



# The Dragon Scoop

## December 2021

**Mission Statement:**  
“Loving God, Loving Our  
Neighbors”

**St. George Episcopal Church**  
1024 SE Cass Avenue Roseburg, OR 97470  
541-673-4048

**The Episcopal Church Welcomes You**



## O blest communion, fellowship divine!

So this is the day for recalling all the people who have lived and died in the Lord. Yet, All Saints' Day is not a day about death. It is a day that celebrates life. All Saints' Day honors the lives of those saints who never became celebrities but who made all the difference in the world to us. No one (except the church) will ever declare a holiday for them.

The world will become a poorer place without them. But the church will be ever richer because of them and will celebrate them—your loved ones—with you and even after you are gone, even when you become one of the dearly departed saints we remember on this day. Then, the church will remember you!



***All Saint's Sunday 2021 at St. George's***

But there is even more to All Saints' Day than remembering the dead who are alive in the Lord. The celebration is about more than remembering the beloved people of the past. It is about the here and now. It is about the living witnesses—the saints who live now on earth together—in communion—with those who are alive in the Lord in heaven.

“All Saints” means just that: all the saints. The great ones and the small ones, the heavenly ones and the earthly ones, the big ones and small ones,

the rich ones and poor ones, the young ones and old ones, the upright and pure ones and the stumbling, soiled ones. All of us can claim some sense or semblance of sainthood, because through Christ, in baptism, God has made us saints. We may not always feel like we deserve the title. We, often, may not want the title or the responsibility. But there it is anyway. Bestowed on us by God's grace: not deserved, not earned, but gifted.

*From a sermon by the Very Rev. Steve Lipscomb,  
Grace Episcopal Cathedral, Topeka, KS*

# Pastor Gail's Ponderings . . . .

## The Twelve Days of Christmas— True Meaning

To many people, the lyrics of the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" seem quaint. The carol's words might make one think it is a novelty song, in the vein of "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer." Scholars of the Catholic Church deem it a very important surviving example of a time when that denomination used codes to disguise their teachings. Originally a poem written by Catholic clerics, this song was transformed into a carol at a time when celebrating the twelve days of Christmas was one of the most important holiday customs. By understanding the meaning the clerics chose the twelve days as wrapping for their poem, the full impact of the tradition of the twelve days of Christmas can be understood.



**On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . a partridge in a pear tree.**  
The partridge in a pear tree represents Jesus, the Son of God, whose birthday we celebrate on the first day of Christmas. Christ is symbolically presented as a partridge, the only bird that will die to protect its young.

**On the second day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . two turtle doves.**  
These twin birds represent the Old and New Testaments. So in this gift, the singer finds the complete story of Judeo-Christian faith and God's plan for the world. The doves are the biblical roadmap that is available to everyone.

**On the third day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . three French hens.**  
These birds represent faith, hope, and love. This gift hearkens back to 1st Corinthians 13, the love chapter written by the apostle Paul.

**On the fourth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . four calling birds.**  
One of the easiest facets of the song's code to figure out, these fowl are the four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

**On the fifth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . five gold rings.**  
The gift of the rings represents the first five books of the Old Testament, the Torah.

**On the sixth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . six geese a-laying.**  
These lyrics can be traced back to the first story found in the Bible. Each egg is a day in creation, a time when the world was "hatched" or formed by God.

**On the seventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . seven swans a-swimming.**  
It would take someone quite familiar with the Bible to identify this gift. Hidden in the code are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, and compassion. As swans are one of the most beautiful and graceful creatures on earth, they would seem to be a perfect symbol for the spiritual gifts.

**On the eighth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . eight maids a-milking.**  
As Christ came to save even the lowly, this gift represents the ones who would receive his word and accept his grace. Being a milkmaid was about the worst job one could have in England during this period; this conveyed that Jesus cared as much about servants as he did those of royal blood. The eight who were blessed included the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake.

Continued on page 3

# Pastor Gail's Ponderings . . . .

## On the ninth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . nine ladies dancing.

These nine dancers were really the gifts known as the fruit of the Spirit. The fruits are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

## On the tenth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . ten lords a-leaping.

This is probably the easiest gift to understand. As lords were judges and in charge of the law, this code for the Ten Commandments was fairly straightforward to Catholics.

