



# The Dragon Scoop

## December 2016

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



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## Christmas Eve, 2015

Join us for Christmas Eve,  
December 24, 2016, at 4:00 p.m.



# Rector's Letter

Dear Friends,

As you read this, Advent has arrived and Christmas is coming. It is a time of promise, of gratitude, of hope, and, often, also a time of sorrow. Some churches have a "Blue Christmas" service in late Advent, a service for those who approach the holidays bearing the sorrows of losses and disappointments, and for those who want to support them. Every Christian gathering has some element of sorrow. We look for that which is not yet fully present, has not fully arrived, the day when all the tears are wiped from our eyes, and we are fully at peace and joy with God, with our neighbors, and with ourselves. That is a long sentence. You might want to read it again.

We are the Church. Not the whole Church, but still the Church of Jesus Christ, present here and now. We are bearers of hope and love. We are messengers of the promises of God. Paul writes that all the promises of God are fulfilled in Jesus. We look to Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem, the Man of Galilee, the Healer, the Teacher, the Forgiver, the Man of Sorrows, the perfect sacrifice, the promised Messiah, the resurrected King, the Lord of Life, the merciful Judge, the Bread of Heaven, our Savior and our Friend, our Companion and our God. Not only do we look to Jesus, but we try to bring others with us to look as well. We want to share the Good News of God's love.

When I was young, Advent and Christmas were mostly about presents, giving them and getting them. (Actually, when I was young I had never heard of Advent . . . it was all Christmas.) At the age of 10 I came to realize that the great gift is Jesus, a faith I learned, and expressed, through our family nativity scene. At that same age I began to learn to extend Christmas by caroling at hospitals and gathering food for the poor. Not that I didn't still like the presents. At my present age, the presents don't matter much, but the nativity scenes and feeding the hungry and singing to shut-ins are still important to me. Pam and I have at least a dozen nativity scenes, including the one from my childhood.

This will be my second Christmas at St. George's. The choir and altar guild are preparing. Presents for poor children are being bought and wrapped. I don't remember a nativity scene from last year. (Someone make sure there is one, or more, this year, please.) I look forward to sharing the beauty of Christmas Eve with you and with many guests. We will pray for peace in a world that needs more of it, pray for love to grow, pray for good lives for ourselves and all the world. And we will do so in the conviction that the One whose birth we celebrate is indeed our Savior and King, our Brother and our Lord.

Love you all,  
Jim+





# FISH Report

The fall food drive for the FISH of Roseburg was held Saturday, October 29th, at local Roseburg grocery stores. Several pallets of food totaling 4,390 pounds and \$498 in cash were collected. St. George volunteers worked at Sherm's Thunderbird.

The October Roseburg Food Project brought in an October record of 10,067 pounds of food from 641 donors coordinated by 70 neighborhood coordinators. The next RFP pick up day is Saturday, December 10.

If you have a chance, read the November FISH newsletter at <http://fishofroseburg.org/>  
There is a great article by the director, who says,

“ . . . I had the privilege to participate in the Community Action Poverty Simulation (CAPS), hosted by Southern Oregon Goodwill Industries. You see, the people at the Southern Oregon Goodwill Industries know that maybe it isn't enough to work with people who struggle, or volunteer to assist those who need it the most . . . [CAPS] allows us as community members and leaders to be in a simulation, experiencing what it is like in the life of the people in our community who are struggling.”

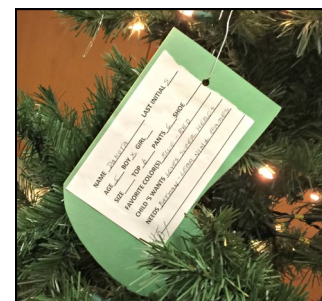


## Christmas Giving Tree



Thelma Sayers says the Christmas Giving Tree is open for business! Choose a name from the stockings and mittens on the tree and make a local child's Christmas something special. If you would rather not go shopping for gifts yourself, Thelma is happy to take your monetary donation and purchase the presents. She says, "If you're like me, your grandchildren live across the country. This is a chance to make believe you're buying for your own children."

After you choose a name, be sure to sign up on the clipboard near the tree. Bring the gifts to the church by Sunday, December 11.



