



Mission Statement:
“Loving God, Loving Our
Neighbors”

The Dragon Scoop

December 2022

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

The Episcopal Church Welcomes You



Seeing God in the Face of Baby Jesus



“Mary and Baby Jesus”
Jean Keaton Art

Pastor Gail's Ponderings

The Birth of Jesus—God Sent His Son to Be Born of Mary

*All who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds told them.
But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. Luke 2:18*

There was peace beyond all human understanding when this unassuming young woman sat in the stillness of the evening amid dimly burning wicks, cradling the Child, soft and small. Baby Jesus's breath must have passed like incense over Mary's ponderings and prayers. Here was an oasis of light, a harbor of tranquility. A Child was born, a Savior had come, and humankind need fear no longer. A peace was won. A joy had come. And God was at home with us.

To possess a secret joy and to hold a marvelous mystery in mind and heart is to rise above the grind of daily life. Centering the self on the things that are most precious opens a space of serenity where one can truly be at rest. In that sacred space we can meditate on God's surprises; there we can dare to know the heart of God and feel goodness and grace.

But often God comes not in those serene moments, but wrapped in the swaddling clothes of the struggles and sorrows of this world. Our listening for God is challenged by clatter and clamor. At times like these we in the church need a leader who can be the least anxious person in the room. This is the person who can offer stillness in the chaos and who can ponder the possibilities that everyone else struggles to comprehend. She is the one to whom others look for wisdom, for she sees things in a way that others do not. She sees the arrival of the Kingdom of God in the weak and the ordinary. She feels warmth in the midst of the cold.

So this Advent season, let us all step into this stillness, cradle a child in our hands and our heart, let our senses be consumed by his softness and smallness and look deeply into the mystery of his being—and see God in the face of Baby Jesus.

Let us pray: Bring us, O God, to encounters of your goodness and grace. Help us find peace in your presence and joy in your surprises. May contentment and compassion radiate from us for the sake of the world you love. Amen

*Blessed Advent Season,
Pastor Gail*



Episcopal Church Women

by Betty Jo Hoffman

At our Nov. 17 meeting, Nancy Baum, Sue Phelps, and BJ Hoffman provided a warm fall lunch.

We were excited to learn the total income from the rummage sale as of the time of the meeting was \$1136.33—and there was still more coming. We voted to contribute 25% to Peace at Home.

Their website describes Peace at Home Advocacy Center as a community-based non-profit agency serving Douglas County since 1978. They are dedicated to keeping this community free from family violence, sexual assault, stalking and/or human trafficking through empowerment, support, and education.

<https://peaceathome.com/>

Mik Carlson reported, by written note, that the food you contributed on the first day of the Food for Fish Sunday weighed 54 pounds. The monetary value is \$1.50 per pound. We have been coming up short on our pledge of food, so we will have more Food for Fish Sundays in the future.



← Nov. 13
54 pounds

↓ Nov. 20



John Roy from the Roseburg Rescue Mission gave us a lot of information about improvements, the people who use their services, and how the Mission is funded. I, for one, was surprised that they do not receive any government funds. They do have a good grant writer, their furniture and thrift stores are successful, the bike repair shop and parts store are also successful, and they rent rooms. The fire department contributes many bikes for repair and resale.

The Mission's population is down a little. Their average population used to be about 50 and it is now 30-40. They have 58 beds. They serve meals every day and some people come in who live on the street.

Kathy Glockner will host the Dec. 15 meeting.



Thelma's Thought for the Day

**Give a smile away
every day.
It will help you
and another
in every way.**

Upcoming and FYI



Choir Practice

3:15 Wednesday afternoons in the Sanctuary.

Decorating the Church for the Holiday Season

We will put up the rest of the decorations around the church on **Dec. 10**. The large wreaths will go up about **Dec. 17**. Your help is always appreciated. Thank you, BJ

Poinsettias and Wreaths

If you would like to contribute to the purchase of the poinsettias and wreaths this year, you can write "poinsettias/wreaths" in the memo on your check. You can put cash in an envelope and write your name and "poinsettias/wreaths" on it. If you want to contribute a poinsettia, bring it in during the week before Christmas.

If you want to honor someone with your contribution be sure to notify the office.

Christmas Eve

**Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist—
Sat., Dec. 24, at 4 pm.**

The service will be preceded by coffee and cookies fellowship in the Parish Hall.



Morning Prayer/Bible Study

No Morning Prayer/Bible Study on Dec. 28 or Jan. 4.

Sisters Shredding Closure

Sisters Shredding, the paper recyclers at 193 NE Exchange Drive (it turns into Airport Road), will be closed the last two weeks of December.

Holy Spirit Tea



Dec. 10 at 2:00.

