



The Dragon Scoop

November 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



The Gifts of God for the People of God



The Rt. Rev. Dr. Diana Akiyama,
new Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon,
visited St. George's for the first time on Oct. 10, 2021.

See pages 3-4 for more photos.

Pastor Gail's Ponderings

All Saints' Day—2021

In Western Christianity, including many Protestant churches such as the Episcopal and the Lutheran churches as well as the Roman Catholic Church, All Saints' Day is celebrated on November 1. In the Western Christian practice, the liturgical celebration begins at Vespers on the evening of October 31, All Hallows' Eve (All Saints' Eve), and ends at the close of November 1. It is therefore the day before All Souls' Day, which commemorates the faithful departed. In places where All Saints' Day is observed as a public holiday, cemetery and grave rituals such as offerings of flowers, candles and prayers or blessings for the graves of loved ones often take place. In Austria and Germany, godparents gift their godchildren *Allerheiligen Striezel* (All Saints' Braid) on All Saints' Day, while the practice of making Soul Bread remains popular in Portugal. It is a national holiday in many Christian countries.

The Christian celebration of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day stems from a belief that there is a powerful spiritual bond between those in heaven (the "Church triumphant"), and the living (the "Church militant"). In mainline Christian theology, All Saints' Day revolves around "giving God solemn thanks for the lives and deaths of God's saints," including those who are "famous or obscure." As such, individuals throughout the Church Universal are honored, such as the Gospel writers, Paul the Apostle, Augustine of Hippo, and Martin Luther, in addition to individuals who have personally led one to faith in Jesus, such as one's grandmother or friend. The festival was retained after the Reformation in the calendar of the Anglican Church and in many Lutheran churches. In the Church of England, mother church of the Anglican Communion, it is a Principal Feast and may be celebrated either on November 1 or on the Sunday following All Hallows' Eve.

Protestants generally commemorate all Christians, living and deceased, on All Saints' Day—they use it to remember all Christians both past and present.

In some congregations, a candle is lit as each person's name is called out by the clergy. Prayers and responsive readings may accompany the event. In most congregations, the festival is marked as an occasion to remember the dead. The names of parishioners who have died within the last year are read during worship and a bell is tolled. While the dead are solemnly remembered during worship on All Saints' Sunday, the festival is ultimately a celebration of Christ's victory over death. In this year of 2021, it seems fitting that we remember all those that have gone before us in "so great a cloud of witnesses," as Paul describes it in Hebrews 12:1-3.



Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical Body of your Son:

Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you;

through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.
(from the BCP)

Pastor Gail



Bishop Diana's Visitation



The bishop's vestments (Cope, Mitre, Chasuble and Stole) were designed and constructed by Corvallis artist Karen Illman Miller, a katazome master. Katazome is a traditional Japanese stencil dyeing technique that represents nature through abstract graphic images. Themes of Oregon and Hawai'i are the primary images in the vestments.

Some takeaways from Bishop Diana's homily:

- ♥ We need to show what it means to be Christian—not coercive and manipulative, but mothering, giving.
- ♥ It's very important to come together in person. It's an affirmation of our humanity. We can't let technology take away our embodied experiences.
- ♥ Fear is driving us. How do we act with love and compassion instead of fear? It's our job as Christians to get people to unclench.



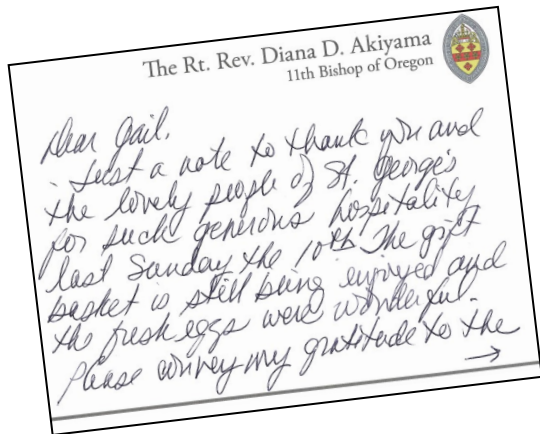
Bishop Diana's Visitation



David (shown here) and Marcia Jackson presented the Bishop with a welcome basket "to make her think kindly of St. George's."



After the service, Bishop Diana answered questions from parishioners. In the future, she said, the Diocese will have an office in Coos Bay, providing a greater presence in Southern Oregon.



Bishop Diana sent this note:

Dear Gail,
Just a note to thank you and the lovely people of St. George's for such generous hospitality last Sunday the 10th. The gift basket is still being enjoyed and the fresh eggs were wonderful.

Please convey my gratitude to the congregation. I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Blessings,
†Diana



Pastor Gail with Bishop Diana after the service.

