



The Dragon Scoop

March 2018

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

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

The Episcopal Church Welcomes You



Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held on February 11 after the worship service. Most parishioners were able to attend, but if you weren't there you can get a copy of the 2017 Annual Report from the Office. The meeting covered all aspects of St. George life, including the various ministries, property maintenance, Episcopal Church Women, Altar Guild, and finances.

As Senior Warden Pete Benham said in his report, “I give thanks to all the people who volunteered their time and talents to keep St. George open for worship and as a gathering place for all in the community who make use of our facilities.” We are truly a family.



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Rector's Letter

Dear Friends,

This has been a challenging several weeks for the Boston household. Around the start of February the young Special Olympics couple who had been living with us for seven months moved into a new nice little rental. They rejoiced, as did Pam and I. I think Barry missed the excitement, and especially the dog. Less than two weeks later, Kristina was sick. Then she got sicker and was admitted to the local hospital with pneumonia. After three days they moved her to intensive care and put her on a ventilator. A few days later she was moved to Medford where the hospital has a fancier ventilator. Then they brought an ECMO machine from Portland, put her on it, and flew her to Portland. Her husband Will and mother Amy soon followed, after we helped with the bills. Now, about six days later, she is making progress. The ECMO machine was removed. (An ECMO takes blood from the body, removes CO₂, adds oxygen, and pumps it back in through a different hole.) Kristina still can't breathe on her own. She has been allowed to gain limited consciousness, and Will was able to kiss her today. Things are looking hopeful, but we are told it will be a slow recovery.

Kristina and Will both work and Will lost his Social Security when they married four years ago. Kristina had never been disabled quite enough to have it. Their medical expenses are covered by the Oregon Health Plan, but their living expenses are not. So they are challenged financially. Pam and I have been caring for their dog in our home. She likes us.

In the meantime, Pam is down with a nasty upper respiratory ailment. She is exhausted, yet still working a lot. Happily I have not caught it.

Why am I sharing this with you in the midst of Lent? Most of you, perhaps all of you, can relate to such challenges. Life is good, yet sometimes it gets very hard, and even harder than what I just shared. Sickness and death, financial problems, relationship problems, and social dysfunction all happen. Other

places people are dealing with war, economic collapse, homelessness, and epidemics.

I ask, "Where is God in the midst of all this?"

God knows, God shares, our pain. Jesus took it all to the cross, and bore it all there. All our sin, all our disappointment with God, all our anger. He takes it all, and loves each one of us in the midst of it.

God invites all of us, and especially those who have been baptized into the Body of Christ, the Church, to join him in two ways. First, in being present to the reality of pain, ours and that of our neighbors. Jesus taught us that everyone is our neighbor and worthy of our attention, love, and help. None of us can help everyone. We can help some in important ways, and many more through supporting those who are helping around the world. What we can do, we should do. And the people of St. George's do a great deal. Thank you for your example.

Here we are in the midst of Lent. Lent is not mostly about giving up things. It is really intended to help us take better care of ourselves. To reduce distractions. To make time for rest and prayer, reflection and learning. To renew our acquaintance with God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

To conclude, I invite you to a holy Lent, to take better care of yourself and better care of your neighbors. Those are not in contradiction, but it takes some wisdom to maintain a balance. Jesus took care of himself. He worked hard; he made time for rest and prayer. He delegated much to others. So can we.

God bless you all. It is a privilege to serve you.

In Christ,
Fr. Jim+

Episcopal Church Women

by Betty Jo Hoffman

The ECW enjoyed Thai food at the February meeting. The program was a question-and-answer time about where we were born and if we had ever met or seen a famous person. It was a lot of fun and informative as well.

The March meeting will be at the Douglas County Museum, March 15. We would like to invite the congregation to join us. We will bring our own lunches and have our business meeting and lunch at 11:00, followed by a guided tour at 12:00. We will have an opportunity to see some of the behind-the-scenes items that are stored away.

There will be no charge but they will need a head count to determine the number of guides necessary. Please sign up by March 11 on the sheet in the Parish Hall.

Be sure to put aside your items for the Tools-to-Treasure sale as well as special items for our new Fine & Fancy Boutique. We plan to expand the sale to include Thursday evening.

We are always searching for ideas for money-making events and for social activities.

Please join us March 15 at the museum.

FISH Report

The FISH of Roseburg recently received a grant from the Mercy Foundation for \$500 per month between March 2018 and September 2018 for their children's emergency medications program.

February statistics:

9,644 pounds collected in February drive
64 Neighborhood Coordinators
583 food donors

<http://fishofroseburg.org/>

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.

I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

~ Thomas Merton

Parish News



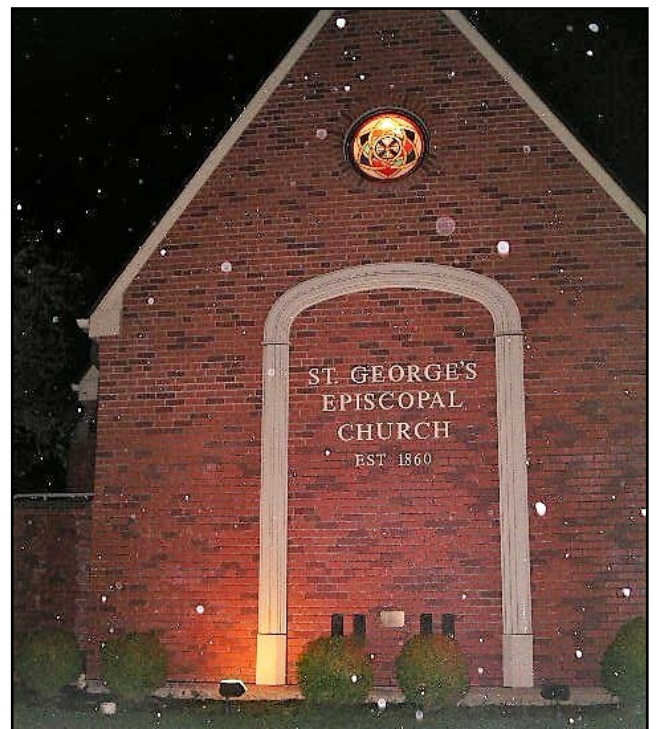
Bob Spielman was hard at work in February. On the 8th he mounted the bracket on the south wall to anchor the chain which supports the sacramental candle.



