



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

December 2019

Join in the Joy of Christmas at St. John's

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| Sunday, December 15, 10 a.m. | Christmas Pageant |
| Sunday, December 22 or Monday, December 23 | Greening of the Church (date and time to be announced) |
| Tuesday, December 24, 5 p.m. | Holy Eucharist with Christmas carols and a children's message |
| Tuesday, December 24, 11 p.m. | Holy Eucharist with Christmas carols |
| Wednesday, December 25, 10 a.m. | Holy Eucharist with Christmas carols |
| Sunday, December 29, 10 a.m. | Lessons and Carols service (no 8 a.m. service) |



From the Rector: Speaking the Word

On Christmas Eve, we read from the gospel of John that “In the beginning was the Word.” We also read that the Word was with God in the beginning and the Word was made flesh to live among us. The incarnation of Jesus is all about words with a lower case “w.” It is about what Jesus said that moved people to think about the kingdom of God being ruled by love. Jesus carried God in his words. We can too.

Start with a word of honesty. Be honest with yourself about who you are. You are a child of God, blessed with many gifts and many flaws. Do you know what they are? At least some of them? It is hard to admit our faults—not just that we are bad cooks, for example, but maybe that we are chronically impatient. For some people, it is hard to admit their gifts, especially relationship gifts such as listening well and empathy. Be honest with others. “I don’t know” can be a miserably hard thing to say, not only because we want to help but sometimes because we take pride in knowing something about everything. Yet giving out a dishonest word helps no one and can sometimes get people in trouble. Sometimes it is hard to say “I’m sorry,” but this one is important too. It can mend a broken relationship and free us from guilt and shame.

Be honest with God. Always remember to tell God how much you love God. And know that we all have problems with God from time to time, and it is better for our relationship with God—as it is with any relationship—to tell God about what is going on. Honesty is the basis for deepening relationship with God; when we separate ourselves from God, the relationship gets even more difficult to manage.

Continue with a word of gratitude. This is the time of year to be grateful, especially for the gift of God in Jesus Christ and our redemption from sin and death. Any time is a good time to say thank you for all we have

been given by God, from our health to our family and friends to our ability to serve others. And we might also consider giving thanks for things that can be seen as rather difficult. We can give thanks for challenges. They come along all the time in this world and stamping our feet and complaining is futile (though it sure feels good). But if we give thanks for the opportunities they present to learn and grow, we have a head start on meeting them and transcending them. Try giving thanks too for change. As much as we are not crazy about changes, they help us grow too and give us new perspectives. They can make our lives better.

Give a word of acceptance. Give one to yourself. God has made you who you are, and God is pleased with you. Having a constant list of self-improvement projects will weigh you down, and you won’t accomplish much. You have to accept yourself and accept God’s direction before you can change. Remember, God loves us just the way we are, but God also loves us too much to leave us there.

Give others a word of acceptance too. This is especially important with spouses and friends. If you are in a relationship to change something or fix something or make the other person do what you want, it is not going to be fruitful. The musical *Guys and Dolls* has a song that says, “Marry the man today and change his ways tomorrow,” but that’s not a good place to start. We are called to be Jesus for others and one of the things Jesus did so well was to accept people exactly as they are, warts and all.

Another thing that’s important to accept is the past. I know someone who is continually railing about what happened in the past. She still doesn’t want it to be that way, and is wasting precious time wanting to change things that can’t be changed when she could be

creating a future for herself. The best we can do about the past is make amends for any wrongs we have done and try to see the people in it, including us, as doing the best we could at the time.

Finally, give a word of hope. Hope keeps us all going, and it is something we can never get too much of. From time to time, everyone has trouble with believing things are going to get better. One of the best things we can sometimes remind people of is that the situation they are in will pass. We can get stuck in thinking things will go on forever, but likely they won't. Our situations will change and good will come. We can even give a word of hope when things are really serious, like crushing poverty or terminal illness. Our word of hope can be our presence and our help in tough situations. One of my friends gave a

word of hope to a friend of hers in hospice care by taking her a mushroom pizza to say, "You are still in relationship, you are still able to love, and you will continue to be able to do that even as you're dying." Hope for the poor is our help. Especially around Thanksgiving I get requests for food to have a holiday meal. I give when I can as we all do. And the giving is our word of hope that people still care.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus came to tell us about who God is and who we can be with God's love and help. Pick your words wisely. They are powerful, and they can provide enormous benefit. Remember Jesus and always speak with love.

