



Mission Statement:
**“Loving God,
Loving Our Neighbors”**

The Dragon Scoop

June 2025

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

The Episcopal Church Welcomes You



Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory!

Thelma Sayers

November 5, 1920 — May 24, 2025



Be the things you loved most about the people who are gone.

Rev. Janine's Pastoral Letter

Dear friends –

Whenever my husband grumbles about the crop of dandelions flourishing in our yard, I like to remind him of my long-held belief that the dandelion is probably one of the clearest symbols of the gospel. (For some reason, he's never impressed.) But think about it with me for a minute.

The dandelion is about as healthy and pure a plant as ever existed. The dandelion was intentionally brought over by colonists to North America because they knew how good it was for us. It provides much needed vitamins (it's better for you than spinach!), and works as a spring tonic to help to purify the body after a long winter of rich foods and little exercise. On top of that, it improves liver function, helps control diabetes, builds up the blood, and even slows some forms of cancer. Dandelions are the incredible edible with absolutely no toxic nature whatsoever. They are all about life and health.

Yet, these amazing little plants manage to undo our peace of mind at times, don't they? They threaten our ideas about what is good. They pop up in the middle of our smooth green expanses of lawn and "ruin" them, to our way of thinking. They are a nuisance, a problem, an eyesore, a weed—something to be eradicated. And we try...oh yes, we try.

But, despite our best efforts to get rid of them—all our digging and mowing and the toxic chemicals we throw at them—they pop up again and again, anywhere and everywhere. The middle of the sidewalk? Why not! They are resilient and prolific, and the minute we stop fighting them... they win.

Sound familiar? It should. Jesus offers only life, and life abundantly to this world...to us...but the life he offers upsets our apple cart and challenges our ideas about the way life "should be." He makes our orderly lives messy...a place where the last is first, the worthless are worth dying for, and the unlovable are loved without end. It's really no surprise that people wanted to get rid of him 2,000 years ago. And it is no surprise that we try

to edge him out of our comfortable neat lives as well.

But try as we might...we can't get rid of him. Jesus always wins. Jesus always comes back, popping up anywhere and everywhere, with joy and life for us all...for all the world.

And if that isn't enough to convince you...just consider who it is that **does** appreciate those stubborn yellow flowers in our midst.

Do you remember? It was you, once, I'll bet...a long time ago. Don't you remember the excitement of summer's first dandelion when you were little? I sure remember my kids' delight over them...they collected bright yellow bouquets for me and later blew their seeds with enthusiasm and joy, and begged us not to mow them down or dig them out.

It is the children who celebrate those dandelions in our midst. And Jesus tells us it is also the children who will recognize God's kingdom in our midst most clearly. We grown-ups too often see only weeds....yet, the kingdom of God is flourishing all around us. This summer...as you wage your own battle on the dandelions....may you pause to consider the dandelions of the fields...and to open your heart to the presence and love of God that flourishes in this world.... like a weed.

Peace to you—
Pastor Janine

Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to little children." (Luke 10:21)



Continued on the next page ~

Rev. Janine's Pastoral Letter, cont.

GOD AND ST. FRANCIS DISCUSSING LAWNS

GOD: Francis, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistles, and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect, no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought, and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees, and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But all I see are these green rectangles.

ST. FRANCIS: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers "weeds" and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD: Grass? But it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees, only grubs and sod worms. It's temperamental with temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it—sometimes twice a week.

GOD: They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

ST. FRANCIS: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST. FRANCIS: No Sir. Just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD: Now let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

ST. FRANCIS: Yes, Sir.

GOD: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST. FRANCIS: You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD: What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves form compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural circle of life.

ST. FRANCIS: You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD: No. What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter and to keep the soil moist and loose?

ST. FRANCIS: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD: And where do they get this mulch?

ST. FRANCIS: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD: Enough. I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have they scheduled for us tonight?"

ST. CATHERINE: "Dumb and Dumber", Lord. It's a really stupid movie about.....

GOD: Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.



Celebration of Life

Samuel Wallace Lee, Jr.

May 16, 1938 — January 12, 2025

The February 2025 *Dragon Scoop* (tinyurl.com/DragonScoop) features Sam's Memorial Page. On May 4 his family hosted a beautiful Celebration of Life in his honor. You can read his *News-Review* obituary here: tinyurl.com/obit-samlee



Episcopal Church Women

by Betty Jo Hoffman

We met to review the rummage sale and catch up. We had a successful sale thanks to all of your and other donations. The total is \$1394.86.



Sale crew left to right: Jerry and Sue Phelps, Faye Benham, Nancy Baum, Mik Carlson, Pete Benham, and Karla Roady. Thanks to Karla for the photos!

We caught up with Thelma Sayers and her move to Avamere at Oak Park Senior Living. (Sadly she passed away May 24). She has been so busy that she didn't have a "Thought for the Day," so Lori Combs provided one:

Worrying
does not take away tomorrow's trouble;
it takes away today's peace.

