



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

January 2020



The children of St. John's presented the annual Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 15. Thank you for helping the meaning of Christmas come to life with this memorable production.

From the Rector: Stretch Yourself

When the busyness of the Christmas season is over, there comes January. It is not empty of obligations, but the calendar pages are considerably less full. And there is time to stretch. I know that sometimes when I am exhausted, I stretch my body out in order to help me recover from all I have done and to wake me up for the next thing.

January is a good time for spiritual stretching too. It is a time in which, in the light of the new thing God has done in the incarnation of Jesus to be our Savior, we can look at stretching our spiritual arms out to grasp the new things the Holy Spirit is inviting us into.

Stretch for balance. Our lives are made up of structured and unstructured time. Generally in our society we are much more structured than unstructured, by necessity if not by choice. (I am one who will always check the box for structured time when a choice is offered. My day off is a good one if I am busy with things to do most of the day.) Busyness is what makes us feel accomplished and fulfilled and that is great. God wants that for us. But I have learned that busy is not the same as productive, and that productive is a much better word. It took me a long time to get it, but I now understand that reading a book is productive. So is doing crossword puzzles or sitting on the back porch and enjoying the flowers. Busyness goes under the heading of productivity but so does rest. And we need both for balance.

Jennifer Baskerville Burrows, the bishop of Indianapolis, says, “Rest is where the magic happens. True rest changes us at the cellular level. It is the space in which the body is strengthened and the soul restored.” Even for a person like me, who prefers to be “doing something,” I can now talk about rest as doing something, rather than wasting time. I now

know I need both to function as God wants me to. We all do. Stretch for balance this year.

Stretch for deeper relationships. Who do you want to be friends with? Is there anyone in your life at a basic level that you would like to include in your life at a deeper level? Ask that person to lunch. Invite him or her to a social event. Say more than just hello when you meet. Tend your relationships with the friends you have. Get in touch, talk about your life, and hear about theirs. I have Christmas note friends, people I have been close to in times past from high school through seminary and in my first churches. Even though we don’t call much, that letter—and frequently pictures—helps us keep our relationship alive. Nurture local friendships too. Go to lunch, go to the movies. God speaks to us through our friends.

Stay close to your family. Learn to accept differences of opinion. Resolve conflicts as soon as possible. Do things together with immediate and extended family. Pay more attention to your spouse and children. See if you can be involved in what they are involved in. Encourage new interests in your children. Make a habit of talking over your days with each other. If they are teenagers and their answer is always “not much,” ask the question anyway. They’ll appreciate it someday.

And don’t forget a deeper relationship with yourself. Look deep inside and check your fulfillment index. What are you doing in life that makes you happy? What would you like to do? Can you experiment with taking a first step in doing a new thing? Can you stretch out your hands and heart for something more? Can you come to some understanding with yourself that you are okay exactly as you are? For it is from this point that we can grow.

Stretch yourself for the earth. Become a citizen of this world. Most all of us enjoy nature, either close up or from photographs.

We are all a part of the earth, and it is important to stretch ourselves not just to watch nature but to participate in nature. Go for a walk in the woods. Wade through a stream. Plant a garden and take care of it. The other way we participate in nature is by protecting it. Recycle. The Diocese of Virginia has adopted a resolution encouraging churches not to use single-use plastic items. We already have plastic-free coffee hours, and we will look at what else we can do.

Most of all this year, stretch yourself toward God. God is holding out God's hand for you, just waiting for you to put your hand in it. One of the ways we can do this is by reminding ourselves that God loves us and forgives us and wants the best for us. As Isaiah says, God has helped us from the beginning. In light of that help, we need to increase our

gratitude. God has graced us with so many undeserved blessings that we can't possibly count them all, but maybe counting five each day would be doable. Also, God issues one invitation after another to us to respond to God's calls to us. Stretch to discern those calls. Ask God what God is up to in your life and look for signs encouraging you to one particular mission or another. Make time with God a regular part of your life.

January is the start of the Epiphany season. In this season we celebrate how Christ was made manifest to the world. Stretch your heart to see where Christ is manifest in your life in balance, in relationships, in care for the earth, and in all the other things you do and are, and in doing so enrich your relationship with God.

Ann †

Who Is Christ? Join the Sunday Seminar Discussion

Beginning January 5 and lasting until Lent begins, the adult Sunday Seminar will read Richard Rohr's *The Universal Christ*. The book asks the question "Who is Christ?" and answers that Christ is clearly "not just Jesus of Nazareth but something much more immense, even cosmic, in significance." The book discusses how that is so and why it matters. Please join the group at 9 a.m. Sunday mornings in the parlor for a thought-provoking discussion.

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
Child Care Provider: Kaitlyn Osteguín
Sexton: Julio Sorto

Vestry

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

Parish Leaders

Peter Olivere, Treasurer
John Restall, Pledge Clerk
Eileen Tallent, Chair, Altar Guild

Diane Henderson
Peter Olivere
Sandy Winger

Come Bowl the Night Away



Join the fun on Sunday evening, January 12, as St. John's goes bowling. Participants will meet at 6 p.m. at the Bowl America in Falls Church, 140 S. Maple Avenue. See you there!



St. John's welcomed the wonder and beauty of Christmas at two services on Christmas Eve and one service on Christmas Day.

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 February issue is January 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: *As with Gladness Men of Old*

Our processional hymn for January 12 is *As with Gladness Men of Old*. It uses Matthew 2:1–12 as a theme to compare the journey of the Biblical magi to visit the baby Jesus to each Christian's personal pilgrimage, and as a reminder that it is not the value of the gifts, it is the value of giving and adoration to Jesus that is what Christians should seek. Unlike some other Epiphany hymns, it avoids referring to the Gentile sages as either “magi” or “kings” and does not state how many there were.

