



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

September 2016

St. John's Adopts New Vision and Mission Statements and 2016 Goals

Following the vestry retreat in early 2016, Rector Ann Barker and Senior Warden Bill Thomson led a group to update St. John's Vision and Mission statements and to develop goals for 2016 in support of the church's vision and mission. The group also included Teresa Birmingham, Dave Dunlap, Peter Olivere, Lisa Pope, and Faye Pritchard.

An initial draft was presented and discussed at a congregational meeting on July 17. The recommendations from that discussion have been incorporated into the following Vision, Mission, and 2016 Goals. The vestry will be developing a plan with a specific set of actions to address the goals. This plan will be shared with the congregation, and *LOGOS* will also continue to provide updates on the various action items.

Vision Statement

St. John's Episcopal Church is an inclusive congregation that nurtures Christian spiritual growth and community through worship, education, outreach, mutual care, and fellowship.

Mission Statement

St. John's mission is building a strong spiritual community; welcoming all who enter our doors, including believers, seekers, and doubters; and reaching out to those in need both within our congregation and around us.

Goals

Welcoming Visitors and Newcomers

- Assess current welcoming activities.
- Determine additional activities.

Building a Strong Spiritual Community

- Incorporate additional energizing music.
- Build closer community which includes organized mutual care.
- Enhance family ministry.

- Hire and retain a family programs director.
- Create strong family ministry programs for children and youth.
- Provide child and nursery care.
- Broaden and strengthen the content of and build broader participation in adult Christian formation.
- Consider conducting alternative services.

- Plan and develop additional activities for all members of the congregation, ranging from children and youth to seniors.

Serving Needs in the Community

- Continue/broaden partnership with Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC).
- Undertake activities which include families with children of all ages.
- Investigate community needs and potential new partners.

What Is the U.T.O.?

This year the people of St. John's donated \$527 to the U.T.O. (United Thank Offering). But what is it, and where does the money go?

In the 19th century, women were excluded from all leadership positions in the Episcopal Church. But some women organized and funded most of the missionary activities of the church. In 1889 the Women's Auxiliary started the United Offering to support mission projects and missionaries, both domestic and foreign. The first offering totaled \$2,188 and was used to build a church in Alaska and to send a female missionary to Japan.

The United Offering became the United Thank Offering we know today, with the little "Blue Boxes" to collect donations. Over the years, the money from these boxes became the major source of funding for specific missionary projects. In 2015 U.T.O. raised \$1,558,000 to fund 55 projects.

Our diocese received three of the grants: \$14,996 to upgrade the kitchen at St. Peter's in Port Royal so that the church could expand its food ministry; \$46,290 to purchase a vehicle for a bishop in South Sudan; and \$1,250 for the Charis Community near Charlottesville. According to Buck Blanchard, Director of Missions and Outreach for the diocese, our diocese is one of the largest donors to the U.T.O.

Remember next year, "Save your nickels, save your dimes; U.T.O. is in its prime."

Bill Schenck

(Note: To learn more, see Bill Schenck about borrowing a U.T.O. booklet.)



From the Rector: Keeping Busy

This summer I borrowed a Great Course from the library on Christian Theology. I was going to use it to study during the times I didn't have Christian education or something pressing to do. I didn't open it once. I had so many things to do, my time was taken up with completing my list for the day. Of course sometimes I didn't finish the list, and things were left over until the next day.

We are going into fall, which is traditionally a very busy season. There is school and all its attendant details. There are sporting activities, carpools, and snacks to bring. Halloween and other activities like apple picking are on the schedule. Not to mention work and home activities.

There is nothing wrong with being busy, unless it is all consuming and obsessive and gives you no time to do the things you enjoy that are not part of the general tenor of frenzy. We all want to live meaningful and productive lives, and for most of us that means keeping busy doing things most of the time.

I would like to suggest this fall that we not only be busy with our day-to-day round of activities, but that we be spiritually busy as well. I would also like to suggest that we work with God to be the people God created us to be. George Congreve of the Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE) said, "God made me to express his love in some way which no one else could express it. God's purpose is always great and true, and real greatness lies in the carrying out of this purpose in our lives."

The first question we need to address is what it means to be a follower of Jesus. How does that show up in our lives? Of course we know the commandments of loving God, neighbor, and self. But here are some ways to work on those commandments as we go through our busy days.

One way to be busy is to try to be perfect as our Father is perfect. That doesn't mean perfectionism, but perfect love. It is acceptance of all people and wanting for them all the blessings God wants for them. We can do that at work, at school, and with our families. Those who are closest to us are sometimes the hardest to accept because we are most affected by their foibles and failings, as they are most affected by us. Part of perfect love is loving our imperfections and offering them to God as well as the rest of us (Brother John Braught, SSJE). That means we love and accept every part of ourselves, and we do our best to make amends to others we may have hurt as a result of those flaws.