## On the eleventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . eleven pipers piping.

This is almost a trick question, as we know of the twelve disciples. But when Judas betrayed Jesus and died, there were only 11 men who carried out the gospel message.

## On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . twelve drummers drumming.

The final gift is tied directly to the Church. The drummers are the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed.

"I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting."

## The Context and History Behind "The Twelve Days of Christmas"

Teaching the Catholic faith was outlawed in sixteenth-century England. Those who instructed their children in Catholicism could be drawn and quartered. Thus, the church went underground. To hide the important and illegal elements of their teaching, clerics composed poems that seemed silly to most people. But these verses were veiled works that taught the church's most important tenets. "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is said to be one of these teaching tools.

The twelve days of Christmas start on the first day of Christmas, December 25th, and the final day is January 5th. Thus, for hundreds of years the Christmas holidays didn't begin until Christmas Eve and didn't end until the Eve of Epiphany, January 5. The "true love" mentioned in the song is not a sweetheart but the Church's code for God. The person who receives the gifts is anyone who has accepted Christ as the Son of God and as Savior. We'll think differently as we sing this song!

Pastor Gail





# Time Sensitive

## Vestry

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, 2022 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.



Yes, it's that time of year again. Let's all pull together and make a pledge commitment. If circumstances change later you can always adjust your pledge.

Any questions? Talk to Jean Bowden.

# Never Pull on a String Hanging from a Knit Sweater!

by Bill Riley

We thought it would be an easy project to replace the broken window in the Parish Hall. In fact, it was. Jean Bowden said that Dan from Umpqua Valley Glass replaced the window all by himself in about an hour.

It was then decided that we should replace the ugly piece of pressure-treated 2x6 that I had installed several years ago when trying to stop a leak in the classroom. Then while painting some of the other sills we noted that several were severely rotten and should also be replaced. We spoke with Eric Gerretsen of Gerretsen Building Supply and he agreed to come and take measurements of our windows. He suggested that we replace the wooden sills with a composite material which would never have to be replaced. He also agreed to donate the material to our Church.



Eric is the son of the late Gordon Gerretsen and his wife, Pat. He is the grandson of William H. Gerretsen and his wife, Frances M., who were co-founders of Denn-Gerretsen Building Supply Company and very active members and lifetime supporters of St. George Episcopal Church.



After the old 2x6 was removed from under the window, Bob Spielman (above) drilled and screwed the new composite sill in place and then caulked the cracks. He is currently in the process of planing down an 8-foot cedar 4x4 to be placed under the composite sill that will be installed under the window behind the air conditioner unit. Then we will attack the remaining three windows and repaint the sills and trim. This all will take time so please bear with us.

Again, don't ever pull on a piece of yarn hanging down from a knit sweater. What might look like an easy task could end up a major overhaul.

# Diocesan Convention

## by Margaret Thomas

Saturday morning, November 6, St. George's delegates to the 133rd Annual Convention of the Diocese of Oregon, Nancy Baum and Margaret Thomas, and Steve Thomas (alternate) met at Pastor Gail and Dr. David's house to attend the convention on Zoom. David arranged it so we could watch it on their television, though Gail, Nancy, and Margaret used their own laptops/tablets for voting.

Steve's job was to make sure we paid attention to business. During downtimes Gail and Nancy worked on knitting projects. Margaret doesn't knit so she just watched. We had previously downloaded the agenda, service bulletin to follow the Morning Prayer service which was offered in both English and Spanish, and other documents. The meeting opened at 8:30 and adjourned at 1:00.

Bishop Diana Akiyama gave her first Bishop's Address to the Diocese; following were elections to various diocesan leadership positions and committees; and the 2021 annual budget was approved.

### Resolutions passed:

- Affirming gender-diverse and trans identities.
- Dissolution of St. David Episcopal Church, Drain.
- Dissolution of Christ the King, Stayton.
- Churches of the Diocese are encouraged to support St. Timothy's, Brookings, in their efforts to feed the hungry—by letter of protest to the City of Brookings, and/or letter of encouragement, financial contribution, or food donation to St. Timothy's.

