



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

October/November 2025

Mark Your Calendar for Fall Events at St. John's and St. Patrick's

Starting on Sunday, October 19, and continuing until November 16, St. John's and St. Patrick's will offer a Sunday afternoon adult education series, ***Work of the People: What We Do in Worship and Why***, from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. This series will discuss the structure of worship, the actions and words we use in liturgy, and the environment in which it all happens. The discussion will guide participants to worship in a way that encourages their spiritual growth, sends them out as the body of Christ to transform the world, and welcomes new participants into faith. Some sessions will take place at St. John's, while others will be held at St. Patrick's. Please stay tuned for more information to come.

Come hear a timely talk about ***The Gospel of Revolution*** on Tuesday, October 21, at 7 p.m. at St. Patrick's. The Reverend Kevin Laskowski will discuss how clergy wrestled with loyalty, rebellion, and their faith in the years around the American Revolution and what that might mean for Episcopalians today. This event is sponsored by the Education for Ministry (EfM) community in Northern Virginia.

On Saturday, October 25, St. John's will join St. Patrick's in a ***Role Modeling Service Project***. The congregations will host the KidsWorld Montessori School at St. Patrick's to fill Blessing Bags for individuals who have fled to domestic violence shelters. Please talk to Reverend Julie for more information or to volunteer.

St. John's and St. Patrick's will share in an ***All Saints and All Souls Joint Celebration*** on Sunday, November 2, at 10 a.m. at St. Patrick's. The worship service will celebrate those whose faith inspires our own, people with whom we have shared our lives, and all those who have died. In conjunction with the ongoing *Work of the People* series, the two congregations will be invited to step into the "thin place" between this life and eternity.

St. John's volunteers will participate in the church's ***bi-monthly bulk food packing activity at the Arlington Food Assistance Center*** on Friday, November 14. Please contact Bill Pritchard at 703-931-2168 if you would like to take part in this important ministry.



St. John's Annual Stewardship Campaign Kicks Off in October

St. John's will begin its annual Stewardship Campaign on Sunday, October 26. The theme for this year's campaign is "We Walk by Faith, Not by Sight." To walk by faith is to tune our hearts to the voice of the Holy Spirit and live the life that God reveals to us. We must continue to live each day in this new life that Christ has given us. As our campaign begins, please be in prayer about your journey in Christ. Please also pray about the journey that the St. John's congregation is on together and how our financial gifts in the coming year will enable this journey to continue and grow.



St. John's Staff and Leadership

Staff

Rector: The Rev. Julie D. Bryant
Deacon: The Rev. Mary E. Cushing
Minister of Music: Lynn Robinson
Organist: Zane Price
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: *In Christ There Is No East or West*

The hymn *In Christ There Is No East or West* was inspired by Rudyard Kipling's poem, *The Ballad of East and West*. The poem tells of Kamal, an Indian man who steals an English Colonel's horse. The Colonel's son rides off in pursuit. The two men end up in a place where Kamal has a soldier behind every rock, but he respects the young Englishman's courage and spares his life. The young Englishman, in turn, passes up a chance to use a hidden pistol with which he could have killed Kamal. The poem ends as it began with these lines:

Oh, East is East, and West is West,
and never the twain shall meet,
Till Earth and Sky stand presently
at God's great Judgment Seat;

But there is neither East nor West,
Border, nor Breed, nor Birth,
When two strong men stand face to face,
though they come from the ends of the
earth!

Nine years after Kipling's poem was published in 1889, William Arthur Dunkerly (using the pen name John Oxenham) wrote the hymn. The occasion was a great missionary exhibition sponsored by the London Missionary Society. Titled *The Orient in London*, it attracted an estimated 250,000 attendees. The poem was originally part of a libretto, "Darkness and Light." Oxenham was responsible for writing the entire text of the presentation, which went on to be performed in both England and the United States from 1908 to 1914.

Oxenham then included the poem in his collection, *Bees in Amber* (1913). After the book was rejected by publishers, Oxenham self-published it and sold 285,000 copies. The hymn then found its way into many English language hymnals, beginning with England's *Songs of Praise* (1931).

John Oxenham was just one of the pen names for grocery businessman William J. Dunkerly (1852–1941). He trained for his career in business at Victoria University, Manchester, and traveled extensively to Europe, the United States, and South America, living in France for several years. Oxenham made his home in the United States for a time before returning to England, where he died at the age of 89. According to hymnologist Albert Bailey, Oxenham began writing "to relieve the tedium of long journeys...and soon discovered that he liked writing better than business." Over the course of his life, Oxenham authored more than 40 novels and 20 volumes of verse and prose. During World War I, his collection *Hymns for the Men at the Front* sold an astonishing eight million copies. Upon his passing, it was discovered that he had published a total of 62 books under various pseudonyms.

The hymn tune *McKee* has an interesting history. According to a letter from Charles V. Stanford to Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (who arranged the tune for piano in his *Twenty-Four Negro Melodies*, 1905), *McKee* was originally an Irish tune taken to the United States and adapted by African-American enslaved persons. It became associated with the spiritual *I Know the Angels Done Changed My Name*, which appeared in J.B.T. Marsh's *The Story of the Jubilee Singers with their Songs* (1876). It was arranged by Harry T. Burleigh.

A poignant illustration of the hymn's power occurred during World War II, when two ships—one carrying Japanese detainees and the other, American detainees—anchored side by side, awaiting repatriation. For a full day, the two groups stood silently on their respective decks, divided by nationality and war. Suddenly, someone began singing *In Christ There Is No East or West*. Another voice joined in from the opposite ship. Gradually, voices from both sides rose in harmony as enemies turned into a choir, united in worship.

Carol Dunlap

Parish News

Upcoming Events:

➤ The St. John's Book Club will meet on **Tuesday, November 4, at 7:30 p.m.** in the undercroft to discuss *Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People* by Nadia Bolz-Weber. In this memoir, a former stand-up comedian turned pastor recounts how she stubbornly and often hilariously resists the God she has been called to serve. But she finds that God keeps showing up in the least likely of people. Pick up a copy and come join the discussion in November!

Thank You to:

➤ Everyone who contributed refreshments and helped organize the Blessing of the Animals on October 5.

➤ 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. If shopping for items is difficult, the St. John's website at stjohnsarlingtonva.org includes a link to contribute funds online.

We celebrate with all who have birthdays in October and November:

Erin Tallent Baynham, Dave Dunlap, Richard Henry, Roger Ludwig, Taylor Robinson, and Liz White.

We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in October and November:

Marshall and Ginger Adair; Barbara Wien and Robert Herman.

LOGOS

LOGOS has a bi-monthly publication schedule.

Lisa Pope, LOGOS Editor

Email articles to logos@stjohnsarlingtonva.org.
The deadline for the December/January issue is Nov. 30.

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.