



The Dragon Scoop

October 2020

St. George Episcopal Church
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Mission Statement:
**“Loving God, Loving Our
 Neighbors”**

The Episcopal Church Welcomes You



The Rev. Dr. Diana Akiyama, M.Div., Ph.D Bishop-Elect of Oregon

Delegates to the Electing Convention held on Aug. 29 have elected the Rev. Dr. Diana Akiyama as the 11th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon. The vote was confirmed after two ballots, concluding the year-long process of seeking a successor for Bishop Michael Hanley, who began his service in the Diocese in 2010 and who will retire in Jan. 2021.

The Rev. Akiyama currently serves as Vicar at St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church in Kapaau, Hawaii, and is Dean of Waiolaihui’ia School for Formation.

Ordained in 1988 in the Diocese of Eastern Oregon, she has the historical distinction of being the first Japanese-American woman ordained to the Episcopal priesthood. She has extensive experience in Christian formation, teaching, social justice advocacy and mission field, having served ministries in Oregon, California and Hawaii.

In her “Meet the Finalists” address, the Rev. Akiyama said: “I am honored and truly humbled to be amongst those you are considering to be your next Bishop of the Diocese of Oregon. Throughout my discernment for the vocation of Bishop of Oregon, I have become increasingly energized and drawn to the innovative ministries currently underway in the Diocese. I believe this growing connection is rooted in my diverse experiences as a priest, and in my longstanding belief that the Church is being called to respond to a changing world.



“Here is my dream, were I to become your next bishop: to walk alongside the faithful and diverse people of the Diocese of Oregon with joy and hope as we explore how God is moving in our neighborhoods, and to embrace the unique qualities of Oregonians in creative and innovative ministries.”

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Pastor Gail's Ponderings

October 2020

During this spring, summer and now fall I have understood a little more clearly what the O.T. prophet, Job, must have been feeling. I will use a more modern translation of his words, "Why me, Lord!"

First it was COVID and we all knew we were safer when we stayed home, interacting with as few family and friends as possible. May arrived and we were allowed to "re-engage our church building," with our Christian friends at our faithful and beautiful St. George's. Those of us with few "pre existing" conditions were joyous to be able to gather together. Then in July we got the "go ahead" to begin having Holy Eucharist at morning service. That was a fulfilling day when we could once again hear the words of the Eucharistic Prayer.

At the end of August, St. George's was honored to cast three votes for the Rev. Diana Akiyama, who was elected our new Bishop, and she seems like she will serve the Oregon Diocese excellently. She is well versed in the Episcopal faith, was born in Hood River, got her BA at the University of Oregon, did her seminary training at Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, and has a PhD in Religion from the University of Southern California. And above all she seems to be a servant leader, willing to accompany us into our future.

AND THEN, when David and I left after church on August 30 the main thing on our mind was how to "stay safe" while visiting our sons in Dubuque, Iowa, Lander, WY, and Spokane, WA. Little did we know that in early September, fires would start in California, Oregon, and Washington. The result has been devastating—with unprecedented loss of life, ruin to people's homes, and millions of acres of forested lands being burned to the ground. "Why us, Lord?" And we must concentrate on the lessons Job learned by being faithful to God. Basically, Job, through a series of terrible events that befell him, learned that our God was not "picking on Job."

The prologue on Earth introduces Job as a righteous man, blessed with wealth, sons, and daughters, who lives in the land of Uz. The scene shifts to Heaven, where God asks Satan for his opinion of Job's piety. Satan accuses Job of being pious only because God has materially blessed him; if God were to take away everything that Job has, then he would surely curse God. God gives Satan permission to take Job's wealth and kill his children and servants, but Job nonetheless praises God: "Naked I came out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return: the Lord has given, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." God allows Satan to afflict his body with boils. Job sits in ashes, and his wife prompts him to "curse God, and die," but Job answers: "Shall we receive good from God and shall we not receive evil?"

The terrible recent events in our lives have not been preordained from God. They are what happens when forests are left too long without proper thinning and some smaller, controlled fires, much as the American Indians knew how to do. Through all of this I've wondered if there is a lesson from God that each of us can take home—we must take more care for our natural environment, God's beautiful Creation. We must take more care with our friends and family members, acknowledging that we all have flaws and yet we are all God's children. And we must take more care with our Faith—our Faith in our Creating God, our redeeming Lord and Savior, and the sanctifying Holy Spirit. Together we will get through this pandemic and this fire season, and I hope there will be a renewal of faith among all peoples of the World. Lord, let it be so.