### Resolution of Courtesy:

The Rev. Martin Elfert presented this year's Resolution of Courtesy thanking the Rev. Canon Neysa Ellgren Shepley for her steadfast dedication and love for this diocese and Bishop Diana presented her with a gift contributed by the whole diocese.



# Christmas Gifts

## by Juliana Marez

My nephew had a brilliant idea for this Christmas. Most of us have more stuff than we need. Instead of going into debt why not offer each other the gift of time and help. We could all use that and it doesn't make clutter.

Decide how much you have to give. Then share a card with a gift certificate:

- ♥ 3 hours of car detailing
- ♥ 4 loads of laundry
- ♥ 2 meet-ups for coffee
- ♥ 1 heart-to-heart talk like we used to have
- ♥ 12 chocolate chip cookies we bake together

Something like that!



# Episcopal Church Women

## by Betty Jo Hoffman

ECW met at church to make some holiday decisions. We decided to send funds to Food for the Poor to purchase some chicks, a kerosene stove, rice and beans, and agricultural tools. We also approved some monetary and edible gifts locally.

Thelma's thought for the day was simple and memorable: "Your words are a window to your heart."

The rummage sale discussion is pushed to next year.

We will have a Christmas get-together at Karla Roady's on Thurs., Dec. 16, at 1100. Meet at the church at 10:45 to carpool. A regular meeting will be held in January.

The congregation is invited to decorate the church on Saturday, December 11, at 10:00. There will be refreshments! Remember, many hands make light work and the more the merrier! The heavy work has already been done—thank you, Doug Holloway and Bill Riley! This is a chance to do family-like decorating.

If you would like to make a donation toward a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone special, please write *Poinsettias* on the memo of your check or on an envelope if you prefer cash. Please let the office know whom you will be honoring.



*Pastor Gail and Hellene Chapman at the Giving Tree*

You can also bring your Giving Tree gifts on the 11th. Packages need to be wrapped or in gift bags. Be sure to put the name tag on the gift. Multiple gifts for one child should be consolidated into one so they don't get separated.

## FISH

The FISH of Roseburg is taking applications for the position of Executive Director. It is a 3/4 time hourly position. Work hours can be adjusted, but the Executive Director needs to be present when the pantry is open M & W 1:30-3:30 and Th & F 9:30-11:30. Pay range is \$20-25 per hour dependent on experience.

Copies of the application package may be obtained at the FISH Food Pantry (405 Jerry's Drive in

Roseburg). To receive copies by email or ask questions email [thefishrbg@gmail.com](mailto:thefishrbg@gmail.com). The application process will be closed on **12/13/2021**.

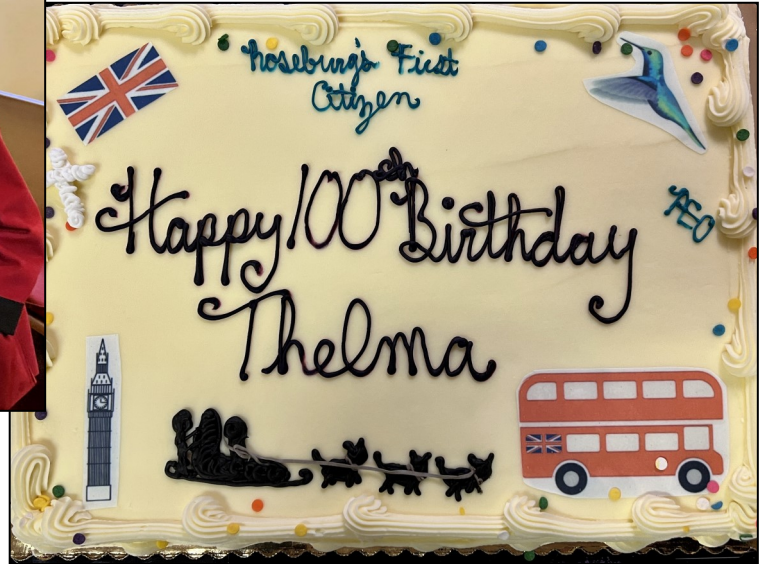
The next Green Bag neighborhood pick-up is **Dec. 11**, but don't forget that if you want St. George's to get credit for donations, you must bring food or money to the church.

