



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 2020

A Plan for Regathering



St. John's Regathering Committee was hard at work this summer preparing a draft plan for Regathering for Outdoor Worship. This plan includes continuing Zoom access to the Sunday worship service for those who wish to participate virtually. You can view the draft plan on St. John's website at <http://stjohnsarlingtonva.org>. If the plan is approved by the Diocese, the first outdoor service will be held Sunday, September 13. Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks. Committee members are Bill Pritchard (chair), Bryan Harbin (Vestry representative), and Eileen Tallent. Providing support to the committee are Senior Warden Sandy Winger and Rev. Larry Packard. To contact the committee, send an email to regathering@stjohnsarlingtonva.org.



Profile Committee Survey Coming Soon

The Profile Committee kicked off its work in August to prepare materials for the Diocesan Transition Ministry so that St. John's, represented by the Vestry, can identify and clarify: (1) where the church has been, (2) where it is now, and (3) where it wants to go. Only then will the committee create a picture of the person the parish seeks for the future. This committee will not conduct the actual search for a new rector, but instead is laying the groundwork for that search.

As part of this process, the committee will survey the congregation to find out parishioners' thoughts about a new rector, the current state of St. John's, and what lies ahead. There will be more information to come about the survey.

Committee members are Lisa Pope (chair), Jeff Aitken (Vestry representative), Dave Dunlap, Del Hunt, Peter Olivere, and Lynn Robinson. Providing support to the committee are Senior Warden Sandy Winger and Rev. Larry Packard. To contact the committee, send an email to profilecommittee@stjohnsarlingtonva.org.

LOGOS

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

Lisa Pope, LOGOS Editor

Email articles to logos@stjohnsarlingtonva.org. The deadline for the October issue is September 22. 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.

St. John's Staff and Leadership

Staff

Supply Plus Minister: The Rev. Dr. Laurence K. Packard

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: *Rock of Ages*

Our processional hymn on September 20, *Rock of Ages*, has been a popular hymn for more than 250 years. It was written by the Reverend Augustus Toplady (1740–1778) in 1763 and first published in *The Gospel Magazine* in 1775. This very personal hymn uses pronouns such as I and me rather than we and our, focusing on individual salvation.

Traditionally it is held that Toplady drew his inspiration from an incident in the gorge of Burrington Combe in the Mendip Hills in England. Toplady, a preacher in the nearby village of Blagdon, was traveling along the gorge when he was caught in a storm. Finding shelter in a gap in the gorge, he was struck by the title and scribbled down the initial lyrics.

The fissure that is believed to have sheltered Toplady is now marked as the “Rock of Ages,” both on the rock itself and on some maps, and the title is also reflected in the name of a nearby tea shop.

There has been speculation that, though Toplady was a Calvinist, the lyrics, “Be of sin the double cure, Save from wrath, and make me pure,” suggest that he agreed with the teachings of the Methodist preacher under whom he received his religious conversion, and those of his contemporary, John Wesley, who taught the “double cure,” in which a sinner is saved by the atonement of Jesus and cleansed from inbred sin by the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Toplady's own published hymnal of 1776, however, contains a variant that reads,

“Be of sin the double cure, Save me from its guilt and power.”

In March 1776 Toplady published the hymn as part of an article in *The Gospel Magazine*, which he edited. He wrote that just as England could never pay her national debt, so man could never by his own merits satisfy the justice of God. In the middle of the article he printed for the first time the hymn *Rock of Ages*.

Toplady died of tuberculosis at the age of 38. As he neared the end, he proclaimed, “My heart beats every day stronger and stronger for glory. Sickness is no affliction, pain no cause, death itself no dissolution...My prayers are now all converted into praise.”

Toplady wrote a number of hymns in his life, but “Rock of Ages” is by far his most famous creation.

Thomas Hastings (1784–1872) was an American composer who authored some 1,000 hymn tunes, of which the best known is “Toplady” for *Rock of Ages*. Hastings' 1822 *Dissertation on Musical Taste*, the first full musical treatise by an American author, was a notable voice in the shift in American music toward the models of German music rather than British. As “one of the first spokespersons for the cultivated tradition of American music,” he emphasized the science and philosophical mission of music above the looser and more folk-based music of his predecessors.

Carol Dunlap



Parish News

Upcoming Events:

➤ Join in the fun as St. John's plays virtual bingo on **Saturday, September 19**, at 7 p.m. To obtain bingo cards and be sent the Zoom link to play, send an email to bingo@stjohnsarlingtonva.org or contact Sandy Winger at 703-498-6990.

➤ The St. John's Book Club will meet outdoors on **Tuesday, October 6**, for (socially distanced) discussion of *Unmarriageable* by Soniah Kamal. This charming and funny novel adapts the story of *Pride and Prejudice* to modern-day Pakistan. Stay tuned for an announcement about the gathering time. 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:

➤ Faye Pritchard for organizing the Back to School supply drive and to all those who contributed supplies.

➤ Everyone who continues to bring donations for the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) and to Lynn Robinson for taking the food to AFAC every week.

➤ The members of the Regathering and Profile Committees.

➤ Lin Novak for her continued efforts to beautify the St. John's grounds and gardens.

We celebrate with all who have birthdays in September:

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

We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in September:

Erin and Gerard Baynham; Richard and Chelsea Kaufman; Cristina and Matthew Tallent.

