



The Dragon Scoop



March 2021

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

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



This Lent, our new Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Diana Akiyama, enjoins us: “I ask each of us to reflect on what is required of us to give up the parts of our hearts that are hardened. Give up the self-righteousness, the cynicism, the deaf ear to those who disagree with us. Give up those hardened parts of our hearts and, instead, open our hearts to loving each other. Period. No conditions, no prerequisites, no qualifiers. Let’s take this time beginning with Ash Wednesday to repent of our hardened hearts and the ways we have separated ourselves from each other.

On Ash Wednesday, Pastor Gail Duba imposed ashes on members of the congregation (Hellene Chapman is pictured here), using disposable Q-tips to help protect against COVID-19. The ashes were prepared from last year’s palm branches by Bob Spielman.

In her sermon, Pastor Gail noted that last year’s Ash Wednesday was the first time she preached at St. George’s. “You won my heart that day,” she said.

“Let’s take this time to open our hearts to the ‘other’ (read: the one who disagrees with us) and to love them by reflecting God’s infinite love for us.”



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Pastor Gail's Ponderings

Joseph, Guardian of our Lord—Filled with Compassion

But just when he (Joseph) had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."

—Matthew 1:20

As we turn our repentant hearts to God during the season of Lent, the church year gives us a day to reflect on the way that Jesus' earthly father turned to God and offered himself to the story of salvation. We name Joseph as the "Guardian of our Lord," but we might just as easily call him the "fatherly steward of God's mysterious gift of Jesus Christ." March 19 is the day given to pay honor and respect to Joseph.



Joseph is a quiet figure in the Bible. We do not have very much information about him, but in the story of Mary's annunciation, it is clear that he was a man who chose compassion over judgment. His loving spirit first supported Mary and then was the fatherly guide for a son who became the Savior of the world. Joseph teaches us that a life of compassion is one of God's favorite gifts.

Compassion grows in the greenhouse of God's grace. When we plant ourselves in grace instead of judgment, healthy shoots of love, service and understanding spring up with no regard for who will receive the fruit of their growth. Joseph could never have known that his instinctive reluctance to cause pain and embarrassment to his betrothed, Mary, would be the beginning of a new chapter in God's story.

As followers of Jesus we are called to study Scripture as a way to understand how God wants us to live. The Bible is a book that tells us the story of people who lived in ways that opened them to amazing possibilities. Joseph is an important part of the story even though he has "very few lines" to speak. The compassion in his heart speaks volumes, and teaches us that if we tend to the growth of compassion in our own hearts we will be amazed by the ways in which God will use us.

As we near Holy Week, let us ask ourselves how we have made ourselves available to God to use for the Kingdom of God during the season of Lent.

Let us pray:

Lord of life, in your amazing grace you always feel compassion for the world. Help us to empty our hearts of judgment and let compassion fill them to the brim. Let our witness, silent or spoken out loud, touch the world as gently as your own loving touch.

Amen



Pastor Gail

Winter Talk 2021

by Juliana Marez

This winter I was invited to the Winter Talk 2021 Virtual Conference, held January 16-18 on Zoom. This is a gathering of indigenous people who are Episcopalian. For many years Winter Talk has gathered and engaged youth, elders, and clergy in sharing various aspects of Indigenous ministry within the Church. I was invited by a Shoshone young man who is a very talented cultural singer. This young man and another were planning to sing a duet at the event.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry opened with a prayer and he read a passage from the Bible that was so fitting:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding

its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

~ Hebrews 12:1-2

Bishop Curry said to replace the word *witnesses* with *ancestors*. The idea of living our lives worthy of our ancestors resonated profoundly with the group. There was a really interesting conversation about what our faith meant to us as American Indians. We also talked about the dichotomy of being Christian and keeping our culture. We talked about what happened at the first Wounded Knee: how newly converted Christians ran for the church sanctuary and were chased in and gunned down by fellow church members for being Indian. We talked about healing our moral and spiritual wounds in order to move forward. It was beautiful and restorative.

