



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 Weight of Waiting

Advent is about waiting. We are waiting for Jesus to be born. We are waiting for Jesus to return again in glory. Our waiting for Jesus to be born in the manger, which was a matter of God's timing the first time around, is now a matter of marking days off a calendar. Our celebration of Jesus' birth will happen December 25 and we know that. Jesus' coming again in glory is totally a matter of God's timing. We have nothing to do with it. Not even Jesus knew when it would happen.

I have experienced a lot of waiting, and I have learned that there is a weight to waiting. The weight can be physical, emotional, or spiritual. It can actually bear down on you.

The classic example of the weight of waiting in Advent is, of course, Mary's pregnancy. The weight of Mary's waiting is physical. As the months pass, Mary grew heavier with her child. It was certainly uncomfortable for her at times. Think of riding on a donkey on a dusty, bumpy road while you are nine months pregnant!

Waiting can be related to physical weight for us, too. Waiting for virtually anything, from the change of a traffic light to a reply from a college admissions department to medical test results, can make us uncomfortable. And when we are uncomfortable, many of us either eat and gain weight or don't eat and lose weight.

But the biggest weight we experience around waiting is emotional. Just think about what happens between Thanksgiving and Christmas for most of us. There are so many things on our to-do list that we worry about squeezing them all in. We may have a difficult family situation that adds emotional weight to our holiday season, or a certain image of Christmas past that burdens us.

The weight of our busyness can be lightened by joyful anticipation. Our children are excited and we may enjoy driving around and looking at lights, making Advent wreaths, decorating our homes, wrapping presents with pretty paper and ribbons. The joy of anticipation lightens our hearts—and lightens the weight we carry as we wait.

There is a much bigger emotional weight associated with waiting for something to happen—like the second coming—on God's time. We can prepare, but sometimes we must just wait, and that can bear down hard on us. That feeling of being out of control and helpless can be especially heavy if you feel alone or lonely. If you are looking for work, you can do some things—look at the want ads, send out a résumé, go on an interview. But still, you have to wait. Like the wise virgins in Jesus' story, we can prepare our oil

lamps, but we cannot make the bridegroom come any faster.

But the prepared virgins are wise not only because they have filled their lamps, but also because they are with one another and they trust that the bridegroom will come. Having companions along the way and trusting that God will bring good to pass is the best way to lighten the weight of waiting.

An example from my own life is the deep emptiness I feel because one of my most fulfilling jobs, that of being Evan's mother, is for the most part gone. But by God's grace, I discovered that I don't have to fill that hole immediately. I have to wait for God to fill it!

There is huge difference between filling your time yourself and allowing God—waiting for God—to fill you. I thought it would be awful to have to wait. Instead, I literally felt emotional weight roll off my body on the day I realized that I did not have to make that loneliness and emptiness go away. What a relief! It is OK to wait for God to do God's work, because God has our best interests at heart.

We spend a large part of our lives waiting, and there is nothing wrong with that. In fact, it is good. Waiting time can be fruitful and productive, both physically and emotionally. What God has in store for us is so much richer, so much better than the busyness we find to fill up our days. Invite God into your waiting. Let God be your Christmas star, the light that beckons you toward the Holy Child, the One who fill your heart with joy and lighten your burdens.

Don't let the Advent season be too busy as you prepare for Christmas. During Advent, God calls us to wait. Find time to wait with God, to wait on God, as Christmas approaches. Let God help you carry the weight of waiting. You will see that waiting for God's time and God's blessing produces greater gifts than you could ever imagine.

Ann †

Membership at St. John's

St. John's has a very simple definition of membership. If you consider yourself a member of this community, then you are a member of this community. We put your name on the list to receive congregation-wide mailings, including the LOGOS and our Commitment Campaign letter. Your name is included in the parish directory (see article below about upcoming directory update).

The Episcopal Church also has a definition of membership. That includes being confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church by a bishop. This option is for people who want to join the Episcopal Church at St. John's, moving their membership from another branch of Christ's One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. We hope to have a bishop visit in late winter or early spring to receive and confirm those who wish to become members of the Episcopal Church. Those who have not made an adult profession of faith in another church are confirmed, while those who have done so are received. If you are interested in Confirmation or Reception, please let Ann know.

