

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

May 2021

Congregational Update

In March the St. John's vestry, in coordination with the Profile Committee, established a small committee (Dave Dunlap, Treasurer Peter Olivere, and Senior Warden Sandy Winger) to investigate the possibility of St. John's partnering with another parish to hire a full-time priest to serve both congregations.

Since the committee was established, members have been engaged in discussions with St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in Falls Church, investigating whether they were interested in such a collaboration and whether the two parishes would be a good fit for sharing a priest. Under such an arrangement the two parishes would remain separate—the congregations will not merge.

The committee has determined that financially the two parishes can support a full-time priest. Because of the close proximity of the two churches (about 4.5 miles apart), a Sunday worship schedule has been agreed upon that can be covered by one priest. An agreement has also been achieved in principle on how the priest can balance time between the two parishes. Committee members are also looking at a framework for regular communication and cooperation between the two parishes.

Based on the progress made to date, committee members believe that sharing a full-time priest with St. Patrick's is worth pursuing. To that end, a framework for this proposal has been sent to the diocesan Office of Transition Ministry to engage them in this effort moving forward.

There is much work yet to be done, however, and it will require continued effort on the part of the Profile Committee, the St. John's vestry, St. Patrick's vestry, and the diocese to make it come about. This is not yet a done deal. Among the major tasks ahead are the development of a combined profile to advertise the position on the diocesan web site, the establishment of a joint search committee, and evaluation of prospective applicants.

Please stay tuned for further updates in the days ahead. If you have questions about the progress made to date and the search process or any suggestions, please feel free to talk to one of the committee members or Rev. Larry Packard.



A fierce wind storm with gusts of up to 70 miles per hour on April 30 brought a tree crashing down outside St. John's. Miraculously, the only known damage to date is to the building's gutters.

Words on Hymns: *In Christ There Is No East or West*

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north; but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide world.

First of all, we're going to get past the lame jokes about *In Christ There Is No East or West* being the hymn of the card game of bridge.

Moving right along, John Oxenham is one of the pen names for businessman William J. Dunkerly (1852–1941), who wrote the text for this hymn. He trained for his career in business at Victoria University in Manchester, England, and traveled extensively to Europe, the United States, and South America, living in France several years. Oxenham made his home in the United States for a time before returning to England, where he died at the age of 89. According to hymnologist Albert Bailey, Oxenham began writing “to relieve the tedium of long journeys...and soon discovered that he liked writing better than business.”

The poem was originally part of a libretto, “Darkness and Light,” prepared in 1908 for an exhibition for the London Missionary Society on the theme “The Orient in London.” He then included this poem in his collection, *Bees in Amber* (1913). This popular volume was rejected by publishers; but when Oxenham self-published it, the book sold 285,000 copies. From here the hymn found its way into many English-language hymnals, beginning with England's *Songs of Praise* in 1931.

English literary scholar and hymnologist J.R. Watson states that the hymn takes its opening idea from Rudyard Kipling's famous lines, “Oh, East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet,” from “The Ballad of East and West,” published in *Barrack-Room Ballads, and Other Verses* (1892). However, Oxenham's hymn is the antithesis of Kipling's verse.

As *United Methodist Hymnal* editor Carlton Young observes, “[t]he theme of

Oxenham's hymn, one of the most durable hymnic statements of Christian unity in the twentieth century, is from Galatians 3:28: ‘There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ.’”

