



# 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*

## **From the Rector: The Gift of Gratitude**

We often think of gratitude for gifts, but we don't always think of gratitude itself as a gift. Being able to appreciate the blessings God has given us and then use them to bless others is truly a gift in itself because it helps us draw closer to God.

Some people find it hard to be grateful. Once I heard my mom say that someone she knew "thought the world owed him a living." In other words, he felt entitled to everything he received or could grasp because it was his due. It's impossible to express gratitude if you don't feel gifted.

Some people don't think they deserve anything. These folks are not able to accept compliments graciously, and they always make sure to "pay someone back" so they never feel indebted to anyone. If you negate a gift by refusing to accept it as such, you cannot be grateful.

It is really sad—and self-destructive—to be unable to say "thank you." God wants to feed us physically, emotionally, and spiritually. We need to receive that love, without expecting it or expecting to pay it back. Being unable to receive gratefully is quite a burden.

This month at St. John's we have many occasions to give thanks. Here are just a few.

- ▶ **Feast of Thanksgiving.** Our most obvious opportunity to give thanks is the Feast of Thanksgiving. We will celebrate the Holy Eucharist on Thanksgiving Eve, November 22, at 7:30 p.m., instead of the candlelight prayer service. As you reflect on your blessings, reflect on those who are blessed by you. Think about all the relationships that are strengthened by gifts given and gifts received—your relationship with God, your friends, your family—and don't forget yourself. The gift of self-appreciation and self-care, of gratitude for yourself, exactly where you are, is priceless.
- ▶ **United Thank Offering Fall Ingathering.** On November 19 we will give thanks for our many blessings by putting coins in a blue box or writing a check. We are able to give God thanks because of our blessings by offering gifts to others. We do not expect to be paid back by them; what draws us close together is not a transaction, but the mystery of the gift of gratitude: from us to God, from God to us for sharing our resources, from those who receive our gifts, and from their gratitude to us for our generosity.
- ▶ **All Saints' Day.** On Sunday, November 5, we give thanks for all the saints—all those who came before us, those who have helped us on our Christian journeys,

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St. John's Episcopal Church, Arlington • The Rev. Ann Barker, Rector • November 2006  
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those who supported St. John's, who helped to build up the Body of Christ, and those of every faith who seek to do God's will. And that leads me to ...

- ▶ **Our Commitment Campaign.** Our Commitment Campaign, which began on October 22, closes on November 5. The community of St. John's is blessed by every one of you, who give from your generous hearts and not because you have to pay dues or you will go to hell or feel guilty if you don't. Without your generous gifts, we would not have the opportunity to minister to those in need. This year, remember that St. John's—and the entire Body of Christ—is grateful to you for your financial gifts.

We are grateful, too, for your gifts of time and talent, for without you, we could not serve God in this place. Gratitude is a two-way street. Remember what you are grateful for, but also who is grateful to you—God, the Christian community, the members of St. John's, and the people who receive what we have to give.

Each one of you at St. John's is a real gift to me in so many ways. Thank you for your generosity and your love. I am grateful to God for the gifts God gives me through you, and I give thanks to God for the ability to be grateful.

Ann†

### **St. John's Speaker Series: Caring for Yourself, Caring for Other**

Our new speaker series continues in November with a presentation on Islam, "Engaging Faiths: Relating to Our Muslim Neighbors in Today's World." On Monday, November 20, at 7:30 p.m., Imam Mohamed Magid from the All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) Center, will lead a discussion on shared values and common beliefs to give us a basis for living in community in a polarized world. The imam will discuss the similarities between Christianity and Islam and help us to explore ways we can work together in interfaith initiatives. To learn more about the ADAMS Center, visit their Web site at: [www.adamscenter.org](http://www.adamscenter.org).

### **Shop at Safeway: Help St. John's**

by Bill Thomson

One of the little-known secrets at St. John's is the Safeway rebate program. I'm sure you're all familiar with the school rewards programs run by Safeway and Giant. But Safeway will also rebate some of money you spend with your Safeway card to charities—and St. John's is eligible! To sign up and earn money for St. John's, just follow these easy steps below. Be sure to have your Safeway card with you before you start.

1. Log on to <http://shop.safeway.com>. At the bottom of the page, click on *About Us*. On the next page, left-hand side, click on *Community Caring*.
2. Enter St. John's zip code (22204) in the Zip Code box.
3. Click on *escrip.com* at the bottom of the green box.
4. Under *Make a Difference in Four Easy Steps*, click on ① *Sign Up—It's Free*.
5. Click the Option Button next to Group ID and enter 1046320. "St. John's Episcopal" will appear. Click on it.
6. Proceed to the next step and follow the directions to continue registering.

You may also register by calling (800) 400-7878.

