



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

February 2017

Moments of Worship, Ministry, and Outreach *St. John's Annual Meeting 2017*



St. John's ministry and outreach activities in 2016 included Vacation Bible School (left) and Ashes to Go at the Ballston Metro Station (right).

The St. John's community gathered to remember the moments of worship, ministry, outreach, and fellowship that made up 2016 and to plan for the future at the Annual Meeting on January 22, 2017.

An opening prayer by Rector Ann Barker was followed by congregational approval of the 2016 Annual Meeting minutes. Rev. Barker then presented highlights from 2016. "Our worship together inspires and renews us to do God's work in our daily lives," she noted. These moments of renewal included the Maundy Thursday loaves and fishes service and a joyous Easter celebration. Renewal also came through inspirational Advent and Christmas services. In other worship moments, St. John's welcomed Bishop Ted Gulick in June and once again offered Ashes to Go at the Ballston Metro Station on Ash Wednesday and held the Blessing of the Animals service in October at both the church and the Shirlington Dog Park. In 2017 St. John's will explore new ways to expand its worship, including using liturgy from *Enriching Our Worship* and the New Zealand Prayer Book. Also being considered is a new monthly service such as a healing or contemplative service. Budgeted funds to purchase a music license will allow the church to broaden its options for hymns and other music.

Family programs events included a Vision Board Party in which family members of all ages could create collages about their hopes and dreams for the new year, as well as the annual Christmas Pageant. Following the pageant, St. John's continued its tradition of taking up a special offering for the Heifer Project, which contributes animals and seeds to people in developing countries to help them achieve self-sustainability. Led by Valeria Antelo from Cristo Rey, a creative and lively Vacation Bible School in July drew more than 20 children and featured a beach theme and an array of activities ranging from storytelling and arts and crafts to outdoor play and science projects.

Whitney Coleman served as family programs minister until February and then a strong team of St. John's volunteers (Debbie Carter, Del Hunt, Peter Olivere, Lisa Pope, Faye Pritchard, Bill Thomson, and Barbara Wien) taught Sunday School until the end of the school year in June. Peggy Blount stepped forward to lead the Sunday School program starting in the fall. John Petrich continued to organize the monthly preparation of bagged lunches for the Bailey's Crossroads Shelter.

Outreach activities that continued in 2016 included bagging food at the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) every month, participating in the Salvation Army's Angel Tree project, and collecting school supplies for students at Campbell and Carlin Springs elementary schools. Outreach coordinator Faye Pritchard thanked all who participated in outreach activities, particularly the faithful AFAC volunteers, and noted that she hopes St. John's can find a new and energizing activity in 2017. St. John's also took part in the diocese's Stop Hunger Now event, where 10,000 meals were packaged in approximately two hours, and joined People of Faith for Equality in Virginia (POF-EV). This interfaith organization works to achieve a vision of

inclusion, welcome, and equality for LGBTQ Virginians and their families.

Parish life activities continued to draw the St. John's community together in 2016. These included the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper in February, spaghetti supper in April, Mother's Day weekend tea in May, and Thanksgiving potluck in November. The church once again offered hot dogs and beverages for sale on Glencarlyn Day in June. Parishioners and their guests also headed to Shrine Mont in October for a refreshing and relaxing weekend of experiencing God in nature.

The Sunday Seminar continued to offer diverse and stimulating sessions in 2016, including classes on "The God We Can Know," "Qualities of Discipleship," "Music in Revelation," the book *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, and a Lenten study on "A Way Through the Wilderness."

Treasurer Bill Thomson presented the 2016 financial report. Although a budget deficit of \$32,967 was projected for 2016, the actual deficit was \$22,531. Between 2005 and 2016, the church experienced only a \$5,000 difference in available financial resources, with assets averaging between \$200,000 and \$250,000 a year. Finance Committee chair Dave Dunlap then presented the proposed 2017 budget, which includes a one percent salary increase for staff. "This is a budget that supports the church's vision, mission, and goals adopted in 2016," said Dunlap. For example, budgeted items include an expansion of adult education offerings and a new music copyright to support the goal of broadening St. John's musical offerings. The budget projects a deficit of \$37,107 in 2017.

The annual meeting briefly addressed the 2016 goal of welcoming. Rev. Barker noted that she had recently sent out a congregational letter asking for volunteers to serve as a welcoming group to greet and assist visitors and newcomers. All of those who are interested

should speak to her. The St. John's community also discussed its relationship with Cristo Rey and opportunities for increased collaboration. Suggestions included holding joint services, asking Cristo Rey members to join the altar guild, and organizing more events such as Bingo Night or a dinner to get to know each other better.

Senior Warden Bill Thomson thanked vestry members Sandy Winger (Junior Warden), Jeff Aitken, Teresa Birmingham, Del Hunt, Lisa Pope, and John Restall for their service. He noted that the vestry operates using a consensus process and worked together in a very collegial fashion in 2016. Aitken, Hunt, Pope, and Restall will continue to serve in 2017. New vestry members Bryan Harbin and Diane Henderson were elected unanimously.

