



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

February 2023

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Returns on Feb. 21



Come celebrate Fat Tuesday! St. John's Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras Pancake Supper returns after a two-year hiatus on February 21 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. As a means of welcoming more individuals and families from the neighborhood to attend so that they can become acquainted with the St. John's community, the event is being advertised throughout Glencarlyn as a free family-friendly Mardi Gras Pancake Supper. Pancakes will be served along with sausage, apple sauce, and non-alcoholic beverages. The event will also feature music, decorations, and Mardi Gras beads for children. Members of St. Patrick's congregation have been invited to join the celebration as well.

To be a success, this event takes a village! If you have not done so already, please contact Pete Olivere at treasurer@stjohnsarlingtonva.org or 703-626-2520 to let him know how you can volunteer. Tasks include purchasing food and decorations, gathering music, decorating the undercroft, preparing posters and flyers, setting up, cooking, serving, cleaning up, and providing child care during the supper in one-hour shifts. There is a role for everyone! Please pray also for this joyous return to food, fun, and fellowship after a long pandemic pause.

AFAC Volunteers Featured on Channel 9

St. John's community volunteers got their 15 seconds of fame on local television January 14.

The volunteers were bagging oatmeal at the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) when a reporter for WUSA Channel 9 briefly videotaped them as part of a story on the impact of rising food prices on local food pantries. Channel 9 broadcast the story on its 11 p.m. news.

St. John's parishioners bag potatoes, rice, beans, apples, and other commodities once a month at the food center. Lynn Robinson, Dave Dunlap, Richard Henry, Pete Olivere, and Bill and Faye Pritchard volunteered on January 14. Two volunteers from other groups, Colby Miller and Arlene Aspinelli, also worked that night.

AFAC was founded in 1988 to obtain and distribute groceries "directly and free of charge, to people living in Arlington...who cannot afford to purchase enough food to meet their basic needs."



St. John's members joined the St. Patrick's congregation on Jan. 29 as they celebrated the Lunar New Year.

St. John's Staff and Leadership

Staff

Rector: The Rev. Julie D. Bryant
 Minister of Music: Lynn Robinson
 Organist: Judith Marcinko
 Parish Administrator: Virginia Pearson
 Sexton: Julio Sorto

Parish Leaders

Peter Olivere, Treasurer
 Eileen Tallent, Chair, Altar Guild

Vestry

Sandy Winger, Senior Warden	Diane Henderson
Jeff Aitken	Peter Olivere
Dave Dunlap	Lisa Pope
Bryan Harbin	

Words on Hymns: *Creator of the Stars of Night*

We sometimes sing the hymn *Creator of the Stars of Night* during our Lessons and Carols service. Plainsong hymns are some of the older selections in our hymnal. The texts often come from devotional as well as liturgical sources.

The tradition of chanting Scripture, a practice known as cantillation, began at least 1,000 years before the birth of Christ. Various Old Testament books, especially the Psalms and the Chronicles, testify to the central function of music in temple worship. Some Gregorian melodies still in use are remarkably close to Hebrew synagogue melodies. Over time, not just the Psalms and their antiphons were cantillated, but also the Scripture readings, orations, intercessions, litanies, instructions, and, in general, anything meant to be proclaimed out loud. The core of the Gregorian chant repertoire dates to before 800; the bulk of it was completed by 1200.

Gregorian chant is the central tradition of Western plainchant, a form of monophonic (melody only, no chords or accompaniment) sacred song in Latin (and occasionally Greek) in the Roman Catholic Church. Gregorian chant developed mainly in western and central Europe during the 9th and 10th centuries, with later additions and redactions. Although popular legend credits Pope Gregory I (who reigned from 590–604) with inventing Gregorian chant, scholars believe that it arose from a later Carolingian (a powerful Frankish family named after Charlemagne) synthesis of the Old Roman chant and Gallican chant.

Historically, plainsong was the province of the choir only. This distinctive style was sung by monks who observed the offices of daily prayer. In comparison, popular medieval music was quite rhythmic. It was often used for dance—accompanied by a variety of percussion, string, and wind instruments—and made use of vernacular languages as well as

Latin, sung in parts. In addition, women could participate in singing medieval folk songs, while plainsong was historically sung by all-male choirs.

The liturgical renewal movement had its roots in the 19th century. This scholarly movement included the revival of medieval liturgical forms, especially plainsong. The movement was given an extra impetus in the early 20th century by Pope Pius X with his 1903 *motu proprio* on church music. A *motu proprio* is a letter from a pope to the entire church on a specific subject chosen by the pope. The 1903 letter encouraged a return to the musical aesthetics of earlier centuries, especially plainsong-based music. Numerous monasteries participated in the revival of plainsong, the most famous of which was the Benedictine Abbey of St. Solesmes in France.

This has led to the inclusion of plainsong hymns in more recent hymnals. Our hymnal contains several plainsong selections, with the most familiar being the Advent hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*.

Creator of the Stars of Night was originally written as an evening hymn for Advent somewhere between the 7th and 9th centuries (sources vary). It consists of five stanzas plus a doxology that was added later. The original version was modified by Pope Urban VIII to fit classical Latin meters in preparation for the 1632 Roman Breviary. The revision included only one line from the original Latin hymn, making it in effect a different composition.

The text was originally translated in English by John Mason Neale in the 19th century. The plainsong melody is beautiful in its simplicity. Unlike many plainsong hymns, this one is syllabic—one syllable to one note of music, making it easy to learn.

Carol Dunlap

Parish News

Upcoming Events:

➤ Experience fun and fellowship by participating in St. John's virtual Bingo night on **Saturday, February 11**, at 7 p.m. To request Bingo cards, contact Sandy Winger at bingo@stjohnsarlingtonva.org or 571-268-7555 no later than mid-day the Friday before the game. For details on the Zoom link, see the Calendar section of the St. John's home page at <http://stjohnsarlingtonva.org>.

➤ Stay tuned for details about the March meeting of the St. John's Book Club. All are welcome!

Thank You to:

➤ Everyone who participated in the kitchen clean-up on February 5.

We celebrate with all who have birthdays in February:

Michelle Aitken, Lisa Broida, Carole Hunt, Lin Novak, John Restall, and Eileen Tallent.

We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in February:

Bryan and Carrie Harbin.



LOGOS

LOGOS is published monthly at the beginning of the month, except for a combined July/August issue and occasional other double issues.

Lisa Pope, LOGOS Editor

Email articles to logos@stjohnsarlingtonva.org.
The deadline for the March issue is Feb. 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.