



The Dragon Scoop

December 2015

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

Endings and Beginnings

The Right Reverend Neff Powell has been our Priest-in-Charge for a little over a year now, and as the liturgical year ends, so does his time with us. Bishop Neff is a joyful blessing to St. George parishioners and we will miss him greatly. We don't yet know what the coming year will bring to our church, but we wait in hope, as we wait in this season of Advent both for Christmas and for the Second Coming of Christ.

Sybil MacBeth, in her book, *The Season of the Nativity*, says about Advent, “We are on a day-by-day pilgrimage in partnership with God. Joy mixes with sorrow. Faith and fear hold hands. Light shines in the darkness. *Something is about to happen*, and we don't know the time or the date.”

May we here at St. George remain on this pilgrimage with God to transform our church and be a light in the darkness.



Many thanks to Bishop Neff and to Dorothy, his gracious wife, for a wonderful year.



Inside This Issue

Lord Jesus, master of both the light and the darkness,
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.
We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your
voice each day.
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your
coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy
of your kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.
To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

~ Henri J. M. Nouwen

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Vestry Nominations



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

February 7, 2016, will be our annual meeting and the three Class of 2016 Vestry members will retire; so, we are calling on you to fill those positions. This is your opportunity to take an active part managing the affairs of St. George Church. You will be working with a great group of people also dedicated to doing the work of our church.

We are asking you to write a short personal profile stating why you would like to be on the Vestry. There are some additional qualifications which should be addressed in your profile as well as the ones listed in the formal Nomination Process:

- ♦ A Vestry member needs to be baptized,
- ♦ to be enrolled on the Parish Register for six months immediately preceding the Annual Meeting, and
- ♦ to have received Holy Communion in this parish during the year preceding the Annual Meeting.

Please turn your profile in by January 15.

Below is the Nomination Process adopted by the Vestry this year. We hope you will prayerfully consider this call.

Vestry Nomination Process

Each year, as put forth in the bylaws, the Vestry is charged to adopt a process to nominate persons for election to the Vestry and publish a description of this process to the legal voters of the Parish by the 30th of November. On November 17, 2015, the Vestry adopted the following process:

“The Vestry requests that you submit your desire to be nominated for election to the Vestry Class of 2019, in writing by January 15, 2016, to the church office and the Senior Warden. Please give a brief biography and comment on how you feel called to this ministry. No experience is necessary, but to be eligible you must be a lay member in good standing, 18 or more years of age, not a member of the household of a current Vestry member, be willing to create more active involvements from parish members who are not Vestry members, faithfully attend parish functions, worship services, encourage and support parish members in mutual ministry, and be willing to work with other members of the Vestry. The Vestry would like to recognize the gifts of eligible candidates and will put forward a slate of nominees to be elected at the Annual Meeting on February 7, 2016.”

Current Vestry Members

Class of 2016	Betty Jo Hoffman	Doug Holloway	Donna Litherland
Class of 2017	Nancy Baum	Faye Benham	Steve Thomas
Class of 2018	Jean Bowden	Bill Riley	Bob Spielman

October 20 Vestry Meeting

*The Dragon Scoop will be publishing highlights of the Vestry meetings.
Since the minutes have to be approved first, the reports will be a month behind.*

- ♦ Bill Riley presented the financial reports as of September 30, 2015, which were then approved.
- ♦ Bill painted the concrete over the Columbarium with an oil based sealer and has finished putting gravel around the red concrete blocks; this completes the project.
- ♦ Donna Litherland received a bid for \$90 per hour to remove the entire hedge. A motion was made to accept a professional bid to remove the hedge on Cass Avenue @\$90 per hour. The congregation will be asked to help fund it.
- ♦ The rectory roof has missing shingles. A motion was made to put the reroofing of the rectory out for bids and report back at the next meeting in November.
- ♦ Donna is in contact with Century 21 and has requested a date to inspect the rectory. We also want to have a date by which the tenants will have cleaned up the yard, or will pay to have it done at their expense.
- ♦ Our insurance won't cover the damage to our stained glass windows. Juliana Marez has volunteered to help with writing a grant requesting funds for their repair.
- ♦ Sue Phelps made a request to repurpose the Prayer and Meditation room as a calming room. It would be used for small group meetings. She requested the Vestry approve a budget amount up to \$100 to make the room an attractive space. She also wanted permission to uncover the window, put up drapes, and remove the cork. Motion was made to repurpose the room, with a budget up to \$100.
- ♦ Donna will keep the parishioners up to date during coffee hours after worship services on the unemployment appeal.
- ♦ Doug Holloway said DCCOAD (Douglas County Community Organizations Active in Disaster) is an organization that coordinates disaster relief and is made up of several local churches. In a disaster they will disperse emergency supplies. They need to know which churches have facilities that could be available and which facilities could be classified as emergency centers. Doug would like to meet with parishioners to see if they would like to be included in the organization. We would have to give information about our facilities and submit a Letter of Understanding.
- ♦ Faye Benham has written a memorial funds policy, which was accepted as written.

