

# LOGOS

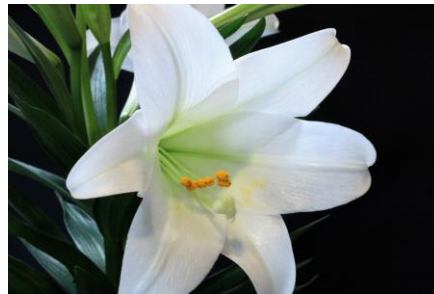
The Newsletter for St. John's Episcopal Church, Arlington

*"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it" John 1:5*

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April/May 2025

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



***Palm Sunday (April 13) — 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.

***Stations of the Cross (Wednesday, April 16) — 6:30 p.m. at St. John's***

***Maundy Thursday (April 17) — Noon at St. Patrick's and 6:30 p.m. at St. John's (also accessible online)*** — 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 (April 18)*** — 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** (both services also accessible online).

***Easter Egg Hunt (April 19)*** — Egg hunts will be held at **St. Patrick's at 10:30 a.m.** and **St. John's at 2 p.m.** Several congregations in the area, including the Falls Church Episcopal (7:30 p.m. in the historic church building), will hold Easter Vigil services to which everyone is invited.

***Easter Sunday (April 20) — 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!

## Reflections from the Rector: “The Bill Method”

Bill Schenck, long-time member and vestryman of St. John's, was remembered by the Greenspring community recently, when his family gathered with friends and Greenspring residents in the Chapel that became his worship home when retirement took him away from Glencarlyn.

Lyle Minter, a friend from his days at the Library of Congress, first read a Psalm Bill had selected, then offered a remembrance that had everyone chuckling in delight for the way it captured their friend and nodding their agreement to try a trademark Bill Schenck practice themselves. Noting that he was reading a less familiar version of Psalm 23, because Bill had asked specifically for that one, Minter read the Night Prayer verses of courage in time of approaching death from the *New Zealand Prayer Book* (NZPB). A little while later, he stood again to recount what became known at the Library as “The Bill Method....”

Picking up a ringing phone, someone hears, “Bill here. I'd like to talk with you about something,” followed by plans to meet. During the meeting, Bill would lay out a request of some sort that needed doing for everybody's benefit, asking so nicely that no one was known to have refused. The smart ones who agreed to his request put the task in their calendars, because if Bill didn't hear back soon that the task was finished, the phone would ring again.

“Bill here. Did you remember to take care of...?” The voice still smiled through the phone, but also expected that the task would soon be done.

Looking around the Chapel, every head was nodding in appreciation for Bill's success and it seemed like the Method had been put to use on them too. Being invited to do something, and encouraged when delayed, built a deep sense of belonging among the Greenspring family. Such intentional sharing of leadership ensures an expanding sense of belonging and provides the base for future thriving. When people are invited to bring in new ways of working together, some of which will surely work less effectively while others spark growth, the whole is strengthened, gaining resilience, becoming more confident in taking risks and exercising creativity.

Even in the directives about his Memorial, Bill practiced the Method by inviting us to pray ancient words in a less familiar translation, broadening the imagination and sowing appreciation for companions in faith from distant regions. The text of Psalm 23 from the Night Prayer NZPB version follows:

Dear God, you sustain me and feed me: like a shepherd you guide me.  
You lead me to an oasis of green, to lie down by restful waters.  
You refresh my soul for the journey, and guide me along trusted roads.  
The God of justice is your name. Though I must enter the darkness of death, I will fear no evil.  
For you are with me, your rod and staff comfort me.  
You prepare a table before my very eyes, in the presence of those who trouble me.  
You anoint my head with oil, and you fill my cup to the brim.  
Your loving kindness and mercy will meet me every day of my life, and I will dwell in the house of my God for ever.

In Christ, Julie+

## Come Find Some Breathing Space

*How are you doing?*

With so much in flux these days, St. John's is glad to offer a little Breathing Space. It is a time to sit quietly, listen to music, talk about what's on your heart and mind, share resources, or pray as you may wish.

Stop in any time from 6 to 8 p.m. on Sunday evenings through April and stay as long as you like. Prayer to close the day will begin at 8 p.m.



## 1,500 Cranes Headed to California

In January, fires across Los Angeles County in California tore through the communities of Pacific Palisades and Altadena, devastating the residents, schools, businesses, and public institutions, including two Episcopal congregations and their accompanying schools.

Having served on the staff of St. Matthew's in Pacific Palisades, I remembered that congregation gifting me with 1,000 cranes upon my departure and began to wonder if returning that gift could offer them encouragement, hopefulness, and the assurance that we were praying for their recovery in this time of tremendous suffering.

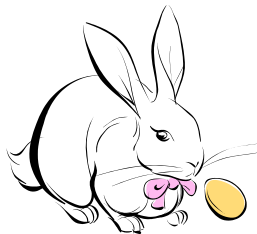
On Palm Sunday, we will bless more than 1,500 cranes that have been crafted in prayer by members of both St. John's and St. Patrick's and more than a few friends and colleagues who have lent their labor to the project. We hope they will be a nice Easter gift for the St. Matthew's community and bring them a sense of our ongoing concern.

Thank you all for such an outpouring of love for my beloveds.

Julie+

## Hop on Over to the Easter Egg Hunt on April 19

Join the fun and festivities as St. John's hosts a neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19, at 2 p.m.! The event will feature outdoor games, light refreshments, and plenty of Easter eggs waiting to be discovered.



