



The Dragon Scoop

December 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



Happy 100th Birthday, Thelma!



Beloved parishioner Thelma Sayers turned 100 on Nov. 5. The church celebrated with a party for her friends and family on Nov. 8, which was followed by a congregational get-together on Nov. 9 after the worship service. The gatherings were planned and organized by David Sayers and the ECW.

Thelma was born in England and immigrated with her mother to Connecticut in 1923. After high school Thelma was accepted into the Church Army, where she met the Rev. Albert Sayers, who had just returned from Point Hope, Alaska, where he did missionary work with native Eskimos. The two fell in love and married. Albert was assigned to churches in West Virginia from 1942 to 1949. Then in 1949 they were asked to return to Alaska. They served 10 years in Alaska and then went to Grants Pass where they served another 15 years at St. Luke's.

Thelma has been a member of St. George's since 1974, when Fr. Sayers was assigned to assist Fr. Tyson here in Roseburg. She is an integral part of our church and community life.

Read about Thelma's history in more detail in the *Dragon Scoop* issues for June, Sept, and Nov. of 2017 at www.saintgeorgesepiscopal.com/Monthly-Newsletter.html as well as in the recent *News-Review* article here: www.nrtoday.com/

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Pastor Gail's Ponderings

The Birth of Jesus— Little Things Mean a Lot

From John 1:14, we read,
*“And the Word became flesh and lived
among us, and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father’s only son,
full of grace and truth.”*

We love the calm, cosmic view of the Word becoming flesh given to us by John’s mystic Gospel. Yet, we also cherish the details of the birth of the babe in the manger and hold close the words which Luke shares of Jesus’ birth, *“In those days a decree went out from the Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. . . . Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”*
Luke 2:1-7

The grace of God was delivered to earth in the package of a tiny, squirmy baby boy. He was a little child, but he split open time and began a journey to the cross where death was defeated once and for all. The strain and haste and worry in this very human story of Jesus’ birth reminds us of our own human lives. It is a story that draws us as irresistibly as we are drawn into all the busy ways that we create to celebrate this Holy Birth.

This is the reason we, in the liturgical churches, make a very concerted effort to practice the tradition of Advent, a time of reflection and quietude. Our Advent season is the four Sundays leading up to Christmas Eve. During the season of Advent we light the candles on the Advent wreath. This year we will add the tradition of singing *“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah,”* increasing the number of verses

each week, as we increase the number of candles we light. This singing of the hymn, the lighting of the candles, adds to the anticipation we feel and point the way to the upcoming birth of our Messiah and Lord.

This year, Advent 2020, will feel different and it will be different. We are all looking for ways to celebrate which are different from other years. It harkens back to David’s and my first Christmas together which was spent in Saudi Arabia. We had no family members around and overseas phone calls were prohibitively expensive. There were no Christmas trees, but as David and I were working in the semi-arid land around Taif, we found a juniper and asked if we could use one of her branches to decorate our small home. Thankfully the juniper said yes! We had no decorations, but my sister-in-law sent us a Hallmark ornament that we still have that said, “First Christmas in your new home.” I still think about that as we put that ornament on our tree.

We had found a Christian community which met on the Northrup compound. I brought my guitar and remember singing with the group “Silent Night.” It was beautiful. So, Christmas doesn’t have to be the same to be as wonderful and meaningful. Think back to Mary and Joseph’s night in the barn. Jesus was born and the angels and shepherds came and rejoiced. This will be our second Christmas in Roseburg. Our first was in 1992 and all of my family came. Each year is different, but “Jesus is Reason for the Season” so we can know that “all is well with our soul.”

Blessings to all of you as we prepare our hearts and minds to meet Jesus walking with us on our pathway—always encouraging, always stirring, always teaching us to “go with God.”

Pastor Gail



Upcoming

December Schedule

Sunday Advent Services, Dec. 6, 13, & 20—10 a.m.

Wed. Prayer Service, Dec. 2, 9, 16—10 a.m.

Wed. Bible Study, Dec. 2, 9, & 16—10:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Compline Service, Dec. 24—4:00 p.m.

Come enjoy the company of your St. George's family for this very traditional service.

A Service of Lessons & Carols, Dec. 27—10:00 a.m.

2021 Pledges

Pledge forms will be distributed at the Dec. 6 service or mailed directly to you if you are not able to attend. This year you will get an unexpected bonus—we are also giving out color copies of the St. Francis prayer, as well as a St. Francis medal for any who wish to have one.