Rev. Barker recognized outgoing vestry members and 2016 vestry officers Bill Thomson and Sandy Winger for their service, as well as treasurer Bill Thomson, pledge clerk John Restall, stewardship chairs Lynn Christopher and Bill Schenck, altar guild chair Eileen Tallent and all altar guild members, sign coordinator Jeff Aitken, choir

members, ushers, acolytes, and all those who volunteered to help with St. John's card ministry, community events, clean-up days, and nursery renovations. Also recognized were webmaster Peter Olivere; *Logos* editor Lisa Pope; organist Carol Dunlap, who retired after 18 years of service; and the dedicated St. John's staff: minister of music Lynn Robinson, organist Judith Marcinko, church programs director Jill McAfee, church administrator Virginia Pearson, sextons Juan Figueroa and Julio Sarto, and nursery attendant Kaitlyn Osteguin. The congregation also thanked Rev. Barker for another year of service. Volunteer needs for 2017 include helping with the Mother's Day weekend tea and the upcoming Valentine-Making event on February 12. The altar guild and choir would also welcome new members.

St. John's will focus on discipleship in 2017: following Jesus individually and as a church so that all can discover their passions, gifts, and what he would have them do. "We will keep reaching out to the community, using the strength of our greatest resource, the people of St. John's," said Rev. Barker.

Come Create Some Valentines

Bring your creativity and join St. John's Valentine-Making Extravaganza on Sunday, February 12, from 2:30 to 4 p.m.! Church programs director Jill McAfee will provide guidance and supplies as all in the St. John's community are invited to make valentines for friends, family, or the community's public servants. Refreshments will also be provided. Children under the age of eight must be accompanied by a parent.



From the Rector: Pruning for Pleasure

Last week, I gave my philodendron a haircut. It had two long vines that were still growing, but not producing very many leaves. The vines also had some dead leaves and stems on them. So I cut them off short and left the leaves on the other vine that were growing like crazy. The older stems will grow back as well.

Winter is a good time for pruning. Pruning is about cutting out live parts of you that are growing in the wrong direction and also getting rid of the deadwood that is weighing you down, so you can grow more abundantly and fully (Brother Luke Ditewig, Society of St. John the Evangelist).

Pruning is something God does, but a good assessment of what needs to go in our lives to make room for more good fruit is a good idea for us. That way, when God comes with the pruning shears, we can welcome them as a gracious gift and not be frightened that we will be cut to the bone.

In these dark and gloomy days of February, it is important to look at where your life is dark and leave it open for God to prune so light can come in. Darkness is about looking at things in a negative way, which is a habit that can be outgrown. The week that I was getting ready for surgery, I had several examples in my life where I could look at something as grace or darkness. The message that I wasn't getting a boot, which I was promised, allowed me to call the doctor's office and make arrangements to take a boot, even though it took me three hours of running around to get it. The call from the pharmacy saying that the doctor had called in a prescription without telling me was a gift, even though I had to run down there before it closed to pick up something I was fairly certain I wasn't going to need. And on and on. I do tend to look at the negative aspects of things, but I am getting better at not sticking with those opinions but turning them

into positives. Look for places in your life where your mind goes to the negative and be open to the grace that will turn those thoughts around and make the burdens we bear lighter and our life more full of light.

Another related pruning is to cut off fear and replace it with hope. When we think into the future with fear, once again we see darkness. We catastrophize about the bad things that can happen. But good things are just as likely to happen as bad things. Statistics show that a huge percentage of the things we worry about never happen anyway, but the fear leaves us in darkness and gloom, rather than the light of hope. God brings hope for good things to put in place of that pruned branch. Hope makes us look up, believe in the future, and thrive even in difficult circumstances.

Prune old relationships—not the old friends you have, but the ones that you still send Christmas cards to that you haven't heard from in years. I have some of those, and I am going to not send cards to some this year since we have drifted apart. I know it doesn't seem like much not to send a Christmas—or in my case a New Year's—card, but it frees up space for us to grow new friendships, people that we can enjoy now.

Prune busyness that isn't profitable. A recent article in *Parade* magazine talked about several things one researcher does to make sure his life will be long and healthy. People need more sleep as they age—roughly seven hours per night around age 70 and not much less before. People also need a good amount of exercise, and there are other things that add to life expectancy. Being busy is good. It's what we're busy at that's the rub.

Prune self-centeredness. While you are out achieving or acquiring or inside watching football because nothing else is on, there are people that need your help. There are lots of

ways to volunteer, to add to the quality of life for someone else and to your own life as well.

And prune clutter. I'm one of the worst offenders with that. My house is clean, but there is much that could go. Clutter weighs me down. I sometimes don't know where things are and spend time looking for things that I could be spending more happily and productively doing something else. It may only be a few minutes a day—or a week—but even getting some stuff organized or out of the house is good.

There are so many opportunities for light in our lives that God wants to give us. Pruning branches that are growing the wrong way or lopping off deadwood gives room for light burdens and light hearts. Ask God to show you what you need to get rid of for God's light to enter, and you will find your branches reaching toward the Son, bearing good fruit.

