

# 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*

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December 2020

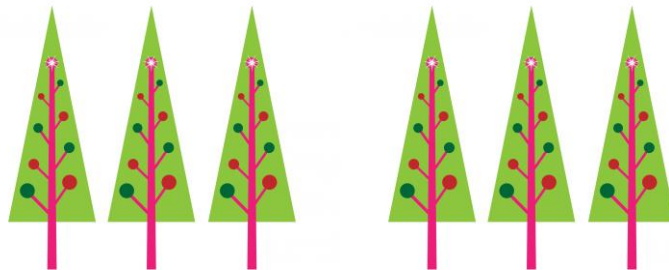
Celebrate Christmas with St. John's



We will not be gathering in the sanctuary this Christmas and the holiday season may look different for many of us. The Christmas spirit is alive and well at St. John's though, ready to fill our hearts and minds as we journey through the Advent season.

Join your St. John's family for a virtual Christmas Eve service at 5 p.m. on December 24. Stay tuned for information on connecting to the service via Zoom or on the phone. Participants will have the opportunity during the service to offer special Christmas greetings to the congregation. Is your Christmas tree ready for its close-up?

In a year like no other, plan to attend this beautiful and inspirational evening as we welcome Christmas together.



## Highlights of the 226th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia

For the first time in 226 years, the Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia gathered not in person, but online. More than 450 delegates attended the November 14 Convention via Zoom. The Convention was also broadcast simultaneously in Spanish and Korean.

Convention delegates considered a budget presented by the Executive Board that reflected cuts necessary to balance the budget, as giving by parishes to the diocese is anticipated to be 15 percent reduced. The budget featured increased funding for the work of race and reconciliation but also numerous cuts in virtually all other areas. Budget amendments were proposed to restore funding for campus ministries. After an extended discussion the Convention declined to approve the budget and thereby referred the budget back to the Executive Board.

The Task Force on Resourcing God's Mission in the Diocese of Virginia, led by the Rev. Sven vanBaars, addressed the gap between opportunities and funding of God's mission by naming the patterns of giving to the diocese while comparing those patterns to other dioceses, learning about giving from member congregations, and exploring ways to increase giving. Ultimately the task force sought to determine and implement the practices that will help the diocese better utilize its giving plan to support shared ministries.

The new giving plan would ask all congregations to commit to a covenant of giving that dedicates 10 percent of pledge and plate income to the ministry of the Diocese of Virginia. Those congregations that are not giving at this covenantal level would engage in a process of conversation about congregational growth and possibly a waiver. The task force suggested putting forward a resolution at the 227th Annual Convention in November 2021 that would replace the Virginia Plan for Proportional Giving with what is currently being called the "Virginia Covenantal Giving Plan." A three-year phase-in period may be needed, but the task force believes that most congregations could easily adopt the giving plan.

Delegates passed the following resolutions:

**R-1 Updating Rules to Assure Fairness in Virtual Church Governance Meetings—**R-1 will create a task force to review diocesan canons, rules of order, and administrative practices and recommend changes as needed to help address issues of equitable access for all people to online church governance meetings. These issues include internet accessibility, cost, digital training, accommodations for the hearing impaired, and translation into other languages. The task force will report recommendations to the 227th Annual Convention.

**R-2 Stipendiary Clergy Parental Leave Equity—**The proposed resolution calls on the Diocese of Virginia to recommend as a guideline that vestries provide parental leave of eight weeks with full compensation for full-time parochial and diocesan clergy and lay employees with full compensation based on their employment status, within one year of the birth or adoption of a child. After several amendments were discussed and the level of complexity requiring further study became evident, the proposed resolution was tabled for further consideration at the next Convention.

**R-3 Resolution to Authorize an Election of a Bishop Diocesan—**R-3 authorizes the diocese to commence a process to elect the next Bishop Diocesan. It authorizes the Standing Committee to appoint Search and Transition Committees. The dates for the election and consecration of the next Bishop Diocesan will be set by the Standing Committee in consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop. The diocese anticipates an election and consecration some time in 2022, depending upon the schedule of the Presiding Bishop. Until that time, Bishop Goff will continue to serve as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the diocese.

## A Special School Delivery



Faye Pritchard delivers school supplies to Melaney Mackin, Principal at Carlin Springs Elementary School, on November 17. Thank you to everyone at St. John's who donated supplies!

## Words on Hymns: *What Child Is This?*

Everybody loves Christmas carols. One of the most favorite carols is *What Child Is This?* Its text and music make it a natural to be loved, although it is more popular in the United States than in its country of origin.

The lyrics of the carol are taken from a poem written by William Chatterton Dix in 1865 called *The Manger Throne*. The part of the poem that was used as the song's lyrics consists of three stanzas in total. The first verse poses a rhetorical question in the first half, with the response coming in the refrain. The second verse contains another question that is answered, while the final verse is a universal appeal urging everyone "to enthrone" the child.