Ann †

Sunday Seminar Prepares for Christmas

Beginning December 1, the adult Sunday Seminar will discuss an Advent study, "Not Another Silent Night." The study focuses on Mary as she looks back at Bethlehem in the light of Jesus's ministry and crucifixion. Please join the group at 9 a.m. in the parlor when you can.

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
Seminarian: Chip Russell
Child Care Provider: Kaitlyn Osteguin
Sexton: Julio Sorto

Vestry

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

Parish Leaders

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

Diane Henderson
Peter Olivere
Sandy Winger

Highlights of the 225th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia

More than 450 lay and clerical delegates from across the diocese gathered at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington on November 14–16 for the 225th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia. Delegates to convention have several responsibilities, including electing leaders to governing bodies, passing a budget for the upcoming year, and voting on any resolutions that come before the convention.

Resolutions

Delegates to convention passed the following resolutions:

R-1 Discontinuing Single-Use Plastic Products. R-1 calls upon all churches, schools, conference centers, and offices of the Diocese of Virginia to make all efforts to discontinue the use of disposable, single-use plastic products and foam products and to transition to reusable, compostable, and washable alternatives. A similar resolution was recently passed by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church USA.

R-2 Amended Diocesan Alcohol Use Policy. R-2 seeks to establish standards for the use of alcohol in church, parish, and diocesan settings that 1) respect Virginia law, 2) support those who are in recovery, 3) protect the vulnerable, and 4) ensure that church work is carried out in a conscientious and unimpaired manner. Specifically, it states that no church business is to be conducted during or after serving alcohol. Business includes the work of vestries and all church committees. Further, there will be no consumption of alcohol by adults when leading events that involve youth.

R-3 Requesting Reconsideration of Water Intake Site to Avoid Monacan Nation Ancestral Village and Grave Sites and to Provide Improved Protection of Graves of Native American and Enslaved People. This resolution requests that the local, state, and federal water authorities reconsider the location and routing of the proposed James River Water Authority water intake, pipeline, and treatment plant in Fluvanna County to avoid the site of a former capital of the Monacan Indian Nation and a burial ground. Further, it calls on the Office of the Bishop to seek and support improved legal protections for burial grounds of Native American and enslaved peoples.

R-4 Stipendiary Clergy Pay Equity. This resolution calls for the Diocese of Virginia to continue reporting at every annual convention on its progress toward achieving pay equity for stipendiary clergy by gender and race. Further, it requires that the Diocese of Virginia and each of its congregations make public its compensation and benefits for clergy by amount and type for each of its stipendiary clergy.

Elections

The following people were elected to the Diocesan Standing Committee, which serves as the council of advice to the Bishop: Deborah Gandy, St. Mary's, Arlington; Diane Miller, St. Timothy's, Herndon; The Rev. Anne Turner, Virginia Theological Seminary and St. Thomas, McLean; The Rev. Dr. Dorothy White, St. Mark's and St. John's, Richmond; and The Rev. Deacon Katherine Ferguson,* La Iglesia de Santa Maria, Falls Church (*filling remainder of unexpired three-year term).

The following people were elected to serve as deputies to the Episcopal Church's General Convention to be held in 2021 in Baltimore: the Rev. Hilary Smith, Holy Comforter, Richmond; the Rev. Sven L. van Baars, Abingdon, White Marsh; the Rev. Daniel Veléz-Rivera, St. Gabriel's/San Gabriel, Leesburg; and the Rev. Dr. Robert W. Prichard, St. George's, Arlington, and Christ Church, Middlesex.

Clergy alternates include the Rev. Justin McIntosh, St. Paul's, Ivy; the Very Rev. Randolph J. Alexander, Jr., Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, Alexandria; the Rev. Dorota Wright-Pruski, St. Andrew's, Arlington; and the Rev. Andrew Moore, St. Andrew's, Richmond.