# Episcopal Church Women

by Betty Jo Hoffman

Pete Benham and Steve Thomas joined us for a great luncheon prepared by Connie Hunnicutt, Faye Benham, and Pete. The meal included oat cookies which Pete and Faye discovered in Canada during their New England cruise. They also shared some of the pictures they took on that cruise.

We discussed the Christmas Giving Tree and chose the mittens or stockings we want to fill. We discussed the upcoming Thank You Dinner which the Vestry is hosting (with a little help from ECW). It will be a soup and bread lunch after the December 11 church service to thank everyone for their pledges.

Our December meeting will be at Carolyn Lee's home, and we will have a white-elephant gift exchange. It will be at 11:00 on December 15. We will meet at the church at 10:30 to car pool.

## Christmas is Coming!

It is time to decorate the church and get into the holiday spirit. On December 3 at 10:00 a.m. we will put the greens up around the rafters, decorate the tree, set up the Nativity scene and whatever else we decide to decorate, and have a snack. So we will need your help.

We are now accepting donations to defer the cost of the poinsettias and wreathes. Please indicate such in the memo portion on your check or on the pew envelope you may use.

Thank you for your continued support.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
BJ Hoffman, Co-President



## Christmas Humor

A man had gone out driving to do some Christmas shopping. His wife was watching TV when she heard the announcer say, "Be very careful and watch driving on I5 today— there is a motorist going the wrong way!" The man's wife got hold of him on his cell phone to warn him, and his reply was, "You're telling me! There are hundreds of them out here."

A man sent his friend a cryptic Christmas card. It said: A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z. The recipient puzzled over it for weeks, then finally gave up and wrote asking for an explanation. In July he received the answer on a postcard: "No L."

After the Christmas pageant, I asked my 6-year-old son if he remembered the gifts that the Magi brought to Jesus. He thought for a minute then said, "Gold, frankincense, and humor." We could all use that!

## PARISHIONERS OF ST. GEORGE MOVE RICK WILLIAMS

by Bill Riley

On November 8, 2016, Pete and Faye Benham and Sue and Jerry Phelps spent the day boxing Rick's belongings. Pete, Sue, and Jerry returned on Wednesday and were joined by Doug Holloway, David Sayers, and Allan Romeril, who loaded all of the boxes into a rental truck which Bill Riley drove to Pennsylvania and dropped off at Kevin Williams's home there.

Father Jim had purchased a non-stop airline ticket from PDX to JFK, New York for Rick, and Allan drove Rick to Portland. They checked into a motel for the night so that Allan could help Rick catch his flight very early the next day. Unfortunately Allan was not able to physically get Rick awake and dressed in time to catch his flight, so Rick's son, who lives in the Beaverton/Portland area, was contacted to help take care of Rick.

Although it did not work out as planned, it was a blessing in the end. Kevin and his family are in the process of moving themselves and not prepared to accept Rick at the moment. So Rick will remain with his son in Portland until Kevin is ready for him. Kevin first met Father Jim over 30 years ago when Father Jim was director of the Episcopal Church Summer camp near Gerhart, Oregon.

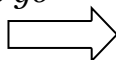
We at St. George's will all miss Rick, his beautiful voice in the choir, and his generosity.



Photos by Bill Riley

*Above left to right: David Sayers,  
Sue and Jerry Phelps, Pete Benham,  
and Doug Holloway*

*Truck loaded and ready to go*





# Safe Haven Grant

On November 10, St. George's hosted the second Safe Haven program. The day's theme was forgiveness, emotional intelligence, and grace. The young mothers from Safe Haven learned about traditions of forgiveness, and they made Celtic peace bells as a reminder to forgive. They decorated chalkboards so they could write prayers on them each evening. They dipped fruits in chocolate as a reminder for healthy eating. The class ended with everyone sharing stories of forgiveness and hope in their own lives.

St. George parishioners who helped with the second program were Nancy Baum, Pam Boston, Jewell Gates, BJ Hoffman, Marcia Jackson, Juliana Marez, Leigh Van Sickel, and Margo Wilkins.





# Thanksgiving Dinner

Twenty-seven people gathered for a Thanksgiving meal in the Parish Hall on November 24. Pete and Faye Benham provided turkey as well as mashed potatoes and gravy. The other diners brought their favorite holiday foods. What a wonderful afternoon of fellowship!



