

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

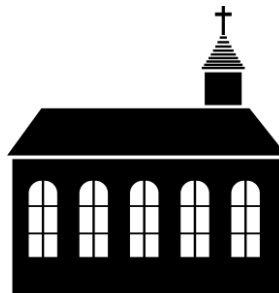
February 2019

St. John's Forms Strategic Planning Committee

As announced at the Annual Meeting on January 27, the rector and vestry of St. John's are forming a Strategic Planning Committee that will be made up of representatives from the vestry and several members of the parish who are interested in participating. The purpose of the committee is to help the parish plan for the future mission and ministry of St. John's Church. The areas that will be addressed over the next 12 to 18 months include:

- **Who do we want to be?** What is the role of St John's as we practice our faith and connect to both our local community and the world?
- **What do we want to do?** Where do we as a congregation want to be in 5 to 10 years?
- **How do we get there?** What human and financial resources are needed to achieve our vision of the future? How do we make that vision a reality while confronting our current financial challenges?

If you are interested in volunteering for the committee, please talk to Rector Ann Barker or Senior Warden Lisa Pope. As a member of the congregation, please also pray for wisdom and guidance as the church discerns where God is leading us in our collective outreach and ministry. We are all an important part of St. John's future.



From the Rector: The Gift of Time

At the beginning of the new year, we sometimes make decisions about things we are going to do with our time. We may want to break a bad habit or start practicing a good one. We may want to enhance our relationships, go to more movies, or learn to cook. We may want to procrastinate less and produce more.

Whatever our promises to ourselves, one of the resources we need to achieve them effectively is time. That sometimes elusive, sometimes frustrating stream of hours and days and weeks that sometimes goes by so fast you don't know where it went and sometimes moves so slowly you want to scream as you look at your watch and see only five minutes have passed when you hoped it was an hour.

We can think about time in several ways that may help us use it better.

First, do you like more structured or unstructured time? I am a structured time fan. I like to have things scheduled to do—work, the gym, chorus, lunch with a friend, whatever—so that I always know what is coming next. When I am presented with a block of unstructured time, I simply don't know what to do. It is like a gaping hole that I can't fill. Maybe you are an unstructured time fan. You may have a few plans, but you like to look at a few hours spreading ahead of you and say, "I can do anything I want to. Isn't that great?" Even at work, if you have a few minutes, you can find a task to do or walk around the building and get a little time away from your desk.

One of the things that has helped me with unstructured time is to make a list of things I can do, from practicing my voice tapes to cleaning out a closet to writing a letter. One of the things I like to do most is talk to a friend. I can check my list and fill some time, depending on what I feel like doing. Those

who are not structured time fans can make sure to put "free time" on their calendars specifically so they can be creative about what they do.

What do we do with our time? I have the productivity gene. I always have to be doing something that will produce a positive result, whether it is working on a project, reading meditations on the web, running an errand, or making a meal. I allow myself to do crossword puzzles while I eat, but I would never sit down and just do one in the middle of the day for the fun of it. Some of us are better at relaxing than I am. My sister comes home at the end of a busy day and a long commute and sits down immediately with a glass of wine and her knitting or her iPad. She watches videos on country living with her husband. When she gets home, productivity isn't so important. Of course her knitting creates things, but the most important thing it does is relax her.

I have learned something important about productivity. Relaxing and unwinding IS productive. Taking that time to read a book or watch TV or do a crossword puzzle is something I have to have to be what I consider productive the rest of the time. Enough rest and relaxation and sleep give me the energy to be at my best when I am working on a task. I sat down and watched a movie in the middle of the afternoon once all by myself and that was a real achievement. I am learning to ask God to show me what's the best thing for me to do in the moment.

Time can be seen in the immediate future or in the longer-term. Most of us are so busy that we want to know what the next right thing to do is. I have found God cares about that and will show me what to do. Sometimes there are five next right things, but that's okay. Then there is longer-term thinking. We need to carve out time to think about the near future or

the farther away future. We need time to dream, to have goals, to hope for new experiences. God draws us to this kind of activity, because we are always on a journey toward God and sometimes it is worthwhile to pay attention to that.

Have you ever thought about time as an opportunity for second chances that God provides us? A song I listen to on the radio has a line in it that says something like, “I still don’t get it right sometimes, I just don’t get it as wrong.” Sometimes we have a chance to respond to a situation differently than we did when we were younger. Maybe a difficult

relationship can be smoothed out, maybe we can learn to count to 10 before reacting in anger, maybe we can try again to improve ourselves and this time ask for God’s help because we have learned we can’t do it on our own. Maybe our efforts won’t be home runs, but if they are even a bit better, God has given us the grace to grow.

Time is one of God’s great gifts. Be thankful for the time you have been given and use it wisely.

Ann †

Eternity and God’s Messy People: Come Join the Sunday Seminar

The Adult Sunday Seminar is currently working on a study called “Eternity is Now in Session.” Next St. John’s seminarian, Chip Russell, will teach a class about the daily offices in the *Book of Common Prayer*. The Lenten study will then examine “God’s Messy People,” those imperfect folks in the Bible who made great contributions. Come and join the discussion at 9 a.m. in the parlor!

