



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

Keep Your Clay Moist!

"It is not you who shapes God. It is God who shapes you... Let your clay be moist, lest you grow hard and lose the imprint of those sacred fingers." —Iraeneus of Lyon

This fall, St. John's offers many ways to "let your clay be moist" and allow God to shape you. This issue of the LOGOS is filled with ways to fill your soul and make sure you never "grow hard and lose the imprint of those sacred fingers." Here are a few ongoing activities with start-up dates:

- ▶ St. John's Book Club, first Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., September 5
- ▶ Morning Guild, first Thursdays 10:00 a.m., September 7
- ▶ Choir Practice, first Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., September 7
- ▶ Christian Formation for all ages, Sundays, 9:00 a.m.
- ▶ Education for Ministry, Sundays, 6–9 p.m., September 10
- ▶ Men's Fellowship Group, third Saturdays, 9:00 a.m., September 16

And, don't miss these:

- ▶ Candlelight Prayer continues on Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.
- ▶ Blessing of the Animals, Sunday, October 1, 5:00 p.m.
- ▶ Parish Retreat at Shrine Mont, Friday, October 27 through Sunday, October 29

From the Rector: Staying Moist

We have been moist all summer—either from torrential rains or from sweat produced by temperatures in the 90s and above. Too much rain or sweat is uncomfortable. And yet we've also made ourselves moist on purpose to cool off. We've run through sprinklers and jumped into swimming pools. We've guzzled lemonade and poured water over our heads. What we've been looking for is the right amount of the right kind of moisture.

Iraeneus, one of the early church fathers, said, "It is not you who shapes God. It is God who shapes you." We are the clay and God is the potter. Iraeneus goes on to say "Let your clay be moist, lest you grow hard and lose the imprint of those sacred fingers."

We believe that God is the potter and we are the clay, but do we really act as if that were true? How many of us can truly accept that it is God who made us and continually

works at shaping us into the works of art God wants us to be? What would you look like if you really were a clay pot shaped by a potter? What color would you be? What shape? What would be your best use—cooking, nurturing plants, holding flowers, pouring drinks, holding trinkets? What gifts does your unique shape bring to the world?

Being open—and willing—to be molded is how we stay moist. And if we stay moist, we can feel God's fingers, molding and shaping us, giving us the world's best massage, the one that makes us our very best selves in good circumstances and bad.

Iranaeus says we need to offer God hearts that are soft and tractable, and we need to keep the form in which the Artist has fashioned us.

But it is sometimes so hard to be willing to be just who you are, because you have an image shaped by the world and the people close to you. You may have been trained to take on a shape that matches the expectations of your parents, your spouse—or even your children! Perhaps they want a tall, thin bud vase, but you are a sturdy, basic water pitcher. Be willing to keep the shape God has given you, to take up your own space, whatever that is.

Writer Gordon Crosby says, "Every person that I meet has something of Christ to say to me that no one else in the world can say." We are each one of God's special creations and it takes our whole selves—good and bad experiences, failures and successes, struggles and triumphs—to speak the message that God has given us to speak into the world. As we mature and have more experiences to share, God's fingers gently reshape us to include those parts of ourselves, so that being exactly who we are in the world is the most important thing we can do to serve God.

Keep your clay moist by receiving God's abundant gifts; loving, accepting and forgiving yourself; and engaging in regular communication with God and with those others in the world who bring messages from Christ.

This fall, instead of being too busy, work at keeping your clay moist. Take time to be with God and to be with yourself. See if you can feel God's fingers refining your shape. Reflect on how you take up

space in the world. Is it really your space or someone else's definition of what your space should be? Are you teachable by God? Or are your ideas so fixed it wouldn't matter what God said to you?

We are God's beloved works of art. May we learn to become that not only for God but for ourselves and one another.

Ann†

Making Disciples

Our Mustard Seed

Good news! The diocesan Commission on Congregational Development has recommended that we receive a Mustard Seed Grant of \$2,293 to fund our growth efforts. This is the full amount we asked for. Now the recommendations must be approved by the bishop and the Executive Committee in September. Keep St. John's in your prayers.