Our Facebook page has a new, easy-to-remember address. You do not need to have a Facebook account to view the page.
facebook.com/episcopalroseburg

Christmas Giving Tree



Once again St. George will fulfill the wishes of local children who otherwise would have no Christmas presents. If you are bringing gifts, please have them to the church by Sunday, December 13.

Thank you, Thelma Sayers, for coordinating this annual event, and thank you, everyone who is participating this year!

FISH Report

During the fall food drive on November 14, FISH volunteers collected 5,180 pounds of food and \$829 thanks to shoppers at Sherm's Thunderbird, Fred Meyer, Grocery Outlet, Safeway, and Albertson's. Several St. George parishioners staffed the collection tables, working with the Presbyterians at Albertson's—thank you, Nancy Baum, Jean Bowden, Mik Carlson, and David and Marcia Jackson.

Sue Phelps is our new St. George representative on the FISH Executive Board.



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Church Pension Group

Opportunities for Service

DONATIONS IN KIND

The finance committee has asked us to set up a file of "Donations in Kind." These are purchases or materials or services done for the church for which you have generously decided not to ask reimbursement or tax credit. These are items or time which would need to be purchased if you had not donated them. By keeping track of these "expenses," we have an accurate accounting of how much it truly costs to operate the church.

We will start a file in January. We are simply asking you to provide receipts, a personal invoice of how much it would cost for a service you have provided (i.e. so many hours x cost per hour + cost of materials), or commercial invoices. We don't need your names, just the information. If you want reimbursement or credit for your taxes, please turn it into the office as usual; these will be tracked by our bookkeeper.

POINSETTIAS, BEAUTIFUL POINSETTIAS

The poinsettias are always so beautiful and we need your help this year. We are no longer able to get poinsettias from our supplier. So this year we are asking you to donate live poinsettias. Please bring them to the office December 14–18 between 10:00 and 2:00 or on Sunday, December 20.

If you are unable to purchase a poinsettia, your monetary donation is always welcome. Your donation will help pay for the wreaths. Just place it in the small pew brown envelope. If it is cash, be sure to write your name and "Christmas decor" on the outside. If you write a check, note "Christmas decor" in the memo.

If you want to honor someone with your poinsettia or wreath donation, please be sure to advise the church office by December 18.

Thank you for helping decorate our church for Christmas.

GREENING OF THE CHURCH

Yes, it is time to get ready for the coming of Jesus. Saturday, December 5, we will need help putting the greenery up around the top of the Sanctuary. We will need people who can work on ladders as well as others to hand the greenery up to them and put up "ground level" decor. We will start about 10:00 a.m. Your help is always appreciated and thank you for your help in past years. As they say, "Many hands make light work."



Diocesan Convention Notes 2015

by Margaret Thomas

Margaret and Steve Thomas were St. George's delegates to the 127th Convention of the Diocese of Oregon, held November 13-14 in Ashland. Bishop Neff Powell, our Priest-in-Charge through November, was also in attendance. Here are Margaret's notes of the events:

- ♦ Bishop Michael Hanley kept us on schedule and we finished early on both days.
- ♦ 84 clergy and 179 lay persons, plus alternates and visitors, attended.
- ♦ The worship services were in English and Spanish.
- ♦ The keynote address was given by the Reverend Canon Anthony Guillen, a Missioner for Latino/Hispanic Ministries for the Episcopal Church. He spoke about ministering to multi-generational Latinos—mostly American Latinos. He said hospitality is the key to welcoming them. The new generation Latinos, NGLs, value their parents' traditions (like faith). The Church needs to reach out to second and third generation Hispanics who probably speak English first—and some don't speak any Spanish—and we should invite them to church.

