



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: Happy Birthday to the Church and Many More

Each week I send out birthday cards to members of our parish. The cards say how special they are to God and how much we wish them well on their special day and in the future. I add a message that wishes for them such things as love, friendship, growth, challenges, new life, surprises and God's blessings.

On the last day of May, we celebrate Pentecost, which is the feast that commemorates the church's birthday. It celebrates the day when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples as they were gathered in Jerusalem and God gave a new covenant to all believers.

Pentecost* comes from the Greek word for "fiftieth day". It was the Greek name for the Hebrew Feast of Weeks, which fell 50 days after Passover. It celebrated the calling of the Hebrews into a covenant relationship with God at Mt. Sinai. Pentecost falls 50 days after Easter, which in the gospels fell within a day of Passover.

Suppose we were going to send a birthday card to the church, to the Body of Christ on Earth—to ourselves gathered in community. The Bible tells us that we are very special to God. What would we want for us? Well, if it were my birthday, I would want all the good things God wanted for me. So I think we would want what Jesus wanted for the community that he founded—that it would grow and reach all ends of the earth. We would want the grace to preach the gospel to more people, as well as God's gracious will in inviting more people to receive it. We would want everyone possible to know about and accept the good news of God's saving grace through Jesus. We would also, it seems to me, want growth, so that we who are Christ's body would have more hands and hearts to help the many in need in the world.

I think we would also want the church to grow spiritually, as well as in numbers. We would want each person, each community and the whole Body of Christ to deepen its relationship with God in Christ through the power of the Spirit. We would want to see education programs proliferate, inspiring worship, and compassionate and caring pastoral care reaching those who are hurting.

When Bishop Johnston spoke to us during Lent, he reminded us that the church is by no means a perfect institution. It is full of human beings with human foibles. The church will have hypocrisy, arguing and people acting unpleasantly toward one another because it is full of human beings. It is God's job to sort out the purity of the church, while we work on

* Information on Pentecost comes from the Diocesan Commission on Christian education.

faithfulness, repentance and forgiveness, he said. So one of our prayers for the church on its birthday would be purity and holiness.

The bishop suggested that when we talk about the church with others, it is important to acknowledge that we have warts instead of being embarrassed by them. We try to focus on God's love for the church in spite of the problems that we have. His suggestion leads to another round of birthday prayers for the church so that it may be made more like Jesus wanted it to be.

Bishop Johnston read the prayer called "For the Church" on page 816 in the *Book of Common Prayer*. It contains many birthday petitions for the church. We pray that God will fill the church with all truth, because we see the church as the vehicle for God's truth. The Bible has given us the truth about Jesus that we need for salvation, but there are so many issues the Bible does not cover. How do we go about learning what God wants in those cases, and how do we go about expressing in ever deeper and broader ways God's love for us?

The next part of the prayer asks for peace—the peace of being rooted and settled in our faith, Bishop Johnston said, not the peace of calmness or absence of conflict. Then there are prayers for reform—that the church may be purified where it is corrupted, directed where it is in error and reformed where anything is amiss. These prayers are really different from those of average birthday cards. I don't think I have ever seen a birthday card wish that all our bad habits would be removed, that we would be nicer to others, that our sins would be forgiven and our lives made holier. But it is important for us to be honest about the church we love so much—it is always in need of God's grace to reform it because we humans are prone to error. We do not have everything right about God or about ourselves.

The rest of the prayer asks God to strengthen the church where it is right, though we might not know exactly where all those places are. We ask that it be provided for in its need. Churches everywhere are in need, of money and of people, of new life and new hope. Churches suffering persecution around the world are especially in need of our prayers and our help. The final piece of the prayer is about reuniting

the church where it is divided. We know Jesus wanted all of us in the church to be one as he and the Father are one. On the church's birthday it would be appropriate to pray for ecumenical efforts.

So, happy birthday to Christ's one, holy, Catholic and apostolic church. As we pray for one another on our birthdays and at other times, let us remember to pray for our church, the Body of Christ of which we are members, asking especially that the church may become in every way what Jesus wanted it to be, and that we be given the grace to do our part to make it so.

Ann†

Women's Guild Hosts Spring Tea May 9

The Women's Guild will host its annual Spring Tea on May 9 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the undercroft. Welcome spring with friends, neighbors, and fellow parishioners. In addition to a pot of wonderful tea, you will enjoy a selection of scones, finger sandwiches, desserts and a complimentary glass of champagne.