Becoming More Visible: Signs and Post Cards

During the past few months, the vestry and other parish leaders have begun the next steps in our vision process. We are working on refurbishing signs and putting up new ones in the area. We also are in the beginning stages of planning new signs for the corners of our lots. Late in August, a post card went to 15,000 households in the area letting them know about the wonderful welcoming atmosphere here at St. John's. The card invited folks to come share our faith adventure with us, and it emphasized our education programs for children and adults. Plans are in the works for a speaker series to begin in the fall as well.

St. John's Calendar

September

Sunday 3	13th Sunday after Pentecost
Monday 4	Labor Day Holiday, Office Closed
Tuesday 5	Book Group, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday 6	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday 7	Morning Guild, 10:00 a.m. Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday 10	14th Sunday after Pentecost Christian Formation for all ages, 9:00 a.m. Education for Ministry begins, 6–9 p.m.
Wednesday 13	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday 16	Men's Fellowship Group, 9:00 a.m.
Sunday 17	15th Sunday after Pentecost Christian Formation for all ages, 9:00 a.m. Education for Ministry, 6–9 p.m.
Wednesday 20	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday 24	16th Sunday after Pentecost Christian Formation for all ages, 9:00 a.m. Education for Ministry, 6–9 p.m.
Wednesday 27	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.

October

Sunday 1	17th Sunday after Pentecost Christian Formation for all ages, 9:00 a.m. Blessing of the Animals, 5:00 p.m. Education for Ministry, 6–9 p.m.
Wednesday 4	Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday 8	18th Sunday after Pentecost Christian Formation for all ages, 9:00 a.m. Education for Ministry, 6–9 p.m.
Monday 9	Columbus Day Holiday (observed), Office Closed
Wednesday 11	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday 15	19th Sunday after Pentecost Christian Formation for all ages, 9:00 a.m. Education for Ministry, 6–9 p.m.
Monday 16	Deadline to sign up for Parish Retreat at Shrine Mont
Wednesday 18	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday 21	Men's Fellowship Group, 9:00 a.m.
Sunday 22	20th Sunday after Pentecost Christian Formation for all ages, 9:00 a.m. Education for Ministry, 6–9 p.m.
Wednesday 25	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Friday 27–Sunday 29	Parish Retreat at Shrine Mont
Sunday 29	Daylight Saving Time ends: set your clocks back one hour! 21st Sunday after Pentecost Christian Formation for all ages, 9:00 a.m. Education for Ministry, 6–9 p.m.

Parish News

Thank you to

Bill Thomson, for donating a printer for the computer in the vestry room

John Wilson, for purchasing and installing a new monitor in the rector's office, as well as absorbing part of the cost

All who participated in our summer "open mike" series: Paul Petrich, Pamela Corey-Archer, Roger Ludwig, Galen Henderson, Roger Henderson, Jack Turner, Bill Schenck, Charles Adair, Lynn Robinson, James Robinson, and Carolyn Corlett

Del Hunt for installing carpeting upstairs in the children's chapel room.

Pat Stewart and her fellow garden angels, including Roger Ludwig, Tricia Wells, Beth and Brian Cavey, Bronwen Berliner, Lynn Christopher, Leslie Mead, Pamela Corey-Archer, and Liz White, for the wonderful work done to keep our grounds looking lovely through the summer

All who helped with Vacation Bible School (see article on page 5)

Those who moved the Glencarlyn Association grills to the shed, including Jeff Aitken, Keith McCartney, Del Hunt, Jack Turner, Sid Kaylor, Marshall Adair, Charles Adair, and Pamela Corey-Archer

Those who attended the meeting with Nancy McLaughlin, our contact with the Diocese of Virginia Congregational Development Committee that awards Mustard Seed grants

Charles Adair for teaching swing dancing on Sunday evenings during the summer

Del Hunt and crew, Charles Adair, Bill Thomson, and Pat Stewart, who cleared the brush from the back of the church

New Address for Peter and Angela Swarr

St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon Rd.,
Plymouth, MI 48170

1658 Heritage Dr., Canton, MI 48188

Congratulations to

Ericka Cullen and Jerry Ricketts on the birth of a son, Alex, in July

Jon Archer and Monica Lozano Archer, who renewed their marriage vows on their first anniversary during our 10:00 a.m. celebration of the Holy Eucharist on July 16

Rest in peace

Tom Clements, father of Jan, who entered the Life of the Resurrection in June

James Ray, brother-in-law of Harriet Rawls, who entered the Life of the Resurrection on July 5.

