



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: Recognizing Jesus

*God is great, but sometimes life ain't good,
And when I pray things don't always turn out
Like I think they should.
But I do it anyway, I do it anyway.*

From "Anyway" by Martina McBride, Brad Warren, and Brett Warren

Monday afternoon, April 16, senior warden Linda Trochim called me to let me know about the tragedy at Virginia Tech. She wanted to make sure I knew in case we had parishioners there. We do not, but we have parishioners whose friend's daughter was killed. We have parishioners who graduated from Virginia Tech, know people at Virginia Tech, and are just horrified in general. We also have at least one mom with a child in college—me—who called him, just to hear his voice. I think he was a little puzzled, but he gave me a verbal pat on the head. He had checked with his friends in Blacksburg, who were OK, and was intent on studying for two exams. I was glad I had called, and that it was "situation normal" in Atlanta.

But life was very far from normal in Blacksburg. Though I have no close connections there, I have cried for the parents who were devastated by the loss of their children. I identify strongly with the ones who got in their cars and went immediately to Blacksburg just to touch their children and in some cases take them home for a few days. I would have been in Atlanta in a heartbeat if something had happened at Georgia Tech. I mourned the children who were killed, as I have been mourning those of the same age who have been killed in Iraq. I feel deeply for the parents of the gunman, who are going through their own sort of hell. I grieve all the lives lost and the sense of insecurity that will haunt those affected for many years.

One of the best-known resurrection appearance stories is the one about the disciples on the road to Emmaus. They are very sad because of Jesus' death. The women who went to the tomb have told them that it was empty, but they still do not believe. Jesus appears to them, but they do not recognize him. He explains the Scripture to them and then breaks bread with them. When he breaks the bread, they recognize him as the crucified and risen Lord and he vanishes.

Recognizing Jesus in a tragedy like this is difficult if not impossible for many of us. Even if we believe, as one of the phrases on the memorial said, that Hokie Heaven is better than Hokie Nation, even if we have faith in God's future for those who have lost their

lives, even if we believe we will see them again or that they are in a better place, there is still life here to be gotten through. There is still the mourning and the raging and the numbness and the shock. There are still funerals to attend and empty places in the classroom that must be faced. How do we recognize the risen Jesus among the living?

One place we can recognize Jesus is in the comfort given to one human being by another. “Blessed are those who mourn,” Jesus says, “for they shall be comforted.” Human contact is so important at this time for those who have been affected by this tragedy. Hugs, sympathetic words, and communities gathered in faith and hope uplift those who are bowed down with grief. The pain of loss is pain that Jesus knew. Jesus wept at the grave of Lazarus, even though he knew what he was going to do. Surely he wept for those who were grieving. Surely he weeps now and offers comfort to those who are distraught.

Another place we see Jesus is in the text messages and the postings on Facebook and the instant messaging that flooded not only the campus but places near and far. RU OK went out from cell phones over and over again as people tried to find their friends, to reach out to others. Jesus taught us to reach out, to care for others, rather than to withdraw from the emotions of relationships to a “safe” place of detachment. Jesus taught us that relationships are important. We see the Good Samaritan in the students who held doors shut with their feet so the gunman could not reenter their classroom, the Eagle Scout who knew how to bandage wounds to keep them from bleeding, the professor who held the door of his classroom shut until his students were able to get out and then was killed by the gunman.

I also think we can recognize Jesus in the anger that is seething. How could something like this be allowed to happen? Who is to blame? Could something have been done to stop this before it got started? Most of those questions are about human powerlessness. If something could have been changed, then we don’t have to admit we are fragile and powerless when it comes to something like this. Jesus experienced human frailty and powerlessness of his own free will. He experienced anger when people hurt other people. There may not be anyone

to blame for not containing the situation, but the anger at senseless slaughter is certainly OK.

We can also recognize Jesus in the hope that we see that healing will occur. The campus is pulling together. People have invaded the student store, buying maroon and orange whatever to wear and carry to show their unity, to say that the tragedy is not going to define their school. People are remembering their fallen classmates and colleagues in all sorts of ways. Faith communities are supporting the grieving.

