



# The Dragon Scoop

## January 2020

**Mission Statement:**  
"Loving God, Loving Our  
Neighbors"

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

**The Episcopal Church Welcomes You**



### Christmas Eve, 2019



"Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

***"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"***

Luke 2:10-14

# Rector's Letter

Dear friends,

Happy 2020!

Some of you will be like me and Pam. We did not watch the ball drop in Times Square as the New Year arrived. We have seen it so many times before. It is no longer exciting.

Not all repetitive events are so easy to skip. Consider our Sunday worship, week after week, year after year. The services are similar, Eucharist, or sometimes Morning Prayer. Most of the hymns are familiar. Sometimes even the preaching is familiar.

Yet we come, Sunday after Sunday after Sunday. Sundays when we are not at St. George's we may be in another Episcopal Church, or at a church of some other branch of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. The similarities are greater than the differences. That feels good.

Christians have been worshipping together, and with the hosts of heaven, for over 2,000 years. Sometimes I try to picture that in my mind. I get glimpses, but I cannot take in that whole reality. God can, and does.

As we receive the Bread and the Cup, we are as close to God as one can be in this life. We may not feel it, but we know it by faith. God is with us. Even when we are feeling unholy, distracted, or even bored, Jesus comes to us in Bread and Wine. Jesus also gives himself to us, at any time and place, when we make an act of Spiritual Communion.

Still, gathering is better. We encourage one another. We even reveal Jesus to one another. Standing at the altar, I can notice those present. I also notice some who are not. I pray God's blessings for all.

The gospel readings in the Sundays after Epiphany are revelations of Jesus in his early ministry. The root meaning of Epiphany is to reveal something, like a curtain opening on

a stage. From the visit of the Magi to the Transfiguration (February 26), Jesus is revealed to us, true man and true God.

We all are invited to be epiphanies of God's love and help, both to one another and to any in need. Give thanks.

PS:

It appears Pam and I may be with you for another year. So far, God has not yet chosen to send the next rector. I am glad, because we both love sharing the ministry at St. George's. I am most grateful for your grace as I make occasional lapses.

Thank you to all who made Christmas Eve beautiful in every way: choir, Hilary, Altar Guild, ECW, servers, cooks, ushers, office staff, decorators, and Eucharistic ministers.

Leaders of all our parish ministries: Please submit reports asap for inclusion in the Annual Report, which will be distributed at the Annual Meeting, which will be on a Sunday in February.

In Christ, Fr. Jim+





# Christmas at Rogue Valley Youth Correctional Facility

by Pam Boston

In early December, Jim and I shopped for Christmas trees for the Rogue Valley Youth Correctional Facility (RVYCF). We purchased trees for each of the four units and for the main lobby of the facility.

In mid-December I watched as young men from the RVYCF wrapped presents for their children on “the outside.” Each child received an outfit, a hoodie or jacket, a toy, a book, and a card. Writing in the card is what always takes the longest, as the young men try to connect with their child. It’s heartwarming to see them sign the card “Love, Daddy.” The next day we shipped the presents to the children.

Then the big day arrived: December 22, the party for Bravo Unit. We went in with individual gifts, unit gifts, food and paper goods, two nativity scenes, our Santa hats, and smiles. We spent time setting up while the guys finished up their med distribution time. Several of the youth in leadership positions helped us.

Food came first. Pizzas were delivered, chips and drinks laid out, and three small pieces of candy set at every place. After dinner, pie and ice cream were offered. We volunteers sat among the guys, talking and laughing while eating. I was serving up the chips. Each young man said “thank you” as they came through the line.

When everyone had finished eating, they moved to the main living area. We participated in the Twelve Days of Christmas, singing some other carols; then Jim read Chapter 2 of Luke’s Gospel and showed them the two nativity scenes. Another volunteer preached for a few minutes. We sang a bit more, then opened the presents.

Each young man received

- (1) a pair of socks,
- (2) either body wash or a nylon bath scrubby, and
- (3) a game book, a small photo album, or a journal book.