Important Upcoming Dates

Palm Sunday—March 28, 2021

Holy Eucharist at 10 am

Beginning of Holy Week—Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2021

Good Friday Service at St. George's—April 2 at 4 pm

Resurrection of our Lord—Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021

Holy Eucharist at 10 am



Lenten Meditations

Most of you will remember the Lenten Meditations in Music series offered by the First Presbyterian Church here in Roseburg. It has been around since 1973. People were invited to come to the sanctuary during their Friday lunch hours for a time of quiet reflection surrounded by beautiful music.

This year, folks will be able to view each Friday's session online via Facebook or YouTube by searching Roseburg First Presbyterian Church, and through First Presbyterian's website at www.fpcrose.org. Pastor Gail will be speaking on April 2.

Lenten Meditations in Music 2021

*A Time for Prayerful Contemplation
Premieres Online Fridays During Lent
First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary*

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|--------------------|--|
| <i>February 19</i> | <i>Donna Spicer, Pat Mehlhoff, and Jason Heald</i> |
| <i>February 26</i> | <i>Trio con Basso
Jason Heald, Kathryn Johnston, Izzy Trinkle</i> |
| <i>March 5</i> | <i>Bone Dawgs
Bob Carwithen, Trevor Lavery-Thompson, Jeff Plummer, Dave Wolf</i> |
| <i>March 12</i> | <i>Jazz Meditation</i> |
| <i>March 19</i> | <i>Women's Ensemble
Tonnie Bernhardson, Marcia Hendrick, Sharon Kercher,
Brenda Olson, Donna Spicer</i> |
| <i>March 26</i> | <i>Methodist Bell Ensemble
Wanda Eddy, Director
Celestial Tollers Handbell Choir
Pat Mehlhoff, Director</i> |
| <i>April 2</i> | <i>Traditional Good Friday Gospel Readings
Rev. Vicky Brown, First Presbyterian Church,
Rev. Jane Baker, Faith Lutheran Church,
Rev. Gail Duba, St. George's Episcopal Church,
Rev. David Thompson, First United Methodist Church,
Music from Dr. Mark Angle-Hobson.</i> |

United Thank Offering



The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through UTO, individuals are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. UTO encourages people to notice the good things that happen each day, give thanks to God for those blessings and make an offering for each blessing using a UTO Blue Box.

UTO is entrusted to receive the offerings, and to distribute the 100% of what is collected to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion. (from their website at unitedthankoffering.com/)

If you haven't picked up your Blue Box yet, they are still available at the church. Or you can always write a check for your blessings and turn it in the St. George's.

FISH

FISH has some clever fixes to make shopping at the Pantry easier for their clients. Because people now have to stay outside to check in and to receive their pre-packed food boxes, FISH is now offering umbrellas that folks can use while they are waiting. Donated umbrellas are tagged as belonging to FISH, and when clients have received their food, they return them and FISH sanitizes them before loaning them out again.

There is now a new information center on the outside of the building. Among other things, people can read about:

- Hours and locations of other food pantries.
- Hot meal information.
- Pet food pantry information.
- Some housing information.
- Assistance for those who are unhoused.
- The bus schedule.

FISH has also installed a new number system outside. It works well in bright sunlight and chimes loudly when a new number is called so that clients can see and hear when it is their turn. Volunteers are able to stay inside and have less client contact according to pandemic protocols.

(from FISH's January 2021 newsletter, available at fishofroseburg.org/)

The next Green Bag pickup is scheduled for Saturday, April 10, 2021.



Annual Meeting



The Annual Meeting was held after worship on Feb. 21 with 25 people attending.

Kathy Glockner, Treasurer, went over St. George's 2020 budget performance and was pleased to point out that we are doing well financially. 2021 pledging is up substantially from last year.