If you are a member of another Episcopal Church and wish to transfer your membership to St. John's, you simply ask your previous church to transfer your membership letter to St. John's. (Ann or Virginia can help you with this if needed.)

Parish Directory Update

Beginning on annual meeting Sunday, January 7, we will gather updates for the parish directory. We will pass around a directory with the updates we have since our last directory was issued in August 2005 and ask you to check your information to make sure it is correct. You can also add an e-mail address if you would like. We will contact people by mail as well, especially our friends and alumni list. Please be on the lookout for your opportunity to update your information.

Parish News

Thank You to

The Morning Guild and all their helpers who set up, brought food, decorated, served cleaned up, or in any way helped with our fall tea. The tea brought in more than \$1200.

Jack Turner for signage for the Blessing of the Animals, the Tea and new signs for our speaker series

Jack Turner and helpers Bryan Harbin and Chris Tyson for relocating and updating our signs on Carlin Springs Road

Bill Schenck for arranging for our October speaker, Kathy Kucik, and to Bill Pritchard for arranging our November speaker, Imam Mohamed Magid

Bill Schenck and Faye Pritchard for coordinating the speaker series

All who passed out flyers for the animal blessing

The hardy souls who passed out flyers from Arlington Forest to Barcroft to Glencarlyn for our speaker series

Bill Pritchard for creating the flyers for the speaker series and keeping up with ads in our neighborhood newspapers

Faye and Bill Pritchard for coordinating our Shrine Mont retreat and to Sue and Rob Hardman for their leadership

Dave Dunlap, for helping us learn how to individually address letters from the computer

Faye Pritchard, for serving as chair of the Commitment Campaign

Virginia Pearson, for all her hard work on the Commitment Campaign

Liz White for preparing the Commitment Campaign letters for mailing, as well as the November LOGOS and volunteer lists

The Sunday School class—Paul and John Petrich, Maddie Harbin, and Galen Henderson—and their adult helpers, especially Bryan Harbin, master carpenter, and Leslie Mead, who got materials donated, for the wonderful cross they made for children's chapel (see article on page 5)

Pat Stewart, Jim and Jan Hull, Kenji and Keith McCartney, Del Hunt, Pamela Corey-Archer, Romana Martin, and Lynn Christopher, for helping put the garden to bed for the winter

Rest in peace

Ralph Weber, brother of Jean Harrison, who entered the life of the Resurrection in October

Carolyn Perrick, friend of Harriet Rawls, who entered the life of the Resurrection November 7

Annual Meeting January 7

St. John's annual meeting will be held Sunday, January 7. We will elect vestry members and thank those who have served St. John's throughout the year. The finance committee will present the budget for 2007, and we will discuss some issues related to St. John's future. Our normal time is right after the 10:00 service, but we are looking for a time that might encourage more folks to attend. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to let Ann know. If the time or date of the meeting is changed, we will let you know.

Class on the Seven Deadly Sins Continues

On Sunday, November 5, Lorraine Underwood began a series on the "Seven Deadly Sins Today." During Advent, we will continue our examination of pride, anger, envy, greed, lust, gluttony, and sloth. We will focus on how these states of mind separate us from God and our neighbor. Each class is self-contained and you're welcome to join us at any class.

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, January 12 at 10:00 am.

Thank You to Vestry and Officers

Those who serve on vestry and in other leadership positions are vital to keeping St. John's running. They work very hard all year to make sure St. John's is a good steward of its resources, a servant community to the surrounding area and a vision-based parish, always working to discern God's will. Their time, energy and talents are especially appreciated.

