



The Dragon Scoop

April 2020

St. George Episcopal Church
1024 SE Cass Avenue Roseburg, OR 97470
541-673-4048

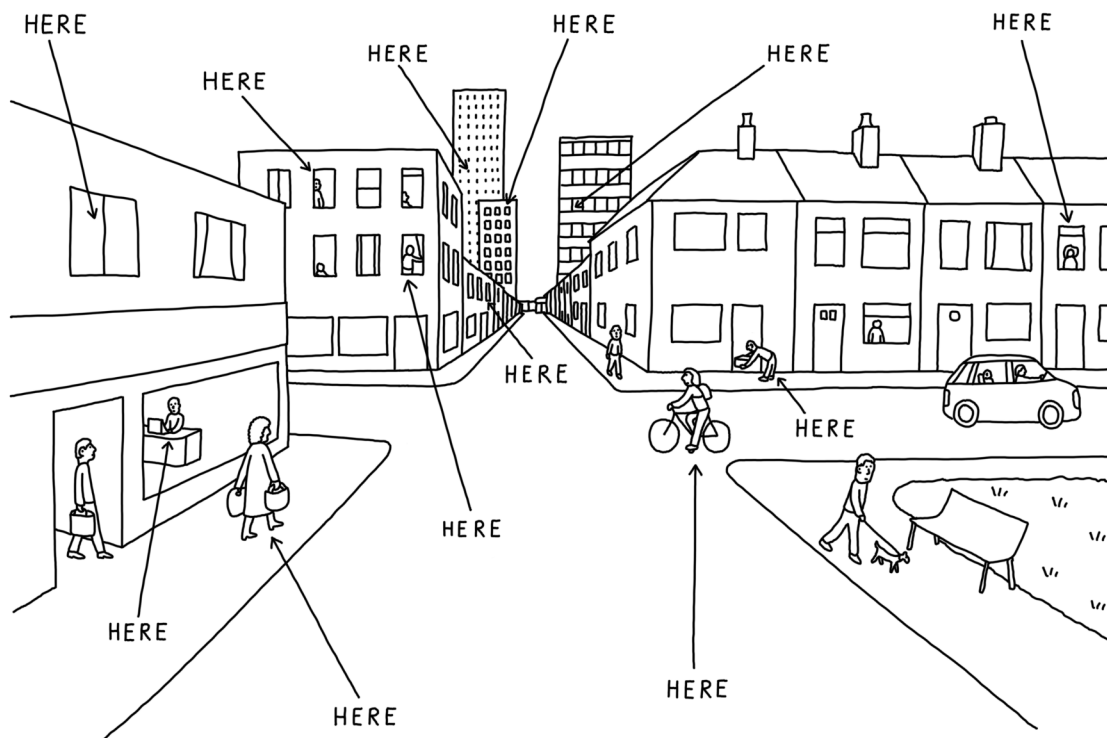
Mission Statement:
“Loving God, Loving Our
Neighbors”

The Episcopal Church Welcomes You



Church in the Time of Coronavirus

WHERE THE CHURCH IS



CartoonChurch.com

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Rector's Letter

Note from the Almost Finished Interim Rector:

Grace and peace be yours,

Pam and I are holding St. George's Parish and all its people in our prayers. Staying at home, almost all the time, gets weary. We see and read news of the growing numbers of the sick and those who have died. We fear for ourselves and those we love.

In 1 John 4:18 we are told that, "Perfect love casts out fear." Our love may not be perfect, but still, God's love is. In the marriage ceremony we promise to be faithful "in sickness and in health." God is always faithful, even when we fall short. Roseburg may be only lightly affected by the coronavirus, or it may experience great loss. Our jobs remain the same: to love, to help, to hope, to pray. Even in times of grief, God loves us and helps us love our neighbors.