Christmas Poinsettias and Wreaths

The large wreaths have been ordered. If you would like to donate poinsettias or money toward the cost of them or the wreaths in honor or memory of someone, it would be appreciated. If you want to honor or remember someone with your donation call the office. You may bring your donation to church, to the office, or mail it in. Poinsettias should be brought in Sun., Dec. 20 or the 21st-23rd, 10:00-2:00.

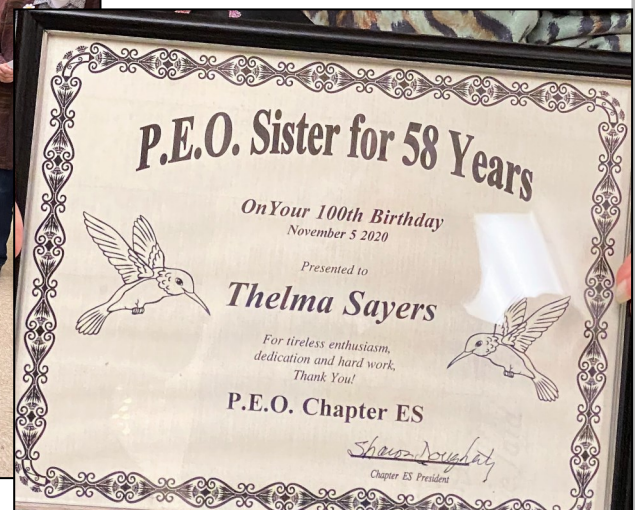
The Christmas Giving Tree

We have 30 names this year. So, I am asking you to consider taking two names this year or take a name to a friend who would like one. If you are not comfortable coming to the service, you could stop by the church 10:00-2:00 on Tues. or Wed. this week and pick up one or two tags. If you would rather, you may donate money and someone can shop for you. Be sure you tell the office secretary the name and number on the tag and your name and a number where we can reach you. The gifts must be back at church by Sat., Dec. 12.

bj



Party!



Party!



Episcopal Church Women

by Betty Jo Hoffman

November's in-person ECW meeting was cancelled. We conducted business as we did when we were shut down earlier this year.

The Treasurer's report was sent out by email. The Vice President's report came under correspondence where Sue had some requests which we responded to by email. We discussed a Christmas project and ways to show our appreciation to others.

Who knows what next month will bring when it is time for our meeting!



FISH

The FISH Pantry is looking forward to once again providing clients with cheese and turkey or ham for the Christmas holiday. The Ford Family Foundation helps make this possible every year through a matching grant.

The next collection of green bags for the Roseburg Food Project will be Sat., Dec. 12.

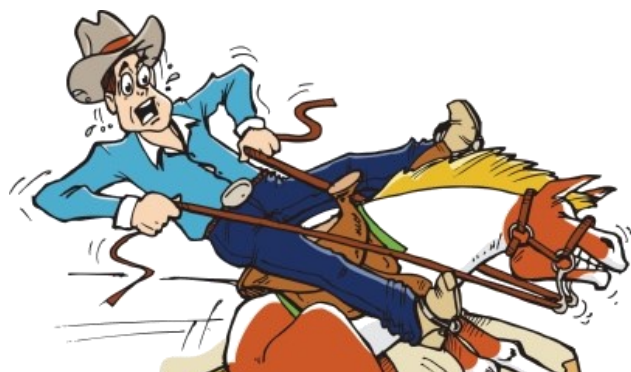


Just for Fun

The Hallelujah Horse

A cowboy buys a horse from the town pastor. The pastor explains, "To make the horse go, you gotta yell, 'Thank God!' And to make it stop, yell, 'Hallelujah!'"

The cowboy rides off. He rides all day and starts to nod off in the saddle when he notices he is about to ride straight over a cliff. Searching his memory, he yells to the horse, "Hallelujah! Hallelujah!"



The horse grinds to a stop just at the edge of the cliff. The cowboy wipes the sweat off his forehead. "Phew!" the cowboy sighs. "Thank God!"

Vestry

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 6, 2021 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.
- 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.

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



**Looking For
Vestry Nominations**

Parish News



Garland photos by Kathy Glockner



Sue and Jerry Phelps adorned the Parish Hall for Advent. Sue's sister, Penny Johnson, is sadly gone from us now, but this garland over the doors was purchased in her memory for the many years she lovingly decorated the space in the manner of a warm and cozy home.



November Blessings



Top: Birthday Blessings for Thelma Sayers on Nov. 8 (left) and 15 (right).

Center: Birthday Blessings for Karla Roady

Bottom: Birthday Blessings for Caroline Spielman, accepted for her by her husband, Bob,

and Anniversary Blessings for Margo and Charles Wilkins (Charles was unable to attend).



