



# The Dragon Scoop

## October 2022

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 Rev. Chris Craun



The Rev. Chris Craun visited St. George's on Sept. 25, presiding over Holy Eucharist and staying afterwards to join us for lunch and conversation. As Missioner for Thriving Congregations for the Diocese of Oregon, one of her concerns is to provide resources for congregational development and vitality.

*More information on page 2.*

## The Rev. Chris Craun, p.2



The sermon was excellent, starting off with the question, “What are the five things you would or would never do in your personal life because of what you did professionally?”

And she also noted, “God is always going to be calling us to places of discomfort.”

If you were not able to be there in person or haven’t watched the YouTube video yet, it is well worth taking in. Here is a quick link to it: [tinyurl.com/revchris9-25](https://tinyurl.com/revchris9-25)

Rev. Chris had lots of questions and suggestions to guide the congregation in its desire for growth:

- How do we live our life of faith so people notice us?
- How are we as individuals growing spiritually? That does bring people.
- How are we embodying hope? The world needs hope—that’s what we can provide.
- How do we meet people where they are?
- Can we go out and interact in the world?
- Often our biggest asset is our space.
- We need to be engaged in other things going on in our community.
- A first invitation to our church maybe can’t be to a service.
- Listen before we start a program—what is really needed?





# Let Us Return to Prayer in the Face of Evil

*This reflection from Bishop Akiyama was published March 3, 2022, but is even more apropos in light of recent happenings in Russia.*

Dear Friends in Christ,

You may have noticed that I tend not to react to the latest news item by immediately writing an article or posting on social media about the event. It is not that I don't have an opinion, I usually do. But I don't believe my vocation as your bishop is to voice my opinion about every newsworthy item. My call is to reflect on events from a theological and faith-centered perspective and to offer a way to comprehend the world as a Christian seeking wholeness and healing in a broken world.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine rises to the level of such a reflection. While we have already consumed more than we can absorb about the geopolitical, economic, and humanitarian implications of this aggressive act, the matter that disturbs me most is the undeniable presence of evil that has brought about this nightmare. It is always dangerous to level the word evil against a person or a system. So often the word is used as a form of name-calling, or to categorize and then dismiss a force that has us feeling helpless. The indiscriminate and careless use of the word "evil" removes the sober and somber function of its meaning. Rightly applied to our human condition, "evil" names the shadowy and maniacal reality that we really have no better word to describe.

The heartless and cruel killing of innocent citizens is evil. The complete lack of compassion for the lives of millions who have already suffered, to say nothing of those who will suffer if the violence continues, is evil. A psychological perspective asserts that Putin is unstable mentally – that he is a malignant narcissist. I would add that this diagnostic information, however accurate it may be, does not help us find our way through.

It is no mistake that evil is referenced in our Baptismal liturgy twice. In the Baptismal Examination (BCP p. 302) we are asked, "Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?" And later in the Baptismal Covenant, we are asked, "Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever

you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?" The questions reveal to us just how vulnerable we are to the forces of evil. They also suggest that in order to renounce or resist evil, we need to know how to identify it. The quickest way to identify evil is to notice the absence of compassion, forgiveness, and love. The presence of these qualities make it nearly impossible for evil to take root. And the surest way to develop the capacity for compassion, forgiveness, and love is through prayer.

Many of us are seeking ways to help Ukraine. It is frustrating to feel helpless in the face of such destructive power. We must certainly do what we can to offer our help and support. I also want to remind us that prayer is a significant way for us to resist the evil powers of this world. Prayer has the power to transform us, our relationships, and our communities. Prayer is a generative engagement with the Holy Spirit; it is alive and enlivening. Prayer allows us to become quiet in order to hear what God is calling us to be and do. Even in the midst of the forces of evil, prayer calls forth a strength and clarity that shines brightly and casts out the darkest of fears.

If we are going to identify evil, let us then fall to our knees in fervent and unceasing prayer:

O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,  
Have mercy upon us.

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
Have mercy upon us.

O God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the faithful,  
Have mercy upon us.

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,  
Have mercy upon us.

(BCP page 148)

Blessings,



# Episcopal Church Women

## by Betty Jo Hoffman

We had a good meeting with a nice dessert provided by Sue Phelps and more interesting stories from Thelma Sayers. Thelma is a wonder with all those details she remembers and shares with us.

It was decided the **rummage sale** will be **Nov. 11 and 12**. We are requesting the whole congregation be involved with the rummage sale process this time.

There will be a **FISH Food Sunday** on **Nov. 13 and 20**.

We also decided (again) to meet at **11:00** for a **lunch meeting Oct. 20**. Lunch will be provided.

## Humor

A man dies and goes to heaven. St. Peter meets him at the pearly gates.

St. Peter says, "Here's how it works. You need 100 points to make it into heaven. You tell me all the good things you've done, and I give you a certain number of points for each item. When you reach 100 points, you get in."

"Okay" the man says, "I attended church every Sunday"

"That's good, says St. Peter, "that's worth two."

