



# The Dragon Scoop

## May 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



## Awake!

Awake you winter sleepers,  
you tired and burdened believers,  
for this is the ancient season of renewal,

this brightening time of green shoots and first flowers,  
this is the sign from deep within that life is never ended,  
that change is never complete, but forever making itself over,  
finding a fresh start, rising out of the cold ground of the past  
to discover the sun waiting once again,

a different way of being, but being all the same,  
stronger for the struggle, more grateful for the warmth,  
drinking in hope like rain, rising up to be seen once more,  
joyful and refreshed, the child of a sacred Spring,

the slumbering soul brought back to life,  
the great promise of healing fulfilled.

*The Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston*  
*April 11, 2018*



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## Rector's Letter

Dear Friends,

Our journey through Eastertide will soon climax with three important feast days: Ascension Day (and the Sunday after), Pentecost, and Trinity Sunday.

I hope to have a Eucharist on Ascension Day at noon, but will not confirm that until the Sunday before it, May 6. (For those who don't know, I seem to have a case of sciatica, which keeps me from standing for very long. So, I am conserving energy at the moment. I hope to be back to full steam by early May.)

One can approach the Ascension as marking the "real absence" of Jesus. He will no longer show up in the flesh, no longer break bread with his friends. Yet, the main theme of the Ascension is that, having risen into heaven, Jesus is now available to all people, at all times and in all places. Jesus who shared our flesh, and shares it still in some way, is our living and available King, Ruler, Guide, and Friend. Yours and mine. We break bread with him when we say grace over our meals, and even more when we encounter him in Holy Communion.

Jesus has called us to be his representatives, his agents, his friends in the world. That invitation is made anew each day of our lives. We are each a part of what our Presiding Bishop likes to call the "Jesus Movement."

Pentecost recalls when the Holy Spirit fell upon the disciples, "to guide, to comfort, and to cheer." (Comfort is an old word for strengthen.) We pray the Holy Spirit will

help us to know what to do, to know when to do it, and to find the strength we need to do it. Pentecost is often called the "birthday of the Church." It has a global mission aspect, because the disciples on whom the Spirit fell that morning were understood in the varied languages of the crowds present for the Jewish holy day. Jesus commanded the apostles to preach the Good News to "the ends of the earth." In a sense, the ends of the earth came to Jerusalem to hear the Good News in their own tongues. The Gospel draws people to itself around the world, just as it is carried out into the world by missionaries.

And then there is Trinity Sunday. Technically, it is not part of the Easter season, yet it follows and reflects on the events of Eastertide. The bond between Jesus and the Father was in some sense broken on the cross, and renewed with the resurrection. The Holy Spirit comes to make God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) present in the life of the church.

So, you may ask, what does all this have to do with me and our Church? The Spirit helps us remember that we are all connected; that we are each loved by God; that we need each other and bless one another.

The fact that I am much closer to my death than to my youth makes life more urgent. I have love and faith and hope to share. I have people to treasure. And, I get to walk with God each day, knowing that I, and those around me, are deeply loved.

Jim+

# Episcopal Church Women

by Betty Jo Hoffman

ECW came together with a few gentlemen on April 19. Our main discussion centered around the upcoming Tools-to-Treasure sale which will feature the newly added Fine and Fancy boutique. We are anticipating more items, thus the area will be enlarged.

We are also opening **Thursday evening, May 3, 4:00 to 7:00**, hoping to draw in people who work, particularly those who work and/or live in the downtown area.

The rest of the sale will be **Friday, May 4, 9:00 to 4:00, and Saturday, May 5, 9:00 to noon.**

We will begin the packing up at noon for the Salvation Army pick up at 12:30.

We appreciate all the help you can provide. We will accept your donations Monday through Thursday, 10:00-2:00. We will need help sorting and pricing and cleaning up.

We also talked about the upcoming Spirituality Day, May 19, at St. Mary's in Eugene, 9:00-3:30. There is a \$25 charge. I have information and registration packets. Registration should be in by May 7.

Pete & Faye will tell us about their Panama trip at our next meeting, May 17.

~ Betty Jo Hoffman, Co-President

## FISH Report

The FISH Pantry gives out about 40,000 lbs. of food every month. At this time, there are over 70 neighborhood coordinators and over 650 active food donors. They bring in around 9,000-10,000 lbs. of food every two months.

The Roseburg Food Project is seeking additional food donors and neighborhood coordinators for the project. About 30 volunteers wearing green t-shirts will be canvassing their neighborhoods to sign up new food donors and neighborhood coordinators between April 26 and May 12.

Thanks to Roseburg ALTRUSA for donating books to the pantry. FISH clients love them!

