



The Dragon Scoop

February 2022

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



Pastor Gail's Ponderings



During the month of February we close the season of Epiphany with its emphasis on sharing our Lord's light with others. The last Sunday in February is the day of the Transfiguration. On the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus took the disciples, Peter, James, and John, up to pray with him.

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Pastor Gail's Ponderings

Luke describes the Transfiguration this way:

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. While he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud.

Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

That day on a mountaintop the disciples saw Jesus "in a new light." We use that expression to describe an experience where all that we knew about a person was suddenly changed by a glance or insight that challenged us to rethink our former perceptions. Peter, James, and John had been following Jesus with fierce loyalty but not yet with complete understanding. When they saw him "in a new light" they were both astonished and terrified. God's voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, listen to him!"

Sometimes we are terrified by glimpses of new light that challenge our understanding of Jesus and the way that we are called to serve him. How can we tell the difference between the light that blinds us to truth and a light that reveals more about Jesus? It is tempting to close our eyes

to any change or even to go running back down the mountain to the safety of the plains. But God's grace gives us the courage to step fully into the new light that Jesus brings into the world. And even if we don't want change we can trust that God will guide us to make wise decisions.

How do we lead by new light? God gives the answer in the story of the transfiguration. The words of Jesus are our directional signals. We keep the Bible nearby at meetings because we need to refer to it regularly to let the words of Jesus guide us. We are called to guide the church up to the mountaintop to peer into the dazzling light of Christ and then to travel by that light for the rest of our journey.

March 2, Ash Wednesday, is the beginning of Lent. Lent is an invitation to rediscover the desire of God's heart. Lent invites us to uncover again God's treasure and to discover God's heart beating in us.

Gracious God, you give us both comfort and challenge in the words and presence of Jesus. Teach us to engrave his words so deeply on our hearts and to live so fully in his light that we can lead God's people through changes and challenges in our world. Amen

God's peace be with you,
Pastor Gail



**Preach the Gospel at all times;
when necessary use words.**
~ St. Francis of Assisi

In Memoriam

Joyce “Joy” Mary Ballard

January 9, 1932 - January 10, 2022

Father Sherman Hesselgrave returned to Roseburg to preside over a glorious celebration of Joy’s life on January 17.

He spoke lovingly of her incredible gift for remembering conversations and of her ability to make people smile and laugh. Joy was a “model of what it means to be a person of faith.”



He said, “We give thanks to God for her wonderful life among us. She’s with the angels now.”

Although St. George’s was not able to host a reception because of COVID constraints, many people did stay for fellowship after the service.



In Memoriam, cont.



Parish News



Birthday Blessings
for David Jones (above left)

Pastor Gail celebrates her
70th Birthday (below)



Birthday Blessings
for Pastor Gail Duba, Marcia and David Jackson, and Lise Clark (above, left to right)

Episcopal Church Women

by Betty Jo Hoffman

Six of us met and decided the rummage sale will be May 6 and 7.

Vice President Sue Phelps presented two ways to support the church and the FISH Pantry.

- * One is a signup board of opportunities for us to help out around the church during the year;
- * and the other is a way to support a pledge our church made to the FISH Pantry. Watch and listen for more detailed information.

Thelma always gives her "thought for the day" for us to contemplate. This one is ***"No act of kindness is ever too small or wasted."***

Our previous organist/pianist, Elona Wong, came to tell us about her healthy ways for healing, easing stress, and staying happy and healthy.

Sue treated us to cake and ice cream.

Please join us on Feb. 17. We will continue to refine the rummage sale details.



The flower donation schedule is looking for donors. Now is the time to sign up for the date or dates that have special significance to you.

Be sure to indicate whom or what you are honoring with your donation.

Ways to donate:

- * If you want to contribute money and have the Altar Guild purchase and arrange the flowers, put a dollar amount in the space provided.
- * Or you can order flowers from a florist and pay them directly and have the arrangements delivered between 10:00 and 1:30 on Friday. If this is the case, write "florist" in the place provided.
- * You can purchase the flowers and bring them in for the Altar Guild to arrange or you can arrange them yourself. Home-grown flowers always lend a special meaning to bouquets. If either of these is your choice, indicate "home" in the appropriate space.

Thank you for your flower donations.

FISH

by Karla Roady

The FISH Food Pantry, which is supported by our church and five other local churches (Faith Lutheran, First Presbyterian, First United Methodist, St. Joseph Catholic, and Umpqua Unitarian Universalist), has been in operation for 50 years. During much of that time money was very tight and at times the pantry struggled to meet its budget. In addition to the financial support from the churches, the pantry needed to seek several grants every year in order to have enough money to purchase the needed food, including that available through the Oregon Food Bank and UCAN. The years from 2008 to 2011 were especially difficult as the need for food was great and the resources limited.

