



The Dragon Scoop

September 2017

St. George Episcopal Church
1024 SE Cass Avenue Roseburg, OR 97470
541-673-4048

The Episcopal Church Welcomes You



Mission Statement:
“Loving God, Loving Our
Neighbors”

Memories of Alaska

An article in the June Dragon Scoop, “Bed and Breakfast on Ellis Island,” followed the story of parishioner Thelma Sayers through high school. This issue moves on to the next part of her life, most of which was spent in Alaska.

After high school Thelma was accepted into the Church Army, which still exists and is described on their website as “an organization of evangelists in the Anglican Church, seeking to express the Gospel of Jesus Christ in tangible ways to bring transformation.” Thelma was the youngest member ever to enter the Army.

At the Church Army School in New York City she met Albert Sayers, head instructor, who had just returned from Point Hope, Alaska, where he did missionary work with native Eskimos. The two fell in love and married. Albert was assigned to churches in West Virginia from 1942 to 1949. Their first son, David, was born there. Then in 1949 the Sayerses were asked to return to Alaska.

Shortly after the family arrived in Anchorage, the Bishop asked Albert to temporarily run the native mission in the remote village of Nenana. Thelma had to prepare and pack enough food, clothing, etc. for twelve months to put on the train taking them 400 miles north in the dead of the Alaska winter.

Continued on pages 8-9

Much of this material came from an article by Bill Duncan in the News-Review, July 2, 1992. Thanks to Thelma for sharing her story and to Sue Phelps for organizing this series. A special thanks to David Sayers for more information and anecdotes.



*Thelma Sayers in the
Church Army*

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Rector's Letter

Dear Friends,

The passage of time and the living of lives can be described as journeys. As I turn 70 I am deeply aware that my journey in this life is mostly behind me. Yet I am excited by my present and looking forward to good times to come, both here and beyond.

Early Christians often called themselves followers of the Way. "The Way" has a double meaning. It is a path, a way to get from one place to another, as in the song, "Show me the way to go home." It is also a method of doing something: "The way to be a friend is to be a good listener." Jesus called himself "the Way" (not to mention the Truth and the Life).

Forward Movement, which publishes "Forward Day by Day" and many tracts, has published *The Path: A Journey Through the Bible*. It picks up one meaning of "the Way." *The Path* is an introduction to the key events and messages in the Holy Bible. Some of you bought copies of *The Path* recently. More can.

I am eager to see many of you engaged in a season of Bible reading and sharing. I will be out of Oregon on the Sunday after Labor Day, September 10. Please use that Sunday to reflect on how to make that happen. Here is what I hope will happen:

Small groups of two to six will identify themselves and then choose times to read and discuss *The Path*. They will meet at times that work for them, in places that work for them. Just meet, read, converse, and keep coming back to *The Path*. I would ask that each group finish the book by the first half of December.

The Path is a guided journey through the core of the Bible. All you need is one copy per group, and at least ten copies are in the hands of parishioners already. I will have more on hand.

I am confident that, as we read and converse, we will be surprised by the growth we experience. That growth will reflect more than Bible knowledge. I anticipate growth in friendships, in parish unity, and in confidence in both our God and one another. I will make myself available to answer questions and offer encouragement.

The Bible really is a Good Book. And God is good, all the time.

Faithfully,

Fr. Jim+



PS. Thanks for your support for Barry, both in church and during his Spartan Sprint adventure.

PPS. Do try to join the discussion of our congregation's hopes, needs and future on September 16.

Congregational Development

Susan Ladue, our congregational development facilitator, held a fourth meeting with us on Saturday, August 5. On the Sunday, she spoke to the congregation during the worship service. Here are some of the points she made:

- Congregational development is not for dying parishes. It is a vitamin supplement for churches that want to feel better.
- Our focus on where St. George is now shows that we demonstrate willingness, honesty, generosity of spirit, and consideration of each other.
- We are making tremendous progress on the journey to calling a new priest. Our minds and hearts are open.
- We need to have short-term goals for right now, secondary goals, and then a “layaway plan” for when our new priest gets here.
- Every single one of us needs to give input.

Susan closed her talk by saying, “Being allowed in your lives has been transfiguring for me.”

The next meeting will be held Saturday, September 16, from 10:30 to 1:30. Everyone is encouraged to attend.



Thanks to Pete Benham for the photo of the August 5 meeting.

The St. George Scrapbook Project will get underway soon. If you are interested in helping out, talk to Sue Phelps. It promises to be fun and interesting.

Upcoming

United Thank Offering in September

September 24 is the 165th birthday of Julia Chester Emery, the lady who established and promoted UTO for 40 years. The Episcopal Church has invited us to celebrate Julia by spending September focusing on gratitude and giving and then having a birthday party on the 24th.

Julia demonstrated gratitude by collecting funds and supporting missionaries and congregations. Every penny collected in 2017 will be given, through grants, in 2018 for new projects and programs that address innovative approaches to ministries within their communities that meet the stated focus for the year.

