



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

March 2019

Faith and the Future: St. John's Annual Meeting 2019

Where have we been? Who do we want to be? How do we get there? The St. John's community gathered to remember 2018 and chart a course for 2019 and beyond at the Annual meeting on January 27, 2019.

Rector Ann Barker opened the meeting with prayer. This was followed by congregational approval of the 2018 Annual Meeting minutes. Rev. Barker then presented highlights from 2018, starting with the worship services at St. John's. The church held its eighth Maundy Thursday loaves and fishes service and a joyous Easter celebration with 70 people in attendance. The Advent wreath lighting liturgy in December continued to remind the congregation of the faith, hope, joy, and love experienced while awaiting the coming of the Christ Child. Christmas services were inspiring and beautiful, drawing nearly 80 people (an increase over 2017). Holiday services also included the always popular Lessons and Carols on the Sunday before New Year's.

St. John's continued its Blessing of the Animals service at the church and also blessed dogs at the Shirlington Dog Park. Ashes to Go were once again offered at the Ballston Metro Station on Ash Wednesday.

Galen Henderson served as the family programs director for the first half of the year. She prepared and taught Sunday School for the children and planned Valentine's and Earth Day parties. Unfortunately, the summer water party was rained out. Galen also coordinated Vacation Bible School (VBS) with lots of help. VBS was a lively and fun week, with 10 children participating. In the fall, former family programs director Jonathan Muehlke returned to St. John's to serve as the interim director. He planned and taught Sunday school classes and coordinated the Christmas pageant.

The church continued its outreach activities in 2018. These encompassed donating food to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC), bagging lunches for the Bailey's Crossroads Shelter, and participating in the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Project. St. John's also continued its program of bagging food at AFAC each month. This was the third year of assisting with supplies for Carlin Springs Elementary School. During Lent, parishioners supported Region 3's Rise Against Hunger project with monetary donations and volunteer time. The group packaged 15,000 meals in about two hours that can be sent anywhere in the world where there is food insecurity. The congregation also increased its commitment to AFAC during Lent.

Parish life continues to draw the St. John's community together. Game night was held each month, including two Bingo Nights with Cristo Rey. The year also saw the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in February, the Spaghetti Supper in October, and the Spring Tea in May. This was the third year the tea was sponsored by the entire parish as a fundraiser. St. John's offered its usual hot dogs and drinks on Glencarlyn Day in June and experienced increased demand this year. The weekend retreat at Shrine Mont in October was once again enjoyed by all. Thirteen parishioners and guests enjoyed this time to relax and experience God in nature. St. John's joined with two other parishes at Shrine Mont for worship. November featured a memorable Thanksgiving potluck meal with Cristo Rey.

Adult Sunday Seminar offerings included a Lenten study called "Restored." The seminar also finished "The Evolution of God" and studied *The Screwtape Letters*. In the fall, seminarian Chip Russell taught about Bishop Curry's "The Way of Love," and studies were also held on "Which Way Lord?" and the "O Antiphons" for Advent. A new Wednesday afternoon Bible study launched with the initial topic "Hope."

In November, the Rev. Barker baptized Chelsea and Richard Kaufman's daughter Elise. St. John's welcomed newcomers Jeanette Gooch, Tyler Kameh, and Jeff VandeSante. The St. John's community is also glad to have Justin Kenner and Chris Archambault, who will be married at the church on March 9. We miss Vernon Martin, who died in December.

Kendrah McDonald continued her service as seminarian in the spring of 2018. She organized a class and a meal focused on "sharing our faith" and coordinated an Inquiring Hearts class that talked about the lessons for that Sunday and faith issues in general. She also helped with many family programs activities.

St. John's welcomed new seminarian Chip Russell in September. He has helped with pastoral care visits, taught a class on "The Way of Love" for the adult Sunday Seminar, facilitated the fall Inquiring Hearts class, and assisted in developing stewardship letters. "We are very glad to have Chip with us and look forward to his continued service this spring and fall," said Rev. Barker.

