



The Dragon Scoop

December 2013

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

The Episcopal Church Welcomes You

Mission Statement:
“Loving God, Loving our
Neighbors”

Rediscovering Advent

When Advent is swamped and washed away by the premature celebration of Christmas, we lose the gifts of expectation and anticipation. In modern western society we are unwilling to wait for anything and in refusing to wait we also lose much of the value of the thing desired. On the other hand, waiting patiently enhances the value of those things, and few possessions are more prized than the ones for which we have longed and waited. In spite of our desire for instant gratification, and in spite of the fact that we live in a time of abundance of every sort, we cannot always have what we want or, more importantly, what we need. And in such circumstances, what we need more than anything else is hope.

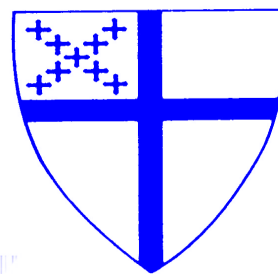
In C.S. Lewis's Narnia, it was always winter but never Christmas before the return of Aslan. It was a very unhappy time, but it was also a time in which the citizens of Narnia found that they could survive, if only they could hold on to their faith that Aslan would return someday. Had it been the other way

around, always Christmas, a time of unending gift-giving and continual parties, faith, as well as hope, would have been in jeopardy. For when a time of darkness or danger returned, no one would have been prepared to deal with it or would have had the inner resources to face it. Advent is the Church's time of learning to live through the darkness, learning to grow in the hope that sustains faith. Rediscovering Advent thus becomes a project of the greatest importance.

While we cannot hope to reverse the commercial hijacking and premature celebration of Christmas, we can rededicate ourselves to the observance of Advent in our churches and in our homes. Through the years the Church has developed many resources for this, so we do not need to reinvent Advent. We just need to rediscover it.

See page 5 for Advent
Wreath information

Adapted by permission from
fullhomelydivinity.org



We have Episcopal Shields
 available for your vehicle.

This is the irrational season
 Where love blooms bright
 and wild.
 Had Mary been filled with
 reason
 There'd have been no room
 for the child.
 ~Madeleine L'Engle

Inside This Issue

Rector's Letter	2
Senior Warden's Report	3
Vestry Nomination	3
Oh, When the Saints?	4
ECW	4
The Advent Wreath	5
Community News	5
Parish Life	6
Calendar & Events	Insert

Rector's Letter

As this calendar year comes to a close we might be tempted to turn our thoughts to the new year. What resolutions can we make and what will the new year bring? As you receive this December issue of the Dragon's Scoop our new church year will have begun with the season of Advent. For the next 4 weeks we will wait with expectation for Christmas and the incarnation of Jesus Christ into the human flesh of the world.

I find it compelling that we begin a new church year by waiting, not by moving forward but by waiting. So what do we do while we are waiting? Waiting is a holy time and a way of preparing. As John the Baptist, the one crying in the wilderness, proclaims, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord." Waiting holds us back from moving forward in haste. It gives us time to become still and allow spaciousness to grow within to make room for new beginnings.

A new year is coming but before there are new beginnings some things must end. Some things must be cut loose. Some things must be let go of. A ship cannot set sail while it is still moored to the dock. Intellectually we know this but emotionally we sometimes struggle to move forward and we remain anchored to the dock. The way of Jesus is all about things that set us free. We may lose something precious in our lives but we can never lose love. Love is eternal. We may have done something that we regret but we are forgiven. Forgiveness is the way of God. Things may change for better or worse. Change is the nature of our existence. Change is unavoidable. But the promise is that Jesus our salvation came that we might have life and have it abundantly.

I wonder how our new calendar year and our new church year would be if we were able to let go of past hurts, let go of how we thought things should be, and instead allow God to move us forward. We pick up the pieces of our wounded and imperfect lives knowing that God is with us, not against us, and we trust that we can let go of whatever is ending. We trust that endings are part of life. We begin to understand that somehow God is holding onto everything so that nothing,

absolutely nothing, will ever be lost. Things are ended but not lost. And sometimes the things that are ended were there only for our learning.