An attitude of gratitude and giving can lead to a sense of well being. You can show your gratitude by picking up a UTO box and dropping in an amount that represents the value of your daily blessings. Bring it in on her birthday and we will celebrate. If we run out of boxes, put your donation in an envelope. Be sure your name is on the envelope or box and indicate that it is for the UTO. If you write a check, make it out to St. George and write United Thank Offering in the memo.

So, let's celebrate a great lady and a wonderful program that helps others. Show your gratitude for all God has given you.

~ Betty Jo Hoffman

Conference on Extraordinary Living

Umpqua Community College is hosting the 35th annual conference on September 8, 2017 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Described as "Douglas County's premiere event for people 50+," the event will include sessions on finance, health, recreation, legal issues, nutrition, travel, and exercise. For more information call 541-440-4655 or check out the website at www.regonline.com/Extraordinary2017

Food Security Bags

Volunteers are need to help assemble food security bags for local students in need on Saturday, September 16 at 9:30 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Talk to Juliana Marez for more information.

Safe Haven Maternity Home 4th Annual Baby Shower Event

Remember the joy we shared last year with the young mothers of Safe Haven? We can help out the new mothers this year by attending a shower for them on October 7 at 1:00 p.m. Needed gifts for the maternity home include toilet paper, paper towels, baby bottles, diapers, personal care items, towels, women's slippers and robes, laundry baskets, and garbage bags. For more information contact Rebecca Gremillion at 541-670-0947.

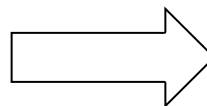
Parish Picnic



Kathy Glockner hosted the Annual Parish Picnic at her home on August 6. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food, fellowship, and singing!



Melvin Wilcox shared his popular recipe for
Southwest Potato Salad, Vegan Style



6 – 8 Potatoes

8 Green Onions

1 Onion (Walla Walla or Vidalia)

1 C Celery

¾ C Sweet Pickles

Mix separately:

2 C Vegenase Mayo

½ t Salt

1 T Mustard

2 t Celery

3-4 T Sweet Pickle Juice

Parish News

Parishioner Barry Boston brought home a medal Saturday, August 19, from the Spartan Sprint in Washougal, WA. The run is 4.2 miles up and down steep hills, dealing with 24 obstacles.

Barry said, "It was fun! It was my first experience and I can't wait to do it next year."



Thanks to Pam Boston for the photos of Barry.

Anniversary blessings for Jeannie and Jon Burpee on August 13, celebrating 53 years of marriage.



Parish News

On August 10, Bob Spielman mounted the old Red Doors on a wall in our Parish Hall.

Supposedly these were the original doors of St. George's. If so, they were installed around 1942 when the Rev. Perry Smith facilitated the construction of our current brick church.

It was Sue's suggestion that the doors be mounted.

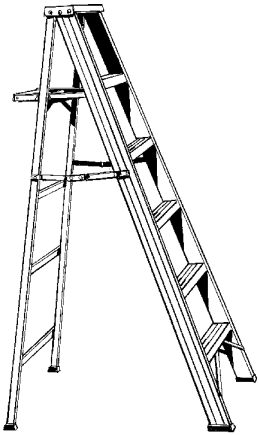
~ Bill Riley

Some of us wonder where these doors lead—Leigh Van Sickle thinks Narnia, Jean Bowden thinks Heaven!



Photo by Bill Riley

Bob Spielman reported on changing the light above the Sacristy on August 9:



We, Bill Riley, Doug Holloway, Pete Benham, and me, got the big ladder from behind the church and worked like the dickens getting that thing located so as to change the bulb. After we finally got it changed and were putting stuff away, some one made the joke, "How many Episcopalians does it take to change a light bulb?"

Bill was on the ladder, Doug and I held the ladder steady, and Pete directed the whole show! Boy did we ever laugh at that one . . . then one "wag" said, "Hey this ought to go in the newsletter!" Too bad there weren't any pictures to use that caption on!

The *Dragon Scoop* is sorry to say that the four gentlemen flatly refused to re-enact the scene so that photos could be taken. All we have is a drawing of a ladder.



July 30—Best fellowship picture ever!

Thelma Sayers—The Alaska Years

(continued from page 1)

First Night in Alaska



Alaska was quite a change from West Virginia:

“The day we arrived it was 60 below zero. We had the house that the Bishop had lived in, but when we arrived the walls inside were covered with frost, and Albert discovered furnace ashes had frozen solid and had to be dug out.”

Transportation

Today you would drive a snowmobile, but in the Fifties it was the dogsled. Thelma, as usual ready for a challenge, learned to handle a dog team—not an easy task. *“The dogs had to be retrained to respond to my commands. I bundled up David and had him sitting in a cardboard box lined with furs.”* They had just started to cross the snow-covered river when the lead dog crashed through a hole in the ice. *“I was screaming for Albert to help while desperately holding back the sled (with David in it) to prevent it from going into the river.”*

Finally Albert managed to pull the sled to safety leaving them shaking from the close call. But young David’s comment made them laugh: *“Now we can go fishing in the hole in the ice.”*



Thelma’s dog-handling skills increased so much that that the village insisted she enter a race. Even though she realized she was going to have another baby (Richard), she went ahead. *“There I was pregnant and handling a sled with eight borrowed dogs. I couldn’t remember their names for the commands. Part of the time in a race you have to get off the sled and run alongside.”* At this point, the dogs went on by themselves.