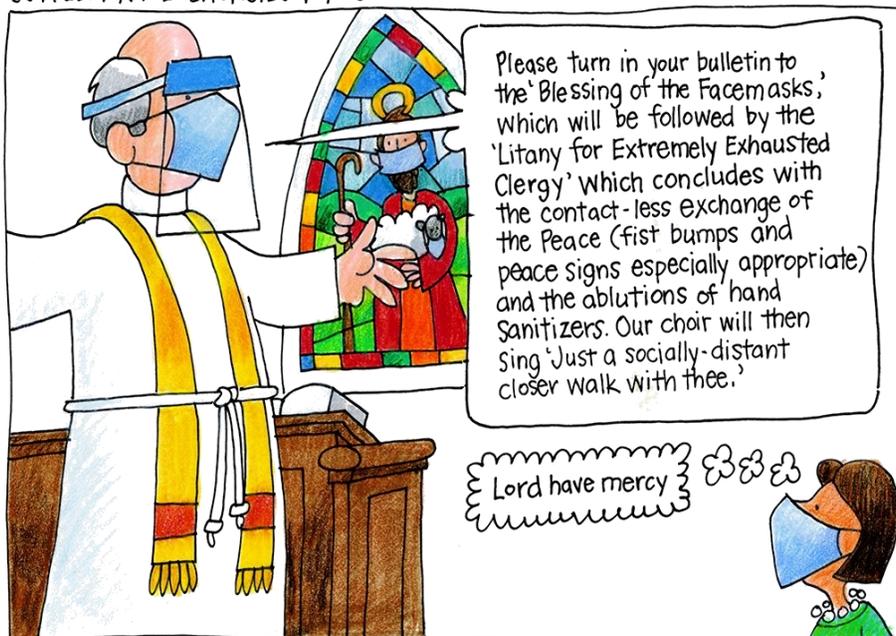
Steve Thomas resigned from the Vestry after many years of faithful service. Leigh Van Sickle

was elected to the Vestry and Melvin Wilcox will be a non-voting member. Pete Benham will remain as Senior Warden and Bob Spielman is now Junior Warden.

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention, besides Pastor Gail, will be Nancy Baum and Margaret Thomas, with Steve Thomas as an alternate.

If you weren't at the meeting to get a copy of the 2020 Annual Report, contact the Office.

SUPPLEMENTAL LITURGIES FOR COVID-TIDE



February Blessings



BJ brought altar flowers from her garden to celebrate the Hoffman Anniversary

Betty Jo Hoffman (above center) received Blessings for her and Zack's 46th Anniversary, and Faye Benham (right) accepted Birthday Blessings



Birthday Blessings for David Jones (right)

February Blessings



***Birthday Blessings
for Betty Jo Hoffman
(left)***



***Going-away Blessings
for Jacek Berka
(right)***



***Birthday Blessings
for David and Marcia Jackson***

Your photographer was in the choir loft at the actual time of the blessings so had to take this photo afterwards. David says his age is 2 Jack Bennys plus 4!

Episcopal Church Women

by Betty Jo Hoffman

We met to have more discussion about the rummage sale. We decided to move it to the first weekend in June. David Sayers will sell larger items on Craigslist. We will hang as many items as possible to limit people rummaging through so much. We will wear masks and gloves to sort items.

At this time, we plan to sell clothing for \$1 a bag. We will do some special pricing.

There will be no meeting in March. We welcome your ideas for the rummage sale.



Stamp Club News

Umpqua Valley Stamp Club presents
the March Stamp of the Month



March is National Red Cross Month

The stamp commemorates Clara Barton who established the American Red Cross in Dansville, NY, on May 21, 1881 providing emergency assistance, disaster relief, and disaster preparedness education.



Scott catalog #967 was issued
on September 7, 1948

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



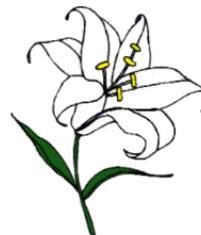
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Take the opportunity to sign up to provide or pay for altar flowers. It doesn't have to be expensive! You don't have to do your own arranging unless you want to! You can honor or memorialize a family member or friend, who can then be named in the church bulletin!

And remember, it's almost time to donate Easter lilies!



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. Gail Duba
Senior Warden: Pete Benham
Junior Warden: Bob Spielman
Treasurer: Kathy Glockner

OFFICE HOURS
10 am—2 pm
Monday through Friday

ST. GEORGE WORSHIP
10 am

Sundays
Holy Eucharist