Continued on p. 3

Pastor Gail's Ponderings, cont.

Every day, I get a morning devotion from Richard Rohr, a well known and respected theologian who has formed an "intentional living community." His thoughts are always deep and he often asks other Christians to share their thoughts. On Wed., Sept. 16, he shared from Jim Finley, a counselor and therapist:

"So this is my sense of personhood, I guess: a radicality, a spirituality, that gives me the courage to face the most broken and lost places within myself, discovering through that acceptance the oceanic tender mercy of God that sustains us in that brokenness, so that by learning to be this way ourselves we can pass it on to others.

"We can be someone in whose presence it's safe to be vulnerable and to be open, and truly courageous and strong and powerful, as Jesus was strong and powerful, in the truest, deepest sense of the word."

As we walk together, let us share in prayer, thoughtfulness, and love in the name of Jesus Christ the Messiah.

God's peace,
Pastor Gail



Holy Eucharist

It is such a blessing to once again be able to take Holy Communion after so many months when we weren't allowed to do so.

We are following safe protocols, with social distancing for non-family members. Pastor Gail wears gloves and mask and drops a wafer into each communicant's hands.



Bishop-Elect Akiyama

The Rev. Akiyama said, “As a native Oregonian, I identify with the desire for independence; as an Episcopalian, I identify with the desire for cohesion and unity as the Beloved Community. Independence and interdependence are vital aspects of the Diocese of Oregon story. My leadership style emphasizes relational authority rather than positional authority; making personal connections (“eye-balling one another” as my mother used to say) is at the heart of effective leadership. Relationships that embody care, agape love, and compassion are the foundation of a resilient and enduring faith community.

“I prefer to lead from a narrative of abundance rather than of scarcity. I have served in ministry settings that were wealthy, and settings where basic expenditures required careful planning. In all settings, resources did not determine our sense of abundance or joy because we grounded our relationships in a narrative of generative love. Lifting up the strengths of our connectedness releases creativity. Our ability to solve challenges flows from the unique gifts of each person. We respond to God’s call in local contexts through our gifts offered in community.

“Our church has the capacity to grow in two important ways: in depth and in breadth. Our journey into Christ is at the heart of our Christian formation. Our capacity to be formed is strengthened by sharing our faith stories as part of God’s call to discipleship. Thus formed, we become people of faith eager to lean into restoration and transformation. And we are able to explore how the church can broaden its ministry while maintaining our identity. Being formed in the Way of Love deepens our hopefulness that, in the midst of change, we can adapt as we continue to reflect the unique stories and gifts of each faith community.

“I grew up in the Japanese-American community in Hood River, Oregon and was shaped by the history of anti-Japanese sentiment in that area. In addition, being the daughter of an interracial couple has given me an embodied understanding

of the term “cross-cultural.” To the Japanese community, I was not fully one of them. To the Caucasian community, I was not fully one of them. As a result, I nurtured a spiritual center from which to engage the assumptions, tensions, and unease of others. I learned very early how to connect with people across differences by demonstrating the content of my character and respecting theirs. When I married my husband, an African-American, my Japanese grandmother lamented, “I really like Diana’s husband but it’s too bad he’s black.” Her comment reminded me that experiences of racism do not automatically form us to engage across cultures.

“When I began serving as Vicar on the island of Hawai‘i, I was welcomed warmly because folks assumed I was “local.” But my speech and mannerisms revealed that I was not from Hawai‘i. Even more, I did not understand Hawaiian words, names, and the history associated with them. So, I seek out those who can teach me about the language and history of the area. I continue to welcome and engage in conversations with folks to hear their stories and to understand what inspires them. Learning across cultural differences is always a life-long process. This experience is teaching me the importance of listening with my heart, asking authentic questions, and walking alongside folks in order to cultivate connections that are meaningful because they are grounded in the Way of Love.”

For more about the Rev. Akiyama, including videos, go to www.oregonbishopsearch.org. All information and the photo in this article are used by permission of the Diocese of Oregon.