Membership remains a concern. Every Sunday, the congregation prays the St. John's collect, written by the youth, which asks that God help us grow St. John's so we are able to do all God wants us to do.

In 2019, the church will continue to focus on discipleship, following Jesus individually and as a church by asking what God would have us do, to help everyone discover their passions and gifts. The congregation prays for new initiatives and asks that God will send the people God wants us to serve and that all members will be inspired to invite newcomers to join our welcoming parish. "We will keep reaching out to the community, using the strength of our greatest resource, the people of St. John's," said Rev. Barker.

Treasurer Pete Olivere presented the 2018 financial report. St. John's is facing significant financial challenges. In 2018, expenses totaled \$184,000, exceeding income by \$46,000. Personnel costs accounted for 77 percent of expenditures, with building maintenance and overhead representing half of the remainder. St. John's has now experienced deficits for more than eight years and the size has been growing. Deficits are covered by withdrawals from investments. Investment income and market value increases had covered the annual withdrawals until 2014, but since 2015 the income and gains from the market have slowed. To prevent depleting the investment accounts, significant steps must be taken starting this year.

The Finance Committee and the vestry have worked for several months to reduce expenses in the 2019 budget. Measures taken include reducing advertising in community newsletters and reducing the hours of the Family Programs Director from 5 to 2.5 each week. After considerable discussion by the vestry and with the rector, the 2019 budget of \$151,000 also reduces the rector's hours and compensation by 25 percent, a total of \$22,800. This is a difficult step that was taken to keep St. John's financially sustainable. The rector and vestry are also working to locate other groups to use the church on a regular basis to supplement operating income, as even with the painful reductions in the 2019 budget, a \$40,000 deficit is projected for the year. Increased contributions would also help reduce this deficit.

Treasurer Pete Olivere detailed the other assets that St. John's has available. The church owns two properties, including the parking area. If things become critical in the future, the parking lot could be sold. This would not correct the ongoing deficits but would delay the consequences of deficit spending for several years. During the early 1970s, St. John's faced an equally difficult financial picture and made the decision to sell its rectory. This is "the church that refused to die," but the congregation must take significant action now to sustain future mission and ministry.

Following the treasurer's presentation, there was a time for questions and comments. It was noted that if the church sells the parking lot area, there will be community concerns to be addressed. St. John's would also need to consider the impact on Cristo Rey. It was asked why the parking lot is considered the primary piece of property to sell? Rev. Barker noted that the other church land was most likely consecrated and could not be sold without diocesan approval. Additional questions included the need to consider increased

insurance costs if other congregations start using the building. Rev. Barker was asked what her new hours will be. Right now she plans to take Tuesday and Thursday afternoons off.

Senior warden Lisa Pope presented the vestry update. The vestry continued its focus on Invite, Welcome, and Connect that began last year, including the introduction of new welcome bags for visitors. A Mutual Ministry Review was held in the fall that focused on mutual care. How can we better care for each other as a congregation? This could include things such as sending cards, making calls and visits, providing rides to church, or helping out with errands or trips to the doctor for those who lack transportation. Parishioners will be hearing more about this ministry in the next few months as it launches. Its success will depend on everyone pitching in to help.

The vestry is also working on a church emergency plan that will cover things such as fire safety. As previously described by treasurer Pete Olivere, the past few months have focused intensely on the budget issues. The vestry is committed to addressing the budget deficit and looking for other sources of revenue, including current discussions with another congregation that would use the building on Saturday. Such new arrangements will require flexibility from the entire church. The vestry also dealt with many challenging maintenance issues over the past year, including making repairs to the lift and organ and replacing the air conditioning system.

The rector and vestry are forming a new Strategic Planning Committee that will be made up of representatives from the vestry and members of the parish. This committee will help the parish plan for the future mission and ministry of St. John's and think about the church's role in connecting to both the local community and the world. Committee members will also consider how to make the future vision a reality while confronting the

current financial challenges. All congregational members are requested to pray for this effort.

