

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

July/August 2019



St. John's Welcomes Seventh Day Adventist Congregation

At St. John's annual meeting in January, the congregation discussed the church's financial condition and the need to increase revenue. The vestry was working at that time to identify another group to rent the church as Cristo Rey does. This month, St. John's is pleased to welcome a Seventh Day Adventist congregation that will begin renting space on July 6. They will be using the sanctuary and some second floor classrooms from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. every Saturday (as well as some other times spaced throughout the year). Their congregation is a new church start up and very excited about sharing space with St. John's.

This agreement will have very little impact on St. John's activities. The undercroft will be available all day Saturday, and weddings, funerals, and quinceaneras can be held in the sanctuary during the afternoon. If a scheduling problem does come up, the agreement with the new congregation provides a way to work it out.

We look forward to beginning this new partnership. If you have any questions, please talk to Rector Ann Barker or Senior Warden Lisa Pope.

From the Rector: I Dare You

“I dare you.” Many of us have heard this phrase on the school playground challenging us to do something difficult or risky. Maybe it was 20 chin ups (I couldn’t even do one). Maybe it was to play a prank on your teacher. Maybe it was to do something you would get in trouble for if you were found out.

Sometimes, if we’re feeling confident, we might take a dare, but other times we would say, “No way! I can’t do that.” But sometimes, even when we think we can’t, it’s probably a good idea to accept the challenge. I’d like to dare you now to do some things that might feel risky or unpleasant but will reap rewards in the end.

Dare to fear. I don’t mean panic or constant anxiety. I mean the garden variety pit in our stomachs we get when we are about to do a new thing. You can be excited about a new job, but that doesn’t mean you won’t have your moments of feeling like you’re sailing into uncharted waters. Or you really want to volunteer for a cause, but there are so many people to meet and you are not good with crowds or remembering names. Maybe you have to make an apology and the thought of telling someone who doesn’t know that you have harmed them in some way brings a lump to your throat. Brother Geoffrey Tristram of the Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE) says that we have to get our feet wet in the new things of life, in what we most fear, trusting that God will not abandon us. There was a book written sometime back called *Feel the Fear and Do It Anyway*. This is what God is calling us to do in the new life we are given.

Dare to wait. Waiting is hard. We want to do something now, to have something now, to be transformed now in this instant gratification world. We are a people who want to think something and have it present itself to us. But

sometimes we need to wait. The time is not yet ripe. Sometimes our circumstances take a while to change, says Brother Mark Brown of SSJE. Sometimes we have to wait on God to prepare us. Sometimes we have to wait for others to help us follow the path we are directed to. And that means we have to trust the process. We have to sit with the fact that we have no idea where we will end up (and sometimes are not sure where the whole thing actually began), but we know we are on a journey and Jesus will walk with us.

Dare to disagree. There’s an old saying about marriage, “If you both think all the same things, then one of you is unnecessary.” What is true for marriages is true for relationships in general. Not everyone agrees. Sometimes we try to cover that over, to let people think we have no conflict because we don’t like it. But conflict can produce growth. It is helpful to hear other’s views and compare them with our views. If we don’t have new information, it is hard to make informed decisions on certain things. One of our baptismal vows says we will respect the dignity of every human being. Everyone deserves a hearing. Even if you end up even more closely holding on to your viewpoint, you may gain insight into another’s thoughts that leads to new understanding of why they think the way they do.

Dare to be hungry. I don’t mean hungry for a burger and fries. I mean emotionally or spiritually hungry. Longing for something that is our heart’s desire makes us vulnerable. It is hard to want something so very badly, to feel unfilled and unsatisfied. But sometimes, this empty space is God’s way of preparing us for something new, something better. God wants to give us good gifts, and God creates space in our lives to be ready to receive them.

Dare to give up control. This is the hardest dare to take, I think. Dare to choose to trust God with all that you are and have. Dare to give God permission to direct your thoughts and feelings and actions. Think about that for a bit. That is ultimately what we are supposed to do when we give our lives to God and are buried with Christ in baptism. We are raised to new life, and in that life God is in control. Theoretically that's a good thing, but in practice, it is rather hard to imagine sometimes. Sometimes we just don't trust God to do what is best for us. Maybe we just haven't tried to let God run the show; maybe

we have had people in our lives who have led us not to trust authority figures. But giving up control brings the tremendous benefit of God's good direction for our lives and an intimate relationship with Jesus who walks with us.

So dare to try some risky things. Say yes to God's invitation to trust and to act faithfully out of that trust. God is not a school yard bully but pure love. And we can count on love to give us what we need to live meaningful, joyful lives and bear good fruit.

Ann †

Weekly Bible Study Continues in July

St. John's weekly Bible study, "Encountering Jesus," will continue through July 24 on Wednesdays at 3 p.m. You are welcome to drop in at any time and participate. The group will take August off and then begin again the Wednesday after Labor Day.