## **We're All Invited....**

The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington's concert—originally scheduled to take place at the Kennedy Center—will be held at The Falls Church on Sunday, May 25. Stay tuned for more information closer to the date of the concert.

The concert will be held in the midst of World Pride, a global gathering of the LGBTQ+ community and allies that will take place in Washington from May 17 until June 8. Acknowledging that World Pride in Washington in the current political climate may attract disruptions, there are ongoing conversations about how the Diocese of Virginia can support members, clergy, and congregations that may become targets. Local congregations are planning to participate in DC Pride on June 7 and/or Arlington Pride on June 14. Details of those events will be circulated as plans evolve.

### **2025 Annual Meeting Reports Available**

St. John's held its Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 23, following the worship service. To view the ministry reports prepared for the meeting, please visit <https://www.stjohnsarlingtonva.org/Events/EventView.asp?EventID=93741>. Also available are the minutes from the 2024 Annual Meeting.



### **St. John's Staff and Leadership**

#### **Staff**

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

#### **Vestry**

Christine Williams, Senior Warden  
Patricia Broida, Registrar  
Peter Olivere, Treasurer

#### **Parish Leaders**

Peter Olivere, Treasurer  
Eileen Tallent, Chair, Altar Guild

## Words on Hymns: *He Is Risen!*

One of the hymns we traditionally sing on Easter Sunday at St. John's is *He Is Risen, He Is Risen!* As a small girl, Cecil Frances Humphries (1818–1895) wrote poetry for her school's journal. In 1850, she married Rev. William Alexander, who later became the Anglican primate of Ireland. She traveled many miles each day to visit the sick and the poor, providing food, warm clothes, and medical supplies. She and her sister also founded a school for the deaf.

Alexander was strongly influenced by the Oxford Movement and by John Keble's *Christian Year*. Her first book of poetry, *Verses for Seasons*, was a "Christian Year" for children. She wrote hymns in simple language for children based on the Apostles' Creed, baptism, the Lord's Supper, the Ten Commandments, and prayer. Her more than 400 hymn texts were published in *Verses from the Holy Scripture* (1846), *Hymns for Little Children* (1848), and *Hymns Descriptive and Devotional* (1858).

Alexander's husband became Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, and after her death became Archbishop of Armagh. Her most famous poems are commemorated in a memorial window at St. Columba's Cathedral in Derry.

Among the nine hymns she wrote in our *The Hymnal 1982* are the popular *All Things Bright and Beautiful*, *Once in Royal David's City*, *There Is a Green Hill Far Away*, *Jesus Calls Us o'er the Tumult*, and, of course, *He Is Risen, He Is Risen!* She is also credited with translating the text of *I Bind unto Myself Today*.

The tune for *He Is Risen* was composed by Joachim Neander (1650–1680), an early important hymn writer of the German Reformed Church. Many of Neander's hymns were speedily received into the Lutheran hymnbooks and are still in universal use. The finest are the jubilant hymns of praise and thanksgiving, such as his *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*.

Neander was the grandson of a musician and son of a teacher. He studied theology at Bremen

University from 1666 to 1670. In 1671, Neander moved his studies to Heidelberg (locale of *The Student Prince* musical). In 1673, he moved to Frankfurt, where he met Pietistic scholars Philipp Jakob Spener (1635–1705) and Johann Schütz (1640–1690). (Pietism, also known as Pietistic Lutheranism, is a movement within Lutheranism that combines its emphasis on Biblical doctrine with an emphasis on individual piety and living a holy Christian life. Although the movement is aligned with Lutheranism, it has had a tremendous impact on Protestantism worldwide, particularly in North America and Europe. Pietism originated in modern Germany in the late 17th century with the work of Spener, a Lutheran theologian whose emphasis on personal transformation through spiritual rebirth and renewal, individual devotion, and piety laid the foundations for the movement.)

From 1674 to 1679, Neander was principal of the Reformed Lateinschule (grammar school) in Düsseldorf. During these years, he used to wander the secluded Düssel River valley, which was, until the 19th century, a deep ravine between rock faces and forests, with numerous caves, grottos, and waterfalls. Probably Neander wrote and sang many of his poems there, but he also held gatherings and services. In the early 19th century, a large cave was named Neanderhöhle after him. In the mid-19th century, the cement industry started to quarry the limestone, and the narrow ravine became a wide valley, which was named the Neander Valley (in German, *Neanderthal*). The "Neanderthal Man" was found there in the summer of 1856, giving Neander the distinction of being the only hymnist with a fossil hominid named after him.

In 1679, Neander moved to Bremen and worked as an assistant preacher at St. Martini church. The next year he became seriously ill and died, presumably from the plague.

Carol Dunlap

## Parish News

### Upcoming Events:

➤ The St. John's Book Club will meet on **Tuesday, May 6, at 7:30 p.m. in the undercroft** to discuss *Gideon's Trumpet* by Anthony Lewis. This nonfiction classic tells the story behind the 1963 landmark court case *Gideon v. Wainwright*, which established criminal defendants' right to an attorney even if they cannot afford one. Come join the discussion in May!

### Thank You to:

➤ Peter Olivere for organizing the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and all the volunteers who helped make the event such a success.

➤ Everyone who continues to support the Little Free Food Pantry with food and monetary donations and to the volunteers who regularly check the pantry to see when it needs to be restocked.

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

Gerard Baynham, Patricia Bleicher, Carol Dunlap, Diane Henderson, Linda Simmons, Bob Tallent, Jackson Tallent, Owen Tallent, Sharon Tallent, Barbara Wien, and Sandy Winger.

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

Louisa and Don Bennett; Bill and Faye 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 June/July issue is May 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.