Santa Needs Your Help

Somehow, the Elves have mixed up the names of our favorite Christmas Carols. Can you recognize any of these cryptic titles?

1. Small town in Judea
2. Colorless Yule time
3. Singularly yearning for twin anterior incisors
4. Loyal followers advance
5. Righteous darkness
6. Weather: Cloudless / ETA: 2400 hours
7. Far off in a feeder
8. Array the corridors
9. Bantam percussionist
10. Monarchical triad
11. Nocturnal noiselessness
12. Father Christmas en route to borough
13. Initial Christmas
14. Frozen precipitation commence
15. Proceed and enlighten on the pinnacle
16. The quadruped with the vermilion proboscis
17. Query regarding identity of the descendant
18. Delight for this planet
19. Give attention to the melodious celestial being

20. Hence arriveth Kris Kringle
21. To descry Matriarchal osculation of the Yule time anthropomorphism
22. At the zenith of the habitat
23. Endocarps vesicated in the conflagration
24. Jehovah dulcify blithe chevaliers
25. The dozen festive 24-hour intervals

Answers on page 12



Stamp Club News



Umpqua Valley Stamp Club presents
the December stamp of the month

**December is
Write a Friend
Month**

Issued in 1980 a 6 stamp
set was issued to
promote letter writing

The Umpqua Valley Stamp Club meets monthly every 3rd Monday except for June and December.
Here in the Parish Hall at 7:15. Visitors welcome.

Scott catalog #1807

Poster by Clarence Adams, Umpqua Valley Stamp Club

The Warm Blanket

In my greatest moment of uncertainty, I was given a warm blanket. When the nurse covered me in it, I almost immediately stopped shaking. Holding the soft edges, my unsteady hands were anchored. It was just what I needed when I didn't know what I needed.

When I thanked her, she said, "Just doing my job." I wrapped that blanket around me tighter and promised I would not forget that moment.

It came back to me today as I stared into the face of my daughter in her moment of great uncertainty.

I gathered her into my arms.

I assured her of my love.

I spoke of divine protection.

I reminded her that others might feel scared and shaky too.

"Be extra kind today," I whispered.

"Be extra patient," I said.

"Remember love is stronger," I called as she walked away.

She turned and gave me two thumbs up, the warm blanket draped securely across her shoulders.

I then called a friend who's going through a dark time.

I assured of my love.

I let her know I was here to listen.

I reminded her she was not alone.

"I am with you," I said.

I wrapped her in warm blanket and she cried.

I went the post office. The mood was somber. I noticed the postal worker's shaky hands as she weighed my package.

"You okay?" I asked.

She nodded, unable to speak.

"Take your time," I said.

"I am in no rush," I assured.

"I think it's pretty amazing you're here today," I whispered.

I saw the release of her chest.

I detected a glimmer of hope.

The warm blanket was in place.

What I didn't realize until today is how big that blanket was that the nurse in my time of uncertainty placed around me.

I didn't realize until now that it's big enough to stretch around the world.

All it takes to reach people is to do what the nurse said—just do my job.

And my job is to BE love—

Not the perfectly worded, well-rehearsed, one-sided love based on special occasions or when it's convenient.

My job is to BE love—

the noticing, listening, put in the effort, sigh-with-relief kind of love.

My job is to BE love—

the Show Up kind of love that runs toward the pain, not away.

My job is to BE love—

the kind of love that brings people together and cannot be denied or overpowered.

My job is to BE love—

the warm blanket kind of love that steadies shaky hands and supports weak legs so they can step away from the bed of pain and begin to heal.

Today, let me BE love like it's my job. My end-of-the-day goal is to see how far my blanket can stretch.

May it reach your shoulders today.

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Christmas Carol Quiz Answers

1. O little town of Bethlehem
2. I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
3. All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth
4. O come all ye faithful
5. O holy night
6. It came upon a midnight clear
7. Away in a manger
8. Deck the halls
9. The little drummer boy
10. We three kings
11. Silent night
12. Santa Claus is coming to town
13. The first Noel
14. Let it snow
15. Go tell it on the mountain
16. Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer
17. What child is this
18. Joy to the world
19. Hark, the herald angel sings
20. Here comes Santa Claus
21. I saw Mommy kissing Santa Claus
22. Up on the housetop
23. Chestnuts roasting on an open fire
24. God rest ye merry, gentlemen
25. The twelve days of Christmas

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. Gail Duba
Senior Warden: Pete Benham
Junior Warden: Sue Phelps
Treasurer: Kathy Glockner

OFFICE HOURS
10 am—2 pm
Monday through Friday

ST. GEORGE WORSHIP
10 am
Sundays
Holy Eucharist

Wednesdays
Morning Prayer