## Parish News



***Birthday Blessings  
for  
Karla Roady (above center) and  
Thelma Sayers (above right)***

**Thelma's Cake**  
Evidently the bakery didn't believe anyone could actually be **101** years old!



***Birthday Blessings  
for  
Hellene Chapman (above)***

***Jill and Mr. Miggs Hammerle (left)  
say goodbye as they head to Amarillo, TX, to start  
the next chapter of their lives.***





## Parish News



**Left:**  
*Nov. 28 was the First Sunday of Advent. We continued the tradition Pastor Gail introduced last year of singing a verse of "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah."*



**Right:**  
*Once again, Sue and Jerry Phelps have transformed the Parish Hall into cozy and welcoming surroundings.*





## Parish News



***Tom Hammerle  
has returned from Italy  
to take a job in Oregon  
and be with his mother, Delpha.***



***Hellene Chapman  
has a 12x12" acrylic painting titled  
Steadfast Pillars  
in Umpqua Valley Art Association's  
Annual Members' Exhibit.  
The show runs through Dec. 23  
and has many fine works  
by local artists on display.  
Don't miss it!***



***Precious mother and child pictures  
of the extended Duba family:  
above, Alyssa holding Rana Iris  
and right, Emily with her arm around Abby  
who is cradling baby Joanna.***





## Parish News



Left:

On Nov. 21, Steve Smith, a banking and financial expert, shared his knowledge about protection from internet fraud. Many thanks to Sue Phelps for arranging this talk! If you weren't able to attend, you can get a handout from the office with Steve's tips.

Right and below:

Pastor Gail shared this text message and photo from Gil Gomez. He and Cathy are now in Arizona but will return to Roseburg in the spring.

Just thought Cathy and I would send a note checking in with you, David and the rest of the SG gang. Hope all is well. As you can see we are enjoying our fall weather too.



Left:

Here are the three pastors, Gail Duba from St. George's, Jane Baker from Faith Lutheran, and David Thompson from First United Methodist, giving the gift cards that were donated by our congregations to be used by the Child Development Specialists for children in need.



# Inspiration

I remember tearing across town on my bike to visit Grandma on the day my brother dropped the bomb: "There is no Santa Claus," he jeered. "Even dummies know that!"

My Grandma was not the gushy kind, never had been. I fled to her that day because I knew she would be straight with me. I knew Grandma always told the truth. I told her everything. She was ready for me. "No Santa Claus?" she snorted, "Ridiculous! Don't believe it. That rumor has been going around for years, and it makes me mad, plain mad!! Now, put on your coat, and let's go."

"Go? Go where, Grandma?" I asked.

"Where" turned out to be Kirby's General Store, the one store in town that had a little bit of just about everything. As we walked through its doors, Grandma handed me ten dollars. That was a bundle in those days. "Take this money," she said, "and buy something for someone who needs it. I'll wait for you in the car." Then she turned and walked out of Kirby's.

I was only eight years old. I'd often gone shopping with my mother, but never had I shopped for anything all by myself. The store seemed big and crowded, full of people scrambling to finish their Christmas shopping. For a few moments I just stood there, confused, clutching that ten-dollar bill, wondering what to buy, and who on earth to buy it for. I thought of everybody I knew: my family, my friends, my neighbors, the kids at school, the people who went to my church. I was just about thought out, when I suddenly thought of Bobby Decker. He was a kid with bad breath and messy hair, and he sat right behind me in Mrs. Pollock's grade-two class.

Bobby Decker didn't have a coat. I knew that because he never went out to recess during the winter. His mother always wrote a note, telling the teacher that he had a cough, but all we kids knew that Bobby Decker didn't have a cough; he didn't have a good coat. I fingered the ten-dollar bill with growing excitement. I would buy Bobby Decker a coat! I settled on a red corduroy one that had a hood to it. It looked real warm, and he would like that.

