



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

January 2013

Annual Meeting Slated for January 13

St. John's will hold its annual meeting on January 13, following the 10 a.m. Eucharist service. Everyone is urged to attend this important meeting.

The annual meeting will look back at the past year and report on what we have accomplished, as well as look forward to the coming year and what we hope to achieve in the next twelve months. The coming year will be guided by the parish goals for which the congregation provided invaluable input at a meeting on December 2. The goals for 2013 were approved at the December vestry meeting and are included in this issue of LOGOS. Be sure to print this page of goals and bring it to the annual meeting. The annual meeting will include information on how we expect to implement these goals.

Also on the annual meeting agenda is the election of new vestry members to replace those whose terms expire this year. Three positions on the vestry are up for election this year.

Are You Ready to Serve on the Vestry?

In a parish the size of St. John's it is hard to point to anyone and suggest they are not doing enough to support the parish. Most people support multiple ministries at the church. Serving on the vestry is one of the most important jobs that St. John's offers its confirmed members. For many it appears to be a daunting task. It may appear daunting because of the time demands or because a potential member does not know what a vestry member does. There may be a tendency to hang back rather than step forward for those reasons. As a result, we may see the same people elected repeatedly to the vestry.

While this fills the seats on the vestry, it also places a heavy burden – heavier than it should be – on those who do serve. If you are interested in serving on the vestry, or want to know more about what it entails, or even think you might be interested, step forward. Talk to the rector about volunteering for the vestry. Or contact the senior warden or any other vestry member. Ask questions. Find out what serving on the vestry involves. Then step forward. Don't hang back. Serving on the vestry involves work, but the reward for that work is the satisfaction of helping the church you attend. It is not too late to volunteer for the 2013 vestry. Do it now!

Christmas Pageant a Resounding Success

St. John's was crowded at the 10 a.m. service on December 16 as we resumed our tradition of an annual Christmas pageant, featuring children from St. John's and the Glencarlyn neighborhood. The pageant, complete with costumes and changing sets, traced the story of Jesus from the angel's appearance to Mary through the birth in Bethlehem, the visit from the shepherds and the arrival of the wise men.

Warm thanks go to the players: Paul Petrich, John Petrich, Tina Cavey, Michael Cavey, Alexis Krug, Jackson Krug, Cooper Krug, Clarisa Johnson, Daniel Johnson, Spencer Frank and Pearson Frank.

Another round of applause goes to the stage hands who moved sets, cued actors, and helped keep the production on course: Barbara Olivere, Pete Olivere, Brian Cavey, Lenore Schmidt, and Leslie Mead.

Special thanks go to our Minister of Family Programs, Beth Cavey, who organized the production, recruited actors and adult stage hands, and supervised rehearsals and overall production for a wonderful pageant.

With the success of the Christmas pageant, Beth is considering another performance to celebrate the Easter season. Contact her for more details.

Confirmation Classes Begin in January

Confirmation Classes begin January 13 and will continue through early spring. Classes are geared toward youth in high school and are based on the "Confirm Not Conform" program. Core time for the classes will be after the 10 a.m. service, but will include a church overnight and a weekend retreat. The classes are fun, thought-provoking, and spiritually motivating, and will prepare participants for confirmation at the bishop's annual visit.

Rector Ann Barker, Lenore Schmidt and Beth Cavey will lead most of the sessions, but they are seeking mentors for confirmation participants as well. Mentors will have a role in one to three classes and will be a resource for additional questions that our youth might have. If you are interested in being a mentor, please see one of the leaders.

Family Ministry Opportunities

The Family Programs Ministry has many opportunities for adult involvement. Ways to contribute include:

Be a Confirmation Mentor. As the article on confirmation classes noted, our older youth will need adults to help them through confirmation. The goal of this program is to encourage youth to explore their beliefs and how those contribute to life in the Episcopal Church.

Help on Family Sundays. If you have a knack for cooking projects, please consider leading our youth in a cooking project for hospitality on a Family Sunday. Cooking projects are a way for our youth and adults of all ages to cooperate and share in one of our important and fun fellowships. Family Sundays are the third Sunday of each month.

Lead Children's Chapel. Spend the first part of the 10 a.m. service with our youth as an adult observer/participant in Children's Chapel. Our older youth will begin leading the chapel services and adults are there to add guidance, answer questions and keep things at least slightly reverent.

Assist With Upcoming Events. There is a potential Easter season performance which will need adult help. Remember we are planning to hold Vacation Bible School this summer and will need lots of help to pull that off, and there will be youth field trips that will need adult supervision.