Singer Martina McBride has a song that says, “God is great, but sometimes life ain’t good, and when I pray things don’t always turn out like I think they should. But I do it anyway, I do it anyway.” And that is what we are called to do as Christians. Our faith teaches us that God is committed to healing, to redeeming, to liberation and to helping us experience the fullness of life. But it also teaches us that there is some mysterious line that God does not cross. Not every person is healed. Some people do not accept the invitations God extends. Sometimes God does not intervene. We do not understand why. We grieve and we get angry and we are afraid in the face of our own powerlessness against the terrors of life. But Jesus is present. Even in the midst, or perhaps especially in the midst, of such a horrible event, Jesus is walking beside us, telling us how much God loves us and loves the people who died. Jesus is sharing our sorrow even when we are too numb to see him, and he will stick around as those affected by the tragedy walk through the valley of the shadow of death.

Our job is to pray through whatever we feel—pray for the victims and their families, for the killer, for his family, for the Virginia Tech community, for all those who mourn. In our praying, let us especially pray that the presence of God may be felt by all those in need and suffering, and that healing and hope may be the result.

Ann†

Website

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

Visit the website for the latest copy of the newsletter, times and places of events and activities.

St. John's Welcomes the Community on Glencarlyn Day

On June 2, our neighborhood celebrates Glencarlyn Day. As the parish in the neighborhood, St. John's is always involved in some way. This year, we plan even more opportunities to interact with the community. The Men's Fellowship is sponsoring a yard sale and the Choir is sponsoring a book sale.

The Vestry will also sponsor a Bake Sale. Vestry member Jan Hull and Morning Guild member Alice Kniskern need volunteers to fill two coordinator positions: (1) kitchen manager, and (2) solicitor of baked goods. We already have coordinators for pricing and sales. The coordinators will work with Jan and Alice to plan for the sale and to find additional volunteers to serve later. Parishioners will be contacted individually for contributions of baked goods or money in early May.

We are looking for volunteers to purchase and sell cold drinks to the neighbors as they walk around our grounds. We plan to invite our neighbors inside to see the sanctuary and provide information about St. John's services and activities. If you have any other ideas for this fun day, please talk to a vestry member.

Note: Items for the yard sale may be brought and stored in the room upstairs across from Catherine's office. (Please do not bring large or unwieldy items such as furniture that would have to be stored downstairs until *after* the tea on May 12.) Books for the book sale can go in the choir room. If you are bringing items and do not have a key to the church, please call to make sure someone is available. If you want a *tax receipt* for your donation, forms are on the low bookcase outside Virginia's office. Please fill out a form, make a copy on the copy machine in the vestry room, and leave it in the red basket by the forms. We need to keep a copy; this way you won't have to hand copy your list.

Honor Mothers at Spring Tea and UTO Ingathering

Morning Guild's Spring Tea on May 12

The 2007 Spring Tea sponsored by the Morning Guild is set for May 12, the day before Mother's Day. Why don't you honor the mothers in your life by treating them to tea? They will enjoy tea, crumpets, delicious pastries, and conversation in our beautifully decorated undercroft. Half of the funds earned will be given St. John's Vestry; the remainder will go to breast cancer research. Tea will be served from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the undercroft. Sign-up sheets will appear in late April or early May for volunteers to help with food and clean up.

United Thank Offering Ingathering on May 13

by Evelyn Sullivan

Our Spring Ingathering of the United Thank Offering will be collected on Sunday, May 13, Mothers' Day, a wonderful opportunity to express gratitude for mothers everywhere. Those of us who grew up in the Episcopal Church may remember our mothers teaching us the value of prayerful thanksgivings by putting coins in a blue box. The United Thank Offering of the Episcopal Church provides a way for all of us to offer daily thanks to God for our many blessings by putting coins in a blue box. Every penny collected is used to help human beings in need. Please pick up a blue box from the table downstairs or see Evelyn Sullivan. You can also use an envelope to enclose a check.

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, June 8 at 10:00 am.

