



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 2020

St. John's Annual Meeting 2020: Faith for the Future

The St. John's community looked back at 2019 and prepared the foundation for 2020 at its Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 2.

Rector Ann Barker opened the meeting with prayer. This was followed by highlights from 2019, beginning with the worship services at St. John's. "Our worship together inspires and renews us to do God's work in our daily lives," said Rev. Ann. The church held its ninth Maundy Thursday loaves and fishes service and a joyous Easter celebration with 94 in attendance, the largest in years. A fun Easter egg hunt for the children was held after the service. An outdoor service in September on the church lawn celebrated God amidst the splendor of his creation. The Advent wreath lighting liturgy continued to remind the congregation of the faith, hope, joy, and love that abound while awaiting the coming of the Christ Child. Christmas services were inspiring and beautiful, drawing 71 people. The popular Lessons and Carols service followed on the Sunday after Christmas.

St. John's once again held the Blessing of the Animals service at the church and also blessed dogs at the Shirlington Dog Park. The church also offered Ashes to Go at the Ballston Metro station on Ash Wednesday, drawing the greatest participation to date. "In 2020, as you deemed important in our fall congregational event, we will try for variety. We will use different liturgies periodically and learn a new Gloria. We will also try to keep the services lively, as you requested in your surveys," said Rev. Ann

This year Jonathan Muehlke served as the family programs director. He prepared and taught Sunday School for the children and coordinated an inspirational Christmas pageant.

In 2019, St. John's continued its outreach activities. These activities encompassed donating food to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC), preparing and bagging lunches for the Bailey's Crossroads Shelter, and participating in the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Project. The congregation also continued its program of bagging food at AFAC once a month and donated supplies to Carlin Springs and Campbell elementary schools for the fourth year in a row. During Lent, the church participated in Region 3's Rise Against Hunger project through monetary donations and volunteer time. Volunteers helped package 15,000 meals in about two hours to be sent anywhere in the world where there is food insecurity. St. John's also worked with Cristo Rey on a project sponsored by Trinity Church that involved filling backpacks for foster children.

Parish life continues to draw the community together. A game night was held each month except December, including popular bingo nights with Cristo Rey in May and November.

The annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper in February (led by the men of the church and coordinated by Bill Thomson) and Spring Tea in May brought in the community and raised much needed funds. Organized by Diane Henderson, Lisa Pope, and Lynn Robinson, the tea had its largest attendance ever. St. John's once again held a festive Thanksgiving potluck in November with Cristo Rey. The church also sold hot dogs and beverages on Glencarlyn Day per its tradition, with Jeff Aitken serving as coordinator. Glencarlyn Day efforts expanded in 2019 to include a children's book giveaway at the library, organized by Debbie Carter, and the opportunity to ring the church bell for a minimal donation. The St. John's family enjoyed the waning days of autumn by going to play miniature golf. Fall also brought the annual retreat to Shrine Mont, which drew 12 parishioners and guests to enjoy a weekend of relaxing and experiencing God in nature. Debbie Carter coordinated the retreat and Rev. Ann, Diane Henderson, and Faye Pritchard led the program.

Adult Formation in 2019 included a Lenten study called "God's Messy People." Seminarian Chip Russell offered a class on the daily offices in the Book of Common Prayer and another class on the Holy Eucharist. Sunday Seminar participants also read the book *The Reason for God* and did an Advent study on "Not Another Silent Night."

In March Christopher Archambault and Justin Kenner were married at St. John's with much rejoicing. St. John's also celebrated the wedding of Lisa Broida and Russell Ingram in November. St. John's welcomed Richard Henry to the congregation, as well as the Paguada family: Jennifer, Jack, Ashley, Madeline, and their au pair Esther Chantaka. The church family mourned the passing of Charlotte Boverder and Bill Thomson.

Chip Russell served as seminarian this

year. His educational offerings were instructional and thought provoking. He also provided a listening ear for many parishioners. Following Chip's last day with St. John's on December 8, he was ordained a deacon on December 12.

In July, a Seventh Day Adventist Church began meeting at St. John's on Saturdays. "I was just told yesterday how blessed they feel to be a part of the community. We are glad to have them and will try to find ways we can share more time with them," said Rev. Ann.

