



The Dragon Scoop

December 2017

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



Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord!



Advent by Mark Jennings

O blessed Lord Jesus, our choicest gift, our dearest guest;
Give us thankful hearts for Thee to-day.

Let not our souls be busy inns that have no room for Thee and Thine, but quiet homes of prayer and praise, where Thou mayst find fit company, where the needful cares of life are wisely ordered and put away, and wide sweet spaces kept for Thee, where holy thoughts pass up and down, and fervent longings watch and wait Thy coming.

So when Thou comest again, O Blessed One, mayst Thou find all things ready, and Thy servants waiting for no new master, but for one long loved and known.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

from *In His Presence: Personal Religion in Poetry and Prayer*, 1922

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Rector's Letter

Dear friends,

We are now into Advent, the season of preparation for the coming of the Lord Jesus. We will be celebrating his coming as the newborn son of Mary. We will anticipate his coming again. Most of all, I hope we can contemplate the ways Jesus has come to us throughout our lives, and still comes.

Christians tend to have a favorite image of God, who is beyond image. Most often it is one of the Persons of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, or Holy Spirit. Sometimes we rely on others in whom we experience God: the Blessed Virgin Mary, old Father Smith who prepared me for confirmation, a parent, a hero, a friend. Beyond the images is God, God incomprehensible, God who loves us in so many ways.

In high school I read *The Cloister and the Hearth* by Charles Reade. A character in the novel often says, "*Courage, mon ami, le diable est mort! Take heart, my friend, the devil is dead!*" I found that a comforting thought when I was seventeen. I am seventy now, and I still do. Not that the devil is not still a problem, but his end was determined in the incarnation, death, and resurrection of Jesus. As we sing at Easter, "The strife is o'er, the battle won"

So, we need not live in fear. And yet, so many of us do. (I do not mean prudence, which is wise.)

Fear sells. It sells locks and walls, knives and guns, politicians and insurance policies. People will lie, steal, and hoard because they are fearful, afraid of not having enough, not being secure enough. Worst of all, fear keeps us away from other people, especially people who are different. The Apostle John wrote, "Perfect love casts out fear." (1 John 4:18)

As a pastor, part of my work is to help people who are living in fear to find freedom and hope. I am called to remind all that, "God is good, all the time."

We are in a new church year. The featured Gospel is Mark. Things move fast in Mark, often "immediately." He eagerly shares the good news of Jesus, the Messiah. Let us all move quickly to freedom: freedom from fear, freedom to love, freedom to give, freedom to serve. We can do it because God is good, all the time.

It is a joy to be your priest. I will be happy for the priest you call, hopefully in the coming year. He or she will be blessed to share with you in the work of Christ.

In Christ,
Fr. Jim+

PS: This year we have the privilege of celebrating the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve on the same day. Do try to come to both services! You can bring different guests to each!



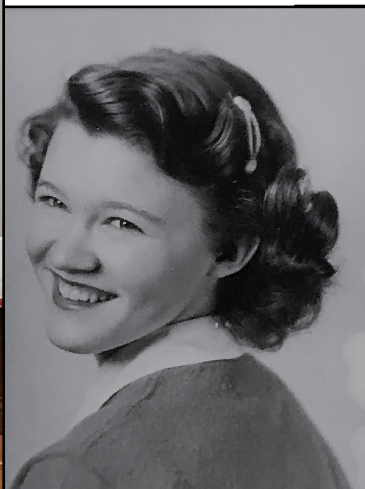
In Memoriam

Mary Elizabeth (Betty) Severson

June 21, 1927—November 2, 2017

On November 25, family and friends celebrated the life of parishioner Betty Severson at St. George Episcopal Church. In a beautiful service attended by almost a hundred people, she was remembered in words such as these:

- ♥ She always smiled.
- ♥ She found ways to turn things into times of joy.
- ♥ She loved life and she fought to live that life to the very end.
- ♥ She would not be reduced to her physical condition.
- ♥ At heart she was a wild thing.
- ♥ She opened our house to all as their home.
- ♥ If heaven ever was a quiet place, it isn't any more!
- ♥ Thank you for showing us the way of a life well lived.
- ♥ She was happy all the time.
- ♥ She lived a valiant life and never gave up.



She always said, "When I fall, I never break; I just bounce." This time, she bounced high, into the hands of God. (from obituary)



Episcopal Church Women

by Betty Jo Hoffman

On November 16 we met for a wonderful meal and a very interesting program about "History Makers." It is an in-home care service; there are some pamphlets in the office regarding their services. Next month Doug Holloway will tell us about disaster preparedness.

We made some financial decisions. In the past, we have sent money to the Heifer Project to purchase ducks, geese, bees, chicks, and rabbits. This year we added a goat. We also decided to bring a wrapped package of men's or women's socks for the Roseburg Mission to our next meeting. We discussed preparations for upcoming church events: the Burpee's farewell luncheon, Betty's service and reception, and the stewardship ingathering. December 21 will be our next meeting, but the place is to be announced.