Parish News

Rest in Peace

Bennett Eddy, father of Nancy Gibb, who entered the Life of the Resurrection on March 7

Reginald Fuller, retired VTS professor, who entered the life of the Resurrection on April 4

Ruby Zabarra, friend of Evelyn Sullivan, who entered the life of the Resurrection in April

All those killed in the shootings at Virginia Tech on Monday, April 16

Thank You to

Faye Pritchard for coordinating snacks for the Wednesday night Lenten class

John Wilson, for providing us with a TV, VCR, and DVD that will expand our ability to show videos and movies during Vacation Bible School

Those who participated in the reading of the Passion Gospel on Palm Sunday: Penny and Don Hess, Jim and Jan Hull, Chris and Laura Van Wyk, John Wilson, Anne and Paul Stenger, Alice Kniskern, Diane and Galen Henderson, Pamela Corey-Archer, Michael Beavin, Madeline and Carrie Harbin, Bill Pritchard, Carol and Dave Dunlap, and Del Hunt

The wonderful musicians who helped make our Easter celebration so joyous: minister of music Lynn Robinson; organist Carol Dunlap; choir members Pat Stewart, Pamela Corey-Archer, Jack Turner and Jim Morris; pianist Amy Dunlap; flutist Karen Sonnet; guitarist Bryan Harbin and flutist Carrie Harbin

The children of the parish, for their Easter presentation, and especially to Galen Henderson, who came up with the idea of using Easter symbols

Diane Henderson and Sheryl Pardo for coordinating the children's program and handling last minute crises

The altar guild, whose careful work added so much to our celebration of Holy Week and Easter

Bill Schenck and Eileen Tallent, who coordinated the reception for Easter Day, and to all their helpers: Lynn Robinson, Carole and Del Hunt, Paul Petrich, Liz White, Stephanie and Michael Beavin, Day Dodson, Meade North, Sheryl Pardo, Stacy O'Connor and Evelyn Sullivan

Catherine Campbell, vicar of Cristo Rey, for translating Amanda's sermon into Spanish for the Maundy Thursday service

Paul and John Petrich for filling our Easter eggs and to Paul Petrich and Sebi Pardo for hiding them for us

Lindsey Miller, Caitlin O'Connor, Norka Antelo and Valeria Antelo for helping with the egg hunt

Virginia Pearson, for her dedicated work on the many bulletins and inserts needed for Holy Week

Jack Turner for keeping our signs current

Jaime Pardo, who fixed the water fountain near the elevator

Roger Ludwig, for ringing our bell 33 times on Friday, April 20, the day of mourning for the tragedy at Virginia Tech

Congratulations to

Samuel and Jacob Beavin, who were received into the household of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Easter Day

Bronwen Berliner and Beth Walseman on graduating from Education for Ministry

Bill Thomson and Joan Blake on the birth of grandson Hunter Dallas Thomson on March 23

Lindsey Miller, who will spend her junior year abroad in Quito, Ecuador

Birthdays in May and June

Bill Schenck, May 2

Pamela Corey-Archer, May 2

Rob Hardman, May 13

Alice Kniskern, May 19

Romana Martin, May 20

Jane Edwards, May 21

Abigail Kollath, May 26, 2006

Andy Del Gallo, May 27

Patricia Bleicher, May 28

Paul Harless, June 3

Cathi Del Gallo, June 6

Betty Vertiz, June 9

James Robinson (son of Dave & Lynn), June 11

Charles Adair (son of Marshall & Ginger), June 12

Leslie Mead, June 15

Kaipo McCartney, June 17

Sam Beavin (son of Michael & Stephanie),
June 19, 2003

Stacy O'Connor, June 22
Tricia Wells, June 23
Matthew Tallent, June 25
Jones Tallent, June 25
Christopher Van Wyk, June 16
Millie Burke, June 26
Angie France, June 28
Elizabeth Appiah, June 29
Faye Pritchard, June 29

Anniversaries in May and June

Christopher & Laura Van Wyk, May 3
Jeff Petrick & Leslie Mead, May 24
Dennis Albrecht & Lorraine Underwood, May 25
Peter & Patricia Broida, June 1
Will & Karen Spencer, June 7
John & Valerie Wilson, June 13
Bob & Eileen Tallent, June 15
The Rev. Peter & Angela Swarr, June 21
Vernon & Romana Martin, June 28

Adult Education, Speaker Series, and Book Club

The Christian Heavenly Virtues

by Lorraine Underwood

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. —Cor. 13:13

Our class on the Christian Heavenly Virtues began on April 15 with an overview of the “Theological Virtues”—Faith, Hope, and Love—discussed by St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 13, and the “Cardinal Virtues”—Justice, Fortitude, Prudence, and Temperance. We continued with a discussion of Faith on April 22 and Hope on April 29.