The church's newly formed Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) began meeting in March, led by chair Mike Birmingham. Members are Patricia Broida, Debbie Carter, Dave Dunlap, Pete Olivere, Lisa Pope, and Sandy Winger. The committee is examining how St. John's can maintain its fiscal viability, continue its mission, and meet the expectations of its members. Actions taken or underway include increasing the attractiveness of the church to newcomers and building on opportunities to engage and invite the community, as well as increasing the sense of fellowship among congregants. The committee also continues to look at increasing the effectiveness and focus of management practices and improving the financial status of the church. It held a congregational event in the fall to solicit feedback on priorities and worked to strengthen church fellowship and identity by introducing name tags at Sunday services and ordering St. John's T-shirts. The SPC also organized miniature golf and bowling outings and is planning a financial seminar for March and a Washington National Cathedral tour for May.

Treasurer Pete Olivere presented the 2019 financial report. At last year's annual meeting, the congregation discussed the church's financial picture. In 2019, St. John's took some major steps, including reducing the hours and

compensation of Rev. Ann and welcoming a Seventh Day Adventist congregation as a new tenant. Finances improved last year, but the church still experienced an \$11,000 deficit. Looking ahead, it is vital to increase income to remain sustainable.

Senior Warden Lisa Pope provided an update on the vestry's work in 2019. The major emphasis was implementing the priorities discussed at the last annual meeting, including welcoming a Seventh Day Adventist church and a Debtors Anonymous group as new building tenants to improve financial stability. Building and grounds priorities included planting new trees to replace the tree removed on the 4th Street side of the church.

Another vestry priority was implementing a church emergency plan, focusing initially on fire safety. Actions included installing additional smoke alarms, obtaining a fire-proof cabinet to store church records and archives, and drawing up a map of the church that shows the location of exits and fire extinguishers. The vestry continues to build bonds with Cristo Rey, including sharing bingo nights and the annual Thanksgiving Potluck. Looking ahead to the coming year, the vestry will coordinate work with the new Fundraising and Event Planning committees.

The senior warden thanked the 2019 vestry members for their service: Junior Warden Bryan Harbin, Jeff Aitken, Diane Henderson, Pete Olivere, and Sandy Winger. The vestry lost Bill Thomson in the past year and continues to be grateful for his many years of service to St. John's. The senior warden also introduced new vestry nominee Richard Henry and current vestry members Bryan Harbin and Diane Henderson, who have both agreed to extend their terms by one year. The congregation unanimously voted to confirm the nominees.

In a closing note on worship, Minister of Music Lynn Robinson told meeting attendees

that next week she will start teaching the congregation a new Gloria. St. John's has been using the current one since 1980.

Diane Henderson spoke about the Spring Tea. As St. John's biggest fundraiser of the year, she needs everyone to commit in advance to supporting the event through their time and food donations. Sign-up sheets for contributions will be put up at the beginning of March. If not enough commitments have been made by the end of March, the event will be canceled.

Rev. Ann recognized Senior Warden and outgoing vestry member Lisa Pope and Junior Warden Bryan Harbin, as well as the continuing vestry members. Others recognized included treasurer Pete Olivere, pledge clerk John Restall, commitment campaign chair Mike Birmingham, and altar guild chair Eileen Tallent. Also thanked were the church staff: minister of music Lynn Robinson, organist Judith Marcinko, 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 the Parish News on page 8.

The congregation approved the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes at the close of the meeting.

In 2020, St. John's will continue its focus on discipleship—following Jesus individually and as a church by asking what God would have us do and then doing it, based on our passions and our gifts. St. John's will also continue its strategic planning efforts and launch its new committees on Fundraising and Event Planning as it looks to the future. "We will keep reaching out to the community, using the strength of our greatest resource, the people of St. John's," said Rev. Ann.

From the Rector: Caught

Brother Keith Nelson of the Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE) says, “In the sea of this life, we are bound to be captured sooner or later. The waters are full of other nets, bristling with other hooks. If we don’t give our consent to be caught by Christ, something else will encircle our freedom and determine our choices.”