Holy Spirit Episcopal Church
120 S Umatilla St., Sutherlin, OR 97479

Tickets are \$15 and reservations are required. Call Donna Anderson to make reservations—
541-673-1714

All proceeds go to the Sutherlin-Oakland Emergency Pantry. The Sutherlin High School Music Program will perform Christmas music.

There will be a quilt raffle. A picture of it is on our bulletin board. There will also be a silent auction and evergreen wreaths. See the flyer, also on our bulletin board.

~ BJ

Remember, It Gets Dark Out There

Before you roll your eyes at the early Christmas decorators, let me tell you how dangerous the dark months can be to those with rocky mental health. Let them bring in more light. Let them do what they need to do to feel happy. Let them be, in the here and now, seizing the moment, doing no harm to anyone. They are simply lighting up the darkness, what could be wrong with that?

Donna Ashworth

Sometimes we liturgical churches can be a little strict about when it's okay to decorate for Christmas, put up the tree, sing carols But let's show some grace to those who need more light. It might be you or me someday.



Blessings



Above: All Saints' Sunday at St George's,
with candles lit in honor of those who are saints in our lives.



Above:
Anniversary Blessings for
Hellene Chapman (center)
and her husband Ivor
and
Birthday Blessings for
Karla Roady (left) and
Robyn Billington (right)

Below:
Birthday Blessings for
Thelma Sayers
102 years!



Below: Anniversary Blessings for
Margo Wilkins and her husband Charles



Parish News



Duba Family visit on Nov. 6—Left to right: Dr. David, Kyle, Pastor Gail, Alyssa, and Rana.



Above and left: The delicious breakfast after the service on Nov. 20 was prepared by a lovely woman and her son who is interested in learning about catering.



Parish News

First Sunday of Advent



Once again, Sue and Jerry Phelps worked their Advent magic on the Parish Hall, transforming it into a cozy family setting for the season.

Pastor Gail's Ordination Anniversary

***On Dec. 18—the 4th Sunday of Advent—
the congregation will celebrate the 20th anniversary
of Pastor Gail's ordination to the ministry.
There will be a potluck following the service.***

Pastor Gail's life before formally entering God's service was richly varied. She grew up in a family of five children in Cañon City, CO, and her parents nurtured her in the Lutheran tradition and gave her a love of nature. She learned about the connection between faith and preserving the Earth. Her father was a forester who devoted his life to caring for the environment. Her mother was a teacher of home economics and English.

Gail earned a biology degree at Valparaiso University in Indiana. Before graduating, she spent eight months traveling in Europe and the Middle East. In Germany she studied theology and the teachings and life of Martin Luther. Travel in Israel, Greece, Egypt, and other countries brought appreciation of each unique culture, an awareness that has shaped her life and faith.

After graduating, she taught high school biology for several years in Cripple Creek, CO before studying for a master's degree in forestry at Colorado State University. At a Christian Forestry Fellowship meeting she met and fell in love with David Duba, a rangeland ecologist. After eight months they married and left a week later for Saudi Arabia, where David researched local vegetation for two years. As his assistant, Gail explored Arab and Muslim culture. "I learned religious tolerance. Everyone has their own way of looking at the world," she said.

She finished her master's degree and worked in forestry for four years in Boise before moving to Seattle so David could attend the University of Washington Medical School. In 1989, with three boys—aged seven, four and one—they went to Minneapolis for David's residency in rehabilitation medicine. There she was led to serve as Christian Education Director for a church south of Minneapolis.

The Dubas moved to Roseburg in 1992 when Dr. David took a position with Douglas Community Hospital as a Rehabilitation Specialist. They bought a house here. Gail didn't work outside the home, but concentrated on raising her boys. It was at this time of her life that she met St. George parishioners Jeannie Burpee and Karla Roady through the local medical auxiliary.

In 1993 the family went to Spokane. Gail worked at Christ Lutheran Church as Christian Education Director for seven years, and it was during that time that she heard God's call. When serving Communion in her role as Assisting Minister, she said, "I felt like I was on Holy Ground." She told her Bishop, "I feel like I'm being called to the ministry but I can't uproot our kids again."

"Guess what," she was told. "We have a program for you." This turned out to be long-distance seminary studies at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Pastor Gail describes the decision like this:
We were having a family meeting.
We were discussing my two options of either returning to teaching or going to seminary. Each one of the boys and David had good things to say. We got to Forrest (age 10) last and he said "I don't know Mom but I've heard you talk much more excitedly about going to seminary. I think you ought to be *pastorized!*" Laughter ensued and seminary was chosen!

Seminary started in 1998. Four times a year Gail traveled to Berkeley to attend classes.

Continued on next page

Pastor Gail's Ordination Anniversary, cont.

