



# 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*

September 2018

## VBS 2018 Travels on a Rolling River Rampage

Children from St. John's, Cristo Rey, and the community experienced a whirlwind week of Bible stories, dinner, arts and crafts, recreation, and science experiments at Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2018 in July. Rolling River Rampage was the theme and the Bible verse for the week was Isaiah 43:2, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you."

The opening assembly each evening featured a visit from Romper the River Otter, music, a water weather forecast, and instructions on how to accomplish the mission for that day. All the Bible stories were presented in skit format, including Jesus calls the disciples, Jesus shares a special meal (the Last Supper), and Jesus makes a promise (I will be with you until the end of the age).

Many thanks to all those who helped make the week such a success (see the list in Parish News on page 6)!



Crafts, recreation, Bible stories, and dinner each night were among the highlights of VBS 2018.

## From the Rector: Open Your Treasure Chests

I have treasures all around my house. My books from seminary. Pictures of Evan and Kristy and other family members. Stuffed animals. Gifts from friends. There is a lot of junk there too that I need to get rid of, but the treasures are many and cherished.

God has given us a treasure chest too. Brother James Koester of the Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE) says that “How we choose to live our lives is no happenstance thing. It’s not about the way the planets line up, or about the hand we’re dealt, or about the luck of the draw. How we choose to live our lives is rooted in the good treasure that has been entrusted to us, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us and how we know that treasure to be true.”

What are some of those intangible treasures God has given us?

God has given us the gift of sharing, the ability to share ourselves with others and with God so we can be in relationship. There is the basic sharing of good neighbors—lending a tool or receiving a cake as a housewarming present. There is the sharing of our resources with others in need. And there is spiritual sharing. When I was on vacation last month, I went shopping with my best friend in Atlanta, went to a Braves game and a movie with Kristy and Evan and saw their pictures from Iceland, and helped my sister buy a car. All of those activities were things we did, but while they were going on we were talking and laughing and being with one another. We were sharing our lives, reaching out in love to connect with one another.

We also are given the gift of sharing with God. God shares God’s love with us and God wants us to share our lives with God. Brother Jim Woodrum, SSJE, says a good time to share with God is during Communion. “We can bring something from our journey to share

with Jesus, whether it be a joy, a desire, a need or something that is burdening you that you need to leave behind.” God made it possible to share with God in a much deeper way with the gift of the Incarnation. Jesus shared with his disciples and others shared their lives with him, helping us see God and God’s love for us.

God has given us the gift of desire. We have in us the capacity to want things, to spend ourselves for things we are passionate about. God puts desires in us so God can make us the people God wants us to be, taking in the joy that our lives can be. Desire is a gift we have to be very careful of though. We have all been guilty of desiring the wrong things too much, and we are left with brokenness in the world such as addictions and greed. We need to lay our desires before God and find out how God is in them.

God has given us the gift of perseverance. We are persistent in meeting our goals—hopefully God’s goals for us—and doing the footwork while we leave the results to God. We make lists to accomplish things, whether it be a grocery run, a self-improvement project, or to introduce in our lives a spiritual practice designed to bring us closer to God.

On the other hand, we have also received the gift of waiting. I am not good at waiting and many of us are not. We want to get to wherever we are going with all due speed, so we can begin the next thing on the list. But waiting is important. Waiting time is time in which God can shape our hearts to help us be ready for the next gift God is planning to give us. It is fallow time, time for us to develop our inner selves.

Wonder is another gift God has given us. The earth is full of wonderful things, from the fragile beauty of a flower to the towering majesty of a high mountain, from a rushing

waterfall to a beautiful sunset. We wonder at God's design and purpose. We ponder how God makes light out of darkness, how God heals out of brokenness, how God forgives and reconciles. Our wonder is a gift that gives us a need to take care of God's beautiful things and beautiful people.

The greatest gift God has given us in that treasure chest is the gift of salvation. The sin that had separated us from our source of life has been removed by Jesus's crucifixion and his resurrection has given us eternal life with

God. We are born again, free to grow in God's ways, to love with God's heart, to serve with God's hands, to take joy in God's immeasurable love.

Our treasure chests are full of marvelous things to explore and enjoy and respond to. Keep your spiritual treasure chest handy and know God's infinite love.

Ann †

### **Adult Sunday Seminar Kicks Off September 9**

The adult Sunday Seminar returns September 9 at 9 a.m. in the parlor. A variety of study materials are being considered. Please come join the group for these stimulating discussions!

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

#### **Staff**

Rector: The Rev. Ann B. Barker  
Minister of Music: Lynn Robinson  
Organist: Judith Marcinko  
Interim Family Programs Director: Jonathan Muehlke  
Parish Administrator: Virginia Pearson  
Nursery Attendant: Kaitlyn Osteguin  
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

## Who Am I as a Christian? Inquirer's Class Resumes in September

Last spring St. John's held an Inquirer's Class focused on the topics of Who am I as a Christian and Who are we as a church. Now titled Inquiring Hearts, the class will resume again on September 16 from 11:30 a.m. until 12:20 p.m. in the undercroft. It will run through October 28. Please come as often as you can. This will be a time for participants to discuss how stories in their lives relate to the lectionary readings from worship or the sermon. You may have a story to share or a question to ask about how one of the Sunday readings relates to what we believe as a Church, what you struggle with or take joy in as a Christian, or the experiences of your life. This is not a class in which the rector or seminarian teaches about the Sunday readings, but rather a discussion group. All are welcome to join and explore starting on the 16th.