Lent is all about looking at ourselves to see what other hooks out there are catching us and keeping us away from Jesus. Part of our job during Lent is self-examination, checking for those places that pinch and tug and make us feel trapped, not by Jesus’s welcome embrace but by the rough cords of other nets that cause more harm than good.

One example is the lure of perfectionism. Are you a person who likes to get everything exactly right? Do you go to great lengths to review your work to make sure there isn’t even one mistake? Do you drive yourself crazy because there isn’t a definition of perfect out there for you to find and use? Are you constantly on the lookout for something out of place in your house or your office? Do you think your day has to go just as planned or it is a failure? When I was an editor, we had a perfectionist executive editor who was constantly on the lookout for typos. One day he came to a colleague of mine with the shocking news that there were three typos in one issue of the magazine. My colleague replied, “Only three? That’s great.” My colleague was a careful and creative editor, but he was not a perfectionist. He accepted what is true about all humans. We are not perfect. Our systems are not perfect. And it is okay. God didn’t design us to be perfect in that way. God designed us for perfect love, which allows us all to be human.

Another barbed hook is anxiety. We all

worry from time to time, but the key is not to get hung up on it. It is not productive. Sometimes it feels like anxiety will push us to work harder and better to get something done, but in reality it is just the opposite. Worrying short circuits our ability to move forward. Just think about it. Worry never solved a single problem. It cannot provide a solution to anything. If you have a problem and you worry, you have two problems. Just as my very practical engineer son says, if something is bothering you, ask yourself if you can do anything about it. If you can’t, don’t worry. I know, it’s easier said than done, but what we can do is to turn the problem over to God and ask for God’s help. God wants to be in our lives in the midst of our problems and help us find a way through.

Then there is the hook of criticism. Some of us were brought up in a culture of criticism. Other people were under the mistaken impression that criticizing who we were and what we did would help us become stronger, better people who were more able to handle the challenges life throws at us. They were wrong. Criticism never builds anything stronger. It weakens us and robs us of the confidence we need to try new things. Certain personality types are more affected by criticism, studies show, but nobody likes it. Nobody wants to hear it over and over again. If we can, we avoid people who dish it out. But criticism keeps on giving. Because of its ingrained nature, even if we aren’t hearing criticism from others, we are perfectly happy to fill in the gap by criticizing ourselves. We’re not good enough, we say. We should do these 72 things better and right now, or we’re no good at all. But God is not a critic. God is a lover, and we are all the object of God’s love. It is God’s grace that makes us good enough,

not our continuous, tiring attempts to get rid of the critical voices. Those only make us tired and miserable.

But what if we really have done something wrong that we are ashamed of or feel guilty about? What do we do about that? How do we keep from being haunted by the wreckage of the past? That is what forgiveness is for. That is why God sent Jesus to show us that God wants to reconcile with us, that God offers us forgiveness freely out of love. We can do our part to make amends, but remember that does not mean we still need to be burdened if someone doesn't accept them. We can only do our part. Accepting God's forgiveness and

forgiving ourselves can be very hard, but God is eager to help us get past that block in our relationship with God and others.

Hooks like perfectionism, anxiety, criticism, and hanging on to shame and guilt keep us from being captured by God, the one whom Brother Nelson says longs for our transformation and wholeness. This Lent, think about what has you hooked. What places in your life are not whole because something comes first before the all-embracing love of God? Offer those places to God for God's healing and receive God's grace.

Ann †

Get Closer to God at the Lenten Supper and Program

St. John's will hold a Lenten program on Wednesday, March 11. The evening will begin with a soup, salad, and bread supper at 6:15 p.m. Rev. Ann will then lead a program at 7 p.m. on "Getting Closer to God." Participants will discuss practices for connecting with God in their daily lives. Come and join us for an evening of fellowship and reflection.