Graduation was in the spring of 2002, and ordination on Dec. 22, 2002, the 4th Sunday of Advent. "I don't remember feeling uncertainty. I felt God's hand was in my call," she said. Feeling called, I didn't worry about what was going to be next."

There were probably 250 people at Pastor Gail's ordination at Christ Lutheran. A friend laughingly calls it the equivalent of a "Big Fat Lutheran Ordination!"

Since Lutheran protocols don't allow one to stay on at their former church, Pastor Gail moved to Central Lutheran in Spokane where she became Associate Pastor from 2001 to 2008. From there she went on to be Chaplain at Rockwood South Retirement Center from 2008 to 2015, then Zion Lutheran Church until 2018, and finally, after her retirement from Zion, a one-year internship for a couple of towns near Spokane from 2018-19.

Retirement brought the Dubas back to Roseburg in the fall of 2019. They "just happened" to stop at St. George's after having lunch downtown and "just happened" to see that we were looking for a priest. Or just maybe the Holy Spirit was watching out for us all that day.

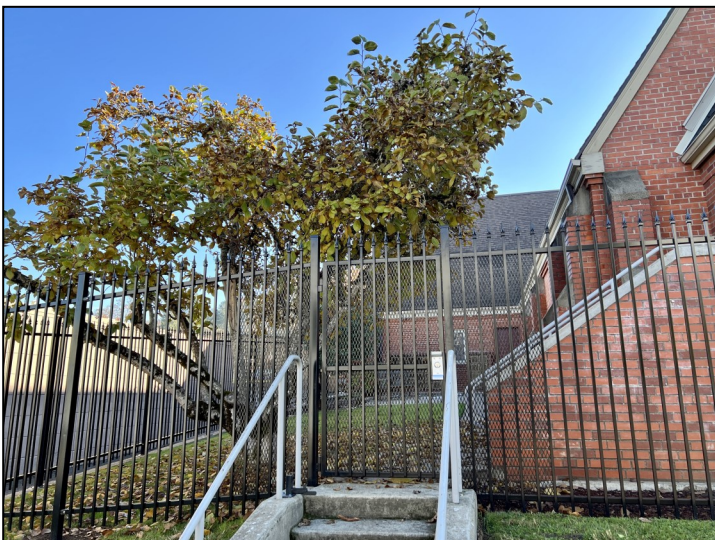


Ordination Day

*Front Row:
Dr. David, Pastor Gail,
and her parents, Joanne and Don Young*

*Back Row:
Jason, Forrest, and Kyle Duba*

You Are Invited



The gate to the Columbarium has been installed.

You are invited to submit a landscaping plan for our newly enclosed Columbarium and memorial garden.

Plans will be accepted through the end of December.

Financial Report

by Kathy Glockner

	October	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Pledges	\$ 7,165	\$ 5,484	\$ 65,387	\$ 54,842
Other Income	4,715	3,758	53,177	37,583
Total Income	11,880	9,242	118,564	92,425
Expenses	7,685	9,477	92,193	94,860
	\$ 4,195	\$ (235)	\$ 26,370	\$ (2,435)
We are looking better. I believe after the summer with people away, people are now getting caught up on their pledges. Thank you for that. We are now ahead of our budget on pledges, so there may have been some of you that have given more than you pledged, paid, or have paid for your pledge to the end of the year. Keep up the good work!				
FYI: It's OK to give more than you have pledged, which many of you do. Thank you!				

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 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, 2023 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.



Stamp Club News

**Umpqua Valley Stamp Club presents
the Stamp Of The Month**



December Celebrates the Pilgrims Landing at Plymouth Rock

December 11, 1620, 102 Mayflower pilgrims first step foot at Plymouth Rock, on the shore of what is now known as Massachusetts. In the landmark Mayflower Compact of 1620, the Pilgrims decided that they would rule themselves, based on majority rule of the towns folk. Laying the foundation for democracy in the Americas.



Scott catalog #549, issued on
December 21, 1920 as a 3 stamp set

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

Inspiration

A Prayer for Today

God of poets and prophets,
God of paupers and priests,
God who calls the ill-equipped and ill-prepared,
God who calls the ordinary and the ordinary,
God who sends the stubborn and the strong,
God who sends the shallow and the shameless,
God who scatters love on rich and poor, old and
young, wise and foolish;

call us once more in our extraordinarily
ordinariness to walk in your ways and then
prepare us, send us, use us, to sow seeds of
love and hope extravagantly in your world;
for the sake of your Love. Amen.

~ The Rt. Rev. Deon K Johnson
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri



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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

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Gail Duba
Senior Warden: Pete Benham
Co-Junior Wardens:
Bob Spielman and Sue Phelps
Treasurer: Kathy Glockner

OFFICE HOURS
10 am—2 pm
Monday through Friday

ST. GEORGE WORSHIP
10 am
Sundays
and
Last Wednesday of the Month