The Rev. Don Peterson, friend of Ann Barker, who entered the life of the Resurrection on July 5

Anne van Steenberg, friend of Jane Edwards, who died in Maine on August 20

Birthdays

Kay Gasker, September 5

Jeff Aitken, September 7

Kay Wells, September 7

Nicholas "Nick" Hall, (son of Greg & Laurie),
September 11, 1990

Clara Naw Sweet (daughter of Helen Naw Mumu),
September 12

Lane Turner, September 12

Dabney Dickerson, September 14

Connor McCartney, (son of Keith & Kaipo),
September 15, 2005

Will Spencer, September 15

The Rev. Sue Hardman, September 16

William Gibb, September 17

Karin Ferriter, September 18

Delaney Del Gallo (daughter of Andy & Cathi),
September 23, 1999

The Rev. Dr. Eduardo Guerra, September 23

Laurie Hall, September 24

Charles Lemmer, September 24

Anniversaries

Jack and Lane Turner, September 1

Matthew and Christina Tallent, September 28

Vacation Bible School Draws a Crowd

Twenty-one children from St. John's, St. Paul's, Cristo Rey, and the Glencarlyn neighborhood came to St. John's from July 9–13 to learn about Jesus at Vacation Bible School (VBS). This year's theme was "Fiesta," and our decorations included piñatas, sombreros, and chili peppers. Each evening the children learned a lesson about Jesus, including Jesus is our friend, Jesus is our leader, and Jesus is our life. They sang songs, saw a video, heard a story, did crafts, played games, and ate snacks that followed these themes. This year, Cristo Rey's vicar, Catherine Campbell, was the puppet master for Chadder, a chipmunk who helps children learn about loving others as Jesus loves us.

On Sunday, July 16, our children presented a song they learned in VBS for the congregation. They sang in English and Spanish.

Thanks go to so many people for making this wonderful annual event possible. We are especially grateful to Catherine Campbell, vicar of Cristo Rey; Lisa Sauders, Cristo Rey's summer seminarian and recreation program director; Norka Antelo and Valeria Guzman of Cristo Rey for coordinating the program and teaching the lessons; and Carrie Harbin, who directed our crafts program. We also thank Ann Williams of St. Paul's pre-school for music direction and Diane Henderson for her assistance, as well as Sue Hardman of St. Paul's for coordinating snacks. Bill Schenck and Leslie Mead provided dinners, as did members of Cristo Rey and St. Paul's.

For many years we have benefited from the able assistance of Lindsey Miller, now a rising sophomore at Sweetbriar College. Lindsey made snacks, helped with crafts, worked with music, and pitched in to help with many other things. In addition, we thank Claudia Calles of Cristo Rey, and George Schultz, Marion Reed, and Elmer Calles for their help.

Blessing of the Animals: October 1

In honor of the Feast of St. Francis, St. John's will hold its annual blessing of the animals on Sunday, October 1, at 5:00 p.m. in the garden area. Bring your pets; bring your friends and their pets. If your animal companions are shy or have difficulty with other animals around, please feel free to bring a photo and we'll pray for them as well.

In addition, during the Prayers of the People that Sunday, we'll read the names of pets, past and present, that have been special gifts in our lives and we'll also hear from our youth.