On Sunday, May 6, at 9:00 a.m., we will discuss “the greatest of these”—Love. Then we’ll look at the Cardinal Virtues, which were adapted by Christians from the writings of Greek philosophers. And we’ll consider the “Seven Contrary Virtues,” which are the opposite of the “Seven Deadly Sins”: Humility, Kindness, Abstinence, Chastity, Patience, Liberality, and Diligence.

It’s not too late to join the discussion. The series continues through the end of May. There are no homework assignments, and each class is self-contained. Please join us!

The Speaker Series Continues: Recovering from Mental Illness

On Monday, May 21 at 7:30 p.m., we will hear a presentation entitled “In Our Own Voice: Recovering from Mental Illness.” Speakers provided by the National Alliance on Mental Illness will discuss identifying, coping, and recovering from mental illnesses. They will discuss their struggles with various illnesses and talk about coping with the realities of their disorders while reclaiming productive lives.

The presentations are free and open to everyone, so bring your friends and colleagues. The series will continue in September; we are hoping to schedule a speaker on immigration issues.

St. John’s Book Club

by Carolyn Corlett

St. John’s Book Club continues in May and June, takes a summer break, and reconvenes in the fall. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. We welcome anyone who is interested. Please join us! Here is our schedule through next September:

- May: *Snow Falling on Cedars*, by David Guterson
- June: *The No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency*, by Alexander McCall Smith
- Summer reading for September discussion: *Radical Evolution*, by Joel Garreau

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 May and June

May 6, John 13:31–35, Fifth Sunday of Easter

In our Gospel lesson Jesus speaks to his disciples on the night that he is to be betrayed and handed over to death. Yet his dying as the Son of Man will also be the way that God is glorified—both because of Jesus' sacrifice on behalf of others and because of his resurrection and victory over the power of death. Jesus' disciples will now be known by their following of his new commandment—that they love one another with the same sacrificial love he has shown them.

May 13, John 14:23–29, Sixth Sunday of Easter

Our Gospel tells of Jesus' promise to his disciples of the coming of the Holy Spirit. Although Jesus will no longer be present physically, those who continue in his love will know his abiding presence together with the Father. The Holy Spirit will be their counselor and bring Jesus' own words to mind. Jesus shares these things with his followers before they take place, and he gives them his peace.

May 20, John 17:20–26, Seventh Sunday of Easter

In our Gospel, Jesus prays for the unity of his present and future disciples with the Father and himself. This is the closing of what has been called Jesus' high priestly prayer. The unity for which he asks reaches deeper than outward signs or human comprehension. It is the oneness of the Father's love in the Son and of the Son in the Father. This love Jesus has made known and it indwells his followers. Their unity will be a witness to the world. Jesus prays that his disciples may behold and share in the glory given to him through the Father's love before the world began.

May 27, John 20:19–23, The Day of Pentecost

The Gospel describes an appearance of the risen Lord in which he bestows the Holy Spirit upon his disciples. He brings his disciples peace and tells them of their mission. The ministry which the Father had given Jesus is now carried forward in the world by his followers. The disciples have power over the forgiveness of sins in order to guide others to repentance and faith.

June 3, John 16:12–16, Trinity Sunday

In our Gospel, Jesus promises to his disciples the gift

of the Holy Spirit who will guide them into all truth. The Spirit will make known things that are to come, and will glorify Jesus in that everything declared by the Spirit will be received from Jesus. All that the Father has belongs to Jesus. The Spirit, then, reveals Jesus who himself has made the Father known.