We thank this year's vestry for their dedicated service:

- ▶ Linda Trochim, senior warden
- ▶ Don Hess, junior warden for two years (term ends in 2006)
- ▶ Pamela Corey-Archer
- ▶ Kay Wells (term ends in 2006)
- ▶ Bill Pritchard
- ▶ Jack Turner

We are also grateful to

- ▶ Jean Harrison, who has served faithfully as treasurer of this parish for more than 10 years
- ▶ Bill Thomson, who will be stepping down to focus on other ministries after serving as assistant treasurer for three years
- ▶ John Wilson, finance committee chair
- ▶ Bill Schenck, finance committee member and insurance monitor extraordinaire
- ▶ Barbara Hill, our long-time pledge clerk

We welcome John Restall as our new assistant treasurer. Vestry elections will be held at the annual meeting on Sunday, January 7 (see article on page 3). We hope to add three more dedicated vestry members to the four who are continuing. More information about vestry job descriptions will be forthcoming.

Birthdays

Barbara Hill, December 5
Lindsey Miller, December 5
Del Hunt, December 6
Galen Henderson, December 7
Madeline Harbin, December 11
Shirley Jones, December 12
Castlen Bear, December 15
Lori Held, December 16
Angela Rollett, December 19
Liam Scarborough, December 22
Roger Henderson, December 24
Vernon Martin, December 24
Eileen Flynn, December 27
Emily Tyson (daughter of Karen Ferriter),
December 31
Emily Lodson, December 31
Patricia Broida, January 1
Janet Spence, January 2
Keelyn Del Gallo (daughter of Andy & Cathi),
January 4, 2004
Chris Tyson (son of Karin Ferriter), January 5
Don Hess, January 5
Ashton Lemmer (daughter of Charles & Cheryl),
January 9
Tony Kollath, January 14
Paul Stenger, January 19
Greg Hall, January 20
Ariel Hall, January 26
Jan Clements, January 27

Anniversaries

Ross & Dabney Dickerson, December 12
David & Carol Dunlap, December 13
Klaus & Lori Held, December 31
Don & Penny Hess, December 31
Greg & Laurie Hall, January 22

St. John's Youth Create Cross for Children's Chapel

The children of St. John's Sunday School have made a beautiful cross to put in the children's chapel room on the third floor. The cross has a white background and is decorated with brightly colored mosaics. To make the mosaic pieces, the children had to break casserole tops—crockery donated by Fiestaware. The cross frame and finishing were done by Bryan Harbin. We dedicated the cross on All Saints Sunday. If you missed it, be sure to go see it upstairs in the second room on your left. What a wonderful gift from our children!

Website

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.

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.

Welcome Our New Members

We are delighted to welcome several new members. If you haven't already, please say hello and introduce yourself to:

- ▶ Laura and Chris Van Wyk
- ▶ Heather and Tony Kollath and their daughter Abigail
- ▶ Sheryl Pardo and her children Anna and Sebi
- ▶ Ksenia Shkaruta (working in this country for a year)
- ▶ Jim and Jan Hull
- ▶ Angie Franci
- ▶ Michael and Stephanie Beavins and their sons Sam and Jacob

St. John's Calendar

December

Sunday 3	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	St. John's Book Club, 7:30–9:00 p.m. (<i>My Grandfather's Blessings: Stories of Strength, Refuge, and Belonging</i> , by Rachel Naomi Remen)
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	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	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	On this Sunday, we will celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent in the morning and Christmas Eve in the evening. (Please note: there is no Christian education and no 10:00 a.m. service.) Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:00 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. Festival Holy Eucharist, with choir and instrumentalists, 11:00 p.m.
Monday 25	Christmas Day Holy Eucharist with carols, 10:00 a.m. Office Closed
Wednesday 27	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday 31	First Sunday After Christmas Holy Eucharist Rite I, with Lessons and Canticles, 8:00 a.m. No Christian Education Holy Eucharist Rite II, with Lessons and Carols, 10:00 a.m.

