many are able to get out of homelessness on their own. Others need help with IDs and obtaining benefits and finding jobs, and the shelter provides those services.

Now New Hope Housing has broken ground for a new facility on Seminary Road. It is the first facility in Fairfax County to have both emergency shelter beds (52) and 18 apartments for people who are ready to move out of the shelter but still need support services. The \$12 million center, which will open in the fall of 2019, is being funded by a 2016 bond referendum. Congressman and former County Board Chairman Gerry Connelly said the county has reduced homelessness by 47 percent over the past 10 years.

St. John's ministry at the Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter is critical, said Sacharko. The shelter offers breakfast and dinner, but residents need lunch during the day for job hunting trips and work shifts. John Petrich and Leslie Mead have been leading this ministry with our youth for many years, and St. John's thanks them. Going forward, Michael Birmingham has agreed to purchase the food and Sandy Winger has agreed to set up and coordinate the monthly bagging. "What we need are people to help assemble the lunches for this important ministry. The youth have been spearheading this effort, but we need more help," said Rev. Ann Barker. So please come downstairs on the second Sunday of each month and bag a few lunches. Penny, Hasheem, Bryan, Lloyd, Timothy, and their fellow residents will be nourished physically and spiritually by knowing that people care.



From the Rector: Value Yourself

George Congreve of the Society of St. John the Evangelist says “there is a ray of God’s purpose traveling straight to your personality...traveling from God’s heart and mind to yours. That is the value of your life.” We have been told that God finds each of us infinitely valuable, but truth be told, often our value to God is not mirrored in our value to ourselves. We tend to be too hard on ourselves, holding ourselves to standards that God would never have. Or we tend to set our expectations of ourselves too low, wasting precious opportunities to spread God’s light and life.

As members of the body of Christ, it is very important that we recognize our tremendous value to God and find the balance between holding ourselves accountable and giving ourselves a break that will help us be good brothers and sisters of Christ, participants in God’s mission.

An important part of self-valuing is self-acceptance. God has made each of us unique, designed to fulfill God’s purposes in the world. But we find it hard to admit how special we are. We also find it hard to admit how broken we feel. We can be afraid to let ourselves show not only the things we consider bad, but surprisingly also the things we and others might consider good because we don’t want to brag.

Here are some things it is important to value about ourselves to help us build a picture of ourselves as God’s beloved children.

Value your experiences. Polls show that millennials tend to value experiences over stuff and that could be a good thing. You don’t have to travel worldwide or participate in some important conference or be a major executive to have experiences worth valuing. Your parenting experiences bring patience, understanding, and nurturing abilities. Your experience as a mate brings the ability to love

another more than yourself, to work as a team, to compromise. Your experiences as a student may have been good or bad, but you learned about yourself and your ability to learn, a skill that will stand you in good stead. Your experience as a child may have helped you know the closest thing we humans get to unconditional love. All of those experiences contribute to our value in the world.

Value your accomplishments. I do a happy dance every time I solve a computer problem that is challenging to me, even though it may seem like child’s play to others. When I can get the hose in the right place in the vacuum cleaner so that it sucks in and doesn’t blow out, that is a victory. I’m talking about the little things—getting that recipe right, having the tomatoes come up and not get eaten by pests, managing to get that long list of things done that you have to do, inserting tab A into slot B in a container. All these little things add up to a big thing—the willingness to try new things, to move forward, to enhance your creativity.

Value your mistakes. I really don’t like it when people tell me how much I can learn from my mistakes, but it would be pretty awful to have things that are so much a part of our lives count for nothing. Evan had a rough first semester in college and he had the grades to show it, but he learned what he had to do and graduated with honors. Maybe we wait too long to make a decision and find we are left out of something we had really wanted to do. Hopefully, we will learn to be more decisive, but not impulsive. Maybe we don’t gather enough information to make a good decision on something. Maybe we make a big mistake in our relationships. This is one of the best learning experiences of all. We hopefully learn to apologize and make amends or to forgive if that is called for. Mistakes increase our

value because we can speak with wisdom about accepting them, dealing with them, and moving on.

