



Mission Statement:
“Loving God, Loving Our
Neighbors”

The Dragon Scoop

July 2018

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

The Episcopal Church Welcomes You



Parish Profile Approved

Bishop Michael has approved our Parish Profile! The ad for our new half-time Rector has been sent to the Diocese and will soon appear in the *Diocesan Digest*. It was only a year ago that the congregation wrote the Transition Prayer we say together every Sunday.

So much has happened since then. Diocesan Consultant Susan Ladue finished leading us through the congregational development process. Parishioners met with Susan and Canon Neysa Ellgren Shepley to learn about the search process. A Profile Committee was commissioned to write about St. George's for prospective applicants. Now it is time for the Search Committee to interview candidates for the position.

Thanks be to God, who hears us, inspires us, and guides us.

***For surely I know the plans I have for you,
says the Lord, plans for your welfare and
not for harm, to give you a future with hope.
~ Jeremiah 29:1***

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Rector's Letter

Dear Friends,

I just read the rest of the "Scoop." The variety and the relevance of the various articles moved me to reflect on this edition: the impact of a long-departed parishioner, Bertha Lofftus, who brought a current active parishioner to church; pictures of our announcement time during the Eucharist, where the present members mark the seasons of life; the future-oriented news of progress into the search of St. George's next Rector; two opportunities nearby to learn about communications tools and diaconal ministry; the ceaseless fun and work by the ECW; and a profound reflection on Anglican worship and spirituality.

We give thanks for the past, act in the present, and equip ourselves for the future.

Who brought you to church when you were young, or perhaps, not so young? What opportunities and responsibilities have you inherited? What past failures can still be mitigated by accepting and giving forgiveness? How have you been blessed? What thanksgivings still need to be expressed?

How does each of us share the love of Christ now? Hopefully in many ways. Perhaps it is time for a change. New projects, perhaps, or letting go of an old one. How do you care for yourself and your loved ones? How do you care for those you do not know, but whom you know struggle with illness, poverty, or prejudice? Some are far away and others you see on the street.

How do you prepare for the future? I am updating my will and remembering to include Christian ministries in it. We have two interesting opportunities to train for Christian service on page 5 of this newsletter. Many of us are retired. This can be a good time to invest in our spiritual lives: Bible reading and

study, prayer, pilgrimage, spiritual reading. (The latter can be easy and light, or scholarly and challenging, and much in between.) By the way, I very much hope to resume reading, teaching, and discussing *The Path: A Journey through the Bible* in September.

Finally, your search committee is preparing to encounter those who are considering offering themselves as your next Rector. Pray for all involved, that they may do their work with both care and kindness. The search committee will seek the priest who knows more than the motions. He or she needs to have a deep love of both God and people, to know oneself as a sinner who has been saved by our Lord Jesus, to be a bearer of light and hope. The rest is details, worthy of attention, but not the main issue.

On a personal note, I am making continuing progress with my physical therapy and hope to be able to resume my Thursday visits soon. I am saddened by the death of our friend Fr. Robert Lonergan, and hold Lori and Elizabeth in my prayers. Both are doing well.

And finally, I urge to you not to miss Bishop Michael when he visits on Sunday, July 22. We expect he will have time with the Vestry and other parish leaders on Saturday evening, and time after the Eucharist to have conversation with the congregation as a whole.

As you read the "Scoop" may you be moved to consider what God might now be calling you to do.

In Christ,

Fr. Jim+

**God is
Good**
ALL THE TIME

Episcopal Church Women

by Betty Jo Hoffman

ECW ladies enjoyed a fine lunch and a productive meeting at the home of Nancy Baum.

We voted to pay for two scholarships at the Boys & Girls Club in honor of Father's Day; and we decided that the donation from the Tools-to-Treasure sale would be \$200 to Adopt-a-Village-Guatemala.

Sue Phelps told us more about the two all-parish projects she is working on:

- ♥ Collecting empty pill bottles for shampoo, body wash, and conditioner, etc. for Juliana Marez's homeless students
- ♥ Selling popcorn and pop at the Graffiti cruise. She has acquired the popper, bags, and corn, so about the only thing needed is your help.

Sue reported that our shut-ins are requesting visitors from their church family. Let her know if you would like to visit someone.

We also talked about the possibility of an organ recital by Hilary Hall, as well as about the visit of Bishop Michael on July 22 and the memorial service for Fr. Robert Lonergan on July 21.

Karla Roady told us about Green Herons which are nesting in the trees downtown. Watch for "whitewash" and baby birds on the ground, but don't touch the birds—call Karla. We may even see some in our trees.

The officers for next year are:

- ♥ President—Thelma Sayers
- ♥ Vice President—Betty Jo Hoffman
- ♥ Secretary—Nancy Baum
- ♥ Treasurer—Faye Benham

We will meet again in Sept. at Jewel Gates's home. At that time we will be discussing the Tools-to-Treasure/Fine & Fancy sale. Be sure to put your donations aside for the first weekend in October.

~ Betty Jo Hoffman,
Co-President



FISH Report

June Roseburg Food Project collection results:

9,722 pounds of donated food were collected by 65 Neighborhood Coordinators from 617 food donors. Thanks to all food donors, Neighborhood Coordinators, and those that helped with the drop-off of the green bags of donated food on June 8 and 9.

The next RFP pick-up day will be Saturday, August 11.

<http://fishofroseburg.org/>

Want to help hungry families

in our area?

**Join the
Roseburg
Food Project**



**www.roseburgfoodproject.org
roseburgfoodproject@gmail.com**

Parish News

June Blessings



Happy Birthday, Pam Boston and Jean Bowden



*Healing blessings for Juliana Marez,
Happy Anniversary to
Marcia and David Jackson,
and Happy Birthday, David Sayers*



Happy Birthday, Mike Brossia



Happy Birthday, Wally Hunnicut

Diocesan Meetings

Connected Church

Hello, People of St. George's!