Senior Warden Lisa Pope thanked vestry members Bryan Harbin (Junior Warden), Diane Henderson, Del Hunt, Pete Olivere, John Restall, and Bill Thomson for their service. Henderson, Olivere, Pope, and Thomson will continue to serve in 2019 (Henderson and Pope extended their terms by one year). New vestry members Jeff Aitken and Sandy Winger were elected unanimously.

Rev. Barker recognized outgoing vestry members Del Hunt and John Restall as well as vestry officers Lisa Pope and Bryan Harbin. Others recognized included treasurer Pete Olivere, pledge clerk John Restall, stewardship chair Debbie Carter, and altar guild chair Eileen Tallent. Also thanked were the church staff: minister of music Lynn Robinson,

organist Judith Marcinko, interim family programs director Jonathan Muehlke, church administrator Virginia Pearson, seminarian Chip Russell, sexton Julio Sorto, and child care provider Kaitlyn Osteguín. A full list of everyone who volunteers their time and talents to serve St. John's can be found in Parish News on page 9.

Rev. Barker issued a call for volunteers for 2019. A volunteer sign-up sheet is available that allows congregants to indicate their area of interest. There is a role for everyone in the church. The meeting then closed in prayer for the year ahead. While the church confronts financial challenges, St. John's enduring strength lies in its faith, service to others, and community.



Treasurer Pete Olivere presented the 2018 financial report at the Annual Meeting on January 27.

From the Rector: Shining in the Darkness

I have a couple of three-way lamps in my house. I do a lot of reading and a lot of crossword puzzles, so I have them set on the brightest setting. I can do some things by the middle setting, especially if it is daylight. I can file things, I can organize the room, I can watch TV. If it is on the lowest setting, I can keep from stumbling through the room when I put my coat and purse in the right place or pick up my things to bring them to work. But as a rule I keep it on high. Everything is better when it is bright.

Brother Geoffrey Tristram of the Society of St. John the Evangelist says that each of us has been entrusted with the light of the gospel, and it is our job to ensure that it burns brightly so we can pass it on to the next generation. They are depending on us just as we depended on the generations before us to bring the gospel's light to us.

I have found that the light of the gospel is rather like a three-way bulb. There are places in our lives that are dark, and there are places in our lives where the light shines to one degree or another. During the season of Lent, there is an emphasis on self-examination. Looking at our lives as a whole, we can see where we shine and don't shine and make efforts to turn the wattage up in each area.

Where there is fear, the gospel's light is dark. Not fear like finding yourself facing a bear in the woods, but fear as in anxiety and worry about things. We may be afraid of not having enough and can't see beyond that to trust God to provide for us. We may be afraid of not being enough. Focusing on our supposed inadequacies binds us to unhealthy thoughts and keeps us from seeing ourselves as God's children, made just the way God wants us, to love and be loved. We may be afraid of not doing enough. Do you have a list of things that you should do—whether it is to clean a closet

or volunteer or write your Congressional representatives? "Should's" are soul killers. We feel guilty and not as good as "those people" who are always working at the food bank or protesting on the Mall or stuffing envelopes for some charity. Fearing "not enoughness" keeps us from seeing God's light, much less being God's light.

In other areas of our life, the first level light shines. We are sure of God's love some of the time, and therefore, we are more likely to radiate that love to others. We are able to count our blessings, especially in times that are difficult that can induce fear. We are comfortable in our relationships with our family and friends for the most part. We have some level of self-acceptance and even self-love, and we are less likely to judge others. Our attitudes and behaviors reflect God's love for us to others, and the light of the gospel touches their hearts.

