



The Dragon Scoop

September 2021

St. George Episcopal Church
1024 SE Cass Avenue Roseburg, OR 97470
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Mission Statement:
**“Loving God, Loving Our
Neighbors”**

The Episcopal Church Welcomes You



Hope

This summer has battered us with wildfires and disease. We make some headway and then there is another reversal and we wonder if life will ever return to normal—or even to a new normal. And yet, we as Christians will always have hope.

Rob Radtke, President of Episcopal Relief & Development, reflected on this poem by Emily Dickinson in his 2021 New Year's Resolution (bit.ly/hopeandfeathers):

*“Hope” is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -*

*And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -*

*I've heard it in the chilliest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me.*

Dr. Radtke said, “Dickinson’s poem takes the image of a bird and, equating it with hope, ascribes to it several remarkable qualities:

“Hope lives in our souls.
Hope never stops.
Hope is undaunted by difficulty.
Hope comes to us freely.”

He reminds us not only to remain hopeful, but to bring hope to others through what we do every day.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

Thank you, Hellene Chapman, for bringing Dr. Radtke's article to the attention of the Dragon Scoop.

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Pastor Gail's Ponderings

September 2021, seems to be déjà vu, all over again. We had really hoped that our world would be returning to a more normal rhythm and pace. Instead, we find ourselves having to cancel plans and change how we thought things would go. We instead have concerns about the more virulent Delta variant of the COVID virus. We have just received a *Diocesan Digest* update from our Bishop Akiyama that asks us to return to more restrictive worship practices. If you'd like to read a copy of the email, we have one in the office. So, I decided that we need an uplifting *Scoop* article.

St. George's purchased a copy of our national Bishop Michael Curry's new book, *Love is the Way*. I found it to be fascinating and took notes as I was reading. Here is a summary of some of what Bishop Curry writes about:

- ♥ Love builds, hate destroys.
- ♥ We have to stop the madness and you don't stop the madness with more madness.
- ♥ Dr. King had a dream and, like Verna Dozier later, he knew the way to get there was to live into it--to live a life that looked like the world he wanted to create.

Verna J. Dozier (1917-2006), a high school teacher of English literature and a religious educator, focused adult education on Bible study and on claiming the authority of the laity. She is credited by many in the Episcopal Church with actually changing the field of scripture study and reclaiming attention to the ministry of all the baptized. Both King and Dozier said only a life of love could open the gates and point the way to the beloved community. Love is God's way, the moral way, but it's also the only thing that works. It is the rare moment where idealism actually overlaps with pragmatism. (p. 98)

Somehow, when we come to love ourselves through God's eyes, and through loving others, we become whole again. "Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found." We ask of God during Lent: When we are at peace with ourselves, our true voice becomes clear and resonant, among the swift and varied changes of the world. We hear the words of our own needs and desires. (p. 106)

Father Andrew [of St. Peter's Church in Botswana] said, "We believe that God has something better in store for every child. And it's our job to help each child find what that is, and then live." We all have parts of us that are weak or broken, parts that are strong. No one is coming to the game in perfect form, and few of us come out of the game knowing what the goal is. The more we listen to love—let it guide us through life—the faster we find that sweet spot, that intersection when our deep gladness and the world's hunger meet and walk the path of love together. (p.119)

Bishop Michael's priorities are *evangelism, racial reconciliation, and care of God's creation.*

- ♥ *Evangelism*—modeling Jesus's love in our daily lives and finding opportunities as a church to share that love.
- ♥ *Radical reconciliation*—healing the wounds that divide and separate us as children of God.
- ♥ *Care of God's creation*—helping to heal the planet from destruction and harm. (p. 187)

Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Elizabeth Eaton, while speaking at the Reclaiming Jesus Elders Conference, spoke of the Christians in the police state of Soviet East Germany who had started a movement of candlelight vigils through the city. The protesters walked peacefully through the streets with candles, singing hymns. It started as a few hundred faithful on the streets of Leipzig, but over time, almost the entire city was turning out with their candles. The movement spread further—and many believe it contributed to the fall of the Berlin Wall. The world saw the light of those candles, and that revolution spread. (p. 237)

More information at "The Way of Love: Practices for a Jesus-Centered Life."

www.episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove

I encourage you all to read this very timely book. Please let me know if you've read it and perhaps, when we can, we could discuss it at a Coffee Hour. I am praying for each one of you and know that we are making the necessary changes to help keep the church the place of God's peace and love.

All God's Children said: **Amen**
Pastor Gail



In Memoriam

Don Severson

March 16, 1923—December 3, 2020

Don Severson's friends and family celebrated his life at his Memorial Service on July 29. The observance was followed by a dedication with military honors at the Roseburg National Veteran's Cemetery.

