

LOGOS

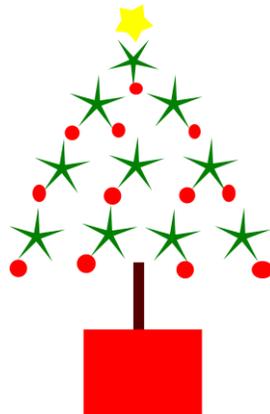
The Newsletter for St. John's Episcopal Church, Arlington

"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it" John 1:5

December 2018

Peace and Joy: Celebrate Christmas at St. John's

Sunday, December 16, 10 a.m.	Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 16, 11:15 a.m.	Christmas Cookie Exchange (RSVP to Lynn Robinson at 703-998-6481, mezzsop22204@yahoo.com)
Sunday, December 23, 2:30 p.m.	Greening of the Church
Monday, December 24, 5 p.m.	Holy Eucharist with Christmas carols and a children's message
Monday, December 24, 11 p.m.	Holy Eucharist with Christmas carols
Tuesday, December 25, 10 a.m.	Holy Eucharist with Christmas carols
Sunday, December 30, 10 a.m.	Lessons and Carols service (no 8 a.m. service)



A Community for One Another and the Love of the World: 2018 Annual Convention

More than 330 lay and clerical delegates from across the diocese gathered at the Richmond Marriott on November 1–3 for the 224th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia.

It was the final Convention to be led by the Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston, Bishop of Virginia, who announced his retirement August 3. At the conclusion of the proceedings on November 2, he passed presiding duties to the Rt. Rev. Susan Goff, Bishop Suffragan.

In her address on the final day of Convention, Bishop Goff said, "As I begin this period as ecclesiastical authority of the Diocese of Virginia, I commit myself again to life in community with you... We are a community for one another and for the love for the world. As we go now into the world, we will grow in community... As we go now into the world, we will build on all that has come before."

Bishop Goff announced that she will host a series of listening sessions around the diocese before Christmas to "hear your concerns, your frustrations, your joys, and your hopes about our life as a diocese."

Helen Spence, Chair of the Standing Committee, addressed next steps in the transition process, along with J. P. Causey, Chancellor of the Diocese. Spence and Causey also took questions from the floor. The Standing Committee will continue the search for a Bishop Provisional.

The Convention passed a resolution that would authorize the Bishop Suffragan, in consultation with the Standing Committee, to hire an Assistant Bishop when and if needed.

In his final pastoral address, Bishop Johnston thanked the people of the diocese for "keeping the main thing, the main thing," during the years when the diocese was in litigation with breakaway congregations.

Bishop Johnston spoke about his commitment to the inclusion of LGBTQ Christians into "the fullness of our community." He also applauded our growing willingness to "engage issues in the public square as people of faith.... Our call has never intended to be partisan: our only bias is Jesus."

He celebrated the deepening partnership with the Dioceses of Liverpool, United Kingdom, and Kumasi, Ghana—the Triangle of Hope. Bishop Paul Bayes of Liverpool and Archbishop Daniel Sarfo of West Africa were among his special guests at the Convention.

Several people were elected to the Standing Committee of the Diocese, including The Rev. Andrew T. P. Merrow, St. Mary's, Arlington; The Rev. Barbara "Bambi" Willis, Trinity, Fredericksburg; Ashley Cameron, St. Mary's, Goochland; and Christie Thomas, St. Paul's Memorial, Charlottesville.

Other actions of convention include:

- Passing two additional resolutions that condemned the recent violence against the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh and commended the Way of Love/Rule of Life endorsed by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry.
- Celebrating the transition of Trinity Church, Charlottesville, from mission status to full parish status.
- Approving a budget totaling \$4,946,087. The approved budget featured increased funding for college chaplaincies, a new ministry for the hearing impaired, and continued support for growing ministries across the diocese.

From the Rector: Receiving Is Good Too

We have all heard the saying that it is more blessed to give than to receive. It is surely good for us to give because it connects us to others and builds the human community. But it is equally good for us to receive. In fact, it is necessary for us to receive before we can give. We need to receive God's blessings before we can extend them to others. The Christmas season is a time when we give and receive gifts from loved ones, so it is a great time to reflect on the gifts we receive from God.

We receive the gift of peace. Part of peace is self-acceptance. Instead of having a constant list of self-improvement projects that we must be about, we can take some time to rejoice in who we are. What are our assets? Where can we make a difference, not when we are better people, but right now? Peace helps us be comfortable in our own skin. Another gift of peace is acceptance of others. Everyone is God's creation and deserves to be treated with dignity. When we are blessed with acceptance of others, we learn tolerance of different stories, different ways of doing things, different opinions. We give up our need to change someone to fit our mold; rather we revel in the wonderful mix of people that God has put on the earth for us to be with. Peace means we accept our weaknesses. We are human and we are designed to need God and others. We are not supposed to be able to do it all ourselves, and we can rest in that fact rather than strive to get what we need without help. Peace means rest. It has taken me a long time to begin to see rest as productive, but it is required for us to do other productive things. I can even sit down now and watch a movie and refrain from doing household chores. Peace means accepting the world as it is, but it does not mean that we are to be indifferent to how it might be. A reality check about the world helps us see where we can best serve.