As the end and the beginning of a year come together I invite us not to turn hastily to the new year. I invite us not to turn hastily to Christmas. Instead I encourage us to spend some time in thought and prayer and in stillness attending to what might be keeping us moored to the dock. What must we let go of so we may embrace the gifts that Jesus brings. Jesus invites us into a vision of a new world, a new life of unconditional love, acceptance, and healing. All that we need is here and now present. Jesus invites us to let go of what needs letting go of and to cut ourselves lose so that we might follow where he leads.

As we wait for Christmas, as we wait for the new year, as we bring things to an end and anticipate new beginnings may we believe in God's promises, trust in God's leading and care, and let go of anything that holds us back from this Blessed Assurance.

Blessings for a Holy Advent,
Rev JoAnne



 * *O come, Desire of nations, bind* *
 * *in one the hearts of all mankind;* *
 * *bid thou our sad divisions cease,* *
 * *and be thyself our King of Peace.* *
 * "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" *

Senior Warden's Report

Wow, here it is December already. Like the old saying goes, "How time flies when you're having fun." Bonnie and I participated in the Veteran's Day parade with the car club that we belong to. We both got a great feeling while driving up the parade route and seeing everyone waving and showing their appreciation for those who took the time to share. I even saw some people along the parade route that I knew and that was great.

By the time this issue of the Dragon Scoop is published, we will have had our Commitment Sunday, and I feel that the response will be very good by seeing how many people are signed up for the potluck. I am sure it will be a great day.

Something that has been brought to my attention by a few of the parishioners is the etiquette that we seem to have lost on Sunday mornings in the Church. We need to show respect to the people in the Church by controlling our exuberance and voices when we arrive on Sunday mornings. The sound really carries right into the Church when we talk in normal voices in the Narthex. This is disturbing to those who are in the Sanctuary preparing in their own way for worship. The Book of Common Prayer speaks about how we

are to act in the Church and during the Services. If, in your quiet time in Church before Services, you look on page 40 of the BCP, an opening sentence for Morning Prayer Rite I states "*The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him*" (Habakkuk 2:20). We can gather in the Parish Hall before Service and talk with friends and get caught up on what we all did in the past week there. I am not trying to be mean and I know that I have been just as guilty of this as the next person. We just need to police ourselves and show the respect that is due while in the House of the Lord (don't forget to silence the cellphones).

A couple of things to mention: help is needed for the decorating of the Sanctuary on Saturday, December 7, and I want to thank Doug Holloway for heading up a Facilities Team meeting also scheduled for December 7 before the decorating. I hope those that he has contacted can come to the meeting.

I hope everyone has a joyous Christmas and a great ringing in of the New Year.

Respectfully,
Jim Eddy



Vestry Nomination Process

Each year, as put forth in the bylaws, the Vestry is charged to adopt a process to nominate persons for election to the Vestry and publish a description of this process to the legal voters of the Parish by the 30th of November. On November 12, 2013 the Vestry adopted the following process:

The Vestry invites you to submit a short written bio to be used in the nomination process for election to the Vestry class of 2016. This bio will be published to the congregation of St. George to assist them with the voting process. Your submission should be given to the church office by Tuesday January 21, 2014, addressed to the Vestry and Rector. Please give a brief background and comment on what excites and inspires you about this ministry.

No experience is necessary but to be eligible you must be a lay member in good standing, 18 or more years of age, not a member of the household of a current Vestry member, be willing to create more active involvements from parish members who are not on the Vestry, faithfully attend Parish functions and worship services, encourage and support parish members in mutual ministry, and be willing to work constructively, creatively, and peaceably with other members of the Vestry and Rector in exercising a commitment to leadership.

