



The Dragon Scoop

January 2014

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”**

Epiphany

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

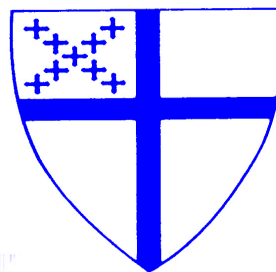
Matthew 2:9-11



When the Twelve Days of Christmas are over, the Church does not go into hibernation. Indeed, what comes next gives us an opportunity to move from the private ponderings of blessed Mary and the wonder and praise of the shepherds to a closer consideration of the public meaning and proper response to all that we have seen and heard. We must not be at ease, and the Church is not at ease, for the Twelve Days end with the Eve of another Feast, the Epiphany.

"Epiphany" means "manifestation." The full title of this feast that begins a new season of the Church Year is "The Epiphany, or the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles." The Epiphany season, which extends from January 6th through Shrove Tuesday, highlights various occasions when Jesus was manifested to both Jews and Gentiles: the visit of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus, and Jesus's miracle at the marriage at Cana.

Adapted by permission from
fullhomelydivinity.org



We have Episcopal Shields available for your vehicle.

There is a clipboard over the drinking fountain in the church hallway for recording any maintenance problems that members may find. The Facilities Team will monitor this board and make any repairs as necessary.



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Rector's Letter

It is good to begin a New Year with as much awareness as we can muster up. With the beginning of 2014 I am reminded of that famous quote from the ancient Greek philosopher of the 4th Century BC, Socrates: "The unexamined life is not worth living." And examine we must by allowing an inward glance, an awareness not a judgment, a simple willingness to look at life as it is before we begin to shape it in other directions.

As I awoke this 2nd morning of the New Year there was a gift for me of profound quiet. The world was steeped in stillness. No noises in the house, no noises coming from my neighbors, the river or the road, just a profound hushed calm. Even nature was silent with not a creature stirring. With that profound quiet I was able to hear myself and to have a sense of my life to be examined.

Only a handful of times have I sensed the quality of this silence. It is a gift, a place of clear thinking, a waking meditation, a time of awakened consciousness. It may always be there but I don't hear it. And as I express this I realize how almost ridiculous it is to say that you don't hear the quiet. But I know that quiet requires a different kind of listening. A place of holy quiet involves more than ears and when you are immersed in it you realize that you are listening with your whole being, body, mind, and soul.

When we listen with our whole being we take in things just as they are without judgment. We accept where we are and renew again our love and commitment for what is truly important. There may be tears of sadness or tears of joy that accompany this clarity of life's purpose. Tears are also a gift to help us understand what is truly important.

As may also be with you, I have a lot of things to examine in my life in 2014. At times it can feel overwhelming and then a prayer strikes a chord of my inmost being, a prayer from the Book of Common Prayer. We Episcopalians are united by

our prayer book. At the centers of our common life are the words we find between those pages and it is good to remember to open it from time to time between Sundays.

On page 836 is a beautiful prayer of Thanksgiving which is good to take into any examination of our lives. I commend it to you year round and most especially at this time when the challenges of a new year ask for our utmost attention and sincerity.

Let us pray.

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

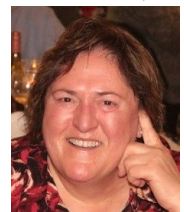
Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

May we be blessed in 2014 by giving our attention to what is truly important; to being grateful, to family and friends, to tasks demanding our best efforts, to accomplishments which satisfy, to the things which remind us of our dependence on God, to Jesus for the example of his life, and to the Spirit who is always with us.

Many blessings,

JoAnne +



Parish News

For the past seven years Sue Phelps and her sister Penny Johnson have been decorating the Parish Hall for the post-worship coffee hours during Advent and the Twelve Days of Christmas. Sue provides caramel corn and spiced apple juice to accompany the treats other parishioners bring. The sisters arrange the furniture to look like a welcoming and festive living room.



When asked why they don't do this all year long, Sue replies with a twinkle in her eye, "Well, then, it wouldn't be special, would it?"



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?

John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople

Chrysostom in Greek means “golden mouth.” The name was given to John about 100 years after his death and replaced his original surname. He was born in Antioch around 354 CE. His widowed mother had him well educated in oratory, the law, and Christian doctrine and scripture.

In 373 John became a monk, but the cold, damp conditions of his cave hermitage almost ruined his health so he returned to Antioch in 381 where he was ordained a deacon. He acquired a reputation as a great preacher and commenter on the Letters of Paul and the Gospels of Matthew and John. His emphasis was meaning and practical application.

In 397 John was appointed Patriarch of Constantinople, and it is said that he had been spirited out of Antioch for fear that the people would protest his departure. He immediately started a program of reform of the court, the clergy, and the general populace. He incurred the wrath of the Empress Eudoxia for calling her “Jezebel,” and with the complicity of a jealous and corrupt priest she had John exiled first to Bithynia and a second time to Armenia. On a forced march through the Caucasus Mountains he died on September 14, 407.

John was a champion of lay participation in the Eucharist. The liturgy of the Church in

Constantinople (now Istanbul) still bears his name. We remember him for the Prayer of St. Chrysostom which we say at the end of Morning Prayer, pages 59 and 102 of the Book of Common Prayer.

We celebrate his feast on January 27, the date his bones were returned to Constantinople 30 years after his death.



A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

~ Betty Fretwell

Commitment Sunday

The striking depiction of a burning bush on the bulletin board outside the Parish Hall was designed by Rick and Joy Williams. It represents our 2014 pledges to St. George Episcopal Church, which were blessed on November 24, Commitment Sunday. Each flaming leaf is in the shape of a hand, symbolizing each individual's or family's commitment to the ministries of our church.



FISH Food Pantry News

THANK YOU TO ALL who brought a green shopping bag to church filled with nonperishable food. St. George's total for December pickup was 89 pounds. The grand total of food collected was 12,849 pounds in December.

The next collection will be February 8. You can leave your filled green bags in the Parish Hall any time.

The Fish Pantry consistently provides emergency food parcels to over 1000 households in Douglas County per month. Thank you for your generosity!

~Mik Carlson

Questions about FISH? Call Mik at 541-464-0634

Epiphany Potluck

Come celebrate the birth of Jesus and the arrival of the Wise Men at Bethlehem. There will be a potluck in the Parish Hall on January 6 at 6:00 p.m.

Bring something for a Roseburg baby in need. Items such as food, diapers, baby wipes, and shampoo are welcome. These will go to the FISH Pantry to be distributed.

If you haven't signed up yet, just show up and bring something to share for the meal. And invite a friend!

Please no
frankincense, gold,
or myrrh.



Episcopal Church Women

The ECW members met at Thelma Sayers' house for their annual Christmas Party. After a short meeting and lunch, the members exchanged stories of Christmases past and present, good and bad.



Before the meeting ended, Thelma offered each member a memento from her collection gathered from her trips abroad.

The next meeting will be held at church on Thursday January 16th at 11 a.m. The agenda will be announced later.

Facebook Demo

If you're curious about St. George's Facebook page, its mysteries will be revealed on January 29 after worship service.

Come find out why we have a Facebook presence, how to "like" a page and get its updates

in your news feed, and how to comment on posts. You don't have to have a Facebook account to view our page online, but if you want to "like" and comment, you will need to sign up for one.

~ Leigh Van Sickle, St. George Facebook Admin.



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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

