



# 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*

---

March 2021

## *A Year of Change* St. John's Annual Meeting 2021

St. John's held its first virtual Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 31, following the 10 a.m. worship service. Rev. Larry Packard opened the meeting with prayer. Treasurer Peter Olivere presented the financial report for 2020 and information on the 2021 budget. He noted that even with two significant obstacles in the past year—the pandemic and the departure in June of Rector Ann Barker—the family of St. John's stepped up to provide significant support for the congregation. When the year began, the church budget included a projected deficit for 2020 of over \$30,000, but St. John's ended the year with an overall deficit of only \$5,700. This was possible even though the church lost more than \$11,000 in building use income and more than \$2,000 in fundraising. However, contributions increased by \$16,000 more than budgeted and expenses were \$22,000 less than projected. Of this amount, \$14,000 resulted from the lower cost of paying a supply plus minister for the latter half of the year instead of a rector. The budget of \$115,916 for 2021 includes funding for a half-time minister for part of the year. A projected deficit of \$19,211 in 2021 is expected to drop to \$9,765 in 2022, partly due to building revenue picking up again after the pandemic ends.

Sandy Warden presented the Senior Warden report. She noted the dramatic changes St. John's faced in 2020 but also the blessings provided by virtual worship and the ability to call Rev. Packard to serve as a long-term supply plus minister. To plan for the way forward, the vestry appointed a Profile Committee and a Regathering for Public Worship Committee. Dave Dunlap led a successful Stewardship campaign in the fall and will now be joining the vestry as a new member for 2021. Rev. Packard reported on St. John's successes in worship, including adjusting to Zoom and incorporating multi-media presentations into the Sunday services as well as holding three outdoor services that met state-of-the-art safety standards. In addition, he followed rigorous safety measures in offering Holy Communion to more than 30 parishioners in the fall.

As highlighted by Minister of Music Lynn Robinson, the music program at St. John's has largely been on hold due to the pandemic, but Judith Marcinko continues to provide beautiful organ and piano selections for the virtual services, often joined by her daughter Mary Lin on the flute. On special occasions, Lynn has recorded an anthem for use in the service.

Regathering Committee chair Bill Pritchard highlighted the committee's work to create health and safety plans for three outdoor services St. John's held in the fall as well as to plan

for an outdoor Eucharist. Special attention was given to the manner of distributing the host and wine safely. The Regathering committee expects to reactivate as spring approaches and begin planning for the next outdoor services. Plans will take into account the state of the pandemic and the potential onset of more virulent strains of the coronavirus and guidance from the diocese and public health authorities.

Chair Lisa Pope presented the Profile Committee report. Committee members have researched and prepared information that will be used to advertise for and recruit a new rector for St. John's. This data includes a history of the parish, information on nearby Episcopal churches, the demographics of the local community, and details on St. John's current financial status. The committee also created a congregational survey that was distributed in November 2020 and received 37 responses. On December 20, St. John's held a Town Hall following the worship service to discuss the results of the survey. A strong theme running through the results was the importance of the parish family and community that St. John's provides, as well as the sense of inclusiveness, friendship, and acceptance found in the parish. The skills, gifts, and talents deemed most important in new clergy are preaching, new member growth, and pastoral care. The Profile Committee is now using the survey results and Town Hall discussion to complete St. John's self-study and recruitment material.

Since the church building closed in March 2020, only regular upkeep has been needed, but the garden and grounds, under the leadership of Lin Novak, have continued to blossom into a beautiful showplace. With the help of nine volunteers, the Frank Todd Memorial Garden, the Cross Garden, and the many flower beds have all been planted, seeded, and weeded. Ribbons were put up for Easter, Mother's Day, and Father's Day. A nativity was displayed on the corner of 5th and Lexington streets along with a smaller one on the church's front porch during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Bulbs have also been planted in the Cross Garden to welcome spring and the Lenten season.

In spite of the pandemic, St. John's continued its outreach in 2020. The Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) needed more food than ever as the pandemic cost people their jobs. Lynn Robinson set up an AFAC collection box on the church's front porch and congregants increased their contributions. During April, May, and June, AFAC discontinued having senior citizens bag produce, but as soon as this restriction was lifted in July, St. John's regular AFAC team went back to work. The team has continued bagging produce and grains once a month since then, safely distanced at AFAC's facility in South Arlington. Sandy Winger has also organized teams that continue to pack meals monthly for the Bailey's Crossroads shelter.

In addition, Bill and Faye Pritchard set up a collection bin on their front porch where, beginning in August, St. John's parishioners have donated school supplies for the neighborhood schools and winter clothing for Carlin Springs Elementary School and the nonprofit Clothesline Arlington.

After a period of discussion and questions, the congregation moved to accept all of the Annual Meeting reports. Rev. Packard closed the meeting in prayer.



St. John's worship highlights in 2020 included outdoor Eucharist at several of its Regathering services.

## Virginia Begins Statewide COVID-19 Vaccine Preregistration System

Virginia has launched a statewide COVID-19 vaccine preregistration system aimed at providing what the state calls a unified and comprehensive vaccination process.

Locally, Arlington County's preregistration links and webpage were replaced with a link to the new statewide system on Tuesday, February 16. Those already preregistered in Arlington County's system were automatically imported into the statewide system, according to a county statement. "Your original pre-registration date will be included," it said. Residents can also search the state preregistration system to find out if they are included.