December Vestry Meeting Highlights

The vestry approved the parish Goals for 2013, as revised by the input from the parish meeting on December 2.

Pete Olivere reported that the new Web site went live the first week in December. The new Internet address is *stjohnsarlingtonva.org*.

The Junior Warden, Lenore Schmidt, said she would be sending out a Request for Proposals for sexton services in the spring, in light of Justiniano Garay's possible retirement this coming summer.

The vestry discussed the proposed budget for 2013, made a few changes, and decided to postpone a final vote until the January vestry meeting so the members would have more time to study the proposal. However, staff salaries and the housing allowance were approved by e-mail vote on December 18 – 19.

Help Needed for the Annual Tea

St. John's annual Tea has long been a favorite both in the parish and in the larger surrounding community. It is regularly packed with people who come to drink tea, nibble delectable goodies, chat, and generally enjoy themselves. The annual Tea is the largest fund raising project sponsored by St. John's. It is also a gift to the community that many would grieve to see die.

The Morning Guild has traditionally sponsored the Tea, but also relies on the parish as a whole for support. Last year Beth Cavey led the effort, and she has indicated a willingness to do so again this year, provided that she can have a team of people who will take responsibility for certain aspects of planning, preparation, advertising, production, and clean up. The generous ladies of the Morning Guild will still happily lend their support, guidance, and cooking skills, but we need more help.

Please consider pitching in to keep this tradition alive. Contact Beth Cavey for more information on what you can do to help this St. John's institution continue.

From the Rector: New Beginnings

How many times have we said to ourselves over the past few weeks, "I'll do that when the Christmas rush is over." Well, the Christmas rush is over and it is time for new beginnings, whether it is new times in your life, new activities or new attitudes.

Some new beginnings are thrust upon us. My sister-in-law lost her father a week ago. When I asked her if she was settling in to the new reality, she said, was "unsettling in." Her father's last illness had been very intense and it had taken all her energy to focus on it. Now she was past the funeral and her life was unsettled before she could settle into a new routine, a new normal.

On the other hand, my friend Pat is expecting a

new grandchild any minute and is excited. Becoming a grandparent creates change and unsettlement. A new job is a beginning. A friend of mine begins a new position on January 2. She has been frantic with preparations for moving and for Christmas, as she is a priest. Job loss is a beginning. It may mean learning a new set of skills and beginning a new career. There are all kinds of new beginnings. Children moving out on their own, children returning home, marriage – all are new beginnings.

Other new beginnings are self-directed, like New Year's resolutions. One of the most common ones is to go on a diet. My son has very wisely decided to stay at a plateau with his weight during the holidays, working not to gain

anything, but able to enjoy the treats of the season. We may resolve to exercise more. I'm sure most gyms have "New Year, New You" specials for those who want to improve their fitness. The same goes for stores that sell exercise equipment. You may take up a new hobby. Needlework, stamp collecting, dancing, cooking and many other things can all make our lives more varied and full. This fall I took a country line dancing class and hope to "screw my courage to the sticking point" and go to the Saturday night dances.

A good model for new beginnings is to say "yes" to new things. Mary said yes to the angel and changed her life. It was a big and difficult yes for Mary. It required faith. Our saying yes to smaller things can open us to opportunities for growth and development. The carpool mom who drives everyone everywhere can say yes to having more time by asking other parents to help, giving herself the opportunity engage in a new activity, to take a walk, to work in the garden. The workaholic who wears that label as a badge of honor can say yes to change, then delegate work, leave the office on time some days, and have more personal time or time for family and children.

We can say yes to a new step in our journey with God. The diocese is having another Bible challenge beginning on December 31, to read the Bible in a year. More information can be found at www.thediocese.net. If you accept the challenge you will surely find out more about the God who loves us and keeps His promises, no matter how difficult or rebellious we may become.

New beginnings do not happen just in January, though that is the traditional time to talk about them. They happen all the time, every day, week, month, year, every moment. Living into a new thing takes time and so we must be content with slower progress than we might like. But God is in the new things in our lives. God is always doing a new thing in us, being a new

thing for us. Take the (relatively) slower time at the first of the year to think about what new actions and attitudes you may want to take and what time you want to take to find where God is leading you in our life right now. Mary said yes to God, and God said yes to us in the birth of Jesus. As you ponder the new year and what it might mean for you, say yes to the possibilities God puts in front of you, even if you think they go beyond your limitations. God will make it possible for you to say yes to new possibilities that make your life more whole and at peace.

