



# 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*

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March 2013

## The Holy Spirit At Work At St. John's

Sometimes we wonder what we as a congregation are here to do, what our purpose is. This year we have five goals that involve family programs, outreach, worship, parish growth and communications. I want you all to know that the Holy Spirit is moving through St. John's.

I taught my first Confirmation class this week. We are preparing young people for Confirmation by helping them reflect on what they believe as opposed to what others have taught them to believe. We are being faithful stewards of what God has given us to do and making an impact on our youth. It is a great blessing that we are able to do this through our Family Ministries Program. The Family Ministries Program has been immensely helped in funding by a Mustard Seed Grant from the diocese, since one of its priorities is to strengthen our existing churches. We asked for \$1,000 and received \$1,500. We have energy in our staff and are moving to get others to join in.

We also received an outreach proposal from one of our members that contained many good ideas for projects we could do. The Holy Spirit

moved her to come up with this proposal and we are so grateful. The outreach project(s) we do this year will have an impact on our community, as our existing ones do already. Because of our commitment to AFAC families and individuals are given groceries to extend their short supply of food. Because of our bagged lunch program, 25 people have a healthy meal that they would not otherwise have received. Because of our Angel Tree giving, children who would have no gifts are receiving gifts for Christmas, helping them feel loved and cared for.

Never doubt that the Holy Spirit is moving through St. John's to accomplish God's work in the world. Let me know when you see the Holy Spirit at work.

Let me know if you have a story to tell about how St. John's has made an impact on your lives. We want to publish more stories that show what St. John's is doing and how it is having an effect on our community and the community outside our doors.

Ann †

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*The Family Ministries Program has been immensely helped in funding by a Mustard Seed Grant from the diocese.*

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## St. John's Goals for 2013

### Family Programs

Enhance family programs to support our children and youth and to draw in new families.

### Outreach

Provide focus for and expand outreach activity.

### Worship

Further enliven worship to uplift our spiritual lives.

### Parish Growth

Attract new members and reach out to inactive, prior, and homebound members.

### Communications

Improve parish communications with better strategies to inform prospective and current members about St. John's and its activities.

## Ashes to Go

This year, in addition to its usual noon and evening Ash Wednesday services at the church, St. John's offered Ashes to Go to morning and evening commuters at the Ballston Metro station. The Reverend Ann Barker and parishioner Roger Ludwig formed the Ashes to Go team for the morning commute. Ann and parishioner Bill Pritchard teamed up for the evening rush hour.

Standing out of the way of commuters, the parishioners held a sign explaining that ashes were being offered. When approached, Ann made the sign of the cross with the ashes on the petitioner's forehead and repeated: "Remember that thou art dust and to dust thou shalt return."

During the evening commute time Cristo Rey's rector, the Reverend Catherine Campbell, distributed Lenten meditation booklets.

"I was unsure at first that this was a good idea," Bill Pritchard commented, "but as people stepped forward to receive the ashes, they would close their eyes and for that short moment you could sense they had a feeling of peace right in the

middle of the flow of commuters."

Ashes to Go was started in 2007 in St. Louis, Missouri, by ministers who were part of an ecumenical Bible study group that included members from the Episcopal, Presbyterian, Disciples of Christ, American Baptist, and Mennonite traditions. By 2012 more than 80 churches in 21 states were offering Ashes to Go.

## Region 3 Creates ACT III Program With Samaritan Ministries

The churches of Region 3 (Arlington) have joined together to form the ACT III program with Samaritan Ministries in order to offer persons who come to our door requesting money another way to get financial assistance. Clergy contribute money from their discretionary funds to a special fund at Samaritan Ministries and clients are seen on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 2 to 4 p.m. Clients must be Arlington residents. ACT III will use church volunteers and Samaritan Ministry personnel to screen the clients and determine their need. Checks will be written directly to rental or utility companies. Each client who qualifies may receive assistance of up to \$300 per year. They must have a referral from a Region 3 church in order to be seen. This effort is a way the Region 3 churches can band together to serve the Arlington community and hopefully offer more people assistance. Anyone who is interested in volunteering to aid in the screening process for clients, please see Ann for more information.

### 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.

## Pat Bleicher: An Appreciation

Each year at our annual meeting and in LOGOS we try to thank the many people who dedicate their time and service to St. John's and its ministries. Inevitably, we forget someone, and inevitably, the forgotten person is someone whose dedication and devotion are strong and enduring.

I would like to apologize to Pat Bleicher for not including her with others I thanked publicly at this year's annual meeting and in LOGOS. She deserved that public recognition.

