



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

May 2023

St. John's and St. Patrick's Host Visiting Bishop Dabney Smith



St. John's and St. Patrick's welcomed Bishop Dabney Smith on Sunday, April 23, at a joint service that began at St. John's and concluded at St. Patrick's. The service featured the baptism of Joseph Douglas Faucette, the confirmation of John Kirk of the Church of the Resurrection, and the reaffirmation of St. Patrick's member Julie D. Tran.

Words on Hymns: *Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God*

Our gradual hymn for May 14 is *Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God*, a fine example of contemporary Christian music. Karen Lafferty wrote this song one night in 1971 after attending a Bible study on Matthew 6:33 at Calvary Chapel in Costa Mesa, California. Struggling with financial difficulties after recently starting a full-time music ministry, she went home that night with new encouragement and proceeded to write the song. Others appreciated the hymn's beauty and simplicity and the song soon gained popularity, eventually providing the support that permitted her to continue and develop her ministry.

Other stanzas in the hymn that are also based on well-known quotations of Jesus were written anonymously. Stanza 2, used in our hymnal, is based on Matthew 7:7. Stanza 3, which we do not have, alludes to Matthew 4:4 (quoting Deuteronomy 8:3). The first two quotations are from the Sermon on the Mount and the third is Jesus's response to his first temptation in the desert. The addition of anonymous stanzas is a phenomenon related to the oral tradition in which many Scripture songs have developed. Maranatha! Music published the composite and recorded it on its initial *Praise* album in 1972.

Lafferty was born in Alamogordo, New Mexico, in 1948. She received a bachelor of music education degree from Eastern New Mexico University in 1970 and became the worship leader and concert artist for Calvary Chapel in 1971.

The convergence of Lafferty's developing faith and musical calling met with one of the fastest growing and influential congregations in the country. Calvary Chapel, which opened in Costa Mesa in 1965 with 25 members, has grown to include about 1,600 churches worldwide under the auspices of the Calvary Chapel Association, of which Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa serves as the "cathedral" church.

According to some accounts, Calvary Chapel is one of the 10 largest Protestant churches in the United States. Lafferty explains her calling to music ministry in this citation from her website:

I'm grateful for Christian parents and the Baptist church where I took my first steps with Christ. I'm also grateful for relationship with a Christian friend who in 1970 helped me understand the glorious truth of walking daily with Jesus. I was working as a nightclub entertainer at the time and began to witness to people in the bars. As I grew in the Word and became active in my church, Calvary Chapel, in Costa Mesa, California, I felt a call from God on my life to ministry. What adventures the Lord has had for me since that time!

Maranatha! Music, a major publisher in the field of contemporary Christian music, was an outgrowth of Calvary Chapel. Lafferty recorded four albums with Maranatha! and began receiving invitations to perform abroad. After completing missionary training in Holland with the organization Youth With A Mission (YWAM), she founded Musicians for Missions International (MFMI) in 1981 as a part of YWAM in Amsterdam. Lafferty says on her website:

God has called me to be a "Musicianary," to seek those places where others aren't going and to disciple the national musicians, who can then reach their own nations. I believe there are other Christian musicians with that calling too. MFMI's goal is to work with the local church to facilitate these musicians into ministry, especially missions.

Published first in *Praise 1* in 1971, the second stanza and the “Alleluia” descant of *Seek Ye First* were added in *Songs for Celebration* (1980). The song has been included in almost every hymnal published in North America since 1980.

In 1995 after leading the first “School of Music in Missions” in Amsterdam, Lafferty returned to the United States to help her elderly parents. She relocated to Santa Fe, New Mexico, and incorporated YWAM Santa Fe to be the new home of MFMI. Although Lafferty has become very involved with local Santa Fe churches, her call to the nations remains

strong. She is still a world-traveling troubadour who shares the love of Jesus through music.

A fun way to sing *Seek Ye First* is as a canon, in which the congregation on one side of the sanctuary starts the hymn’s verse and then when they get to the Alleluias, the congregation on the other side starts the verse. This might result in some stumbles at first, but it really isn’t hard to do. And the most ardent fans of Alleluias should be satisfied after singing this hymn.

Carol Dunlap



St. John’s Rector Julie D. Bryant spoke at a Woman’s Club of Arlington gathering on April 17.

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
Dave Dunlap	Peter Olivere
Bryan Harbin	Lisa Pope

Parish News

Upcoming Events:

➤ Join the fun of St. John's virtual Bingo night on **Saturday, May 20**, 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>.

➤ The St. John's Book Club will meet on **Tuesday, June 6**, at 7:30 p.m. in the undercroft to discuss *The Book of Lost Names* by Kristin Harmel. Inspired by a true story from World War II, this novel tells the story of a young woman with a talent for forgery who helps hundreds of Jewish children flee the Nazis. She also finds a way to preserve the real names of the children who are too young to remember who they really are. All are welcome to join the June gathering!

Thank You to:

- The Altar Guild for the beautiful Easter flowers and decorations.
- Everyone who helped prepare for the Bishop's visit on April 23.
- All who continue to bring much-needed donations for the Arlington Food Assistance Center.

We celebrate with all who have birthdays in May:

Patricia Bleicher, Debbie Carter, Romana Martin, Bill Schenck, Owen Tallent, and Barbara Wien.

We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in May:

Leslie Mead and Jeff Petrich.

LOGOS

LOGOS is published monthly, 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 June issue is May 26.

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.