William Chatterton Dix, the son of poet John Ross Dix and named after poet Thomas Chatterton, would regularly write Christian poetry in his spare time. Dix wrote *As with Gladness Men of Old* on January 6, 1859, during a months-long recovery from an extended illness, when he was unable to attend that morning's Epiphany service at church. As he read the Gospel of Matthew's account of the Epiphany in the Bible, he was inspired and started to reflect on the text. He then started to write about his thoughts and did so for the whole day, with the eventual result being *As with Gladness Men of Old*. (Dix wrote a number of hymns in this fashion, including the ever-popular *What Child Is This?*.)

Dix kept the text of *As with Gladness Men of Old* private until a year later, when it was published in *Hymns for Public Worship and Private Devotion*, which was written for St. Raphael's Church in Dix's hometown of Bristol, England. It was also added to the trial version of *Hymns Ancient and Modern* before being included in the original publication of that hymnal in 1861. Most hymn writers in the Church of England at the time were clergymen, so Dix, a layman and marine insurance agent living in Glasgow, Scotland, was delighted that his carol was included. It was also self-published by Dix in his own *Hymns of Joy and Love* hymnal.

After publication, the hymn proved popular in both the Church of England and in other Anglican churches throughout the British Empire. This rise in popularity is attributed to the future Lord Chancellor, Sir Roundell Palmer, praising it in his “English Church Hymnody” academic paper published and read at the Church Congress in York in 1866. The lyrics of the hymn would be included in pieces of artwork that would adorn Anglican churches around the world. Though the piece had lost popularity as a Christmas carol by the 1950s to 1970s, it was still held in high regard as a hymn with a pleasing positive message. The hymn eventually regained popularity as a carol and continued to be published in hymnals. It has continued to be used in the Church of England, and has also been performed in concerts outside of a church setting.

In 1871, the hymn was first published in the United States in the Episcopal Church of the United States' hymnal. It was later included in *The Hymnal 1982*.

The editor of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, William Henry Monk, adapted a tune by Stuttgart organist Conrad Kocher (1786–1872) as the music for *As with Gladness Men of Old*. Dix personally did not like the tune, which was ironic as it was later titled *Dix* as a tribute to him. Despite Dix's opinion of it, the tune became popular and is used for the majority of performances of the hymn. The same melody is also used in the hymn *For the Beauty of the Earth*. The editors of *The Hymnal 1982* used a different tune for *For the Beauty of the Earth*, but did include *Dix* for a Thanksgiving hymn in addition to *As with Gladness Men of Old*. Kocher is also represented in our hymnal by an annunciation hymn and a harmonization of the Trinity hymn *Holy God, We Praise Thy Name*.

Carol Dunlap

Parish News

Upcoming Events:

➤ The St. John's Book Club will meet **Tuesday, January 7**, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss *84 Charing Cross Road* by Helene Hanff. The **February 4** selection is *The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu* by Joshua Hammer. In this true story, a band of librarians races to save the ancient manuscripts of Timbuktu from al-Qaida. All are welcome!

➤ Come have some fun at Game Night on **Saturday, January 18**, from 7 to 9 p.m.

➤ Join Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry at the Episcopal Diocese of Washington's More Jesus, More Love Revival on **Sunday, January 26**, at 2 p.m. at the Entertainment and Sports Arena in Washington, D.C. St. John's has free tickets to the revival and is organizing a group to attend. Please let Rev. Ann know if you would like a ticket.

➤ Mark your calendar for the St. John's Annual Meeting on **Sunday, February 2**, at 11:15 a.m. The congregation will elect vestry members, and the 2020 budget will be presented. This is also an opportunity to hear about everything that happened in the church over the past year and to thank the many volunteers so vital to St. John's ministry and activities. Please plan to attend this important event!

Thank You to:

➤ All who participated in and helped with the Christmas Pageant: Jack, Jenn, Ashley, and Madeline Paguada; Mike and Jack Birmingham; Elinor and Frances Sonnet; Maddie Harbin; Pierce Kaufman; pianist Roger Ludwig; and director Jonathan Muehlke. It was a wonderful event.

➤ Faye Pritchard for setting up the bagged lunches in November and December and Barbara Wien, who has driven the lunches to the Bailey's Crossroads shelter since July.

➤ John Restall, Pete Olivere, Jeff Aitken, Debbie Carter, and Diane Henderson for serving on the Finance Committee.

➤ Lynn Robinson, for coordinating the Christmas cookie exchange.

➤ All of St. John's card ministers in 2019: Patricia Broida, Debbie Carter, Beth Cavey, Del Hunt, Chelsea Kaufman, Lin Novak, Barbara Olivere, Lisa Pope, Lynn Robinson, and Eileen Tallent.

➤ Everyone who contributed Angel Tree gifts.

➤ Marshall Adair, Patricia Broida, Dave Dunlap, Diane Henderson, Del Hunt, Lisa Pope, Lynn Robinson, and Eileen Tallent for serving as readers for the Lessons and Carols service.

We celebrate with all who have birthdays in January:

Patricia Broida, Keelyn Del Gallo, Don Hess, Tony Kollath, Mary Mackin, Janet Spence, Paul Stenger, Cynthia Todd, and Vlad Wien-Kandil.

We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in January:

Robert L. Rawls, III, and Harriet Sheehan Rawls; Anna and David Scherer.