

Dragon (mini) Scoop

June 2020

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

Pastor Gail's Ponderings

May God's rich blessings be with each of you.

I don't know about you, but I am ready to get back to my life as it was before Corona-19. It is a challenge each day, to determine what is healthy and what is not healthy. What is doable and what is not doable. What is loving, kind, compassionate and what is less so. This past week the parish priests and leaders of our Episcopal churches received a 10-page document regarding what is an appropriate way to "Re-engage our worshipping spaces."

The Vestry and I spent time to read, study, and try to understand what was asked of us. In the end, I wrote a 14 item "Plan for re-engaging St. George's." With input from Vestry it was sent off to Bishop Michael Hanley. We have received the go-ahead to be able to re-open on May 31. We are in what is called Phase 1 of Oregon's reentry and it says we are to only have 25 people in any gathering. Since we plan to reopen on May 31, we will need to have parishioners RSVP for Sunday's service. After 25 people have indicated they want to be at the 10 a.m. service, we will gladly add a second service at 8:45 a.m. This will ensure we can be seated 6 feet apart. We will ask people to wear a mask. Hand-made masks by Karla Roady will be provided.

For the time being we will not be participating in the Eucharist and we will not be singing. However, our wonderful organist, Hilary Hall, will be providing hymns for us to hum along with. (I know, humming is not as fulfilling as singing, but it is better than nothing!) We are asking any parishioner with pre-existing conditions or who is not feeling well, to worship from home and read the sermon.

I'd like to share one of my favorite O.T. passages from Micah 6:8, "And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah made his home among the farmlands and low foothills of the countryside of Israel. Sun and soil were his companions. His world was honest, straightforward, and comprehensible . . . and so also his teaching. To the privileged

beyond his village the prophet declared that to honor God with one's whole life was paramount. He called for a just and humble lifestyle and declared that to live for the good of others in the community was the ultimate expression of faithfulness.

His words are timeless and true, succinct and sacred. His teaching is really a code of ethics that makes absolute the ideals of justice, kindness and humility. Micah knew that such a way of life is the fruit of faith, the consequence of belovedness. For having received God's justice and mercy, we must be champions of justice for others. Having been touched by God's love and forgiveness, we must have compassion for others. And being God's own beloved, we must walk in humility with honor.

Discipleship and leadership for the sake of the world that God loves requires a sense that "life is not about me." It requires looking beyond the self to see God active in justice, kindness, and humility. Justice seeks another's welfare as part and parcel of our own welfare; it seeks an end to anything demeaning or oppressive. Kindness looks for all people to receive honor and all hurt to be soothed. Humility knows that power and authority are for the protection of the least among us. Just as we have known the gifts of justice, mercy, and love in Jesus, so others will know these gifts through us.

Lord, make us instruments of your love, your will, and your work on earth. May our efforts bring about the good you desire in your Kingdom.

Pastor Gail



The Cracked Pot: a devotion written by Sandy Warner

“For it is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.”

2 Corinthians 4:6-7 (NRSV)

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole, which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it and the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water.

At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots of water to his house.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishment. It was perfect for the task for which it was created. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what the cracked pot perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. “I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you. I have been able to deliver only half my load because this crack in

my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house. Because of my flaw, you have to do all this work, and you didn’t get full value from your efforts.”

The water bearer replied, “As we return to the master’s house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path. Do you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot’s side?”

“This is because I have always known about your flaw. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you have watered them. For two years, I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. **Without your being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house.**”

“I sometimes focus on my imperfections, rather than focus on the gifts God has given me. **Let’s all remember our strengths as we gather again to worship our God!**”



Upcoming

For information about services or meetings, check the website in June.

The office will remain open as usual, M-F, 10-2

Interim Rector:
Pastor Gail Duba, D.Min.
Senior Warden: Pete Benham
Junior Warden: Sue Phelps
Treasurer: Kathy Glockner

Follow St. George on line:

Our website is www.saintgeorgesepiscopal.com. **There will not be a full version of the *Dragon Scoop* June 2020 issue.**

Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/episcopalroseburg. You do not need to have a Facebook account to view the page.