



# The Dragon Scoop

## February 2014

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

**The Episcopal Church Welcomes You**

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

## Candlemas, February 2

The Yuletide that we welcomed on the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord on December 25th wound its way through the Twelve Days of Christmas, including the feasts of the Christmas saints. It continued in a new liturgical season with the Wise Men, the Baptism of Our Lord, and the various manifestations of Epiphanytide.

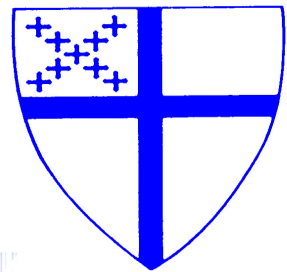
While Epiphanytide may continue a bit longer, depending on the date of Easter, the Christmas festal cycle ends on Candlemas, the last feast of Yuletide, forty days after Christmas. This is the day when the Holy Family present themselves in the Temple to complete the ritual purification of a mother after childbirth and to redeem the firstborn son who by right belongs to God.

Saint Luke tells the story (Luke 2:22-38) that introduces the aged Simeon, a devout old man, and the apparently even more ancient prophetess Anna, of the (mostly) lost tribe of Asher, both of whom, like all of Israel, have waited many years for the Messiah who would

redeem Israel. It is a moment of intimate and electric drama. Mary and Joseph have come simply to fulfill their obligations as faithful Jews. But in this Encounter, or Meeting, as the Orthodox call this Feast, Israel not only recognizes her Messiah but it is revealed to his own people that, as Isaiah prophesied, it is too small a thing for him to redeem only Israel.

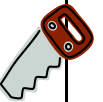
On the day that his human ancestor Solomon consecrated the Temple, the glory of the Lord filled the Temple. On this day, the glory of the Lord once again is seen in the Temple, not hidden in a cloud, but in the physical presence of the Incarnate God, who is to be the Redeemer of the whole world, a "light to lighten the Gentiles."  
 ~ from [fullhomelydivinity.org](http://fullhomelydivinity.org)

*Lord, you now have set your servant free to go in peace as you have promised; for these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, whom you have prepared for all the world to see: a Light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel. ~ Song of Simeon*



We have Episcopal Shields available for your vehicle.

There is a clipboard over the drinking fountain in the church hallway for recording any maintenance problems that members may find. The Facilities Team will monitor this board and make any repairs as necessary.



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# Rector's Letter

I suspect that Jesus spent a good amount of time noticing the world around him. Many of his teachings refer to nature and to our relationship with nature. "Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?" (Matthew 6:26-30) It makes me chuckle to think about Jesus' lesson of birds not gathering into barns. Surely he couldn't have been referring to the woodpeckers at my house who have stuffed every shingle on my roof with acorns. But no matter, I get his point. All things come from God whether by sheer gift or by the work of acorn gathering. It is God who provides.

I've been noticing a lot of things around our beautiful Roseburg countryside. Several weeks ago I was joyfully surprised to see baby lambs running after one another jumping and playing or resting close to the wool of their mother's warm side. There are so many images of the Good Shepherd in the Bible.

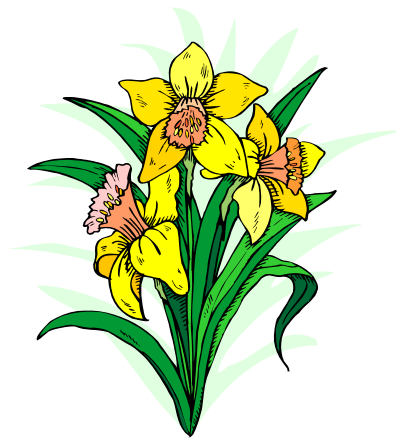
*The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
 he leads me beside still waters;  
<sup>3</sup> he restores my soul.  
 He leads me in right paths  
 for his name's sake. (Psalm 23)*

I've noticed that the geese have returned with their loud honking and raucous behavior. I've noticed the green shoots of daffodils sprouting up in my garden and just today I noticed the roses here at church are putting out new foliage. In a

few days when this newsletter hits the pews I believe we will see yellow blooms on the daffodils right outside our church doors. It seems very early to be noticing the signs of spring and the resurrection of creation from its winter slumber. Certainly it is way too early to be thinking about Easter. Or is it ever too early to be thinking about Easter?

Here on the west coast we need rain and we need snow and I wonder what the good Lord and Mother Nature will provide. I spend most of my days, winter, spring, summer, and fall, wondering what the good Lord and creation will provide. But I take my lesson from the birds, the lilies, and the grass of the field as Jesus assures me not to worry. It is good to wonder but not to worry. God and creation always have new life planned for us if we but take the time to notice, if we but allow ourselves to believe, if we but ask for our faith to blossom. It is never too early to be thinking of spring. It is always the right time to be a people of the resurrection.