Fairfax County has decided to stick with its own preregistration program for the time being, according to news reports. Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chair Jeff McKay was quoted as saying the county has invested many resources into its own system and he wants to see how the state's rollout goes before deciding to make the transition.

The online form for Virginia's statewide preregistration for COVID-19 vaccines is available at <https://vax.preregister.virginia.gov/#/>.



### Clothing Drive on Hiatus

St. John's clothing drive is temporarily on hiatus, as Clothesline Arlington has discontinued accepting winter clothing. It will begin accepting spring and summer clothing sometime in March. Please await further instructions from Faye Pritchard. Thank you to everyone who collected clothing for the winter drive!

## Words on Hymns: *Blessed Assurance*

Although I am not a fan of the hymnal *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, I do like a few of the hymns. *Blessed Assurance* is one, probably because of its upbeat cheerfulness. The lyrics were written in 1873 by blind hymn writer Fanny Crosby to the music written by Phoebe Knapp. Crosby was visiting her friend Phoebe as the Knapp home was having a large pipe organ installed. The organ was incomplete, so Knapp played on the piano a new harmony she had just composed. Knapp then asked Crosby, "What do you think the tune says?" Crosby replied, "Blessed assurance; Jesus is mine," and proceeded to recite the entire first stanza of the now-famous hymn. Knapp was one of several tune writers who worked with Crosby. It was not unusual for one of her texts to be inspired by a preexisting tune.

Crosby (1820–1915) was a lifelong Methodist who began composing hymns at age six. She became a student at the New York Institute of the Blind at age 15 and joined the faculty of the Institute at 22, teaching rhetoric and history. In 1858 Crosby married Alexander Van Alstyne (1831–1902), also a student at the Institute and later a member of the faculty. He was a fine musician and, like Fanny, a lover of literature. He was considered one of the best organists in New York City.

Crosby's uncanny ability to set words to music and likewise to improvise music to words made her noticeable to many in the world of church music. One of them was William B. Bradbury, who hired Crosby as a regular writer for his publishing company. She worked for Bradbury, composing several hymns a day, until his death in 1868. She also wrote under nearly 200 pen names for other publishers. This was because she wrote so many hymns, her publishers needed the public to think that it was more than one writer composing them. During her lifetime, Crosby wrote more than 8,000 hymns.

*Blessed Assurance* appeared in the July 1873 issue of Palmer's *Guide to Holiness and Revival Miscellany*, a magazine printed by Dr. and Mrs. W.C. Palmer of New York City. It appeared on page 36 (the last page) with complete text and piano score, and indicated it had been copyrighted by Crosby that year. It is not certain that this was the first printing of the hymn, but it helped to popularize what became one of the most beloved hymns of all time. It reflects Crosby's walk of faith, as expressed by the apostle Paul in Philippians 1:21, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." Because of Crosby's lyrics, the tune is now called *Blessed Assurance*.

Perhaps the biggest boost came when it appeared in *Gospel Songs, No. 5* (1887) by Ira Sankey and was sung extensively in the Moody and Sankey revivals in Great Britain and the United States. It has been a part of Methodist hymnals since 1889.

As a young girl, Knapp (1839–1908) displayed great musical talent; she composed and sang children's songs at an early age. The daughter of the Methodist evangelist Walter C. Palmer, she was married to John Fairfield Knapp at the age of 16. Her husband was a founder of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, and after his death, she shared her considerable inherited wealth with various charitable organizations. She composed over 500 gospel songs, of which the tunes for *Blessed Assurance* (Knapp's only hymn tune in *Lift Every Voice and Sing*) and *Open the Gates of the Temple* are still popular today.

Crosby has several additional hymns in *Lift Every Voice: Near the Cross; Close to Thee; I Am Thine, O Lord; and Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior*.

Carol Dunlap

## Is Alcohol an Issue? AA Online Is Available 24/7

If you or a loved one needs the help that an Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meeting can provide, Zoom now makes that possible no matter the time, day or night. You can be truly anonymous and get the help you need, whether that means meeting with a group here in Arlington or across the country in California or around the world in Wales. All you need is a phone, tablet, or computer and the desire not to drink. For information about AA meetings that are accessible by Zoom, visit [nvintergroup.org](http://nvintergroup.org), and know that the people of St. John's are praying for you.

### 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 April issue is March 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 Osteguin  
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

## Parish News

### Upcoming Events:

➤ Shake up your Saturday night and join the fun as St. John's plays virtual bingo on **Saturday, March 20**, 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.

➤ Join the St. John's Book Club on **Tuesday, April 6**, as the group discusses *Lady in Waiting: My Extraordinary Life in the Shadow of the Crown* by Anne Glenconner. This memoir by a close member of the royal circle and lady-in-waiting to Princess Margaret provides a behind-the-scenes look at royalty while also highlighting a life full of drama and tragedy. Stay tuned for more information on the time and other meeting details. All are welcome!

### Thank You to:

- Barbara Olivere for continuing to maintain St. John's card ministry.
- All of the volunteers who participate as readers and prayer leaders in the Sunday services.

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

Rev. Ann Barker, Bobby Candelieri, Beth Cavey, Pierce Kaufman, Ian Kunkle, Kendrah McDonald, Pete Olivere, Chip Russell, Cristina Tallent, and Nora Wien-Herman.

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

Chris Archambault and Justin Kenner; Debbie and Henry Carter; Jim and Janice Hull.