Now, as demonstrated by Jean Bowden and Faye Benham, the candle holder can be lowered so the Altar Guild can change the candle without having to climb on a ladder. Once a new candle is in place, the holder can be lifted by pulling on the chain and then anchoring it in the up position.

Bob also installed a maze of wires to connect the timer for the light shining on the memorial window for Fr. Sayers. Sim's Electric programmed the timer, at our request, to come on at 9 p.m. and go off at midnight, seven days a week. If anyone notices that it isn't working properly, please notify the office.

You can see the stunning results in the picture at right, taken about 9 p.m. Thursday, February 22, with a light sprinkling of snow.



Photos courtesy of Bill Riley

Parish News

THREE ADULT CATS NEED NEW HOMES

One is all black

One is spotted grey

One is a tuxedo—black with white paws and chest

One is a good mouser

Another likes a lot of attention

One is just nice



Tenaya Wright and Julie Ortiz need to find homes for their cats since they will be moving to a place that will not be safe for them. Call 541-817-3698 or 541-430-6690 if you are moved to help.



Why not invite someone to church next Sunday? Barry Boston did just that when he brought his girlfriend, Mara Golden, to St. George's on February 18.

Parish News



We celebrated Shrove Tuesday with our traditional Pancake Supper on February 13. As usual, the food was delicious and the fellowship heartwarming.



Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day fell on the same day this year.



Renewing the Church

by the Rev. Jesse Zink

The Rev. Jesse Zink is an Anglican/Episcopal priest and principal of Montreal Diocesan Theological College. This piece provides Lenten food for thought.

During my recent leave, I read through a new report from Renewal Works, an organization in the American Episcopal Church that works for congregational renewal and church growth. The report is based on a survey they conducted of over 12,000 Episcopalians in nearly 200 churches.

I commend the entire report (17 pages) to your attention. But I particularly want to draw your attention to what the survey revealed to be “key catalysts for spiritual growth” (pp. 7-8). Based on the survey, the report concludes that these four “catalysts” bring transformation and spiritual growth to congregations:

- Engagement with scripture
- The transforming power of the Eucharist
- A deeper prayer life
- The heart of leader

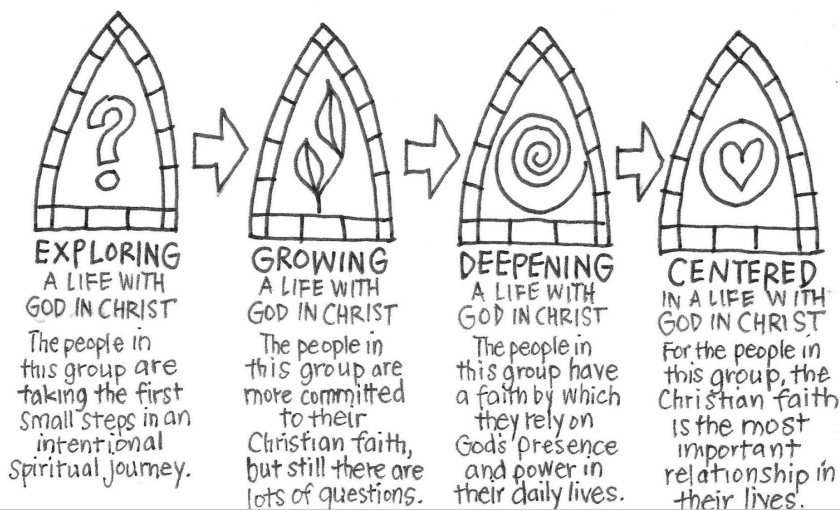
On first glance, there is nothing surprising about this list. These four catalysts remind us that being Christian is about engaging not just our mind but also our hearts, souls, and bodies as well. Each leads us deeper into engagement with God made known in Christ—in word, in

sacrament, and in prayer. The list points to the importance of the kind of work we do in the college, forming people who see themselves as leaders of Christian communities. In one way or another, each of these items is a hallmark of our Anglican tradition.

You might, therefore, find yourself asking: if the key catalysts for spiritual growth are hallmarks of the Anglican tradition, how come Anglican churches aren’t universally thriving? But as I look at the list more closely, I find myself asking how many of these catalysts are actually present in our churches.

To take one example: it’s not clear to me that all of our churches have regular and readily-accessible Bible study groups and strongly encourage their members to participate in one. To take another: it’s not clear that all our churches create varied and regular opportunities to explore prayer in its many forms outside of the Sunday morning liturgy, or teach their parishioners how to pray.

This report is one contribution to the vigorous and welcome debate about the future of the church and of Christianity in an increasingly secular west. One message I take from this research is that part of the key to church renewal lies in returning to the habits and practices that have long been foundational to our Anglican tradition.



The full report can be found here:
renewalworks.org/researchsummary/



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Palms & Easter Flowers Donations

If you would like to help pay for the palms & Easter flowers, write Easter flowers & palms in the memo section of your check. If you pay cash write the same on the outside of one of the brown pew envelopes. If you would like to honor someone with your donation, please notify the office or put a note with your donation.

Thank you, bj

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

