



# 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*

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November 2020

## **Please Take the Congregational Survey: We Need to Hear from You!**

St. John's congregational survey is here!

The Profile Committee has been working over the past several months to gather information that will be used to advertise for and recruit a new rector for St. John's. This data includes a short history of the parish, information on nearby Episcopal churches, and the demographics of the local community.

Another major part of the parish profile will be the demographics of the St. John's membership, as well as the characteristics members are seeking in a new rector. The congregational survey is designed to gather this information and aggregate it for use in the search process (individual responses will not be identified). Your participation in the survey is vital, as it will help assure that the church profile reflects who we are as a community and that the individual called to be St. John's new rector meets our needs as a congregation for continued spiritual growth and development.

The survey is available in both online and paper formats. You are encouraged to use the online survey if you are comfortable doing so. An email was recently sent to congregants asking whether you are willing to take the survey online or if a survey needs to be mailed to you. If you did not receive the email asking for your preference in survey format, please contact the Profile Committee at [survey@stjohnsarlingtonva.org](mailto:survey@stjohnsarlingtonva.org) or call committee chair Lisa Pope at 703-820-8735.

A separate survey response is requested from each adult member of the household who participates at St. John's. Because the online survey will allow only one response from the link in each email, the Profile Committee asks that you provide a different email address for each household member who will take the survey, if they have one, or let the committee know that it needs to provide an alternate link for them to complete the survey. The survey should take about 15 minutes to fill out. Your responses will be anonymous.

The survey results and the entire package of profile information will be discussed at a congregational town hall that will offer the opportunity for questions and comments. After the town hall, the committee will complete the profile and send it to the diocese for online posting and for rector candidates to view.

Thank you for your participation in this important process and for being part of the St. John's family!

## Scenes from the October Regathering



St. John's gathered in-person and via Zoom for its second outdoor worship service on October 18. Led by The Rev. Larry Packard, the service included inspirational music by Sandy Winger and Roger Ludwig and the opportunity to safely receive Holy Communion following strict health protocols. The next outdoor service is scheduled for Sunday, November 8.

## Prayers for Sunday Services and Beyond

St. John's prays for our church family, our community, the nation, and the world. To share a prayer request to be included in the Sunday worship service, email your request no later than Friday of each week to [prayers@stjohnsarlingtonva.org](mailto:prayers@stjohnsarlingtonva.org). Please note in your email that this is a "Service Prayer" request.

Prayer requests can also be shared with St. John's Intercessory Prayer group, which is a ministry that prays for anyone who needs it. Send your request to [prayers@stjohnsarlingtonva.org](mailto:prayers@stjohnsarlingtonva.org) and note in your email that this is an "Intercessory" request rather than one for the Sunday service.

Barbara Olivere coordinates both the Sunday service prayers and the Intercessory Prayer group. If you would prefer to call Barbara with your prayer request, she can be reached at 571-228-1399. The [prayers@stjohnsarlingtonva.org](mailto:prayers@stjohnsarlingtonva.org) emails are received by both Barbara and Parish Administrator Virginia Pearson.



### 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](mailto:logos@stjohnsarlingtonva.org). The deadline for the December issue is November 23. 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

#### Parish Leaders

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

#### Vestry

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

Diane Henderson  
Richard Henry  
Peter Olivere

## Words on Hymns: A Multitude of Bach

How are hymn tunes used in longer classical works? And in the reverse, how many long classical works have melodies that have been transcribed as hymns?

To answer the first question: A lot. Johann Sebastian Bach wrote over 300 cantatas. About 200 of them are extant. Most are based on Lutheran hymns, some of which we still sing, such as *Sleepers; Wake, Jesus, All Our Gladness;* and *Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bonds*. Bach also wrote many organ preludes based on hymn tunes, some very short and some longer. Another sterling example is Felix Mendelssohn's Fifth Symphony, "The Reformation" symphony. It has an exciting final movement that incorporates *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*.

On the other side of the coin, there is *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* from the last movement of Ludwig van Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*. Tunes that are not in our hymnal include a Christmas one taken from Johannes Brahms' *First Symphony* and *I Vow to Thee, My Country*, which was adapted by Gustav Holst from the movement *Jupiter* in his work *The Planets* to go with the poem. Taken from George Frideric Handel's oratorio *Judas Maccabeus* is the hymn *Thine is the Glory*.

During the 18th century, the musical centerpiece of Lutheran worship services was the cantata, a multi-movement piece featuring chorus, orchestra, and vocal soloists. Bach's multitude of cantatas were composed during his long career as a Lutheran church musician. From 1723 until his death in 1750, Bach was employed as Thomaskantor (cantor at St. Thomas) in Leipzig, Germany. He was the second choice candidate for the position, and was invited to Leipzig only after Georg Philipp Telemann indicated that he would not be interested in relocating there. Telemann ended up going to Hamburg. (Bach's coming in second behind Telemann reminds me of the

initial audition evaluation of Fred Astaire: "Can't act. Can't sing. Slightly bald. Can dance a little.")