### **St. John's Garden Needs Your Help**

by Pat Stewart

It's almost time to put the garden to bed. Please mark your calendars and come help on Saturday, November 4, between 9:00 a.m. and noon. The main tasks are to clean out the flowerbeds, control weeds, empty plant containers, and store them indoors. You may sign up on the sheet posted in the undercroft or call Pat Stewart at (703) 516-9390.

### **Rector's Pager Cancelled**

Ann has cancelled her pager. If you have a pastoral emergency and cannot reach Ann at home, vestry members and our secretary, Virginia Pearson, have her cell phone number.

## Parish News

### Thank you to

Patrick, Larry and Harriet Rawls for donating a Lexmark printer to the rector's office

Del Hunt, for helping Virginia rearrange her office to make room for the new copier

Bill Thomson, Leslie Mead, John Petrich, Paul Petrich, Jack Turner, Del Hunt, Sheryl, Sebi and Amanda Prado, Bill and Faye Pritchard, Betty Vertiz, Pat Stewart, and Carrie, Bryan, and Maddie Harbin for passing out animal blessing flyers in the Glencarlyn neighborhood

Bill Pritchard for designing our speaker series ad for the local newsletters

### Birthdays

David Dunlap, November 1

Natalie Kniskern, November 2

Keith McCartney, November 2

Betty Geris, November 3

Roger Ludwig, November 4

Douglas Le Sage (son of Lori Held),  
November 13, 1997

Dave Robinson, November 13

Beth Fowler, November 14

Bronwen Berliner, November 15

Jean Harrison, November 15

Laura Van Wyk, November 16

### Anniversaries

Roger and Diane Henderson, November 4

Jeff and Michele Aitken, November 6

Brian and Beth Cavey, November 10

Del and Carole Hunt, November 24

### LOGOS

The next LOGOS will be a December / January issue, and the deadline is November 10 at 10:00 a.m. Send any information or articles to Lorraine Underwood at [logos2stj@aol.com](mailto:logos2stj@aol.com).

## The Seven Deadly Sins Today

Pride, anger, envy, greed, lust, gluttony, sloth. These "states of mind" are called *deadly* because they separate us from the love of God and the love of our neighbor. We've probably all experienced one of more of them during our lives. Carried too far, they drag us down, they *deaden* our souls. These seven big, bad ones have fascinated theologians and philosophers for centuries.

On Sunday, November 5, Lorraine Underwood will begin a series on the "Seven Deadly Sins Today". She'll tell us about how the "list" was created and where it has been used in church history. We'll explore each of the seven, and look at how they manifest themselves in current events and in our own lives. We'll also talk about how to be aware of these tendencies and control them so that we may stay close to God.

### St. John's Book Club

by Lynn Robinson

In November, St. John's Book Club will discuss *Joshua*, by Joseph P. Girzone. In December, we will discuss *My Grandfather's Blessings*, by Rachel Naomi Remen.

Please join us on Tuesday, November 7, at 7:30 p.m. for a lively discussion. 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!

### 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](mailto:logos2stj@aol.com) (preferred) or leave disk in Newsletter box in the office.

*The next deadline is Friday, November 10 at 10:00 am.*

## St. John's Calendar

### November

Wednesday 1	All Saints Day Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday 2	Morning Guild, 10:00 a.m. Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
Saturday 4	Put Garden to Bed, 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon
Sunday 5	22nd Sunday After Pentecost, All Saints Day (observed) Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:00 a.m. Christian Formation for all ages, 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday 7	<b>Election Day: Remember to Vote!</b> Book Club, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
Wednesday 8	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday 9	Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
Friday 10	Veterans' Day Holiday, Office Closed
Sunday 12	23rd Sunday After Pentecost Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:00 a.m. Christian Formation for all ages, 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday 15	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday 16	Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
Saturday 18	Men's fellowship, 9:00 a.m., in the undercroft
Sunday 19	24th Sunday After Pentecost Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:00 a.m. Christian Formation for all ages, 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:00 a.m.
Monday 20	Speaker Series, 7:30–9:00 p.m., Imam Mohamed Magid on, "Engaging Faiths: Relating to Our Muslim Neighbors in Today's World"
Wednesday 22	Thanksgiving Service, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday 23	Thanksgiving Holiday, Office Closed
Friday 24	Thanksgiving Holiday, Office Closed
Sunday 26	Last Sunday in Pentecost, Feast of Christ the King Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:00 a.m. Christian Formation for all ages, 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday 29	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday 30	Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

### December

Sunday 3	The First Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:00 a.m. Christian Formation for all ages, 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday 5	Book Club
Wednesday 6	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 7	Morning Guild, 10:00 a.m. Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
Sunday 10	The Second Sunday of Advent
Wednesday 13	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday 14	Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
Saturday 16	Men’s fellowship, 9:00 a.m., in the undercroft
Sunday 17	The Third Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:00 a.m. Christian Formation for all ages, 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant, 5:00 p.m. Caroling in the Neighborhood, 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday 20	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday 21	Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
Sunday 24	<b>On this Sunday, we will celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent in the morning and Christmas Eve in the evening</b> Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist for all ages, with Children’s Sermon, 5:00 p.m. Christmas music and caroling in the church, 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Festival Holy Eucharist, 11:00 p.m.
Monday 25	Christmas Day Holy Eucharist with carols, 10:00 a.m.