Value your memories. Evan is not a sentimental guy, but when I told him I had found some pictures of his father as a little boy and his great grandmother's baby book, he wanted them. Even if we are not compulsive picture takers and don't have a box full of old concert programs, the memories we have made can give our lives pleasure and meaning and can help us relate to others with whom we share memories. I was totally surprised at how much I enjoyed my 40th high school reunion. I had never been to one before, but in so many ways it was just like old times.

Most important perhaps, value your dreams. God is everywhere with us, in all our

living, but perhaps one place where God may show Godself the most is in our dreams. It doesn't matter how old we are or how little or big our dreams are, they are important parts of our lives and we put a lot of hope into them. Consistent, persistent efforts to accomplish our dreams are part of what makes life enjoyable. There are always dreams within our reach if we can but see them.

God values us. God has designed each of us to be a unique son or daughter of God. Valuing ourselves is valuing what God has made. Self-valuing can help us on the road to find meaning and purpose in our lives—not anyone else's—and what we can offer the world. You are of infinite value. Believe in yourself.

Ann †

The adult Sunday Seminar and children's Sunday School will resume on September 9.



St. John's Staff and Leadership

Staff

Rector: The Rev. Ann B. Barker
Minister of Music: Lynn Robinson
Organist: Judith Marcinko
Family Programs Director: Galen Henderson
Parish Administrator: Virginia Pearson
Nursery Attendant: Kaitlyn Osteguín
Sexton: Julio Sorto

Vestry

Lisa Pope, Senior Warden
Bryan Harbin, Junior Warden
Diane Henderson
Del Hunt

Parish Leaders

Peter Olivere, Treasurer
John Restall, Pledge Clerk
Dave Dunlap, Chair, Finance Committee
Eileen Tallent, Chair, Altar Guild

Peter Olivere
John Restall
Bill Thomson

Journey Down the Rolling River at VBS 2018



It was a week of Bible stories, crafts, food, friendship, and outdoor fun at VBS 2017.

Calling all preschoolers to rising fifth graders! St. John's will host Vacation Bible School (VBS) on July 16 to 20 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The cost is \$20 for the week and \$5 for each additional sibling. Dinner each night is included in the cost. Scholarships are available. Participants will journey on a Rolling River Rampage, discovering that life with God is an adventure of wonder and surprise and that they can trust God to be with them through everything. The week will include science experiments, crafts, Bible stories, and outdoor fun. To download a registration form, visit stjohnsarlingtonva.org. For more information, contact St. John's at 703-671-6834.

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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 September issue is August 21. Article ideas for future issues are also 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 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.

Words on Hymns: *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken, also called *Zion, or the City of God*, is an 18th-century English hymn written by John Newton. The hymn has often been set to the music of Joseph Haydn's *Gott erhalte Franz den Kaiser* or Arthur Sullivan's *Lux Eoi* (which is also set to the Easter hymn *Alleluia, Alleluia, Hearts and Voices Heavenward Raise*). The name of Haydn's tune is translated "God Save Emperor Francis" and is an anthem to Francis II, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire and later of the Austrian empire. In recent decades, a third tune, *Abbot's Leigh*, has risen to prominence. It was written for this text by the Reverend Cyril Vincent Taylor in 1942 while he was a producer of religious broadcasting at the BBC and stationed at the village of Abbot's Leigh.

Because of the practice of singing the hymn to a tune used for other purposes, it has sometimes elicited unusual reactions. During World War II, in a German prisoner of war camp, a Protestant service was interrupted during the singing of *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* by the camp guards singing *Sei Gesegnet Ohne Ende* ("Be Blessed Without End"), because the hymn was set to the same tune. The same Haydn melody is employed in the German national anthem, formerly known, popularly, as *Deutschland über alles* (properly titled *Das Lied der Deutschen* or the *Deutschlandlied*), the third verse of which is the national anthem of present-day Germany. For some people, using this particular tune for the hymn (named in various hymnals as *Austria*) is often controversial as, despite the fact that it dates back to the 18th century, it raises reminders of Nazi Germany.