Fall Camp for Seniors at Shrine Mont: Discovering Ourselves Anew

The Fall Camp at Shrine Mont offers a variety of programs on the physical and spiritual challenges of growing older. Harry R. Moody, author of *The Five Stages of the Soul*, is the keynote speaker. Folk theologian Ed Kilbourne will provide music and storytelling. Workshops topics include: Passion, Death, and Resurrection: A Prescription for Living; Tai Chi; The Gift of Time and Caregiving as Ministry; The Labyrinth; and Telling Your Story. Sunday afternoon, October 23, through Thursday morning, October 26; \$220 per person for a single room, \$190 per person for a double room. For further information, call Marion Windel at 540-894-5330 or e-mail threed@cvalink.com.

St. John's Mission Statement

To discover and share the transforming love of Christ

St. John's Vision Statement

St. John's is dedicated to making disciples for Jesus through

- attracting and welcoming newcomers;
- sharing faith-deepening worship, education, outreach, and pastoral care; and
- together carrying God's vision of the kingdom into the world around us.

Education: Exploring Our Relationships with God, Neighbor and Self

Children's Education for 2006–2007: Love Your Neighbor

This year's theme for children's education is "Love Your Neighbor." During the 9:00 Sunday School hour, our young people will continue to work with the fair trade coffee project as they did last year, and they will participate in some local charitable projects as well. (They'll let us know if they need supplies.) They'll explore Bible stories that relate to the theme through songs, skits and discussion and help with some of our fellowship times after the 10:00 service. Plans are underway to have our children sing or perform during the 10:00 service about once a month. What a treat that will be!

During the 10:00 service, we will offer children's chapel each week. The children will go to our chapel upstairs and participate in a worship service that follows the liturgy, only on a kid level. They'll hear the same gospel lesson we do and respond to it in a variety of ways. They'll sing hymns, read a collect, and offer prayers of the people, just as we do. They'll join us in church or Ms. Helen in the nursery at the peace.

Note: Children are always welcome to participate in the entire service in the sanctuary with their parents.

Study Theology at St. Johns: Education for Ministry

Our Education for Ministry (EFM) seminar has an opening for one new student this fall. EFM is a program of the School of Theology of the University of the South designed to teach the core curriculum of the seminary to lay people. Students approach the following subjects through reading and small-group discussion: Old Testament, New Testament, Church History, and contemporary philosophy and theology. Classes meet on Sundays from 6–9 p.m. during the school year. For details, pick up an EFM packet at St. John's or contact Pat Bleicher at 703-532-9156 or pbleicher@aol.com.

Christian Formation for Adults

This year we'll be offering three types of adult education—our 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning classes, evening series during Advent and Lent, and a speaker series

that will begin in late fall. We plan to invite members of the local community, as well as members of St. John's to the speaker series.

At press time, plans were not entirely in place for the fall curriculum for Sunday mornings, but possible topics for September and October include a discussion of how Jesus, the disciples and the Christian faith are presented in the different gospels, depending on the writers' and original readers' perspectives; bioethical issues about quality vs. quantity of life, with special reference to the two top stories of 2005—stem cell research and the Terry Schiavo case; and a class on discerning how we can be faithful to God in the use of all our resources, loving both our neighbor and ourselves.

In November, Lorraine Underwood will begin a series on the "Seven Deadly Sins." She'll tell us about how the "list" was created and where it has been used in church history. We'll explore each of these topics further and look at implications for our own lives. After Easter, Lorraine will lead discussion and reflection on the seven (or eight) Christian virtues.

Possible topics for after Christmas include a journey through lesser known parts of the Book of Common Prayer, an update on the actions of General Convention and the Anglican Communion, and a discussion of denominations on the "fringes" of mainline Christianity.

Faye Pritchard and Bill Schenck are working hard on our speaker series, which will begin in the late fall and finish in the spring. The first topics will include the wise use of resources to help ourselves and others; dealing with end-of-life issues, immigration and a conversation between Islam and Christianity. Look for more information in later issues of the LOGOS.

Spring United Thank Offering

by Evelyn Sullivan

Our spring United Thank Offering (UTO) ingathering collected \$564.42 for local, national, and international relief programs. We received a note of thanks from Sandra Kirkpatrick, UTO Coordinator for the Diocese of Virginia.

