

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 2020

Saying Goodbye to Rev. Ann



St. John's said goodbye to Rev. Ann Barker on Sunday, June 28, during the morning virtual worship service and with a drive-by (and pedal-by) farewell at the church in the afternoon.

St. John's Episcopal Church, Arlington • The Rev. Ann Barker, Rector
415 South Lexington Street • Arlington, VA 22204 • Phone: 703-671-6834 • Fax: 703-671-8023
<http://stjohnsarlingtonva.org> • Email: office@stjohnsarlingtonva.org • rector@stjohnsarlingtonva.org

From the Rector: Embracing Growth

Last month I talked about letting go of things that got in the way of our growing into the whole people God intended us to be. This month I will talk about embracing the good things that will help us develop and mature into the full stature of Christ.

In order to grow, the first thing we must embrace is newness. Are you in a box—comfortable but so limiting? Remember Marcel Marceau and his pantomime of being in a box? The walls were too close, the ceiling was too high, and there were no openings. Sometimes it feels like that for us. We do our daily, weekly, and monthly activities—always the same. But Marceau eventually found the door and walked out. So can we. We can look for our own doors—a new thing that attracts us, a new balance of doing and being, a new way of serving, a new idea that changes our perspective. Growing into new adventures is how we embrace newness.

We can grow, too, by embracing ourselves. We can remember that we are God's children, and if God loves us we can love ourselves too. We are good enough for God, and that is all we need to worry about. What other people think of us is none of our business, as the 12-step groups say. We just go on doing what we know God is calling us to do, and God is always calling us forward into new embraces. One way to embrace the new might be to grow in acceptance of who we are right now because we can't change until we first accept. Our flaws and foibles are as much a part of us as our assets—and we all have both of those things. It's the selves we are that God wants for God's kingdom—our strengths and weaknesses too. And sometimes we can embrace the same things in new ways. Is there a new and exciting way to do the things we love to do? The patterns in our lives that are comfortable: unless they are blocking us, can

we live more into them in a way that encourages growth?

Our relationships are also vehicles for growth. We embrace lots of people—our biological or chosen families, our friends, fellow hobbyists, political candidates we admire, fellow workers for a cause we support, even people we meet on the street. God did not make us to go through life alone. It is in embracing our relationships that we find roots and sprout wings. Is there someone in your life who is an acquaintance that you would like to make a friend? When circumstances allow, invite that person to lunch. Is there someone in your circle of friends that you haven't been in contact with lately—perhaps an old college friend? Reach out. Email, phone, or text—there are so many ways to stay connected now. What about spending more time with your spouse or children? We have to make an effort to do all these things, yet it is so worth it. Our relationships feed us as they grow and develop, and we are changed by them.

Embracing the earth is a great way to grow into who we are. We are from the earth, part of God's creation. Our charge in the Garden of Eden was to take care of the earth, to be one with it, to see it as good and worthy of preserving because God created it. Please recycle. I am really aware right now of separating trash from recycling from hazardous materials that need to go to a special site, as I clean things out. In Northern Virginia, we are provided with many opportunities to recycle and to buy things that are made of recycled material. This helps the earth. Be informed about climate change and what you can do about it. It never hurts to reduce our footprints. Care for God's creatures. The shelters are almost empty because so many people have adopted rescue animals to have company during their time at home. Support

organizations that care for the earth. Work in your garden. I am not a gardener, unless you count one ill-fated attempt to grow tomatoes, but I have heard from those who are that it is a great pleasure and a good way to embrace our humanity.

Most of all, embrace God. It is God who made us, redeemed us in Jesus, and sanctifies us through the Holy Spirit. It is God who transforms us into the people God wants us to be. It is God who helps us do the work God has given us to do and helps us when our burdens are too great. It is God who teaches us to love. And God doesn't do this in a vague, nebulous way. If we embrace God by talking and listening to God, God will show us God's will and give us the ability to follow it.

Embracing growth by embracing newness in our relationships with God, ourselves, and others is the work of a lifetime. Things are always changing, and there are new realities to grow into. Our big changing reality is that I am leaving shortly to begin a new call. I have been here nearly 19 years, and embracing the newness will be a big part of my job in the short-term, as it will be yours. But one of the

things we can do to grow is to remember the good in the embraces that we have had and let them settle into our hearts in a new way, as we ready for new things.

This is my last column for *LOGOS*, and I want to say how very much I have felt loved by your embrace in all the times of my journey with you. We have experienced ups and downs, but you have never stopped caring about me and wanting the best for me. I hope I have done that for you as well. As I go, I will continue to embrace the community that is St. John's, certainly in a different way, but in no less a loving way. I will remember your loyalty to this congregation, your love of one another, your concern for others, your strength in adversity, and the advice and counsel I received from many of you that helped me grow. Thank you for embracing me with your love. I return that embrace, and I will miss you. May your path ahead be one of embracing the new growth that God has in store for you as God's beloved community of St. John's.

Ann †

St. John's Staff and Leadership

Staff

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

Vestry

Sandy Winger, Senior Warden
Bryan Harbin, Junior Warden
Jeff Aitken

Parish Leaders

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

Diane Henderson
Richard Henry
Peter Olivere

Words on Hymns: *O Zion, Haste, Thy Mission High Fulfilling*

Most of us are especially fond of the hymns we sang as children. I grew up in Rock Spring Congregational Church in Arlington, which when I was a teenager became Rock Spring United Church of Christ. I can still sing the first verse from memory of *Onward, Christian Soldiers* from having sung it in children's chapel and Vacation Bible School.