January 2007

Monday 1	New Year's Day, Office Closed
Tuesday 2	St. John's Book Club, 7:30–9:00 p.m. (<i>To Everything There Is a Season</i> , by Alice Miller)
Wednesday 3	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday 4	Morning Guild, 10:00 a.m. Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
Saturday 6	The Epiphany of Our Lord
Sunday 7	First Sunday After the Epiphany The Epiphany of Our Lord (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. St. John's Annual Meeting, 11:15 a.m.
Tuesday 9	Vestry Meeting, 7:00–9:00 p.m.
Wednesday 10	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday 11	Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
Saturday 13	Men's fellowship, 9:00 a.m., in the undercroft
Sunday 14	Second Sunday After the Epiphany The Baptism of Our Lord (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.
Wednesday 17	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday 18	Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
Sunday 21	Third Sunday After the Epiphany 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 25	Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday 26	Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
Sunday 28	Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany 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.

Volunteers: Check Your Schedules!

The volunteer schedules for Sunday mornings and the Christmas holidays have been distributed. They go through February 18. Please check your assignments for December 24, 25, and 31 (Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and the Sunday after Christmas). If you will be away, please find a substitute as soon as possible, and let the office know at 703-671-6834.

St. John's Outreach Activities

Secret Santa

Our Secret Santa tree will be up in early December. Each year, Arlington County gives St. John's the name of a needy family for whom we provide gifts. Ornaments on the tree include a family member's name and clothing size and perhaps a gift or two that is desired. We ask that only one gift item per ornament be purchased so everyone gets an equal number of gifts. The county also provides a list of household items needed that can be purchased. Gift cards and other non-perishable food items are also welcome. We are thankful to the Morning Guild for coordinating this outreach project.

Christmas Pageant Offering Goes to Heifer Project Again

St. John's annual Christmas pageant, to be held Sunday, December 17, at 5:00 p.m. will take up a freewill offering to go to the Heifer project. The Heifer Project provides livestock, seeds, and other agricultural supplies to families in need in other countries. Our children enjoy selecting the animals and other gifts they want to provide from the money raised. The goal of the Heifer project is to help families become self-supporting.

Taking a Break from A-SPAN

For the last several years, with the guidance and enthusiasm of Ron Quirk, St. John's has provided meals to the A-SPAN homeless shelter during the winter months. Because Ron has moved to another church and we do not have a coordinator, we have decided to take this year off. Caring for the homeless has been an important ministry of St. John's, and we will take this break to consider our options for this ministry in the future.

Gospel Lessons for December

December 3, The First Sunday of Advent, Luke 21:25-31

In our Gospel lesson Jesus tells his disciples of the awe-inspiring crisis to come, which they may also recognize as the beginning of their time of redemption. The heaven and earth will bear fearsome witness before the appearance of the heavenly judge, the Son of Man. As the budding fig tree foretells the advance of summer, so can all this calamity be recognized as a preparation for the drawing near of the kingdom of God. While in one sense the passage makes use of the language of poetry to describe the indescribable, its central intention is clear: the ultimate purpose and meaning of life will finally be revealed.

December 10, The Second Sunday of Advent, Luke 3:1-6

The Gospel of Luke sets the prophetic ministry of John the Baptist in the context of its time in history. It was customary during this era to date events with reference to the lives of rulers and well-known public figures. Within this history the word of God comes to John as he preaches his baptism of repentance. His ministry is in fulfillment of the words of Isaiah concerning the one who prepares the way of the Lord.

December 17, The Third Sunday of Advent, Luke 3:7-18

In our Gospel, John the Baptist preaches repentance to all those who hear his call to baptism, and he tells them of the mighty one to come. It is not sufficient to claim to be children of Abraham. All who are sure to escape judgment must learn to share with others and to be just in their daily work. John himself is not the Christ, but the servant of the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and a refining fire.

December 24, The Fourth Sunday of Advent, Luke 1:39-49

The Gospel tells the story Mary's visit to her kinswoman, Elizabeth, and this humble woman's song of thanksgiving to the savior God who has called her to be the mother of the Lord. Elizabeth is herself pregnant with a child who will be John the Baptist. Even

in her womb this baby is joyful in Mary's presence. All generations will call Mary blessed.

