

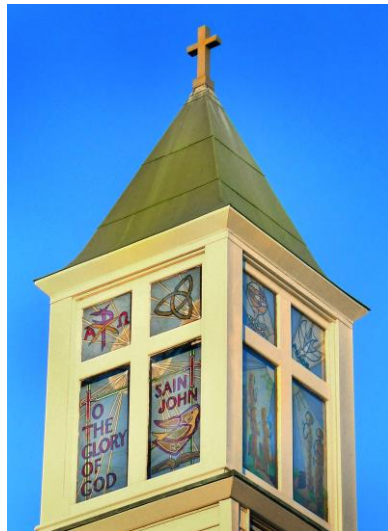
LOGOS

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

February 2021

Ringling the Bell in Memory of COVID-19 Victims



Members of St. John's and the community joined with others nationwide on January 19 in ringing the church bell 400 times to remember the 400,000 victims of COVID-19 in the United States.

(Photos by Gerald Martineau)

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Join St. John's Ash Wednesday Service

Observe Ash Wednesday by participating in St. John's virtual service on Wednesday, February 17, at 7 p.m. The Zoom link and dial-in information will be distributed by email prior to the service. Those who requested ashes by February 3 will receive them by mail. As stated in the *Book of Common Prayer*, the use of ashes is optional.



Episcopal Migration Ministries Lenten Devotions

To journey with Episcopal Migration Ministries through their 2021 Lenten devotion series, visit <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/episcopal-migration-ministries/lenten-devotion-series-2021/>. Additional Lenten reflections and devotions can be found at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/lenten-reflections/>.

Will You Be My Valentine? Shop Cristo Rey's Virtual Holiday Store

Find all your Valentine's Day gifts and support Cristo Rey by shopping their virtual store at brazosabiertosstore.org. Offerings range from Valentine's Day pins and quilled heart frames to cute gnomes, chocolate truffles, and much more. The proceeds will help the Cristo Rey congregation, which has been drastically affected by the pandemic. You can also make a donation if you prefer not to purchase something. Your support is very much appreciated!



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 March issue is February 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
Dave Dunlap

Parish Leaders

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

Diane Henderson
Richard Henry
Peter Olivere

St. John's Now Collecting School Supplies and Winter Clothing

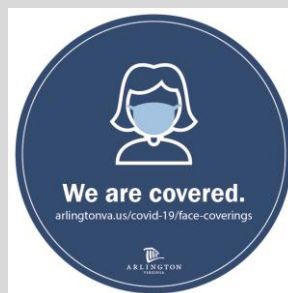
St. John's is now collecting supplies for Kenmore Middle School and Clothesline Arlington. Kenmore needs pens, pencils, colored pencils, and loose-leaf paper in particular, as well as materials for a special Valentine's Day project: construction paper in red, pink, and white; doilies; glitter; and glue, etc. They can also use other school supplies, but no composition books and no binders. Please place your contributions in the box on the Pritchards' front porch at 5713 Fifth St. South, a half-block down from St. John's. Faye Pritchard will deliver the supplies to the school.

St. John's is also collecting fall and winter clothes for Clothesline Arlington, a nonprofit that serves school-aged children from kindergarten through Grade 12. They are looking for everyday and school clothes in sizes 4T through Adult. (Adult sizes should be in teen-appropriate styles.) The clothing should be clean and free of stains, damage, and pet hair. No used underwear or socks, please, and the only shoes they are accepting are sneakers in excellent condition. As with the school supplies, please place your clothing contributions in the box on the Pritchards' front porch. Thank you for your support of these outreach projects!



COVID-19 Resources in Northern Virginia

The home page of St. John's website, www.stjohnsarlingtonva.org, has a link to many COVID-19 resources available in both Arlington and Fairfax counties, as well as volunteer opportunities. Resources include a list of local COVID-19 testing sites; information on food, financial, housing, and medical assistance; and a mental wellness guide.



