



The Dragon Scoop

October 2025

Mission Statement:
“Loving God,
Loving Our Neighbors”

St. George Episcopal Church
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541-673-4048

The Episcopal Church Welcomes You



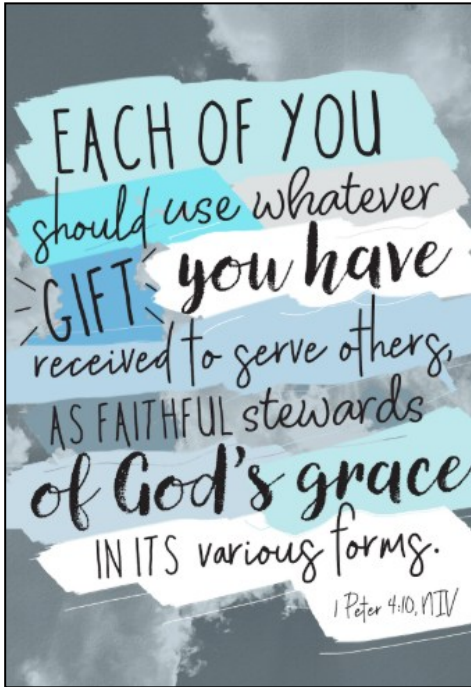
Welcome to the Family of God!



Rev. Janine baptized Zachary and Kelly Arnold's son on September 14.
The Arnolds became official church members that day too.
Godparents Jennifer and Erik Knight are on the right.

More photos on page 6

Rev. Janine's Pastoral Letter



Everybody has something to give. Everybody.

You are valuable and the church needs you and the beautiful gifts you have to offer. More importantly...the **world** needs you....and the grace of God you have to share.

And yes...that grace comes in many forms.

Grace that prays for others.

Grace that gives hugs.

Grace that notices people who are sitting alone and joins them.

Grace that changes bulbs and buys food.

Grace that welcomes folks who need a place to cool off on hot days and warm up on cold days.

Grace that forgives people who step on toes and say the wrong things.

Grace that supports fundraisers and faithfully tithes.

Grace that sets tables and sings in the choir.

Grace that listens to people's stories.

Grace that is humble and kind.

Grace that organizes and plans.

Grace that runs errands and gives rides.

Grace that delights in people who are so very different.

Grace that is willing to try new things.

Grace lived out in so many, many ways.

And every one of you has grace to offer. Everyone has something to give.

This month, pledge forms will be handed out...and they are helpful as we look ahead and plan and dream for the coming year. We budget and ask ourselves: What can we do together? What kind of ministry is possible with the resources we have?

But we need to remember that money is only one of many of the gifts of God's grace that we steward in our lives. There are so many other gifts that you offer that our church and our world need. We are better because you are here. This congregation...this world...is better because you are a part of it. So thank you, all of you, for your faithful stewardship of the gifts of grace God has given you.

Rev. Janine

Episcopal Church Women

by Betty Jo Hoffman

We had our first meeting for the coming year and started by installing the officers (Walt Combs filled for our new Vice Pres. Lori Combs, who was unable to be with us.) Sue gave us the our Thought for the Day: "If your compassion does not include yourself, it is incomplete," from American Buddhist writer and teacher Jack Kornfield.

The focus of the meeting was on dates for the **rummage sale**. We decided on

Wed., Oct. 22 and Thurs., Oct. 23, 4-6
Fri., Oct. 24, 9-4
Sat., Oct. 25 9-noon

Then we will clean up and have a potluck. We will start setting up Sun., Oct. 19, after coffee hour. Start getting your donations set aside. Remember, first come-first served. And we always need help!

Courtney Greenwalt gave us an update on their ministry: The Schlueter/Greenwalt Foundation as well as information on how to access their wish list for items needed for the warming and cooling centers. She said we had about 1000 visitors take shelter from extreme weather. They have plans to involve more churches and sources this coming season. She thanked our church and all the volunteers who pitched in to help so many people (and dogs and one kitten).

Join us for our next meeting on Oct. 16 at 11:00.



FYI

Feast of St. Francis Pet Blessing Service

Sunday, October 5
2 pm

Outside at St. George's



Diocesan Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be in Salem this year on October 17-18. Revs. Janine and Matt will be attending as will Melvin Wilcox, Sue Phelps, and Valarie Bruffett.

ELCA Bishop's Convention

Revs. Janine and Matt will be at the ELCA Bishop's Convocation October 20-22 (so no Bible Study on the 22nd).

Doug Holloway's Cathedrals Page Will Return Next Month

Matthew 19:14

by Juliana Marez

My God Is So Big

My God is so big (*jump*),
so strong and so mighty (*muscle arms*),
there's nothing my God cannot do (*shake finger*).
My God is so big, so strong and so mighty,
there's nothing my God cannot do.

The mountains (*mountain with arms*)
are God's and the valleys (*valley with arms*)
are God's and the trees
(*one arm waving like a tree*)
are God's handiwork too.