The Morning Guild needs your help to make the Spring Tea a success. They will need people to bring finger sandwiches, breads, and cookies to be served. They will need help with setup in the morning, moving and setting tables. And perhaps most importantly, they will need help in the afternoon starting about 3:00 p.m. with cleanup, so the undercroft will be ready for hospitality Sunday morning. Look for the sign-up sheets over the guest book and on the St. John's bulletin board downstairs and make a commitment to help.

United Thank Offering Ingathering May 10

The Spring Ingathering of the United Thank Offering will be collected on May 10, which is also Mother's Day and a wonderful opportunity to express gratitude for mothers everywhere. Those who grew up in the Episcopal Church may have memories of their mothers teaching the value of prayerful offerings by putting coins in a blue box.

The United Thank Offering of the Episcopal Church provides a way for all to offer daily thanks to God for our many blessing by putting coins in a small blue box and returning it on May 10. Every penny collected is used to help human beings in need. Please pick up a blue box from the table downstairs or use an envelope to enclose a check.

Lunch Program Seeking Volunteers

Each month of 2009, St. John's is providing 20 bagged lunches for the Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter. Our bagged lunch program is currently seeking volunteers for the months of June and July. We need a coordinator for June and a coordinator, set-up/clean-up person and two food buyers for July. (We have some donations for the program, so you may give the food as a donation or you may put in a receipt for reimbursement.) Sign up sheets are in the narthex and on the St. John's board. If you would prefer another month, please write that in on the side.

Support AFAC

In 2008 the generosity of St. John's parishioners provided more than 800 pounds of food donations to the Arlington Food Assistance Council. Can we do better in 2009? We can if the people of St. John's continue to remember to buy a little something for the food bank when they visit the grocery.

Remember that donations must be unopened and not past their expiration date. Drop them off in the basket at the back of the nave during the week or before the services on Sunday.

Youth Education

Our young people have had a variety of experiences in education recently. They are serving others by baking cookies for the bagged lunch program, and they presented a skit during Lent. They also worked with Del Hunt to plant wheat seeds and offer the sprouting wheat as a gift of new life during Easter. They have talked about the ways we can take care of the earth. On April 19, the children had a Seder meal. They are also doing their usual fellowship and coffee Sundays.

On May 9, the youth will have a tour of the Capitol arranged by Henry Carter.

June 14 will be the last Sunday for Children's Chapel.

Adult Education

Recent topics in adult education have included difficult Old Testament passages and religion in China. We will close out the season with difficult New Testament passages and Anna's class on the baptismal covenant. Christian formation on Sunday mornings will end May 31 and resume the Sunday after Labor Day.

Glencarlyn Day Volunteers Needed

This year on Glencarlyn Day, Saturday, June 6, St. John's will be providing hot dogs, drinks and potato chips to those who are attending the festivities. The men's group will coordinate the efforts, but they are in great need of volunteers to help provide food, cook, serve, collect money, and provide setup and cleanup. We'll begin serving about 11:00 a.m., so we need folks for a 10:00–12:00 shift that includes setup and a 12:00–2:00 shift that includes cleanup. Please let Bill Thomson know if you are willing to help out. A sign-up sheet will also be posted.

Glencarlyn to Sponsor May 16 Yard Sale

Glencarlyn is organizing a community yard sale for Saturday, May 16. Individual members of St. John's are invited to participate—there is no group sale planned. If you want to take part you are welcome to use one of the long tables for selling and to take advantage of the advertising the community does. We will be using the parking lot for our displays. If you are interested in participating, please let Ann know if you will need a table.

From the O'Connor Family

We would like to thank everyone for their assistance when Caitlin fainted during the ten o'clock service recently. We were also surprised by a visit from Ann in the emergency room and the calls we received that evening to see how Caitlin was doing. Many have asked how Caitlin is doing and we were especially touched by the beautiful cards sent by some of St. John's youngest members. We are blessed to be members of such a kind and caring community.

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.

Dave Dunlap, LOGOS Editor

Jane Edwards, LOGOS Editor and Page Layout

Email Dave at dave_dunlap@yahoo.com (preferred) or leave info in newsletter box in the office.

The next deadline is Friday, June 12 at 10:00 am.

