

Mission Statement: "Loving God, Loving Our Neighbors"

The Dragon Scoop January 2021

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

The Episcopal Church Welcomes You

Christmas Eve 2020



O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Pastor Gail's Ponderings....

Epiphany—Navigating by GPS

"In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews, for we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.'...
When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it



stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh." Matthew 2:1-2 & 10-11

It was their willingness to ponder the expanse of the heavens that made them wise. Under the panorama of the night sky, they contemplated dark and light, movement and mystery. It all meant something—they were sure of it. But what message did the dark heavens hide? You see, in Jesus' church, we sometimes do our work by starlight.

The Wise Men, foreigners in the story of Jesus' birth, found their way to the Messiah by following a mysterious light that guided them through unfamiliar territory. They navigated by **GPS—God's Peculiar Star**. It was a surprising, uncommon, traveling star. It appeared out of nowhere, but somehow they knew it was a sign from God. It led them to a peculiar place where they found a peculiar scene: a humble child in a home with his mother, Mary. This child, Jesus, was King of the universe, son of God, Prince of Peace, and savior of the world. The Bible tells us that

they were "overwhelmed with joy" as they bowed to worship him.

All of us who put our faith in the Triune God are <u>servants of God</u>. We allow ourselves to be guided by God's mysterious starlight through unfamiliar territory to the places where Christ is revealed. As we move through the darkness of uncertainty, or conflict, or puzzling change, we know that we are headed in the right direction as long as we follow God's light. The manger and the cross are not treasures in the eyes of the world, yet <u>in God's grace we know that these peculiar gifts come to us bearing eternal life</u>.

God's guiding starlight is still everywhere in the church and the world. It glistens in the waters of Baptism, illuminates the bread and the wine of the Eucharist, and shines over places of poverty and hopelessness where Jesus lives among the poor. By this light, miracles happen, wounds are healed, the hungry are fed, prayers are answered, leaders are raised up, and reconciliation overcomes animosity. We can feel the joy grow as we find our way closer and closer to the places where God calls us to be the light of Christ. Even though we are sometimes frightened and uncertain as we set out to follow this peculiar light, the overwhelming joy at the end of the journey assures us that it is God who has brought us to this place.

God of Grace, we thank you for starlight and peculiar destinations. Guide us by your mysterious light to the places where you want us to serve. Give us the courage to travel in unfamiliar territory, the wisdom to recognize your light and joy at the end of our journey.

> Amen. Pastor Gail



In Memoriam



March 16, 1923 - Dec. 3, 2020



Don Severson passed away at the age of 97. He will be greatly missed. He and his wife, Betty, who died in 2017, were longtime members of St. George's. They were married for 68 years.

Don enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942 and flew 32 missions over Germany and France, serving as radioman and backup bombardier in a B-24 Bomber.

He taught physical education at Roseburg High School and coached their baseball team as well as the local American Legion team. His baseball players loved and esteemed him

Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, a memorial service will be held in the summer of 2021.

Christmas Eve 2020

On Christmas Eve, Myana Clark's soaring soprano (right) welcomed the congregation as she sang "O Holy Night," accompanied by Roberta Hall, organist. The other cantors, Steve Thomas and Leigh Van Sickle, added their voices that evening, with Pete Benham joining them for Lessons and Carols on Sunday.

Pastor Gail and Dr. David were able to be with us for Christmas after all. COVID-19 concerns in Eastern Washington made it unwise for them to travel to Spokane Valley.





The Gospel was from Luke 2:

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "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.

Thank you, Roberta Hall, for playing the organ for us this Christmas season. What a blessing you are to St. George's!

Christmas Eve and Lessons & Carols



On Christmas Eve, Pastor Gail presented Thelma Sayers with a scrapbook of her 100th birthday celebration.



Leigh Van Sickle accompanied herself on the harp, singing "Mary Did You Know" on Christmas Eve. (photo by David Sayers)



Jill Hammerle, Miggs, and Nancy Baum at Lessons & Carols.

"Coping" with Christmas



Many thanks to Karla Roady for the background research and to David Duba for the photographs.

Pastor Gail wore this beautiful cope on Christmas Eve. Because of damage to the fabric, it hadn't been used for years. In June it was sent to the Diocese of Olympia to be repaired, where the restoration team noted that it was one of the most exceptionally fine vestments they had ever worked on. COVID-19 restrictions made the work take longer than expected.

The cope was purchased by the ECW from a company in Portland in the 1960s or 70s.

Parish News

St. George on YouTube



12/13/20 Holy Eucharist

St. George's now has its very own YouTube channel. Jacek Berka and Kathy Glockner are responsible for filming our Sunday services, and Leigh Van Sickle will post the links to our website and to Facebook. A grant from the Diocese made it possible to purchase the camcorder and laptop necessary.

While only the most recent video will be on our website, you can view older ones on YouTube. Go to <u>youtube.com</u> and search for "Saint George Episcopal Roseburg." You can bookmark that page and you can also subscribe to our channel.

Parishioners are currently receiving an email when the services are available, so you can also just wait to be notified.