The public was invited because of Don's longtime service to the area as teacher, baseball coach, and community friend. The church was filled with those who rejoiced in his memory.

The service included a time for anyone to say the name of other loved ones, followed by a moment of silence to remember and celebrate their lives as well.



Pastor Gail Duba of St. George's presided.



Don's son Ron spoke movingly of his father and invited the congregation to join him in singing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" after his eulogy.

Continued on page 4

In Memoriam, continued



Don loved to fish. David Jackson shared this photo he took of Don and their friend Jerry Anderson fishing for salmon in Champagne Creek.



Parish News

Morning Prayer/Bible Study

The Wednesday Morning Prayer service and Bible Study are currently on hiatus due to COVID restrictions.

Bishop's Visitation

Sunday, Oct. 10—
The Rt. Rev. Diana Akiyama plans to visit St. George's, contingent, of course, on COVID.
Photo from the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon



Graffiti Night

On Graffiti Night, July 10, St. George members and their families served popcorn and cold drinks to parade goers in order to raise awareness of the church in our community.

Pictured below left: Devon, Jerry, and Sue Phelps, and Chelsea, Betty Jo Hoffman's granddaughter.

Below right: Betty Jo and Kathy Glockner.



FISH

Mik Carlson reported that the August Roseburg Food Project collection brought in over 10,000 pounds.

Mik noted that fresh eggs may also be donated to FISH.

Choir

Choir planning, originally scheduled for August, has been postponed since we don't know what constraints COVID will bring.

Donation to Dream Center

We are making giving \$150 to the Dream Center—\$60 from donations and \$90 from Pastor Gail's discretionary fund.



Parish News



Marcia Jackson (right) organized a Fourth of July celebration honoring Independence Day and our veterans. Parishioners brought memorabilia to decorate the Parish Hall.

Pictured below are St. George's veterans (and did you know that St. George is the patron saint of soldiers?):

Front row, left to right—

- Bob Spielman
- David Sayers
- Jean Bowden

Back row, left to right—

- Bill Riley
- Doug Holloway
- Don Witt
- David Duba



2021 Southern Convocation Report

by Margaret Thomas

On August 14, Nancy Baum, Margaret Thomas, and Steve Thomas attended the 2021 Southern Convocation meeting via Zoom. Margaret's notes follow:

- Reverend Ernestine Flemister, Rector of St. Luke's, Grants Pass, presided.
- 12 people attended: Nancy, Steve, and I from St. George. And Father Jim Boston was there—it was the first time we've seen him wearing "civvies."
- Rev. Ernestine said a joint congregation meeting in Grants Pass on Sunday, October 10, outdoors in a park, was in the initial planning stage. Steve mentioned that Bishop Diana will be with us at St. George on that Sunday. Ernestine[†] will check the Bishop's schedule for dates after October 17.
- There was discussion about Southern Convocation priests exchanging pulpits. With the return of COVID this will be put on hold, dates to be determined.
- Also, because of COVID, there's a chance there won't be an in-person Diocesan Convention in November. Apparently, the Diocese will have to pay a penalty if we don't use the convention center in Salem.
- There was a brief conversation about forming a commission within the larger community of our diocesan convocations to meet our other colleagues. And maybe our Southern Convocation could meet more often.
- Rev. Tom Sramek, St. Mark's, Medford, told us that Cave Junction's Episcopal Church, St. Matthias, was not a self-supporting, functioning congregation and has been closed. The Diocese would like to have an Episcopal presence there and maybe it can be revived as a mission church or a food pantry. Someone mentioned that the Diocese is interested in discovering the original owner(s) of the land our churches sit on and it was suggested that maybe the Cave Junction property could be returned to the Cow Creek Tribe of Indians.
- We had been provided copies of the Diocesan preliminary program budget for 2021 to review and Hanna Rubens (Grants Pass) motioned that it be accepted – the vote was unanimous for acceptance. Gwen Best (Sutherlin) said the draft is essentially the same budget as in the past, except the Bishop has asked for funds to attend the 2022 Lambeth Conference, a gathering every 10 years in the UK of bishops from across the Anglican Communion.
- Rev. Tom said it appears that we've been underpaying our bishop for the last decade.
- We heard updates on activities at some of the churches. Steve spoke for St. George and I'll send Debra McFadden a written copy of St. George's. The rep from St. Martin's, Shady Cove, talked for some time about their very active outreach programs. COVID has prevented them from providing their Laundry Love and some other ministries. But they are still providing food from their food pantry and funds for shelter for people who lost everything in the wildfires the past year. Southern Convocation churches and grants have helped with the funding.