The Vestry would like to recognize the gifts of eligible candidates and will put forward a slate of nominees to be elected at the Annual Meeting on February 23, 2014.

Oh, When the Saints?

Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, d. ca 342 CE

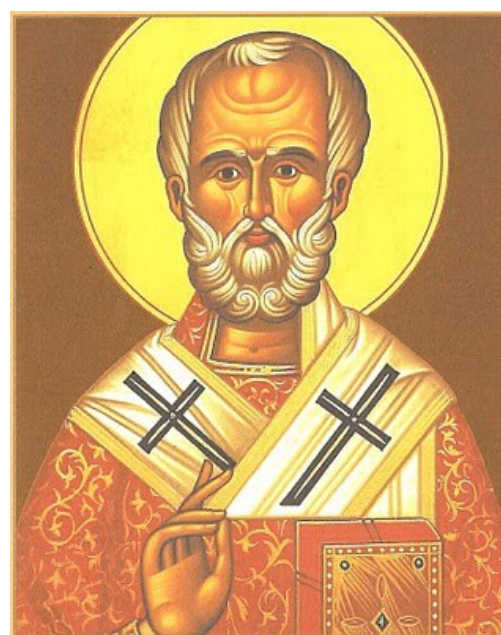
According to tradition, Nicholas was born at Patara, in southwestern Turkey. He might have been educated at Alexandria. He became Bishop of Myra, capital of the province where he had a reputation for piety and pastoral zeal. He was imprisoned and tortured under the Roman emperor Diocletian. Later he is said to have been present at the Council of Nicea in 324 where he joined in the condemnation of Arianism, which denied the full divinity of Christ. He was possibly martyred at Myra around 342 CE.

Almost everything else written about him is speculation or downright fabrication. Many charming legends have built up about him, including his love and kindness to children and his generosity to sailors. He is said to have tossed three bags of gold through the window of three dowerless young girls, saving them from becoming prostitutes.

The practice of giving gifts to children in his feast day originated in the Low Countries and became popular in North America through Dutch settlers in New Amsterdam, led by Henry Hudson. Their first church, built on Manhattan Island in 1642, was dedicated to Sinter Klas. His name eventually evolved in Santa Claus. Clement Moore, a devoted churchman and professor at the General Seminary in New York, wrote "A Visit from St. Nicholas" for his children. So St. Nicholas will always be remembered in song and story. But as

David L. Veal wisely says in *Saints Galore*, those who honor him best are those who honor his Lord and who work continually for the care and protection of children.

~ Betty Fretwell



He became the most popular saint in Medieval Europe, and in England almost 400 churches are dedicated to him.

Episcopal Church Women

ECW met on November 21 and enjoyed an interesting presentation by Bob Robins on his trip to Russia. We also voted to purchase a new coffee making unit for church.

Thelma Sayers will host our next meeting at her home. We will meet at 10:45 at the church to

car pool. If you plan to attend, please let her know so she will know how many to prepare for. We always request a \$5 donation to help us help the church and community.

~BJ Hoffman

The Advent Wreath

To begin, put four candles on a wreath or at least in a circle. Traditionally the candles are purple, because in antiquity, purple dye was very expensive and it was the color of royalty. We use purple for Advent because it is the season of the coming of the King. If you can't get purple candles, you can substitute blue ones.* You can also make one of the candles pink if you like—technically, it is rose colored. If you have a fifth candle, it goes in the center of the wreath and it should be white.

First Candle Hope
 Second Candle Love
 Third Candle Joy
 Fourth Candle Peace
 Optional Center Candle Christmas

The idea is to use the wreath in conjunction with worship services or personal or family devotions on the four Sundays in Advent. You light candles at the beginning of each service and snuff them out at the end. Here are some suggested prayers and readings:

On the first Sunday in Advent, you light the first candle. Read Isaiah 60:2-3.

