



The Dragon Scoop

December 2018

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



“More blessed to give than to receive”



*Thelma (left) and Peggy
show off the names on this year’s tree,
which was decorated by Mik Carlson.
St. George’s Tree tradition goes back at least 25 years.*

If you are seeking the spirit of Christmas, there is no better way than to choose a child’s name from our annual Christmas Giving Tree. This year 25 local children—who otherwise would receive **no** gifts—have been selected by the Dept. of Human Resources as recipients of St. George parishioners’ generosity.

Thelma Sayers has coordinated the Tree in past years, and now Peggy Reiter has joined her.

It’s up to the members of the congregation to select a child and choose presents. Each card on the tree has a child’s name with wish list, clothing sizes, and color preferences. **There are still about half the names left.** Bring the wrapped presents to church along with the card by **Sunday, December 9.**

If you prefer, give a cash or check donation to Thelma right away so she has time to shop. She will not only choose the gifts, she will match your funds. Call her at 541-672-8858 if you have questions.

Thelma says that every year when the DHS workers come to pick up the packages, they are thrilled. They work with the children and see firsthand how happy they are with their Christmas presents.



Rector's Letter

Dear Friends,

You may sing this on the first Sunday of Advent:

“Lo! he comes, with clouds descending.”

Very dramatic. Not all of us are fond of drama. Quiet routine is really nice. Yet we are all invited to participate as actors in the “Great Drama,” the mystery of love and redemption.

God’s glory can be revealed in a blossom, or an aardvark, at a birth or on a death bed, in a prayer, in a moment of generosity, or in the creation of a galaxy. God’s glory is greatly revealed when we show kindness to someone who has not earned it, but needs it.

St. Irenaeus, the great second-century theologian, expressed the essence of Christianity in the phrase, “the glory of God is a human being fully alive!” To be fully alive is a challenging concept. I fall short of it, yet I know something of it when I am filled with joy, feeling alive and loved. Those are moments when I have given myself in love to God or neighbor.

As we approach Christmas (and “Giving Tuesday”), our mail and email are filled with appeals to give to worthy causes, and a few not so worthy. Soon Pam and I will sit down to look at a stack of appeals, choosing

if and how to respond. Many will receive small gifts, tokens of encouragement. Some will get nothing, which feels sad but is necessary. Others will receive more. Most of our giving goes to St. Luke’s and St. Mark’s. I hope you will join us by investing in the ministries of your parish, your diocese, and the Episcopal Church.

The Church needs more than money. It needs our time and energy. We care for our own health of mind and body so we can be useful to others: to family and neighbors, to community and church. We manage money as a tool for God’s people and God’s work. And we do it all with gratitude, for God loves us just as we are.

At Christmas we celebrate a great and awesome mystery, the incarnation of the Son of God as a human baby, in Bethlehem of Judea. Do come and share the joy. Come as you are. Come despite past disappointments and failures, despites confusions and doubts. Come and be welcomed. Come and be fed. Come and rejoice that Christ is born in Bethlehem! Come sing with the angels! Maybe you can even bring some friends.

In Christ,

Fr. Jim+

**God is
Good**
ALL THE TIME

*Thank
You*

Fr. Jim and Pam send thanks for your kindness and generosity in so many ways, and particularly for your gifts on “Clergy Appreciation Sunday” and for our wedding anniversary.

Parish News



*Jean Bowden (above left) and Frances
in front of a stunning display of Guatemalan crafts.
Photo by Bill Riley*

On November 18, St. George's welcomed a special guest, Frances Dixon. She is the founder and president of Adopt-a-Village in Guatemala. During the service she spoke of her call to what she described as a little backwater in Central America.

She talked about the children there who are born into unremitting poverty and chronic malnutrition. These children have changed her life and she has committed herself to bettering their conditions through the Maya Jaguar School.

After the worship service, Frances spoke in more detail to enthralled parishioners about her work in Guatemala.

www.adoptavillage.com

Our own Father Jim and Pam Boston received the Bishop's Cross Award at this year's Convention.

"In delivering this honor, Bishop Michael Hanley spoke of the myriad ways this couple has served The Episcopal Church over the past decades.

"They are a blessing at their current parish, St. George Episcopal Church in Roseburg, one of five (or maybe more?) churches they've served in the diocese. They also are active members and leaders in Global Episcopal Mission Network and have been involved in diocesan and international church leadership."



*Left to right, Pam, Father Jim, and Bishop Michael.
Photo by permission of the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon.*

~ Episcopal Diocese of Oregon's
Facebook page, November 2

Parish News



Our Search for a New Rector

The Search Committee has received packets for two candidates. The Committee hopes to call and interview the applicants, perhaps as soon as the first week in December. If one or both are what we are searching for, they will be invited to visit us.

Keep the Search Committee and the candidates in your prayers.



