



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

November 2021

**Join the Partnership in the Gospel:
*Let's Begin St. John's Next Chapter Together***

The Joint Search Committee for St. John's and St. Patrick's has received multiple applications for a full-time priest who will serve both congregations. As the committee prepares to start interviewing candidates, the entire St. John's congregation has an important role to play. This fall, St. John's is closely linking the search process with the annual stewardship campaign and the gathering of pledges. Calling a new rector is the beginning of a new period in St. John's history, one that calls for a renewal of the support of our time, talent, and treasure.

Our financial commitment for 2022 will play a large part in how candidates assess their call here. They will be asking about this year's stewardship campaign and the gathering of pledges. From the beginning, as the St. John's community filled out the congregational survey and participated in the Town Hall last year, each person has played an important role in the progress made in moving toward a new rector. That is still true as the church enters this last phase of the search process. Our financial pledges are a commitment to each other. In Philippians 1:3-6, St. Paul called it a partnership:

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

As we look forward to calling a new rector, please consider the part that you can play in that partnership. All of us have different resources. All of us have the same call to partnership. Please pray and consider what part you can play with your pledge this year. May God bless the "good work" begun in our search process and let's begin St. John's next chapter together.

**Mark your calendars! Please return your pledge cards by or on Sunday,
November 21, to be blessed.**



From Our Altar to Their Tables: A Thanksgiving Collection for AFAC

St. John's is collecting bags of Thanksgiving food donations for the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) through Sunday, November 21. Please pick up your bag to be filled at the back of the church sanctuary or from the church office. You can also contact Faye Pritchard at 703-931-2168 to obtain a bag. Please return the filled bags to St. John's and leave them at the back of the sanctuary. You can also leave them inside the covered container on the Pritchards' porch at 5713 5th Street South. All donations will be blessed during the 10 a.m. worship service on November 21. Another option is to write a check directly to AFAC and send it to 2708 South Nelson Street, Arlington, VA, 22206 or send it to St. John's to be forwarded.

Following are items that are needed. When choosing items, look for those that are low in sodium, no salt added, no sugar added, and unsweetened, etc. Please, no glass jars and no canned pumpkin or cranberry sauce.

Low-sugar cereal; canned tuna, soups, vegetables, tomatoes, fruit, and milk; dried spaghetti (not canned); peanut butter (in plastic jars); cooking oil; salsa; ketchup; mustard; mayonnaise; salt and pepper; brown and cane sugar; poultry seasoning; sage; ginger; vanilla extract; and other spices.

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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 December issue is November 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

Words on Hymns: *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God was written in Britain by Lesbia Scott and first published in 1929. The hymn is little-known in Britain, not having been included in the Anglican *New English Hymnal*, but has become very popular in the United States, particularly in the Episcopal Church.

Scott (1898–1986) composed a number of children's hymns, which she sang to her own children as a young mother in her 20s. Many were written in response to the children's suggestions: "Mum, make a hymn for a picnic," or "Mum, make a hymn for a foggy day." She wrote both the words and the tunes and in 1929 published them in a collection, *Everyday Hymns for Children*, which she also illustrated. Each hymn was devised for a different occasion, and one of them, *Saints' Days*, found its way to the United States and was set to a new tune (*Grand Isle*) composed especially for it by retired Episcopal priest John Henry Hopkins, who was the nephew of John Henry Hopkins, Jr., author and composer of *We Three Kings of Orient Are*. *Grand Isle* was written in 1940 and named for the community on the island of the same name in Lake Champlain in Vermont, where Hopkins lived in his retirement.

Given the song's humble and domestic origins, Scott was "a little disconcerted by its popularity," since this was neither her favorite hymn nor the favorite of her children. Evidently this was a concern held more broadly, according to British hymnologist Richard Watson, since the seemingly irreverent hymn "has disconcerted others too."

In the *Grand Isle* setting it was incorporated into the *Episcopal Hymnal 1940*, under the title of its first line. It was retained in *The Hymnal 1982* after its proposed removal for "lack of theological profundity," which prompted a letter-writing campaign to keep it. The hymn also appears in the 1974 *Book of*

Worship for United States Forces and in the United Methodist *1989 Hymnal* (with some altered words), the 1990 *Presbyterian Hymnal*, and the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches' 2006 *Hymns for a Pilgrim People*.

The hymn is a particular favorite among Episcopal parishioners in the United States. David Hurlbert notes in the blog "God's Friends": "The music we sing during our services is nicely sophisticated: some Anglican chant, some Bach, a bit of Purcell, and many hymns recently written in a spare, modern or postmodern style. I love the piety, the purity, and the craftsmanship of these hymns, but I'm disappointed that there isn't much that's just plain fun to sing. It's true that we often sing hymns that inspire joy or hope—Christmas carols, for example—but they seldom inspire smiles or laughter." The website Anglicans Online lists this hymn as Number 14 (out of 20) on its "Desert Island Hymns." The text, as with many hymns, is often the subject of parody, some examples of which are not appropriate to be cited. However, here is one clever example. The original hymn states in Stanza Two:

And one was a soldier, and one was
a priest,
And one was slain by a fierce wild
beast....

The parody turns that into:

And one was a soldier, and one was
a beast,
And one was slain by a fierce wild
priest....

On that note, we sing of saints, including the Altar Guild, choir, ushers, Vestry, and everyone else at St. John's who helps with services and keeps the church running.

Carol Dunlap

Parish News

Upcoming Events:

➤ 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. He can answer any questions you have and work with you to plan a convenient and safe way to prepare for the occasion.

➤ St. John's Book Club will meet on **Tuesday, December 7**, at 7 p.m. to discuss *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman. This witty mystery tells the story of four friends at a retirement village who meet weekly to discuss unsolved crimes and then suddenly find themselves in the middle of their first real case. The meeting will take place in the undercroft. All are welcome!

Thank You to:

➤ Dave Dunlap for chairing the Stewardship 2022 campaign.

We celebrate with all who have birthdays in November:

Bronwen Berliner; Gage Buchanan; Jud Buchanan; Dave Dunlap; Beth Fowler; Douglas LeSage; Roger Ludwig; Keith McCartney; Robert "Larry" Rawls, III; and Laura VanWyk.

We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in November:

Ginger and Marshall Adair; Jeff and Michelle Aitken; Beth and Brian Cavey; Kendrah and Robert McDonald; The Rev. Larry and Melissa Packard.