One of my favorite hymns from my childhood is *O Zion, Haste, Thy Mission High Fulfilling*, which we will sing as the recessional on August 11. My only problem (which I share with others) is on the first verse I want to sing, "that he who made all nations is not willing one soul should perish, lost in shades of night," instead of the words substituted by the editors of our hymnal. Oh, well.

The text to this hymn was written by Mary Ann Thomson (1834–1923), wife of John Thomson, Librarian of the Free Library in Philadelphia. Born in London, England, she wrote about 40 hymns, four of which appeared in the *Protestant Episcopal Hymnal* of 1892. *O Zion, Haste* is the only one that survived the cut to be part of *The Hymnal 1982*.

Of the origin of her missionary hymn, she wrote the following:

I wrote the greater part of the hymn, *O Zion, haste*, in the year 1868. I had written many hymns before, and one night, while I was sitting up with one of my children who was ill of typhoid fever, I thought I should like to write a missionary hymn to the tune of the hymn beginning "Hark, hark, my soul, angelic songs are swelling," as I was fond of that tune; but as I could not then get a refrain I liked, I left the hymn unfinished, and about three years later I finished it by writing the refrain which now forms part of it. By some mistake 1891 is given instead of 1871 as the date of the hymn in the (Episcopal) Hymnal. I do not think it is ever

sung to the tune for which I wrote it. Rev. John Anketell told me, and I am sure he is right, that it is better for a hymn to have a tune of its own, and I feel much indebted to the composer of the tune "Tidings" for writing so inspiring a tune to my words.

The original poem had two additional verses:

Behold how many thousands still are lying,
bound in the darksome prisonhouse of sin,
with none to tell them of the Savior's dying,
or of the life he died for them to win.

(Refrain)

Give of thine own to bear the message glorious;
give of thy wealth to speed them on their way;
pour out thy soul for them in prayer victorious;
O Zion, haste to bring the brighter day.

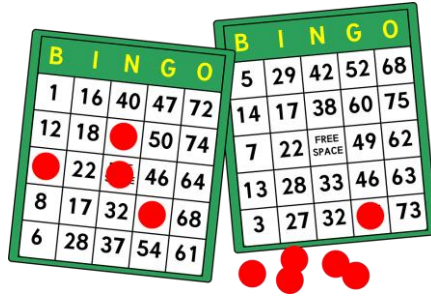
(Refrain)

The tune *Tidings* was composed by James Walch (1837–1901), a musician and composer born near Bolton, England. He spent his early life in the town and was organist in several churches there, including the parish church of St. George's. From 1870 to 1877, he was conductor for the Bolton Philharmonic Society. He also composed at least four published hymn tunes, the best known of which is *Tidings*, written in 1875. Walch, a musical instrument dealer by trade, moved to Barrow-in-Furness in 1877. He later moved to Llandudno Junction in North Wales, where he died in August 1901 and was buried locally. His wife later donated money to pay for the organs in two local churches, St Paul's Llandudno and All Saints Deganwy, in his memory.

Carol Dunlap

St. John's Enjoys Virtual Bingo

St. John's enjoyed its first foray into virtual bingo on Saturday, June 6. Not being in the same room did not stop the fun and fellowship, with Virginia Pearson and Lynn Robinson emerging as the big winners of the night. Stay tuned for an announcement of the next virtual bingo game and make plans to join via Zoom or on the phone. See you there!



Join the Book Club for Some (Socially Distanced) Fellowship

The St. John's Book Club is on a book discussion hiatus until September, but will meet on Tuesday, July 7, at 7:30 p.m. for (socially distanced) outdoor fellowship and conversation. The meeting will take place by the Frank Todd Memorial Garden at the corner of South Kensington Street and 4th Street South. Remember to bring something to sit on. All are welcome! You can also plan ahead and start reading the September selection, *My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry* by Fredrik Backman. This novel is the story of Elsa, who is seven years old and different, and her grandmother, who is 77 and Elsa's best and only friend. When her grandmother dies and leaves behind a series of letters apologizing to people she has wronged, Elsa's great adventure begins.

LOGOS

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

Lisa Pope, LOGOS Editor

LOGOS will return in September. Articles may be emailed to logos@stjohnsarlingtonva.org (preferred) or left at the church office. The deadline for the September issue is August 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 is on a book discussion hiatus until September, but will meet on **Tuesday, July 7**, at 7:30 p.m. for (socially distanced) outdoor fellowship. The meeting will take place by the Frank Todd Memorial Garden at the corner of South Kensington Street and 4th Street South. Remember to bring something to sit on. All are welcome!

Thank You to:

- Everyone at St. John's for being God's good servants and for all you have done for this congregation and for Rev. Ann.
- Lisa Pope, Sandy Winger, and Pete Olivere for organizing virtual bingo on June 6.
- Sandy Winger, for picking up Arlington Thrive's bingo set, and Arlington Thrive for loaning it to St. John's.
- Linda Simmons for serving as virtual bingo caller.
- Pete Olivere, who continues to manage St. John's services on Zoom.
- Senior warden Sandy Winger, who is managing the church's transition with skill and grace.

Congratulations to:

- Barbara Olivere for graduating from Education for Ministry (EfM).

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.

Thank You and Goodbye

Thank you so much for your warm wishes as I leave this wonderful place. I appreciate the *Book of Common Prayer* and the stole and will think of you each time I use them. I am really grateful for the photos you donated so I could have some treasured moments to remember whenever I want. Thank you for your individual cards and gifts. They are symbols of the generosity of spirit you have shared with me.

Ann †