Charles Van Sickle has finished planting False Cypress (*Chamaecyparis pisifera*) on the south side of the church. This conifer can be described as graceful, with soft, fernlike branches. Its green foliage is flecked with silver-blue underneath.

Episcopal Church Women

by Betty Jo Hoffman

LAST FALL ECW MEETING

The adjusted Tools-to-Treasure sales total is \$2107.15. Thank you again.

We talked more about adjustments to next spring's Tools-to-Treasure. Fruit cakes will be available December 9. The Christmas Children's Giving Tree tags are ready but we are still waiting for the names. We hope to have them before Thanksgiving. This year we will purchase three rabbits, two flocks of chickens, bees, and a goat for Heifer International. We do this annually at this time of year.

We voted to purchase two of those white light-weight tables for the rummage sales and get rid of a couple of the old cream-colored heavy ones. We are also looking into what we can donate to the warming center and how we can help during the annual national tally of the homeless population.

Susan Nelson, the director of Samaritan Inn, spoke to us about this facility. It is the Roseburg Rescue Mission division for women and their children. She explained how it is set

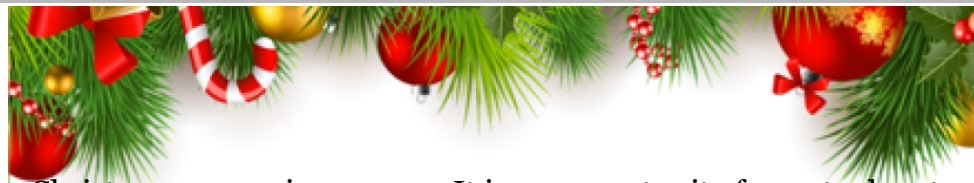
up. There are rooms for individuals and small families and a couple of rooms for a bit larger families. They have "day rooms," a laundry room, and lunch/chapel/class rooms. They provide three meals a day plus three snacks for the children.

Samaritan Inn has a New Life Program which prepares residents to get out on their own. While they are in the program, the women volunteer doing various jobs around the inn. It is a one to one-and-a-half-year program that includes Bible studies, recovery class, and life skills.

We asked about different things we can donate to help. They have showers and laundry which can be used by people just "stopping in." So travel-size toiletries are helpful. They get most of the things they need from the mission, so if anyone wants to donate items, take them to the mission downtown.

Please bring women's socks for the Roseburg Mission so they will have them for Samaritan Inn women.

Please join us December 20 at 11:00 at church. Our program will be about Heaven with a mystery guest.



Christmas season is upon us. It is an opportunity for us to donate toward the wreaths and poinsettias. Please write wreaths and/or poinsettias in the memo of your check. If you prefer cash and want to have it recorded on your giving statement, please put your name and "wreaths or poinsettias" on the envelope. If you want to donate to honor someone, please include that information so it can be listed in the Christmas bulletin. ~BJ



FISH Report

by Penny R. Reed

Penny Reed, sister of Sue Phelps, shares this report that she wrote for the newsletter of Roseburg First United Methodist Church.

FISH TO REDUCE ENERGY USE

Early this fall the FISH board began a project to reduce energy costs and lower electric bills by installing solar panels and upgrading refrigeration equipment. With the assistance of Sander Lazaar, the Renewable Energy Coordinator for UCAN, several board members have been gathering information and writing grants to fund the new equipment.

The committee working on the project has been busy gathering information, soliciting bids, and writing grants to fund it. Grant applications were submitted to Pacific Power's Blue Sky Project, the First Interstate Bank Foundation, and the Oregon Food Bank to cover all but about 10% of the cost of the solar panels and their installation as well as a new reach-in cooler, a new reach-in freezer, and a new storage freezer.

The FISH was recently notified that the grant application to the Oregon Food Bank for the freezer was successful. It will be after the first of the year before awards will be made on the other two grants.

The full project is expected to reduce electrical usage by about 1/3 and to significantly reduce maintenance on the freezers and refrigerators needed to store the food for clients. The money saved will be used to fulfill our mission of feeding hungry families in Douglas County. In addition, FISH is looking forward to sharing information with the community about the advantages and benefits of solar energy.

The next Roseburg Food Project pickup day will be Saturday, December 15.

Stewardship & UTO

St. George's welcomes and needs your pledges. Almost all of the pledges have been returned but there are still some to be sent in. If you haven't already done so, please return yours as soon as possible.

By promising to donate regularly, we show that we are committed to God's work and that we are not afraid we won't have enough for ourselves. We demonstrate our love and gratitude to God in a tangible way.



Thank you for contributing to the United Thank Offering Fall In-gathering. Per their website: "UTO is entrusted to receive the offerings and to distribute 100% of what is collected to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion." The funds are distributed through grants.

Be sure to save your boxes and start filling them up once more and we will do this again in the Spring. Remember, there is so much for which to be grateful. ~ BJ

Vestry



Looking For Vestry Nominations

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. 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 10, 2019 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.
- Eighteen (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.
- Be willing to work with other members of the Vestry.