Pat has been leading the Education for Ministry (EFM) program at St. John's for 15 years, teaching theology to lay people. The four-year EFM

program studies the Old and New Testaments, as well as church history, theology, and ethics. Many of our parish's leaders, as well as leaders from other Northern Virginia churches, have graduated from the EFM program at St. John's. Pat's teaching and mentoring has helped them learn to reflect theologically on their lives and ministries. She is an invaluable resource to our congregation and to those who study with her. I am personally grateful for the prodigious effort she puts into EFM and I also very much appreciate her preaching. Thank you Pat. You are cared about and valued by myself and by the people of St. John's.

## From the Rector: Seeking God's Purposes

This past fall, I signed up for a country line dancing class. I had never taken this type of dance before and I was a little afraid. But I love to dance, so I enrolled. The time wasn't the most convenient and getting there could be troublesome, but I made it and I enjoyed it. Although it was uncomfortable sometimes, I determined that it was good for me and in line with God's purposes for my life, one of which right now is to get out and have a little fun.

Brother Geoffrey Tristram of the Society of St. John the Evangelist says that Lent is a good time to take stock of our spiritual lives and find out how we are doing in cooperating with God's purposes in our lives. Where are we thwarting them and where are we cooperating with them? Where are we doing the things that make us whole and where are we doing things that enervate us and make us miserable, even though we think we have to do them. Where are we trying to take over from God in our lives and where are we letting God have God's way with us?

There are several ways we can thwart God's vision for us, the most obvious being that we don't even realize God has a vision for us. We are so busy planning our lives around what we think we

want and need that we forget to see if God wants and needs us to do that. It is really important to pause to ask if God is really wanting us to do these things or not. Could God be calling us away from some things and toward others? If we do not take time to reflect on this, we will never know.

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We may be in the uncomfortable place of not feeling good about ourselves and busily trying to match ourselves up with someone else's life. Comparing ourselves to others

only leads us to bad feelings about ourselves. We cannot grow into the people God wants us to be if we are trying to be someone else. Our gifts are just as important to God as everyone else's and it is good to spend some time discerning what they are and how we can best use them for God's glory.

We may be trying to control our own lives, making sure every minute is full of something on our agenda and not God's. We may manipulate others to try to get them to do what we want them to do so we can stop anything unexpected from happening in our well-ordered existence.

We may be a butterfly who against all the laws of nature wants to stay in the cocoon. We have a life that is comfortable and safe and we want it to

stay that way. Same routine, same house, same people. No change, no challenge, no excitement, no growth. That would be too uncomfortable for us.

But that is not what God wants for us. God is a God of change and challenge and surprises. God is the God who asks us to ask and seek and knock and open the door to what God has in mind for us. Joe Chambers, in a CREDO Lenten meditation, talks about a nun, Sister Madonna Butler, who is the oldest person to finish an Ironman, a race where participants swim 2.4 miles, bike 112 miles and run 26.2 miles in under 17 hours. She is 82. She was inspired by a priest at 48 who claimed that distance running relaxed one's body, mind and spirit. With this breath of inspiration, she started something new and different.

What is God asking us to do this Lent that is new and different? Sister Madonna opened a door that God offered to her and found happiness and peace. What doors are we being invited to open? Are we being offered a new relationship, a new job, a new way to enjoy ourselves, a new way to run our lives that is more in line with God's purposes for us? Sometimes, Chambers says, opening the door can be the hardest part. It means change, it means discomfort, but ultimately it means we are happier and more whole because we are in line with God's purposes for us, however strange we may think they are. We must not be afraid to ask and seek and knock, because God's love is there waiting for us when we do.

Ann †

### 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](mailto:dave_dunlap@yahoo.com) (preferred) or left at the church office.

Deadline for the April issue is March 23.

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Thanks to everyone who made this year's Shrove Tuesday pancake supper a resounding success. About 40 people gathered in the undercroft on February 12 for the traditional Shrove Tuesday pancake supper of ham and pancakes. The event brought in \$236 for the church as we entered the season of Lent.

The Mardi Gras decorations put up by Kay Wells helped to make the event a festive success. Thanks to all who cooked, served, cleared the tables, and cleaned up afterward – you were all essential to the success of the supper. Workers included: Jeff Aitken, Jeff Wallace, Henry Carter, Pete Olivere, Bill Schenck, Marshall Adair, Brian Cavey, Tina Cavey, Michael Cavey, John Petrich, Del Hunt, Don Hess, and Bill Thomson.

### Parish News

#### Congratulations

➤ To Kim and Colin White, Liz White's son and daughter-in-law on the birth of Quincy Dean White on February 1.

#### Welcome

➤ To our temporary sexton, Karina Aviles, Justiniano's stepdaughter.

