



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/June 2024

A Day of Celebration



St. John's and St. Patrick's celebrated the installation of Rector Julie D. Bryant on Sunday, March 17, with a joyous service and luncheon. Thank you to everyone who participated in this special day!

St. John's Episcopal Church, Arlington
415 South Lexington Street • Arlington, VA 22204 • Phone: 703-671-6834 • Fax: 703-671-8023
<http://stjohnsarlingtonva.org> • Email: office@stjohnsarlingtonva.org

Reflections from the Rector: Honoring Families

Each year, I get asked about marking Mother's Day and Father's Day in church, so I'd like to respond before anyone gets too far in planning.

The family setting is often the first place one encounters the idea of God and in which prayer and faith practices are taught and reinforced. Joys and sorrows within families are marked within the faith community; everything from baptisms to adult professions of faith, marriage, and death.

The Episcopal Church has a broad understanding of "Family" that includes groups of all sorts: some linked across generations; some choosing to be family to each other without shared biology; families of adults; families that include children; families with fewer or larger numbers of parents; families for a season of life; families extending for multiple generations.

There are several strands in the history of Mother's Day observances. One might mark the day by returning to the church in which one was raised—the "Mother church"—to refresh early tenets of faith. Women raising children without benefit of community were offered lessons on nutrition, child rearing, and how to access resources. Women on opposing sides of the Civil War joined hands demanding reconciliation, a practice that is present in several places today. The practices of gift-giving swelled during the years following national recognition of Mother's Day, much to the chagrin of the people who asked for that recognition because the commercialization was counter to their original intention. Father's Day was inaugurated shortly after Mother's Day

and has followed a similar path toward commercialism.

The Prayer Book does not include Collects for these holidays, though there are several prayers in circulation that speak to the tending and mentoring done by many men and women of their own children and of young people in their care. Some of those prayers include the acknowledgment of suffering that occurs within family systems and the pain of being ostracized within or outside of families of origin. We may use prayers of dedication and thanksgiving during the months of May and June, evoking gratitude for care given and received. I will select ones that do not presume the manner of tending and teaching as set by gender or imply a narrow definition of family, precisely so that we can celebrate the many ways God invites us to find community with one another.

Rather than have small gifts for men or women who may be known as fathering or mothering children, I suggest that remembrances and thanksgivings for those who have been your guides and providers be made to the Arlington Thrive program for families in need. You may also consider a thank offering for the children who were placed in your care for a moment or a lifetime, so that other families may have what they need to provide for young people. Information on Arlington Thrive program offerings is on the bulletin board in the narthex, along with envelopes that may be placed in the offering plate.

Thank you, Julie+



St. John's Holds Outreach Sessions on Little Free Food Pantry

As St. John's moves closer to making a final decision about whether to install a Little Free Food Pantry on the church grounds, the church has been reaching out to the array of volunteers who stocked and oversaw the maintenance of the Pantry when it was hosted at the Arlington Central Library. This outreach was designed to learn more about how they organized things and also to invite them to join in our efforts. Following two recent additional brainstorming sessions, St. John's aimed to make a final decision at a meeting on May 9. If the church does decide to move forward with installing the Pantry, a project launch will be scheduled for Glencarlyn Day on Saturday, June 1.

Pentecost: Red All Around



On Sunday, May 19, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. Clothe yourself in the colors of the Living Flame: Red, orange, yellow, and gold!

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

Kicking Off the Glencarlyn Day Parade with Bells and Balloons

The annual Glencarlyn Day Parade will start at St. John's on Saturday, June 1, around 11:45 a.m. We will be adding balloon animals to last year's face-painting fun. Ringing the church bell was also very popular last year, so we will again be offering that opportunity to kids of all ages! Please plan to join the fun as Glencarlyn celebrates sports of all types with a "Take Me Out to the Game" theme. Wear your favorite team's hat or jersey for the festivities or your St. John's T-shirt if you have one. Stay tuned for more details on how you can help celebrate Glencarlyn Day in style!



Summer School Supplies Drive

St. John's and St. Patrick's will gather school supplies again this summer to benefit the elementary schools closest to each congregation (Carlin Springs and Westlawn). Lists of most-needed items and information about collection sites will be forthcoming, but it's never too early to start watching for bargain prices on supplies! We will bless the collected items on Sunday, August 18, in order to deliver them before the first day of school.

Planning Ahead for Independence Day Weekend

Looking ahead, St. John's and St. Patrick's will gather for the end of the long Independence Day weekend at a single service for both congregations on Sunday, July 7. We will meet at St. Patrick's for worship at 11 a.m., followed by a potluck lunch. If the weather is nice, lunch will be outdoors as St. Patrick's has picnic tables in the shade (they do not currently have an outdoor grill, however. If you have one that is not being used, St. Patrick's would be happy to have it!). Mark your calendar now for this meaningful day of joint worship and fellowship.

