



# 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/April 2024

Observe Holy Week at St. John's and St. Patrick's



***Palm Sunday (March 24) — 9 a.m. at St. John's and 11 a.m. at St. Patrick's (also accessible online)*** — Services will open Holy Week with the Reading of the Passion and a silent departure from worship. As we are able, we will form a procession to remember Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem and then the betrayal, trial, and crucifixion that followed.

***Stations of the Cross (Wednesday, March 27) — 6:30 p.m. at St. John's***

***Maundy Thursday (March 28) — Noon at St. Patrick's and 6:30 p.m. at St. John's (also accessible online)*** — In remembrance of Jesus's modeling servanthood even until his last hour, we will gather for a simple meal and readings, tend to each other by following Jesus's practice of foot washing, and then strip the altar as a symbol of Jesus's arrest and imprisonment.

***Good Friday (March 29)*** — St. John's and St. Patrick's will be open from 11 a.m. through sunset for prayer and meditation. We will gather at **Noon at St. Patrick's** to pray through the Solemn Collects and to venerate the Cross. This same service will be held at **6:30 p.m. at St. John's** and presented in the midst of candles lit against the gathering gloom (both services also accessible online).

***Easter Sunday (March 31) — 9 a.m. at St. John's and 11 a.m. at St. Patrick's (also accessible online)*** — Come celebrate the glory of the Resurrection with music and Alleluias!



## Join the Celebration of Ministry and Installation of Rector on March 17

The congregations of St. John's and St. Patrick's will gather for a Celebration of Ministry and Installation of The Reverend Julie D. Bryant as Rector on Sunday, March 17, at 3 p.m. The service will begin at St. John's and then continue at St. Patrick's (3241 Brush Drive in Falls Church). A reception will follow. Please join this important day in the life of both congregations.



## St. John's Holds Community Meeting on Little Free Food Pantry

St. John's held a community meeting on March 12 to discuss the idea of placing a Little Free Food Pantry on the church grounds. More than 20 participants, including Glencarlyn residents and St. John's members, heard the perspective of Stephanie Hopkins, Arlington's Food Insecurity Coordinator; learned more about the logistics of the pantry at its last location at the Central Library in Arlington; asked questions; and shared their thoughts. St. John's will continue to solicit and consider community input before making a final decision about the pantry.

### St. John's Staff and Leadership

#### Staff

Rector: The Rev. Julie D. Bryant  
Minister of Music: Lynn Robinson  
Sexton: Julio Sorto

#### Vestry

Sandy Winger, Senior Warden  
Patricia Broida  
Dave Dunlap  
Diane Henderson

#### Parish Leaders

Peter Olivere, Treasurer  
Eileen Tallent, Chair, Altar Guild

Peter Olivere  
Lisa Pope  
Christine Williams

## St. John's Annual Meeting 2024: A Renewal of Ministry

St. John's held its Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2024, as part of a combined breakfast, worship service, and meeting. Rector Julie Bryant opened with the Prayer for a Church Meeting, asking that God "be present with us as we take counsel for the renewal and mission of your Church." Following the Lord's Prayer, Senior Warden Sandy Winger appointed Barbara Olivere as the Clerk for the Meeting.

Congregants then had the opportunity to review the distributed Ministry Reports, including a report from the Senior Warden and reports on the Altar Guild (Eileen Tallent), Arlington Food Assistance Center Ministry (Faye and Bill Pritchard), Book Club (Lynn Robinson), Communications (Lisa Pope), Music Ministry (Lynn Robinson and Carol Dunlap), Offender Aid and Restoration Partnership (Edward Martin), Prayer Card Ministry, Readers and Intercessors, School Supplies Ministry (Faye Pritchard), Stewardship (Lisa Pope), and Ushers (Dave Dunlap).

The Ministry Reports were followed by the Treasurer's Report and Presentation of the 2024 Budget by Treasurer Peter Olivere. Highlights of 2023 included that while St. John's budget for the year projected a deficit of \$21,000, the actual deficit was only \$5,000. However, the financial picture for 2024 is a significant concern, as there is a current projected deficit of \$38,000. Steps will need to be taken during the year to reduce the deficit, including seeking additional users of the church space following the departure of the Cristo Rey and Ethiopian Orthodox congregations.

Rector Julie Bryant then presented her reflections on the past year, which saw the return of many St. John's traditions following a pandemic pause as well as the introduction of new activities, including some shared with St. Patrick's. Highlights of the year included joining with St. Patrick's and St. Barnabas to provide Hypothermia Shelter Meals, resuming the Shrove Tuesday Community Pancake Supper, holding a Lenten study of the Psalms, celebrating Glencarlyn Day, hosting a Summer in the Garden event, collecting back-to-school supplies for local schools, observing Thanksgiving with a community service and luncheon, and donating Angel Tree gifts for the children of incarcerated persons.

In 2024, this continued renewal will include updating the usage agreement with the Seventh Day Adventist congregation that meets at St. John's, working to refresh the church space, and convening a marketing of space team to continue to encourage further use of the facility. St. John's will also be exploring the idea of hosting a Little Free Food Pantry on the church grounds. The church's continued partnership with St. Patrick's will include celebrating with them as the Odeon Concert Series marks its 25th anniversary in 2024.

