



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

May 2013

From the Rector: The Goodness of Light

Light is one of God's most precious gifts. My favorite indoor light is the chandelier in the dining room. The light bulbs in it reflect off its crystals and its illumination dances through the room. It gives things a whole new dimension of brightness and even makes doing my taxes on the dining room table seem less of a pain.

Light is good for us physically. Just as the flowers respond to the increasing light of spring and summer and create beautiful blossoms, we too, respond to light physically. We are outdoors more. The sun's light draws us outside to take a walk, go sailing, hike in the woods, do yard work or just sit on the porch with a glass of iced tea. Sometimes we even decide to enjoy God's presence in the out-of-doors rather than coming to church. (Come to church – the light will be waiting when you get out!) Sunlight is good for our bodies. We get vitamin D from exposure to the sun, as well as a healthy glowing tan (as long as we don't get too much).

Light is good for us emotionally, too. Nothing is worse than coming inside from a gloomy day and finding there is no electricity in the house. The absence of light is a real mood killer. It limits the activities we enjoy – no reading, no TV, no computers, no needlework or workshop fun. Some people are really affected by the absence of light due to the short days in the

winter. They become seriously depressed and have to use special light boxes to help them cope until spring comes around again. A porch light helps us feel welcome at our own or someone else's house, and Christmas lights help bring joy and wonder to that holy season.

Light is also good for us spiritually. One of the images for Jesus is the light of the world. For us to grow spiritually, we have to be using the light of God to illumine our spiritual path. Jacquelynn Leggett compares being guided by Christ to an experience she had in an elevator with a burned-out third floor light on one side. She kept pressing the button and it remained dark. Only when she looked at the other side of the elevator and saw the lit button was she confident in where she was going. She was reminded that if she was to go confidently forward in her faith journey, her path needed to be illumined by the Lord's light. When she strayed from the light, the path became difficult. Brother David Vyrhof of the Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE) says that "when our hearts are fixed on things of eternal value, we live in the light and our lives are full of meaning and purpose".

When we live in the Lord's light, we need to make sure our lights are shining, too. We need to share God's glory with others. Brother Eldridge

Pendleton (SSJE) says that when we keep our light on a stand and not under a bushel, “God’s glory will shine in our faces...to bring the promise and light of God’s transforming love to our broken and despairing world.” We have God’s light, he says, because we know God loves us personally and deeply. “We are living mirrors,” says Brother Curtis Almquist (SSJE). We need to bear the beams of God’s love in our own faces because otherwise others may “never know how much God loves them”.

In addition to following the light of God in Christ and showing it to the world, it enhances our spiritual journey to see God’s light in the face of others. Seeing God’s glory “radiating from the faces of those around us” is so important, says

Brother James Koester (SSJE). We know that we are loved as well and this love produces growth in us.

Light is crucial for our growth – physical, emotional and spiritual. It brings us health. It enhances our happiness; it helps us grow spiritually. We need to do all that we can to take in the light of the sun, the light of the miracle of electricity, the light of God. Especially do we need God’s light in our daily lives. Walking in God’s light keeps us on the right path, the one on which we travel toward loving God and our neighbor. Enjoy the sunlight, the chandelier and God’s radiant glory. Take it in and then let God’s light shine out to the world.

Ann †

Coming Up at St. John’s

- **May 7** will be the regular meeting of St. John’s Book Club at 7:30. May’s selection is Julia Child’s *My Life In France*. There’s still time to read this entertaining book in preparation for the discussion!
- **May 11** the Glencarlyn Civic Association will be having its community yard sale. If you want to join the sellers, be prepared to bring your own table and let Pete Olivere know ahead of time that you will be selling so you can be included on the map of sellers. And if you don’t want to sell, be sure to come, shop, and buy!
- **May 11** is St. John’s annual Spring Tea, 1 – 3, p.m. This is a wonderful but labor-intensive event, and Beth Cavey, who is organizing the tea, can always use more help. Review the sign-up sheets in the Narthex to see where your help is needed and help make the tea a success!
- **May 12** is our UTO Spring Ingathering. Blue boxes are available in the narthex for coins, or just write a check payable to St. John’s, designate it for UTO, and be generous in your support.
- **May 12** the church youth will be selling Fair Trade coffee during the social time following the 10 a.m. service. Check your home coffee supply and take advantage of this opportunity to do well by doing good.
- **May 19** will be the last Sunday before the Adult Education program goes on hiatus for the summer. Come join us each Sunday until then and if you have ideas for subjects you would like to investigate this fall, let Ann know so programs can be prepared.
- **June 2** Bishop Susan Goff will visit St. John’s to celebrate the Eucharist and confirm some of our young people. There will be only one service that Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Bishop Susan will stay to greet and be greeted during coffee hour. This will be Bishop Susan’s first visit to St. John’s – let’s make sure she receives a warm welcome.
- **June 9** the Education for Ministry (EFM) Program will graduate Doris Page and celebrate another year of learning under the leadership of our own Pat Bleicher. Now is the time to consider whether you are called to this four-year program of lay religious education. See Pat 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.