Words on Hymns: *We Know that Christ Is Raised and Dies No More*

One of my Top 10 favorite hymns is *We Know that Christ Is Raised and Dies No More*, which is found on Page 296 of *The Hymnal 1982*. To me, the text of a hymn is as important as the music. The poem that is set in the hymn is one of the most powerful in our hymnals. The first verse is: *We know that Christ is raised and dies no more./ Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold,/ and our despair he turned to blazing joy. Alleluia!*

Born in 1932, the author of this text, the Rev. John Brownlow Geyer, grew up through the end of the Great Depression and witnessed the Second World War. After attending Queen's College and Mansfield College, he was ordained by the Congregational Union of Scotland. The hymn was first published in *New Songs for the Church* (1969) with four stanzas.

Besides the primary themes of baptism and the Resurrection, Geyer wrote: "‘We Know That Christ Is Raised’ was written in 1967, when I was tutor at Cheshunt College, Cambridge, U.K. At that time a good deal of work was going on ‘round the corner (involving a number of American research students) producing living cells (‘the baby in the test tube’). The hymn attempted to illustrate the Christian doctrine of baptism in relation to those experiments."

Though originally intended as a hymn for the sacrament of baptism, it has become popular as an Easter hymn. Its popularity has increased because of the text changes to the second stanza of the hymn. The original version of this stanza clearly argues against the scientific advancement of in vitro fertilization: *We share by water in his saving death./ This union brings to being one new cell,/ a living and organic part of Christ./ Alleluia!*

Later Geyer changed the words of the second and third lines of this stanza: *Reborn, we share with him an Easter life/ as living members of a living Christ*. This small difference refocuses the meaning of the hymn from an ethical agenda to a celebratory declaration of the Resurrection of Christ. The hymn ends with the triumphant

statement of the Resurrection: *The universe restored and whole will sing: Alleluia!*

The tune *Engelberg* by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924) was originally intended as a musical setting for the hymn *For All the Saints* by William Walsham How (1823–1897), first published in the New Edition of *Hymns Ancient and Modern* (1904). Stanford's original setting was an ambitious multi-stanza arrangement with varied use of voices and accompaniment. Christian Reformed scholar Bert Polman wrote, "It is clearly a fine congregational hymn but also a stunning choral anthem when used with some of the additional settings that Stanford supplied."

Despite Stanford's esteem as a composer and music scholar, the 1904 edition as a whole was widely panned for other reasons, leading to the reissue of the 1889 edition in 1906. That same year saw the publication of *The English Hymnal*, in which Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)—one of Stanford's former students—composed his own tune for How's text, *Sine Nomine*. To many, Stanford's tune was supplanted and *Sine Nomine* became the favored tune setting of *For All the Saints*. *Engelberg* became a tune in want of its own text.

One such attempt was made in the U.S. by F. Bland Tucker (1895–1984) in *The Hymnal 1940*. It is in our hymnal on Page 477 and begins: *All praise to thee, for thou didst yield the glory that by right was thine*. But by 1970, Tucker's hymn had not succeeded in being adopted across the Atlantic, thus prompting John Wilson to request a new text from Fred Pratt Green. This third pairing was printed informally in the 1972 *Act of Praise* and more formally in *New Church Praise* (1975), and is found on Page 420 of our hymnal. It celebrates the music that is used in the worship of God: *When in Our Music God Is Glorified*.

All three settings of the tune *Engelberg* are notable in the imagery of their language. All three settings end with a satisfying *Amen*.

Carol Dunlap

Parish News

Upcoming Events:

➤ The St. John's Book Club will meet on **Tuesday, June 4, at 7:30 p.m.** in the undercroft to discuss *The Word Is Murder* by Anthony Horowitz. In this suspenseful and entertaining mystery, the author is not only a celebrated crime novelist but a partner in solving the whodunit. The Book Club will not meet over the summer but will read *Poverty, by America* by Matthew Desmond to discuss at its September meeting. All are welcome!

Thank You to:

➤ The Altar Guild for the beautiful Easter decorations.

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

Sienna Baynham, Patricia Bleicher, Romana Martin, Lisa Pope, Faye Pritchard, James Robinson, Bill Schenck, Linda Simmons, Jones Tallent, Matthew Tallent, Owen Tallent, and Barbara Wien.

We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in May and June:

Louisa and Don Bennett; Peter and Patricia Broida; Barbara and Peter Olivere; and Bob and Eileen Tallent.

The Path Ahead: A Six-Week Course on Spirituality and Purpose in Later Life

Between the Fourth of July and Labor Day, there will be the opportunity to gather for adult formation. Participants will grapple with ageism, identify changing spiritual needs, equip themselves with new prayer practices, and engage in discernment about God's continuing call. If you are interested in joining, which dates and times work best for you? A second offering of the course will be held between All Saints Day and Christmas. Please contact Rev. Julie with any questions and to let her know if you would like to participate.

LOGOS

LOGOS has a bi-monthly publication schedule.

Lisa Pope, LOGOS Editor

Email articles to logos@stjohnsarlingtonva.org.
The deadline for the July/August issue is June 27.

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.