

The Dragon Scoop

March 2015

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

Mission Statement:
“Loving God, Loving Our
Neighbors”

From Our Senior Warden

In my 82 years I have attended many Ash Wednesday services. The service on the 18th day of February was the most meaningful of them all. There was peace and a feeling of faith present.

I was so proud of St. George’s congregation that night. All have worked very long and hard to make St. George a warm, welcoming, and faith-driven church. Thanks, everyone!

~ Donna Litherland



We will be making palm crosses at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, March 27th, in the Parish Hall to prepare for Palm Sunday.



We will teach you how!
 Come for fun and fellowship.



The Rev. Doug Hale



Remember that you are dust,
 and to dust you shall return.



Ash Wednesday 2015



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Letter from Bishop Neff

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are now in Lent, journeying together toward Jerusalem where we will experience the triumphal entry of Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane, the betrayal of Peter, the trial, and crucifixion, culminating at the Empty Tomb of Easter.

In the time spent at St. George's College and my pilgrimage to the Holy Land, I found the Old City of Jerusalem to be endlessly fascinating. St. George's College is only a few blocks from the Old City so Bingham and I visited a number of times in addition to the times we entered to visit the sacred sites and walk the Stations of the Cross, also called the Way of the Cross or the Via Dolorosa. The streets are narrow, crowded, and often steep and lined with shops, especially so in the Muslim Quarter which is the traditional site of The Stations of the Cross. It is probably not all that different from the days of Jesus.

You literally go up to Jerusalem. There are a few higher hills around the city, but for the most part when you go to Jerusalem, you walk or drive uphill. Within the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem, the Wailing Wall and site of the Temple is still further up. You go up to the Temple. The only place where I remember looking at Jerusalem, rather than up to Jerusalem, was from the Mount of Olives, looking across the Kidron Valley.

The walls of Jerusalem have been moved over the centuries as they were torn down and rebuilt several times. At the time of Jesus, the Holy Sepulcher (which is called the Church of the Resurrection by Orthodox Christians) — the traditional site of the crucifixion, burial, and resurrection of Jesus — was outside the walls of the city. Today the Holy Sepulcher is now inside the walls. For me the Holy Sepulcher felt conflicted, dark, busy, and mysterious. Others found it simply profoundly spiritual.

Looking at the city from the Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane across the small Kidron Valley, I could feel the movement of Jesus going out after the Last Supper and singing a hymn to pray in the Garden. He could have heard the goings on in the city and perhaps seen the Passover activities in the Temple. Then he was arrested and taken back into the city by the same way for his trial and execution.

There are two places, both in Jerusalem, where we can be certain that Jesus actually walked. One is the steps leading up onto the grounds of the massive Temple. The other is the steps leading up to and down from the house of Caiaphas the High Priest where Jesus was tried. I found myself moved in both places.

The House of Caiaphas also contains what appears to be a jail cell, where Jesus could well have been kept for the night deep underground. The site where Peter may have denied Jesus is marked with a beautiful Roman Catholic Church called St. Peter in Gallicantu.

