



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 2018

Celebrate the Blessing of the Animals on October 7

St. John's will celebrate the Feast of St. Francis on Sunday, October 7, by holding two animal blessings. The first one will take place at the Shirlington Dog Park from 1:30 to 2 p.m. (enter by the mural at the Oxford St. entrance off of Four Mile Run Drive), and the second will follow by the cross garden in the side yard of the church at 5 p.m. There will be a brief service at the beginning of the 5 p.m. blessing. If it rains, the event at the church will be moved inside. Please bring your pets (or a photo of your pet) and invite your family, friends, and neighbors to participate as well. You can also add your pets' names (past and present) to the green sheet in the prayer notebook at the back of the church.



A past participant at St. John's Blessing of the Animals.

From the Rector: Staying Connected

Baptism is a sacrament of connection. It is a rite that blesses who we are as children of God and makes us members of the church. It connects us to God, to our own best selves, and to one another. Baptism may be forgotten, but the bond it celebrates between us and God can never be broken. We can ignore it or walk away from it, but we can't make it go away.

God made us relational beings, so we are made to be connected in a variety of ways. It is good for us to maintain connections. That's what our baptismal vows ask us to do.

First, we need to stay connected with God. When we say, "I will with God's help," to continuing in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers, it means we commit to a lifetime of purposefully growing our connection with our Creator. We promise we will be part of the worshipping community in a steadfast consistent way. We promise to listen to God's word and then to apply it to our lives. Sometimes the words are difficult to relate to what we feel we are facing today, but there is always some nugget we can use—though Leviticus and its 500-plus laws may be a stretch—to get a new perspective on God's action in our lives. We promise to receive Holy Communion regularly, as the apostles did and taught. We also promise to stay in community with other believers. Whether it is coffee hour, passing the peace, making a phone call, or giving a ride, we are strengthened by the believing community in God's love. The last thing that vow says, "continuing in the prayers," is sometimes the hardest for us. Outside of church, many of us don't feel like we are good at praying except in emergencies. But prayer is something we can learn. We can start with a gratitude list or by sharing our feelings with God. That will get us going and prayer will grow.

We also need to stay connected with other people. We need to look for Jesus in everyone—absolutely everyone—and serve Jesus by serving them. When we fail to serve others, or are downright hostile, we cause a separation that is against God's will. Resenting someone or cursing at someone or refusing to forgive someone is falling into sin, and repentance is needed. We especially need to remember to stay connected to people who wouldn't normally cross our path in whatever way we can. Giving to a homeless person on the street, donating to a medical cause, helping a stranger without being asked (like people on the Bay Bridge do when they pay the toll for the person behind them, for example), and other similar things all bring us together with one another. And we are to work for justice and peace and respect everyone. God asks us to do things that may not be popular with others to make sure everyone is treated as God's child, especially those who are very different from us.

In addition to staying connected to God and each other, we need to maintain a connection with ourselves. Depending on our personalities, we may do this best by having a good bit of alone time to reflect on who we are now, what we think, how we feel, how the person we are today is wonderful to God, and other things both good and bad. We need to frequently connect with our inner selves to grow. Some of us may like having people around to connect with. We reflect on ourselves and our ideas through conversation with others and hearing them reflect our image like a mirror. Regardless of personality, to stay deeply connected to ourselves, we all do need some quiet time to hear God talk to us, to sort through those feelings we may be ignoring, to have those "aha" moments we need to keep going when it is difficult. When we don't

connect with ourselves, we get lost and have trouble being who we are.

It is also a good thing to stay connected to creation. Human beings are part of creation, no matter how much we may distance ourselves from it through our lifestyles. Whether it is recycling or canoeing down a river or planting a garden, it is good for us to be the stewards of creation we were designed to be. When I was visiting my sister in August, I took a walk on the New River Trail. I could have walked in a neighborhood—and I did the next day—but walking in such beautiful surroundings had a good effect on my mood for the whole day.

We are children of God and we are meant to be connected in good and healthy ways with all living things. We or our parents and godparents promise that we will stay connected to God and one another as we act as baptized Christians in the world. And by living into our baptism, we come to know ourselves as God's beloved and to know the whole creation as blessed. So stay connected. It is in our relationships with God, neighbor, self, and creation that we find true joy.

Ann †

St. John's Welcomes Seminarian Chip Russell

St. John's welcomed seminarian Chip Russell in September. He is a second-year student at the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria. Chip will be serving at St. John's until December 2019. Get to know Chip better in the next issue of *LOGOS*!