Our fall UTO ingathering will take place in early November. Please continue putting coins in your blue boxes, thanking God for your many blessings. See me if you need a blue box.

Gospel Lessons for September

September 3, Mark 7:1–6, 14–15, 21–23, The 13th Sunday After Pentecost

In our Gospel passage, Jesus denounces those who find ways to ignore the genuine commandments of God, and he calls people to the awareness that the only evil that can corrupt a person comes from within. His judgments are occasioned by an accusation against his disciples that they are not following the rules of ritual cleansing. On one level, Jesus' words warn against the human tendency to fashion traditions that become more important than the law itself. More significantly, his teaching points to the dangers involved in making legalism the basis for one's life.

September 10, Mark 7:31–37, The 14th Sunday After Pentecost

In our Gospel Jesus heals a man who is deaf and has an impediment in his speech. The healing is understood as a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy concerning what is to take place as the new age dawns. The story is unusual in that emphasis is given to the means used by Jesus for the cure. The man may be seen as a model for the healed disciple who is now able both to hear and to proclaim the Lord's teaching. This miracle is part of a series of stories revealing who Jesus really is, although this could be not be widely known at the time.

September 17, Mark 8:27–38, The 15th Sunday After Pentecost

In this Gospel lesson, Peter recognizes that Jesus is the Christ, and Jesus then describes the true nature of the ministry of the Son of Man and what it means to follow in his way. The passage reminds us that during Jesus' lifetime and afterward there was speculation about his role. Some saw him as a kind of reemodiment of John the Baptist or another prophet. Peter is called Satan because his words are a temptation to turn away from the suffering and death that come before resurrection. Disciples must also learn that the true self and true life are found by those who will let themselves be lost for the sake of Jesus and the gospel.

September 24, Mark 9:30–37, The 16th Sunday After Pentecost

In the Gospel Jesus foretells his death and resurrection as the Son of Man, bids his disciples to have a servant ministry, and to learn to welcome him and God in a child. The several sayings are linked together by the theme of Jesus' lowliness and readiness to suffer for others. His followers' difficulty in understanding him and their discussions concerning which of them is greatest stand in sharp contrast to their Lord's teachings. Jesus' action and words with regard to the child remind us of another saying: that whatever is done to the least member of the community is done to him.

Lesson introductions are used by permission and adapted from *Introducing the Lessons of the Church Year* by the Rt. Rev. Frederick H. Borsch, retired bishop of the Diocese of Los Angeles. The guide was published by Trinity Press International, Philadelphia.

St. John's Book Club

by Lynn Robinson

Read any good books lately? We have! And we want to read more. St. John's Book Club is looking for members and suggestions of good book to read and discuss. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month from September through June. We hope to read from many different genres this year, including science fiction and classics. Come and help us by bringing titles you think would be good reading and good for discussion.

Join us on Tuesday, September 5, for a discussion of *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne. And we'll read and discuss many more books during the coming year. At the September meeting, we hope to come up with a list of books for the rest of the year. We begin at 7:30 p.m. and are always done by 9:00 p.m. Usually we have coffee (decaf, of course) and munchies to go with the talk.

Can't make every first Tuesday? That's okay. Come when you can. Need a ride? Let us know. We'll come get you. Got any questions? Just ask me at coffee hour or call me at 703-998-6481. See you at the next meeting of St. John's Book Club!

Won't You Be My Neighbor? Parish Retreat at Shrine Mont

by Faye Pritchard

I started going to Shrine Mont two years ago just to relax and heal from the stress and strains of daily life. I had never before attended a church-sponsored retreat where I was encouraged to do whatever I felt I needed to do to restore body, mind, and spirit—even if that meant sitting on a rocking chair on the front porch the entire weekend.

I intended to vegetate. Instead I found myself drawn into the activities and opportunities the weekend offered. I went home far more refreshed than I had anticipated.

I found good feeling and healing in socializing with the people at the retreat—over meals, at the ice cream social, around a bonfire, or just sitting in the living room of our cottage talking. I found new energy from taking part in the program and its discussions, and I felt delight at finding out we would be watching a “real” movie on Saturday evening—last year it was *Chocolat*—as the catalyst for the closing discussion.