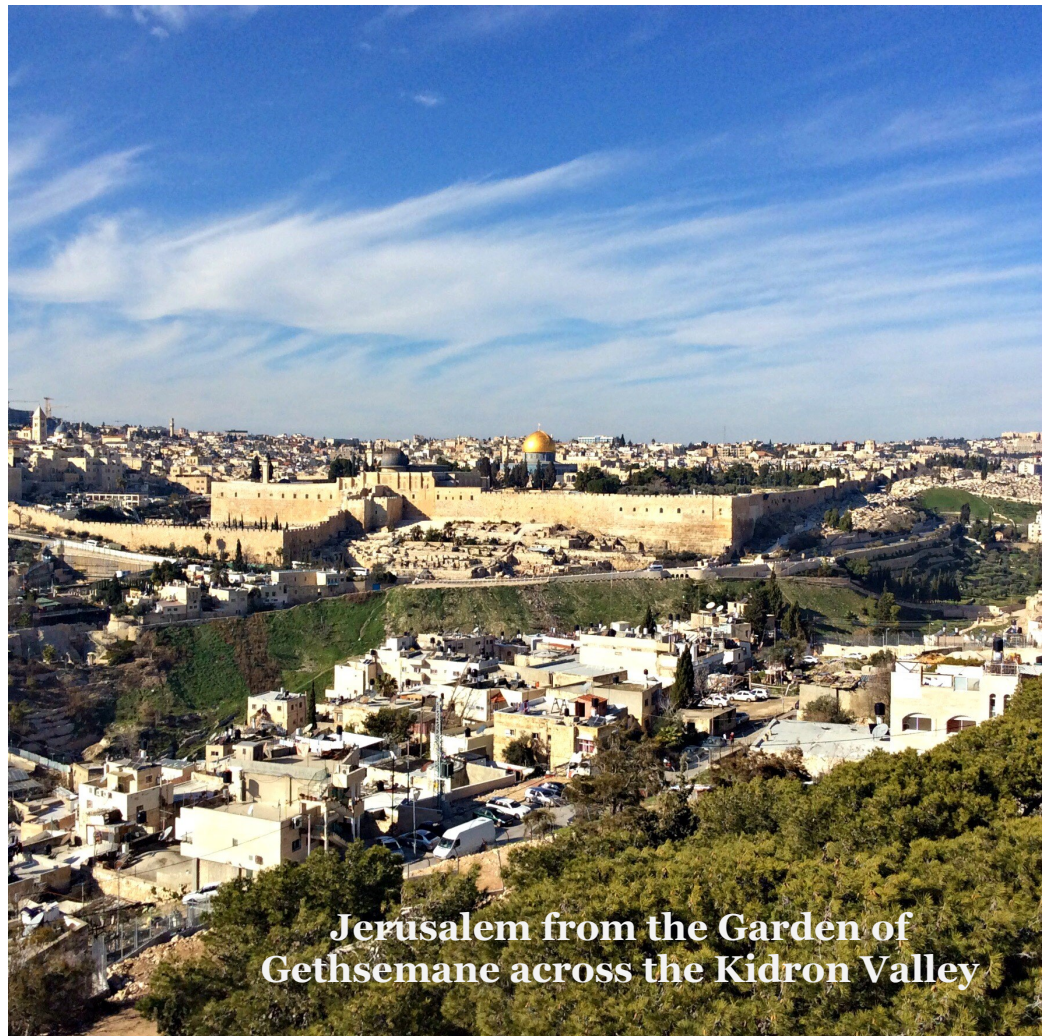
Many people find the visit or pilgrimage to the Holy Land and especially Jerusalem to be a deeply and profoundly moving spiritual experience. Some do not and as a result can feel a sense of letdown or loss, as though they don't somehow measure up. For me there was not one great moment of when I felt spiritually overcome. And yet, at the same time I find myself talking endlessly about the whole pilgrimage and revisiting the experience by looking at my pictures and drawings and talking about it with Bingham and others.

So, we are now all spiritually journeying to Jerusalem. Let us walk together, not in overwhelming sorrow, but knowing that it will end with the empty tomb and a glorious resurrection celebration on Easter morning.

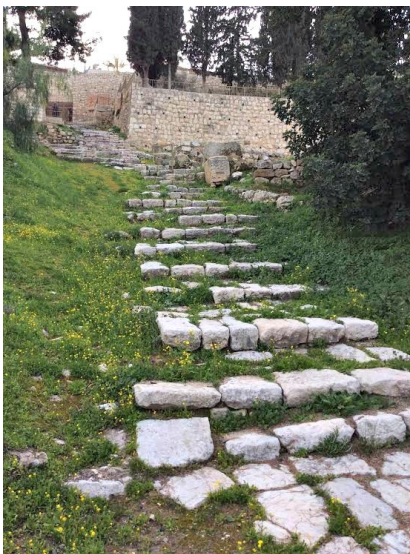
Grace and Peace,

+Neff

Bishop Neff in the Holy Land



Jerusalem from the Garden of
Gethsemane across the Kidron Valley



The steps leading up
to Caiaphas' Palace



Neff and Bingham
on the walls of the
Old City of
Jerusalem

Shrove Tuesday



About fifty people attended the Pancake Supper on February 17, including a group from Faith Lutheran Church. A full report will be in next month's Dragon Scoop.