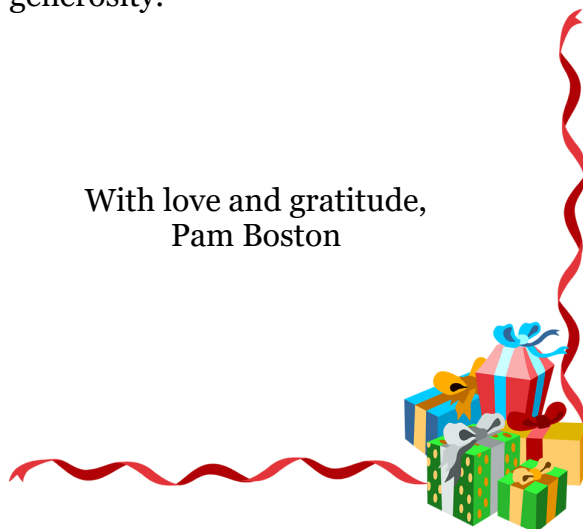
Unit gifts included footballs, basketballs, Legos, a wide variety of art supplies, various types of drawing pads, Rubik’s cubes, and Yahtzee scoresheets and dice. Again, each boy thanked us. They were all smiles!

Thank you to the ECW and several members of St. George’s, as well as the Diocese, for generously providing the funds for these special events. The money that was left over was put into the funds that provide incentive items for positive behavior.

For many of these boys, Christmas at the RVYCF is the most positive Christmas they have ever had. The sense of being cared about and valued is very important.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and your generosity.

With love and gratitude,  
Pam Boston



# Episcopal Church Women

## by Betty Jo Hoffman

ECW met at Karla Roady's home for our December meeting. It was a nice Christmas gathering with soup and fellowship and a little bit of business.

We decided to try January 2 for our next meeting. It will be at church and we will learn about Hospice Care. We also decided to have soup and bread and fruit breads for dessert for our Epiphany meal January 5. ECW will provide the meal.

Join us January 2 at 11:00 for our next meeting and put those Christmas things you have decided you don't want anymore aside for the Tools-to-Treasure sale in the spring.

~ Betty Jo Hoffman, ECW President

*The Dragon Scoop apologizes that the January issue was not published in time to announce ECW's January 2 meeting.*

## FISH

The final results for the December collection of donated food by the Roseburg Food Project:

**81 Neighborhood Coordinators  
collected 15,761 pounds  
from 871 food donors.**



Included in this year's total: 1,994 pounds of donated food collected by the students at Jo Lane Middle School. This is one of the largest food drive donations by a single group ever received in the 48-year FISH history.

This year's total (15,761 pounds) is the most ever collected for the Roseburg Food Project in a single collection since the Project started in August of 2012. It surpasses the previous record collection—in December, 2018—of 13,781 pounds.

Kim Jasper, Executive Director, reported in the December 2019 FISH Newsletter, "We recently updated our client intake room, which now includes partitions, allowing for better client privacy. . . . Banner Bank was kind enough to recycle their furniture by passing it on to others who could use it. We are excited to offer an environment where clients can feel as though we are doing everything possible to protect their privacy. This new update has also helped our volunteers out. They are able to provide better one-on-one service, by hearing and communicating better with clients. We are still making improvements but come and check out the changes!"