- ♦ Bishop Michael Hanley talked about his experiences in Cuernavaca, Mexico last summer while he was there to study Spanish.
- ♦ The Bishop of the Diocese of Cuernavaca was invited to the Convention and he talked to us—in Spanish (which was translated).
- ♦ 53 baskets were donated to benefit the Commission on Poverty and Homelessness, and brought in over \$3,000 in ticket sales and cash. Steve and I won a basket from St. Luke's in Grants Pass.
- ♦ Archdeacon Ms. Carter Hawley is the diocesan coordinator for Episcopal Relief and Development. She said that ERD has received four stars and is internationally respected. They have been able to help 2,089 Syrian refugees. She also said ERD called our Diocese to see if we needed any help after the UCC shootings. She mentioned a new program called "Pennies to Prosperity" to help impoverished people which I'm going to research to see if we might be interested in helping with.

continued on next page . . .



From left to right: Bishop Neff Powell, Margaret Thomas, and Steve Thomas. Bishop Michael Hanley is on the left in the background.

Convention Notes continued

by Margaret Thomas

- ♦ There were 3 “Equipping the Saints” presentations:
 1. St. Luke’s in Gresham have a lot of visitors from neighborhood halfway houses for the mentally ill. The church decided to educate themselves about mental illness and also are addressing it in their liturgy. In the process they’ve discovered that some of their regular parishioners also struggle with mental illnesses.
 2. St. Matthew Portland’s project is to build relationships with their established parishioners and the new people attending their church. They feel that it’s necessary to go out to our community of worshippers to get to know the people we are worshipping with.
 3. The Reverend Carol Sedlacek, Diocesan Missioner for Camping Ministries, spoke about developing a model for congregational vitality. It can be used to create a parish profile, and it can keep a church on the path of ongoing renewal.
- ♦ The 5 Diocesan Resolutions on socially responsible investing passed. The fifth resolution—which would divest funds from being invested in businesses in Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian territory as well as those which don’t benefit Christian/Muslin Palestinians or Jewish/Palestinian businesses was referred back to a committee that has just been created. That passed with a close vote (they had to do an actual count of the green and red voting cards) of 133 to 113.
- ♦ Late Resolutions #1 and #2, which supported handgun purchaser licensing and decreasing gun violence, passed after some pro and con discussion.
- ♦ The proposed 2016 budget was adopted with an amendment to transfer \$6,900 from the Contingency Fund to the Ministry in Higher Education at Western Oregon University. They hadn’t been budgeted any funds because the parish had been in transition and I guess no funds had been requested.
- ♦ And last, Bishop Michael told us that his two daughters hiked the Santiago de Compostela (the Way of St. James) in Spain last summer, and one day they had a hiking companion who said she always looks for the yellow arrows to be sure she’s on the right path. Bishop Michael said, “Wouldn’t it be nice if we all could have yellow arrows to direct us through life?” Yesterday morning he showed us a rock with a yellow arrow painted on it that someone had given him to help keep him on the right path.



*I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen:
not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.*

~ C. S. Lewis

All Saints' Day 2015



The congregation lighted candles in honor of their own personal saints. It seems that blue was the color of the day at fellowship afterwards!



Episcopal Church Women

ECW met November 19. Below is a list of how we are distributing our funds. We could not have done this without your help.

- ♦ We will be purchasing a new 25.2 cubic foot, more efficient, quieter refrigerator. The large one will be sold and we will dispose of the small freezer since the new refrigerator has a freezer on the bottom. We will get rebates for getting rid of the freezer and for the power efficiency of the new refrigerator.
- ♦ We have purchased another coffee maker that makes coffee directly into the carafe. It will enable us to make more coffee more easily. This will be an additional maker and will not replace the one we already have.
- ♦ We will be paying for the cleaning of the Fish Pantry twice a year.
- ♦ We will be contributing to the reroofing of the rectory.
- ♦ And we will be donating \$100 to the Heifer Project, which we have been doing for a number of years.

