



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

June/July 2025

Join the Conversation on the Future of St. John's

On Sunday, June 1, the vestry initiated a discussion on the future of St. John's. A key point was that for St. John's to be sustainable in the future, a large portion of the congregation needs to be actively involved in sustainability planning and efforts.

At a follow-on meeting on Wednesday, June 4, 10 members of the congregation continued the discussion and a number of ideas were identified. An initial prioritization was then done to focus on the most important areas. Five small groups are being formed to concentrate on the focus areas listed below.

Please contact Senior Warden Christine Williams at gymmomfour@yahoo.com to let her know which focus area or areas you are interested in supporting (please include "St. John's Future" in the subject line of the email).

Thank you for being part of the St. John's community and for participating in the ongoing conversations about the church's future!

Focus Areas

The Mission Statement Group Goal is to update the church mission statement.

Suggestions – 1) Our programs and activities should reflect our mission; 2) The mission statement should be something we all know. One idea is to make it a short "catchy" phrase.

Group Lead/Leads and participants are needed. (If you are unable to participate in this group, you can still share your thoughts on the mission statement with Christine.)

The Communications Group Goal is to enhance communications both within the congregation and externally.

Suggestions – *Internal Communications*: 1) Establish a yearly calendar to plan all activities in coordination with St. Patrick's; 2) Identify a leader for each activity well in advance who will oversee all aspects of the activity; 3) Annually review the yearly recurring activities and ensure they can be done well before adding new ones, or discuss whether some recurring activities should be replaced.

Group Lead/Leads and participants are needed.

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External Communications – 1) Include outreach to external communities in the advance planning for each activity and plan this outreach well in advance to attract more participation; 2) Update the design of the St. John's website; 3) Examine the pros and cons of other external outreach methods.

Group Lead: Christine Williams. Participants are needed.

The Music Group Goal is to generate more enthusiastic singing during services.

Suggestions – 1) Sing more familiar hymns or repeat some hymns over a few weeks to build familiarity; 2) End services with upbeat hymns.

Group Lead: Rector Julie Bryant. Participants are needed.

The Facility Group Goal is to ensure adequate attention to building maintenance and possible building usage by other groups.

Suggestions – 1) Need continuing updates on and oversight of the completion of the existing list of church maintenance projects; 2) Begin considering the pros and cons of future enhancements in support of increased building use.

Group Lead/Leads and participants are needed.

The Food Pantry Group Goal is to ensure sustainability of the Little Free Food Pantry initiative.

Suggestions – 1) Work to increase participation from neighbors and the broader community; 2) Ask congregants for information on the dollar value of their food contributions in order to gain understanding of how much food is being purchased and used, in addition to the bulk purchases that are made using monetary donations; 3) Allow for rotation of the individuals checking and restocking the food pantry.

Group Lead/Leads and participants are needed.

Baby Food Drive for AFAC

As we have celebrated Mother's Day and Father's Day in recent months, let us also remember parents who may be struggling financially in caring for their children. St. John's is collecting donations of baby food through Sunday, June 22, for the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). Contributions can be left in the box in the back of the church. Deacon Mary Cushing will deliver the donations to AFAC. Thank you for supporting this important ministry!

Is There a Shrine Mont Program for You?

Some St. John's members have visited Shrine Mont, a diocesan center in the Shenandoah Valley, as part of past parish retreats. However, you may not realize that Shrine Mont hosts numerous other events throughout the year that anyone can register for on their own, independent of their parish. Visit www.shrinemont.com to learn more and to sign up for Shrine Mont's monthly newsletter.

Jumping for (Easter) Joy

A good time was had by all at St. John's community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day a success!



Words on Hymns: *Earth and All Stars*

Earth and All Stars is indeed “a new song.” The following is from a blog written by Garcia M. Grindal, a retired professor at Luther Seminary.

“The first time I sang this with a congregation, people burst out laughing. ‘Classrooms and labs? Loud boiling test tubes?’ What? Did these things belong in a hymn? It was a breakthrough, really. At least for American Lutheran hymn writers. Even in the 1960s, we had a rather staid notion of what belonged in a hymn and certainly not the things of this contemporary world so concretely stated. I was among those who found it strange. Which was, for me, the beginning of a long life of learning about Lutheran hymnody. Herb Brokering wrote the hymn in 1964 for the 90th anniversary of St. Olaf College and it was set to a tune by David Johnson, Professor of Music and chair of the department at the college.