We also have put out a plea for a temporary dish washer until Tenaya Wright is able to return. If any of you know someone who can fill in for her, let someone know.

Lisa Buck, a member of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, filled us in on their Easter season traditions. They start with penitential services during Lent and end with a number of celebratory services around the crucifixion and resurrection. She gave us so much interesting information that I couldn't take notes. We were so thankful for her presentation.

Nancy Baum has invited us to her home for our last meeting of our year on June 19.

Read about **Thelma's** history in more detail in these *Dragon Scoop* issues for June, September, and November of 2017: tinyurl.com/DragonScoop, as well as here in this *News-Review* article: tinyurl.com/ThelmaSayers

There will be a Memorial Service for Thelma on **June 14** at 1:00.

Parish News



Another amazing
Birthday/Anniversary Cake
by **Lori Combs** for May

Photo by Sue Phelps



Clockwise from top left:
Birthday Blessings
for **Owen Abrahamson**, (age 12!),
Bob Spielman, and **Tim Bruffett**
and **Anniversary Blessings** for
Steve and Margaret Thomas



Above: **Kelly Arnold's 1st Mother's Day**
and **Birthday Blessings** for **Zack Arnold**
(pictured with **Baby Everett**)

The Schlueter-Greenwalt Foundation

Parishioners Courtney Greenwalt and Jacob Schlueter debuted their new foundation at a launch party on May 24. The enchanted forest theme was delightful, the food was delicious, and the entertainment—singer/guitarist Tory Rose—was outstanding.



The purpose of the foundation is “to provide actionable solutions to vulnerable populations.” The couple started their mission this last winter with their warming resource center at St. George’s, which will become a cooling center as the temperatures rise this summer. The organization will also provide maternal support for mothers going through hyperemesis gravidarum (extreme morning sickness) as well as community for new parents. Another group that will be supported is families raising children with mental health diagnoses.

We can get involved with the foundation by volunteering and/or donating money or supplies.



FISH

On their May 1 Facebook post, FISH says:

♥ A huge thank you to AVIVA Health—not only are they an incredible asset to our community, but their unwavering support of our mission, which is to assist in reducing hunger within the community, and responding with compassion to the needs of families and persons in crisis. The FISH seeks to show concern for our neighbors by assisting as a safety net for unmet needs of food.

As a fellow partner on the JBCC campus, AVIVA has done more than just share space—they've inspired our Community Agency Shopping Hours, hosted multiple food drives, and recently joined our FISH First Responder program.

From the CEO to the janitorial team, AVIVA's commitment to service and compassion is evident every single day. We're beyond grateful for their partnership, their heart, and their shared dedication to making our community stronger.



On May 20 they posted:

Our community just keeps showing up!!! We are completely honored that the Joseph Lane Middle School junior honor society chose us for their project. They showed up with 50 Birthday kits today!!!! We are always amazed at the generosity of these young adults; they also help out with our "The Roseburg Food Project" days!!! Thank you for all that you do for our community.



Next Green Bag pickup day: June 14

April Green Bag report: 12,027 pounds from 635 food donors gathered by 62 neighborhood coordinators. Thank you to all participants for really making a difference in our community!

The Preacher & The Teacher

1969, continued

Tuesday, July 1 marked the 20th anniversary as rector of St. George's. But there was no vacation. Joe Russell brought the Rev. Paul Endo from Hokkaido, Japan down from Eugene. We had a picnic with him and the Russells at the River Forks Park, after which he spent the night with us. Next day we had a "coffee" for him before taking him to the hotel to meet other local clergy. Later he and I were on Cissy Smith's radio program on KQEN and to have photos taken at the *News-Review*. Then we drove him to Winchester to see the college and to Sutherlin to see our church there. Finally dinner at the Brands along with Nellie Compton. He took the bus to Portland the next morning, probably worn out.

[In the summer of 1969 the Tysons sold some family property in Eugene and were able to buy a place on the coast:](#)

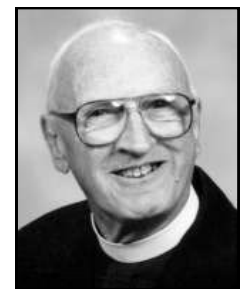
After seeing several we didn't like, we finally settled on one on Siltcoos Lake, which we bought from Coast Realty Company. They had been using it as the workshop for an addition they were building. It was not new but we preferred it to most of the new ones, at a far lower price. It was a good buy for us, and we have had much pleasure from it, both for ourselves and for outings for Church groups and Eastern Star. It required a lot of work, but it was good for us to get us out and exercise cutting weeds, brush and clearing the trail to the lake. Our daughter now owns it, so it is still "in the family."