In the areas where our light is shining at the middle level, we begin to move outward. We take an interest in those that are in need. We support causes we believe in. We believe more strongly in our status as God's beloved children, and we accept that everyone else is loved by God equally. Relationships with our loved ones grow deeper and we grow more able to listen and respond thoughtfully, even if the person we are talking with is very reactive. As gratitude marks the first stage of shining God's light, generosity is the mark of the second stage. We develop giving hearts, directed toward both ourselves and others. We give ourselves permission to be passionate about something new, to grow and develop, to lighten our loads and our lives by less doing and more being. As we give to ourselves, we can give to others. We are less centered on becoming as secure as we can and more interested in giving money, time, and talent to

others. Our attitudes and behaviors come out of our increasing sense of God's love for us and our more open hearts for the other.

The mark of full light is witness. As Brother Geoffrey says, others are depending on us for the light of the gospel. When we are shining brightly, we are thinking about sharing the gospel, in word and in deed. Our lives are focused on following Jesus and his way of being in the world. We learn to love our enemies and reach out to them. We have a well-developed prayer life, apart from church and grace at meals. Spiritual growth in prayer is crucial to being able to carry the gospel message. And we tell our stories. Who we are and where we came from. The source of our

hope. The foundation of life and love for all people.

Jesus lived every day in God's kingdom on earth. He taught, he preached, he healed, he witnessed to the power of God in word and in action. His light burned brightly all the time. We are not Jesus, but our lights have been lit by those who brought the gospel to us, and we are made by God to shine our lights into the world around us. Reflect this Lent on the various areas of your life and where your light is set in each of them, and ask for God's help to raise it or to keep it shining brightly. People need to hear about God's love. Show and tell its power.

Ann †

God's Messy People

The adult Sunday Seminar will study "God's Messy People" during Lent. The group will examine the patterns of brokenness and redemption in Abraham's family and talk about God's love for imperfect people. As Lent is a time for reflection on these topics, St. John's invites you to join the seminar's lively discussions 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 Osteguin
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
Eileen Tallent, Chair, Altar Guild

Peter Olivere
Bill Thomson
Sandy Winger

Words on Hymns: Music for Lent

During Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday on March 6 this year, we sing a Kyrie eleison (Greek for “Lord have mercy”) instead of the Gloria, and we add an Agnus Dei (Latin for “Lamb of God”) after the breaking of the Communion wafer. Frequently we sing these settings, as well as the Sanctus (Latin for “Holy”) composed by Franz Schubert. The settings are part of a larger work entitled *Deutsche Messe* (“German Mass”) by Schubert.

Its text is not the Latin liturgical text, but a sequence of poems in German by Johann Philipp Neumann, who commissioned the work. It was originally scored for an SATB [soprano, alto, tenor, bass] choir; two oboes; two clarinets; two bassoons; two horns; two trumpets; three trombones; timpani; and basso continuo. It is also known as the *Gesänge zur Feier des heiligen Opfers der Messe* (“Songs for the celebration of the holy offering of the Mass”) and the “Wind Mass,” due to its orchestration of primarily wind instruments.

The *Deutsche Messe* stems from a tradition of low masses, settings of religious texts in vernacular languages in Austria and southern Germany. Neumann was interested in simple music designed to appeal to “the widest possible congregation.” He wrote the German hymns, which Schubert scored in a block chordal, homophonic style, suitable for congregational singing. Schubert commenced the work in December 1826, completing and publishing it in 1827. Neumann had previously written the libretto for Schubert's unfinished opera, *Shakuntala*.

Schubert intended it for usage in Catholic church services. However, censorship prevented this from taking place; as an unauthorized German translation of the Mass, it was not approved for liturgical use. It has since gained popularity and has been translated into other languages. Richard Proulx arranged a

version in English. The work contains nine movements, including eight hymns and an appendix. The “extra” ninth movement is an anhang (appendix) entitled *Das Gebet des Herrn* (The Lord's Prayer), added by an unidentified composer in 1845. Its inclusion in the mass is largely a matter of performers' discretion. There are in fact two versions of the *German Mass*, one for SATB and organ and one for SATB, organ, and wind ensemble; the version without the wind ensemble may well be an adaptation made by Schubert's brother Ferdinand, who had many years earlier appropriated Schubert's *German Requiem* as his own in the interest of securing a job. Most of the work is set in a moderate (*mäßig*) to slow (*langsam*) tempo, reflecting the solemnity of the service as well as consideration of church acoustics. Each of the hymns has a Latin counterpart in the Order of Mass. Performance time is approximately 40 minutes, if performed as a cycle with all the verses.