POINSETTIAS



If you would like to donate toward the purchase of the Christmas poinsettias and wreaths, please write "poinsettias/wreaths" in the memo part of your check. If you want to pay cash, put it in one of the pew envelopes or one of your own, and put the same information plus your name—if you want—on it. If you would like your donation to honor someone, please contact the office or put a note with your donation.

FISH Report

Starting on the 4th of December, the Food Pantry will once again be providing a two-pound brick of cheese to each client household visiting the Pantry during the holiday season. The holiday cheese project is made possible in part from a grant from the Ford Family Foundation and other local donors. Cash donations from groups and individuals for this project are also welcome to help assure the program's success.

The Fall Food Drive at the five local grocery stores was very successful. The results were 4,485 pounds of food collected and \$1,011 donated. A big THANK YOU to all of volunteers who helped and to the five grocery stores, Sherm's Thunderbird, Fred Meyer, Albertsons, Safeway, and Grocery Outlet.

<http://fishofroseburg.org/>



FYI

Vestry Nominations for 2018

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. 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, 2018 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.

New members will replace the Class of 2018, which includes Nancy Baum, Pete Benham, and Steve Thomas.



Gifts for the Christmas Giving Tree need to be turned in by Sunday, December 10. Thank you to everyone who is donating to this project. Thank you, Mik Carson, for making the cards on the tree. And a special thanks to Thelma Sayers for managing this ministry and contributing matching funds when needed!

Parish News

Don't miss these two News-Review articles, currently posted in the Parish Hall and available online as well at www.nrtoday.com.

On November 5, the article "Two Douglas County Men Will Be Honored for Service to the Masons and the Community" showcased parishioner David Jackson. The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Fraternity bestowed on him the 33rd Degree Inspectors General Honorary award for exceptional service to the Rite and to Freemasonry and to the community. David said that in his 39 years with the organization there was only one other person who ever attained the 33rd degree award.

On November 11, the newspaper published a Veterans Day piece by Leonard W. (Bill) Riley III on his service in the Air Force as a lieutenant colonel from the late 1950s to the early 1970s. He focused on his time in Korea in 1958 and also talked about his later experiences in Vietnam and Thailand.



Barry Boston participated in the Spartan Race at the 2017 Fall Special Olympics State Games in Portland.



Pete Benham blesses Father Jim and Pam Boston for their 22d anniversary.

Parish News



On November 29, the congregation said farewell to Jeannie and Jon Burpee, mainstays of St. George's for many years. They are headed for Washington to be near their children and grandchildren. We will miss them! *(Jeannie on the right next to Nancy Baum, and Jon on the right next to David Jackson.)*



Roofing photos by Bill Riley



Larry Dobson's crew started reroofing our Parish Hall on October 23. By Sunday, November 5, most of the work had been completed. It can be noted that the edge of the new rolled roofing is slid up under the lower edge of the shingles on the main church roof so there is no way any moisture can get under the new roofing. Also, if any water should puddle on the new flat roof, it can not percolate through the new roofing. A metal flange is placed along all edges. Thank you to the anonymous donor who contributed more than 50% of the cost.

~ Bill Riley

Parish News



Bench photos by Bill Riley

On November 7, Bob Spielman (pictured above) and Bill Riley replaced the old weathered 2x4s on our church bench on the corner of Cass and Main.

If anyone has information on who installed the bench, call the Office at 541-673-4048 so we can attach a small brass plaque with names of people being honored.



Charles Van Sickle removed moss on the south side of the church building and cleaned out debris at the bottom of the walls.



Parish News



On November 6 we celebrated All Saint's Sunday. Parishioners brought photos of loved ones who have died, and during the service people lighted candles in their memory.

Father Jim said, "You and I and the whole body of people are the saints of God."

Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 31, 2017 at 10:00

Every year at St. George's our first Sunday of Christmas service is that of Lessons and Carols. This Anglican custom dates back to 1878, when the Royal Cornwall Gazette reported that the choir of Truro Cathedral would sing a service of carols at 10:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. (You may remember that Doug Holloway wrote an article on Truro Cathedral for the August 2017 *Dragon Scoop*.)

The Choir of the Cathedral will sing a number of carols in the Cathedral on Christmas Eve, the service commencing at 10pm. We understand that this is at the wish of many of the leading parishioners and others. A like service has been instituted in other cathedral and large towns, and has been much appreciated. It is the intention of the choir to no longer continue the custom of singing carols at the residences of members of the congregation.

Two years later, Edward White Benson, Bishop of Truro who later became Archbishop of Canterbury, formalized the service with Nine Lessons for use on Christmas Eve 1880. The first service took place in the temporary wooden structure serving as his cathedral while the new cathedral was being built. Over 400 people attended this first service. There is an oft-repeated myth that the purpose of the service was to keep men out of the pubs.

The service has subsequently been in continuous use (with modifications) in Truro since 1880. In December 2013 Truro Cathedral staged a reconstruction of the original 1880 Nine Lessons with Carols Service which was attended by an audience of over 1,500 people.



St. George Episcopal Church
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*Stewardship Ingathering Potluck,
November 26, 2017*

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.

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



December