You can always see more pictures of church events on St. George's Facebook page. You do not need to have a Facebook account to view it! facebook.com/episcopalroseburg

Episcopal Church Women

ECW met Thursday, February 19. We were treated to a pizza lunch, pretty china decorations, and very informative information about **hospice** and what they do.



Coming in March Jerry Phelps will bring us a slide show of the natural habitat and scenery around us. He is a fishing guide, so it should be very interesting. Please plan to join us March 19 at 11:00 in the Parish Hall.

Don't forget to start gathering donations for the rummage sale May 1 and 2. You can start bringing them to the church on April 27.

~ BJ Hoffman, ECW Co-President

And speaking of hospice -

Beginning March 30 through May 18, 2015, the VA Roseburg Healthcare System is going to begin a new training session for VA Hospice Volunteers.

Each class will be held on a Monday, from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Please contact Fran Smith, RN, BSN at 541-440-1000, Ext. 44495 or 541-784-7951 if you have any questions or wish to sign up for this program. It is a wonderful opportunity to help our veterans and to thank them for all their sacrifices.

FISH for Lent

Let's try this for Lent: food collection for the FISH Pantry. Every Sunday during Lent each parishioner is asked to bring donations of non-perishable food, baby items, and/or non-food items. A basket with these gifts will be presented at the altar each Sunday. If you wish, you may donate money instead. Just indicate on your check or envelope of cash that it goes to "Lent for FISH."

Some non-food items needed are toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet paper, soap, and baby and adult diapers. Seniors need dried fruits, ready-made puddings, Ensure-type protein drinks, pull-tab soups, and tea (both regular and decaffeinated).

This is an easy opportunity to make a difference in the community. Just don't think of it as "bring a can and get a dollar off your ticket to heaven!"

Latest FISH statistics: on February 14th the Roseburg Food Project collected 9,342 pounds of food from 570 donors coordinated by 68 neighborhood coordinators.



Wonderful World

by Bob Robins

Singing the “Magnificat” in Carnegie Hall

A standard “gag” line for tourists some years ago was, “How do you get to Carnegie Hall?” Answer: “Practice, practice, practice!”

Well, our Roseburg Vintage Singers and some guests did make that New York City trip in 1991. The occasion was an invitation to join some other community choirs in a performance of celebrated English composer John Rutter’s “Magnificat,” under the direction of the composer. This kind of opportunity is regularly offered to successful community and school musical groups, but the catch is that the groups and individuals must pay for their own transportation, housing, and meal expenses.

We had been performing Christmas compositions by Rutter on our 12th Night Concerts regularly for years, and here was an opportunity not to be missed!. And, it fell on a Thanksgiving weekend! Many of us were school teachers and college students, and this opened up the opportunity for us. We spent most of the prior year in fund-raising (including a large art auction of local donated works) to help pay the expenses.

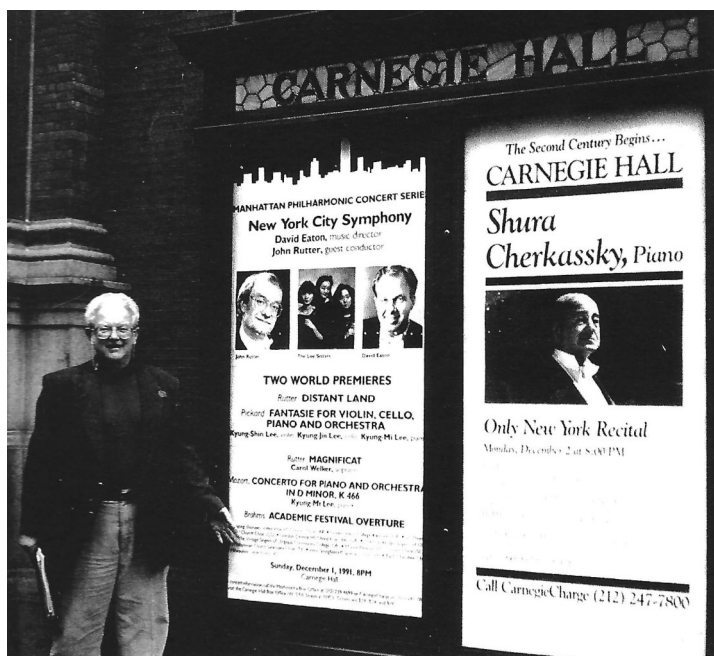
And what an experience it was, both musically and educationally! We were there for Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, a tour of Manhattan, a Broadway show and the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Show, visits to the Empire State Building, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Twin Towers, etc., along with rehearsals and the concert, which was accompanied by the New York Symphony Orchestra. A full weekend of excitement! — and all of the city’s Christmas decorations were in place wherever we went.