Parish News

Music at St. George's

We said goodbye to Elona Wong on Oct. 10 when she played for the Bishop's Visitation. Sadly, Elona's "night owl" constitution made it too difficult for her to play comfortably for morning services.



Elona (left) is shown above with Karla Roady on her last day with us.

We now have a team of accompanists:



Janet Mecham (piano and organ) will play twice a month.



Tamara "Tammy" Johnson (piano) will accompany the congregation once a month. She and Janet also play at the Presbyterian Church.

Roberta Hall will continue to play once a month, and David Jones and Leigh Van Sickle will take over on fifth Sundays.

There is nothing to playing the organ. You only have to hit the right notes at the right time and the instrument plays itself.
~ Johann Sebastian Bach



Parish News

Plank House

The restoration of the plank house at Eastwood School as detailed in last month's *Scoop* has been completed as of Oct. 9.



Photos by David Jackson.

St. George's Tulip Tree

The tulip tree on the northwest side of the church was in sore need of a trim. Happy Hills Tree Service did an excellent job! The photo to the right is the "after" picture.



Parish News

Art Exhibition of Members' Artwork Umpqua Valley Arts Association

Parishioner Hellene Chapman will have an acrylic painting—"Steadfast Pillars"—in this show.

The opening reception will be Friday, Nov. 5, from 1 pm to 7 pm. The Association has decided that they can have a "Face-to-Face Opening Reception" this year, with masks required. There will be a maximum capacity of 50 people in the building at any one time. Call the Art Center at 541-672-2532 for more information.

The Art Center is located at 1624 W. Harvard, next to Fir Grove School, also next to UACT, the theater. Regular hours are Tuesday-Friday, 10-6. There is no charge to come.



Guest Speaker



Pastor Dwayne Brown, Head Chaplain at the VA, presided over Morning Prayer on Oct. 24. One of the takeaways from his sermon on Mark 10:46-52 was to read a Bible passage slowly and then see what gets your attention. In his example, it was the phrase, "Jesus stood still."

Inspiration

"Grandma how do you deal with pain?"

"With your hands, dear. When you do it with your mind, the pain hardens even more."

"With your hands, grandma?"

"Yes, yes. Our hands are the antennas of our Soul. When you move them by sewing, cooking, painting, touching the earth, or sinking them into the earth, they send signals of caring to the deepest part of you and your Soul calms down. This way she doesn't have to send pain anymore to show it."

"Are hands really that important?"

"Yes my girl. Think of babies: they get to know the world thanks to their touch. When you look at the hands of older people, they tell more about

their lives than any other part of the body. Everything that is made by hand, so it is said, is made with the heart because it really is like this: hands and heart are connected. Think of lovers: When their hands touch, they love each other in the most sublime way."

"My hands grandma.... how long since I used them like that!"

"Move them my love, start creating with them and everything in you will move. The pain will not pass away. But it will be the best masterpiece. And it won't hurt as much anymore, because you managed to embroider your Essence."

~Elena Barnabé

Episcopal Church Women

by Betty Jo Hoffman

We had a nice turnout for our meeting this month. We decided to postpone the rummage sale until next year. But when we meet in November we will visit the conversation again.

We decided to have Thelma's birthday cake on **Nov. 7.**

One of the ladies shared how she was scammed, which led to a discussion about how so many of us have also been scammed. This led to the need to invite someone who is an expert in keeping all of us safe to speak at coffee hour.

Guest speaker Steve Smith will give a presentation on fraud prevention Nov. 21 during coffee hour.

We also discussed the possibility of having a FISH Sunday in the future.

We will get 25 names from Children's Services for the Christmas Giving Tree. Children always deserve gifts.



We will meet at the church at 2 pm on **Nov. 18.**

Thank you to Sue for a wonderful fall dessert!

FISH

The FISH Food Pantry of Roseburg can be a little confusing as to the difference between our food and monetary donations and the Roseburg Food Project (also known as RFP or Green Bag).

Each fiscal year the FISH budget includes commitments from each of the seven churches involved. We have not met our goal for a number of years and we have asked during that same time to decrease our commitment. Only food or money that comes through our church is credited to us. We get no credit for RFP donations from each of us as individuals.

However, we can donate either food or money on any Sunday. The basket and the donation jar are at the back of the church every Sunday. We are hoping that an understanding of our commitment to FISH will result in an increase in donations. Proudly, St. George has 7 faithful volunteers who help make the mission of FISH possible. Feed the hungry.

~ Sue Phelps



Mik Carlson reports:

St. George pledged \$1,500 for this fiscal year (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022).