#### Thank you

➤ To everyone who participated in the oral rehydration project at Central United Methodist Church. More than 22,000 bags were filled. St. John's members who helped were: Carol Dunlap, Dave Dunlap, Lynn Robinson, Don Hess, Penny Hess, Ann Barker, Faye Pritchard, Bill Pritchard, Kay Wells, Patricia Broida, Debbie Carter, Robbie Carter, Barbara Olivere, Lynn Christopher and Carolyn Corlett

➤ We received a thank you letter from the Salvation Army for our donations to the Angel Tree project so 35 children could have something under the tree at Christmas. We also received a thank you note from Episcopal Relief and Development for our donation of \$135 for the Global Needs Fund.

## February Vestry Highlights

Vestry members volunteered to be points of contact for St. John's 2013 goals—Carrie Harbin for Family Programs, Faye Pritchard for Outreach, Bill Schenck for Worship, Linda Trochim and Paul Stenger for Parish Growth, and Pete Olivere for Communications. The points of contact will track goal accomplishments and report at each Vestry meeting.

The Vestry voted to ask Arlington County to assess the condition of the oak tree on the 4<sup>th</sup> Street side of the church's property prior to putting in curbing along 4<sup>th</sup> Street as part of Glencarlyn's Neighborhood Conservation Project. The Vestry requested that if the tree's condition warranted, the county remove it and replace it with three new trees at the time the curbing goes in. If the tree has to be removed, the county will pay for the removal, the planting of three replacement trees, and putting in straight cement curbing along 4<sup>th</sup> Street. If the tree is healthy enough to stay, the county will put in asphalt curbing that skirts around the tree.

Junior Warden Lenore Schmidt will look into revising the building use policy, including more clearly defining the guidelines on sales activities in the church building. She also believes that St. John's needs to post a sign designating the parking lot as private property because of liability issues.

## Words on Hymns

Our recessional hymn for March 10, *Guide me O thou great Jehovah*, has been loved for more than a century and has been sung on several important state occasions in Great Britain. The tune was composed by Welshman John Hughes (1873-1932) in 1905 for a hymn festival in Wales. The name of the tune, Cwm Rhondda, is taken from the Welsh name for the Rhondda Valley. The hymn's present form was set in 1907 for the inauguration of an organ at a church in the valley. Hughes played the organ and the text was sung for the first time in English because of the large number of English speakers at the occasion.

William Williams Pantycelan, who wrote the text, is generally acknowledged as the greatest

Welsh hymn writer. It was first published in 1762 and originally had six verses. The hymn makes reference to the various events of the Exodus and the subsequent protection God gave to the Israelites in the wilderness. The hymn text forms an allegory for the journey of Christians throughout their life on earth, who require God's guidance, and ending at the gates of heaven (the verge of Jordan) and the end of time (death of death and hell's destruction).

The hymn has been sung on various British state occasions such as the funerals of Diana, Princess of Wales, and the Queen Mother Elizabeth, and the wedding of Prince William and Catherine "Kate" Middleton. The hymn is also featured prominently in the soundtrack to the 1941 film *How Green Was My Valley*, directed by John Ford. It is also featured at the beginning of the movie *The African Queen*, with Katharine Hepburn singing and playing the organ.

## Mark Your Calendars

- The adult Christian education class will continue its class called "Fearless" throughout Lent. After Easter we will look at Jesus' parables about discipleship or women of the New Testament
- Book Club meets on Tuesday, March 5 at 7:30 p.m. This month's book is *Behind the Beautiful Forever* by Katherine Boo. Come and join the discussion!
- Men's Fellowship meets on Saturday, March 16 at 8:00 a.m.. Come and enjoy fellowship and discussion.
- On March 12 St. John's will host the Region III Lenten Series. If you have not signed up to help, it is not too late! And you are both allowed and encouraged for you to come even if you are not helping.

## Fasting and Feasting in Lent

Fast from judging others	Feast on Christ dwelling in them.
Fast from apparent darkness	Feast on the reality of light.
Fast from pessimism	Feast on optimism.
Fast from thoughts of illness	Feast on the healing power of God.
Fast from words that pollute	Feast on phrases that purify.
Fast from anger	Feast on patience.
Fast from worry	Feast on Divine Providence.
Fast from unrelenting pressure	Feast on unceasing prayer.
Fast from negatives	Feast on positives.
Fast from complaining	Feast on appreciation.
Fast from hostility	Feast on non-resistance.
Fast from bitterness	Feast on forgiveness.
Fast from anxiety	Feast on hope.
Fast from yourself	Feast on a silent heart.

(From Kit Kleinhans, a Lutheran professor at Wartburg Seminary)

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### 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.

#### **Tuesday, March 5, 6:30 pm**

##### **The Work of Social Justice in Haiti: Exploring what it will take to rebuild Eden**

Speaker: The Rev. Joseph M. Constant, Special Coordinator for Haiti, The Episcopal Church

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, 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