

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

June 2021

Take the St. John's Regathering Survey

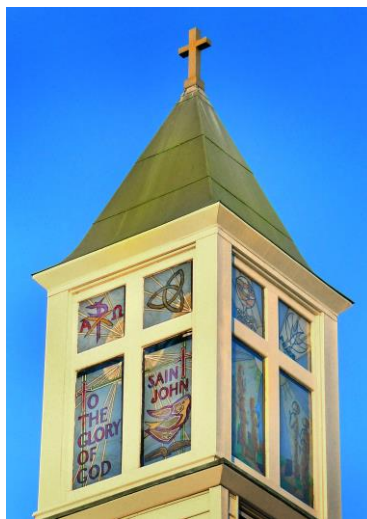
St. John's is in the process of developing a regathering plan to conduct indoor services, with the first service tentatively planned for July 18. A congregational survey was recently distributed by email to assess individual attitudes and values to help the vestry and the Regathering Committee with planning. The survey consists of eight multiple-choice questions that will only take a few minutes to complete.

The end of the survey includes optional questions about vaccination. This is not to track individuals, but solely to determine the percentage of vaccinated persons in the overall congregation as this will affect planning decisions.

The survey email includes a "Begin survey" button. If you click on that button, the vestry will know that you responded and they will not need to follow up with you. However, if you prefer to take the survey anonymously, a link in the email offers that option.

Please respond to the survey as soon as possible so that your views can be included in the planning for indoor services. Thank you!

If you have any questions or problems taking the survey or did not receive it, please contact Peter Olivere at 703-626-2520 or treasurer@stjohnsarlingtonva.org.



(Photo by Gerald Martineau)

Words on Hymns: *Abide with Me*

A hymn that is loved by many people but that we never sing is *Abide with Me*. The problem is that it talks about “eventide” so it seems like an evening hymn, even though it isn’t in the “Evening” section of the hymnal. However, the hymn is a prayer for God to remain present with the speaker throughout life, through trials, and through death. The hymn is popular across many Christian denominations and was said to have been a favorite of King George V and Mahatma Gandhi. It is also often sung or played at Christian funerals. Our hymnal has only four of the original eight verses.

The author of the hymn, Henry Francis Lyte (1793–1847), was a Scottish Anglican minister. For most of his life Lyte suffered from poor health, and he would regularly travel abroad for relief, as was customary at that time.

There is some controversy as to the exact dating of the text to *Abide with Me*. An article in *The Spectator* in 1925 says that Lyte composed the hymn in 1820 while visiting a dying friend, William Augustus Le Hunte, in County Wexford, Ireland. As Lyte sat with him, Le Hunte kept repeating the phrase “abide with me....” After leaving his bedside, Lyte wrote the hymn and gave a copy of it to Le Hunte's family.

The belief is that when Lyte felt his own end approaching 27 years later, he recalled the lines he had written so many years before. The Biblical link for the hymn is Luke 24:29 in which the disciples asked Jesus to abide with them “for it is toward evening and the day is spent.” Using his friend's more personal phrasing “abide with me,” Lyte composed the hymn. His daughter, Anna Maria Maxwell Hogg, recounts the story of how *Abide with Me* came out of that context:

The summer was passing away, and the month of September (that month in which he was once more to quit his

native land) arrived, and each day seemed to have a special value as being one day nearer his departure. His family were surprised and almost alarmed at his announcing his intention of preaching once more to his people. His weakness and the possible danger attending the effort, were urged to prevent it, but in vain. “It was better,” as he used to say often playfully, when in comparative health, “to wear out than to rust out.” He felt that he should be enabled to fulfil his wish, and feared not for the result. His expectation was well founded. He did preach, and amid the breathless attention of his hearers, gave them a sermon on the Holy Communion.... In the evening of the same day he placed in the hands of a near and dear relative the little hymn, *Abide with Me*, with an air of his own composing, adapted to the words.

Just weeks later, on November 20, 1847, in Nice, then in the Kingdom of Sardinia, Lyte died of tuberculosis at the age of 54. The hymn was sung for the very first time at Lyte's funeral.

While he wrote a tune for the hymn, the most usual tune for it is *Eventide* by William Henry Monk. According to some sources, Monk wrote the tune for Lyte's text in 10 minutes. As the story goes, Monk was attending a hymnal committee meeting for the 1861 edition of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, of which he was music editor. Realizing that the text had no tune, Monk sat down at the piano and composed *Eventide*. The hymn was then published in that edition of *Hymns Ancient and Modern* and Monk's tune has since always been associated with it.

Methodist scholar James T. Lightwood had corresponded with Monk's widow, Annie

Maria Monk, who supplied this brief story behind the tune: “The tune was written at a time of great sorrow—when together we watched, as we did daily, the glories of the setting sun. As the last golden ray faded, he took up some paper and pencilled that tune, which has gone all over the world.”

Which version is the true story will never be known.

Hymn scholar Raymond Glover, in addressing the occasional criticism of

sentimentality behind the tune, said: “The tune, perhaps the composer’s most characteristic, suffers ridicule more because of a slow, maudlin performance practice than from its qualities as a very simple, four-part hymn tune. A moving tempo with a feeling of two beats in a measure is to be encouraged.”

Carol Dunlap

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 July/August issue is June 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

<p>Staff</p> <p>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</p> <p>Vestry</p> <p>Sandy Winger, Senior Warden Bryan Harbin, Junior Warden Jeff Aitken Dave Dunlap</p>	<p>Parish Leaders</p> <p>Peter Olivere, Treasurer John Restall, Pledge Clerk Eileen Tallent, Chair, Altar Guild</p> <p>Diane Henderson Richard Henry Peter Olivere</p>
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Parish News

Upcoming Events:

➤ Calling all bingo players! Join St. John's virtual game on **Saturday, June 19**, at 7 p.m. To obtain bingo cards and be sent the Zoom link or dial-in details to play, send an email to bingo@stjohnsarlingtonva.org or contact Sandy Winger at 703-498-6990.

We celebrate with all who have birthdays in June:

Charles Adair, Sienna Baynham, Sam Beavin, Michael Cavey, Cathi Del Gallo, Angie France, Paul Harless, Adrienne Hubbard, Matthew Hubbard, Judith Marcinko, Kaipō McCartney, Leslie Mead, Stacy O'Connor, Lisa Pope, Faye Pritchard, James Robinson, Jones Tallent, Matthew Tallent, and Christopher Van Wyk.

We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in June:

Peter and Patricia Broida; Ray and Stacy O'Connor; Barbara and Peter Olivere; Rev. Peter and Angela Swarr; Eileen and Bob Tallent; and John and Valerie Wilson.

Book Club Takes a Summer Break

St. John's Book Club is taking the summer off, but over the break they are reading *China Rich Girlfriend* by Kevin Kwan. This entertaining sequel to *Crazy Rich Asians* continues the over-the-top fun. Pick up a copy and plan to join the discussion in September!