We also pledged \$1,200 of FOOD for this fiscal year. (Each pound taken in is recorded as \$1.50.)

We are only three plus months into the year, but so far we are doing OK.

October Blessings



***44th Anniversary Blessings
for Pastor Gail and Dr. David Duba***



***Birthday Blessings
for Margaret Thomas***



***Birthday Blessings
for Hellene Chapman
and
34th Anniversary Blessings
for Hellene and Ivor Chapman***

October Blessings

Baby News!

Pastor Gail says:

Kyle and Alyssa are so happy to announce that their daughter, Rana (Rah-nuh) Iris Duba came into the world this last week on 10/21/21 @ 6:21 am, weighing in at 8 lbs 11 oz and 19.25 inches. She is everything they could have dreamed of!!!

As you can see from the photos, Grandma Gail and Grandpa David are pretty smitten as well! We visited on Oct. 23 and 24, stopping in Lander on our way back from Colorado.



How Gil and I Came to the Episcopal Church

by Cathy Gomez



Cathy and Gil Gomez came to us last April. They plan to spend half the year in Arizona and half the year in Roseburg. They chose Roseburg in order to be closer to family in Sacramento and because it has golf and a movie theater! In her Scottsdale home parish Cathy is on the Vestry. The following article is reprinted with permission from her Oct. 17 sermon at St. George's.

So now, I'm going to ask you to stand on holy ground with me as I share a piece of my story, how Gil and I came to the Episcopal Church. As I shared last week [Oct. 10, 2021], Gil and I were raised in the Roman Catholic Church. It was a huge part of our life and identity. We never had a problem with our faith, but as adults we did question many of the actions, and sometimes inaction, of the institution. Eventually, we made the decision that we could no longer remain affiliated with the Roman Catholic institution and needed to make a change.

We knew other people that had come to the same conclusion whose response was to leave organized religion completely. This was not an option for us. Like I said, our faith was not in question, and a key component of that faith was the need to be in community, to worship and be in communion with others. So I started researching other denominations. It was the Episcopal Church that stood out to us. We were especially drawn to the liturgical worship style, the belief in Eucharist, and the inclusiveness of all people. And so we decided to check it out.

We weren't aware of any divine intervention that brought us to St. Anthony on the Desert. It was just the closest parish to our house. Our plan was simple, just slip into the back and check it out....unnoticed.

Have you ever heard the phrase, "If you want to see God laugh, make a plan?" Slipping into the back, unnoticed is impossible to do at St. Anthony's, especially on Labor Day weekend in Arizona. It's a holiday weekend, and people do their best to get out of town one last time before the end of summer. There were not a lot of people to hide behind. But even if the church had been full, St. Anthony understood that going unnoticed is counter to what community is about.

Continued on next page.

Cathy & Gil's Story, page 2

Our first contact was with Jill. She was more than a greeter that just handed us the worship aid. Jill understands that she has the gift of putting people at ease, and she uses that gift as a Minister of Evangelization, welcoming new people to the parish. She kept it quick, but took the time to introduce herself, get our names, and ask us what brought us there. Unbeknownst to us, she gave our names to the person reading the Prayers of the People, and during that part of the liturgy we were thanked by name for worshiping with the St. Anthony community on that day. During the sharing of the Peace, people left their pews and intentionally came up to us to shake our hands and say, "Peace be with you." (This was obviously before the days of COVID.) The worship style and format felt familiar, and at one point Gil leaned over and said something to the effect of, "If there wasn't a woman standing at the altar, I'd think this was a Catholic Mass."

By the end of the service I was overwhelmed. It had been emotionally draining to make the decision to leave the church we had known our entire lives and seek out another option. If I had to describe how I was feeling walking into St. Anthony's on that first day, I would say vulnerable and afraid. As we were exiting the church, the pastor took my hand and said, "We haven't met yet. My name is Dorian." The warmth and simplicity of her statement was like a comforting hug. I knew there was a new home for us and I began to feel at peace.

Remember that saying? If you want to see God laugh, make a plan. Well, up until April of this year, our plans never included spending our summers in Roseburg, Oregon, where, keep in mind, we did not know a single person. So, as God laughed once again, we looked for a spiritual home here, where we could begin to establish community. For a small town, Roseburg has a lot of churches. But I knew right away where I would start, the Episcopal parish.

Even though our experience with the Episcopal Church had been so positive in Arizona, I was still a little nervous on my first day at St. George's.

I've got to admit, it would have been nice if I could have just slipped in the back unnoticed. But once again, that was impossible. I think that is one of the things I have come to love about St. George's. Gil and I are different. We are part timers from another part of the country. But you have welcomed us for who we are, and made it clear you value our participation in this community. I've come to understand that this is part of the culture of the Episcopal Church. There is no slipping in unnoticed.