Ann †

God Was in This Place...The Story of Jacob

Why did God choose Jacob? He tricked his father into giving him the blessing meant for his brother, Esau. He had to leave the country – fast! Yet he experienced two incredible manifestations of God. We will discuss Jacob's story beginning during adult education on January 6 and continuing for six Sundays. Come and learn about Jacob / Israel and why God chose him.

Lorraine Underwood

St. John's Mission Statement

We welcome everyone including believers, seekers and doubters to share God's love and acceptance in a community of worship and service.

St. John's Vision Statement

St. John's is dedicated to nurturing disciples for Jesus by:

- Offering faith-deepening worship, education, outreach and pastoral care;
- Attracting and welcoming newcomers; and
- Sharing God's love with our community and the world around us.

Coming Up . . .

- January 6 Feast of the Epiphany, Christian Education for all ages resumes. Lorraine Underwood begins a six-week series on Jacob and Israel. See Lorraine's note above about this extraordinary class.
- January 9 January vestry meeting, 7 p.m.
- January 13 **Annual meeting following the 10 a.m. service.**
Bagged lunch program and youth coffee sales
- January 19 Men's Fellowship, 8:30 a.m. Come enjoy coffee, light snacks and good conversation. Game night, 7 p.m. Bring your favorite game and enjoy the fun!
- February 12 Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, 6 - 8 p.m. Adults \$5.00, Youth \$3.00, children under 6 are free. Look for more information in our next issue.
- February 16 Region III Lenten series begins. Print and save flyer included with this issue.

Parish News

We extend heartfelt thanks to those in our congregation who have been especially helpful recently. Our thanks go to:

- Paul Stenger for serving as the chair of our commitment campaign
- Everyone who pledged
- Lynn Robinson for coordinating the cookie exchange
- Kay Wells for the Christmas decorations in the undercroft
- Liz White and Eileen Tallent for their leadership in greening the church for Christmas on a very tight deadline and to the altar guild and friends who helped them
- Beth Cavey for a wonderful Christmas pageant, to Lenore Schmidt and Leslie Mead for their help and to all the children who participated - Paul Petrich, Pearson Frank, Alexis Krug, John Petrich, Anton Soszey, Spencer Frank, Daniel Johnson, Clarisa Johnson, Tina Cavey, Michael Cavey, Cooper Krug and Kelley Krug
- Virginia Pearson, for her work on all the Christmas bulletins
- Our instrumentalists, Carol Dunlap, Amy Dunlap and Karen Sonnet, and our choir, Lynn Robinson and Marshall Adair, for their beautiful Christmas music
- Linda Trochim for serving as interim pledge clerk for this year
- Faye Pritchard and Pete Oliver for working so hard to get the new web site up and functioning
- Everyone who attended our December meeting on parish goals and provided us with ideas and direction for the coming year.

LOGOS

The LOGOS is published monthly except August, near the beginning of the month.

Dave Dunlap, LOGOS Editor

Articles for LOGOS may be Emailed to dave_dunlap@yahoo.com (preferred) or left at the church office.

Material for the February issue should be submitted no later than January 25.

St. John's Goals for 2013

Goal A Family Programs: Enhance family programs to support our children and youth and to draw in new families.

1. In the next 6 months, expand the involvement of our members in family programs.
2. Attract at least three new families to take part in family programs over the next year.
3. Recognize community families participating in St. John's activities through a program of formal thanks and welcoming.

Goal B Outreach: Provide focus for and expand outreach activity.

1. Commit to and undertake a new or expanded outreach activity in 2013.
2. Continue current outreach activities, such as donating to AFAC and lunches for the Bailey's Crossroads Homeless Shelter.
3. Review past successful community social activities to determine if they could be revived and provide outreach to the surrounding communities.

Goal C Worship: Further enliven worship to uplift our spiritual lives.

1. Explore worship approaches and music that produce greater congregational participation and more enthusiastic singing.

Goal D Parish Growth: Attract new members and reach out to inactive, prior, and homebound members.

1. Contact all inactive and prior members to invite them to participate again.
2. Request each parishioner invite one other person to share in our worship or a parish activity.
3. Increase average Sunday attendance by 10 percent in 2013.
4. Assure that elderly and shut-in parishioners are provided the opportunity to be visited at least on a biweekly basis.

Goal E Communications: Improve parish communications.