In a few days I will no longer be your Interim Rector. Pam and I will always be your friends. Do all you can to support Pastor Gail. May she serve St. George's with joy and love. She and her husband will live in your midst. Her job is nominally 2/3 time. Expect her to both love you and challenge you to be the best your church can be. The formula is simple: Love God. Love your neighbors.

Both Pam and I have been blessed by all of you. I have known St. George's for over thirty years. It has always been a congregation of deep faith and love, even in difficult times. You have continued to gain new members, even as old ones have moved or died. Two of the new members will be baptized by Pastor Gail soon after Sunday Eucharist resumes.

Thank you for all the love, patience, and kindness you have shown to me and Pam. God bless you always.

Fr. Jim+

Correction—Sue Phelps is our new Junior Warden, not Jean Bowden as mistakenly reported last month.

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Letter from Pastor Gail

March 23, 2020

To the beloved congregants at St. George's,

I am writing to you today as your newly appointed Interim Rector. It is indeed an honor that I do not take lightly to be asked to serve your parish until God's time and providence will allow you to call a new Episcopal Rector. It is with significant sadness that we say "Good-bye and God's speed" to Father Jim and Pam Boston. They have served you well for the last five years. The "Thank You" Gathering that was to have taken place on March 29 will be held at a later time. I know that Fr. Jim is sad that his last two Sundays were, of necessity, cancelled. The coronavirus is not a respecter of place, person, or privilege.

As most of you also probably know, my husband, David, and I had planned to drive to Roseburg on April 2. Alas, again the coronavirus pandemic dictated otherwise. When I received the email from Bishop Michael Hanley asking all services be cancelled until after April 14, I consulted with my husband and then called our Senior Warden, Pete Benham. We all decided it was better for us to "shelter in place" here in the Spokane Valley. Our new, and yes, *tentative* date to move is April 16.

I believe we are all in a "wait and see" mode for now. I pray that you are all taking comfort as you read both your Bibles and our homilies which Leigh Van Sickle will post on the website. My first homily will be for Palm Sunday. I'll then post a homily for Good Friday and again for Easter Sunday. While we are all saddened not to be able to gather for the glorious day of Christ's Resurrection we can know we are protecting each other.

I am giving you my home phone number: 509-921-9862. My email is available from the office. Once I arrive in Roseburg, I will have an office email. May the peace that passeth all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God's peace and blessings,
Pastor Gail Duba+



Meet Pastor Gail's Family



The photo was taken at Eagle Peak in Spokane, WA, by Kyle, our middle son who is a videographer for Wyoming Public TV and a photographer with an expertise in filming mountain climbers!

Left to right:

Kyle Duba and Alyssa Wechsler (Lander, WY)
Mary Emily, Jason, and Abby Duba (Dubuque, Iowa)
Lauryl Johnson and Forrest Duba (Spokane, WA)
Pastor Gail and Dr. David Duba

Pastor Gail and Dr. David visited Spain before the coronavirus outbreak and took some stunning photographs. She says, "I'd love to do a presentation for an ECW meeting. I also have a power point from our trip to Israel It is meaningful to share our love of travel."

A Story of Answered Prayer

by Sue Phelps

We got our adorable new dog. We picked her up on a Saturday, drove home, opened the car door to get a leash—and she squeezed out past my husband, Jerry, and ran off. She didn't even get a smell of the house, so this certainly wasn't anywhere she was bonded to.

We had our daughter and niece post it on Facebook and we had a sighting that afternoon over on Stephens St. We looked and called and walked. Jerry saw her going up over the hill sort of back to our side of the hill. Next morning he went out looking for her again and saw her in the bushes by the train tracks. We couldn't get near her but left some food for her which was there the next day.

A wonderful woman from Eugene saw the Facebook post and called us. She helps recover lost animals and had lots of good info. We weren't to call her or approach her or even make eye contact. No worry, she was always running in fight-or-flight mode away from us.



Photos by Sue Phelps

I had to report her missing to the adoption agency due to a question on the contract about notifying them the same day if a dog is lost. They let the Portland foster couple know. Becky, the Eugene lady, told us to make posters on neon poster board as well as what to say on them. We put up eight.