We receive the gift of joy. When I think of joy, I think of the gift of laughter. I so much regret that I did not make a tape of Evan laughing when he was a child. It was a glorious sound. Someone recently gave me a little plush figure that laughs like a baby when you push its stomach. It's a great thing to have on hand when the day has been stressful. Joy brings with it the blessing of lightness. We learn not to take ourselves so seriously, to hold our opinions lightly, to be teachable. We are less worried about things—not that we don't care, but we are willing to give up the antsy feeling of anxiety for the calmness of solution thinking. Joy brings the gift of living in the now. All the wonders of God's world are there for us today. We don't need to regret the past or fret about tomorrow. God is in the now bringing us joy, and we want to be there too.

We receive the gift of love. Above all, love is about God's presence. The gift of love from God means that God is always with us, to encourage us and support us, to walk with us no matter where we are in life, to give us blessings in each moment. The gift of love brings us the ability to be in relationship with God, to talk with God and listen to God speaking to us each day. The gift of love brings contentment. We have God, we have family and friends, we have our pets. Instead of concentrating on having what we want, we can concentrate on wanting what we have. Generosity is another result of love. Since God has been so generous with us in creation, redemption, and salvation, we are moved to be generous with others—to give of ourselves and our resources.

We receive the gift of faith. Faith in a God who loves us so much that God sent Jesus to be the sign of God's presence among us. Faith that in that baby in the manger, God has given us the ultimate gift of God for us. Faith brings

gratitude. Our hearts overflow with thanksgiving for all that we have received. Faith gives us hope. Hope that God will indeed bring in God's reign of peace and justice, no matter how bad it looks right now. Faith also brings with it desire—a desire to know and do God's will. As our faith and trust increase, so does our desire for partnership with God in God's love for and action on behalf of the world.

The gifts of Christmas—and all year—are many. God is giving constantly, waiting for our hearts to be ready to receive. The more we are able to take in the gifts we are offered, the more we are able to give. May the gifts of God be under your tree this year in a new and deeper way, and may they fill your heart with wonder.

Ann †

Angel Tree Donations Needed

Instead of choosing an Angel Tree tag with the name of a specific child this year and buying for them, please bring generic unwrapped gifts of toys (for any age or gender) and clothes (in the most-needed sizes of 10–12 and 14–16). Please place your items in large plastic bags and leave them in the choir room in the undercroft by **Monday, December 10**. Thank you for helping to brighten Christmas for local children!



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
 Child Care Provider: Kaitlyn Osteguín
 Sexton: Julio Sorto

Parish Leaders

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

Vestry

Lisa Pope, Senior Warden	Peter Olivere
Bryan Harbin, Junior Warden	John Restall
Diane Henderson	Bill Thomson
Del Hunt	

Words on Hymns: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Our recessional hymn for December 23, the last Sunday in Advent, is *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*. It is a 1744 Advent and Christmas carol common in Protestant hymnals. The text was written by Charles Wesley. The hymn is performed to one of several tunes, including *Stuttgart* (attributed to Christian Friedrich Witt) and *Hyfrydol* by Rowland Prichard (although I can't imagine singing these words to the tune of *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*).

In 1744, Wesley considered Haggai 2:7 and looked at the situation of orphans in the areas around him. He also looked at the class divide in Great Britain. Through this train of thought, he wrote *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* based on both Haggai 2:7 and a published prayer at the time that had the words contained in the third and fourth verses of the hymn.

Haggai 2:7 (New International Version):

“I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,” says the Lord Almighty.

Haggai was a minor prophet in 520 BCE Jerusalem who is virtually overlooked today, but who was instrumental in bringing about the completion of the Second Temple. Haggai is commemorated, in common with the other righteous persons of the Old Testament, on the Sunday of the Holy Fathers (the Sunday before the Nativity of the Lord), which is when we'll be singing the hymn. His book, found toward the end of the Old Testament, has only two chapters.