June 10, Luke 7:11–17, Second Sunday after Pentecost

Our Gospel is the story of Jesus' raising to life of the son of the widow of Nain. This narrative would have been told in the early church to emphasize the new authority over death that had been shown forth in Jesus' own resurrection. It also represents a fulfillment of Old Testament stories and prophecies and is a sign of the beginning of the new age to which people respond with awe by glorifying God. A special feature of the account is the description of Jesus' compassion.

June 17, Luke 7:36–50, Third Sunday after Pentecost

Our gospel is the story of Jesus' association with a woman known as a sinner and his teaching on the significance of generous forgiveness. As at other times, Jesus is criticized for his willingness to relate to an individual regarded as a sinner. He allows the woman to demonstrate her repentance and scandalizes those present by telling her that her sins are forgiven. Much forgiveness and much love are closely linked together.

June 24, Luke 9:18–24, Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

In our Gospel, Peter recognizes that Jesus is the Christ, but Jesus then tells his followers of the suffering and death he must endure during Jesus' lifetime and afterward there was speculation about his role. Some saw him as a kind of reembodyment of John the Baptist or of an earlier prophet. Jesus emphasized the essential character of his ministry and teaches that his disciples must follow in his way.

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 Calendar

May

- Tue 1 St. John's Book Club, 7:30–9:00 p.m., will discuss *Snow Falling on Cedars*, by David Guterson
- Wed 2 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 3 Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
- Sun 6 Fifth Sunday of Easter
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.
We say goodbye to Amanda Eimann
- Wed 9 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 10 Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
- Sat 12 Spring Tea (See article on page 3)
- Sun 13 Sixth Sunday of Easter
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.
- Wed 16 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 17 Ascension Day
Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
- Sat 19 Men's fellowship, 9:00 a.m., in the undercroft
- Sun 20 Ascension Sunday
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.
- Mon 21 Speakers on "Recovering from Mental Illness," 7:30 p.m.
- Wed 23 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 24 Choir Practice, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
- Sat 26 Installation of The Rev. Shannon Johnson as Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of Virginia, Washington National Cathedral

- Sun 27 Day of 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.
- Mon 28 Memorial Day, Office closed
- Wed 30 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.

June

- Sat 2 Glencarlyn Day (See article on page 3)
- Sun 3 Trinity Sunday
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:00 a.m.
Education for Ministry Graduation
- Tues 5 St. John's Book Club, 7:30–9:00 p.m., will discuss *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*, by Alexander McCall Smith
- Wed 6 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 7 Morning Guild, 10:00 a.m.
- Sun 10 Second Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:00 a.m.
- Wed 13 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun 17 Third Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:00 a.m.
- Wed 20 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun 24 Third Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:00 a.m.
- Wed 27 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.

July

- Sun 1 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:00 a.m.
- Wed 4 Independence Day, Office Closed

Looking for the Essence of St. John's

During the vestry retreat in February, our leader, Father Andrew Merrow from St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Arlington, read from an author who talked about the "essence" of a church. Several of us had suggestions about how to describe the "essence" of St. John's, but we need your suggestions as well. We want to be able to talk to people about what makes St. John's special.

On Sunday, May 13, there will be a copy of the survey in the bulletin to fill out during church. The surveys will also be available for the next couple of Sundays. Or you may fill out the survey here in the LOGOS and e-mail the answers, mail them in, or bring them in. We will tabulate as many as possible to gather input for our flyers for Glencarlyn Day.

Survey: Essence of St. John's

Reasons you come to St. John's:

What do think we have to offer others?

What complaints do you have or have you heard?

St. John's Episcopal Church
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Next deadline is Friday, June 8 at 10:00 a.m.

Time Sensitive Material—Please Deliver Promptly

Staff

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

Parish Leaders

Jean Harrison, Treasurer
John Restall, Assistant Treasurer
Don Hess, Co-chair, Building and Grounds Committee
John Wilson, Co-chair, Building and Grounds Committee

Vestry

Linda Trochim, Senior Warden
Bill Thomson, Junior Warden
Dave Dunlap, Register
Marshall Adair
Pamela Corey-Archer
Jan Hull
Bill Pritchard
Jack Turner

LOGOS Volunteers

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