Schubert (1797–1828) was an Austrian composer of the late Classical and early Romantic eras. Despite his short lifetime, Schubert left behind a vast oeuvre, including more than 600 secular vocal works (mainly Lieder), seven complete symphonies, sacred music, operas, incidental music, and a large body of piano and chamber music. His major works include the Piano Quintet in A major (*Trout Quintet*), the Symphony No. 8 in B minor (*Unfinished Symphony*), and the incidental music to the play *Rosamunde*. Appreciation of Schubert's music while he was alive was limited to a relatively small circle of admirers in Vienna, but interest in his work increased significantly in the decades following his death. Felix Mendelssohn, Robert Schumann, Franz Liszt, Johannes Brahms, and other 19th century composers discovered and championed his works. Today, Schubert is ranked among the greatest composers of the

19th century, and his music continues to be popular.

Schubert died in Vienna at age 31 at the apartment of his brother Ferdinand. The cause of his death was officially diagnosed as typhoid fever, although other theories have been proposed, including the last stage of syphilis. It was near Ludwig van Beethoven, whom he had admired all his life, that Schubert was buried

by his own request in the village cemetery of Währing in Vienna. He had served as a torchbearer at Beethoven's funeral a year before his own death.

Carol Dunlap

Lent Madness Begins

Who will win the Golden Halo? Get in on all the action as the 10th edition of Lent Madness begins! Look for the informational poster on the bulletin board in the undercroft and pick up a copy of the Saintly Scorecard 2019 on the St. John's table. The scorecard details the lives of the contestants and includes a copy of the brackets. Thirty-two saints both ancient and modern will battle it out for the title, including Mary and Martha, Ignatius of Loyola, Nicodemus, Margaret of Cortona, John Chrysostom, and Nicholas of Myra (also known as St. Nick). For more information and a full range of Lent Madness resources, including weekly Monday Madness videos, visit www.lentmadness.org.



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 April issue is March 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.

Parish News

Upcoming Events:

- Bring your favorite board or card game, invite a friend or neighbor, and come join the fun and fellowship at Game Night on **Saturday, March 16**, from 7 to 9 p.m.
- St. John's will host An Evening of Exploring Ministry on **Sunday, March 31**, from 6 to 9 p.m. The evening will begin with a light dinner and fellowship sponsored by the church, followed by a time for Education for Ministry (EfM) alumnae to share how the program helped them understand and pursue their calling. Participants will then engage in a large group theological discussion about understanding ministry in a multicultural world.
- Join the St. John's Book Club on **Tuesday, April 2**, at 7:30 p.m. as they discuss *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline. Set in the grim future of 2045, this science fiction novel tells the story of teenager Wade Watts, who only really feels alive when he is plugged into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. The May selection is *The Last Runaway* by Tracy Chevalier. All are welcome!

Thank You to:

