

Mission Statement: "Loving God, Loving Our Neighbors"

# The Dragon Scoop January 2015

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

The Episcopal Church Welcomes You

rise into your true calling, lifted up by the challenge that stirs the imagination. You were made for this, you were born to this, shaped by a lifetime of experience to be the one who could do it. In each of us there is a sense for what we are called to do, an awareness of the mission that guides our life's purpose. Even if we wander in other directions, we often feel called back to this path. We are sealed in the Spirit to our vocation, stewards of the gifts we are given. Be blessed again into your talent. Be proud of your vision. Arise into your true calling, becoming the creative person you were meant to be, the sign of hope you embody."

~ The Right Reverend Steven Charleston, Choctaw

Yes, this is YOU being called! St. George Episcopal Church in Roseburg, Oregon needs YOU!

There is some task here that YOU would do best. It doesn't have to take a lot of your time. It might be something you do weekly or monthly or even only twice a year. It might be something you can do from home. It might be something you share responsibility for. But make no mistake, YOU are being called to do it.

Here are some of the areas where you might be needed:

- Helping to set up coffee hour
- Serving on Altar Guild
- Participating in the prayer circle
- Heading up the Outreach or Fellowship Committee

- Thinking up ideas for outreach or fellowship
- Helping with grounds maintenance
- Helping with repairs
- Taking pictures of parish events
- Helping package snack bags
- Running for the Vestry
- Supplying flowers for the altar
- Writing an article for the Dragon Scoop
- Helping with FISH projects
- Acting as usher/greeter

If you don't see yourself doing any of these, think about what does speak to your heart. God has made us each with our own talents and interests. Our individual abilities make it possible for us to succeed as a community of believers.

Arise into your true calling.



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## **Letter from Bishop Neff**

#### Pilgrimage to Jerusalem

Dear Friends in Christ,

On Christmas Day, in the Gospel According to St. Luke, an angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds and proclaimed the birth of the Messiah in Bethlehem. Then, suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host. The shepherds promptly decide to go to Bethlehem and see for themselves. On Epiphany, reading from the Gospel According to Matthew, the magi arrive from "the east" first visiting Jerusalem and then Bethlehem to see the new King of the Jews. On one hand lowly born local shepherds; on the other hand majestic foreigners, making it clear that this message is for all people.

I will not be with you in January because I am going to the Holy Lands to see for myself. I am making a pilgrimage. My younger son Bingham will accompany me. We will be staying at St. George's College, Jerusalem, an Episcopal/Anglican center, taking a course titled "The Palestine of Jesus." We depart on January 8th and return on January 28th.

I have never felt a strong call to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Lands. All my life I have depended on the witness of others who have been to tell me what it is all about. Now the time has come. It is time for the old bishop to go see for himself. I am mindful that sometimes the call from God to do something is strong and clear, like a multitude of the heavenly host. Other times it is like a gentle breeze. This call feels like a gentle breeze call. And yet, I go fully expecting to have moments of deep spiritual connection and insight.

I am able to make the pilgrimage because when I retired as Bishop of Southwestern Virginia my goodbye gift was a purse to cover expenses to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Lands. I am grateful that Bingham has been to St. George's before which will make my experience even richer. When he graduated from Virginia Theological Seminary (where Fr. Boston earned his Doctor of Ministry) he was awarded a prize of travel and a course to be taken at St. George's College. Now, father and son, young priest and retired bishop, will be pilgrims together.

I plan to make Facebook postings from Jerusalem so you can follow us. Do know that I will be praying for you all at the holy sites. Please also hold Bingham and me in your prayers.

Grace and Peace,

+Neff



Gregory Cadwallader and Linda Homes were married at St. George on Christmas Eve, with the Reverend Doug Hale officiating.



### **Christmas Stocking Project**

Thirty-five children had a happier Christmas this year because of the generosity of St. George parishioners.

Thanks to all who gave money and gifts for this cause, and thanks especially to Thelma Sayers for organizing the drive.



It is more blessed to give than to receive.







Members of the congregation gathered as the Reverend James Boston blessed the donated gifts after the December 14 services.

# **Episcopal Church Women**

ECW met December 18 for wonderful food and a trip around the world with Thelma Sayers as our guide. She shared some of the treasures she has picked up on various trips around the world taken by her, her family, and friends.

We are continuing to watch for ideas to make the area by the columbarium a comfortable, peaceful, and attractive place for people to visit loved ones. We are set on some kind of a design using river rock and stones that will be maintenance free. If you have a picture of something simple that we might be able to do, please pass it on. Please

visit the columbarium for inspiration.

We continue to search for people who are interested in developing and/or implementing outreach and fellowship ideas with other parishioners.

We will meet again January 15, 2015, at 11:00. A lady from the Division for Senior Services and Veterans Services of the Department of Health and Social Services will provide our program.

~ Betty Jo Hoffman, ECW Co-President

#### READERS' DIGESTS WANTED

One of the ladies who attends the AA meetings works at the jail and says the inmates have a lot of time for reading. So, she has put out a request for Reader's Digests that you are willing to pass along. Some of the people in AA might also appreciate having them. Please drop them off at the office. This is a good outreach opportunity.

#### **MOBILITY AIDS**

Do you know that St. George has wheelchairs, crutches, and walkers available for you to borrow as needed? There is no charge for their use. Ask at the office if you would like to use this service.

# **Vestry Candidates Class of 2018**

Leonard W. (Bill) Riley

I concur with having my name added to a list of candidates to be voted on for the Vestry class of 2018; however, I would strongly recommend that a younger person with interests in helping our church be selected.