"Is this a Christmas present for someone?" the lady behind the counter asked kindly, as I laid my ten dollars down. "Yes, ma'am," I replied shyly. "It's for Bobby."

The nice lady smiled at me, as I told her about how Bobby really needed a good winter coat. I didn't get any change, but she put the coat in a bag, smiled again, and wished me a Merry Christmas.

That evening, Grandma helped me wrap the coat (a little tag fell out of the coat, and Grandma tucked it in her Bible) in Christmas paper and ribbons and wrote, "To Bobby, From Santa Claus" on it. Grandma said that Santa always insisted on secrecy. Then she drove me over to Bobby Decker's house, explaining as we went that I was now and forever officially one of Santa's helpers.

Grandma parked down the street from Bobby's house, and she and I crept noiselessly and hid in the bushes by his front walk. Then Grandma gave me a nudge. "All right, Santa Claus," she whispered, "get going."

I took a deep breath, dashed for his front door, threw the present down on his step, pounded on his door and flew back to the safety of the bushes and Grandma.

Together we waited breathlessly in the darkness for the front door to open. Finally it did, and there stood Bobby.

Fifty years haven't dimmed the thrill of those moments spent shivering beside my Grandma in Bobby Decker's bushes. That night, I realized that those awful rumors about Santa Claus were just what Grandma said they were—ridiculous. Santa was alive and well, and we were on his team.

I still have the Bible, with the coat tag tucked inside: \$19.95.

May you always believe in the magic of Santa Claus!

~ Author Unknown

## 60th High School Reunion

He was a widower and she a widow. They had been high school classmates and attended class reunions in the past without fail. This 60th anniversary of their class, the widower and the widow made a foursome with two other singles. They had a wonderful evening, their spirits high, with the widower throwing admiring glances across the table and the widow smiling coyly back at him.

Finally, he picked up courage to ask her, "Will you marry me?" After about six seconds of careful consideration, she answered, "Yes! Yes, I will!"

Needless to say, the evening ended on a happy note for the widower. However, the next morning he was troubled. Did she say "Yes" or did she say "No?" Try as he would, he just could not recall.

With fear and trepidation, he picked up the phone and called her. First, he explained that he couldn't remember as well as he used to. Then he reviewed the past evening. As he gained a little more courage, he then inquired of her, "When I asked if you would marry me, did you say 'Yes' or did you say 'No?'"

"Why you silly man," she replied, "I said 'Yes. Yes, I will!' And I meant it with all my heart!"

The widower was delighted. He felt his heart skip a beat.

Then she continued. "And I'm so glad you called, because I couldn't remember who asked me!"

## Stamp Club News

Umpqua Valley Stamp Club presents  
the December Stamp of the Month



### The First U.S. Christmas Stamp

America's first Christmas stamp was issued in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on November 1, 1962 after years of requests from the public. This led to the largest series of stamps with a common theme from the USPS.



Scott catalog #1205  
issued in 1962

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.

*Poster by Clarence Adams, Umpqua Valley Stamp Club*



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### Holiday Bucket List

- Be*
1. ~~Buy~~ presents
  2. Wrap ~~gifts~~ *someone in a hug*
  3. Send ~~gifts~~ *love*
  - Donate*
  4. ~~Shop for~~ food
  5. Make ~~cookies~~ *memories*
  - Be*
  6. See the ~~lights~~

St. George Episcopal Church publishes THE DRAGON SCOOP monthly  
except for a combined July-August issue.  
If you would like something to be considered for the newsletter please talk to  
Leigh Van Sickle, Editor—541-391-0814  
E-mailed articles and photographs can be sent to [saintgeorgepix@gmail.com](mailto:saintgeorgepix@gmail.com).

**Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Gail Duba**  
**Senior Warden: Pete Benham**  
**Junior Warden: Bob Spielman**  
**Treasurer: Kathy Glockner**

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

**ST. GEORGE WORSHIP**  
**10 am**  
**Sundays**  
**and**  
**Wednesdays**