Ann †

Join the Discussion of Half Truths and Saints at the Sunday Seminar

St. John's adult Sunday Seminar will continue its discussion of half truths in February. The seminar will begin with talking about "God said it, I believe it, that settles it" and "Love the sinner, hate the sin." Participants will then discuss "Hazardous Saints: Christians Risking All, Changing Everything." These sessions will cover everyone from St. Barnabas to Thomas Cranmer to Oscar Romero. When Lent begins, the seminar will embark on a Lenten study. Stay tuned for more information in the March issue of *Logos*. In the meantime, come join the seminar Sundays at 9 a.m. in the parlor!

St. John's Staff and Leadership

Staff

Rector: The Rev. Ann B. Barker
Minister of Music: Lynn Robinson
Programs Director: Jill McAfee
Organist: Judith Marcinko
Parish Administrator: Virginia Pearson
Sexton: Juan Figueroa

Parish Leaders

Bill Thomson, Treasurer
John Restall, Pledge Clerk
Dave Dunlap, Chair, Finance Committee
Eileen Tallent, Chair, Altar Guild

Vestry

Jeff Aitken
Bryan Harbin
Diane Henderson

Del Hunt
Lisa Pope
John Restall

St. John's 2016 Revenue and Expenses

OPERATING BUDGET	End of Year	Budget
OPERATING INCOME	\$134,696	\$138,145
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	\$157,228	\$171,112
INCOME LESS EXPENDITURES	-\$22,531	-\$32,967
FUNDS DESIGNATED FOR SPECIFIC USES		
Designated Funds In	\$14,087	
Designated Funds Out	\$14,570	
TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS	\$222,451	

For details, see the posting on the bulletin board outside the nursery or contact Bill Thomson.

St. John's 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.

St. John's 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.

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. The deadline for the March issue is February 21. Article ideas for future issues are also welcome.

Parish News

Upcoming Events:

➤ Join the St. John's Book Club on **February 7** at 7:30 p.m. as they discuss *At Home in Mitford* by Jan Karon. This first book in The Mitford Years series chronicles everyday life in a small North Carolina town. The **March 7** selection is *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne. All are welcome!

Thank you to:

- Bill Thomson for serving as senior warden of the vestry in 2016 and continuing another year as treasurer.
- Sandy Winger for serving as junior warden for the past three years.
- Vestry members Jeff Aitken, Teresa Birmingham, Del Hunt, Lisa Pope, and John Restall.
- Lisa Pope for serving as vestry register in 2016 and as secretary for the 2017 annual meeting.
- John Restall for his service as pledge clerk.
- Bill Schenck and Lynn Christopher for serving as stewardship chairs.
- Finance Committee chair Dave Dunlap and committee members Bill Thomson, John Restall, Peter Olivere, and Linda Trochim.
- Eileen Tallent and the altar guild for another year of making the church beautiful.
- Lynn Robinson, Marshall Adair, and Anne Stenger for faithfully serving as the St. John's choir.
- Faye Pritchard for guiding outreach ministries.
- Everyone who provided hospitality or helped to organize an event in 2016.
- Beth Cavey and Wade Hinkle for leading Education for Ministry (EfM).
- Pat Bleicher, who mentored EfM in the spring and preached during the year.
- Peggy Blount for teaching Sunday School.
- Kay Wells for her help with office projects.
- Bill Pritchard and Peter Olivere, who served as the church photographers.
- Peter Olivere, who handled St. John's advertising and managed the website.
- Barbara Olivere and all of the card ministers.
- Anne and Paul Stenger for coordinating the intercessory prayer list.
- Lisa Pope for serving as *Logos* editor.
- St. John's staff: Virginia Pearson (parish administrator), Lynn Robinson (minister of music), Judith Marcinko (organist), Jill McAfee (church programs director), and Juan Figueroa and Julio Sarto (sextons).
- Everyone who participated in a liturgical role in St. John's worship services.
- All who help to make the church the warm and welcoming community that it is.

Congratulations to:

➤ Bryan Harbin and Diane Henderson for being elected to the vestry. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

We celebrate with all who have birthdays in February:

Michelle Aitken, Dennis Albrecht, Lisa Broida, Robert Carter, Tina Cavey, Lynn Christopher, Peyton Del Gallo, Rev. Amanda Eiman, Henry Held, Carole Hunt, Heather Kollath, Alexis Lodsun, Jeff Petrich, John Restall, Anne Stenger, Eileen Tallent, and Colin White.

We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in February:

Lynn Christopher and Bill Schenck; Keith and Kaipō McCartney; Carrie and Bryan Harbin.



Do you have a favorite hymn that hasn't been sung lately? Has a recent worship service featured a musical selection that you particularly enjoyed? Help St. John's continue to lift its voice in song and broaden its musical repertoire by sharing your suggestions and comments with music minister

Lynn Robinson (email: mezzsop22204@yahoo.com) or Rev. Ann Barker
(email: rector@stjohnsarlingtonva.org).



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