



# The Dragon Scoop

## January 2019

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



## Wisdom for the New Year

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

~ Micah 6:8

Let what has happened sleep now, nestled  
down in blankets of hours and days, let  
the past find its own rest, for that story is  
finished, while your story has only begun.

A new year opens before you, a new field of  
possibilities as far as the eye can see. Walk  
toward it with confidence. The Spirit is with  
you. The community of hope is with you.  
Whatever is to come, whatever you find along  
the way, you will be more than able  
to handle it.

Wisdom walks beside you, experience is  
your guide: you have come this far for a  
reason. Trust in what you believe and let love  
take you where you want to go.

~ Bishop Steven Charleston

### The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and the princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among brothers,  
To make music in the heart.

~ Howard Thurman

### Inside This Issue

Rector's Letter	2
Parish News	3-4
ECW	5
FISH & FYI	6-7
Christmas 2018	8
Blessings	9

# Rector's Letter

Dear Friends in Christ,

Most of you will get this on Sunday, January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany. Another title for the Epiphany is "The Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles." Those gentiles, representing all who were not children of Abraham, were magi, scholars from Persia. They followed a star to find Jesus and his family in Bethlehem, to worship, and to bring gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh: gold, a gift for a king; frankincense, used in the worship of God; and myrrh, a fragrance used with burials. In their gifts they acknowledged the kingship of Jesus, the divine nature of Jesus, and the sacrificial death of Jesus for sinners: sinners like you and me.

We were bought with a price, by the grace of God, through the life-saving death of Jesus. We try to obey the teaching and example of Jesus. We worship Jesus, the Christ, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God. We trust God's love and share that love with our neighbors, who are also loved by God. We see the Cross as the measure of God's love for us sinners. Wow!

Love is not easy. Not for us and not for God. So we keep coming back for help: teaching, prayer, encouragement, companionship, and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Often we see that our loving and serving makes the lives of our neighbors better. And we thank God for the grace to persevere.

About perseverance. The next rector of St. George's is likely to be called in 2019. That rector will promise to love you, to lead you, to teach you, and to support you. You will promise to do the same for him or her. The vestry will make that call with a high degree of confidence. I expect it to be a great relationship, like mine here, and more so.

The new rector and the congregation will have habits. You will be wise to not make an issue of ceremonial details. Those vary widely. It's ok to ask why the rector does some things differently. We priests all have reasons. Sometimes negotiations are needed. There are lots of varied customs and practices among Episcopal churches. Beloved local customs are important. There are also lots of official directions. Sometimes it is ok let a rule slide. More often it is not. Our rules are in the Bible, the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), other liturgical books, the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church, those of our Diocese, our parish by-laws, and a lot of unwritten customs.

Conflicting ideas need to be discussed. Often they are about details that matter little. Sometimes they matter a lot, and perhaps even the Bishop needs to be consulted. My point is, deal openly with the priest and one another when there are differences of opinion. If that does not work, get help from the Bishop or someone he recommends. And, always, let all be done with love (1 Corinthians 16:14).

I know that whomever you call will find a wonderful group of Christian people with whom to share the ministries to which St. George's is called. It will be a great adventure.

For now, I delight in the privilege of sharing in the ministry and life of St. George's.

In Christ,

Fr. Jim+



## Parish News



*Sue Phelps and Penny Johnson (photo at left) decorate the Parish Hall for Advent in their traditional warm, homelike style.*

*Below, parishioners relax in the cozy atmosphere.*



*On December 2, Father Jim and Pam brought guests Jean Wahlstrom and Marvin Kananen, formerly missionaries at the MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School in Tanzania.*

*Jean (left) spoke movingly of the changes in society that are allowing young women to attain an education at the school instead of being exchanged for cattle to increase their fathers' herds.*

## Parish News



*The Christmas Giving Tree brought many presents to local children. Jill Hammerle and Miggs (above) are shown dropping off their gifts.*



*Thelma Sayers (above) went as far as Salem to shop for the children on the list. Here she is taking a break at Salem's Riverfront Carousel.*

Photo by Pete Benham



*(Above, left to right) Betty Jo Hoffman, Nancy Baum, Karla Roady, and Sue Phelps prepared holiday gift bags with treats baked by the ECW ladies.*

# Episcopal Church Women

## by Betty Jo Hoffman

We had a very busy and interesting meeting on December 20. We brought women's socks for the Roseburg Mission which will then be given to Samaritan Inn when they are needed.

Since our last meeting, the gift tree for Children's Services and the fruitcake sale were successful. We have donated \$200 and all the coats out of the box in the hall by the library to the Warming Center. Two new white lightweight tables have been purchased to replace some old, heavy, and broken ones and we decided to purchase two more.

At this meeting, we reimbursed Sue Phelps for the purchase of a large cooler for use with various church projects; we also agreed to give the annual monetary gifts to cleaning staff Tenaya, Julie, and Elva; and we will supply cookies for the coffee get-together after the Christmas Eve service.

Thelma read us a list of "Things My Mother Taught Me." We all can relate to many of them! For example:

My mother taught me religion.  
"You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

My mother taught me about behavior modification.  
"Stop acting like your father!"

My mother taught me about stamina.  
"You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."