In [the October] edition of the *Dragon Scoop* newsletter, Pastor Gail talks about building unity. She writes about one of the Judges of Israel, Deborah, and how, under her leadership, unity of the tribes of Israel increased. †Gail writes, "Believing in others created a community of coequals. It makes a scattering of humanity into a gathering of community. The Church, and more specifically our Episcopal Church, is this gathered people." I think this ties in so well to what Michael Curry is trying to say in his book [*Love Is the Way*], and what Jesus says in our gospel reading today. Our glory lies in being a gathered people.

I want to say a big thank you for welcoming us in a "Thou" relationship. Gil and I are headed back to Arizona soon, so this is probably our last Sunday worshiping with you at St. George this year. A couple of weeks ago Gail asked Gil and me what we missed about Arizona. We looked at each other and our response was the same, "nothing." That's not to say we don't look forward to going back for the winter and spring. We know we are not substituting one home for another. We were never homesick here because we found a community that did not just let us slip in the back. You actively accepted us and made us feel at home. We want to thank you for that. You will be in our prayers while we are away, and we ask you keep us in yours.

Cathy and Gil are now back in Arizona but will return in April.

Morning Prayer/Bible Study



Wednesday **Morning Prayer** service and **Bible Study** will resume on **Nov. 3**. Both will be led by Pastor Gail.

Morning Prayer will be at **10 am**, followed by discussion of the Gospel of Luke from **10:30-11:30**.

Stamp Club News

Umpqua Valley Stamp Club presents
the stamp of the month



November is National Aviation History Month



Scott #649 1st day of issue was Dec. 12, 1928
with a 5 cent sister stamp, in Washington DC.

Issued for the 1st International Civil Aeronautics Conference, December 12 thru 14, 1928. This was the first philatelic acknowledgement of the Wright Brothers contribution to human powered flight 25 years earlier.

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.

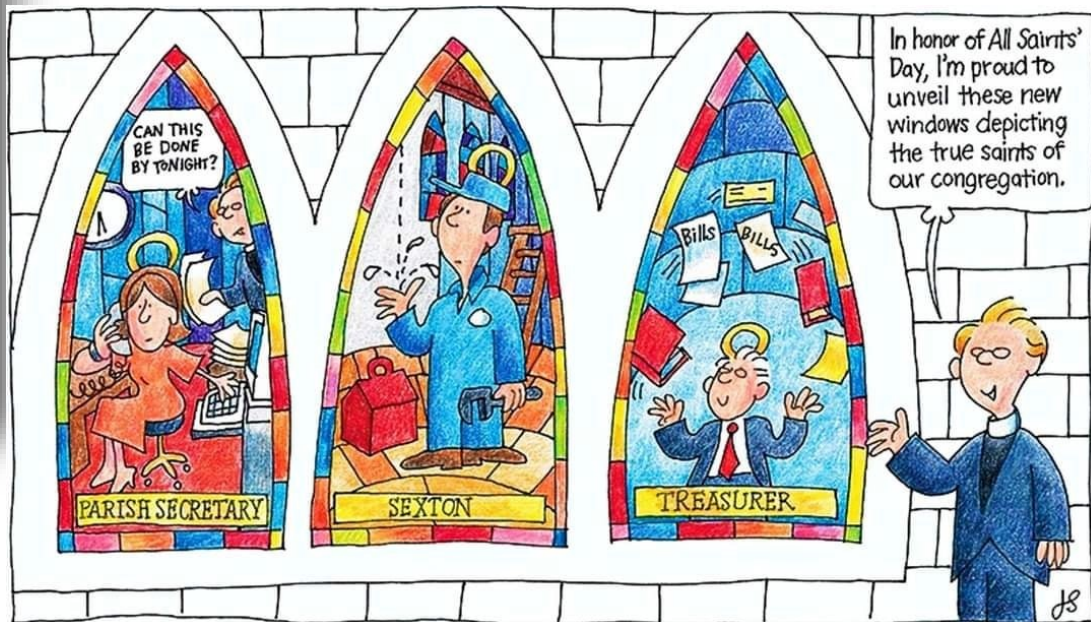
Poster by Clarence Adams, Umpqua Valley Stamp Club



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St. George Episcopal Church publishes THE DRAGON SCOOP monthly
except for a combined July-August issue.

If you would like something to be considered for the newsletter please talk to
Leigh Van Sickle, Editor—541-391-0814
E-mailed articles and photographs can be sent to saintgeorgepix@gmail.com.

Priest-in-Charge: 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
and
Wednesdays