At the time he was writing the lyrics to *What Child Is This?*, Dix was working as the manager of an insurance company. He was afflicted by an unexpected and severe illness that resulted in him being bedridden and suffering from severe depression. His near-death experience brought about a spiritual renewal in him while he was recovering. During this time, he read the Bible comprehensively and was inspired to author hymns such as *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!* and *As With Gladness Men of Old*.

The hymn was first published six years later in 1871, when it was featured in *Christmas Carols Old and New*, a collection of carols released in the United Kingdom. The hymnal was edited by Henry Ramsden Bramley and John Stainer. Even though it is not known with certainty who paired the three stanzas from *The Manger Throne* with the music from *Greensleeves*, the third edition of *The Christmas Encyclopedia* by William D. Crump and *Stories of the Great Christmas Carols* (edited by Kenon D. Renfrow and June C. Montgomery) both suggest it was Stainer. Stainer was also responsible for harmonizing the musical setting. (Along with earlier 19th-

century composers, Bramley and Stainer are credited with fueling a Victorian revival of Christmas carols with their publication, which popularized carols such as *The First Nowell*, *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen* and *The Holly and the Ivy*.)

And now we come to the burning question of the origins of the tune *Greensleeves*. A broadside ballad by the name *A Newe Northen Dittye of ye Ladye Greene Slevs* was registered by Richard Jones at the London Stationer's Company in September 1580, and the tune is found in several late-16th-century and early-17th-century sources as well as various manuscripts preserved at the University of Cambridge.

There is a persistent belief that *Greensleeves* was composed by Henry VIII for his lover and future queen, Anne Boleyn, in an attempt to seduce her. However, the piece is based on an Italian style of composition that did not reach England until after Henry's death, making it more likely to be Elizabethan in origin.

The lyrics to *Greensleeves* are in eight verses, with a chorus between each verse, which became "This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard," etc., in the hymn. The appellation "greensleeves" may refer to a promiscuous woman. The first verse and chorus are:

Alas, my love, you do me wrong  
To cast me off discourteously.  
For I have loved you well and long  
Delighting in your company.

Greensleeves was all my joy.  
Greensleeves was my delight.  
Greensleeves was my heart of gold.  
And who but my lady greensleeves.

Carol Dunlap



## Winter Coat Drive for Local Schools

As the Salvation Army is not sponsoring its usual Angel Tree gift collection this year, St. John's is instead collecting new or gently used and clean coats, hats, gloves, and scarves for students at Carlin Springs, Campbell, and Kenmore schools and their families (including their parents). A drop-off box is located near the church on the Pritchard's front porch at 5713 S. Fifth Street. Thank you for your donations!



### LOGOS

LOGOS is published monthly at the beginning of the month, except for a combined July/August issue.

Lisa Pope, LOGOS Editor

Email articles to [logos@stjohnsarlingtonva.org](mailto:logos@stjohnsarlingtonva.org). The deadline for the January issue is December 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.

### St. John's Staff and Leadership

#### Staff

Supply Plus Minister: The Rev. Dr. Laurence K. Packard  
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

## Parish News

### Upcoming Events:

➤ Have some fun and fellowship without leaving home as St. John's plays virtual bingo on **Saturday, December 19**, at 7 p.m. To obtain bingo cards and be sent the Zoom link to play, send an email to [bingo@stjohnsarlingtonva.org](mailto:bingo@stjohnsarlingtonva.org) or contact Sandy Winger at 703-498-6990.

➤ The St. John's Book Club will meet on **Tuesday, January 5**, to discuss *Britt-Marie Was Here* by Fredrik Backman. This novel tells the story of finding love and second chances in the most unlikely of places. The meeting will probably take place via Zoom, but more information will follow closer to the date. All are welcome!

### Thank You to:

➤ Everyone who has returned their congregational survey. If you still have your survey, please return it ASAP so that the Profile Committee can complete its work.

➤ All those who continue to bring contributions for the Arlington Food Assistance Center each week and those who have donated coats and other items for the winter coat drive.

➤ Senior Warden Sandy Winger for representing St. John's at the 226th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia on November 14.

### 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, 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; Del and Carole Hunt; Cooper and Mary Mackin.

### Support Local Episcopal Latino Congregations at Online Bazaar

Shop for beautiful and unique crafts this holiday season at the online Bazaar hosted by the San Jose congregation. Please visit [brazosabiertosstore.org](http://brazosabiertosstore.org) to buy wonderful handcrafted items just in time for Christmas. Your purchases will be delivered to your home if you live in Arlington, Alexandria, or Falls Church, and some items can also be shipped.

Purchases will help support the programs and outreach of the Episcopal Latino congregations in Arlington. These congregations and their members have been drastically affected by the pandemic, so any help you can give would be most appreciated. In addition, if you would like to provide support but not make a purchase, you have the option of making a donation at the site.