### Save the Date for Shrine Mont

St. John's annual Shrine Mont retreat will be held October 12-14. Come enjoy a weekend of rest, reflection, and recreation, along with fellowship and family-style meals. This year the St. John's group will stay in Peterkin Cottage. More information will be coming soon.

#### LOGOS

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](mailto:logos@stjohnsarlingtonva.org) (preferred) or left at the church office. The deadline for the October issue is September 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: The King of Creation

Our recessional hymn on September 23 will be the festive, energetic waltz *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation*. The tune is entitled *Lobe den herren* and dates from at least the 17th century. It is based on Joachim Neander's (1650–1680) German hymn published in 1680. John Julian in his *A Dictionary of Hymnology* calls the German original “a magnificent hymn of praise to God, perhaps the finest creation of its author, and of the first rank in its class.” The melody used by Neander, first published in 1665, exists in many versions and is probably based on a folk tune. The text paraphrases Psalm 103 and Psalm 150. Catherine Winkworth published her English translation of Neander's hymn in 1863.

Several variants were published with various secular texts between 1665 and 1680. It was the favorite hymn of King Frederick William III of Prussia, who first heard it in 1800. Johann Sebastian Bach used the chorale as the basis for his chorale cantata *Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen König der Ehren, BWV 137*, in 1724. Although only the text of the outer stanzas was kept completely, he referred to the unusual melody in its entirety at the beginning of the concluding section in all movements but one. British conductor John Eliot Gardiner thinks, looking at the festive instrumentation and the general content of praise and thanksgiving, that the cantata was also performed that year to celebrate the inauguration of the Leipzig city council. In

1729 Bach concluded his wedding cantata *Herr Gott, Beherrscher aller Dinge, BWV 120a*, with the final movement of the chorale cantata. Several other composers wrote chorale preludes on the melody for the organ, and the German choral composer Hugo Distler produced a popular arrangement of the hymn for a *cappella* chorus, as part of his *Drei kleine Choralmotetten*.

Although he died at the age of 30 of tuberculosis, Neander wrote about 60 hymns and provided tunes for many of them. He is considered by many to be the first important German hymnist after the Reformation and is regarded as the outstanding hymn writer of the German Reformed (Calvinist) Church.

In an interesting historical coincidence, Neander's move to Düsseldorf in 1674 placed him in a region of Germany now called Neandertal or sometimes “the Neander Valley.” Nearly 200 years after Neander's death, the skull of the first example of *Homo neanderthalensis* was discovered in 1856 by workers in a limestone quarry named Neandershöhle (Neander's Hollow) after Neander. “Neander” is the Greek translation of the family name “Neumann,” both of which mean “new man.” He is said to have loved the natural beauty of this valley now named for his family, and it inspired many of his hymns.

Carol Dunlap



## Parish News

### Upcoming Events:

➤ Come out for Game Night on **Saturday, September 15**, 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! Please also bring a box or can of food for the Arlington Food Assistance Center.

### Thank you to:

➤ Everyone who helped with Vacation Bible School: Galen Henderson, coordinator; Valeria Antelo, arts and crafts and decorating; Sandy Winger, recreation; Maddie Harbin, team leader and voice of Romper the river otter; Jonathan Muehlke, team leader; Vladi Wien; Nora Wien; Barbara Wien; Richard Henry; Pete and Barbara Olivere; Lynn Robinson; Anne and Paul Stenger; and everyone who brought supplies. St. John's couldn't have done it without you!

➤ Sandy Winger, Del Hunt, Bill Thomson, and Bryan Harbin for their work on the elevator.

➤ Pat Bleicher for preaching on Sunday, August 26.

➤ Galen Henderson for serving as St. John's Family Programs Director from January through July.

### Congratulations to:

➤ Richard and Chelsea Kaufman on the birth of their daughter Elise Shanielle in July.

➤ Lin Novak's daughter Meghan, who married Dana Knott in August.

### Rest in Peace:

➤ Luis Sorto, Julio Sorto's brother, who entered the life of the resurrection in August.

➤ Charles Godwin, Lisa Pope's uncle, who entered the life of the resurrection in July.

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

Ginger Adair, Jeff Aitken, Griffin Baynham, Stephanie Beavin, Charlotte Bovender, Delaney Del Gallo, William Gibb, the Rev. Sue Hardman, Connor McCartney, Clara Naw Sweet, the Rev. Anna Scherer, Lane Turner, Jeffrey Wallace, and Kay Wells.

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

Erin and Gerard Baynham; Richard and Chelsea Kaufman; Cristina and Matthew Tallent.