December 24, The Nativity of Our Lord— Christmas Eve, Luke 2:1–14

The Gospel presents the story of the birth of Jesus. He is born amid very humble human circumstances. A government registration program requires Joseph and Mary to go to Bethlehem, the city of David. Because there was no other place for them to stay, Mary lays her new son in the stable manger. An angel then appears to shepherds and announces the joyful news of the Savior's birth.

December 25, The Nativity of Our Lord— Christmas Day, Luke 2:15–20

The Gospel tells how the shepherds, after the angelic vision that announced Jesus' birth, come to Bethlehem to see for themselves the promised child. They share with Mary and Joseph the word of the angels. In this little baby, laid in a manger, they perceive the fulfillment of the song of the heavenly hosts. Glorifying and praising God, they return to their fields.

December 31, The First Sunday After Christmas, John 1:1–18

The Gospel opens with a hymn to God's Word, the expression of God's very being and the creative power of all life, who has now become flesh and lived among us. The Word is the light of all humankind, and it was witnessed to by John the Baptist. Although the world made by the Word did not recognize the Word, those who did believe in the Word have been given the right to become children of God. The law came through Moses, but grace and truth come through the only Son, who makes the Father known.

Gospel Lessons for January 2007

January 7, Matthew 2:1–12, The Feast of the Epiphany (observed)

Our Gospel is the story of the wise men from the east, who guided by a star, came to worship the child born to be king. Despite the wicked plotting of Herod, the Magi are able to bring their gifts to Jesus without betraying his exact location. Early Christians found in the rich symbolism and motifs

of the story the early fulfillment of both Old Testament prophecy and the dreams of many peoples. The meaning of this birth, amid terrifying human circumstances, enlightens and transcends human history.

January 14, Luke 3:15–16, 21–22, The Feast of the Baptism of our Lord (observed)

This is the story of Jesus' baptism. Some people expected that John the Baptist might be the Christ, but he points to a yet mightier one to come whose baptism will be decisive. The Holy Spirit is then manifest and shows this one to be Jesus. A voice from heaven speaks to him in words that echo ancient oracles concerning the king and the calling of the Lord's chosen servant.

January 21, Luke 4:14–21, Third Sunday After the Epiphany

In our Gospel story, Jesus returns to Galilee and enters the synagogue in Nazareth. Here he gives what has been called his inaugural sermon. He reads from the book of the prophet Isaiah. These words offer hope and good news to the poor and tell of healing and freedom for the oppressed. This time, Jesus says, has begun.

January 28, Luke 4:21–32, Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany

In our Gospel we hear how Jesus encounters opposition in the synagogue of his own town of Nazareth. The congregation admires his words, but is also perplexed because they know his human origins. Jesus recognizes that people are unlikely to expect a prophet from among their own, and he reminds them how Elijah and Elisha did certain of their miracles for non-Jews. These illustrations (which point to the later ministry of Christianity to the Gentiles) deeply disturb the congregation, and Jesus is forced to leave for Capernaum to continue his ministry.

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.

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Next deadline is Friday, January 12 at 10:00 a.m.

Time Sensitive Material—Please Deliver Promptly

Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany at St. John's

Sunday, December 17

5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Pageant

6:00 p.m. Caroling in the neighborhood, followed by hot chocolate and cookies in the undercroft. Music and lyrics will be provided. Bring flashlights and dress for the temperature.

Christmas Eve, Sunday December 24

*We will celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent in the morning and Christmas Eve in the evening.
There is no Christian education and no 10:00 a.m. service.*

8:00 a.m., Holy Eucharist, Rite I

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist for all ages, with children's message and sermon (childcare provided)

10:30 p.m. Christmas music and caroling in the church

11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve, Festival Holy Eucharist with choir and instrumentalists

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with carols

The First Sunday After Christmas, December 31

There is no Christian education this Sunday.

8:00 a.m., Holy Eucharist, Rite I, with Lessons and Canticles

10:00 a.m., Holy Eucharist, Rite II, with Lessons and Carols

Sunday, January 7

10:00 a.m., The Feast of the Epiphany (observed); Annual meeting following the 10:00 a.m. service