St. John's Staff and Leadership

Staff

Rector: The Rev. Ann B. Barker
Minister of Music: Lynn Robinson
Organist: Judith Marcinko
Interim Family Programs Director: Jonathan Muehlke
Parish Administrator: Virginia Pearson
Seminarist: Chip Russell
Child Care Provider: Kaitlyn Osteguín
Sexton: Julio Sorto

Parish Leaders

Peter Olivere, Treasurer
John Restall, Pledge Clerk
Eileen Tallent, Chair, Altar Guild

Vestry

Lisa Pope, Senior Warden
Bryan Harbin, Junior Warden
Jeff Aitken
Diane Henderson

Peter Olivere
Sandy Winger



St. John's and Cristo Rey enjoyed a joint bingo night on June 15.

Glencarlyn Day 2019



St. John's members turned out in force on Glencarlyn Day, June 8, to sell hot dogs outside the church and give away children's books at the library.

St. John's Financial Update (Through May 2019)

Income and Expenses	Year to Date	Annual Budget	% of Budget
Income (all)*	\$ 56,163	\$ 111,615	49%
Expenses (all)*	<u>\$ 59,528</u>	<u>\$ 151,210</u>	39%
Income minus Expenses*	(\$ 4,365)	(\$ 39,595)	11%

Account Balances through the end of May ** \$156,084

Account Balances beginning of 2019 \$155,435

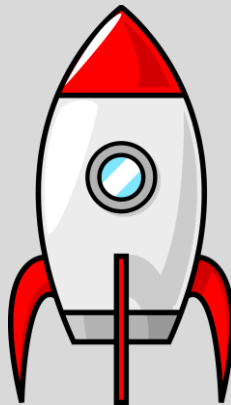
* Both non-designated and designated funds.

** Includes \$10,600 increase in investment market value since the start of the year.

During the January Annual Meeting, we discussed that St. John's expects a significant deficit this year (i.e., expenses exceeding income) of about \$40,000, which would be withdrawn from investments. This is even with the Rector taking a 25 percent reduction in compensation. May represents 42 percent of the year, but our income is at 49 percent of the annual budget; this is largely due to several members contributing all or a large portion of their pledge amount early in the year. Contributions drop off during the summer, but tend to increase in the last quarter of the year. Our expenses are at 39 percent of the annual budget, with somewhat lower expenses for electricity, which peaks in the summer, and quarterly billings paid in June. Since the budget was adopted, we have signed an agreement with a Seventh Day Adventist congregation to use our building on Saturdays starting in July. This will increase our building rental income by \$6,000 over the budgeted amount for this year and \$12,000 next year.

Get Ready for VBS in July

Calling all preschoolers through rising fifth graders! St. John's will hold Vacation Bible School (VBS) from July 15-19, 5:30 to 8 p.m. The theme this year is To Mars and Beyond. Participants will become voyagers on a journey through space, discovering where God's power can take them. Dinner will be served nightly. The cost is \$20 for the week (\$5 for each additional sibling). Scholarships are available. For additional information or to reserve a spot at VBS 2019, please email familyprograms@stjohnsarlingtonva.org or call the church office at 703-671-6834.



Words on Hymns: *Spirit Song*

The offertory for July 14 will be the contemporary hymn *Spirit Song*, sung by Michelle Lewis. I was surprised to find it in the hymnal *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, since I thought it was more the type of today's hymns included in *Wonder, Love and Praise*, along with such songs as *On Eagle's Wings* and *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky*.

The composer of the hymn and author of the lyrics, John Wimber (1934–1997), one of the 20th century's leading charismatic pastors, is known primarily as a founder of the Vineyard Christian Fellowship. He was educated at Fuller Theological Seminary and graduated from Azusa Pacific University. He served first as pastor to the Society of Friends in Yorba Linda, California, beginning in 1970, and then moved in 1978 to Calvary Chapel in Costa Mesa, California.

Due to differences with the Calvary Chapel congregation over the role of spiritual gifts and the active manifestation of the Holy Spirit in congregational life, Wimber left the church in 1982 and then became senior pastor of the Vineyard Christian Fellowship in 1983. Wimber's death in 1997 was a significant loss to the Fellowship. Started in 1974, the Fellowship, now based in Sugar Land, Texas, numbers more than 850 congregations around the world in a highly decentralized form of church polity. The Fellowship includes the Vineyard Leadership Institute in Westerville, Ohio, and the Vineyard Bible Institute in Capetown, South Africa.

Spirit Song, written in 1979, is the most lasting musical contribution from Wimber. It appears widely in hymnals and is one of the more popular new hymns. Carlton Young, an editor of both the 1966 and 1989 Methodist hymnals, notes that this song was “[c]omposed as an altar call...the type of song used in

charismatic communities, some of which are composed of former United Methodists who claimed they were not spiritually fulfilled in their own local church worship and song.”

Wimber's ministry was fraught with controversy. In the early years of the movement, accusations of heresy stemmed from Wimber's claims about the spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit and the kinds of experiences that these gifts encouraged in worship. For some more conservative evangelical critics, Wimber's teachings challenged the authority of the Bible (*sola scriptura*) as the sole basis of faith by giving so much weight to the activities inspired by the Holy Spirit. Wimber countered by stressing that Biblical teaching was the foundation of Vineyard worship and instruction, but he seemed to some to stop short of claiming that Scripture was the final authority for faith and practice.