Our program was given by Brady T. McNulty from the pharmacy at Bi-Mart. His talk centered on the importance of volunteers, specifically during the war in the 1940s. Many of us shared what we knew or learned about how close the war came to us here and on the East Coast. He also shared some of his personal "volunteer" stories. He was very interesting.

Our December meeting will be at Carolyn Lee's home on December 17.

Betty Jo Hoffman, Co-President

Altar Guild

It is time for me to set up the Altar Guild Schedule for 2016. If you are feeling a call to join us in preparing for worship services, please speak to any of the ladies on the Altar Guild; they can answer your questions. I will add you to the schedule for training.

I try to put three people on each two-week rotation. If a person is unable to work, we try to trade with someone. If that doesn't work, there will still be two available.

There is a certain feeling of closeness with our Lord as we prepare for the services and make the services special for the congregation. I like to say: "we prepare the table, and do the dishes and the laundry."

Please consider serving!
Betty Jo Hoffman



Wonderful World

by Bob Robins

PIAZZA SAN MARCO & ST. MARK'S BASILICA

Many of our Gospel readings on recent Sundays have been from the Book of Saint Mark. One of the especially interesting locations of a Cathedral named for this Saint is Saint Mark's Basilica, the Cathedral of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Venice, Italy, on St. Mark's Square. Mostly completed by the year 1092 A.D., it has, however, been the city's cathedral only since 1807. It's opulent design, gold mosaics, and it's status as a symbol of Venetian wealth and power have earned it the nickname "Chiesa d'Oro" (Church of Gold).

Venice is built on an archipelago, largely on piling structures, in a shallow lagoon of some 118 islands. The city and St. Mark's Square are subject to frequent flooding. It is famed for it's 177 canals, with about 350 gondolas and 400 "gondolieri" providing transportation. The some 127 "Squares" are popular gathering places. St. Mark's Square has one side directly on the edge of the water, and averages about 50,000 people a day during the spring and summer months. There are no paved streets, only canals and sidewalks between the squares and buildings. Feeding the thousands of pigeons that congregate in the Squares is a popular tourist activity.



Cathedrals of the World

by Doug Holloway

Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Gibraltar

The Cathedral of the Holy Trinity is the cathedral for the Church of England Diocese of Gibraltar in Europe. The bishop of the Diocese of Europe does not reside locally and this Church of England cathedral is administered by a Dean.



Building work began in 1825 and the church, built in the Moorish Revival style, was completed and consecrated in 1832. A second chapel, dedicated to St. George, was added in the late 1940s.

It was raised to cathedral status in 1842 with the creation of the Diocese of Gibraltar, and this new Diocese was responsible for pastoral care for Anglican communities throughout the Mediterranean.

The original organ was installed in 1880 and a major restoration and enlargement was carried out in 1991.



In 1951 an explosion of a nearby Royal Navy supply vessel caused substantial damage by lifting the roof and smashing the stained glass windows. The side windows of the building were replaced with plain glass whilst the fragments of colored glass were used to construct a new stained glass window above the high altar.



Gibraltar is a British Overseas Territory and shares a border with Spain. It is located at the western entrance to the Mediterranean and has a population of over 32,000, of which just 8% are of the Church of England faith.

The Territory was ceded to Great Britain “in perpetuity” in 1713. Over the years there have been several claims to sovereignty by Spain but all have been overwhelmingly rejected by the local populace.

The main landmark is the famous Rock of Gibraltar, rising to 1,398 feet, and which is home to a colony of Barbary apes.





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Return Service Requested

St. George Episcopal Church publishes THE DRAGON SCOOP on the last Sunday of the month. 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

Leigh Van Sickle, Editor
541-391-0814

Priest-in-Charge: The Rt. Rev. Neff Powell
Senior Warden: Donna Litherland
Junior Warden: Steve Thomas
Treasurer: Frank Graham

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

ST. GEORGE WORSHIP

Sunday
10:00 am

Holy Eucharist
or Morning Prayer