Lay delegates to General Convention are J.P. Causey, Jr., St. John's, West Point; Diane Wright, St. Mary's, Arlington; Russell Randle, Christ Church, Alexandria; and Patty Gould Rosenberg, Abingdon, White Marsh. Lay alternates are Ellyn Crawford, St. George's, Arlington; Cindi Bartol, Christ Church, Alexandria; and Stevenson T. Walker, Cople Parish, Kinsale.

The following people were elected to serve as Deputies to the Provincial Synod. The diocese is part of Province III, which includes dioceses in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C. The Rev. Deacon Barbara Ambrose, St. Andrew's, Richmond, is the clergy delegate. Clergy alternate is The Rev. Collins Asonye, Meade Memorial, Alexandria. Lay delegates are Karl Colder, St. David's, Ashburn, and Ellyn Crawford, St. George's, Arlington. The alternate lay delegate is David Penrod, Emmanuel, Harrisonburg.

The convention delegates approved a budget totaling \$5,137,000. The budget featured increased funding for the work of race and reconciliation and continued support for growing ministries across the diocese.

Highlights of Bishop Goff's Pastoral Address

In her pastoral address, the Rt. Rev. Susan Goff, Bishop Suffragan and Ecclesiastical Authority, announced that she will call for the election of the next Bishop Diocesan at Diocesan Convention in 2020. The consecration of the Bishop Elect will likely occur in late summer or early fall of 2022. Bishop Goff said that she will retire in 2023.

In a recorded video address to the delegates, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry expressed his support for the timeline and plan for the election.

The full text of Bishop Goff's pastoral address will be available at www.thediocese.net. Videos of both Bishop Goff's address and Presiding Bishop Curry's address are available on the diocesan Facebook page.

Other Highlights

The diocese's new Assistant Bishop Jennifer Brooke-Davidson was introduced at this convention. Bishop Brooke-Davidson joined the diocese on November 4. She was previously Bishop Suffragan in the Diocese of West Texas. Bishop Associate Robert Ihloff made his parting address toward the close of this convention. Bishop Ihloff will return to the Diocese of Maryland in January of 2020 to serve as a part-time Assistant Bishop.

For continuing post-convention coverage, visit the diocese on Facebook and at www.thediocese.net.

Words on Hymns: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, Christians around the world are summoned in 40 languages to worship the Christ child with the hymn *O Come, All Ye Faithful*. Originally written in Latin as *Adeste Fideles*, it is a Christmas carol that has been attributed to various authors, including John Francis Wade (1711–1786), John Reading (1645–1692), King John IV of Portugal (1604–1656), and anonymous Cistercian monks. The English translation of the text by the English Catholic priest Frederick Oakeley, written in 1841, is used in most English-speaking countries.

Because I have sung this hymn in Latin so many times, I always assumed that the carol was one of the ancient hymns still in use. It turns out that it is not so ancient. In modern English hymnals, the text is usually credited to Wade, whose name appears on the earliest printed versions. However, this is most likely an error of attribution. Wade, an English Catholic, lived in exile in France and made a living as a copyist of musical manuscripts that he found in libraries. He often signed his copies, possibly because his calligraphy was so beautiful that his clients requested this. In 1751 he published a printed compilation of his manuscript copies. This is the first printed source for *Adeste Fideles*.

The version published by Wade consisted of four Latin verses. But later in the 18th century, the French Catholic priest Jean-François-Étienne Borderies wrote an additional three verses in Latin; these are normally printed as the third to fifth of seven verses. An additional anonymous Latin verse is rarely printed now.

The text has been translated innumerable times into English. The most common version today is a combination of one of Oakeley's translations of the original four verses and William Thomas Brooke's translation of the three additional verses. It was first published in *Murray's Hymnal* in 1852. Oakeley originally

titled the song *Ye Faithful, Approach Ye* when it was sung at his Margaret Church in Marylebone (London), before it was (mercifully) altered to its current form.