Parish News

Thanks be to God

For Beth Cavey's successful ankle surgery

For Judy King's (Diane Henderson's mother) successful heart surgery

Thank you

To Bill Schenck, for his adult forum on difficult stories from the Old Testament

To Bill Pritchard, for his series on religion in China

To all those who participated in preparing bagged lunches in March and April

To Beth Fowler and Del Hunt for organizing and running the children's Seder

To Carrie Harbin, Diane Henderson and all the actors for a wonderful Palm Sunday skit

To all the readers of the passion gospel in the Palm Sunday services

To Barbara Hill, Jean Harrison and Liz White for coordinating our loaves and fishes dinner and Maundy Thursday service

To everyone who helped with clean up day April 18: Junior warden Brian Cavey, Del Hunt, Bill Thomson, Liz White, Kay Wells, the Beavin family and everyone else who helped out

To the altar guild, musicians, those in charge of fellowship, food contributors, flower arrangers and everyone else who made our Easter services so beautiful and meaningful

To Anna Scherer for her wonderful children's message about Mary Magdalene and the red egg

To Del Hunt and the youth for the wheat they offered as a gift of new life

To Anne and Paul Stenger, Kim Houghton and Todd Nash, Penny and Don Hess and all the other willing hands that filled Easter eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt

To Galen Henderson, Maddie Harbin and others who braved the cold weather to hide Easter eggs

To Bryan Harbin for ordering and mounting our new Easter signs and to Bryan, Carrie and Maddie Harbin for putting up our signs at Carlin Springs Road and Route 50 and Carlin Springs Road and Columbia Pike

May and June Birthdays

May 2	Bill Schenck
May 2	Pamela Corey-Archer
May 2	Debbie Carter
May 13	Rob Hardman
May 19	Alice Kniskern
May 20	Romana Martin
May 21	Jane Edwards
May 25	Abigail Kollath
May 27	Andy Del Gallo
May 28	Patricia Bleicher
June 3	Paul Harless
June 6	Cathi Del Gallo
June 9	Betty Vertiz
June 9	Sherwood Hedrick
June 11	James Robinson
June 12	Charles Adair
June 15	Leslie Mead
June 17	Kaipo McCartney
June 19	Sam Beavin
June 22	Stacy O'Connor
June 23	Tricia Wells
June 25	Matthew Tallent
June 25	Jones Tallent
June 26	Christopher VanWyk
June 26	Michael Cavey
June 28	Angie France
June 29	Elizabeth Appiah
June 29	Faye Pritchard

May and June Anniversaries

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

Bulletin Board Pictures

Please look at the bulletin board on the right hand side of the choir room door to see some pictures of our young people enjoying time together at the Beavins' house. Thank you, Stephanie, for providing the pictures and the background.

Reflections on Stewardship: How Much is Enough?

by Dave Dunlap

At the end of last month's article on stewardship, I promised that next we would discuss some questions that many churches are facing and that many, including St. John's, are not good at talking about. Are we giving enough? How much is enough? What can we do to improve our stewardship and outreach? I would like to consider these questions from two perspectives, first on an individual basis and second on a collective basis.

I am not going to pretend that it is easy for me to discuss these questions or that I have definitive answers to them. On an individual basis it is difficult to talk about these questions because giving is a very private activity. None of us really knows anyone else's situation, so we can not make any judgment of others' giving. Talking about how much one should give to St. John's is made complicated because people at St. John's give so much, in money, in time, and in dedication of their gifts to our work.

Stewardship campaigns at St. John's reflect the personality of the parish. We rely on members making up their minds about how much to give based on their own situations. That is part of who we are as a community, and I think no one, myself included, wants to change that. One result of this approach is that pledge income at St. John's regularly exceeds pledges. One of my friends goes to an Episcopal church on Capitol Hill where as part of their annual pledge drive each member is visited at home by a member of the stewardship committee to discuss their individual pledge. This church's pledge income regularly falls below the total amount pledged. The reason, I think, is obvious.

On an individual basis, there is no easy answer to the question of how much to give. At some times and places, it was easy to know how much to give. Under Mosaic Law the Israelites were to tithe. Mention of the tithe runs through Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. But the tithe was not just a simple one-tenth to support the Levites and to do God's work—see Deuteronomy 14:22 for a description of the tithe. Today we do not have an answer to the question of how much to give that is even as simple as the tithe, however. For some Christian denominations and for some at St. John's, the tithe is the answer, but I do not think it works for all. We give to the church and we give to charities as well. For the Israelites, there was only one place to give. We have many places to give,

and we give to many, which complicates answering the question of whether we are giving enough.