The focus of this hymn has shifted from world missions in the early 20th century to a great hymn of Christian unity for the 21st-century church. As such, changes in attitude toward inclusive language affected the hymn as it appeared in hymnals. Editors felt that a hymn espousing Christian unity should reflect gender equality in its language, especially when drawing upon Galatians 3:28. This presented a problem in the original stanza three:

*Join hands, then, brothers of the faith,
whate'er your race may be;
who serves my Father as a son is surely
kin to me.*

The stanza was rewritten by Lawrence Stookey, a member of the language and theology subcommittee of the Hymnal Revision Committee for *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989) who was given the task of revising the words of the hymn. He noted that, “after numerous unsatisfactory attempts to make Oxenham's language inclusive, I decided to write a replacement stanza based on Galatians 3:28.” This resulted in:

*In Christ now meet both East and West,
in him meet South and North,
all Christly souls are one in him,
throughout the whole wide earth.*

For many years, the standard tune for this text has been *St. Peter*, which was composed in 1836 by American composer Alexander Reinagle. More recently, many hymnals have used the tune *McKee*, which has an interesting history. According to a letter from the composer Charles V. Stanford to Samuel

Coleridge-Taylor, an English composer and conductor of mixed-race birth who arranged the tune for piano in his *Twenty-Four Negro Melodies* (1905), *McKee* was originally an Irish tune taken to the United States and adapted by African-American slaves. It became associated with the spiritual "I Know the Angels Done Changed My Name," which appeared in J.B.T. Marsh's *The Story of the*

Jubilee Singers with their Songs (1876). It was adapted from the spiritual by the famous African-American composer and songwriter Harry T. Burleigh (1866–1949). The tune was named for Elmer M. McKee, the rector of St. George's Episcopal Church in New York City, where Burleigh was the baritone soloist for over 50 years.

Carol Dunlap

Spring and Summer Clothing Drive Continues

St. John's is continuing to collect clothes for Clothesline, a nonprofit that distributes gently used clothing to school-age children. Clothesline is looking for everyday school and home clothes for spring and summer, sizes 4T through adult (adult clothing should be styles that teens would wear). The clothes should be clean and free of stains, damage, and pet hair.

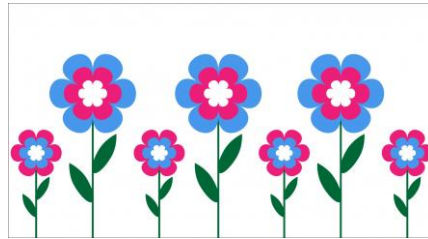
Clothes for teen boys and bras are especially needed. Please note the items that are not needed: no underpants, socks, baby or toddler clothes (sizes 0 through 3), toys, books, hangers, uniforms, or promotional or event T-shirts. The only shoes being accepted are new sneakers.

Please leave your donations in the bin on the Pritchards' front porch, 5713 5th Street, South (one-half block from St. John's). Thank you!



Support Arlington's Latino Congregations

Support Cristo Rey by shopping at brazosabiertosstore.org, which benefits Arlington Latino congregations. Offerings include framed quilled hearts, various styles of gnomes for Mother's Day, ribbon heart pins, felt cats, and other handmade creations. Items can be delivered throughout Arlington, Alexandria, and Falls Church, and some purchases can also be shipped. The proceeds will help the Cristo Rey and San Jose congregations, which have 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 June issue is May 24. 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

Parish News

Upcoming Events:

➤ Get ready for a night of bingo fun. Zoom or call into St. John's virtual game on **Saturday, May 15**, at 7 p.m. To obtain bingo cards and be sent the link or call-in details 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, June 1**, as they discuss *Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan. The inspiration for the 2018 hit film, this delightfully fun novel takes a witty look at old money, new money, nosy relatives, and scheming social climbers. Stay tuned for more information on the time and other meeting details. All are welcome!

Rest in Peace

➤ Dave Robinson, who entered the Life of the Resurrection on April 14.

We celebrate with all who have birthdays in May:

Patricia Bleicher, Debbie Carter, Andy Del Gallo, Jane Edwards, Rob Hardman, Kim Houghton, Alice Kniskern, Abigail Kollath, Romana Martin, Maegan McDonald, Robert McDonald, Bill Schenck, Owen Tallent, and Barbara Wien.

We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in May:

Peggy and Carey Blount; Leslie Mead and Jeff Petrich; Christopher and Laura Van Wyk.

