



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: On Being God's Fruitful Field

Right about now, in many places in the country, farmers are readying their fields for planting. The tillers dig into the soil to aerate it and make it ready to receive the seed. The farmers will plant the seed, make sure it is fertilized and watered, and then leave the rest to God. Gardeners, too, are readying flower beds. They are raking and hoeing and planting lovingly, hoping for a beautiful crop of spring blooms. There may be weeds to remove from previous years (what is it about weeds that make them impervious to freezing temperatures?), and there will certainly be weeds to remove once the plants have begun to sprout.

Paul's first letter to the Corinthians (3:9) describes us as God's field. This image is a particularly good one for a month that includes Lent and Easter. In Lent we spend time with God letting God till our soil. There are rocks to be removed from the ground of our being—they are compacting the soil. The rocks keep us from receiving the seed and make growth impossible. Leftover weeds in our souls—from last year and many years past—are in the way. The weeds take up soil and nourishment and may even choke our young plants (our fruit) as they begin to grow.

We all have rocks and weeds in our fields, made up of fear, pride, and low self-esteem.

- ▶ Fear says, "I can't let God work on me with God's tiller. It will hurt too much." Or it might say, "That tiller isn't for my good. God just wants to take advantage of me for God's own purposes." Fear might even say, "Tilling will make me open and vulnerable. And I know that God does not make the bad things in the world go away, so why should I let God do that?"
- ▶ Pride says, "I don't need God to prepare me. I have all I need within me to accomplish whatever I want to. I can till my own garden. I don't want God messing around with it."
- ▶ Low self-esteem says, "I can't let God get that close to me. When God finds the monster in me, God won't want anything to do with me. It's better not to let God get too close, then I can fool God and myself about who I am."

God cannot prepare the soil if you won't let God into your garden. My hope for us all during Lent is that we are able, with God's help, to lower some of our defenses against intimacy with God, to allow God to be close to us. Only then can we feel how good it is to be tilled and weeded and lovingly prepared. Think of it as a massage for the soul.

After God has the space in us to plant, God will put in the seeds we need to grow in this time in this place. Each of us has different areas in which we need new growth. God is always inviting us to grow, and growth is always a challenge because the deepest parts of us find change uncomfortable—whether or not the change is good.

During Lent God may help us to see part of ourselves in a new way that prepares us to do something we were afraid to do. Or God may help us to see God in a new way, to let us know that, whatever challenge we may face, God is there for us, walking with us, and taking care of us. Knowing God goes with us wherever we go makes change a little less frightening.

On Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, we experience some of these feelings in the liturgy. Jesus feeds his disciples with bread and wine—his Body and Blood—saying “do this for the remembrance of me.” To re-member something is to put it back together, to bring it to mind so that it is a reality in our lives. Receiving the Body and Blood of Christ is one way we remember that Jesus is always walking with us and is living in us in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are given that powerful food and then on Good Friday we are asked to let go of our wills and surrender them to God, as Jesus did. We are asked to trust God in the middle of the hardest, most painful times in our lives, to acknowledge that bad things happen, but that their existence doesn’t mean that God is bad or weak or that God doesn’t love us.

Letting go of our rocks and weeds so our deepest places can receive the fertilizer of God’s love is not easy. Watching Jesus do it in the liturgy is painful. We know he did it on our behalf, because we could not. Our spiritual weakness, our focus on worldly concerns, and our dismissal of God’s ability to plan good for us in such a crazy world have kept us far away from God—so far away that we cannot get back without Jesus’ sacrifice on the Cross.

Yet because of Jesus’ sacrifice, there is hope for us. There is joy for us. There is resurrection for us. The weeds and the rocks, the fears and the pride that have kept God from tilling us and planting us and giving us growth are swallowed up as God raises

Jesus from the dead. It is now possible for us to produce good fruit in our field because of Jesus’ Crucifixion and Resurrection. The seeds God plants in us have room to grow and thrive.