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
Seminarian: Chip Russell
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

What Is the Financial State of St. John's?

Although St. John's is a vibrant congregation, the church is coping with significant financial concerns, as are many other congregations. Following are both a high level narrative summary and some tables that describe the current status. Financial updates will be regularly provided in future issues of *LOGOS*.

High Level Summary—For several years St. John's has had expenses that substantially exceeded revenues, requiring funds to be drawn from the church's investments. A portion of the expenses were needed for the replacement or significant repairs of aging church systems (for example, the air conditioner and lift this year). The church's contributions are also not keeping up with expenses, as the congregation has lost several members who either moved or have passed away. Until recently, the rise in the stock market over the past 10 years had offset most of the monies withdrawn from investments. However, the increase in expenses and the lost revenue have now outpaced the stock market growth, and the future growth of the market is likely to slow or possibly reverse. The vestry is looking to identify opportunities to significantly increase the use of the church building to reduce the operating deficit. The prospects for a substantial increase in revenue from building use are limited, however, and may have some impact on congregational activities.

Financial Position—The first table below shows all the funds that were available August 31, 2018, as compared to December 2017. The overall reduction since December is the result of the expenses exceeding the revenue, as is seen in the second table. The assets in this table do not include the value of the building or its contents. Note that a significant portion of the funds available were donated for a specific purpose.

St. John's Financial Position/Balance Sheet -- Funds Available - August 2018

	<u>August 2018</u>	<u>December 2017</u>	<u>Change</u>
Assets			
Checking/Savings	\$ 6,966	\$ 2,053	
Investment General use	65,660	93,762	
Investment Designated use	<u>103,502</u>	<u>111,263</u>	
Total Current Assets	176,127	207,078	\$ - 30,951
Liabilities - (amounts owed)			
Payroll taxes and other	<u>- 2,686</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>- 2,684</u>
Net Assets and Liabilities	\$ 173,441	\$ 207,076	\$ - 33,635

Investments changes include increase from stock market growth.

Revenue and Expenses—The table below shows revenues (funds coming in) and expenses. The table includes both the actual and budgeted amounts that are part of the unrestricted operating account and the amounts associated with funds that were designated for specific purposes. The net for the operations shortfall is \$25,412 through August 2018. The net for operating and designated funds combined is \$35,481, which is 66 percent of the total budgeted shortfall of \$53,271. This will require us to make additional withdrawals from the investment account to cover expenses this year.

If you have any questions or any suggestions for how to better present the financial information, please contact Peter Olivere, Treasurer (treasurer@stjohnsarlingtonva.org).

Revenue and Expenses Through August 2018 (67% of year)

	Operating Account			Designated Funds	
	Actual	Annual Budget	% of Budget	Net of Revenue & Expense	DF Budget
Revenue					
Plate	\$ 2,739	\$ 8,185	33%		
Pledges	77,610	99,520	78%		
Investment dividends and market variation	2,996	4,500	67%		
Other Income	6,087	9,395	65%		
Total Undesignated Revenue	89,432	121,600	74%		
Expenses					
Rector salary and housing	- 46,338	- 69,507	67%		
Rector benefits and retirement (part in place of Social Security)	- 18,942	- 26,947	70%		
Other staff payroll cost (5 persons)	- 30,085	- 44,682	67%		
Building	- 11,234	- 14,474	78%	\$ - 5,158	
Outreach/Evangelism	- 2,072	- 2,615	79%	49	\$ - 750
Worship/Education/Diocese	- 3,946	- 6,906	57%	- 4,038	- 5,640
Office	- 1,450	- 2,150	67%	- 135	
Conferences, Travel, Other activities	- 776	- 1,200	65%	- 787	
Total Expenses	- 114,843	- 168,481	68%	- 10,069	- 6,390
Net -- Revenue minus Expenses	\$ - 25,412	\$ - 46,881	54%	\$ - 10,069	\$ - 6,390
Net Combined Operating and Designated Shortfall	\$ -35,481	\$ - 53,271	66%		

Adult Sunday Seminar Discusses Purpose and Eternity

The Adult Sunday Seminar is in the middle of a six-week study called “Which Way Lord,” in which participants are talking about their meaning and purpose in God’s world. The next study will probably be “Eternity Is Now in Session,” which studies how Jesus talks about eternal life with God. Come join the discussion at 9 a.m. in the parlor.