Highlights of the April Vestry Meeting

Bill Thomson is developing a restructured report on designated funds that will group funds with a common purpose under a common heading in the monthly treasurer's report. The vestry briefly discussed the role of designated funds in developing the budget. They will continue the discussion at the May meeting.

Regarding St. John's 2013 goals, under Family Programs it was reported that two families from the neighborhood are now sending their children to our Sunday school. Under the Outreach goal it was reported that the results of the outreach survey would be available in mid-April and would be used to choose the first outreach project. (See the article on survey results on page 5.) The goal of making sure that our elderly and shut-in parishioners are visited on a biweekly basis is being met, primarily through the efforts of Ann Barker.

The vestry voted for Linda Trochim as St. John's lay delegate to Council and for Debbie Carter as her alternate.

Spring Tea Scheduled for May 11

For mothers (and accompanying fathers), St. John's Spring Tea is an elegant way to celebrate Mother's Day weekend with their children. This

year's Spring Tea will be held May 11, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

For the rest of us, the tea gives us a delightful opportunity to get together and talk with friends over tasty tea and gourmet food, served fine china with real silverware, white tablecloths, and live piano music.

The menu will include the usual scones, sandwiches, and scrumptious desserts as well as a complimentary glass of champagne for the adults or sparkling cider for the children. Cost for the tea is \$25 for each adult, \$35 for an adult and one child, and \$5 for each additional child. In addition, those attending will have the opportunity to have a commemorative family portrait taken, Cost for the family portrait is \$10.00 for a 5 x 7 photograph or a digital download.

Come and enjoy, bring a friend—and support St. John's at the same time.

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.

Words on Hymns

St. John's uses three hymnals: The 1982 Hymnal and the supplemental hymnals Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS) and Wonder, Love and Praise (WLP). Each has its fans and each has people who don't care for the hymns in that particular hymnal. Inevitably there are people who feel their favorite hymnal is under-used. LEVAS and WLP have seasonal challenges, in that the hymnals' compilers did not include an extensive number of hymns (sometimes none) for certain days in the Christian calendar. However, that does not apply to the lengthy season of Pentecost, which runs from Trinity Sunday to the first Sunday in Advent, although we do sing special hymns for All Saints Day, Thanksgiving, and Christ the King Sunday in November.

During the summer we have typically sung more hymns from LEVAS. This year we're going to increase the number of LEVAS selections, and also include more hymns from WLP. We have sung all of the hymns we'll be doing, but some have not been used very recently. We hope you will join in the singing with gusto. If you flub some notes, no one will tell.

May 26 is Trinity Sunday, when we traditionally start the service with the hymn *Holy, Holy, Holy* from the 1982 hymnal. This was one

of my father's favorite hymns, at least judging from the amount he sang it around the house (not very tunefully, but enthusiastically).

Reginald Heber (1783 – 1826) wrote the lyrics while serving as vicar of Hodnet, Shropshire, England. He was the first to compile a hymnal ordering hymns around the church calendar. Wanting to celebrate a triune God, Heber wrote *Holy, Holy, Holy* for Trinity Sunday – a day that reaffirms the doctrine of the Trinity and is observed eight Sundays after Easter. The poem was first published in 1826. After working as a country parson for 16 years, Heber served as the Anglican Bishop of Calcutta until his sudden death at the age of 42. The “holy, holy, holy” part, of course, may refer to the Sanctus. John Bacchus Dykes (1823 – 1876) composed the tune Nicaea for this hymn in 1861. The tune name is a tribute to the First Council of Nicaea which formalized the doctrine of the trinity in 325.