The song was sometimes referred to as the “Portuguese Hymn” after the Duke of Leeds, in 1795, heard a version of it sung at the Portuguese embassy in London. The most commonly named Portuguese author is King John IV of Portugal, “The Musician King” (he reigned from 1640–1656). King John was a patron of music and the arts and a considerably sophisticated writer on music, as well as a composer. During his reign he collected one of the largest musical libraries in the world, which was destroyed in the 1755 Lisbon earthquake. He also founded a Music School in Vila Viçosa that exported musicians to Spain and Italy.

Two manuscripts of the “Portuguese Hymn” that date to 1640 have been found at King John's Vila Viçosa palace. These manuscripts predate Wade's 18th-century versions. (However, some musicologists nonetheless argue for Wade's authorship of the version people are now familiar with.)

Besides Wade, the tune has been attributed to musicians ranging from John Reading and his son to Handel to Gluck. The Portuguese composer Marcos Portugal and King John IV have also been credited. Thomas Arne, whom Wade knew, is another possible composer. There were several similar musical themes written around that time, though it can be hard to determine whether these were written in imitation of the hymn, whether the hymn was based on them, or whether they are totally unconnected. Our hymnal credits Wade for both the text and tune.

The hymn was first published by Wade in his collection *Cantus Diversi* (1751), with four Latin verses and music set in the traditional square notation used for medieval liturgical music. It was published again in the 1760

edition of *Evening Offices of the Church* and appeared in Samuel Webbe's *An Essay on the Church Plain Chant* (1782). The hymn tune also made its way to the Sacred Harp tradition, appearing as *Hither Ye Faithful, Haste with Songs of Triumph* in an 1860 collection.

As an interesting side note, the words of the hymn have been interpreted as a Jacobite birth ode to “Bonnie Prince Charlie.” Professor Bennett Zon, head of music at Durham University in England, has interpreted it this way, claiming that the secret political code was decipherable by the “faithful” (the Jacobites), with “Bethlehem” being a common

Jacobite cipher for England and *Regem Angelorum* a pun on *Angelorum* (Angels) and *Anglorum* (English). Wade had fled to France after the Jacobite rising of 1745 was crushed. From the 1740s to 1770s, the earliest forms of the carol commonly appeared in English Roman Catholic liturgical books close to prayers for the exiled Old Pretender. In the books by Wade it was often decorated with Jacobite floral imagery, as were other liturgical texts with coded Jacobite meanings.

Carol Dunlap



St. John’s and Cristo Rey celebrated Thanksgiving with a joint potluck meal on Sunday, November 24.

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 January issue is December 21. 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:

➤ The St. John's Book Club will meet **Tuesday, January 7**, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss *84 Charing Cross Road* by Helene Hanff. This delightful chronicle captures 20 years of correspondence between a New York writer and her favorite London book shop. All are welcome!

Rest in Peace:

➤ Scott Dillard, a seminarian at St. John's from 1991–1993, who entered the Life of the Resurrection on September 27.

Thank You to:

- Faye Pritchard for coordinating the fall school supply drive and making sure items were delivered and for setting up the bagged lunch program in November.
- Anne and Paul Stenger, who bought the food for November's bagged lunch program.
- Dave Dunlap, for chairing Seminarian Chip Russell's Lay Support Team, and to team members Marshall Adair, Mike Birmingham, Patricia Broida, Lin Novak, and Barbara Olivere.
- All who brought food for the Thanksgiving Potluck with Cristo Rey and to everyone who helped with set up and clean up.

We celebrate with all who have birthdays in December:

Peggy Blount, The Rev. Catherine Campbell, Eileen Flynn, Maddie Harbin, Lori Held, Galen Henderson, Del Hunt, Michelle Lewis, Barbara Olivere, Angie Rollet, Carissa Russell, Angela Swarr, and Camron Tallent.

We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in December:

Michael and Teresa Birmingham; Carol and Dave Dunlap; Klaus and Lori Held; Penny and Don Hess; Del and Carole Hunt; Cooper and Mary Mackin.

Celebrate the true meaning of Christmas and enjoy a St. John's tradition, the Children's Christmas Pageant, on Sunday, December 15, at the 10 a.m. service.