Rev JoAnne



# Vestry Nominees

The Vestry has put forward a slate of nominees to be elected at the Annual Meeting on February 23, 2014 at 2:00 in the Parish Hall.

Four positions will be elected: three 3-years terms and one 2-year term. Four people have submitted the following applications.

**Nancy Baum**



I am requesting that my name be placed on the slate of vestry nominees to be elected at the 2014 annual meeting. Please accept the following qualifications.

I have been an active member of the Episcopal Church most of my life. As a teenager I sang in the choir, participated in youth groups, taught Sunday school, and attended summer church camps, with two years as a counselor. My nursing diploma was earned at St. Luke's Hospital S.O.N in New York City, an affiliate of the Episcopal Church, where daily worship was a requirement. Since then I have lived in many places and have been active in each local Episcopal church.

While a member of St. Matthew's in Gold Beach, OR for the past twenty some years I was a member of the Vestry and served as Senior Warden for three years. I was an active member of the South Coast Convocation for over ten years and in 2006 was elected at Convention to a three year term on Diocesan Council where I served on the budget and outreach committees. This was a wonderful learning experience and gave me a real appreciation for the "greater church."

Since my move to Roseburg I have been welcomed into our church family and am happy to be involved in many activities at St. George. I am secretary for ECW, and currently representing St. George as a delegate to the Southern Convocation and to Diocesan Convention. I am serving as a Lector, Greeter, Intercessor, Altar Guild member, hosting an occasional coffee hour, and working

with the Outreach and Hospitality teams.

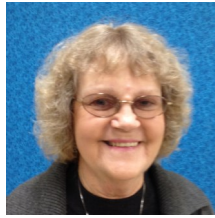
I would like to work towards increasing our membership perhaps by becoming more active in community activities and outreach, and I would like to help find ways to reach and sustain financial stability for our church.

**Faye Benham**



I have been a confirmed member of St. George since 1989 and have attended church regularly and participated in church events since then. The Rev. Chet Falby hired me as church secretary (later changed to administrative assistant) in 1982, a position that I held for twenty-four years. I worked with three different Priests and two Interims during that time. I served as Vestry Clerk for over twenty years. The reason I accepted the position of Vestry Clerk was to make my job as church secretary a lot easier because I was in the know about what was happening at the church and did not have to wait to read the Vestry Meeting Minutes to know what was happening. I feel that having served in these two positions, I have a good working knowledge of how the church and diocese operate. I have been a Convention Delegate four times and have served as secretary for the Southern Convocation. At the present time I am serving as Treasurer of the Episcopal Church Women and in training to be on the Altar Guild. Being a team player has never been a problem for me and I look forward to working with the other vestry members, and the congregation, for the greater good of St. George.

**Betty Jo Hoffman**



I have attended St. George Episcopal Church since 1973 and served in a number of capacities over those years, including vestry and a search committee.

I have prayed about serving on vestry again for a few years. I feel now is the time to step forward and take an active part in assuring our church is warm and welcoming.

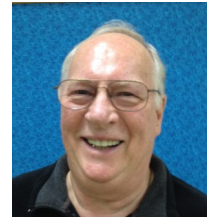
I believe it is important that church members contribute to the life of their church. That responsibility should be taken on by a variety of members at various times. It has come to my attention that now is my time.

Please consider me for the Vestry class of 2016.

**A VESTRY MEMBER MUST**

be willing to create more active involvements from parish members who are not on the Vestry, faithfully attend Parish functions, worship services, encourage and support parish members in mutual ministry, and be willing to work constructively, creatively, and peaceably with other members of the Vestry and Rector in exercising a commitment to leadership.

**Steve Thomas**



1971 - My journey in the Episcopal Church began in the Diocese of Olympia at St. Thomas in Medina, WA. I was confirmed with my former wife and my son, April, 1975. The first involvement was to call on older and inactive parishioners of the church and seek pledges from them. This was a trying task that met with a lot of unhappy folks; however, most of them were glad to know the church wanted them to return.

1977 - We moved to New Jersey for 18 months and attended St. George's in Maplewood. I personally was a mentor to the teenagers and we went to a monastery in New York and we learned how it was to be a Brother in the faith with lots of prayer and meditation. We also went to the Broadway production of "Jesus Christ Superstar."

1978 - We moved to Fairbanks, AK and attended St. Matthew's. 1979 I was elected to serve on the vestry and appointed to be Junior Warden. 1981 the priest asked me to serve as Senior Warden. That was very fulfilling to be his warden. Very large congregation, with many native and Caucasian parishioners. The Bishop asked me to serve on the Diocese of Alaska Standing Committee during this time period. That was my first time to really understand the mission of the church. After a year off the vestry, we had a new priest join us and again I was SR Warden for 3 more years.