My God is so big, so strong and so mighty,
there's nothing my God cannot do.

This is an Episcopal children's song that I remember from Sunday school. It gave us a sense of security and belonging. We knew all about super heroes from watching cartoons. This song taught us that our God was a super hero too and he loved us.

I felt very lucky to live in a time when "the Teacher and the Preacher"—Carolyn and Alfred Tyson—served our church. Here are some of the things I learned from them and passed on to my kids.

1. Introduce spirituality early on. "Young children don't understand who God is, but they don't really understand who a grandparent is either. Still, you want them to know Grandma, so you start talking about her from day one. It's the same thing with the idea of God." Just as your child takes your word for it that Grandma is an important person in her life (even if she rarely sees her), so she'll take your word for it that God is, too. And by introducing spiritual practices when she's young—such as lighting candles or singing hymns together—your toddler will view them as a natural part of life, and you'll have a spiritual influence on her before other people do.

2. Don't pretend to have all the answers. Your toddler may not have the ability to ask or completely understand where people go when they die, but you can still talk about it honestly. Keep it short and simple: "Nobody knows for sure, but some people think they go to heaven to be close to God. Other people think they're born again in a new body." If you have a strong belief, share it. If not, it's okay to admit that there are some questions people spend their whole lives trying to figure out—and this is one of them. Children need to know our moral compass.

3. Instill an appreciation of nature. Nature is a great place to find inspiration and a sense of spirituality. Kids learn with all their senses—they love to pick up a rock or jump in a puddle or chase a butterfly. Help your child see nature as something precious by demonstrating your own love and respect for it. When you go for a family hike in the woods or a picnic on the beach, clean up after yourself (and even others), and be considerate of creatures in their habitat. Plant a garden with your child, and make it part of your daily routine to check on the progress of the plants together. Start a compost pile so your child can watch mealtime leftovers turn back into soil that you'll use in your garden. Introduce him to the idea that the Earth is a gift, and that our survival depends upon the survival of the planet. When you open the curtains in the morning, you can say, "Look at this glorious day God has made." At bedtime, you can sign off with, "God bless you, sweetie pie."

4. Tell stories. The world's spiritual traditions are full of stories designed to explain everything from how the world was created to why people sometimes do bad things. Introduce your toddler to the notion that different people have different beliefs, myths, and traditions by drawing on this wealth of literature.

(continued on next page)

Matthew 19:14, continued

5. Build on family traditions. Spirituality can connect us to the divine, to each other, and to the past. If you're raising your child in the same spiritual tradition that you were raised, be sure he knows that he's carrying on family rituals that were passed along by his grandparents and even great-grandparents.

6. Family traditions can be nonreligious as well. Volunteering at a food bank at Thanksgiving or planting a tree on Earth Day reinforces your child's connection with the family and helps him realize that the world can be a better place because he's in it. And when he's old enough to understand what all this means, he'll be watching you carefully and learning from your example.

7. Make it fun. Religion and spirituality should be more joyful than somber and serious. Encourage your toddler to paint a picture of God, make up her own story about how the world came to be, or simply imagine what heaven looks like. Together, act out plays or put on a puppet show based on creation stories or your own spiritual themes. Above all, do what spiritual people have done for centuries—sing and dance! If you don't know any traditional tunes, many recordings of religious music are available. Don't forget to explore songs and chants from other cultures or traditions as well.

8. Practice silence. Once a day or once a week, take a minute to sit quietly with your toddler. Your moment of silence needn't be introduced as meditation, but simply as a chance to sit still and listen to the sounds around her. Eventually, it'll help put her in touch with the “big picture.”

9. If your child is too young to make up his own prayers, help him along. You suggest a simple phrase such as, “Thank you, God, for . . .” and he fills in the blanks. The idea is to let your child know that God, or the divine spirit, is always available. “If the being who created the whole universe can listen to you, that's pretty good.”

10. Follow your toddler's lead. Let your toddler ask the questions, and give her plenty of opportunities to ask about issues such as who God is or what heaven looks like. Try not to dictate the answers to big questions. If she asks you where God lives, begin your answer by asking her what she thinks. Or ask her to draw a picture and tell you about it. Spirituality is a two-way street: If you listen carefully to your child, you might discover something you never thought of before.

*But Jesus said,
“Let the children come to me,
and do not stop them,
for it is to such as these
that the kingdom of heaven belongs.”
Matthew 19:14*

Inspiration

God of steadfast love,
Teach us to love with patience and kindness,
to let go of pride, and to rejoice in the truth.

Help us bear what is heavy,
believe in what we can't yet see,
hope when it's hard,
and endure with grace.

Let our words, our actions, and our lives
be shaped not by noise or power,
but by love that never ends.

Amen.

*A prayer from the Deaconess Community,
inspired by 1 Corinthians 13*

Parish News



September Cakes
by Lori Combs



More joyous baptismal photos
Thank you, Courtney Greenwalt!