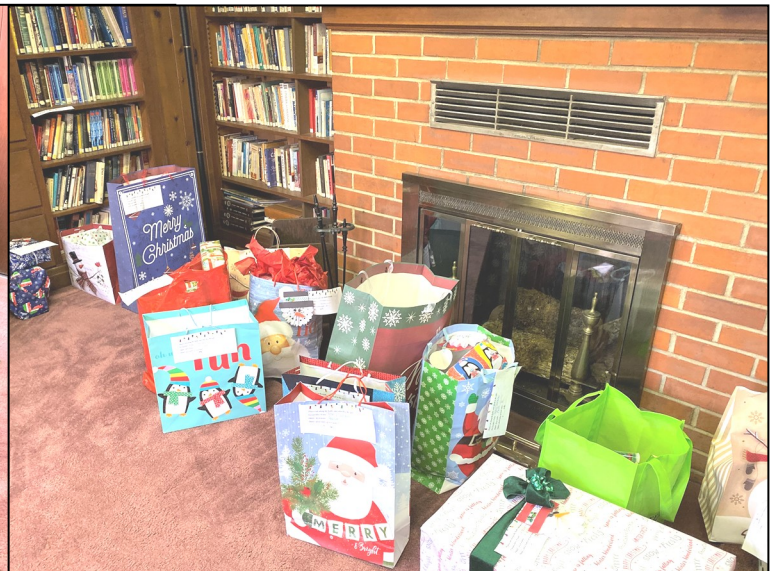
## Parish News



*Left: Once again, Sue Phelps and Penny Johnson worked their magic on the Parish Hall, turning it into a seasonal wonderland for Advent and Christmas.*

*Center: Here are only a few of the gifts St. George parishioners brought for the annual Children's Giving Tree.*

*Below: Father Jim's blessings for Susan Brossia, Pete Benham, Nancy Baum, and Jewell Gates (left to right).*





# Christmas



*Friends, both old and new,  
at the Christmas Eve service.*





# The Ragged Edge of Night

## A Novel by Olivia Hawker

It's hard to imagine a sympathetic book about Germans during World War 2, but from the opening scenes in Olivia Hawker's novel you will be rooting for Anton Starzmann, who has just arrived at the backwater village of Unterboihingen in September of 1942. Right away you find out that Anton was a Franciscan friar, teaching special needs children, when the Nazis came to his school and took the students away, conscripting him into the Wehrmacht.

His time as a soldier was brief, however. He damaged his back in a parachute accident and was discharged from the army. As the story opens, Anton is on his way to meet Elisabeth, a widow with three children, who advertised in a Catholic magazine that she needed a husband. Finally Anton has a purpose in life again:

*"After many dark months of silence of distance, the Lord has spoken. He has called the friar who is no longer a friar; He has awakened Anton to his appointed task. Father of the fatherless and protector of widow is God in His holy habitation."*

Anton quickly becomes attached to Elisabeth, the children, and the whole village. The villagers are sheltered from the worst of the war because their location is so unimportant. They can raise their own food, and all make sure that no one goes without. The town still has a priest. Unfortunately they also have a *gauleiter*, a district governor who is the eyes and ears of the Reich.

*"You must be guided by integrity, mercy, and justice. You must let love carry all your decisions, all your words. That is what the Lord asks of us in every role: father, mother, brother, child. Neighbor and friend—nun and friar. That is all the Lord asks—that we live by Christ's example." How can any man claim those qualities now—integrity, mercy, justice? Everything the Reich has done, all the cruelties and death, the burial of our rights in an unmarked grave—none*

*of it has been Anton's will, nor does he approve. Yet he can't help feeling he is to blame. And aren't we all to blame? What has brought us here, if not heedlessness or willful neglect? We have forgotten some crucial lesson our forefathers learned long ago, but ignorance is no excuse; the price must be paid."*

Soon Anton is drawn into carrying messages for a German resistance movement. And he starts a marching band to keep the town's boys out of the Hitler Youth. What will happen to him, his new family, and his town when eventually the SS does arrive in Unterboihingen? This is an exciting book with plenty of tension, but there are no graphic scenes of war. And most of all, it is a story of hope and courage.

This novel was based on the real-life story of Hawker's husband's grandfather. She says she could have written a novel twice the size without running low on material.

*"We are fools to think the past remains in the past. History is our guilty conscience; it will not let us rest . . . . We are Widerstand—resistance—you and I. No force can silence us, unless we permit silence. I prefer to roar. I have seen the power of human goodness; I know how courageous the most ordinary person can be. . . . Because I have seen, I believe—I know—that darkness cannot last forever. And beyond night's edge, there is light."*

A copy of this book will be placed in the church library. It's also available in ebook format for Amazon Kindle.

~ Leigh Van Sickle



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*Right: The Vestry replaced  
our worn old sign with this  
new one on Main Street.*



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  
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**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**  
**Sundays**  
**10 am—Holy Eucharist**  
  
**Wednesdays**  
**10 am—Morning Prayer**