It is our hope that we will soon be able to stream the Sunday service in real time.

2021 Flower Schedule Is Up

Now is the time to sign up for your favorite dates to remember loved ones or events on the 2021 Flower Schedule. You may bring flowers for the Altar Guild ladies to arrange or bring flower arrangements (keep in mind, flowers from your garden are always nice). Or you may donate money and the Altar Guild will purchase and arrange the flowers.

Please indicate which option you plan to use. (You can change your option, if necessary, as the date comes gets closer.)

Episcopal Church Women

There was no December ECW meeting because of COVID-19 concerns. However, they do plan to meet on Jan. 21 at 11:00 as usual.

Pastor Gail Writes,

"Pastor Gail & David want to thank the entire St. George's congregation for the cards & gifts this Christmas. A big thanks to the ECW for the goodie bag filled with delicious treats & the monetary gift. I'll let you know what we decide to get!"

St. George Gives

There was enough money in the Rector's Discretionary Fund for Pastor Gail to write checks to

- The Dream Center
- Meals on Wheels (housed at the First United Methodist church)
- The FISH of Roseburg

The Christmas Giving Tree









Pastor Gail blesses the 2020 Christmas Giving Tree presents.

Thank you to everyone who donated gifts and money for Christmas presents for thirty children of Douglas County.

Thank you also to Mik Carlson for making the cute tags on the Giving Tree.

December Blessings



Birthday Blessings for Frank Graham (above left) and Pete Benham



35th Anniversary Blessings for David Jones (above) and his wife, Marianne

Birthday Blessings for Jewell Gates and Nancy Baum

(left to right in foreground of bottom picture)



FISH

Roseburg Food Project results are in:

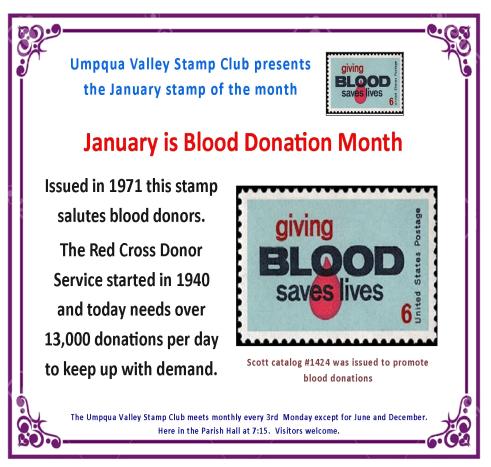
70 Neighborhood Coordinators collected 11,991 pounds of food from 681 Food Project donors. FISH thanks all those who donated food in the green grocery bags and helped with the collection of the bags.

The next collection of green bags for the Roseburg Food Project will be Saturday, February 13.

Ask your Neighborhood Coordinator to give you a blue BottleDrop bag if you want to donate bottle refunds to FISH.

70 Neighborhood Goordinators
collected donated
food and cash from 695 donors.
Total pounds of food
collected was 12,014.
This is a great result,
particularly during COVID
pandemic and considering
some of our school groups
and businesses were unable
to participate.
Thanks to all who
donated and helped
with the collection.

Stamp Club News



Poster by Clarence Adams, Umpqua Valley Stamp Club

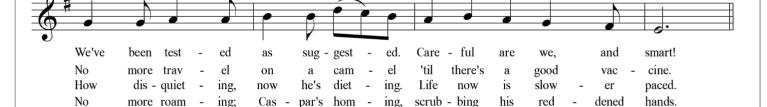
Hymn for Epiphany



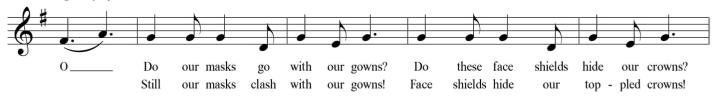
Pandemic Parody

Words: R. G. Huff A Serious Hymn-writer Gone Rogue John Henry Hopkins, Jr. KINGS OF ORIENT





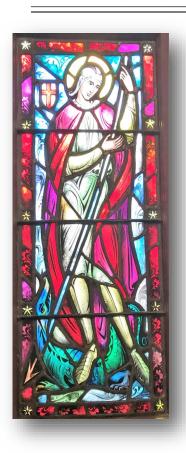
REFRAIN Sing Only after Stanzas 1 & 4





Optional Stanza 4: Caspar blames it all on Amahl--One night's visit on the long haul. Coughs and sneezes, Short-breaths, wheezes. Li-co-rice cures it all.

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Bibles Needed

Bibles are needed at the Dream Center. They are given out as fast as they come in. If you have one that you are willing to share, please consider donating it. Bibles can be purchased at the Dollar Store.

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 <a href="mailed-articles-ar

Leigh Van Sickle, Editor 541-391-0814

Interim Rector: The Rev. Gail Duba Senior Warden: Pete Benham Junior Warden: Sue Phelps Treasurer: Kathy Glockner

OFFICE HOURS 10 am—2 pm Monday through Friday

ST. GEORGE WORSHIP 10 am

> Sundays Holy Eucharist

Wednesdays Morning Prayer

