

# 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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October 2021

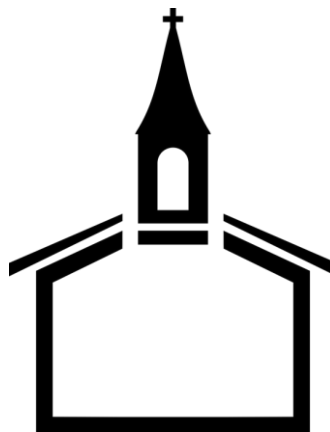
## Pastoral Search Process Begins

In September, the church portfolios for St. John's and St. Patrick's were posted jointly on the diocesan website to advertise for a full-time priest who will serve both congregations. Under this arrangement, the two parishes will remain separate—the congregations will not merge. The Joint Search Committee is accepting applications until October 15.

Members of the Search Committee are Senior Warden Sandy Winger and Dave Dunlap of St. John's and Senior Warden Kathy Oliver and Nhung Dang of St. Patrick's.

Please continue to pray for the members of the Search Committee as they prepare to begin evaluating candidates later this month. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to Sandy Winger or Dave Dunlap. Please continue to pray as well for both congregations during this interim period.

In the meantime, in-person worship led by Rev. Larry Packard continues on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. Masks are required for all participants. The service includes low-volume singing as a congregation and concludes with Communion distributed using individual plastic cups and consumed outside for those who desire it. Following the service, participants can enjoy fellowship and conversation outside (please bring your own refreshments). The service is also live-streamed on Zoom. For information on attending via Zoom or calling in by phone, visit [stjohnsarlingtonva.org/Worship/On-Line-Services/](http://stjohnsarlingtonva.org/Worship/On-Line-Services/). Come join us!



## Words on Hymns: Amen

Why did there used to be a sung “amen” at the end of a hymn and why did it stop? The verb form occurs more than 100 times in the Old Testament and means to take care; to be faithful, reliable, or established; or to believe someone or something.

More interestingly, “amen” is one of the rare examples where a word has survived thousands of years and been adopted into a few different languages without any real modification to its meaning across time. Its usage dates back pretty much as far as written history, appearing in the earliest Jewish texts. It was (and is) typically used to mean something to the effect of “so be it” or “let it be so,” in terms of declaring something to be truthful or confirming or asserting it. It was also often used as a way to indicate that one strongly agrees with something, which is where expressions such as “amen to that” come from.

### Bonus Facts:

- The Hebrew word “amen” originally derives from another Hebrew word of similar meaning: “āmán.” It is sometimes theorized, probably incorrectly, that this Hebrew word has its origins in the Egyptian god Amun, which is also sometimes spelled “Amen.” However, most scholars think this is a mere coincidence and that there is no real connection between the two.
- “Amen” was eventually imported from the Hebrew language to Greek, then to Late Latin by Grecian theologians who were translating the Bible, and finally to Arabic and English.
- “Amen” isn’t just used by Christians and Jews; it is also popularly used by Muslims in much the same way.
- “Amen” was used in a legal sense in Biblical times. Jesus says, “Truly,

truly,” which has been translated from the original “Amen, amen.”

- One of the many names attributed to Jesus in the Bible is “The Amen” (faithful and true witness) in Revelation 3:14.
- The last word in the Bible is “Amen” (at the end of Revelation): “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.”

There was something satisfying about singing “amen” at the end of a hymn. It seemed to put a period on the hymn. Singing an “amen” at the end of a hymn gained fashion when the 1861 *Hymns Ancient and Modern* added an “amen” to every hymn. The editors of this hymnal thought to revive a tradition from the Middle Ages. (Later, British hymn scholars concluded that this was a historical error.) Prior to 1861 hymns did not include a sung “amen”: the Reformation hymns, the thousands of hymns written by the Wesleys, and those of the Great Awakening and in the early American hymnals were all published without them. They were only added after a very influential English hymnal included them. The Methodist hymnal followed suit in 1905, as did the Presbyterians in 1911. Presbyterian hymnal editor David Eicher writes that around 1920, “the Church of England recognized that adding...amen had been a rather odd thing to do, so they began to abandon the practice.”

In 1978, Congregational minister and hymn editor Erik Routley wrote that the “amen” practice didn’t exist in Lutheran, Reformed, evangelical congregational, pre-19th century Anglican, or Wesleyan hymns.

Hymn editors listened. American Episcopalians dropped it from their hymnal in 1982. United Methodists began deleting some “amens” from their 1966 hymnal and did so entirely in their 1989 hymnal (with the exception of the Doxology). The 1990

Presbyterian Hymnal omitted them as well. And some hymnals didn't have them in the first place. "Southern Baptists never included them," according to one scholar. So while

some of us still miss singing "amen," for the most part we've accepted their absence and moved on. Amen.

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](mailto:logos@stjohnsarlingtonva.org). The deadline for the November issue is October 22.

### 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:

➤ St. John's Book Club will meet on **Tuesday, October 5**, at 7 p.m. to discuss *A Single Thread* by Tracy Chevalier. This novel tells the story of one of the "surplus women" after WWI who finds solace, fulfillment, and community in a society of women who embroider kneelers for the grand cathedral in Winchester, England. The meeting will take place outside the church by the Frank Todd Memorial Garden at the corner of South Kensington Street and 4th Street South. Remember to bring something to sit on. If it rains, the meeting will be held on Zoom. Check the St. John's website at [stjohnsarlingtonva.org](http://stjohnsarlingtonva.org) for the Zoom link. All are welcome!

➤ It's time for fellowship and fun as St. John's plays virtual bingo on **Saturday, October 16**, at 7 p.m. To obtain bingo cards and be sent the Zoom link or call-in details to play, send an email to [bingo@stjohnsarlingtonva.org](mailto:bingo@stjohnsarlingtonva.org) or contact Sandy Winger at 703-498-6990.

➤ The Rt. Rev. Porter Taylor will be with St. John's for the Bishop's visitation on **Sunday, December 5**, at 10 a.m. Are you interested in confirmation or being received into the Church or would you like to reaffirm your baptismal vows? Please contact Rev. Larry Packard at [minister@stjohnsarlingtonva.org](mailto:minister@stjohnsarlingtonva.org). He can answer any questions you have and work with you to plan a convenient and safe way to prepare for the occasion.

### Rest in Peace:

➤ John Wilson, who entered the Life of the Resurrection on September 1.

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

Erin Tallent Baynham, Jacob Beavin, Bryan Harbin, Carrie Harbin, John Hart, Monica Lozano, Raymond McDonald, Taylor Robinson, the Rev. Peter Swarr, and Liz White.

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

Joy and Bobby Candelieri; Andy and Cathi Del Gallo; Eileen Flynn and Paul Harless; John Hart and Angie Rollet; Heather and Tony Kollath; Barbara Wien and Robert Herman.