Words on Hymns: *This Little Light of Mine*

A fun, rousing hymn that's particularly good as a recessional is *This Little Light of Mine*. It is a popular gospel song of unknown origin that is sung all over the world. It was often reported to be written for children in the 1920s by Harry Dixon Loes, but he never claimed credit for the original version of the song, and the Moody Bible Institute, where he worked, said he did not write it. It was later adapted by Zilphia Horton, among many other activists, in connection with the civil rights movement.

The origin of the song is unclear, but the phrase "This little light of mine" appeared by 1925 published in poetry by Edward G. Ivins, a writer in Montana. By at least 1933 the song was well-known across African American churches when it was mentioned in newspapers as being sung by a chorus at an African Methodist Episcopal conference in Helena, Montana, and then at various other churches around the United States later that year. In June 1934 John Lomax and his son Alan made the earliest known recording of the song when they recorded Jim Boyd of Jacksonville, Texas, singing at the State Penitentiary in Huntsville, Texas. The Lomax family were folklorists who did much for the preservation of American folk music. In 1939 John Lomax returned to Texas with his wife Ruby during their Southern States Recording Trip and recorded the song again. This song and others were sung by an imprisoned Black woman, Doris McMurray, who said that she learned them from her grandmother in Waco. The recording can still be found in the Library of Congress archives.

Some believe the song takes its theme from remarks of Jesus, including Matthew 5:16: "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Given that the source is unknown and God and Jesus are not mentioned

in the words, some feel it is equally possible that the song reflects a global longing to be seen as a good person trying to make the world a better place.

Activists like Fannie Lou Hamer and Zilphia Horton sang freedom song versions of *This Little Light of Mine* and taught it to others. One place where a lot of this sharing occurred was the Highlander Folk School, a cultural center in Tennessee where activists such as Rosa Parks, Pete Seeger, and Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., gathered to trade ideas. Candie Carawan, who worked with her late husband Guy, Highlander's music director and song leader, said songs such as this one could be nonviolent weapons. It might seem odd to call such an innocent-sounding song defiant, but that's exactly how blues singer Bettie Mae Fikes felt when she created her classic version of *This Little Light of Mine* in 1963. She improvised the lyrics after a protest where several of her friends were attacked. Additions were made such as "Tell Jim Clark." (Clark was the sheriff of Dallas County, Alabama, from 1955 to 1966. He was one of the officials responsible for the violent arrests of civil rights protesters during the Selma to Montgomery marches of 1965, and is remembered as a racist whose brutal tactics included using cattle prods against unarmed civil rights supporters.) Other additions were "Tell the KKK" and "Tell the President" that "I'm gonna let it shine."

More recently, Rev. Osagyefo Sekou used *This Little Light of Mine* to curb passions during a counter-protest before a crowd of white supremacists and alt-right supporters gathered for the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017.

Carol Dunlap

Parish News

Upcoming Events:

➤ Have some fun and fellowship no matter the winter weather as St. John's plays virtual bingo on **Saturday, February 20**, 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.

➤➤ Join the St. John's Book Club on **Tuesday, March 2**, to discuss *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes* by Caitlin Doughty. This thoughtful memoir explores the author's experiences working as a young woman at a crematorium and society's attitudes toward death and dying. Stay tuned for more information on the time and Zoom link for the meeting. All are welcome!

Thank You to:

➤ Faye Pritchard for organizing St. John's donations to Kenmore Middle School and Clothesline Arlington and to everyone who has contributed school supplies and clothing.

➤ All who came out to support the bell ringing at St. John's in memory of COVID-19 victims on January 19.

We celebrate with all who have birthdays in February:

Michelle Aitken, Dennis Albrecht, Carey Blount, Lisa Broida, Nella Candelieri, Robert Carter, Tina Cavey, Peyton Del Gallo, The Rev. Amanda Eiman, Henry Held, Carole Hunt, Heather Kollath, Lin Novak, Jeff Petrich, John Restall, Anne Stenger, Eileen Tallent, and Colin White.

We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in February:

Bryan and Carrie Harbin; Kaipo and Keith McCartney.