School Supply Drive a Success

Thank you to everyone who contributed to St. John’s recent school supply drive for Campbell and Carlin Springs elementary schools. Your generosity is making a difference for students in our neighborhood schools and for their teachers as well!



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 (preferred) or left at the church office. The deadline for the November issue is October 22. 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: *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

Our processional hymn for October 7, *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*, is a popular hymn sung by many Christian denominations. The hymn is often called the “National Anthem of Christendom.” The lyrics, written by Reverend Edward Perronet while he served as a missionary in India, first appeared in the November 1779 issue of the *Gospel Magazine*, which was edited by the author of *Rock of Ages*, Augustus Toplady. The best-known tunes used for the hymn are *Coronation* (Oliver Holden, 1793) and *Miles Lane* (William Shrubsole, 1779), both specifically written for this text, but there are a number of others. Our *1982 Hymnal* has both *Coronation* and *Miles Lane*; we traditionally sing the hymn to the tune *Coronation*, said to be the earliest American hymn in continuous publication.

It is interesting that the least likely people sometimes express the most eloquent praise. All accounts show Perronet (1721–1792) to be a sharp-tongued, difficult personality who would rather pick a fight over theology than display brotherly love. Though Perronet was a minister of the established Church of England, his evangelical, or “dissenting,” roots grew deep. His father had been associated with George Whitefield and the Wesleys, and Perronet himself worked with the Wesleys until they split over the question of administering the Sacraments. (The story is told that once Wesley forced Perronet to preach. Perronet climbed up to the pulpit and announced he was going to preach the greatest sermon ever written. He then read the Sermon on the Mount and sat down.)

Perronet found work as a chaplain for the famous patroness of the evangelical movement, the Countess of Huntingdon, but was soon removed from his post due to his violent attacks on the established church. The text to the hymn first appeared anonymously with

the title “On the Resurrection.” The poem was edited and expanded by Reverend John Rippon for his book *A Selection of Hymns, from the Best Authors*, intended to be an Appendix to Isaac Watts’ *Psalms and Hymns* (1787). His revision is the one commonly used in hymn books today, although our hymnal does not credit him. Like many of our hymns, we use only six of the original nine verses.

Oliver Holden (1765–1844) was one of the best-known and prolific American composers of psalmody of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Though a carpenter and real estate dealer in his professional life, he also organized many music schools and served as a legislator and pastor.

Holden was a fairly typical example of the colonial-era “singing master.” At that time (and for long after) there was no opportunity for formal music education in the colonies, except perhaps private study with a visiting European performer. In an effort to revitalize church music, a system of “singing schools” sprang up during the 1700s. They were untrained composers who tended to break a few rules along the way. *Coronation*, written to celebrate the birth of his daughter, appeared in Holden’s second publication, *Union Harmony* (1793). It certainly fits the European concept of a coronation march. In the third line (the first time through “bring forth the royal diadem”), the harmonic texture is reduced to two parts (sopranos and tenors in octaves, altos and basses in octaves). The sound of a brass fanfare is replicated in the way the alto and bass line harmonizes with the melody, using only the notes that would be available to an old-fashioned natural (no valves or keys) trumpet. Typical of the singing-school era, it sings well a cappella and at a loud volume.

Carol Dunlap

Parish News

Upcoming Events:

- St. John's will kick off this year's Commitment Campaign with a Build-a-Sub event following the 10 a.m. service on **Sunday, October 7**. Come enjoy food and fellowship with your church family!
- Help beautify St. John's at the Parish Cleanup Day on **Saturday, October 13**, from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. There is a job for everyone and no special skills are needed. Lunch will be provided.
- Come out for Game Night on **Saturday, October 20**, 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.
- Join the St. John's Book Club on **Tuesday, November 6**, at 7:30 p.m. as they discuss *The Wangs vs. the World* by Jade Chang. This funny and entertaining novel tells the story of the immigrant Wang family as they embark on a life-changing cross-country journey from Bel-Air to New York. All are welcome!

Welcome to:

- Chip Russell, St. John's seminarian from Virginia Theological Seminary.
- Jonathan Muehlke, St. John's interim Family Programs Director.

Thank You to:

- Cristo Rey for the lovely fall decorations in the undercroft.
- Debbie Carter for serving as St. John's Commitment Campaign chairperson.
- Lisa Pope for her dedication in taking vestry minutes, and to Del Hunt, who has now assumed that responsibility.
- Peter Olivero for his work on the Commitment Campaign.

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.