Your Church needs you – Please consider serving on the Vestry.

Diocesan Convention 2018

by Sue Phelps

Sue, along with Jean Bowden, Father Jim and Pam Boston, and Margaret and Steve Thomas, attended the Annual 130th Diocesan Convention in Seaside on November 1-3. Here are some highlights.

After more than five decades of separation, the Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Church of Cuba are once again united. The 79th General Convention, by unanimous vote, approved the reunification. An offering of nearly \$4000 was gathered in support of the Cuban Church.

Socially Responsible Investment Fund (SRIF) is a long-term, diversified combination of investments in major asset classes, with over 90% of the investment portfolio dedicated to socially responsible investing. SRIF objectives are to invest companies that demonstrate care and concern in the areas of environment as well as social concerns such as human rights and governance, and to divest from companies whose activities are inconsistent with our gospel values. A portion of the DPA (Diocesan Program Assessment) monies paid by churches is invested in the SRIF. This is the chief operational funding for the ministries of the dioceses. Additionally, churches can invest surplus funds in SRIF. At this time SRIF is slightly out-performing the general funds investments. Your Vestry is currently researching this option.

Now, short, sweet, and encouraging: missions. This summer Episcopal youth traveled to Window Rock Navajo Nation in New Mexico and assisted in a variety of projects. They plan to return next summer.

The main message of the convention was what must the church do to survive and thrive in the coming years, using *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory* by Tod Bolsinger, a book about Lewis and Clark and their search for the inland passage as a metaphor. When they reached the headwaters of the Missouri they could go no further in their canoes, the skills that had taken them that far were no longer useful, and they realized that “the way forward did not look anything like the way behind; skills from the past were not useful going forward.” Looking ahead we must ask ourselves, “What do we keep? What needs to be left behind?”



Steve and Margaret Thomas at the Convention. Photo by permission of the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon.

All Saints' Sunday



All Saints' Sunday on November 4. Parishioners lit candles for their loved ones during the service.

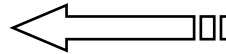


Thelma celebrated her 98th birthday with a cake featuring her own dogsled team photo on coconut frosting. The cake was the brainchild of Jewell Gates.

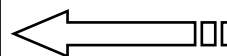
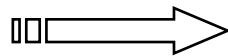
November Blessings



*Happy 30th Anniversary,
Hellene and Ivor Chapman
(Hellene also had her birthday
blessing later in the month),
and
Happy Birthday,
Karla Roady and Thelma Sayers
(front center, from left to right,
Hellene, and Thelma)*



*Jean Bowden (left) blessed
Father Jim and Pam Boston's
23rd anniversary.*



*Happy Birthday to
Carolyn Spielman*

Be Prepared

by Doug Holloway

I recently attended an emergency management meeting at which an ODOT spokesman gave some details of what could happen when the Cascadia earthquake and tsunami hit.

The immediate problems would be loss of electricity, and thus water supplies, communications and transportation. Roseburg and the Willamette Valley would get emergency supplies from Redmond Airport (Central Oregon). This would be a big problem if the events were to happen during the winter.

Almost all bridges would be damaged. Some bridges along I-5 have been earthquake retrofitted but although the bridges may survive, the earth around the footings could liquefy and so the bridges would fall.

Local bridges that would completely collapse include I-5 and Highway 99 bridges over the North Umpqua, I-5 Garden Valley bridge, I-5 Harvard Ave. bridge, Washington and Oak Streets bridges, and Deer Creek bridge. I-5 exit 119 at Green would possibly survive but the

bridge over Speedway Road would collapse, as would the bridge east of Glide, the one at the end of Dillard, and all of the bridges on Highway 42 and Highways 138 and 38. Also there would be multiple landslides which would take out roadways.

All other bridges would be closed for about 3 days for inspections. No roads would be open to the coast for about 3 months and then not open to heavy trucks.

There would be isolated pockets in the Roseburg area that first responders would be unable to access and people would not be able to travel to emergency shelters.



Everybody is encouraged to stock up on food and water beyond the suggested 5 days. It could be several days before even the emergency shelters start to receive enough supplies to feed and service the thousands who could be displaced.



Based upon Kathy Glockner's concern for the safety of the AA and Holy Cross members attending meetings in rooms over our kitchen, on November 12 Doug Holloway (pictured left) helped install and test a smoke detector/fire alarm which is now mounted on the wall near the top of the stairs. It is operated by a lithium battery which is supposed to last for 10 years. The alarm needs to be tested once a week to insure it is working.

~ Bill Riley



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*Gift better than Himself God doth not know,
Gift better than his God no man can see;
This gift doth here the giver given bestow,
Gift to this gift let each receiver be:
God is my gift, Himself He freely gave me,
God's gift am I, and none but God shall have me.*

*from "The Nativity of Christ"
by Robert Southwell*

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