Taylor's *Abbot's Leigh* tune was written in response to complaints received by the BBC during World War II. It is in our *1982 Hymnal* as well as the setting *Austria*, but I

think *Austria* works much better with the text with its stirring, joyous music.

The tune gets around. Recently I was listening on the radio to a work I didn't recognize when suddenly I heard the opening phrase of *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*. It turned out that WETA was playing Bedrich Smetana's (1824–1884) *Festive Symphony*, the only symphony he wrote. It was composed for the wedding of Franz Joseph I. Used as the official anthem of the monarchy, the symphony quotes the tune in three of the four movements. The tune was also used by Haydn (in a bit of auto-plagiarism) in his *String Quartet in C*, Op. 70, No. 5.

John Newton, author of the text, was a slave trader who was converted to Christianity following a series of events that included a terrible storm at sea and a severe fever in Africa. The hymn *Amazing Grace* chronicles his conversion. Ordained in 1764 at the age of 39, he settled in Olney, England. He became friends with William Cowper, and the two composed the hymns that comprised the *Olney Hymns*, published in 1779. Cowper is said to have written 66 of the hymns, while Newton wrote the rest of the 349 that were included. But more of Cowper's hymns than Newton's have become famous. Certainly *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* is one of his greatest. It originally contained five verses, four of which are used in our hymnal. The fifth verse is not nearly as well written as the other four.

Zion was a Jebusite fortress that David conquered and made into the city of Jerusalem. Zion therefore became another name for Jerusalem—known as the city of David, but also as the city of God (Psalm 48:1). The temple was in Jerusalem, and the Israelites equated the temple with God's presence.

Carol Dunlap

Parish News

Upcoming Events:

- The St. John's Book Club is on a summer break until **Tuesday, September 4**. Over the summer, members are reading *Victoria: A Life* by A.N. Wilson. Start reading now and plan to join the group in September!
- Come out for Game Night on **Saturday, July 21**, from 7 to 9 p.m. Bring your favorite board or card game, invite a friend or neighbor, and join the St. John's community for a fun-filled evening!

Thank you to:

- Lin Novak for donating two garden hoses to St. John's.
- Everyone who offered hoses and sprinklers for the scheduled June Waterworld party.
- Barbara Wien for managing the grill on Glencarlyn Day and to Bryan Harbin and Bill Thomson for helping out.
- Michael Birmingham for buying the supplies for Glencarlyn Day.
- Barbara Wien for cleaning out the two-door closet in the undercroft.
- Marshall Adair for cleaning out the large cooler.
- Galen Henderson for obtaining the Vacation Bible School posters.
- Bryan Harbin, who connected St. John's with the individual who recently repaired the church air conditioning unit.
- Sandy Winger, who has volunteered to coordinate set-up and assembly for the bagged lunch program, and Michael Birmingham, who has offered to buy the supplies.
- John Petrich and Leslie Mead for coordinating the bagged lunch program in recent years.
- Del Hunt, who cleaned out items behind the curtain in the undercroft, so that the bagged lunch boxes could be moved there to comply with Fire Marshal regulations.

Congratulations to:

- Sandy Winger, who reaffirmed her baptismal vows when Bishop Goff visited on June 24.

We celebrate with all who have birthdays in July and August:

Marshall Adair, Nolan Baynham, Michael Beavin, Carol Bogart, Henry Carter, Brian Cavey, Carolyn Corlett, Dennis Eckhout, Nancy Gibb, Lexie Hart, McKenzie Hart, Klaus Held, Thomas Held, Janice Hull, Chelsea Kaufman, Billie Jean Keith, Kenji McCartney, Helen Naw Mumu, Ray O'Connor, Virginia Pearson, Paul Petrich, Bill Pritchard, Harriet Sheehan Rawls, Patrick Rawls, Marion Reed, Lynn Robinson, Lenore Schmidt, Christian Tallent, Jones Tallent, Sawyer Tallent, Angie Turner, Bill Turner, Simon Van Wyk, Kim White, and John Wilson.

We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in July and August:

Dennis and LuAnne Eckhout; the Reverend Sue and Rob Hardman; Matthew and Adrienne Hubbard; Lisa Pope and Justin Cohen; and Jones and Sharon Tallent.