Bach was required to instruct the students of the *Thomasschule* in singing and provide church music for the main churches in Leipzig. He was also assigned to teach Latin but was allowed to employ four "prefects" (deputies) to do this instead. The prefects also aided with musical instruction. During his time in Leipzig, he was required to perform a cantata every Sunday of the year, as well as on fixed-date feast days such as Reformation and St. Michael's Day. For the first few years of his employment there, Bach produced dozens of new works, each intended to accompany a particular set of readings on a particular day of the year. Bach drafted his 22 children to copy parts. That explains his rationale for taking on the otherwise unattractive position of Cantor of St. Thomas Church, expressing the wish to leave behind a "well-ordered compilation of sacred music." Praise for Bach attributed to Beethoven is, "He shouldn't be named Brook but rather, Ocean!" It's a play on words: "Bach," in German, means "brook." Beethoven was referring to the universal quality of Bach's oeuvre, as well as the enormous output.

Bach usually led performances of his cantatas, most of which were composed within three years of his relocation to Leipzig. Most of these works expound on the Gospel readings prescribed for every Sunday and feast day in the Lutheran year. After beginning the project the Sunday after Trinity in 1723, Bach started a second annual cycle the first Sunday after Trinity of 1724 and composed only chorale cantatas, each based on a single church hymn. Bach drew the soprano and alto choristers from the church school and the tenors and basses from the school and elsewhere in Leipzig. Performing at weddings and funerals provided

extra income for these groups; it was probably for this purpose, and for in-school training, that he wrote at least six motets (an anthem, usually unaccompanied). As part of his regular church work, he performed other composers' motets, which served as formal models for his own.

Bach broadened his composing and performing beyond the liturgy by taking over the directorship of the Collegium Musicum in March 1729, a secular performance ensemble started by Telemann. This was one of the dozens of private societies in the major German-speaking cities that were established by musically active university students. In the words of musicologist Christoph Wolff, assuming the directorship was a shrewd move that “consolidated Bach's firm grip on Leipzig's principal musical institutions.” Many

of Bach's works during the 1730s and 1740s were written for and performed by the Collegium Musicum.

Some of the secular cantatas are based on music Bach had composed at an earlier date (for example, some music of the first *Brandenburg Concerto* was used in a secular cantata), and Bach quite often adapted secular cantatas into church music: for instance, his *Christmas Oratorio* opens with music originally written for a secular cantata. Most composers of such enormous volumes of work engaged in “auto-plagiarism,” where they reworked one piece of their music to fit in a different one.

Carol Dunlap

### Would You Like to Receive Holy Communion?

If you would like to receive Holy Communion, please contact The Rev. Larry Packard, and he will arrange for you to receive it in the safety of strict health protocols and at your most convenient time and place. Contact him at [minister@stjohnsarlingtonva.org](mailto:minister@stjohnsarlingtonva.org) or at 703-606-3109 (please note this number does not have voice mail).



## Parish News

### Upcoming Events:

➤ The St. John's Book Club will meet outdoors on **Tuesday, November 10**, at 6 p.m. to discuss *The Unhoneymooners* by Christina Lauren. 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. On **Tuesday, December 1**, the group will discuss the Agatha Christie classic *Murder at the Vicarage*. This meeting will likely take place via Zoom, but stay tuned for more information. All are welcome!

➤ Join the fun as St. John's plays virtual bingo on **Saturday, November 21**, at 7 p.m. To obtain bingo cards and be sent the Zoom link to play, send an email to [bingo@stjohnsarlingtonva.org](mailto:bingo@stjohnsarlingtonva.org) or contact Sandy Winger at 703-498-6990.

### Thank You to:

➤ All who have sent in their pledge cards during the Stewardship 2021 campaign. If you have not mailed your card, remember to send it in so that the Finance Committee can start working on the 2021 budget.

➤ The members of the Regathering Committee and the participants, ushers, and other volunteers who have worked so hard to make the outdoor services a success.

➤ Chris Archambault and Justin Kenner for cleaning out the gutters at the church.

➤ Dave Dunlap for chairing the Stewardship 2021 campaign.

### We celebrate with all who have birthdays in November:

Bronwen Berliner; Gage Buchanan; Jud Buchanan; Dave Dunlap; Beth Fowler; Douglas LeSage; Roger Ludwig; Keith McCartney; Robert "Larry" Rawls, III; Dave Robinson; and Laura VanWyk.

### We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in November:

Ginger and Marshall Adair; Jeff and Michelle Aitken; Beth and Brian Cavey; Kendrah and Robert McDonald; The Rev. Larry and Melissa Packard.