“Herb Brokering was a force to be reckoned with in the post WWII world of Lutheran teaching and writing. Whenever he appeared he always left people wanting to do what he did, but they could not. Something about his personality made it possible for him to get whole groups of people pushing oranges around the floor with their chins. When they tried to do the same thing with other groups, it didn’t work. But he could and that was part of his power....

“This hymn, his first to become well known, is of course very much like a psalm. One can hear Psalm 96:1 and 98 in it. The notion of a new song is fundamental to our faith. Our songs praising God are really all paradigmatically new. Christ makes all things new. Brokering shows what a new song is like in this text. Using the language of Scripture, but then adding new things never before found in hymns in this country, made the song do what it said, sing a new song. The refrain is probably the best thing about the hymn—He has done marvelous things/I too will praise him with a new song. A direct quote from the psalms.

“Brokering was also fortunate in his tune writer. David Johnson’s tune, especially the

refrain’s dwelling on the word marvelous, with such an attractive melody, made it an instant hit. People came to love it, even adding things that spoke from their world—loud chugging tractors, etc. It was easy to do.

“In a way, Brokering was a pioneer, discovering his tradition bit by bit. Although he had grown up in a strong German parsonage where he heard the language and knew the German tradition of hymns well, he had to learn how to make the Lutheran hymn speak English. Lutherans, when they came to this country, seemed to forget their tradition of hymnody and were taken over by the Calvinists’ paraphrasing of psalms or Isaac Watts. It was the dominant hymn tradition in America, for many good reasons....

“As did those who followed in his path. Brokering, as Luther would have commended, preached in this hymn. It was based on the psalms, but not a paraphrase.

“David Johnson, the composer, taught at St. Olaf and chaired the Music Department. His setting of this text was first published in 1968 in a book *Twelve Folksongs and Spirituals*. This was just when the efforts for what became the *Lutheran Book of Worship* were beginning. Johnson, a native of Texas, got his masters and doctoral degrees at Syracuse University. He served as organist in several congregations, taught at several colleges, wrote books on organ playing, served as organist in several congregations and composed over three hundred works.”

Carol Dunlap



Continue To Find Some Breathing Space

St. John's is now offering the Breathing Space gathering in the Parlor on the third Sunday of each month. 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 July 20, August 17, and September 21 and stay as long as you like. Compline prayer will close the evening at 8 p.m. and then participants will wish each other Peace as they depart.



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

Parish News

Upcoming Events:

- St. John's volunteers will bag food at the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) on **Friday, July 11**. Please contact Bill Pritchard at 703-931-2168 if you would like to join in this ministry.
- The St. John's Book Club is on hiatus for the summer and will next meet on **Tuesday, September 9, at 7:30 p.m.** in the undercroft to discuss *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving. In this nonfiction account, the author describes her journey to better understanding the pervasive effects of racism. Pick up a copy now and plan to join the discussion in September.

Thank You to:

- Christine Williams for organizing the Easter Egg Hunt on April 19 and all the volunteers who made the day a success.
- Bill Pritchard for leading St. John's Glencarlyn Day preparations and everybody who came out and supported the many activities on June 7.
- Everyone who continues to support the Little Free Food Pantry with food and monetary donations and to the volunteers who regularly check and restock the pantry.

We celebrate with all who have birthdays in June and July:

Nolan Baynham, Sienna Baynham, Elise Kaufman, Lisa Pope, Bill Pritchard, Faye Pritchard, James Robinson, Christian Tallent, Jones Tallent, Matthew Tallent, and Christine Williams.

We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in June and July:

Patricia and Peter Broida; Peter and Barbara Olivere; Lisa Pope and Justin Cohen; and Bob and Eileen Tallent.

LOGOS

LOGOS has a bi-monthly publication schedule.

Lisa Pope, LOGOS Editor

Email articles to logos@stjohnsarlingtonva.org.
The deadline for the August/September issue is July 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.