

# 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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September/October 2023

## **St. John's and St. Patrick's Join for Worship and Conversation on Sept. 10**

St. John's and St. Patrick's will welcome fall together as they join for Worship and Conversation at 10 a.m. on Sunday, September 10, at St. Patrick's (3241 Brush Drive, Falls Church, VA, 22042). The usual 9 a.m. worship service will not be held at St. John's.

Following the 10 a.m. service, participants will share a potluck lunch and continue to get better acquainted. Please bring something to add to the lunch if you are able. The luncheon will include conversations about adult formation activities, outreach, engaging each congregation's respective communities, how to sharpen discipleship skills, and opportunities to extend hospitality. The aim of these conversations is to select common focus areas for the coming year and identify dates and times for activities that work for a majority of people. Congregants will also discuss decisions that need to be made about how to mark All Saints Day and the Advent Season as well as the schedule for Christmas worship.

The worship service and lunch gathering will be live-streamed via St. Patrick's regular link at <https://youtube.com/user/StPatsEpiscopal>.

### **Dates to Remember in September and October**

- Sunday, 9/10 – Joint Worship and Gathering, 10 a.m., St. Patrick's
- Sunday, 9/10 – Time of Prayer, 4 p.m., St. Patrick's
- Tuesday, 9/12 – Book Club, 7:30 p.m., St. John's
- Sunday, 9/17 – Outdoor Worship, 9 a.m., St. John's
- Sunday, 9/17 – Blessing of the Animals, 1 p.m., St. John's
- Sunday, 9/17 – Odeon Concert, 4 p.m., St. Patrick's
- Sunday, 9/24 – Rev. Tom Prichard, Guest Celebrant and Preacher for worship at St. John's (9 a.m.) and St. Patrick's (11 a.m.)
- Tuesday, 10/3 – Book Club, 7:30 p.m., St. John's
- Sunday, 10/15 – Odeon Concert, 4 p.m., St. Patrick's

## Reflections from the Rector: Shore Time



Going to the beach in my childhood meant driving to Galveston, Texas, and climbing over pink granite cubes placed close to the seawall as protection against hurricanes to reach the often tar-speckled sand, and then playing in the shallows of warm water, brown with swirling silt, stirred by the current and heavy port traffic.

All of that shifted in adolescence when I encountered California's West Coast cliffs rounded by the wind and sea, along with clear teal waters cold to the touch year-round. And the sun setting rather than rising over the water.

For the first decade of ordained ministry I was often working in Belize, where turquoise water is crystalline and warm, and my most-frequented location was a narrow island that allowed views of the sun both rising and setting over water.

Now, I find myself at new shores, reached often by bridges that soar up and up, or dip below the water's surface to tunnel under ship channels. And a few miles can mean the difference between whether the sun rises or sets on the water and between marsh or sandy shorelines. And, sometimes, there are ponies.

The differences are more than physical, of course, because I was changing along the way. What was once the only beach I knew is now one alongside others, and all are entangled with my understanding of the world and myself at that stage of life.

The new shores I am learning are unfolding their secrets — long-legged marsh birds, pine groves abuzz with insects, flowers I cannot yet identify, and lowland pools that reflect bits of sky underfoot. There is something deep in me that responds to an irregular, shifting edge between two things, and, stretching the metaphor, between two states of being: water and land, liquid and solid.

I am lured to the edge where I might be tickled by a foamy wave, or sodden with a misstep that plunges me into depths I did not see when the ground was firmer underfoot. So long accustomed to soft light drawing evening close, I can become disoriented when softness opens wider instead of drawing in. I am comforted in this newness with reminders that I am traveling well-worn paths, that what is new to me is already known and loved by others, and with the certainty that others will follow me.

I offer a snapshot from summer travels of a worn-out, tumbled-down fishing cabin, deserted by its builders, now home again to shorebirds who seem only to have waited for their chance to return to what was theirs long before the people came a-borrowing. May it inspire wonderings in you of having stood watch together with your beloveds as time passed, or of impermanence and surrender, of being weathered by life, of the bit of each of us that can soar through the sky and return to rest.

## St. John's Delivers School Supplies to Carlin Springs

"This is amazing," Carol Sabatino, St. John's liaison at Carlin Springs Elementary School, commented as she realized how many school supplies the people of St. John's had gathered for the school's students.

Between the amount bought with \$360 contributed by checks and the quantity bought individually by parishioners, St. John's donated upwards of \$500 in supplies.