St. John's Staff and Leadership

Staff

Rector: The Rev. Ann B. Barker
Minister of Music: Lynn Robinson
Organist: Judith Marcinko
Family Programs Director: Jonathan Muehlke
Parish Administrator: Virginia Pearson
Child Care Provider: Kaitlyn Osteguín
Sexton: Julio Sorto

Vestry

Sandy Winger, Senior Warden
Bryan Harbin, Junior Warden
Jeff Aitken

Parish Leaders

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

Diane Henderson
Richard Henry
Peter Olivere

Words on Hymns: *Have Thine Own Way, Lord*

The inspiration for our gradual hymn on March 22 came from a great disappointment. *Have Thine Own Way, Lord* was composed during a time when Adelaide A. Pollard (1862–1934) was trying to raise funds to make a trip to Africa. Her unsuccessful attempt to do this left her experiencing a “distress of soul.” Very disheartened, she visited a prayer ceremony and heard an elderly woman say, “It really doesn’t matter what you do with us, Lord, just have your own way with our lives.” These words encouraged Pollard and she pondered the story of the potter from Jeremiah 18:3–6. After returning home that evening, she wrote all four stanzas to what would become *Have Thine Own Way, Lord*. Five years later, George Stebbins composed a melody named *Adelaide* to accompany the text.

Jeremiah 18:3–6 serves as the background for this text: “So I went down to the potter’s house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me. He said, ‘Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?’ declares the Lord. ‘Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel.’”

This hymn also calls to mind the adage that God always hears and answers prayers. However, the answer might be either “yes,” “no,” or “not yet.” If “no,” God might have something else in mind for the person to accomplish his purpose.

Pollard was born in Iowa. Hymnologist Kenneth Osbeck notes that following her education in elocution and physical culture, she moved to Chicago, where she became a teacher in schools for girls. In addition, she developed a fine reputation as an itinerant Bible study teacher. Later, she worked with two evangelists, one who developed a healing

ministry and one who focused on the imminent return of Christ.

Pollard had a strong desire to be a missionary in Africa. When this plan was not fulfilled, she taught at a Missionary Training School at Nyack-on-the-Hudson. She finally got to Africa for a brief period before World War I, but she spent the war years in Scotland. After returning to the United States, she continued her ministry even though she was in poor health. As 72-year-old Pollard was en route from her New York City home to a New Jersey town in 1934 to hold some religious meetings, she became critically ill in the New York City railroad station. She was rushed to a nearby YWCA, where she died shortly thereafter of a ruptured appendix.

George Coles Stebbins (1846–1945) was a gospel song writer. Born in Orleans County, New York, he spent the first 23 years of his life on a farm. He studied music in Buffalo and became a singing teacher. In 1869 he moved to Chicago. Stebbins became the musical director of Chicago’s First Baptist Church in 1870, a position he held till the autumn of 1874, when he resigned to take up residence in Boston. During his residence in Chicago he became acquainted with Dwight L. Moody, who inaugurated the great evangelistic movement.

In the summer of 1876 Stebbins had occasion to spend a few days with Moody at his home in Northfield, Massachusetts. During his visit Moody persuaded him to enter evangelistic work under Moody’s direction. Stebbins assisted other evangelists, becoming one of the editors of *Gospel Hymns* and subsequently of the series of hymnbooks used by Moody during the remainder of his life. Afterward Stebbins became the sole editor of *Northfield Hymnal*. He composed more than 1,500 hymns.

Have Thine Own Way, Lord continues to be popular and has been performed by such artists as Mahalia Jackson, Marty Robbins, Johnny Cash, Eric Copeland, Cristy Lane, Jim Reeves, John Fogerty, Ned Beatty, and, most

recently, Ronnie Milsap on his 2009 gospel album, *Then Sings My Soul*.

Carol Dunlap

Sunday Seminar Examines How Jesus Sees Women

The adult Sunday Seminar has embarked on a Lenten study, “Jesus Sees Women.” This study looks at the Gospel stories about Jesus’s interactions with women to shed light on how we are called to be disciples of Jesus in our own time. All are welcome to join the discussion at 9 a.m. in the parlor.

Financial and Estate Planning for Retirement and Beyond

St. John’s will host a seminar on Financial and Estate Planning for Retirement and Beyond on Tuesday, March 24, from 7 to 8 p.m. Allison M. Lambeth and Chuck Rush will lead the seminar. Lambeth is a trusts and estates attorney with a decade of experience, focusing on wills and trusts, estate planning, probate, settling decedents’ estates, business formation, and wedding law and planning. Rush is a financial planner at McAdam Financial who focuses on retirement planning, estate planning, and goal-oriented financial planning. Attendees will learn about the basics of retirement and estate planning, followed by a question and answer session. Refreshments will be provided. Please invite your friends and neighbors to attend this informative session.