- Eileen Tallent, altar guild chair, and all the members of the altar guild for their hard work to make the altar beautiful each and every Sunday.
- Lynn Robinson, minister of music; organist and pianist Judith Marcinko; all the choir members; Roger Ludwig; Galen Henderson; and Sandy Winger for the church's wonderful music.
- Everyone who participates in worship as readers, acolytes, chalice bearers, and ushers.
- All the tellers.
- The many volunteers who organize hospitality each Sunday.
- Sandy Winger, Del Hunt, and John Restall for keeping the lift working smoothly.
- Jonathan Muehlke for serving as the interim Family Programs Director and Galen Henderson for serving as Family Programs Director for the first half of 2018.
- Outgoing vestry members Del Hunt and John Restall; continuing members Diane Henderson, Lisa Pope, Pete Olivere, and Bill Thomson; and new members Jeff Aitken and Sandy Winger.
- Lisa Pope for serving as senior warden and Bryan Harbin for serving as junior warden for 2018.
- Del Hunt, Lisa Pope, and Bill Thomson for serving as registers for the vestry in 2018.
- John Restall for serving as pledge clerk.
- Debbie Carter for serving as Commitment Campaign Chair.
- Debbie Carter for serving as delegate to the annual convention.
- Dave Dunlap, Finance Committee chair, and committee members Debbie Carter, Pete Olivere, John Restall, and Bill Thomson.
- Faye Pritchard for coordinating the school supply drive and the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) food bagging project.
- All the AFAC volunteers.
- Sandy Winger for coordinating bagged lunch Sundays.
- Mike Birmingham for purchasing supplies for the bagged lunches.
- All who delivered lunches to the Bailey's Crossroads Shelter.

- Sandy Winger for serving as St. John's liaison for the Rise Against Hunger Lenten Project and for coordinating all the wonderful help from Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR) workers.
- Debbie Carter for organizing the Shrine Mont retreat.
- Lynn Robinson for coordinating Game Night and facilitating the book club.
- Barbara Olivere for heading up the card ministry and all card ministry volunteers.
- Anne and Paul Stenger for leading the intercessory prayer ministry and all members of the intercessory prayer group.
- Everyone who planned or helped with an event in 2018.
- Jeff Aitken for coordinating church signs and Bryan Harbin for getting signs made.
- Everyone who helped with Vacation Bible School, especially Galen Henderson; Patricia Amaya; Valeria Antelo; Sandy Winger; Barbara, Nora, and Vladi Wien; Jonathan Muehlke; Maddie Harbin; Richard Henry; the OAR workers; and all the people who brought meals—Pete and Barbara Olivere, Lynn Robinson, Anne and Paul Stenger, and Vladi Wien.
- Everyone who worked on or acted in the Christmas pageant.
- Beth Cavey and Wade Hinckle for coordinating Education for Ministry (EfM).
- Beth Cavey for offering her Women and Theology Group.
- Bryan Harbin, Bill Thomson, Del Hunt, Pete Olivere, Marshall Adair, and all others who helped with building and grounds efforts and everyone who worked on parish cleanups.
- Lin Novak for doing such a good job updating St. John's garden areas.
- Pete Olivere for updating the St. John's website and handling church advertising.
- Lisa Pope for serving as *Logos* Editor.
- St. John's wonderful staff: Virginia Pearson, Lynn Robinson, Judith Marcinko, Kaitlyn Osteguín, Julio Sorto, and Jonathan Muehlke.
- Sandy Winger and the OAR workers for cleaning out the closet in the undercroft.
- Mike Birmingham, Patricia Broida, Debbie Carter, Brian Cavey, Dave Dunlap, and Sandy Winger for agreeing to serve on the Strategic Planning committee. They will be joined by the Rev. Ann Barker, Senior Warden Lisa Pope, and treasurer Pete Olivere.
- Bill Pritchard for updating the St. John's vestry and church staff picture board in the undercroft.

We celebrate with all who have birthdays in March:

Rev. Ann Barker, Bobby Candelieri, Beth Cavey, Pierce Kaufman, Ian Kunkle, Kendrah McDonald, Pete Olivere, Chip Russell, Cristina Tallent, and Nora Wien-Herman.

We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in March:

Debbie and Henry Carter; Jim and Janice Hull; Anne and Paul Stenger.

Join the Inquiring Hearts class at 11:30 a.m. on Sundays in the undercroft. Participants discuss the week's scripture passages, share thoughts on the day's sermon, and ask questions related to their faith journeys. Come be a part of the discussion!