I think it is clear that people pledge an amount they are comfortable with and are sure they can fulfill. This stems, at least in part, from people's unwillingness to make commitments that they may not be able to keep. As a result, St. John's pledge income regularly exceeds pledges, as noted above. People would rather pledge conservatively and exceed their pledge than pledge prospectively and not be able to fulfill that pledge. This is not bad. If I were planning St. John's budget I would be much happier knowing that pledges were made conservatively rather than worrying about whether income would match pledges.

Having run out of ways to talk around the question of how much to give, I will offer my answer. Individually, we must give as our conscience directs us. I can find no other answer that works for all.

At the same time, however, we need to ask if we are giving enough collectively. Is our giving as a parish sufficient to support the mission of St. John's? Are we able to reach out to the community around us? Are we meeting our responsibilities to support the diocese and national church? Here are some things to consider.

- Pledges to St. John's for 2009 were \$139,000, up \$8,000, or 6.1% from 2008. This is a healthy increase, but still less than the \$140,000 in pledges in 2007.
- There is no money for advertising in this year's budget. The only advertising St. John's will do this year is in the *Village View* through June, which was paid for from the 2008 budget.
- In spite of increased pledges, the 2009 budget included minimal staff salary increases, although it does cover substantially increased benefits costs.
- St. John's pledge to the diocese of Virginia was cut in 2009 from 2008's level of five percent to four percent. Just two years ago it was ten percent.

How do we respond to these issues? I think the first thing we need to do is be willing to talk about them. St. John's spent a protracted time several years ago discussing its mission and vision. Is that mission statement still one we believe in? If so, are we living that mission? If we are not, what do we need to do differently? I hope you will prayerfully consider these questions.

I hope that others from the St. John's community will take up this dialogue and offer their thoughts and reflections on stewardship and the direction of our parish.

Anna Scherer's Last Sunday is May 17

Anna Scherer, our seminarian for the last two years, will conclude her service at St. John's on May 17. Anna has been an important part of our liturgy, as well as teaching adult and children's classes. We shared her summer 2008 experience at Standing Rock Indian Reservation, as well as her wedding to Dave in January of this year. It will be hard to say good-bye.

Anna graduates from Virginia Theological Seminary on May 21. She is currently looking for a job in this area. She will be ordained to the transitional diaconate on June 13 at 11:00 a.m. at Church of the Redeemer in Midlothian, Virginia. The address of the church is 2341 Winterfield Rd., Midlothian, Virginia. An invitation and directions should be here soon.

St. John's Will Have Energy Audit

St. John's will have an energy audit on May 7. Allison Fisher, program director with Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light, will conduct this energy assessment on Thursday, May 7 at 7:00 p.m. This is a free service. It will take 90 minutes to two hours, and everyone is welcome to come and get ideas for energy saving measures you can use in your home too.

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

May

- Sun 3 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.
- Tue 5 St. John's Book Club, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed 6 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 7 Morning Guild, 10 a.m.
Energy audit, 7 p.m..
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Sat 9 Spring Tea, 1 – 3 p.m.
- Sun 10 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.
- Tue 12 Vestry Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Wed 13 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 14 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Sat 16 Men's Fellowship, 8 a.m.
- Sun 17 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 20 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 21 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun 24 Ascension Sunday
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 20 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 28 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun 31 Day of Pentecost
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.

June

- Tue 2 St. John's Book Club, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed 3 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu. 4 Morning Guild, 10 a.m.
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun 7 Trinity Sunday
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10 a.m.
- Tue 9 Vestry Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Wed 10 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Thu 11 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun 14 Second Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10 a.m.
- Wed 17 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Sat 20 Men's Fellowship, 8 a.m.
- Sun 21 Third Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10 a.m.
- Wed 24 Candlelight Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun 28 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10 a.m.

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

Time Sensitive Material—Please Deliver Promptly

Staff

Rector: The Rev. Ann B. Barker
Seminararian: Anna Scherer
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
Brian Cavey, Junior Warden
Marshall Adair
Michael Beavin
Jan Hull
Del Hunt
Liz White

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