“I couldn’t remember their names to call them back. The dogs and the empty sled arrived at the finish line without me. They were organizing a search party when I walked in by myself.”

A dog sled wasn't the only unusual vehicle Thelma drove. She recalls when it was time to plow the fields for planting the potatoes that helped provide food for the mission, she volunteered to run the large Farmall tractor do the job. When she got word that she needed to meet and pick up the Bishop in town, she took the tractor, pulling a flatbed trailer with a chair on it, to bring him back. He wanted to drive, but Thelma said, *"They sent me to get you and I'm going to get you!"*



All One Big Family

A native custom in Nenana was to enter homes unannounced. *"It was not unusual to have people walk in out of the cold to warm themselves by the fireplace. They would just sit by the fire, then get up and leave. Their concept was that we were all one big family in the village and what was yours was mine. It took a bit of getting used to—as did cooking on a wood stove and washing clothes at 40 below."*

"At Easter time all of the women in the village, including myself, would gather at the school and sew new Easter dresses for the girls and shirts for the boys. Every child had a new outfit for Easter Sunday."

Maritime Adventures

The family had more excitement when they were sent to the island fishing town of Petersburg. There Albert built a 20-foot yellow houseboat in their garage. Once finished, the boat was almost too wide to go out the door. . The boat was towed on a trailer downtown and left overnight on the main street downtown. When they returned in the morning, they found signs saying "Sayers's Ark" and "Slo Mo One and 1/2, Post No Bills. *"Since all the commercial fishing boats in the harbor were painted white, our green and yellow boat stuck out like a sore thumb."*

Another time, on an outing to "Goat Island" to visit the resident goats, the family's boat became grounded while they tried to get some of the goats back off the boat. Unfortunately the tide went out before the goats departed, leaving them high and dry, perched precariously on three boulders until high tide again at midnight. *"The Coast Guard came from Juneau to rescue us at midnight,"* Thelma said. The next day there was a huge iceberg crushed against the rocks where the houseboat had been.

Some of Our Best Years

The Sayers family served in Alaska from 1949 to 1959.

"Definitely, those were some of our best years. It was a new experience, but I'm glad we had this opportunity to work together in Alaska at the time we were there."

Episcopal Church Women

By Betty Jo Hoffman

ECW had a short meeting after church on August 20. We voted to rename our rummage sale to: "Tools to Treasure—Fine and Fancy."

We also voted to extend the Friday hours of the sale. We will now be open 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Our next regular meeting will be at Jewell Gates's home on September 21 at 11:00. We will carpool from the church at 10:30.

FISH Report

Thank you Jeannie Burpee, Mik Carlson, Sheila and Frank Glass, Sue and Jerry Phelps, and Paulen Wrigley. These St. George parishioners staffed the Summer Food Drive for the FISH Food Pantry at Albertsons. Our volunteers were proud of what the local community does for their neighbors, and they found their own efforts to be "fun and uplifting." There were 4,002 pounds of food collected and \$897 donated at the five local grocery stores, an increase over last year's summer food drive.

The Pantry announced the receipt of a grant for \$20,000 in August from the C. Giles Hunt Charitable Fund.

<http://fishofroseburg.org/>

Fir Grove School Supplies

Once again St. George's parishioners donated school supplies for Roseburg's lowest-income school. Thanks to all who gave to this annual project. The supplies in the photo are waiting in the church library to be transported to Fir Grove.



Cathedrals of the World

by Doug Holloway

St. Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham, England

The Cathedral Church of St. Philip is a Church of England cathedral and the seat of the Bishop of Birmingham.

Construction commenced in 1711 and the building was consecrated in 1715, although the tower was not completed until 1725. Because much of the material used was donated, the actual cost of building was only 25% of the original estimate.

The City of Birmingham expanded rapidly during the 19th century and the church was raised to the status of a cathedral in 1905. As an unusual compliment to the Philips family, who donated the land, the church was named in honor of St. Philip.

The original organ was installed in 1715 and although it has been restored and modernized several times, parts of the original are still in use.



At the outbreak of the Second World War the stained glass windows were removed for safe keeping. This foresight was remarkable as the cathedral suffered considerable damage by a bomb dropped in October 1940. However, by 1948 the building had been restored and rededicated. The windows are by a well-known British artist and are known for their vibrancy, the life-likeness of the figures, and for their ability to tell a story.

Birmingham artist Edward Burne-Jones designed the windows between 1885 and 1891 and the firm of William Morris created them.



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The new renters have
worked wonders in the
Rectory garden.



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. 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

September