1990 - I relocated to SE Alaska. Haines had an Episcopal presence but no one pursued the start of a mission. So, again with a new Bishop I was asked to see if there was an interest. 1991, 28 parishioners signed a charter forming St. Michael and All Angels. I served many years on the vestry and served as warden for 2 years.



# Oh, When the Saints?

**Frances Jane (Fanny) van Alstyne  
née Crosby, Hymnwriter, 1915**

Fanny Crosby wrote more than 8000 sacred texts and gospel songs in the American evangelical tradition in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. She was born in Putnam County, New York, on March 20, 1820. As an infant she lost her eyesight as a result of a childhood illness. At age fifteen she entered the New York Institute for the Blind. She later became a teacher there and in 1858 married a fellow blind musician, Alexander van Alstyne.

Traditionally the words to a song are written first and music is composed afterwards. But Fanny Crosby's texts were so popular that most well-known composers of gospel music came to her to write the words to accompany their melodies. This happened on a visit to her friend, composer Phoebe Knapp. A newly composed tune was played for Fanny, and after she heard it several times, the words formed in a short time. The result was Fanny Crosby's best-known hymn, "Blessed Assurance."

Fanny Crosby's contribution to the unique genre of American gospel song is unequalled. Many of her hymns still find a place in Protestant evangelical hymnals.

A lifelong Methodist, Fanny Crosby died on February 12, 1915 in Bridgeport, Connecticut where she is buried.



*"It seemed intended by the blessed providence of God that I should be blind all my life, and I thank him for the dispensation. If perfect earthly sight were offered me tomorrow I would not accept it. I might not have sung hymns to the praise of God if I had been distracted by the beautiful and interesting things about me."*

~ Betty Fretwell

"I can tell you for an eternal truth that troubled souls are always safe. Trouble in itself is always a claim on love, and God is love. It is the prisoners, and the blind and the leper, and the possessed, and the hungry and the tempest-tossed, who are His special care. Therefore if you are lost and sick and bound, you are just in the place where He can meet you."

~Andrew Jukes, 19th Century English Theologian

## FISH Food Pantry News

St. George Episcopal Church was recently recognized in the News-Review for its donation to support the FISH Food Pantry. The church received a letter of thanks from John Sloan, FISH Board President. Part of his letter is quoted below:

“Please extend to your congregation the very grateful thanks of the Board of Directors of The FISH of Roseburg for the extra efforts that Saint George’s has made in supporting the programs of The FISH in recent months. We really appreciate all the hard work that went into organizing and putting on the church’s very recent successful Harvest Fest. The \$3,172.00 of profit from this night of food and fellowship that was given to The FISH is a big boost to our programs. This past fall’s Harvest Festival dinner was a terrific effort by your congregation! Also, the \$3,354.17 recently donated to The Fish by the members of your congregation is greatly appreciated. These additional fund raising efforts by St. George are particularly beneficial at this time.

“During the past six months The FISH Food Pantry has provided emergency food parcels to an average of 1,065 households per month, consisting of almost 4,300 people. Over 30% of those receiving food from the Pantry are children.”

Inasmuch as ye have  
done it unto one of the  
least of these my  
brethren, ye have done it  
unto me.



## Episcopal Church Women

The women of St. George met January 16 at church for the first meeting for 2014. We were happily surprised by a visit from Shirley Frisz and her daughter. Thelma Sayers shared wonderful stories about the time she & Father Sayers served in Nenana, Alaska.

We are starting to gear up for the spring rummage sale. We will meet again February 20 at 11:00. Be sure to join us. Marcia Jackson will present the program about the Roseburg Blast.

~ Betty Jo Hoffman

## Outreach Team

The Outreach Team is starting a community project making up small snack packs of non-perishable food. We’ll be asking people to help package these or donate a little money to help finance them.

Are you interested? Join us on February 5 at 2:00 in the Parish Hall. It’s still cold so we could still use socks to warm feet.

Fat Tuesday is coming in March!

~ Jean Bowden

# Diocesan Disaster Preparedness

The Diocese of Oregon Emergency Response Preparedness Program is designed to create and implement a plan to mitigate the effects of emergencies and disasters within the Diocese.

The Southern Convocation is looking for a new coordinator. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact Fr. Todd Young, Rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Grants Pass at 541-476-2493.

More information about the program can be found here: <http://www.diocese-oregon.org/our-church-at-work/commissions/emergency-response-preparedness-program/>



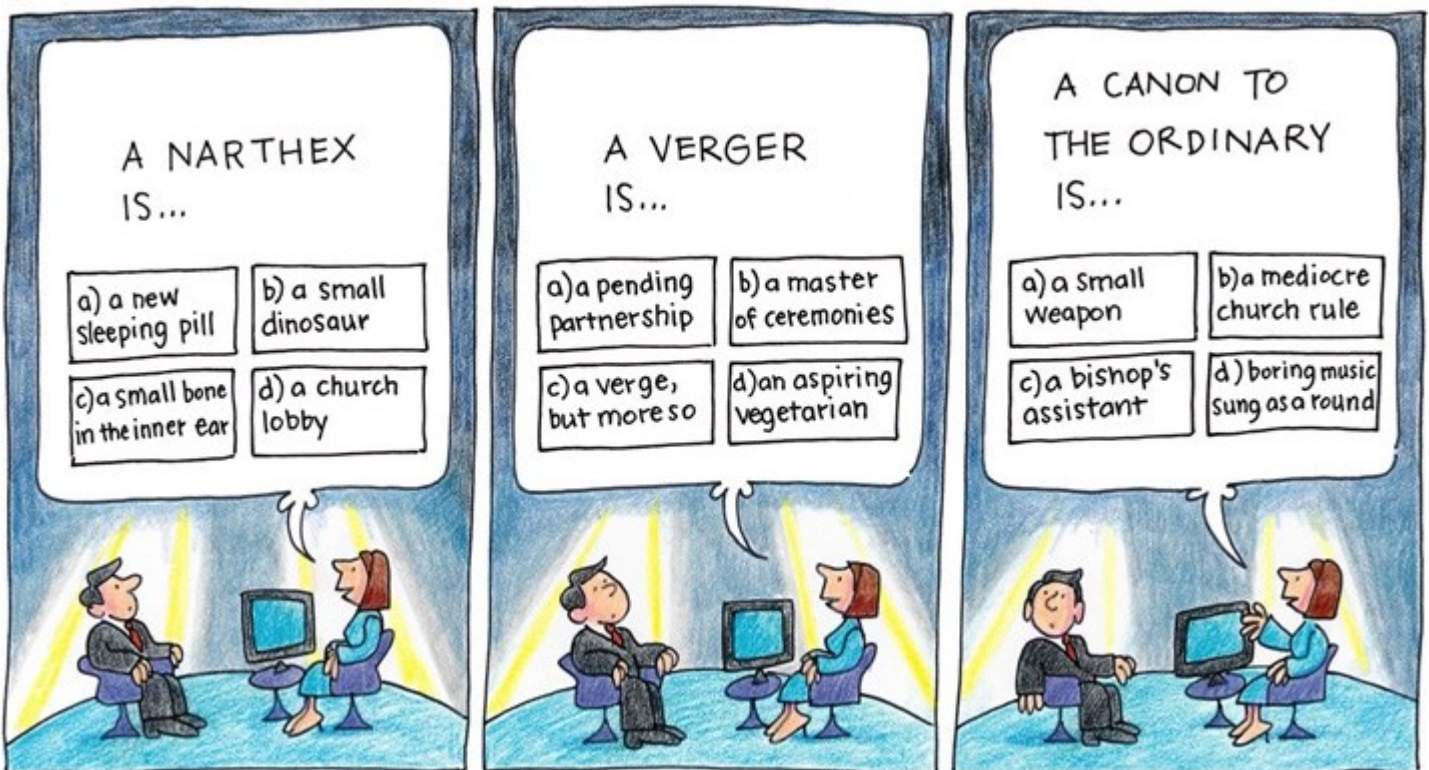
## Webmaster Needed

St. George needs a webmaster for the parish website. The webmaster would be part of the Communications Team, working together on the content of the site and responsible for posting updates. Time commitment is estimated to be an hour to an hour and a half per week.

Please prayerfully consider whether you might be the person for the job. Some computer experience is needed, but mostly you just need to be good at communicating and working as a team.

Contact the office if you are interested!

### SO YOU WANT TO BE AN EPISCOPALIAN





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**Return Service Requested**

St. George Episcopal Church publishes THE DRAGON SCOOP monthly. If you would like for something to be considered for the newsletter please inform the office no later than the 10th of the month. Submit irregular information and articles to stgeorge@stgeorgeepiscopal.com or to the parish office by 10 a.m. on the 15th of the month. E-mailed articles are preferred, if you have access to a computer.

Leigh Van Sickle, Editor

**Rector: The Rev. JoAnne Bennett**  
**Junior Warden: Donna Litherland**  
**Treasurer: Frank Graham**

**OFFICE HOURS**  
**10 am—3:30 pm**  
Open Monday, Tuesday, and  
Wednesday.  
Please call ahead if you can.

**ST. GEORGE WORSHIP**

**Sunday**

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday**

12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