In the fall of 2011 that began to change when two FISH board members attended an introductory meeting about a new way to collect food for pantries. I was one of those board members along with Lucille Hatter from the First United Methodist Church. We learned about a system called the Neighborhood Food Project that had been started in Ashland by John Javna. The system was working well in both Ashland and Medford.

In the spring of 2012 another FISH board member, John Sloan, and I traveled to Ashland and Medford to observe the process. We enthusiastically reported back to the FISH board where it was decided to go forward. FISH established the Roseburg Food Project and a steering committee to plan and implement it. John, Lucille, and I were joined on the steering committee by Phyllis Zegers from the Umpqua Unitarian Universalist Church and Brigid Kennady from St. Joseph Catholic Church.

The philosophy of the neighborhood food projects is, "You want to help. We make it easy." It works by recruiting individuals to be Neighborhood Coordinators who then in turn invite their friends and neighbors to be food donors. By July of that year 15 Neighborhood

Coordinators had been recruited and trained. Also at that time, the concept arose of seeking a few businesses in the community to be sponsors who would donate money to pay for the needed green bags and informational cards. The first food collection was held in August of 2012 by 11 Neighborhood Coordinators who collected green bags from 94 food donors. 1400 pounds of food were collected.

In the nearly 10 years it has been in operation, the Roseburg Food Project has made significant changes to the financial picture at FISH. The green bag collections held once every two months bring in an average of 12,000 pounds each time. This has stabilized finances for the pantry and brought a wonderful variety of foods to give out to our neighbors who face food insecurity. In addition it has spread the awareness of what the food pantry does and how important it is to our community.



Photo by Karla Roady

Inspiration

Dreamtime story for you

According to an old Native American legend, one day there was a big fire in the forest. All the animals fled in terror in all directions, because it was a very violent fire. Suddenly, the jaguar saw a hummingbird pass over his head, but in the opposite direction. The hummingbird flew towards the fire!

"I am going to the lake," he answered. "I drink water with my beak and throw it on the fire to extinguish it."

The jaguar laughed. "Are you crazy? Do you really think that you can put out that big fire on your own with your very small beak?"



"No," said the hummingbird, "I know I can't. But the forest is my home. It feeds me, it shelters me and my family. I am very grateful for that. And I help the forest grow by pollinating its flowers. I am part of her and the forest is part of me. I know I can't put out the fire, but I must do my part."

At that moment, the forest spirits, who listened to the hummingbird, were moved by the birdie and its devotion to the forest.

And miraculously they sent a torrential downpour, which put an end to the great fire.

Whatever happened, he wouldn't stop. Moments later, the jaguar saw him pass again, this time in the same direction as the jaguar was walking. He could observe this coming and going until he decided to ask the bird about it because it seemed very bizarre behavior.

"What are you doing, hummingbird?" he asked.

The Native American grandmothers would occasionally tell this story to their grandchildren, then conclude with, "Do you want to attract miracles into your life? Do your part."

Blessings,
Grandmother Flordemayo

Sharing with gratitude
the Ancestral Healing Summit

Inspiration

I look around and see many walking beside me who are as old as me and more. White-haired pilgrims still walking the seeker's way. What word would I say to all these veterans of the sacred journey?

I would say this: "Walk on young traveler, for your quest has only just begun! You are not the tired veteran trudging home from a lost war, but the youthful spirit of wonder leaning against all restraint, wanting to rush forward to capture the

next discovery. You are faith in its youth, having learned enough over these many years to recognize that you have only started."

We have an infinity of time stretching out before us, an endless reality of beauty and mystery. And we are only just beginning. One lifetime is not enough to contain forever.

~ The Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston,
Facebook, Jan. 10, 2022

Stamp Club News

Umpqua Valley Stamp Club presents
the February stamp of the month



February is National Spunky Old Broads Month



Scott catalog #1399, issued
on January 1, 1974

"S.O.B" month created in 2002, exists to give 60+ Spunky Old Broads a time to recognize their importance, and to celebrate themselves and their accomplishments. Such as Dr. Blackwell, America's first woman Physician.

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



St. George Episcopal Church
1024 S.E. Cass Avenue
Roseburg, OR. 97470

541-673-4048

stgeorge@stgeorgeepiscopal.com
www.saintgeorgesepiscopal.com
www.facebook.com/episcopalroseburg



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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
Junior Warden: Bob Spielman
Treasurer: Kathy Glockner

OFFICE HOURS
10 am—2 pm
Monday through Friday

ST. GEORGE WORSHIP
10 am
Sundays
and
Wednesdays

february