I had plenty of time for what I needed to do and what I wanted to do. There was time to climb the mountain, time to meditate by myself, time to browse in the bookstore and read a little, time to play horseshoes, and time to worship. Where did all that time come from?

Now I am looking forward to this year's Shrine Mont weekend at the end of October. The Rev. Sue Hardman, who led last year's program, will be leading the program again, offering a feast for the mind and spirit. The theme is “Won't You Be My Neighbor?” The Shrine Mont staff will be serving up good cooking, offering a feast to satisfy those big appetites that seem to grow even bigger in the mountain air. And the fall color should be gorgeous, offering one more feast, this time for the eyes.

Come join us!

Website and the Newsletter

The website for St. John's, Arlington is:
<http://stjohnsarlington.thediocese.net>

Misplaced your LOGOS? Can't remember the time an event begins? Visit the website for the latest copy of the newsletter, times and places of events and activities.

Many parishioners are receiving the LOGOS electronically now. If you want to give it a try, contact the church office for more information.

Calling All Church Women

“Living in the Light of God's Call” is the theme of the 115th Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of the Diocese of Virginia. The event will take place at on October 28 at the Church of the Holy Comforter in Vienna, and will include recognition of women clergy in celebration of 30 years of ordained ministry.

The keynote speaker, Marjory Zoet Bankson, is a noted artist, author, and retreat leader, who is also editor of *Faith@Work* magazine. She says of her presentation: “Do you feel too busy to care? Overwhelmed with the needs of others? Guilty when you ignore phone calls and e-mails from others? Would you be surprised to learn that God's call for you now, at this point in your life, can help you set priorities? Give you a sense of direction and peace?”

Following lunch will be a celebration Holy Eucharist with Bishop Lee as Celebrant. During the service, the 117th Ingathering of the United Thank Offering (UTO) will be held. The cost is \$20 per person for the program (lunch is included). For further information, contact Kathy Tearno at 703-938-6521.

LOGOS

The LOGOS is published nine times a year in February, March, April, May, July, September, October, November, and December near the beginning of the month.

Lorraine Underwood, LOGOS Editor

Ms. Jane Edwards, LOGOS Editor and Page Layout

Email Lorraine at logos2stj@aol.com (preferred) or leave disk in Newsletter box in the office.

The next deadline is Friday, September 15 at 10:00 am.

Shrine Mont Weekend

Friday evening dinner, October 27, through lunch on Sunday, October 29

You can sign up on the sheet at the Shrine Mont display in St. John's undercroft, or you can mail (or hand in) this form to St. John's Episcopal Church, 415 South Lexington Street, Arlington, VA 22204.

The cost is \$120 per adult, which covers room (2 nights) and board (6 meals) for the entire weekend. Please make your check out to St. John's and be sure to indicate on the memo line that the check is for the Shrine Mont weekend.

Please sign up by October 16, 2006.

Name: _____

Daytime phone number: _____ Evening phone number: _____

My check is enclosed: Yes _____ No _____

For more information, please contact Bill and Faye Pritchard at 703-931-2168.

St. John's Episcopal Church
415 South Lexington Street
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703-671-6834
<http://stjohnsarlington.thediocese.net>

Next deadline is Friday, September 15 at 10:00 a.m.

Time Sensitive Material—Please Deliver Promptly

Staff

Rector: The Rev. Ann B. Barker
Minister of Music: Lynn Robinson
Organist: Carol Dunlap
Secretary: Virginia Pearson
Sexton: Justiniano Garay

Ministry Coordinators

Communications/Evangelism Ministry: Vacant
Education Ministry: Diane Henderson (adult),
Beth Fowler (children and youth)
Outreach Ministry: Vacant
Pastoral Care Ministry: Vacant
Newcomer Hospitality Ministry: Michelle Aitken

Vestry

Lisa Buchanan
Pamela Corey-Archer
Don Hess, Junior Warden
Bill Pritchard
Linda Trochim, Senior Warden
Jack Turner
Kay Wells

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