When first approached to serve on the Vestry, I requested an audience with Rev. Susan, Bill Leary, and Pete Benham as I did not feel morally or spiritally qualified. After meeting with them I did agree to serve. I started under Rev. Susan and completed my three-year assignment under Rev. JoAnne. I very much enjoyed my time on the Vestry and feel I was able to contribute in the area of property management. When asked to extend for a fourth year I agreed and did complete it.

When asked to extend for a fifth year I refused as it became apparent that Rev. JoAnne was simply trying to keep people on the Vestry that she could control and refused to allow the congregation to vote on new candidates. Faye Benham had expressed an interest in serving on the Vestry. When I offered to step down, thus creating a vacancy, so that Faye could serve, I was accused of trying to manipulate the system. Thus at the end of my fourth year I dropped off the Vestry.

I have no interest in the politics of the church. Also, because of the distance I live out of town I normally only attend church about once or twice each month. I do feel that I can continue to help with the upkeep of our church property even if not on the Vestry, so I could attend Vestry meetings as a visitor, just like Jean Bowden. I would recommend that a younger person be selected to serve.

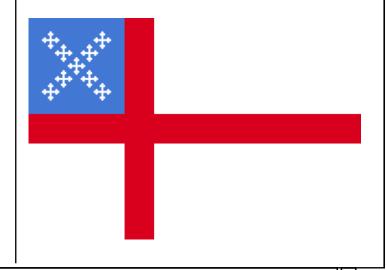
Robert H. Spielman

I would like my name to be added to the list of candidates for nomination for the Vestry Class of 2018.

Having been selected to fill out the term of a Vestry member that had resigned, I find that there were some business and projects that were started that will need to be continued to completion. Being involved in these ventures, I would like very much to see them carried out and fulfilled.

I have been an Episcopalian since 1960. I have served on Vestries in the capacities of Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and Secretary and in the church as Acolyte Director, Sunday School Director, and choir member. And helping out wherever help was needed.

I would dearly love to see this church become viable, vibrant, and cohesive to the congregation. It has started, let's keep it going.



At least one more Vestry candidate is needed. Will it be you? Please prayerfully consider this and let the office know by the middle of January.

### **Parish News**



December 21, 2014—Holy Eucharist with Bishop Neff presiding Photo courtesy of David Sayers



December 21, 2014—Bishop Neff telling the children about St. Nicholas



December 21, 2014—Singing Christmas carols after the service



December 24, 2014—Rehearsing for Christmas Eve



December 21, 2014—Fellowship after the service Decorations by Penny Johnson and Sue Phelps



December 24, 2014—Christmas Eve Service with Fr. Doug Hale

### **Matthew 19:14**

I just wanted to share a story. This month has been Dress-A-Child. It is a community event in which children get to shop for clothes with a mentor.

As I transported a few of the children in my own car, it jogged a memory for one of the children. While she was happy about her new clothes, she couldn't help but remember that last year there was another child with us. The two little girls had been in my McKinney- Vento van, where we listened to music, played "I Spy," and made it a fun ride.

Then last fall, one of the little girls was found dead. The little girl with me became tearful as she remembered her friend. When she got home, to comfort her, her mom got a balloon and had her write a note to her friend.

She let the balloon fly the note to heaven. Her mom called me and told me a few days later that in this cold weather they found the



balloon. The note was gone. She told her daughter that the note was received and the balloon was proof of that.

The girl's death is still under investigation. At least one child a year dies in our little community while homeless.

Our children are not islands, they are tied to one another deeply. They are also tied to us. To be a McKinney-Vento Liaison is to put your heart out there knowing that at least one of your little lambs may not be here next year. To be a McKinney-Vento Liaison over time (I have 18 years in) means you have the deep grief of losing a child that is like your own. We are passionate about our work or we would not be here. We cannot let those little angels have died in vain. It all matters!

~ Juliana Marez

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 is a United States federal law that provides federal money for homeless shelter programs. It was the first significant federal legislative response to homelessness, and was passed and signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on July 22, 1987. The act has been reauthorized several times over the years.

## **Organ Music Again!**

Jeanette Buxton is back at St. George! Although she still lives in Eugene, she and her husband Tony plan to make the trip to Roseburg twice a month so that Jeanette can play for us.



#### Cathedrals of the World

#### Ely Cathedral Ely, England

Ely Cathedral is the seat of the Bishop of Ely and is the principal church in the Diocese of Ely.



Because it stands on a slight rise - 85 feet above the surrounding farmland - it is known as "The Ship of the Fens."



The Octagon

The present building was started in 1083 by William the Conqueror, but was not completed until 1375, although it attained cathedral status in 1109. The design was changed several times during the building as each successive Bishop implemented their favorite ideas, and even as late as 1500 chapels were still being added.

In 1322 the central tower collapsed due to ground movement. Instead of the tower being replaced, the whole design was changed so as to include a much larger, open area in the center of the building in the shape of an octagon.

Most of the stained glass and statues were destroyed around 1539 – during a period known as the Dissolution of the Monasteries. Around 1650 the cathedral was closed for 10 years and was used as a stable for horses. Major repair work has been carried out over the centuries, with the latest being done from 1986 to 2000.

Ely has been an important center of Christian worship since the seventh century. A monastery was built in the area in 673, was destroyed by Danish invaders in 870 but restored again in 970. Although the actual City of Ely is relatively small (around 20,000) the cathedral itself is a major tourist attraction.

~ Doug Holloway



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**Return Service Requested** 

St. George Episcopal Church publishes THE DRAGON SCOOP on the last Sunday of the month. 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

Priest-in-Charge: The Rt. Rev. Neff Powell Senior Warden: Donna Litherland Junior Warden: Steve Thomas Treasurer: Frank Graham

OFFICE HOURS 10 am—2:00 pm Monday through Friday

ST. GEORGE WORSHIP

Sunday 10:00 am

Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer

