



# 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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March 2022

## St. John's Annual Meeting: A Strong Start to 2022

St. John's held its Annual Meeting on Zoom on February 13 at 11 a.m., immediately following the Sunday worship service. Financial and committee reports for the meeting were posted in advance on the St. John's website at [stjohnsarlingtonva.org](http://stjohnsarlingtonva.org).

The Rev. Dr. Laurence K. (Larry) Packard opened the meeting in prayer. Treasurer Peter Olivere then provided a financial overview. The 2021 finances were good overall. Savings were realized by not having a rector during the year and there were also some savings on programs due to pandemic-related reductions in activities. In addition, the Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) loan that St. John's received in 2020 was forgiven. The 2022 finances also look good so far. In particular, pledge numbers are up and plate donations are also expected to increase this year. The draft 2022 budget currently plans for Rev. Packard to continue as Supply Plus minister for the first half of the year, followed by a new rector in the latter half. Some funds are budgeted for the new rector search.

Dave Dunlap reported that the joint Search Committee with St. Patrick's would be accepting names until March 2. The rector job description has been posted on both the diocese and Living Church websites.

All current vestry members have agreed to continue to serve in 2022 to welcome the new rector and assist with the transition.

The Rev. Dr. Packard offered closing prayers.

In-person Sunday services resumed at St. John's during the week following the Annual Meeting and continue to be held at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary. Services are also simultaneously livestreamed on Zoom. Please join the service in the format that is comfortable for you.

If you are in need of pastoral care, you may continue to contact The Rev. Dr. Packard at [minister@stjohnsarlingtonva.org](mailto:minister@stjohnsarlingtonva.org) or 703-425-8315 or 703-606-3109 (please note this last number is for a cell phone without voicemail).

If you have any requests for Sunday prayers, intercessory prayers, or a card for someone who is sick, please contact Barbara Olivere at [prayers@stjohnsarlingtonva.org](mailto:prayers@stjohnsarlingtonva.org).

Thank you for being a part of the St. John's community as we continue to look beyond the pandemic, pray about God's plan for our future, and plan for exciting new developments in the coming year!

## Words on Hymns: *Jesu, Jesu*

Following African independence movements throughout the 1960s and 1970s, a number of Western missionaries encouraged the composition of Christian songs in African idioms. Thomas S. Colvin (1925-2000) was one of these missionaries. Colvin first trained as an engineer and worked in that profession in Burma and Singapore from 1945 to 1948. After studying theology at Glasgow University's Trinity College in Scotland, he was ordained in the Church of Scotland in 1954. He served as a missionary in Nyasaland (now Malawi) from 1954 to 1958, in Ghana from 1958 to 1964, and then again in Nyasaland from 1964 to 1974. Colvin's work included preaching, education, and community development, as well as song creation.

After completing his missionary work, Colvin became a minister in the United Reformed Church of England and served an inner-city church in London. He returned to Africa in 1984 as a development consultant to the Zimbabwe Christian Council. Colvin's writings include *Christ's Work in Free Africa* (1964) and three collections of hymns, many written in collaboration with African Christians: *Free to Serve* (1966), *Leap My Soul* (1976), and *Fill Us with Your Love* (1983), which brought together the first two collections in a single volume. A last volume, *Come, Let Us Walk This Road Together*, was added in 1997.

In concert with his commitment to the Iona Community, an international, ecumenical Christian movement, Colvin's missionary ministry was characterized by justice issues such as Christian service committees, refugee resettlement, and community development projects. Among his many activities, Colvin participated in community development training in parts of southern Africa and aided refugees from Mozambique seeking sanctuary in neighboring Malawi. These areas of service

were the primary focus of Colvin's ministry, rather than the development of indigenous congregational songs.

Despite not being the focus of his ministry, the songs collected by Colvin have been spread by members of the Iona Community. Several of his texts set to African melodies have found a home in Western hymnals. Colvin nurtured new African congregational songs by adapting local melodies and writing new texts that were relevant for African Christians and, as it turns out, Christians around the world.

*Jesu, Jesu* is Colvin's most popular hymn. The melody is adapted from a Ghanaian folk song he heard during his years of service in that country. *Chereponi* was originally a traditional Ghanaian love song. Colvin named the tune after the village in northern Ghana where he first heard it and where he wrote the text. The traditional African performance for melodies like *Chereponi* involves a leader and a group as well as various percussion instruments and clapping. The harmonization in *The Hymnal 1982* and *Lift Every Voice and Sing* does not reflect this African style.

The composition of the hymn itself is symbolic of the collaboration between two cultures. The text comes from a European Christian inspired by his service in Ghana. The melody comes from a West African country. One might see this hymn as a model for a new relationship between the former colonizers and those who were colonized. A "one-way" mission approach characterized the 19th and much of the 20th centuries, in which missionaries brought the gospel to a foreign land. Now that the gospel has taken root around much of the world, this hymn suggests that relationships among all peoples should be as equals, where our love for each other through Christ "puts us on our knees, serving as though we were slaves" (Stanza 4).

Carol Dunlap

## Lenten Devotionals

As we prepare for Easter during the Lenten period, The Rev. Dr. Larry Packard suggests the following devotional readings:

- *Making All Things New* and *The Way of the Heart* by Henri J.M. Nouwen.
- *Preparing for Easter: Fifty Devotional Readings from C.S. Lewis.*
- *The Keys of the Kingdom* by A.J. Cronin.
- *Bread and Wine* (a comprehensive anthology of Lenten readings).
- *The Way of Love* by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry.
- *The Weather of the Heart* by Madeleine L'Engle.



### 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 24.

### 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  
Parish Administrator: Virginia Pearson  
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  
Peter Olivere  
Lisa Pope

## Parish News

### Upcoming Events:

➤ St. John's Book Club will meet on **Tuesday, April 5**, at 7 p.m. to discuss *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. Set in 1954, this novel tells a multilayered story of misadventure and self-discovery, featuring characters ranging from drifters riding the rails to New York City aristocrats. Details about the location of the meeting will be announced closer to the date. All are welcome!

### Thank You to:

➤ All who assisted in getting ready for the Annual Meeting on February 13 and everyone who attended.  
➤ The St. John's vestry for their continued service.

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

Rev. Ann Barker, Pierce Kaufman, 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.