"Two points?" he says. "Well, I gave 10% of all my earnings to the church"

"Okay," answers Peter, "that's worth another two points. Did you do anything else?"

"Just two?" Golly. How about this: I started a soup kitchen in my city and worked in a shelter for homeless veterans."

"Fantastic, that's certainly worth a point."

"Hmmm....," the man says, "I was married to the same woman for 50 years and never cheated on her, even in my heart."

"That's wonderful," says St. Peter, "that's worth 3."

"THREE POINTS!!" the man cries. "At this rate the only way I get into heaven is by the grace of God!"

"Come on in!"



One beautiful Sunday morning, the pastor announced to his congregation: "My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons: a \$100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a \$50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes, and a \$10 sermon that lasts a full hour.

"Now, we'll take the collection and see which one you have chosen."



A pastor is walking down the street one day when he notices a small boy trying to push the doorbell on a house across the street. However, the boy is very small and the doorbell is too high for him to reach. After watching the boy's efforts for some time the pastor walks across the street up to the little fellow and rings the doorbell.

Kneeling down next to the child, the pastor smiles and asks, "And now what, my little man?"

To which the boy replies, "Run!"





## Parish News



*The Sept. 4 homily was written and presented by parishioner Cathy Gomez, who spoke about following the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.*



*Pastor Dwayne Brown, Chaplain at the Roseburg VA Hospital, gave the sermon on Sept. 18, explaining the difficult Gospel "Parable of the Dishonest Manager," Luke 16:1-13.*

### **BIBLE STUDY Wed., Oct. 19—March 29, 10:30 following Morning Prayer**

Pastor Gail will begin a 20-week Bible study on the Book of Acts. We will use the resource *Into the World: the Acts of the Apostles*, written by Carol J. Miller and published by the Kerygma Program. Contributions can be made for the cost of this guide.

## Parish News

Photo by Karla Roady



***Birthday Blessings  
for Leigh Van Sickle (left)  
and  
62nd Anniversary Blessings  
for Faye and Pete Benham  
(center)***



***57th Anniversary Blessings  
for  
Paulen and John Wrigley***



***Birthday Blessings  
for  
Bill Riley***



# The Dubas Send Greetings from Switzerland



After spending time in Austria, Pastor Gail and Dr. David are hiking in Switzerland.



# FISH

## FISH Food Pantry Eligibility

Every person in Douglas County who is participating in the Food Stamp Program, TANF, SSI, LIEAP, or State General Assistance or has an income equal to or below the guideline listed in the table below is eligible to receive food at no cost from the FISH Food Pantry.

Beyond the income eligibility the FISH Food Pantry makes an effort to be fair to all families in Douglas County and evenly distribute the food resources that we have available by operating with the following rule:

No more than 1 Visit Per Month

### Current Eligibility for 2022

Household Size	Monthly Income	Annual Income
1	\$3,190	\$38,280
2	\$4,310	\$51,720
3	\$5,430	\$65,160
4	\$6,550	\$78,600
5	\$7,670	\$92,040
6	\$8,790	\$105,480
7	\$9,910	\$118,920
8	\$11,030	\$132,360
Each Additional Person, add:	\$1,120	\$13,440



<https://fishofroseburg.org>



## Stamp Club News



Umpqua Valley Stamp Club presents  
the stamp of the month

### October is Worldwide Blindness Awareness Month

The featured stamp depicts Hellen Keller, deaf and blind writer/lecturer with Anne Sullivan who taught Hellen with innovative methods and was the inspiration for the movie and play *The Miracle Worker*.

Blindness Awareness Month started in 2009.



Scott # 1824 1st day of issue was  
June 27, 1980 in Tuscumbia, AL

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*

## Inspiration

It can be difficult for those of us living in a culture that prizes earning power above nearly everything else to understand that in the economy of grace, the currency of deserved and undeserved is irrelevant. It is absolutely true that you can't earn God's love. But it's not because you are a helpless wretch whose sin makes it impossible for God to even look at you or because you have done something so grievously wrong that your soul has been permanently

stained, as if by spiritual Sharpie. The truth is, you can't earn God's love because you already have it. You can't be any more loved than you are because God's love has already been freely and abundantly given. You can't do anything to achieve a greater portion of God's love because God's love for you is already unconditional and it is already infinite.

~ Rachel Held Evans, *Wholehearted Faith*



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541-673-4048

stgeorge@saintgeorgesepiscopal.com  
www.saintgeorgesepiscopal.com  
www.facebook.com/episcopalroseburg

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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](mailto:saintgeorgepix@gmail.com)

**Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Gail Duba**  
**Senior Warden: Pete Benham**  
**Co-Junior Wardens:**  
**Bob Spielman and Sue Phelps**  
**Treasurer: Kathy Glockner**

**OFFICE HOURS**  
**10 am—2 pm**  
**Monday through Friday**

**ST. GEORGE WORSHIP**  
**10 am**  
**Sundays**  
**and**  
**Last Wednesday of the Month**