Lord God, we light this candle to thank you for your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who is the light of the world. We who have sat in darkness have seen a great light, the light of Jesus Christ, our salvation. We give you thanks and praise in Jesus' name, because he lives and reigns with you in your glory, and in the unity of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

On the second Sunday in Advent, you light two candles, first the one from the previous Sunday, then the second one. Read Mark 1:4.

Lord God, we light this candle to thank you for your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who is the way. We who like sheep have gone astray have found the way to you through Jesus Christ. We give you thanks and praise in Jesus' name, because he lives and reigns with you in your glory, and in the unity of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

On the third Sunday in Advent, you light the two candles from the previous weeks, in the order

you lit them before, then you add the third one. Read Isaiah 35:10.

Lord God, we light this candle to thank you for your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who brings us great joy. We who have walked in the shadow of the valley of death have found life in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We give you thanks and praise in Jesus' name, because he lives and reigns with you in your glory, and in the unity of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

On the fourth Sunday in Advent, you light the three candles from the previous weeks, in the order you lit them before, then you light the fourth one. You should get a stair-step effect, since each candle is a different length by now. Read Isaiah 9:6-7.

Lord God, we light this candle to thank you for your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who is the Prince of Peace. We who live in discord and strife have found peace in the promise of eternal life, through Jesus Christ. We give you thanks and praise in Jesus' name, because he lives and reigns with you in your glory, and in the unity of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

If you have a fifth candle in the center, then on Christmas Day you light the four candles in the order you lit them before, and then you light the center candle. Read Luke 1:68-79 and Luke 2:1-20.

We praise you, Lord God, because on this day, your Word became flesh in our Savior Jesus Christ, was born of a woman, and walked among us as a man. Help us to imitate your incarnation, by manifesting our faith in our conduct as well as in our speech. To you, O Lord, we give our honor, praise, worship, and love, in the most holy and precious name of the One who is born today; because He lives and reigns with you in your glory, and in the unity of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Copyright ©1995-2013 by the Rev. Kenneth W. Collins. Reprinted with permission.

*Blue is more in use today for Advent to separate it from the purple of Lent. Blue in lighter shades is sometimes used on feasts of the Blessed Virgin. In the darker shades of indigo, blue is frequently used during Advent.

~ Rev. JoAnne

FISH Food Pantry News

“I was hungry and you gave me food.”

~Matthew 25:35

Great bulletin board in the Narthex—take a look to inspire your FISH giving.

Questions about FISH?
Ask Mik Carlson
541-464-0634



More Community News



JoAnne donated \$100 from the Rector's Discretionary Fund to the snack packs put together by local churches and headed up by Faith Lutheran Church.

Here is a picture of the youth group after they finished assembling 300 snack packs to be given to homeless people in our community via The Warming Center, Feed the 'Burg, and at The Homeless Count. Sixteen youth and five adults participated.

Parish Life



All Saints' Sunday Altar, November 3, 2013



Harvest Altar
November 17, 2013



Commitment Sunday Potluck, November 24, 2013

Lots more pictures
on Facebook!





St. George Episcopal Church
1024 S.E. Cass Avenue
Roseburg, OR. 97470

541-673-4048

stgeorge@rosenet.net
www.saintgeorgesepiscopal.com

Return Service Requested

St. George Episcopal Church publishes THE DRAGON SCOOP monthly. If you would like for something to be considered for the newsletter please inform the office no later than the 10th of the month. Submit irregular information and articles to stgeorge@stgeorgeepiscopal.com or to the parish office by 10 a.m. on the 15th of the month. E-mailed articles are preferred, if you have access to a computer.

Leigh Van Sickles, Editor

Rector: The Rev. JoAnne Bennett
Senior Warden: Jim Eddy
Junior Warden: Donna Litherland
Treasurer: Frank Graham
Admin Assistant: Sheramy Barry

OFFICE HOURS
10 am—3:30 pm
Open Monday, Tuesday, and
Wednesday.
Please call ahead if you can.

ST. GEORGE WORSHIP

Sunday

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Wednesday

12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