Another way to be busy is to create something new every day—to give birth to something the world needs. God has given us our imaginations to see beyond what is to what might be. It is sometimes hard in our day to feel like we are creating something new for God's world, but we can. We can create a new relationship. We can begin a new habit that will enhance our spiritual life. We can recycle and create new things from old. We can pick the fruits and vegetables we have created and cook a meal for our family. We can create an atmosphere of kindness that elicits good responses from people.

Being busy spiritually is also about deciding who we belong to. We belong to a tennis club. We belong to a company. We belong to our family. We belong to a volunteer organization that gives our lives deep meaning. We may belong to several things, but our greatest belonging is to God. We need to be busy about thinking of that when we work and we play, when we live and love. Belonging to God is about being God's man or woman in the world, about thinking all the time about

what our actions should be to be congruent with God's will for our lives.

Spiritual busyness involves being present to our emotions. They are God-given and not to be pushed aside. Of course we need to learn to respond and not react to these emotions, especially the negative or fearful ones. We can acknowledge them and express them without

entertaining them and taking them on as a burden.

Spiritually busy people are on a pilgrimage, growing in Christ through the day as they are busy doing other things. Spiritual busyness and ordinary busyness often intersect. This fall—this busy season—be aware of your spiritual life being molded and shaped by God as you go about your lives.

Ann †

St. John's Monthly Financial Statement

July income:	\$15,616
Pledge + Plate:	\$13,376
Year-to-date income:	\$81,832
July expense:	\$14,530
Year-to-date expense:	\$90,928

St. John's Staff and Leadership

Staff

Rector: The Rev. Ann B. Barker
Minister of Music: Lynn Robinson
Parish Administrator: Virginia Pearson
Sexton: Juan Figueroa

Parish Leaders

Bill Thomson, Treasurer
John Restall, Pledge Clerk
Eileen Tallent, Chair, Altar Guild

Vestry

Bill Thomson, Senior Warden
Sandy Winger, Junior Warden
Jeff Aitken
Teresa Birmingham

Del Hunt
Lisa Pope
John Restall

Catching the Wave at VBS 2016

More than 20 children enjoyed a week of stories, songs, arts and crafts, science experiments, recreation, and tasty dinners during St. John's Vacation Bible School (VBS), held July 18–22 from 5:30–8 p.m. Featuring the theme of "Surf Shack: Catching the Wave of God's Amazing Love," the program was coordinated by Valeria Antelo of Cristo Rey. Each day the participants met at the "beach" to hear a story about how God was involved in stories about water, from the Creation to Jesus calming the storm. After music complementing

each story, there were science experiments to participate in. These included blowing water bubbles with pipettes and discovering if the children could blow soda cans out of cups to show what the wind can do in a storm. Dinner, a favorite activity, was followed by recreation and arts and crafts. Water day was especially popular in recreation, while the crafts included designing a stained glass window, making a bookmark, decorating VBS T-shirts, and creating a crab hat. The kids had a great time and so did the helpers!



More than 20 children learned about God's amazing love during St. John's VBS in July.

A New Year of EfM (and New Opportunities for EfM Grads)

As we begin another year of Education for Ministry (EfM) at St. John's, I am inspired by this collect:

*Dear God of Boundless Gifts,
You ask us to be fruitful,
We pray that you help us cultivate the seeds,
So that others may reap the harvest. Amen.*

St. John's EfM group begins September 11. We are graced with 10 members covering all four years of study, and we are looking forward to a fruitful year of boundless gifts from fellowship, study, reflection, and worship. We are definitely reaping the harvest from many years of Pat Bleicher cultivating the seeds of EfM.

The experience of EfM does not have to end with the completion of the fourth year of study. EfM Alumni/ae Association members receive:

- The *EfM AlumNews* electronic newsletter and other select electronic communications from the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee.

- Invitations to local, regional, and Sewanee-area events.

- Subscriber access to Oxford Biblical Studies Online for reference purposes and continued study.

If you are an EfM graduate and want access to these benefits, please email efmalum@sewanee.edu to ensure that the Alumni/ae Association has your updated contact information. EfM no longer requires a \$25 annual fee to join the association, but encourages graduates to donate to the EfM Scholarship Fund at http://efm.sewanee.edu/efm_alumni_ae/efm-alumni-ae-association. Donations allow EfM to provide scholarships, many of which have been awarded to St. John's EfM participants. Please consider planting some seeds that others may harvest.

Wade Hinkle and I are also looking for ways to reengage EfM graduates in theological reflection and study and are open to ideas. Email us at efm@stjohnsarlingtonva.org with any ideas you have.

Beth Cavey

Sunday Education Resumes September 11

The adult Sunday Seminar and children's Christian education program will resume on September 11. The adult class will meet at 9 a.m. in the parlor, with the children's class starting at 10 a.m. in the second-floor Sunday School room. Come join us for another year of learning and inspiration!