We and a few other groups also did a separate Sunday afternoon concert in the Episcopal church where a church convention voted to establish the Diocese of Oregon many years ago. What a special thrill for me!

We later enjoyed presenting the “Magnificat” here in Roseburg under the direction of Steve Biethan. We then journeyed to Vancouver, B.C. under the leadership of Roberta Hall to perform it for an enthusiastic audience with a group of Pacific Northwest community choirs, accompanied by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.

Beautiful religious music—fantastic surroundings—and wonderful experiences!!



Matthew 19:14

by Juliana Marez

My God Is So Big

My God is so big (*jump*),
so strong and so mighty (*muscle arms*),
there's nothing my God cannot do (*shake finger*).
My God is so big, so strong and so mighty,
there's nothing my God cannot do.

The mountains (*mountain with arms*)
are God's and the valleys (*valley with arms*)
are God's and the trees
(*one arm waving like a tree*)
are God's handiwork too.

My God is so big, so strong and so mighty,
there's nothing my God cannot do.

This is an Episcopal children's song that I remember from Sunday school. It gave us a sense of security and belonging. We knew all about super heroes from watching cartoons. This song taught us that our God was a super hero too and he loved us.

I felt very lucky to live in a time when "the Teacher and the Preacher" — Carolyn and Alfred Tyson — served our church. Here are some of the things I learned from them and passed on to my kids.

1. Introduce spirituality early on. "Young children don't understand who God is, but they don't really understand who a grandparent is either. Still, you want them to know Grandma, so you start talking about her from day one. It's the same thing with the idea of God." Just as your child takes your word for it that Grandma is an important person in her life (even if she rarely sees her), so she'll take your word for it that God is, too. And by introducing spiritual practices when she's young — such as lighting candles or singing hymns together — your toddler will view them as a natural part of life, and you'll have a spiritual influence on her before other people do.

2. Don't pretend to have all the answers. Your toddler may not have the ability to ask or completely understand where people go when

they die, but you can still talk about it honestly. Keep it short and simple: "Nobody knows for sure, but some people think they go to heaven to be close to God. Other people think they're born again in a new body." If you have a strong belief, share it. If not, it's okay to admit that there are some questions people spend their whole lives trying to figure out — and this is one of them. Children need to know our moral compass.

3. Instill an appreciation of nature. Nature is a great place to find inspiration and a sense of spirituality. Kids learn with all their senses — they love to pick up a rock or jump in a puddle or chase a butterfly. Help your child see nature as something precious by demonstrating your own love and respect for it. When you go for a family hike in the woods or a picnic on the beach, clean up after yourself (and even others), and be considerate of creatures in their habitat. Plant a garden with your child, and make it part of your daily routine to check on the progress of the plants together. Start a compost pile so your child can watch mealtime leftovers turn back into soil that you'll use in your garden. Introduce him to the idea that the Earth is a gift, and that our survival depends upon the survival of the planet. When you open the curtains in the morning, you can say, "Look at this glorious day God has made." At bedtime, you can sign off with, "God bless you, sweetie pie."

4. Tell stories. The world's spiritual traditions are full of stories designed to explain everything from how the world was created to why people sometimes do bad things. Introduce your toddler to the notion that different people have different beliefs, myths, and traditions by drawing on this wealth of literature.

5. Build on family traditions. Spirituality can connect us to the divine, to each other, and to the past. If you're raising your child in the same spiritual tradition that you were raised, be sure he knows that he's carrying on family rituals that were passed along by his grandparents and even great-grandparents.