## Advent Retreats at Roslyn

The Diocese of Virginia is offering two Advent retreats at the Roslyn Retreat Center in Richmond. The retreat themes are related, but each event stands alone. You do not need to attend one to attend the other. For further information, contact Carolyn Chilton, 1-800-DIOCESE, ext. 29 or Chilton@thediocese.net.

**Preparing for Advent: A Retreat on Relationships.** The Advent and Christmas seasons can be stressful times. This retreat will focus on renewing relationships and staying focused on the coming of the Kingdom of God. Friday and Saturday, December 1–2.

**Advent Quiet Day.** This quiet day will build on the theme of relationships developed during the early December retreat. Monday, December 11, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### 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.



## **Gospel Lessons for November**

### **November 5, Mark 12:28–34, 22nd Sunday After Pentecost**

In this Gospel, Jesus answers a question concerning the chief commandment of the law by reciting the double commandment to love God and one's neighbor. Jesus was not unique in bringing together these two great teachings from Israel's heritage, but the New Testament gives them special emphasis. They are closely linked, for in responding to God's love, we learn that we are lovable, and so begin to be able to love others as ourselves. In loving our neighbors we discover the mystery that we are also loving in them their Creator. The man who asked Jesus the question repeats the commandments in his own words. He is not far from the kingdom.

### **November 12, Mark 12:38–44, 23rd Sunday After Pentecost**

In our Gospel lesson, Jesus warns against religious officials who love honors and flattery, and he then points out a poor widow who makes an offering of what little she possesses. Together the two stories stress a theme found often in the Gospels: those who think themselves religious are in great danger of living a life of hypocrisy, while genuine trust in God may be found among the least obvious. The religious officials take advantage of people like widows, and wealth persons make a show of giving large sums of money, but the woman herself is an example of the greatest generosity. Her gift of all she has points forward to Jesus' self-offering.

### **November 19, Mark 13:14–23, 24th Sunday After Pentecost**

In the Gospel the disciples are forewarned of an act of sacrilege, a time of fearful tribulation, and the appearance of persons claiming to be the Christ. Many Jews and early Christians believed that the forces of evil would wage a last desperate battle before the end of history. In one sense it is a way of saying that evil makes its strongest challenge just when the opportunity for good is the greatest. This oracle was used to help interpret the meaning of events a generation or so after Christ's death. The desolating sacrilege was a pagan profanation of the temple. The Lord will make the struggle mercifully short.

### **November 26, John 18:33–27, 25th Sunday After Pentecost**

In the Gospel, as his passion draws near, Jesus comes face to face with the Roman Governor and seeks to explain the nature of his kingship. It has been suggested to Pilate that Jesus pretends to be some form of political ruler. But Jesus' kingship does not use the force of this world's weapons. Pilate then realizes that Jesus' kingdom must be of a different order. The sovereignty of Jesus is found in his witness to divine truth. He reveals God's purpose and character, and those who share in this truth hear his voice.

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.

## **Copier News**

We now have a new copier in Virginia's office. It is complicated, so please use it only for office-related copying. We have moved the old copier to the closet in the vestry room; please use that copier for personal copies. And, please contribute funds for copying as you can. Thanks.

## **United Thank Offering Collection is November 19**

by Evelyn Sullivan

Our fall ingathering of the United Thank Offering (UTO) will take place on Sunday, November 19. A ministry of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW), UTO gives us a chance to thank God for our many daily blessings. ECW combines St. John's donation with those of other Episcopal churches and uses the money to support missions and human needs at home and around the world.

The most familiar way to collect a contribution for UTO is a blue box in which we collect coins as we give thanks for the blessings God gives us each day. If you do not have a blue box, you can pick one up from the table in the narthex or St. John's table in the undercroft. If you collect lots of change in your blue box, please have mercy on our tellers and convert it into dollars or write a check. Whether or not you use a blue box, you can write a check to St. John's on November 19 and designate it for UTO.



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*Next deadline is Friday, November 10 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

### **LOGOS Volunteers**

Editor: Lorraine Underwood  
Editor, Page Layout and Webmaster: Jane Edwards