LOGOS

LOGOS is published monthly except for August, at the beginning of the month.

Lisa Pope, LOGOS Editor

Articles for LOGOS may be emailed to logos@stjohnsarlingtonva.org (preferred) or left at the church office.

Material for the October issue should be submitted by September 20. Article ideas for future issues are also welcome.

Words on Hymns: *Come, Labor On*

Our processional hymn for September 4 is another of my favorites, *Come, Labor On*. We frequently sing this hymn on its obvious occasion, Labor Day weekend.

Jane L. Borthwick (1813–1897) wrote this text and published it in her 1859 *Thoughts for Thoughtful Hours* in seven, six-line stanzas. She revised the text into its present five-line form and published that version in her *Thoughts for Thoughtful Hours* of 1863. The *Psalter Hymnal* includes stanzas 1, 2, 4, and 6 from her revised version.

Inspired by the gospel parables that liken the coming of God's kingdom to the sowing of seeds and harvesting of grain (see Matthew 9:37–38; Matthew 13; John 4:35–38), the text calls us to work for God's cause even in the face of Satan's opposition. Because our earthly time is limited, we must use our resources wisely and be diligent in our kingdom tasks until we hear the final “Well done, good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:21).

Borthwick was a member of the Presbyterian Free Church of Scotland and had a strong interest in the church's mission work. She also supported Moravian missions in Labrador, Canada, and was involved in social service work in Edinburgh. Both Jane and her younger sister Sarah Findlater Borthwick were well-known translators of German chorales. In 1855 they co-produced a book entitled, *Hymns from the Land of Luther*. In 1875, while living in Switzerland, Borthwick produced another book of translations called *Alpine Lyrics*.

T. (Thomas) Tertius Noble (1867–1953) composed the cathedral-style tune *Ora Labora*

for Borthwick's text when it was accepted in 1916 for inclusion in the Episcopal hymnal. The tune, whose title means “pray and work,” was also published in *The New Hymnal* of 1918.

As a youth Noble attended a boarding school, but found the curriculum so ill-suited to his abilities (the school offered no music) that he was allowed to come home. A pastor took the 13-year-old boy under his wing, supervised his education, and secured him a position at All Saints Church of Colchester.

After attending the Royal College of Music in London, England, Noble became organist and choirmaster at Ely Cathedral (1892–1898) and York Minster (1898–1912). In 1913 he was invited to become the organist and to establish a cathedral music program at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in New York City. The church had been recently renovated, and a new organ was built under Noble's direction. He also established a famous choir school for boys there in 1919. Noble served St. Thomas until his retirement in 1942.

He composed orchestral pieces, choral works, anthems, service music for the Anglican liturgy, and hymn tunes. A member of the Episcopal Church's Joint Commission on Church Music (1916–1943), he published two collections (1946 and 1949) of free harmonizations of hymn tunes used in the *Hymnal 1940*. His only harmonization that appears in the *1982 Hymnal* is that of the hymn *Fairest Lord Jesus*.

Carol Dunlap

Parish News

Upcoming Events:

- The St. John's Book Club will meet on **September 13** at 7:30 p.m. (please note the date change) to discuss *Alexander Hamilton* by Ron Chernow. Come join a lively discussion about the book that inspired the Broadway smash *Hamilton*. All are welcome!
- St. John's will hold its traditional animal blessing on **October 2** at the church at 5 p.m. A second blessing will tentatively be held at the Shirlington Dog Park, with a date and time to be determined. Please invite your friends, family, and neighbors!
- Come join St. John's Fall Cleanup Day on **October 15** from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (lunch will be provided). No matter your skill level or capabilities, there's a job for you!

Thank you to:

- All who helped with Vacation Bible School this year: coordinator Valeria Antelo; arts and crafts leader Patricia Amaya; recreation leader Stacy O'Connor; team leaders Maddie Harbin, Galen Henderson, and Jonathan Muehlke; and helpers Alex Delcid, Richard Henry, Andrew James, and Ana Pereira. Thank you to all who provided meals—Michael Birmingham, Peter and Barbara Olivere, Anne and Paul Stenger, and Barbara Wien. Thanks also to Peter Olivere for taking photos.
- Pat Bleicher for preaching on August 21.
- Barbara Wien, who transported the bagged lunches to the Bailey's Crossroads shelter in July.
- Peter Olivere, who coordinated lunch bagging and took the food to the shelter in August.

We celebrate with all who have birthdays in September:

Ginger Adair, Jeff Aitken, Griffin Baynham, Stephanie Beavin, Delaney Del Gallo, William Gibb, Rev. Sue Hardman, Connor McCartney, Rev. Anna Scherer, Clara Naw Sweet, Lane Turner, Jeffrey Wallace, and Kay Wells.

We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in September:

Erin and Gerard Baynham; Matthew and Cristina Tallent.

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