*Photos by Pete Benham*



## Vestry Nominations

*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 30<sup>th</sup> of November. 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.*

The Vestry requests that anyone who desires to be nominated for election to the Vestry submit their desire in writing by January 15, 2017 to the church office or to 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.

Be eighteen (18) or more years of age.

Not be 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 and worship services.

Encourage and support parish members in mutual ministry.

Be willing to work with other members of the Vestry.



St. George's Delegation to Diocesan Convention, November 4, 2016

*Seated with Father Jim are Vestry members Nancy Baum and Margaret and Steve Thomas. Two delegates from Holy Cross Episcopal Church in Sutherlin are standing behind them.*



# Cathedrals of the World

by Doug Holloway

## St. Thomas Cathedral Mumbai, India



St. Thomas Cathedral, Mumbai, India, is the Anglican cathedral church of the Diocese of Mumbai of the Church of North India and is located in the historic center of Mumbai. It was named in honor of St. Thomas, who was the apostle to India and who introduced Christianity to that part of India.

The foundation stone was laid in 1676 but then further work was discontinued for many years and the church was only finally built and consecrated on Christmas Day 1718. It was the first Anglican church in what was then Bombay and was built in the Neo-Classic and Neo-Gothic styles and was modelled after St. Thomas Cathedral in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

The reason for building the church was in an effort to improve the moral standards of the growing British population and it was within the walls of the fortified British settlement, which was built by the East India Company to protect their commercial interests.

In order to provide choristers for the cathedral, the Cathedral and John Cannon School was created and this body is now the administration for the cathedral. The church was consecrated as a cathedral in 1837, at the same time as the appointment of the first Bishop of Bombay. Soon after, the tower and clock were added and then a major renovation was completed in 1865.

The roof was made “cannon-ball proof” but today parts have been replaced by cement slabs. The peaceful cemetery, with its many elaborate headstones, contains graves of generals, clerks, and young maids, all far from their homes in Great Britain.



*The cathedral was originally divided into sections for different classes of society, including one for “Inferior Women.”*



Interior of St. Thomas Church, Bombay.

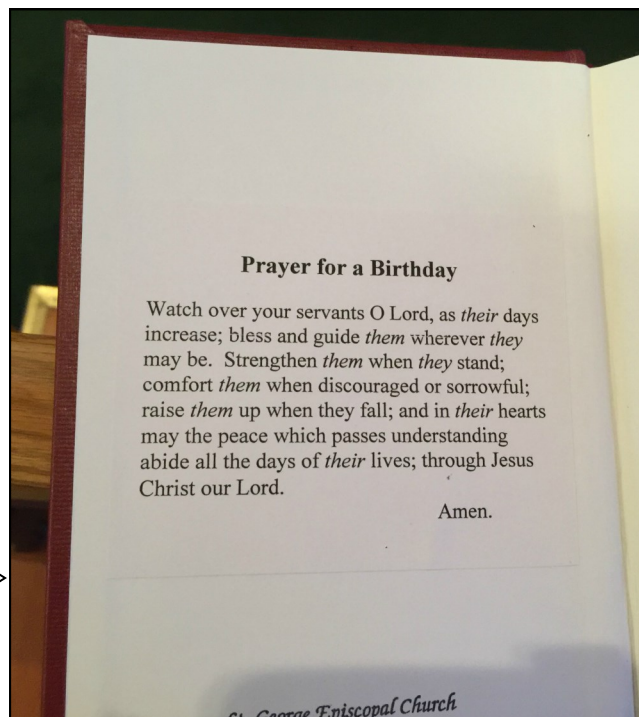
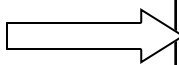


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Updated insert of the traditional Birthday Prayer for the pew copies of the BCP. The prayer now reads more realistically: raise them up *when*, not *if*, they fall.



St. George Episcopal Church publishes THE DRAGON SCOOP each 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

**Interim Rector: The Rev. James Boston**  
**Senior Warden: Pete Benham**  
**Junior Warden: Steve Thomas**  
**Treasurer: Kathy Glockner**

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

## **ST. GEORGE WORSHIP**

**Sunday**  
**10:00 am**

**Holy Eucharist**  
**or Morning Prayer**