(continued on next page)

6. Family traditions can be nonreligious as well. Volunteering at a food bank at Thanksgiving or planting a tree on Earth Day reinforces your child's connection with the family and helps him realize that the world can be a better place because he's in it. And when he's old enough to understand what all this means, he'll be watching you carefully and learning from your example.

7. Make it fun. Religion and spirituality should be more joyful than somber and serious. Encourage your toddler to paint a picture of God, make up her own story about how the world came to be, or simply imagine what heaven looks like. Together, act out plays or put on a puppet show based on creation stories or your own spiritual themes. Above all, do what spiritual people have done for centuries – sing and dance! If you don't know any traditional tunes, many recordings of religious music are available. Don't forget to explore songs and chants from other cultures or traditions as well.

8. Practice silence. Once a day or once a week, take a minute to sit quietly with your toddler. Your moment of silence needn't be introduced as meditation, but simply as a chance to sit still and listen to the sounds around her. Eventually, it'll help put her in touch with the "big picture."

9. If your child is too young to make up his own prayers, help him along. You suggest a simple phrase such as, "Thank you, God, for . . ." and he fills in the blanks. The idea is to let your child know that God, or the divine spirit, is always available. "If the being who created the whole universe can listen to you, that's pretty good."

10. Follow your toddler's lead. Let your toddler ask the questions, and give her plenty of opportunities to ask about issues such as who God is or what heaven looks like. Try not to dictate the answers to big questions. If she asks you where God lives, begin your answer by asking her what she thinks. Or ask her to draw a picture and tell you about it. Spirituality is a two-way street: If you listen carefully to your child, you might discover something you never thought of before.

*But Jesus said,
Suffer little children, and forbid them not,
to come unto me:
for of such is the kingdom of heaven.*

Matthew 19:14

Just for Fun

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That priest said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I want to stay with you guys!"

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5, and Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, he would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait.'" Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

A little girl became restless as the sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"

An exasperated mother whose son was always getting into mischief finally asked him, "How do you expect to get into Heaven?" The boy thought it over and said, "Well, I'll run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St. Peter says, 'For Heaven's sake, Dylan, either come in or stay out!'"

Cathedrals of the World

by Doug Holloway

Two St. George's Cathedrals

St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem, Israel



The Cathedral Church of St. George the Martyr is an Anglican cathedral and is the seat of the Bishop of Jerusalem.

The church was built by Bishop George Blyth in the late 19th century and was officially established in 1899. Because he only had limited use of an Anglican church situated in the Old City of Jerusalem, the Bishop bought land and built a cathedral and a missionary college – both called St. George's.

Wishing to restore good relationships with the local Orthodox Church and having a deep respect for its patriarch, Bishop Blyth incorporated a pool in his church to enable baptisms by immersion – a rarity in Anglican churches.



St. George's Cathedral, Georgetown, Guyana (Caribbean)

St. George's in Guyana is an Anglican cathedral and is the tallest wooden church in the world. It is the seat of the Bishop of Guyana.

The present church was consecrated in 1894, but there had been an Anglican presence in Guyana since 1781. The first church was erected in 1810 and then a larger one was built in 1842. This was designated as a cathedral and the Diocese of Guyana was created. However, due to a faulty construction, this building was later dismantled.

A new church to be built of stone was designed but as this was deemed to be too heavy and too costly, the plans were changed for it to be built of wood. Local wood was preferred but a certain amount of pitch pine was imported for the ceiling.

The stained glass windows depict scenes from the Crucifixion, Ascension and the Book of Revelations. A large chandelier hanging prominently in the cathedral was a gift from Queen Victoria.





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1024 S.E. Cass Avenue
Roseburg, OR. 97470

541-673-4048

stgeorge@stgeorgeepiscopal.com
www.saintgeorgesepiscopal.com

Return Service Requested

St. George Episcopal Church publishes THE DRAGON SCOOP on the last Sunday of the month. 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

Priest-in-Charge: The Rt. Rev. Neff Powell
Senior Warden: Donna Litherland
Junior Warden: Steve Thomas
Treasurer: Frank Graham

OFFICE HOURS
10 am—2:00 pm
Monday through Friday

ST. GEORGE WORSHIP

Sunday
10:00 am

Holy Eucharist
or Morning Prayer