1. Implement a communications strategy in the first 3 months of 2013 that will better inform both prospective and current members about the parish and its activities. This strategy would include the Web site, Logos, weekly e-mails, press releases, and advertising.

**Region III Lenten Series 2013:
Seeking and Serving Christ in All Persons
The Journey from Baptismal Vow to Everyday Practice**

At baptism, all Episcopalians promise to seek and serve Christ in all persons, respecting the dignity of every human being. This year Region III takes a look at how the Church is doing in its work of eliminating racism and encouraging a cultural diversity that recognizes, celebrates and incorporates the diverse and enriching gifts of all races and cultures. We'll explore the Church's historical, biblical and tradition mandates for seeing the face of God in each other; how issues of race, ethnicity and inclusion impact the Church and its members; our current challenges and opportunities; and what faithful actions we can take to transform ourselves, the Church and the communities in which we serve.

Each offering at an Arlington church includes a soup and salad supper at 6:30 pm, the presentation with follow up questions beginning at 7:15 pm, and concluding worship at 8:15 pm. Nursery care is provided.

Saturday, February 16, 10:00 am

From Repentance to Hope - A Service of Remembrance, Celebration and Witness

Location: St. George's Episcopal Church, 905 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg 22401

This year's version of our annual Region III Lenten Quiet Day Retreat brings together The Most Rev. Katherine Jefferts Schori and the Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston in an interfaith, multicultural service that includes a litany of repentance, voices on race, ethnicity and inclusion within our diocese, and a celebration of hope.

Tuesday, February 19, 6:30 pm.

New Testament Perspectives on Race, Ethnicity and Inclusion – What does it matter to God? Why should it matter to us?

Speaker: The Rev. Lloyd A. Lewis, Jr., Ph.D., Professor of New Testament, Virginia Theological Seminary

Location: St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 2609 N Glebe Road, Arlington, 22207

Tuesday, February 26, 6:30 pm

Old Testament Perspectives on Race, Ethnicity and Inclusion – What does it matter to God? Why should it matter to us?

Speaker: Stephen L. Cook, Ph.D., Professor of Old Testament, Virginia Theological Seminary

Location: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 4000 Lorcom Lane, Arlington 22207

Tuesday, March 5, 6:30 pm

Theology of Human Dignity – A Historical Perspective on Religion, Ideology and Human Dignity

Speaker: Beverly E. Mitchell, Professor of Historical Theology, Wesley Theological Seminary

Location: Trinity Episcopal Church, 2217 Columbia Pike, Arlington 22204

Tuesday, March 12, 6:30 pm

Conquering Race and Class – Impossible Dream or Realistic Possibility

Speaker: The Rev. Benjamin Campbell (with insights from his experience addressing Richmond's unhealed history)

Location: St. John's Episcopal Church, 415 S. Lexington Street, Arlington 22204

Tuesday, March 19, 6:30 pm

Beyond Black and White – Dealing with Barriers that Inhibit Full Inclusion of Latinos/Hispanics

Speaker: The Rev. Anthony Guillen, Officer of Latino/Hispanic Ministries for the Episcopal Church

Location: St. George's Episcopal Church, 915 N. Oakland Street, Arlington 22203

Friday, April 12, Meet Me in Galilee, Part I, 7:00 – 9:30 pm

Saturday, April 13, Meet Me in Galilee, Part II, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Though discussion, sharing of personal story, and practical exercises, the Diocesan Committee on Race Relations will lead Region III in seeing how race, ethnicity and inclusion have shaped us and invite liberating transformation.

Facilitators: The Diocesan Committee on Race Relations

Location: Trinity Episcopal Church, 2217 Columbia Pike, Arlington, 22204

St. John's Episcopal Church
415 South Lexington Street
Arlington VA 22204
703-671-6834
<http://stjohnsarlingtonva.org>

Time Sensitive Material—Please Deliver Promptly

Staff

Rector: The Rev. Ann B. Barker
Minister of Music: Lynn Robinson
Organist: Carol Dunlap
Parish Administrator: Virginia Pearson
Sexton: Justiniano Garay

Parish Leaders

Bill Thomson, Treasurer
John Restall, Assistant Treasurer
John Wilson, Chair, Finance Committee
Eileen Tallent, Chair, Altar Guild
Beth Cavey, Minister of Family Programs

Vestry

Faye Pritchard, Senior Warden
Lenore Schmidt, Junior Warden
Patricia Broida
Debbie Carter
Carrie Harbin
Diane Henderson
Pete Olivere

LOGOS Editor

Dave Dunlap