Wesley adapted this prayer into a hymn in 1744 and published it in his *Hymns for the Nativity of our Lord* hymnal. He wrote it for people to remember Advent and Christmas as a

celebration of the Nativity of Jesus and preparation for the Second Coming. This was the first of a number of Wesley's hymns that became known as the Festival hymns. These hymns were published outside of Methodism by a German, John Frederick Lampe, in 1746. Christian denominations in England became aware of the hymn via popular Baptist preacher Charles Spurgeon. He delivered a Christmas sermon in London in 1855 when he was 21 years old that included sections of *Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus* to illustrate his point that very few are born king and that Jesus was the only one who had been born king without being a prince. As a result of the hymn's growing popularity, including in the Church of England and American hymnals, the hymn was first published in the Methodist *Wesleyan Hymn Book* in 1875. It had previously been excluded from the hymn book because there had been no officially suitable music intended for it before then.

The tune *Stuttgart* was included in *Psalmody Sacra* (1715), one of the most significant hymnals of the early 18th century. Christian F. Witt (1660–1716) was an editor and compiler of that collection and about 100 of the 774 tunes in the collection are considered to have been composed by him, including *Stuttgart*, which was set to the text “Soltt' es gleich.” Witt was chamber organist and later Kapellmeister at the Gotha court. He composed vocal and instrumental music, including some 65 cantatas. The title *Stuttgart* relates to a story about Reverend C. A. Dann's banishment from his pulpit at St. Leonard's Church in Stuttgart in the early 19th century. When Dann was eventually invited back to his church, his congregation greeted him with the singing of “Soltt' es gleich.” Henry J. Gauntlett put the tune into its present form for *Hymns Ancient and Modern* (1861).

In addition to *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*, two other hymns in our hymnal use the tune *Stuttgart*: the Epiphany hymn *Earth Has*

Many a Noble City and the hymn *God, My King, Thy Might Confessing*.

Carol Dunlap

Adult Sunday Seminar Begins Advent Study

During Advent, the Adult Sunday Seminar will study the O Antiphons. These antiphons are parts of the liturgy that focus on various characteristics of Jesus. You can see them, for example, in the hymn *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*. Join the discussion at 9 a.m. in the parlor.



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 January issue is December 14. 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.

St. John's Monthly Financial Update Through October 2018

Income and Expenses	October	Year to Date	Annual Budget	% of Budget
Income (all)*	\$ 8,460	\$ 112,082	\$ 121,600	92%
Expenses (all)*	<u>\$ 17,621</u>	<u>\$ 163,018</u>	<u>\$ 174,871</u>	93%
Income minus Expenses	(\$ 9,161)	(\$ 50,936)	(\$ 53,271)	95%

* Both general operations and designated funds.

All Fund Balances	End of October	End of 2017	Change through Oct.	% Change from 2017
	\$ 155,256	\$ 207,103	(\$ 51,847)	(25%)

October is 83% of the year and St. John's expenses continue to exceed the income as the budget had forecast. To finance this imbalance, St. John's is drawing from its investments, using 25% of the 2018 starting balance through October, with a projection of using about 25% by the end of the year.



Join the 2018 St. John's Christmas Pageant! Parts are still available and behind-the-scenes volunteers are also needed. To participate in the December 16 pageant, talk to Interim Family Programs Director Jonathan Muehlke.

Parish News

Upcoming Events:

- Join the St. John's Book Club on **Tuesday, December 4**, at 7:30 p.m. as they get into the holiday spirit by discussing *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. All are welcome!
- Bring your favorite board or card game, invite a friend or neighbor, and have some fun at Game Night on **Saturday, December 15**, from 7 to 9 p.m.
- Education for Ministry (EfM) will hold An Evening of Spiritual Renewal for EfM alumnae and prospects on **Sunday, December 16**, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, see the St. John's bulletin board or contact Beth Cavey at 703-362-4331 (caveyelizabeth@gmail.com).

Thank You to:

- Everyone who contributed food to the Spaghetti Supper on November 3 and helped set up and clean up. Special thanks to coordinators Barbara Wien, Barbara Olivere, and Peter Olivere.
- All who brought desserts to Bingo Night with Cristo Rey on November 17. They were very much enjoyed.
- Everyone who brought food and came to the Thanksgiving Potluck with Cristo Rey on November 18. This time to be together is a very important part of St. John's relationship with its sister church and St. John's is grateful to everyone who made this possible.

Rest in Peace:

- Betsy Cullen, who entered the life of the resurrection on October 13.

We Welcome into the Household of God:

Elyse Shanielle Kaufman, daughter of Richard and Chelsea Kaufman. Congratulations Elyse!

We celebrate with all who have birthdays in December:

Peggy Blount, The Rev. Catherine Campbell, Eileen Flynn, Maddie Harbin, Lori Held, Galen Henderson, Del Hunt, Michelle Lewis, Vernon Martin, Barbara Olivere, Angie Rollet, Carissa Russell, Angela Swarr, and Camron Tallent.

We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in December:

Michael and Teresa Birmingham; Carol and Dave Dunlap; Klaus and Lori Held; Penny and Don Hess; Cooper and Mary Mackin.