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

Vestry

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

Parish Leaders

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

Peter Olivere
Bill Thomson
Sandy Winger

Words on Hymns: *They Cast Their Nets in Galilee*

Our gradual hymn for February 10 is *They Cast Their Nets in Galilee*. First of all, let me say that this is not one of my favorite hymns by any means. (This goes to show that no hymnal can please all of the people.) I find that the first verse describing the “happy, simple fisherfolk” makes the people of Jesus’s time sound like not-very-smart three-year-olds. The men must have had some education to comply with the instructions in the Talmud to begin studies at age five. To me the rest of the hymn is very dark, describing the deaths of John (“homeless in Patmos died”) and Peter (“head down was crucified”). Even the final verse is not very comforting: “The peace of God, it is no peace, but strife closed in the sod.” But despite this contradiction, the poet still says, “Yet let us pray for but one thing—the marvelous peace of God.”

Having panned the hymn, I will now discuss its background. The poem *His Peace* appeared in the 1924 book *Enzio’s Kingdom and Other Poems* by William Alexander Percy. The last four verses of the poem became the hymn *They Cast Their Nets in Galilee* and entered the *Hymnal 1940* with the tune *Georgetown*, composed by David McK. (short for McKinley) Williams in 1941.

Percy (1885–1942) was born to Camille, a French Catholic, and LeRoy Percy, of the planter class in Mississippi, and grew up in Greenville. His father was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1910. Percy attended Sewanee: The University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, a postbellum tradition in his family. He then spent a year in Paris before going to Harvard for a law degree. After returning to Greenville, Percy joined his father’s firm in the practice of law.

The tune *Georgetown* was composed by Williams (1887–1978), general music editor of *The Hymnal 1940*. He named the hymn tune in

honor of his close friendship with the Reverend Francis Bland Tucker, then rector of St. John’s Church, Georgetown Parish, in Washington, D.C. This tune is arrhythmic (does not contain the same number of beats per measure), which allows it to follow the text very closely and in great simplicity.

Williams began his career in church music as a chorister in the choir of the Cathedral of St. John, Denver. At the age of 13 he became the organist of St. Peter’s Church, Denver. In 1908 Williams went to New York to serve as the organist of Grace Church Chapel. He moved to Paris in 1911 to study with some of the best-known French organists of the time. Upon his return, he held the position of organist of the Church of the Holy Communion in New York. He served in the Royal Canadian Artillery in World War I and returned to his New York position in 1920. After only six months, he was appointed organist and choirmaster of St. Bartholomew’s Church, New York, where he remained until his retirement in 1947.

Williams developed one of the most outstanding music programs in the United States at St. Bartholomew’s. He was head of the organ department of the Juilliard School of Music and a member of the faculty of the School of Sacred Music, Union Theological Seminary. He also served as a member of the Joint Commission on Church Music and the Joint Commission on the Revision of the Hymnal that produced *The Hymnal (1940)*. The *Hymnal 1982* uses five of his tunes, including *Malabar*, used with *Strengthen for Service* (Hymn 312); *Canticum Refectionis*, used with *This is the Hour of Banquet and of Song* (Hymn 316); and *Georgetown*, used with *They Cast Their Nets in Galilee* (Hymn 661).

Carol Dunlap



St. John's Wishes You a Happy Valentine's Day!



Sign up now to dedicate flowers for a Sunday service in 2019! Look for the flower chart in the undercroft and add your name and dedication.

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 March issue is February 20. 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.

Parish News

Upcoming Events:

➤ Join the St. John's Book Club on **Tuesday, February 5**, at 7:30 p.m. as they discuss *A Spool of Blue Thread* by Anne Tyler. The novel tells the story of the Whitshank family, as four generations of lives unfold in and around the sprawling, worn house that has always been their anchor. The **March 5** meeting selection is *Eligible* by Curtis Sittenfeld, a playful modern retelling of *Pride and Prejudice*. All are welcome!

➤ Bring your favorite board or card game, invite a friend or neighbor, and come join the fun and fellowship at Game Night on **Saturday, February 16**, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Thank You to:

➤ All those who helped decorate for Christmas: Eileen Tallent, the Cavey family, Carol Dunlap, Lynn Robinson, Anne and Paul Stenger, and members of Cristo Rey. The church looked beautiful.

➤ All our Lessons and Carols readers: Patricia Broida, Carol Dunlap, Dave Dunlap, Del Hunt, Barbara Olivere, Bill Pritchard, Lynn Robinson, and Eileen Tallent.

➤ The people who have signed up to deliver meals to the Bailey's Crossroads shelter: Del Hunt, John Restall, Lynn Robinson, and Barbara Wien.

➤ The choir for the wonderful Christmas music.

➤ Galen Henderson for sharing her musical talent with us at the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

We celebrate with all who have birthdays in February:

Michelle Aitken, Dennis Albrecht, Carey Blount, Lisa Broida, Nella Candelieri, Robert Carter, Tina Cavey, Lynn Christopher, Peyton Del Gallo, The Rev. Amanda Eiman, Henry Held, Carole Hunt, Heather Kollath, Lin Novak, Jeff Petrich, John Restall, Anne Stenger, Eileen Tallent, and Colin White.

We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in February:

Lynn Christopher and Bill Schenck; Bryan and Carrie Harbin; Kaipo and Keith McCartney.