Vestry nominees were also presented at the Annual Meeting, with Patricia Broida and Christine Williams being elected to vestry service by Acclamation. Current vestry members Sandy Winger, Peter Olivere, Dave Dunlap, Diane Henderson, and Lisa Pope have all agreed to continue their vestry service in 2024.

In closing, Rector Julie Bryant asked congregants to fill out index cards with suggested Mottos for Ministry and to also list the ministries they plan to participate in during 2024 and the projects they would like to see move forward. As we launched into the New Year, she prayed the Prayer for the Parish, asking God to "bring us all to one heart and mind within your holy church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

## Words on Hymns: Spirituals

In February we heard a spiritual every Sunday in observance of Black History Month. Spirituals have a history, and I thought it would be interesting to explore the origins of the ones we used in our services last month.

*Michael, Row the Boat Ashore* was first noted during the Civil War at St. Helena Island, one of the Sea Islands of South Carolina. It was sung by former slaves whose owners had abandoned the island before the Union Navy arrived to enforce a blockade. Charles Pickard Wade was an abolitionist and a Harvard graduate who had come to supervise the plantations on St. Helena Island from 1862 to 1865, and he wrote down the song in music notation as he heard the freedmen sing it.

The song was first published in 1867 in *Slave Songs of the United States* by Wade, his cousin William Francis Allen, and Lucy McKim Garrison. Folk musician and educator Tony Saletan rediscovered it in 1954 in a library copy of that book. According to Allen, the song refers to the Archangel Michael, often regarded as a conductor of the souls of the dead. The River Jordan can be viewed as a metaphor for deliverance and salvation, but also as the boundary of the Promised Land, death, and the transition to Heaven.

*Kumbaya (Come by Here)* is known to be sung in the Gullah culture of the islands off South Carolina and Georgia and was originally an appeal to God to come and help those in need. The first known recording, of someone known only as H. Wylie who sang in the Gullah dialect, was made by folklorist Robert Winslow Gordon in 1926. It later became a standard campfire song and enjoyed broader popularity during the folk revival of the 1950s and 1960s.

*Lift Every Voice and Sing* is a hymn with lyrics by James Weldon Johnson (1871–1938) and music by his brother, J. Rosamond Johnson (1873–1954). The hymn is a prayer of thanksgiving to God as well as a prayer for faithfulness and freedom, with imagery that

evokes the biblical Exodus from slavery to the freedom of the "promised land."

Beginning in 1900, the hymn was sung within African American communities. The NAACP began to promote the hymn as a "Negro national anthem" in 1917 (with the term "Black national anthem" similarly used today). It has been featured in 42 different Christian hymnals, and it has also been performed by various African American singers and musicians. Its prominence has increased since 2020 following the George Floyd protests; in 2021, then-House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn sponsored a bill proposing that *Lift Every Voice and Sing* be designated as the "national hymn" of the United States.

*Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child* dates back to the era of slavery in the United States. An early performance of the song was in the 1870s by the Fisk Jubilee Singers. Commonly heard during the Civil Rights movement in the United States, it has many variations and has been recorded widely.

United Methodist Hymnal editor Dr. Carlton Young suggests that *Let Us Break Bread Together* "was formed in the West African Gullah/Geechee slave culture that developed in the coastal areas of South-Eastern colonial America, including St. Helena Island, Beaufort, and Charleston, South Carolina." It is a hymn of the Underground Railroad by which slaves could communicate their intention of escaping.

Though the exact roots of this spiritual are lost in history, *Do, Lord, Remember Me* likely began in the antebellum African American South. This spiritual should not be confused with a shorter traditional response, "Remember me," that often appears in African American hymnals.

*Deep River* was popularized by Henry Burleigh in his 1916 collection *Jubilee Songs of the USA* and became very popular in recitals. It has been called "perhaps the best known and best-loved spiritual."

Carol Dunlap

## St. John's Says Farewell to Virginia Pearson



St. John's bid farewell to Church Administrator Virginia Pearson at a retirement party on March 9. The congregation celebrated her more than 20 years of dedicated service and friendship.

Thank you, Virginia!

## Parish News

### Upcoming Events:

➤ The St. John's Book Club will meet on **Tuesday, April 2, at 7:30 p.m.** in the undercroft to discuss *The Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams. This thought-provoking historical novel tells the story of Esme, who collects the discarded and overlooked words left out by the men who created the first *Oxford English Dictionary*. The selection for the **May 7** meeting is *A Woman of No Importance* by Sonia Purnell. All are welcome!

### Thank You to:

➤ Virginia Pearson for her decades of service and commitment to St. John's. The congregation wishes her much happiness as she begins her retirement!

➤ Everyone who helped with the Hypothermia Shelter dinners at St. Patrick's in February and early March.

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

Gerard Baynham, Justin Cohen, Carol Dunlap, Diane Henderson, Pierce Kaufman, Edward Martin, Peter Olivere, Bob Tallent, Cristina Tallent, Jackson Tallent, Sharon Tallent, Linda Trochim, Nora Wien-Herman, and Sandy Winger.

### We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in March and April:

Faye and Bill Pritchard.

#### LOGOS

LOGOS has a bi-monthly publication schedule.

Lisa Pope, LOGOS Editor

Email articles to [logos@stjohnsarlingtonva.org](mailto:logos@stjohnsarlingtonva.org).  
The deadline for the May/June issue is April 28.

#### 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.