Birthday Blessings
for
Leigh Van Sickle
and
Bill Riley

Photo by Karla Roady

Parish News



The joint worship service/picnic at Stewart Park on September 22 with Faith Lutheran and St. George brought together 94 parishioners! The setting was beautiful and inspiring. Everyone sang. (Amazing guitarist!) And the food was wonderful. Thanks to everyone who made this happen and to everyone who came and worshipped.



The Preacher & The Teacher

1970, continued

The Tysons are now in England.

Saturday was the 4th of July but we celebrated by taking a conducted tour through the cathedral itself by Bishop Allison and through his residence, which had been designed by Sir Christopher Wren. Many American university students were excavating everywhere for archeological finds. One wore a Dartmouth T-shirt, but when I asked him about it he admitted he had never been there! Sunday we got up at 7:15 to attend communion at Winchester Cathedral before resuming our tour. We stopped at Stonehenge (at that time visitors were permitted to walk all around it—even in it.) Next, on to Salisbury cathedral, in front of which we watched a "Farce" (miracle play). And then to Bath for dinner and the evening. We passed through beautiful green country with small farms and equally small village churches, often out in the country all by themselves, but beautifully cared for.

Monday morning we walked around Bath and saw its fine old abbey and the Roman baths that had been buried and lost for centuries. Next to Glastonbury Abbey ruins, where some think King Arthur was buried. It is mind-boggling how they could have built those immense churches back when they did, without our modern machines and means of construction. Lunch at a pub and then on to Wells for another cathedral and evensong. The bishop still lives in the bishop's palace built hundred of years ago. Back to our hotel in Bath, where Sir Walter Scott once stayed. Here is the Royal Crescent, a huge "housing project" built years ago and damaged in WWII. Also, out to see a tiny Saxon Church built before the Norman Conquest of 1066. Back to Bath Abbey for Evening Prayer.

On Wednesday we left Bath and drove to Cheddar, where the cheese gets its name. And with our driver at the wheel, we headed out to the empty hills and dales of Exmoor and on to Exeter for splendid accommodations at the Royal Clarence Hotel next to the cathedral. Next morning our tour took us to Widecombe from which the old

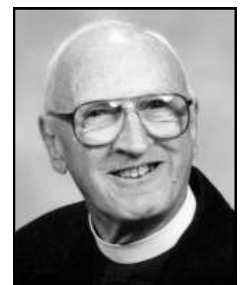
song gets its name (Widecomb Fair). It was all out by itself—very isolated but fascinating. Back to Exeter Cathedral for Evensong.

That night Caroline and I had dinner with my cousin and her husband, Sheila and Henry Harold from Plymouth. He was a retired captain in the British navy. Later, we had wonderful visits with them in their home at Tamerton Foliot, a suburb of Plymouth, and I had the privilege of baptizing their youngest granddaughter at the local parish church.

On Friday (July 10) we toured the "Guild Hall," reminiscent of the days when the wool business was at its height in England and the guilds were riding high. It was built in 1330! Next we drove to "Hillfield," motherhouse of the Franciscan monks in the Church of England (our Episcopal Church). Close by is the site of Thomas Hardy's novel, "Tess of the d'Urbervilles." Next stop was Sherborne School where my cousin John Tyson and several others of the family had gone to school. By modern standards it wasn't all that big, but it did turn out many of England's great leaders.

Next, we spent the night at Shaftsbury before going on to Stratford-on-Avon, Shakespeare's home, seeing the church where he was buried and attending a Shakespearean play. The costumes were all in black and white—no other colors—and I wrote that I thought Ashland did better! Evensong at Holy Trinity Church (Shakespeare's church). Then on to Oxford for the night, staying at the Randolph Hotel—noting that we actually had a room with a bath!

*The Preacher & the Teacher:
the story of our years at St. George's
as told by Father Alfred S. Tyson*



Stamp Club News

Umpqua Valley Stamp Club presents the Stamp of the Month

National Wildlife Week, October 11 - 17

National Wildlife Week was established in 1938 by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) to honor President Theodore Roosevelt's conservation legacy. The whooping crane, featured on the stamp, almost became extinct but species has been slowly recovering, from 21 in 1941 to 600 today, due to protection.



Scott #1098 was issued in Corpus Christi, Texas; New York, New York & New Orleans, Louisiana on November 22, 1957.

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*

Brewed Theology

**BREW
EDTHE
OLOGY**

**Figuring Out
FORGIVENESS**

**Sorry, Apology,
Confession, &
Absolution**

Thurs., Oct. 24—Gather at 2:00 and 6:00—
Conversations start at 2:30 and 6:30.

This month's topic:

Figuring Out Forgiveness—
Sorry, Apology, Confession, & Absolution



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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 Sickel, Editor

Co-Rectors: The Revs. Janine & Matt Goodrich
Senior Warden: Pete Benham
Co-Junior Wardens:
Bob Spielman & Sue Phelps
Treasurer: Kathy Glockner

OFFICE HOURS
10 am—2 pm
Monday through Friday

ST. GEORGE WORSHIP
10:30 am
Sundays
and
10 am
Wednesdays