Incidentally, *Holy, Holy, Holy* was not Heber's only contribution to the hymnal. He also wrote the lyrics for the Epiphany hymn *Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning*.

Carol Dunlap

Parish News

Rest in peace

- Lorraine Underwood, who entered the Life of the Resurrection on April 14
- Sherwood “Woody” Hedrick, who entered the Life of the Resurrection on April 22

Thank you

- To the altar guild, the musicians, all the worship participants, the egg hiders, the egg fillers, those who brought flowers to flower the cross and those who coordinated and brought food for the reception for making our Easter celebration a wonderful occasion
- To Virginia Pearson for all her hard work on the Easter bulletin
- To Diane Henderson and Carrie Harbin for coordinating the spaghetti supper and to all those who brought food, cooked, set up and cleaned up. We raised nearly \$200.
- To Linda Trochim, who donated a refrigerator, and to Jeff Wallace who helped her bring it and set it up
- To everyone who helped make the Spring Clean-Up day a fantastic success. Junior Warden Lenore Schmidt appreciates all the help!

LOGOS

The LOGOS is published monthly except August, near the beginning of each 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 June issue should be submitted no later than May 25.

Results of the Outreach Survey

Nine out of the 14 parishioners responding to the survey on outreach have chosen an AFAC project as the outreach project they would like to see carried out at St. John's, making it the project to receive the most responses.

Everyone who responded expressed interest in more than one project. Two went so far as to check six projects and most checked three or four.

Here are the results for the day-of-service projects, starting with those chosen by the most people. Numbers in parentheses are the number of respondents checking the project.

- Participation in an AFAC project: (9)
- Participation in a rehydration project: (8)
- Providing "care packages" to a social services organization: (7)
- Participation in a Rebuilding Together project: (5)
- Participation in a Habitat for Humanity project: (3)
- Working with an outside social services group to provide job interview/work clothes to needy: (3)
- Participation in a Martin Luther King Day Project: (2)

Four respondents expressed interest in regular monthly or bimonthly work at a homeless shelter. One indicated that he was already working at tutoring in area schools.

Two other parishioners said that they would be setting up a knitting group to produce blankets, premie hats, and prayer shawls for use in hospitals.

Work will begin immediately on setting up at least one project with AFAC.

St. John's Authors

We are a small congregation but we are fortunate to have two authors among us.

Billie Jean Keith has written *A Kiss For A Yankee Dime*, a novel about life in a small Mississippi town after WWII. The characters in her novel are based on her life and experiences growing up in that state. It's a fun read – already enjoyed by the St. John's book club. Billie Jean will be glad to talk more about this with any reader at coffee after the 10 a.m. service.

Marshall Adair has written a memoir *Lessons From A Diplomatic Life: Watching Flowers From Horseback*. He recounts his (and Ginger's) life in the U.S. Foreign Service. Marshall served in, among other countries, Zaire, Myanmar (Burma), and China. The book is a fun and informative read and after reading, you will know Marshall and Ginger better.

Both books are now in the church library, where they may be checked out. They are currently on the credenza outside Ann's office. Marshall's book is also available at the Arlington County Library.

Bill Schenck

St. Jophn's First Quarter Financial Report

The table below summarizes revenue and expenses for the first quarter of 2013. The operating budget receipts exceeded the disbursements to create a budget surplus of \$991 for the quarter.

Operating Budget	Year to Date	Budget
Operating Income	\$38,856.00	\$142,985.00
Operating Expenditures	\$37,864.52	\$165,725.00
Income Less Expenditures	\$991.48	(\$22,740.00)
Funds Designated for Specific Uses		
Designated Funds In	\$489.40	
Designated Funds Out	\$1,468.72	

If you are interested in detailed information on total financial assets, see the extended report posted on the bulletin board outside the nursery or contact Bill Thomson.



The Reverend Ann Barker delivers a sermon for the youth of St. John's at the Easter service.