In Memoriam



In August, two of our parishioners lost their beloved sisters. We mourn with Margaret and Sue, asking:

Almighty God, Father of mercies and giver of comfort: Deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn; that, casting all their care on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BCP, p.505

Jann Patrice Bruland

April 26, 1953 - Aug. 27, 2020
sister of Margaret Thomas


Penny Johnson

June 28, 1947 - Aug. 28, 2020
sister of Sue Phelps

*Thou hast come safe to port,
I still at sea,
The light is on thy head,
darkness in me.*

*Pluck thou in heaven's field
violet and rose,
while I strew flowers that will thy vigil keep
where thou dost sleep,
love, in thy last repose.*

~ Translation by Helen Waddell (1889-1965) of a lament for Hathimoda (840-874), Abbess of Gandesheim, composed by Agius, monk and poet.



Episcopal Church Women

by Betty Jo Hoffman

ECW met with a brown-bag lunch again Sept. 17. Karla brought up the prospect of providing a meal for the 50-75 people staying at the North Umpqua Christian Church. We decided we could do soups and bread on Monday, Sept. 21. We also decided we could go ahead with the Epic Rummage Sale.

HOWEVER:

1. At the last minute we found out that all those staying at the church in Glide had been able to return to their homes or had found other housing, so that meal was canceled.
2. With the recent rise in COVID cases in the county, we felt that this is not a good time to hold the rummage sale, so it too was canceled. Pastor Gail will take some needed kitchen items that would have been in the sale up to the church and take the opportunity to meet the staff there.

We sent \$125 to Fir Grove for whatever they may need to help their students.

We also decided to have a monthly Birthday/ Anniversary cake on the first Sunday of each month. The September cake is shown below:



Please plan to join us Oct. 15 at 11:00 for our next meeting which will presumably be another brown-bag lunch. We are continuing to donate \$5 each at the meetings.

FISH

FISH says:

Thank you to the Human Bean for holding a food drive for the FISH Pantry EVERY Thursday in August!

The next collection of green bags for the Roseburg Food Project will be Saturday, Oct. 10.

We are so excited to share this great information with our community: Saving Grace Pet Adoption Center is now offering a mobile pet food pantry on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Wednesday of each month from noon-2 pm. Douglas County is so lucky to have such amazing organizations.

SAVING Grace
PET ADOPTION CENTER
Bringing Pets and People Together
Mobile Pet Food Bank



Location: Stewart Park, Roseburg
When: 1st Saturday & 3rd Wednesday of Each Month
from noon-2 pm

Parish News



*Top, left to right:
Birthday Blessings for David
Duba and Leigh Van Sickle
and
60th Anniversary Blessings
for Faye and Pete Benham.*

*Center:
ECW's new monthly Birthday/
Anniversary cake for
September.*

*Right:
55th Anniversary Blessings
for John and Paulen Wrigley.*



Parish News



Right: Birthday Blessings for Service Dog Miggs Hammerle, pictured with Jill, his human. Above: Miggs stops on his way up the aisle to visit Bob Spielman for ear skritches.



Breaking News

St. George's received a \$1200 grant from the Episcopal Bishop of Oregon Fund to purchase a camcorder and laptop. We will be able to record Pastor Gail's sermons to post on Facebook .

An anonymous gift of \$500 was donated for Glide Helping Hands and for the Rector's Discretionary Fund. The church also gave \$125 to United Way.

Bible study begins in October following 10 am Morning Prayer. Held in the Library, it will run from 10:30 to 11:30 and will be taught by Pastor Gail.

Bishop Neff Powell will preside over Holy Eucharist on Dec. 24 at 1:00 pm since Pastor Gail will be visiting her family out of town.



Sept. 13 wasn't our smokiest day from the wildfires, but it was still uncomfortable. Thankfully none of our parishioners up Glide way lost their homes.

Parish News



One of the graphics posted by Karla Roady on the narthex bulletin board. Take a look—it's an eye-catching display!



Steadied by his son Victor, Bill Riley is fearless as usual on a ladder.



Umpqua Valley Stamp Club meets at St. George's. Club member Doug Holloway reports they will be posting a "stamp of the month" on our bulletin board. Here is September's.



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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!



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: Sue Phelps
Treasurer: Kathy Glockner

OFFICE HOURS
10 am—2 pm
Monday through Friday

ST. GEORGE WORSHIP
10 am
Sundays
Holy Eucharist

Wednesdays
Morning Prayer