The items included 14 packs of pencils (200 pencils in total), 46 highlighters, 52 dry erase markers, 120 washable and regular markers, 20 packs of crayons (about 384 crayons), 10 packs of 12 colored pencils each, 21 two-pocket folders, 14 school supply boxes, 12 pencil pouches, 61 glue sticks, and 10 4-ounce containers of Elmer's Glue. There were also 10 packs of erasers, 10 pencil sharpeners, 9 packs of Post-it Notes, 16 kids' scissors, 3 adult scissors, 3 rulers, 2 ring binders — and, thanks to Rev. Julie, about 60 composition books and several backpacks. The supplies also included 6 packs of Ziploc 1-gallon bags (about 190 bags in total), 9 packs of Ziploc-type sandwich bags (about 560 bags), 8 containers of Clorox and Lysol wipes, and 15 boxes of tissues.

In addition to the school supplies collected by St. John's, parishioners at St. Patrick's donated \$250 worth of items.

The supplies were delivered Wednesday, August 30. That was good timing, according to Sabatino, as they would quickly help Carlin Springs staff address any need to backfill as teachers distributed supplies.

Thank you to everyone at St. John's and St. Patrick's who contributed so generously!



Left: Faye Pritchard prepares to deliver school supplies to Carlin Springs Elementary School. Right: Delivering the supplies (from left to right: Shahnaz Parvin, parent and support staff; Faye Pritchard; Carol Sabatino, community and school coordinator).

## Delighting in Summer Gatherings Come Rain or Shine

Rain delayed and then changed summer events planned for the outdoors at both St. John's and St. Patrick's, but it did not dampen the fun at all.

A June gathering in the garden at St. John's had to be moved indoors when the rain started to fall, but the weather cooperated in August when we enjoyed a lovely evening of conversation and refreshments — and a few games too!

The garden is more welcoming now that we have moved the picnic table toward Lexington Avenue and added a “Welcome” bench. We hope the neighbors will enjoy gathering there, and that we can linger ourselves for conversations in the comfort of beautiful shade trees.

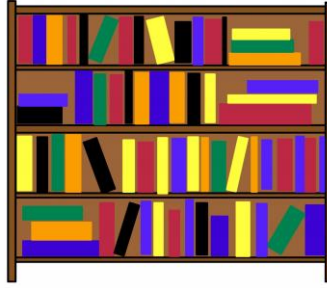
St. Patrick's planned a Summer Evening Picnic with Dixieland jazz in August, only to discover that the forecast called for thunderstorms. Moving indoors, the Sanctuary was rearranged with dining tables and a dance floor — because the show must go on! Over a hundred folks gathered (many from the preschool housed at St. Patrick's, a few neighbors, and an overflowing table full of St. John's members) to enjoy dinner and some dancing too. When the thunder broke and the skies poured rain, no one cared a bit.

Look for more fellowship gatherings coming this fall — and plan to join the fun!



Top left and right: Liz White and Barbara Olivere enjoy an August evening in the garden at St. John's. Bottom: Young revelers make merry at St. Patrick's indoor picnic and jazz fest in August.

## St. John's Book Club Begins a New Year of Reading on Sept. 12



St. John's hosts a Book Club from September through June of each year, skipping July and August to allow for a summer break amid vacation schedules. The Book Club will begin a new year of reading and discussion at its meeting on Tuesday, September 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the undercroft. Participants will discuss *Cloud Cuckoo Land* by Anthony Doerr. All are welcome to attend even if you have not read the book. The gathering provides an enjoyable time to catch up and socialize with each other.

The September meeting each year is also the time when participants suggest book titles and set the schedule for the coming year. Please come with any suggestions you have for the group to consider. A primary concern in selecting titles is that they be easily available through the local public libraries. The Book Club reads both fiction and nonfiction selections covering many genres, including literary and popular fiction, mysteries, science fiction, memoirs and biographies, and historical nonfiction. Come join the club for another adventurous year of reading!

## Join the Blessing of the Animals on Sept. 17

Among the traditions associated with Saint Francis of Assisi is the Blessing of Animals. This year, members of both St. John's and St. Patrick's along with friends and neighbors are invited to a Blessing service at St. John's at 1 p.m. on Sunday, September 17. Please be sure that animals are on a leash or caged; animals unable to be present or that have passed away can be remembered with pictures or by their name.

### 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

## Words on Hymns: Transfiguration Sunday

Last month on August 6 we celebrated Transfiguration Sunday—again. I had wondered for several years why the church observes the Transfiguration twice—once at the end of Epiphany and again in August. After all, no other occasion is celebrated twice during the church year. So my curiosity finally drove me to investigate. Here is what I found.

In the first Book of Common Prayer (BCP) (1549 and 1552) the feast of the Transfiguration was omitted, but it was restored to the Calendar, without a collect and reading being provided, by royal order of Queen Elizabeth I in 1560. This continued in the 1662 Prayer Book, but would have been remedied had the 1928 Proposed BCP been approved by Parliament. As it was, the Bishops of the Church of England refused to sanction those who used the abortive 1928 BCP, and the August 6 date came into general use. The Feast of the Transfiguration has been retained in the Church of England on August 6. The American BCP of 1892 introduced it to Episcopalian use, and from there it has been incorporated into most modern Anglican calendars.