Rich Nathan, a leader in the movement, has suggested that the Fellowship is in effect the “Third Wave of the Holy Spirit”—a reference to the First Great Awakening of the 1730s and 1740s in the American colonies with Jonathan Edwards and the Second Great Awakening during the first three decades of the 19th century under the leadership of Charles Finney and Lyman Beecher. The Methodist camp meeting revivals of the 1830s and beyond resulted from this movement. While it is doubtful that Nathan's claim can be sustained in comparison to the scope of these earlier revival movements, Wimber's ministry in the 20th century has inspired many and provided a spiritual home for thousands of Christians seeking direct encounters with the Holy Spirit. *Spirit Song* is one of the most significant legacies of Wimber's work.

Carol Dunlap

Putt-Putt (and Picnic) for the Fun of It

Mark your calendars for Sunday, July 21, when St. John's will hold a parish outing at Upton Hill Regional Park from 5 to 7 p.m. Enjoy a game of putt-putt golf or take your turn at the batting cages! St. John's has a reserved covered picnic area, so bring your favorite picnic dinner or takeout and enjoy a summer evening with fellow parishioners. The cost is \$5 per person.

Upton Hill is located at 6060 Wilson Boulevard in Arlington. Please contact Debbie Carter or Lisa Pope if you plan to attend.



Donate to the St. John's Tree Fund

As highlighted in the April issue of *LOGOS*, St. John's is asking for donations to help with purchasing five trees. After St. John's started removing a diseased oak on South Fourth Street earlier this year, it was determined by Arlington County that the tree was on county property and the church was in violation of regulations concerning damage to county trees. Following a letter from St. John's explaining the situation and making the case for performing the work based on the assumption that it was the church's tree, the county's response required St. John's to finish removing the tree, which was no longer viable, and plant five trees of at least 1-inch caliper to remediate the loss of the large oak. The five trees to be planted, one adjacent to the tree being removed and four others to be placed anywhere on the property, will cost approximately \$1,500. If you would like to make a donation for the purchase of one or more of the trees, St. John's will gladly recognize your generosity. Thank you in advance for your help.

LOGOS

LOGOS is published monthly at the beginning of the month, except for a combined July/August issue.

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 September issue is August 20. Article ideas for future issues are also welcome.

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 in Christ; 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.

Parish News

Upcoming Events:

- Played any good board or card games recently? Bring your friends and family and have some fun at Game Night on **Saturday, July 20**, from 7 to 9 p.m.
- The St. John's Book Club is on a break until **Tuesday, September 10**, at 7:30 p.m. Over the summer they are reading *11/22/63* by Stephen King. The novel tells the story of a time traveler who attempts to prevent the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Rest in Peace:

- Charlotte Bovender, who entered the life of the Resurrection on June 12, 2019.
- Bill Thomson, who entered the life of the Resurrection on June 16, 2019.

Thank You to:

- Debbie Carter, Lisa Pope, Patricia Broida, Mike Birmingham, and Jonathan Muehlke for helping with St. John's children's book distribution at the library on Glencarlyn Day.
- Jeff Aitken (organizer), Marshall Adair, Mike Birmingham (who bought supplies), Brian Cavey, Dave Dunlap, Bryan Harbin, Del Hunt, and Jonathan Muehlke for their work at the hot dog stand on Glencarlyn Day. St. John's especially remembers Bill Thomson, who organized this event for many years.
- Mike Birmingham for supervising the bell ringing on Glencarlyn Day.
- Barbara Wien for signing up to take the lunches to the Bailey's Crossroads shelter for the next six months.
- Lin Novak for coordinating the church's table at the Glencarlyn neighborhood yard sale.
- Debbie Carter, Carol Dunlap, Lin Novak, Lisa Pope, and Lynn Robinson for bringing desserts for bingo night.
- Pete Olivere for serving as cashier for bingo night.
- Sandy Winger and Pete Olivere, who took an inventory of church space to see what needs to be cleaned up before the Seventh Day Adventist congregation arrives on July 6. They also noted general clean-up needs.

We celebrate with all who have birthdays in July and August:

Marshall Adair, Nolan Baynham, Michael Beavin, Carol Bogart, Joy Candelieri, Henry Carter, Brian Cavey, Carolyn Corlett, Dennis Eckhout, Nancy Gibb, Lexie Hart, McKenzie Hart, Klaus Held, Thomas Held, Janice Hull, Chelsea Kaufman, Elise Kaufman, Billie Jean Keith, Nathan Lewis, Kenji McCartney, Helen Naw Mumu, Ray O'Connor, Virginia Pearson, Paul Petrich, Bill Pritchard, Harriet Sheehan Rawls, Patrick Rawls, Marion Reed, Lynn Robinson, Christian Tallent, Jones Tallent, Sawyer Tallent, Angie Turner, Bill Turner, Simon Van Wyk, Kim White, and John Wilson.

We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in July and August:

Dennis and LuAnne Eckhout; the Reverend Sue and Rob Hardman; Matthew and Adrienne Hubbard; Michelle and Nathan Lewis; Lisa Pope and Justin Cohen; and Jones and Sharon Tallent.