



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

July/August 2022

Sunday

The change in times in the article below was deferred until a later date not yet set as of August 10.

Starting July 17, Sunday Services Will Begin at 9 a.m.

St. John's will change its Sunday service time to 9 a.m. beginning on July 17. This is a first step in the transition to sharing a new rector with St. Patrick's in Falls Church.

At the St. John's Annual Meeting in February, the Vestry described the changes in the Sunday service schedule that will be necessary to be able to share a rector. As St. Patrick's service has historically been later, the two churches agreed that the schedule would be 9 a.m. for St. John's and 11 a.m. for St. Patrick's. This schedule will allow the rector some time to meet with St. John's members after the service each week before going to St. Patrick's.

As the Search Committee has shared with the congregation, the search for a shared rector has not resulted in many highly qualified candidates to date. The committee thinks that a significant reason that many excellent potential candidates may not be applying is their concern about having to implement the complexities of serving as a shared rector for two churches that have not taken steps to begin that process.

To address this impediment, the two Vestries have decided to start the transition process by changing the service times beginning on July 17 and by having Rev. Larry Packard serve as long-term supply minister for both churches, as St. Patrick's previous long-term supply minister completed his service in June. Vestry members think that taking this major step to begin the implementation of a shared rector will significantly increase the pool of highly qualified candidates who will be interested in the position.

Any congregants not able to attend the earlier service at St. John's on a given Sunday are invited to join Rev. Larry Packard as he leads the service at St. Patrick's.

If you have questions or concerns about this change, please contact Senior Warden Sandy Winger at 703-498-6990 (email: srwarden@stjohnsarlingtonva.org).

Words on Hymns: *The Old Rugged Cross*

I will confess that I am a *Bonanza* junkie. The series ran from 1959 to 1973, until the death of Dan Blocker, who played Hoss. It was set in Virginia City, Nevada, in the 1860s. I watch it on ME TV. A recent episode, originally aired in 1966, featured a young Wayne Newton playing a farmer's son who wants to be a singer. His father refuses permission until he hears Newton sing *The Old Rugged Cross* at an Easter church service.

I wondered just when *The Old Rugged Cross* was written. It turns out it dates from 1912. So much for historical accuracy. But that didn't bother the authors of the story very much. Newton sang two other songs in the episode: *Danny Boy* (1913) and *Scarlet Ribbons* (1941).

In 1912 George Bennard, an evangelist traveling throughout the Midwest, was heckled incessantly by several young men at a revival meeting in Michigan. Troubled by their disregard for the gospel, Bennard turned to Scripture to reflect on the work of Christ on the cross. He later recalled, "I seemed to have a vision...I saw the Christ and the cross inseparable." The melody of *The Old Rugged Cross* came easily, and the first verse was completed by Bennard during a series of meetings in Albion, Michigan. The hymn was finished in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, where he was participating in a revival.

He performed the song in its entirety as a duet with his revival partner, Ed E. Mieras, for the sponsoring pastor and his wife, Rev. Leroy and Ruby Bostwick, in the living room of the parsonage. The Bostwicks were moved to tears and incorporated the song in the revival service on June 7, 1913. First, Bennard sang his hymn with guitar accompaniment, and then a five-voice choir sang with organ and violin accompaniment. The famous gospel song composer Charles H. Gabriel (1856–1932) assisted Bennard with the harmony. Today, that

same church building, originally a hops barn, is owned by the nonprofit Old Rugged Cross Foundation and welcomes thousands of visitors annually.

The hymn quickly spread throughout the region and came to the attention of the evangelist Billy Sunday, who frequently utilized it in his meetings. Two years later, Bennard sold the copyright to the song for a payment of \$500, forgoing future royalties. Upon the renewal of the copyright 28 years later, he received a final payment of \$5,000.

Bennard was born in Youngstown, Ohio, in 1873 and spent his childhood in Iowa. His father was a tavern owner and later a coal miner. Bennard's conversion at the age of 22 through the evangelistic ministry of the Salvation Army in Canton, Iowa, led to his ordination and commissioning as a traveling evangelist in 1898. In 1910, stepping out in faith, Bennard resigned and began his own itinerant ministry. He traveled throughout the Midwest, holding revivals until his retirement in Reed City, Michigan, more than 30 years later.

The Old Rugged Cross has been a country gospel favorite ever since it became the title song of Ernest Tubb's 1952 gospel album. It was performed by some of the 20th century's most important recording artists. It has occurred to me that Wayne Newton might have chosen this song for his *Bonanza* debut in order to promote his album by the same name that was released that year. Or maybe he just liked it.

As an aside, you may have noticed that the last phrase of *The Old Rugged Cross* ("and exchange it some day for a crown") has the same tune as the last phrase of *Home on the Range* ("and the skies are not cloudy all day"). If you hadn't been aware of that before, now you won't be able to get it out of your head.

Carol Dunlap

Diocese of Virginia Elects New Bishop

The Rev. Canon Mark Stevenson was elected the 14th Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia on June 4, 2022. Pending the consent of the bishops and dioceses, Canon Stevenson will be ordained and consecrated a bishop in the Episcopal Church on Saturday, December 3, 2022. He is currently the Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Ministry Within the Episcopal Church, serving as the principal liaison between Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and the House of Bishops, the various dioceses, and many of the governing bodies of the Episcopal Church. Before being called to this role in September 2018, Canon Stevenson was the Director of Episcopal Migration Ministries, leading a dedicated team in executing a national program of refugee resettlement. Previously, he served as Domestic Poverty Missioner for the Episcopal Church.

Canon Stevenson's prior experience also includes serving as Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of Louisiana from August 2005 until September 2013. Following Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, Canon Stevenson worked closely with local, regional, national, and international leaders and groups to put into place the processes for effective relief and other ministry. He also previously served as rector in two parishes, the Church of the Annunciation in New Orleans and the Church of the Good Shepherd in Maitland, Florida. His time at both churches focused on developing ministries with youth and revitalizing ministries of stewardship, Christian education, and community outreach.

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LOGOS is published monthly at the beginning of the month, except for the July/August issue.

Lisa Pope, LOGOS Editor

Email articles to logos@stjohnsarlingtonva.org. The deadline for the September issue is August 23.

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, September 13**, at 7:30 p.m. in the undercroft to discuss *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* by Laurie R. King. In this suspenseful mystery, 15-year-old Mary Russell becomes the unlikely protégé and sleuthing partner of a retired Sherlock Holmes. Book club members will also make selections for the next year at the September meeting, so bring any ideas and suggestions. All are welcome!

➤ St. John's Virtual Bingo has permanently moved to the second Saturday of each month at 7 p.m. To join the fun and obtain game cards and the Zoom link, contact Sandy Winger at srwarden@stjohnsarlingtonva.org or 703-498-5990.

Thank You to:

- Ed Martin for all of his efforts in support of maintaining St. John's facilities and grounds.
- Lin Novak for her continued work taking care of the church gardens.
- Sandy Winger for supplying refreshments for the outdoor receptions following the Sunday services.

We celebrate with all who have birthdays in July and August:

Marshall Adair, Nolan Baynham, Henry Carter, Carolyn Corlett, Chelsea Kaufman, Elise Kaufman, Nathan Lewis, Ray O'Connor, Virginia Pearson, Paul Petrich, Bill Pritchard, Lynn Robinson, Christian Tallent, Jones Tallent, and Sawyer Tallent.

We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in July and August:

Michelle and Nathan Lewis; Lisa Pope and Justin Cohen; and Jones and Sharon Tallent.

LOGOS will return in September. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