The miracle of the Resurrection gives us a choice we didn’t have before—the choice to grow according to God’s direction. God’s invitation is strong, but God only invites, God does not force. We can choose to let God take care of the field that is each one of us. We can choose to let God remove the rocks and weeds and massage our souls. We can choose to let God plant the seed. We can choose to let the seed grow. Or we can choose not to let God do any of these things.

May the joy of the Easter season help us trust God’s goodness more and more so that we may offer all of our fruit and rocks and weeds—our whole field—to God for God’s use. A blessed and joyful Easter to you all!

Ann†

Adult Education

The first three Sunday mornings in March, our seminarian, Anna Minor, will talk with us about how the early church organized itself. She’ll spend a Sunday each talking about canon, creed, and episcopacy.

After Easter, we will take some time to finish up our work on Revelation if needed. Other possible topics include:

- ▶ Setting boundaries as Christians
- ▶ Another session with Virginia Theological Seminary librarian Mitzi Budde
- ▶ Different kinds of Episcopalians: evangelical, broad church, high church, charismatic, etc.

We’ll provide more details in Sunday bulletins and the April LOGOS.

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.

**Daylight Saving Time Begins
on Sunday, March 9**

Parish News

Thank you to

Everyone who contributed to the Angel Tree program at Christmas. We took 40 bags of clothing and toys (for 40 children in need) to the Arlington branch of the Salvation Army. Not bad for a small congregation like ours!

Sheryl Pardo, for serving as our marketing coordinator for more than a year

Dave Dunlap, for taking on the marketing coordinator's job

Leslie Mead and the children of the Sunday school for organizing and publicizing a food drive for the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC)

Congratulations to

Bill Thomson, our new senior warden

Bill Pritchard, our new junior warden

Tina and Michael Cavey, who were received into the household of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on February 3

Birthdays in March

- 1 Cristina Tallent
- 6 Jason Nye
- 8 Evelyn Sullivan
- 10 Beth Cavey
- 17 Nicola Lemmer
- 21 Dave Vistica
- 31 The Rev. Ann Barker

Anniversaries in March

- 8 Paul and Anne Stenger
- 10 Jim and Janice Hull
- 31 Charles and Cheryl Lemmer

Pancake Supper Promotes Community, Raises \$238

St. John's annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper was once again an occasion to bring the community together for food and fellowship. The men of the parish cooked and served pancakes, ham, and apple-sauce to many eager eaters. And they raised \$238 for the parish! Our thanks to pancake supper coordinator Don Hess and all who helped with preparation and serving: Michael Beavin, Bill Pritchard, Greg Hall, Bill Thomson, John Wilson, Jeff Wallace, Jim Hull, Bill Schenck, Marshall Adair, and Del Hunt.

St. John's Hosts Region 3 Lenten Program on March 11

On March 11, St. John's will host the final Region 3 Lenten program. Our guest speaker will be the Rev. Jesus Reyes from La Iglesia de Santa Maria. Jesus will speak on the fifth baptismal vow: "Will you strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being?" Look for sign-up sheets to bring dinner and help with setup and cleanup. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m., followed by program at 7:30 p.m. and ending with Compline at 8:30 p.m.

On March 4, the fourth offering in the series will be at Trinity Episcopal Church. Kathy Doxsee, the director of program for Samaritan Ministries will speak on "Seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself." The times are the same, and the members of Trinity will provide the meal.

Anyone who wants nursery care needs to let St. John's or Trinity know by the preceding Sunday.

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

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, March 14 at 10:00 am.

St. John's Annual Parish Meeting

by *Bill Schenck*

Our annual meeting was held on Sunday, January 11, 2008, after the 10:00 a.m. service. Forty members attended. The Rev. Ann Barker opened and closed the meeting with a prayer. Here is a summary of the items discussed.

Evangelism

With the help of the Diocesan Mustard Seed Fund, we have communicated with our own members and others with new signage, ads in community papers, and a series of programs on financial planning, immigration, ethical investing, and Islam.