<http://fishofroseburg.org/>



# Southern Convocation

On Good Shepherd Sunday, Steve Thomas, Junior Warden, reported on the Southern Convocation that he attended with Margaret Thomas at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Medford on April 21. If you missed his account or just want to refresh your memory, here are the main takeaways from the meeting:

The meeting was opened with Morning Prayer by our Dean, the Rev. Tony Hutchinson.

Margaret and I have never experienced a sung and chanted service. It was interesting; however, it was said/sung a very fast pace!

Election of officers was unanimous to retain David McFadden as President, and Debra, his wife, as Secretary.

A draft resolution encouraging use and redevelopment of church properties was discussed. Our parish already has several additional sources for added income, i.e. rental of the Rectory and parking lot. We receive additional money from AA groups and the Greek Orthodox Church.

A discussion was held re acolyte training. Most of our churches have very few young kids to consider training. I said all of our acolytes are retired folk!

The Diocesan budget was given a report by Hana Reuben. She says this committee meets at The Close. She is new with this committee and they are preparing a budget for the Convocations to have a draft prior to annual convention this year at Seaside.

The rest of the meeting discussed Canonical revisions, led by Becky Snow from Ashland. Rather than remarking on Canon 3.5, we will see any revisions at our next meeting for final approval.

No time was allotted for announcements or reports from the Parishes. We were asked to send them to Debra.

The one thing that got my attention was how much grant money is available for our diocese. We should get instructions from the diocese to see if we may qualify for funding a worthwhile need.

~ Steve



God is  
Good  
ALL THE TIME

# Faith and Belief

*Ben Irwin is Communications Director at Preemptive Love, an organization that brings emergency relief to families in Syria and Iraq. Here are the third and fourth of his “Eleven Things Ben Irwin Loves About the Episcopal Church.”*

### **3. The way it anchors my faith when no act of will on my part can.**

I don't always believe the words of the Nicene Creed. But I say them anyway. Sometimes they're more a confession of desire than conviction, a statement of what I desperately hope to be true.

When I struggle to believe, the rhythms and patterns and prayers of the liturgy are like an anchor. It's as if the rest of the community—those around me and those who came before me—are saying, “It's OK. We'll carry you through this part.”

Faith is no longer dependent on me willing it into being. As Jonathan Martin writes:

With my own world feeling disordered and untethered, I am quite happy to be told when to kneel and when to sit and when to stand. I love that there is almost no space in the worship experience to spectate, because almost every moment invites (but not demands) participation. I have been in no position to tell my heart what to do. But because the Church told my body what to do in worship, my heart has been able to follow—sometimes. And that is enough for now.

### **4. The way it embraces orthodoxy without rigidity.**

The other day my priest (who takes Scripture and theology about as seriously as anyone I've ever heard preach), referred in passing to Adam and Eve as our “mythic forbearers.”

No one broke out the pitchforks. There were no murmurs or protests. No angry blog posts. No one accused him of “getting the gospel wrong.”

For many of us, it's a refreshing change. As Lindsey Harts wrote after hearing an Episcopal homily on God's sovereignty in relation to the Big Bang, “It was the first time I hadn't heard the Big Bang being bashed in a church setting.”

Anglicanism has long been known as the *via media*, the “middle way” between two traditions. The Episcopal Church has also helped me navigate the middle way between unbelief and dogmatism. Ours is a faith handed down from the apostles, but not one so fragile that it cannot cope with science, with new findings about the origins of the universe, ourselves, or whatever else we might discover.

Ours is not a fear-filled faith.

[www.trinityepiscopalville.org/?s=ben+irwin](http://www.trinityepiscopalville.org/?s=ben+irwin)

## Flash from the Past



*Betty Jo Hoffman brought photos to coffee hour on April 15. She took these during the remodeling project. (The pictures were taken during Lent, so the paraments are black and it's a little hard to see detail.)*

*Top left shows the red doors on what was the front of the church. These doors are now showcased in the Parish Hall.*

*Top right is the altar under what is now the choir loft. At the time, the choir sang in the stalls in front of the altar.*

*Bottom left is an angled view of that same area, with the organ in the alcove.*

*Bottom right is the entrance to the church, where the present-day altar is located. There was a small seating area above the doors.*

# Parish News



*The red doors in the Parish Hall now have their own plaque:  
**These red doors welcomed parishioners to St. George's for  
50 years  
from the time the current brick building was constructed  
in 1930  
to the remodeling of the church in 1989.***



*On April 15, Pete Benham presided over the inurnment service for David Jack Davis, 1942-2018.*



Prayer is sitting in the silence until it silences us,  
choosing gratitude until we are grateful, and praising  
God until we ourselves are an act of praise.

~ Richard Rohr



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On May 6 the ashes of Jinny Skala will be placed in the columbarium after the worship service.

Chocolate will be featured at coffee hour in remembrance of Jinny's love for this sweet.



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](mailto: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**