Another call about sighting her above UCAN just before dark. We knew we would never catch her; she would need to be trapped but where to put a trap? Next day, the foster parents came down from Portland and stopped in Eugene to get the trap. She was sighted by the armory so we went there. Becky told us to have Jessie, foster mom, just sit quietly with a rotisserie chicken and see if Evie might come to her from ????? where?

We spent about three hours looking and sitting, and we had all decided it was hopeless and were cashing it in in 30 minutes. Jerry and I had talked to some guys in the armory so they would know what we were doing, and another man from the armory was leaving and asked Jessie if she was looking for the lost dog, and that she was about 1/4 mile away on the tracks. Evie came to Jessie's voice and was quickly leashed.

(Continued on next page.)

Answered Prayer, continued

An absolute miracle. Looking for a fast running, frightened needle in a haystack—and thanks to lots of people and St. Francis we have our wonderful little Evie. I had written in an email to foster mom Jessie that I had asked for help from St. Francis. As we were walking the railroad tracks Jessie told me that she wasn't a believer, but she was getting her hair done the day before and told the lost dog story. Someone in the shop talked about St. Francis, so she thought, "What the heck, it couldn't hurt" and sent off a prayer. I told Jessie after she found Evie that St. Francis must have thought, "Well, here's someone I haven't heard from before. This could be important," and that only Jessie in the whole wide world could have found Evie, who certainly didn't know us.

Anyway, Evie is wonderful and she has chosen Jerry as her person, which is adorable. She has met our two cats and I think they are going to be fine together.

(Evie, Jerry, and two curious kitties are pictured below.)

This is the Facebook site referred to in the article:

[www.facebook.com/groups/
LostandFoundPetsinRoseburgDouglasCounty/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/LostandFoundPetsinRoseburgDouglasCounty/)



FISH

MESSAGE FROM THE FISH BOARD

I want to update you on the status of the April Green Bag collection. It is a difficult time right now. We have been requested to "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" by our Governor and many of us had started some form of social avoidance even before this was announced. While everyone at the RFP would very much like to help our FISH pantry stay open and provide food to less fortunate families, the logistics of a safe and effective mass neighborhood food collection are not in place. Nobody wants to endanger friends, neighbors or themselves while attempting to fill a green bag, or while getting it collected and delivered to the FISH. It's a very people-intense project and many who volunteer are retired, in the "elderly" category, and are more likely to have a difficult time if infected by the virus.

After seeking input from board members and district coordinators, we feel the following is the best option.

A solution is to have food donors give cash or write checks **ONLY** for April, but at this time, no food items. The money can be used to buy specific items that would be most beneficial for the pantry, and any non-perishable food items you already purchased can be saved for the next food drive.

One idea for a suggested amount is what you would usually spend on filling your bag with food items. This is just a suggested amount, and of course you are welcome to send whatever you feel is appropriate.

If you would like to send a check directly to FISH, it can be made out to *The FISH of Roseburg*. Please put in Memo section: *For RFP*.

Mail to

The FISH of Roseburg
RFP
P.O. Box 1162
Roseburg, OR 97470

OR go online to the FISH Food Pantry website: www.fishofroseburg.org/
There is a green button in the upper right corner of the home page labeled "DONATE NOW." You can use PayPal or a debit or credit card.

Regardless of your decision during this tough time, please know how much your past contributions are appreciated. I hope each and every one of you stays safe and healthy.

Nis Jessen
FISH Board President

Thank you and we all hope to return to life as usual by June 13.



Keeping Busy

BJ Hoffman:

What are you doing while you are staying home? Since our gym is closed Zack and I walked 1.6 miles yesterday. I have been opening the usually closed blinds and wearing bright colors. I got my Easter cards ready for mailing and am doing some usual housekeeping. I still volunteer at the Red Cross and FISH.