The Transfiguration is celebrated at the end of Epiphany to mark the transition from Jesus the rabbi through the walk to Jerusalem to Jesus the resurrected Messiah. It is not known when the festival was first celebrated, but it was observed in Jerusalem as early as the 7th century and in most parts of the Byzantine Empire by the 9th century. It was gradually introduced into the Western Church. There was a trend, starting in the 10th century, of celebrating the Transfiguration on August 6. This was the date of the dedication of the first church built on Mount Tabor, which is traditionally considered to be the “high mountain” of the Transfiguration. As was the case with many medieval Christian liturgical patterns, the date was hardly universal.

But in 1456, a Christian army won a victory over Muslim opponents at Belgrade. The victory

happened on July 22; however, news did not reach Rome until August 6. Pope Callixtus III thought it a good opportunity to establish formally the Feast of the Transfiguration for the whole Latin West on that date.

There are very few hymns that describe the Transfiguration. In fact, it does not even get its own section designation in *The Hymnal 1982*. One of the hymns is *O Wondrous Type!* The words are from the Sarum Breviary, 1495, translated from the Latin by John Mason Neale in 1851. At last count, this hymn has been published with one tune or another in 105 hymnals. (You didn’t know there were that many hymnals in existence, did you?)

The tune used in our hymnal is *Wareham*, composed by William Knapp (1698–1768). The tune was named for Knapp’s birthplace. A glover by trade, Knapp served as the parish clerk at St. James’s Church in Poole (1729–1768) and was organist in both Wareham and Poole. Known in his time as the “country psalm-singer,” Knapp published *A Set of New Psalm Tunes and Anthems* (1738) and *New Church Melody* (1753). *Wareham* was published in his 1738 collection.

The other hymn specific to the Transfiguration is *Christ Upon the Mountain Peak*. Written by Brian Wren at Mansfield College, Oxford, England, in 1962, it was published in the British supplement *100 Hymns for Today*. His hymns have appeared around the world in a variety of hymnals. He has published seven hymn collections totaling 250 hymns, as well as collections of worship songs for congregations through the Choristers Guild, which was created with his wife, Rev. Susan Heafield. Wren has sought to challenge the church to adopt an inclusive mindset. He writes that the vocation of a poet in the church is not only “to write poems of faith which people will pick up and sing,” but to also “speak truth by stepping beyond the church’s limits of comfort and convention.”

Carol Dunlap

## Time for Prayer

St. Patrick's will host Time for Prayer on Sunday, September 10, from 4 p.m. until 4:45 p.m. All are invited to join this gathering to offer prayers of support for The Market Project, a nonprofit that focuses on "building healing workplaces" for men and women who have experienced complex trauma. The current workplaces are located in northern Uganda. Find out more about The Market Project, its leadership, and its mission at <https://marketproject.org/>.

### *What can I expect at Time for Prayer?*

You can expect to be offered an opportunity to rest, to listen to relevant passages of scripture, to reflect, to seek God's blessing and healing, and to offer your own prayers (in whatever way you choose) for The Market Project, as well as other concerns you may have. Participants will also have an opportunity to learn about some of the challenges particular to those who suffer from complex trauma.

### *What do we hope?*

We hope that this Time for Prayer, including both guided prayer and time for your own reflections and petitions, will bring healing and peace both to participants and to those for whom we pray. We also hope you will stay for light refreshments and a short time of fellowship after the prayer gathering.

### *Questions?*

Please contact Catherine Dubas at [dubascatherine06@gmail.com](mailto:dubascatherine06@gmail.com).



## Parish News

### Upcoming Events:

➤ The St. John's Book Club will meet on **Tuesday, September 12**, at 7:30 p.m. in the undercroft to discuss *Cloud Cuckoo Land* by Anthony Doerr. Participants will also select titles to read over the coming year. Please come with any suggestions for the group to consider. All are welcome!

### Thank You to:

➤ Everyone who brought supplies or donated funds in support of the summer School Supply Drive. Thank you especially to Faye Pritchard for organizing the drive and delivering the supplies!

➤ All those who contributed refreshments and brought games to the Night in the Garden event in August. A good time was had by all!

### We celebrate with all who have birthdays in September and October:

Ginger Adair, Jeff Aitken, Erin Tallent Baynham, Griffin Baynham, Bryan Harbin, Carrie Harbin, Taylor Robinson, Kay Wells, and Liz White.

### We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in September and October:

Erin Tallent Baynham and Gerard Baynham; Richard and Chelsea Kaufman; Cristina and Matthew Tallent; Barbara Wien and Robert Herman.

#### LOGOS

LOGOS has changed to a bi-monthly publication schedule.

Lisa Pope, LOGOS Editor

Email articles to [logos@stjohnsarlingtonva.org](mailto:logos@stjohnsarlingtonva.org). The deadline for the November/December issue is Oct. 25.

#### 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.