July-August Blessings



***Birthday Blessings
for
Kathy Glockner

and
Anniversary Blessings
for
Bill Riley***



***Frank Graham
accepted
Birthday Blessings
for
Grandson Cameron***



***Birthday Blessings
for
Jill Hammerle
and
Myana Clark***



***Birthday Blessings
for
Bruce Raymond***

Episcopal Church Women

by Betty Jo Hoffman

Both the fall rummage sale and the September ECW meeting have been canceled due to COVID concerns.



Stamp Club News

Umpqua Valley Stamp Club presents
the September stamp of the month



September is National Guide Dog Month



Scott catalog #1787

Issued in 1979, the 1st official Guide Dog Month was in 2009.

The costs to raise and train a guide dog exceeds \$40,000 and can take up to two years.

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

Parish Picnic

The Annual Parish Picnic was once again hosted by Kathy Glockner after church on August 1. We had delicious food, excellent company, and only slightly smoky skies.



Inspiration

I've been imprisoned much more often. I've been beaten more times than I can count. I've faced death many times. I received the "forty lashes minus one" from the Jews five times. I was beaten with rods three times. I was stoned once. I was shipwrecked three times. I spent a day and a night on the open sea. I've been on many journeys. I faced dangers from rivers, robbers, my people, and Gentiles. I faced dangers in the city, in the desert, on the sea, and from false brothers and sisters. I faced these dangers with hard work and heavy labor, many sleepless nights, hunger and thirst, often without food, and in the cold without enough clothes . . . because when I'm weak, then I'm strong.

2 Corinthians 11:23-27; 12:10

*Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack, a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in.*
~ Leonard Cohen

I am exhausted, and I imagine you are as well. Between politics and pandemics it certainly feels as though the mountains are crumbling and falling into the sea. I also feel like I am languishing. My energy, my hopefulness for the future, just all draining away.

We face a bitterly divided government that uses the politics of divisiveness to keep us angry and fearful. Our real problems and issues are going unaddressed, and our nearly three-hundred-year-old democracy stands on the precipice of disintegration. Our climate is rapidly changing and the best scientists now say it is too late to stop it, now we have to adjust to living in a different world where heat and unpredictable weather events will force millions to migrate causing social upheaval and broken borders. The pandemic rages thru our populace overwhelming our hospitals and medical providers, and creating a rift between those who know and those who think they know. Christianity continues to wither away; the message people hear from pulpits being irrelevant to their lives. China rises, and with it a vision of a world dominated by autocracy that for now is proving to be more effective than liberal democracy. More and more people are slipping down the economic ladder. Poverty, hunger, disease are increasing.

We are languishing and losing hope for the future. More and more I hear people thinking their children or grandchildren will not inherit a better world.

We are tired. We are exhausted. We are burned out. And we are very nearly ready to just give up and pack it in.

I wish Paul and the other biblical writers were not such odd optimists. They certainly don't dish out the typical bovine waste that most optimists serve. Paul brags on all the trials, tribulations, and ordeals he has suffered.

"Oh yeah, well I have been beaten, tortured, imprisoned, starved, left for dead, nearly died of thirst, walked thousands of miles, shipwrecked, nearly drowned, literally left dead until God raised me up!" And he feels great!

"It's when I am at my weakest, that God is at the greatest!" Paul declares. Leonard Cohen echoes that sentiment: "That's how the light gets in."

I think when we are at our lowest—broken, empty, and afraid—that our heart (or our ego) is finally able to step out of the way to let God be God. Paul was a pretty arrogant individual, and he had the resume to support that, but he also knew that none of that counted for anything. He was most effective when he was on the ropes, nearly beaten, because that is when he let God take over.

The mountains may be crumbling and falling into the sea right now, and all the world going to hell in a hand-basket; we maybe tired, exhausted, and broken but that's when the light gets in. We realize we need God, and we realize God can take the brokenness of our lives to allow the light to shine thru.

I don't know where we are heading—maybe off the proverbial cliff or to a new promised land—but I do know when we are all cracked up that is when the light is finally shining thru. Rise up again, we have miles to go before we sleep, and though we are weak, God is strong. It is our emptiness and our brokenness people need to see; that is where God is and that is where the light shines the brightest. So don't give up, God isn't thru with us yet.

~ The Rev. Blake Lasater
First United Methodist Church
of Eureka Springs, AR

Reprinted with permission from the Aug. 12, 2021 Facebook post of Blake Lasater



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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