Doug Holloway:

(Doug normally drives blood samples between the Cancer Center and Mercy Hospital, but all volunteering there is on hold for now.)

Instead I took a dead elk to the Veterinary School lab in Corvallis for the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. A farmer saw the sick elk out by Tiller. So the State Police and a biologist shot it and the Vet School will see what is wrong.

Margaret Thomas:



Photo by Margaret Thomas

We went through the drive through at Wildlife Safari and were lucky to see the giraffe family out stopping traffic and allowing us humans to take photos of them.

St. George's Offices:



Photos by Pete Benham



An Eveland painter refurbished the main and rector's offices March 21.

What are YOU doing?

BJ tells us that some people are putting concerts on e-mail, making face masks, cooking and baking, sending cards, and making phone calls. She asks you to share what you are doing and give the rest of us some novel ideas.

And here's one idea: Volunteers are needed to shop for assisted living communities.

Encouragement

The Top 10 Reasons to Attend Online Church by Fr. Tim Schenck

1. You can wear your PJs to church.
2. Drink coffee DURING the sermon to stay awake.
3. Hungry? Don't wait for coffee hour. Grab that donut RIGHT NOW!
4. Every Sunday is the Blessing of the Animals.
5. Bad hair day? Who cares!
6. You can scroll through Facebook during the "boring parts."
7. La-Z-Boy > Uncomfortable pew.
8. Seven year itch? "Cheat" on your pastor by tuning in to another church's service without even breaking one of the 10 Commandments!
9. No kneeling. Or standing, for that matter.
10. Keeping connected to God and your community during this unprecedented time.

www.clergyconfidential.com/2020/03/the-top-10-reasons-to-attend-online.html

When This is Over by Laura Kelly Fanucci

When this is over,
may we never again
take for granted

A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at the store
Conversations with neighbors
A crowded theatre
Friday night out
The taste of communion
A routine checkup
The school rush each morning
Coffee with a friend
The stadium roaring
Each deep breath
A boring Tuesday
Life itself.

When this ends,
may we find
that we have become
more like the people
we wanted to be
and may we stay
that way—better
for each other
because of the worst.

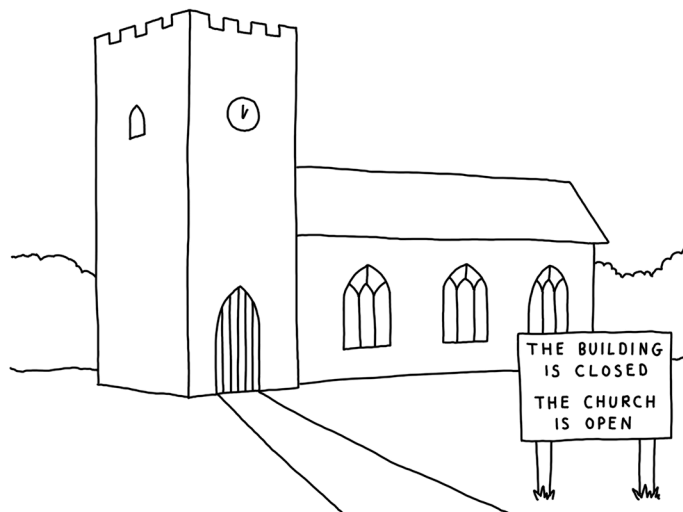




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St. George Episcopal Church publishes THE DRAGON SCOOP monthly. If you would like something to be considered for the newsletter please talk to Leigh Van Sickle. E-mailed articles and photographs can be sent to saintgeorgepix@gmail.com.

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541-391-0814

Interim Rector: The Rev. James Boston
Senior Warden: Pete Benham
Junior Warden: Sue Phelps
Treasurer: Kathy Glockner

OFFICE HOURS
10:00 am—2:00 pm
Monday through Friday

ST. GEORGE WORSHIP
Sundays
10 am—Holy Eucharist

Wednesdays
10 am—Morning Prayer