I want to invite you to Connected Church, a communications collaboration and training time I'm putting together for parishes of the diocese. This conference will be August 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at [St. Luke's, Grants Pass](#), and is for any church staff or volunteers who would like to learn more about using communications tools and strategies.

A short description and registration are on our website: <https://www.diocese-oregon.org/event/connected-church-st-lukes-grants-pass/>

If you have any questions, please let me know. I hope you will be able to join us!

Cheers,
Heidi

Heidi Pitts, Director of Communications
Episcopal Diocese of Oregon
971-204-4108



Diaconal Discernment Meeting

Are you called to servant leadership? Have you felt a desire to serve God and the Church in the world among those who are on the margins and underrepresented? Do others see you as someone who inspires others to engage in action? If so, you might have a calling to the diaconate.

On Sunday, August 19, Archdeacon Carter Hawley and Academy Director Maureen Hagen will be holding a conversation on discernment and the diaconate. During this time, participants will hear stories of calls, examine what the Book of Common Prayer says about the diaconate, and learn about the process.

This session will be from 1:30 – 3:00 at [St. George's in Roseburg](#) on Sunday, August 19.

We hope you will join us.

Please RSVP at <https://doodle.com/poll/nbrrqz72utksfkr4>

If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact Carter at carterh@diocese-oregon.org or Maureen at maureenhagen@gmail.com

We look forward to meeting you!

Spotlight on Bertha Lofftus

by Leigh Van Sickle

It was my great-aunt, Bertha Lofftus (1894-1967), who first brought me to St. George's. It was 1960, and my family had just moved here from Eastern Oregon. Aunt Bertha knew I was having a hard time adjusting to a new place, so she arranged for me to sing in St. George's youth choir. I loved the choir and participated in church activities for a year until we moved across town.

It was years later I found out that Aunt Bertha was a veteran of World War I. She was working as a long-distance telephone operator in Medford when on March 19, 1917, the Bureau of Navigation sent letters to the naval district commanders saying that they could recruit women to be "utilized as radio operators, stenographers, nurses, messengers, chauffeurs, etc."



On March 28 she became the first woman on the Pacific Coast (and the ninth woman in America) to enlist in the United States Navy Reserve in what was a forerunner of the WAVES. She served as a yeoman (F), also popularly called yeomanette. Her rating was electrician, to perform either telephone or clerical service in case of war.

The United States entered the war on April 6, 1917. Aunt Bertha was sent to France as a radio operator where she served until her discharge in the spring of 1919. She later took a Civil Service appointment with the Veteran's Administration.

In 1956 she retired to Roseburg and became a member of St. George's. She died in 1967 and her name can be seen on one of the plaques in the hall by the sacristy.



Above: Aunt Bertha (center) as a girl, demonstrating an early love of the Navy.

Thank you, Aunt Bertha, for serving your country and for bringing me to St. George's.

You are invited to share stories of friends or family members who inspired you on your faith journey. Do not feel you have to write the article yourself, although you are certainly encouraged to do so! If you prefer, you can tell me the story and I will transcribe it. If you have a photo or two, I would love to use those as well.

~ Leigh Van Sickle, Editor

Worship and the Shared Cup

Ben Irwin is Communications Director at Preemptive Love, an organization that brings emergency relief to families in Syria and Iraq. Here are the seventh and eighth of his “Eleven Things Ben Irwin Loves About the Episcopal Church.”

7. The way their worship can be deeply moving without resorting to emotional manipulation.

When a church tells me how I should feel (“Clap if you’re excited about Jesus!”), it smacks of inauthenticity. Sometimes I don’t feel like clapping. Sometimes I need to worship in the midst of my brokenness and confusion—not in spite of it and certainly not in denial of it.

In contrast to the standard worship formula of so many churches, “the liturgy does not try to coerce everyone into the same emotional experience,” as Jonathan Martin writes, “but in its corporate unity strangely creates space for us all to have a very personal experience of God.”

Sometimes when you stop trying to manufacture a particular emotion, you stumble into something even more profound and beautiful than you could have imagined.

8. How the “shared cup” matters more than “shared dogma.”

I have spent a lot of my life trying to get my theology right. I’ve spent years believing all the “right things” in order that I might belong. So it was jarring when a good friend explained to me that the sermon (the meat!) was not the center of Anglican worship. It’s the Eucharist, the common table around which we all gather.

We belong so that we might find a common faith together, not the other way around.

Jonathan Martin writes:

The problem in Protestantism in general, historically but much more profoundly now, is that have we far too much emphasis on getting the beliefs right. No wonder we now have over 40,000 denominations—the search for perfect doctrine is endless At St. Peter’s, we recite the Nicene creed every week. But the practice of the liturgy . . . and the shared experience of the Eucharist is what holds us together. Beyond that, there is plenty of room for difference. The emphasis is not on sharing dogma so much as it is sharing the cup.

www.trinityepiscopalville.org/?s=ben+irwin



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WELCOMES YOU.



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What's your purpose?

Faith Lutheran Church invites us to attend a free PURPOSE WORKSHOP and PLANT BASED LUNCH designed to help participants find their true purpose—that unique thing that makes each of us our best. Discover and explore YOUR purpose and add up to 7 years to your life! Take home the tools you need to be the best possible you.

When: Sunday, July 29th at 11:30 am—1:30 pm

Where: Faith Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 820 W. Kenwood, Roseburg

Contact Stephanie Roberts for more information:
541-670-7707



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.

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