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 23. 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:

- Prepare for Easter by attending the Lenten Supper and Program on **Wednesday, March 11**. A soup, salad, and bread supper will start at 6:15 p.m., followed by a program beginning at 7 p.m. on “Getting Closer to God.”
- Come join the fun at Game Night on **Saturday, March 21**, at 7 p.m.
- St. John’s will offer a seminar on Financial and Estate Planning for Retirement and Beyond on **Tuesday, March 24**, from 7 to 8 p.m.
- The St. John’s Book Club will meet **Tuesday, April 7**, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss *Stella Bain* by Anita Shreve. Set against the backdrop of World War I, this sweeping novel tells the story of a woman searching for the secret of her identity. All are welcome!

Thank You to:

- Sandy Winger and Bryan Harbin, who have agreed to be St. John’s senior and junior wardens, respectively.
- Pete Olivere for coordinating the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper and all who helped: Chris Archambault, Del Hunt, Justin Kenner, Jonathan Muehlke, Jack Paguada, John Restall, Sandy Winger, and OAR worker Joy.
- Roger Ludwig and Bill Pritchard, for helping Rev. Ann with Ashes To Go at Ballston Metro station on Ash Wednesday.
- Eileen Tallent, altar guild chair, and all the members of the altar guild for their hard work to make the altar beautiful every Sunday.
- Lynn Robinson, minister of music; organist and pianist Judith Marcinko; and all the choir members 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, Bryan Harbin, Del Hunt, and John Restall for keeping the lift working smoothly.
- Jonathan Muehlke for serving as Family Programs Director.
- Outgoing vestry member Lisa Pope; continuing members Jeff Aitken, Bryan Harbin, Diane Henderson, Pete Olivere, and Sandy Winger; and new member Richard Henry.
- Lisa Pope for serving as senior warden and vestry register and Bryan Harbin for serving as junior warden for 2019.
- John Restall for serving as pledge clerk.
- Mike Birmingham for serving as Commitment Campaign chair.
- Debbie Carter and Sandy Winger for serving as delegate and alternate to the annual convention, respectively.
- Finance Committee members Jeff Aitken, Debbie Carter, Dave Dunlap, Diane Henderson, Pete Olivere, and John Restall.
- Faye Pritchard for coordinating the school supply drive and the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) food bagging project.
- Diane Henderson for purchasing school supplies with funds donated by St. John’s members.

- 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 coordinating the extensive help from OAR workers.
- Debbie Carter for organizing the Shrine Mont retreat and Faye Pritchard and Diane Henderson for leading the 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 and Barbara Olivere for leading the intercessory prayer ministry and all members of the intercessory prayer group.
- Everyone who planned or helped with an event in 2019.
- Jeff Aitken for coordinating church signs and Bryan Harbin for getting signs made.
- Everyone who helped with Vacation Bible School, including all the people who brought meals.
- Everyone who worked on or acted in the Christmas Pageant.
- Beth Cavey and Wade Hinckle for coordinating Education for Ministry (EfM).
- Bryan Harbin, Pete Olivere, Marshall Adair, and all others who helped with building and grounds efforts and everyone who worked on parish cleanups.
- Lin Novak for her continued efforts to update and beautify St. John's gardens.
- 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.
- Mike Birmingham for chairing the Strategic Planning Committee and committee members Patricia Broida, Debbie Carter, Dave Dunlap, Pete Olivere, Lisa Pope, and Sandy Winger.
- Dave Dunlap for chairing Seminarian Chip Russell's lay support team and members Marshall Adair, Mike Birmingham, Patricia Broida, Lin Novak, and Barbara Olivere.
- Barbara Wien, Chris Archambault, Justin Kenner, and Bill Pritchard for serving on the new Fundraising Committee.
- Lisa Pope and Richard Henry for participating in the new Event Planning Committee.
- Bill Pritchard for updating the St. John's picture boards 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:

Chris Archambault and Justin Kenner; Debbie and Henry Carter; Jim and Janice Hull; Anne and Paul Stenger.



St. John's, members of St. Paul's, and friends from the community celebrated at the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on February 25.