Jeannine Romeril was our guest speaker. She told us her wonderful story of the "day she died." Even though she flat-lined for just two short moments, her experience was a warm enfolding

of love by those whom she can only describe as "soft people" and God. It caused a release of many negative feelings. She now feels so full of love and offers smiles to everyone in hopes they can experience the warmth of that same love.

Sue provided a printed list of some books about others who have shared similar experiences:

### **Near Death Experiences Bibliography** by Sue Phelps

*Flight to Heaven* by Captain Dale Black and Ken Gire. 100+ gripping stories and what Scripture says about heaven.

*Imagine Heaven: Near Death Experiences, God's Promises and the Exhilarating Future that Awaits Us* by John Burke

*A Message from God* by Retha and Aldo McPherson. The story of a 12-year-old in a coma.

*My Time in Heaven: a True Story of Dying and Coming Back* by Richard Sigmund

*Proof of Heaven: a Neurosurgeon's Journey in the Afterlife* by Eben Alexander.

*To Heaven and Back: A Doctor's Extraordinary Account of Her Death, Heaven, Angels, and Life Again* by Mary C. Neal, MD

Our January program will be the movie *Heaven Is Real*. So please join us on January 17.



## FISH Report

From the FISH website:

WOW! The final results for the December Roseburg Food Project collection of donated food are: 13,781 pounds collected by 73 Neighborhood Coordinators from 808 food donors. This is the best collection in the 6 years of the project. Thank you to all who support the FISH pantry throughout the year. The next RFP pick-up day will be Saturday, February 9.

The Fish Pantry is blessed to have local companies like Carrotly that have the fantastic mindset to help make a difference providing food to those less fortunate. We appreciate their partnership and want to give them a shout out for a check for \$4316. Because of the obvious tie in with the company name, we plan to use the bulk of this for canned carrots or canned peas and carrots, something we seldom receive.

<https://fishofroseburg.org>

## United Thank Offering

BJ says,

Thank you for your generosity to the United Thank Offering Fund. We were able to send a total of \$332.28.

Some people will bring in additional funds throughout the year and we will continue to send them in as they are received. But you are invited to start saving up your change until we have another in-gathering next spring.

## Gift from the Bostons



*Father Jim and Pam Boston donated this crucifix that was mounted above the credence table behind the altar.*



Photos by Bill Riley

# Diocesan Convention 2018

## by Jean Bowden

*Jean, along with Father Jim and Pam Boston, Sue Phelps, and Margaret and Steve Thomas, attended the Annual 130th Diocesan Convention in Seaside on November 1-3. Here are Jean's impressions.*

The Convention opened at 7:30 with the singing of beautiful prayers in Spanish and English. Heidi Kim, Staff Officer for Racial Reconciliation of The Episcopal Church, talked about that subject.

We continued with talks on socially responsible investment funds which we are involved in. Bishop Michael discussed the closing and sale of St. Matthew's in Portland. Money was granted to fill a request for funds of a K-7 school in Lincoln City. They had a shortfall of \$500

and received a check that morning for that amount.

The Episcopal Church is redoing parts of the Prayer Book, but we will still use the latest one. Some people were happy both ways with that.

The Bishop gave a speech on a new book called *Canoeing the Mountains, Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory*. It was about the Lewis and Clark expedition and how they learned that with good leadership they had to leave the canoes behind and move on to the future with a commitment to work together.

Last, but not least, Bishop Michael awarded the Bishop's Cross to both Fr. Jim and Pam for their dedicated work.

## 2019 Flower Schedule Ready for You

The 2019 Flower Schedule is up and ready for you to find a Sunday or two that you would like to provide flowers for the altar.

It is a little different this year. There is a place for you to indicate who or what you would like to honor with your donation of money or actual flowers, but this is not required.

You can bring flowers and arrange them, bring them and have the Altar Guild ladies arrange them, or just donate the money and the flowers will be bought and arranged.

Of course, any time you would like to give money to cover the cost of altar flowers when no one has signed up to donate them, just put "altar flowers" in the memo section of your check or on the brown pew envelope.

Be sure to sign up early so you get those special dates you would like.

~ BJ



# Christmas 2018



*St. George's Choir,  
led by Hilary Hall (below right),  
opened the Christmas Eve  
service with a concert.*



# December Blessings



*Happy Birthday to Pete Benham (above)  
and Frank Graham (right)*



*Happy Birthday to  
Jewell Gates,  
Richard Finn,  
and Nancy Baum  
(above, left to right)*

*Jewell (left) just  
turned 90!*



*Happy 38th Anniversary to  
Tony and Jeanette Buxton  
(above)*





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*Don't forget Vestry nominations!*

**The Vestry requests that anyone who desires to be nominated for election to the Vestry submit their desire in writing by **January 10, 2019** to the church office or to the Senior Warden.**

St. George Episcopal Church publishes THE DRAGON SCOOP monthly. 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](mailto:saintgeorgepix@gmail.com).

Leigh Van Sickle, Editor  
541-391-0814

**Interim Rector: The Rev. James Boston**  
**Senior Warden: Pete Benham**  
**Junior Warden: Steve Thomas**  
**Treasurer: Kathy Glockner**

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

## **ST. GEORGE WORSHIP**

**Sunday**  
**10:00 am**

**Holy Eucharist**  
**or Morning Prayer**