We had twelve new members: seven received or confirmed and five baptized. Bill Thomson started a youth group. There is an active men's group, the Morning Guild held two teas, and an active book club meets monthly. The choir has two new members.

Stewardship

Senior Warden Linda Trochim reported that we ended the year in better shape than expected. The initial budget contained no raises for staff, and we cut the pledge to the Diocese to 5 percent of income (from 10 percent). By year's end the financial situation had improved; staff members received bonuses (to compensate for the lack of a salary increase) and received a 4 percent salary increase in the 2008 budget. The Diocesan pledge remains at 5 percent. Endowment funds were used to pay for the new roof.

The Vestry approved moving our endowment funds from the diocesan-managed Trustees of the Fund to Vanguard to lower expenses and for several additional advantages. Linda said the same safeguards remain in place and appropriate funds are separated.

Linda thanked everyone for their continued financial support of St. John's.

Rev. Barker stressed the importance of having an up-to-date will, having finances in order, and, if one is making charitable gifts, to remember St. John's.

Building and Grounds

Junior Warden Bill Thomson oversaw maintenance and repairs, aided by John Wilson, Don Hess, and many other helpers. Our big project was replacing the roof. We also painted the front door, installed a sprinkler system in the grounds around the church, checked the electrical system, installed surge protectors, and inspected the heating system (which is in good condition).

New Directions for 2008

Rev. Barker said "energy" defined our plans for 2008. We plan to update the newcomer's packet. St. John's is participating in the new Region III Lenten Series. Bill Pritchard will serve as Safety Officer.

Vestry

Since no terms expire this year, all current members of the Vestry will continue to serve in 2008. However, in 2009 there will be four positions to fill.

Ann recognized current Vestry members for their service: Linda Trochim (Senior Warden), Bill Thomson (Junior Warden), Jan Hull, Marshall Adair, Jack Turner, Pamela Corey-Archer, and Bill Pritchard. Ann recognized Dave Dunlap for his three years of service as Register to the Vestry, and she called for a volunteer to continue this important work.

Appreciation

Ann and the members present gratefully thanked all the individuals and groups who worked so hard during the year to make St. John's the community it is.

Get Your LOGOS by E-Mail

Every month, we send out several copies of the LOGOS by e-mail, which saves postage and paper. If you currently receive a paper copy of the LOGOS and would like to receive it on by e-mail, please let Virginia know. Call 703-671-6834 or send an e-mail to stjohnssecretary@verizon.net.

Gospel Lessons for March

March 2, John 9:1-13, 28-38, Fourth Sunday in Lent

Our Gospel is the story of Jesus' healing of a man born blind. Jesus brings light into a dark world. Many people of the time regarded the man's blindness as a result of sin, but Jesus helps him to see, at first physically, and then spiritually as well. The man withstands the criticism of the religious officials and worships Jesus as the Son of Man and his Lord.

March 9, John 11:17-44, Fifth Sunday in Lent

This is the story of Jesus' raising of Lazarus from the dead. This is the last and greatest of Jesus' signs, and it points beyond itself to the hope of new life after death for all. Only slowly do Jesus' friends begin to understand what he is saying to them and the deeper meaning of their own words. Soon the one who has raised Lazarus will himself be put to death and then become the way of resurrection to eternal life.

March 16, Matthew 21:1-11, Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

In this Gospel lesson, Jesus comes to the holy city of Jerusalem and is hailed as the promised Son of David. He has a young donkey brought to him, and, as did the kings of old in royal celebrations, Jesus rides on it, while the crowds spread their garments and branches in the way and shout in his honor. The evangelist perceives this as a fulfillment of the prophet Zechariah's words concerning the coming king. Here is both great drama and irony as Jesus enters the city he would save, while the people who will soon call for his blood spread rumors that the prophet from Galilee has arrived.

March 20, John 13:1-5, Maundy Thursday

Our Gospel tells how Jesus washes his disciples' feet during his last meal with them. This action symbolizes the love and humility of Christ in stooping down to wash their sins from those whom he loves. He also sets an example; he has acted as their servant, so should they serve one another.

March 21, John 18:1-19:37, Good Friday

Our Gospel is the story of Jesus' trials before the Jewish Council and Pilate, followed by his final suffering and death.

March 23, John 20:1-10, The Feast of the Resurrection: Easter Sunday

Our Gospel tells of the discovery of the empty tomb. While it is still dark, Mary Magdalene comes and finds that the stone used to cover the tomb has been moved away. She runs and brings Peter and another disciple whom Jesus loved. Although no human eye catches sight of Jesus rising from the dead, these first witnesses see the discarded grave wrappings, and the other disciples perceive and believe.

March 30, Second Sunday of Easter, John 20:19-31

Our Gospel presents two appearances of the risen lord to his disciples. The first takes place on the very evening of the day of his resurrection. The disciples are gathered in fear, but Jesus brings them peace, gives them their mission and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. A week later, Thomas, who had been absent when Jesus first appeared and who doubted his resurrection, now knows Jesus by his wounds and worships him as his Lord and God. Future disciples will not have Jesus' physical presence, but they will be blessed in their belief.

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.

St. John's Calendar for March and April

March

- Sun 2 Fourth Sunday in Lent
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8 a.m.
Christian Formation for all ages, 9 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10 a.m.
Education for Ministry, 6 p.m.
- Tue 4 Region 3 Lenten Class at Trinity
(See article on page 3.)
St. John's Book Club, 7:30
- Wed 5 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 6 Morning Guild, 10 a.m.
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun 9 Fifth Sunday in Lent
Daylight Saving Time begins
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8 a.m.
Christian Formation for all ages, 9 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10 a.m.
Education for Ministry, 6 p.m.
- Mon 10 Vestry Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Tue 11 Region 3 Lenten Class at St. John's
(See article on page 3.)
- Wed 12 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 13 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Sat 15 Men's Group, 8 a.m.
- Sun 16 Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday
Liturgy of the Palms and HE Rite I, 8 a.m.
Liturgy of the Palms and HE Rite II, 10 a.m.
- Thu 20 Maundy Thursday; Holy Eucharist and
Stripping of the Altar, 7:30 p.m.
- Fri 21 Good Friday
Good Friday Liturgy, 12 noon and 7 p.m.
Cristo Rey Good Friday Liturgy, 8:30 p.m.
- Sun 23 The Feast of the Resurrection (Easter Sunday)
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8 a.m.
Festival Holy Eucharist with children's mes-
sage, 10 a.m.
No Christian Education or Children's Chapel
Reception and Easter Egg Hunt following the
10 a.m. service
- Wed 26 Wednesday in Easter Week
Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.

- Thu 27 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun 30 Second Sunday of Easter
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8 a.m.
Christian Formation for all ages, 9 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10 a.m.
Education for Ministry, 6 p.m.

April

- Tue 1 St. John's Book Club, 7:30
- Wed 2 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 3 Morning Guild, 10 a.m.
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun 6 Third Sunday of Easter
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8 a.m.
Christian Formation for all ages, 9 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10 a.m.
Education for Ministry, 6 p.m.
- Tue 8 Vestry Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Wed 9 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 10 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun 13 Fourth Sunday of Easter
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8 a.m.
Christian Formation for all ages, 9 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10 a.m.
Education for Ministry, 6 p.m.
- Wed 16 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 17 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Sat 19 Men's Group, 8 a.m.
- Sun 20 Fifth Sunday of Easter
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8 a.m.
Christian Formation for all ages, 9 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10 a.m.
Education for Ministry, 6 p.m.
- Wed 23 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 22 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun 27 Sixth Sunday of Easter
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8 a.m.
Christian Formation for all ages, 9 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10 a.m.
Education for Ministry, 6 p.m.
- Wed 30 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.

St. John's Episcopal Church
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Next deadline is Friday, March 14 at 10:00 a.m.

Time Sensitive Material—Please Deliver Promptly

Staff

Rector: The Rev. Ann B. Barker
Seminarian: Anna Minor
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

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

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