On Friday, August 1, I got up feeling rotten, like maybe a heart attack or pleurisy, but evidently it was nothing serious because Caroline and [her sister] Louise and I drove to Siltcoos to buy furniture for our "new" Tyson Manor. Caroline drove, but later I made four trips in to Florence and back, Louise and I ate lunch there; I don't know where Caroline ate, but she and Louise had a ball going to all the second hand store to find beds, springs, tables and chairs, nearly all of

which are still in the house. Also, several other items, including my mother's favorite rocking chair with beautiful inlaid decorations and two lamps my Uncle Herbert had made on his lathe for my mother.

Back to Siltcoos on Thursday and discovered that we had been robbed, so I drove into Florence and reported it to the State Police and a very nice Patrolman Neville came out and investigated. But nothing was ever recovered. It must have been someone in the neighborhood who had been watching us.

On the first Sunday in September—the 7th—instead of the usual Coffee Hour we had a delayed celebration of the 25th Wedding Anniversary of Caroline and me. It was held in the Parish Hall from 2 to 5, with lots of people—"very wonderful" with Fran Elliott, Charlotte, Dick and Steve taking charge. In addition to over 200 people from Roseburg, including the Baptist and Methodist ministers and their wives, all of my cousins and relatives came down from Eugene: the Keevers, Smeeds, plus several of our wedding party, Dr. Neville and his wife (my best man and Caroline's matron of honor) and Fr. Les Dunton and Maureen Ratliff from Corvallis. The diary entry for that day ended with "we gloated over the loot!"



*The Preacher & the Teacher:
the story of our years at St. George's
as told by Father Alfred S. Tyson*

Cathedrals of the World

by Doug Holloway

St. George's Cathedral, Cape Town, South Africa

St. George's Cathedral is the Anglican cathedral in Cape Town and is the seat of the Archbishop of Cape Town.

In 1827, on a visit to South Africa, the Bishop of Calcutta consecrated land for a new Anglican church. The foundation stone for this church was laid on April 23, 1830 (St. George's day). The building was designed in the Gothic style and based on drawings of St. Pancras' church in London. This new church opened for services in December 1834 with a capacity for 1,000 people and 300 seats for the poor.

With the creation of the Diocese of Cape Town, the church was designated a cathedral in 1847, although it was only a modest parish church.

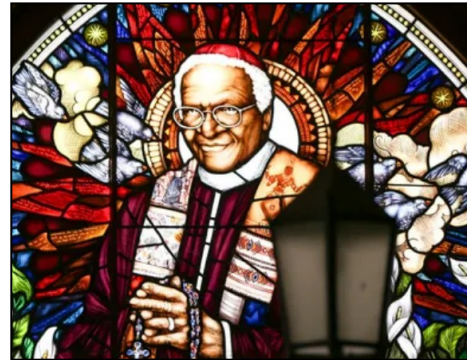
The foundation stone for a new cathedral was laid in 1901 by the Duke of Cornwall and York (later to become King George V).



Work on the new cathedral was delayed by war and did not really start until 1904. Work continued slowly, and only in 1930 was the memorial stone for the North Transept laid. Finally the Transept was finished in 1936 and it could be said that the cathedral was completed.

The glorious stained-glass windows include both a white Christ and a black Christ. The cathedral has a wonderful set of ten ringing bells, which are rung every Sunday.

Desmond Tutu made history when he was elected Archbishop of Cape Town in 1986. A stained-glass window in commemoration of him was installed last year at the Wale Street entrance of the cathedral.



Affectionately known as the "people's church," St. George's kept its doors open to people of all races throughout the apartheid era.



This article was first published here in the October 2014 issue and has been updated slightly.

Stamp Club News



Umpqua Valley Stamp Club presents
the June Stamp Of The Month

June Is Great Outdoors Month

Great Outdoors Month first started as a Great Outdoors Week under President Clinton in 1998. The week went on to become so popular that Great Outdoors Week was expanded to the whole month of June.

Oregon Crater Lake National Park was established on May 22, 1902. It's America's fifth-oldest national park and is home to the deepest lake in the country. The Park system was created to preserve portions of the great outdoors for future generations.



#745 Issued September 5, 1934 In Crater Lake, OR

The Umpqua Valley Stamp Club meets monthly every 3rd Monday except for June and December.
Here in the Parish Hall at 7:15. Visitors welcome.

Poster by Clarence Adams, Umpqua Valley Stamp Club

Brewed Theology

Graphic by Rev. Janine

**BREW
EDTHE
OLOGY**

**DECODING
DENOMINATIONS**

**The (dis?)Unified
Body of Christ**

Brewed Theology—June 26

2:30 and 6:30 in the Upper Room at Brix Bar. This month we will be talking about all the denominations...not an exhaustive conversation at all...but a starting point as we consider what does it mean to be one Body of Christ in so many different expressions. Come upstairs early if you are planning to eat—we'll be there at 2:00 and 6:00!



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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 Sickel, Editor

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Senior Warden: Pete Benham
Co-Junior Wardens:
Bob Spielman & Sue Phelps
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OFFICE HOURS
10 am—2 pm
Monday through Friday

ST. GEORGE WORSHIP
10:30 am
Sundays
and
10 am
Wednesdays

